



WEEK ENDING 11TH MAY 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Non-influenza respiratory virus activity is increasing; indicators of influenza activity remain low.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs) remain low and consistent with inter-seasonal levels.
- The number of persons hospitalised with influenza remains low.
- Influenza virus detections remain low, with influenza A/H1N1, influenza A/H3N2 and influenza B co-circulating.
- Non-influenza respiratory virus detections increased this week; in particular, detections of respiratory syncytial virus and parainfluenza viruses increased.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are around expected levels.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles and chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs were near or below expected levels this week.
- No cases of measles, rubella or mumps were confirmed this week.

Current and archived issues of Virus Watch http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

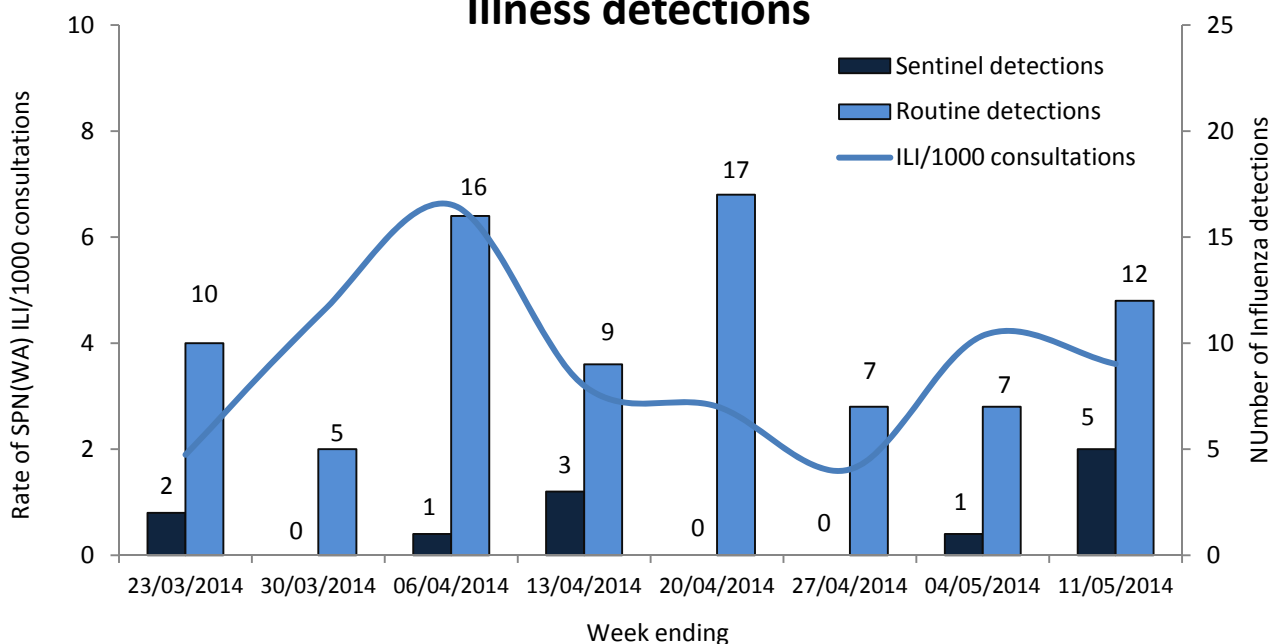
Virus Watch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, together with relevant laboratory information, to alert health care workers in WA to important circulating viruses. General Practice data are collected by members of the Sentinel Practitioners Network of Western Australia - SPN(WA). Emergency Department data are provided by the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS), which incorporates data from the following hospitals: Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Swan District Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital. Viral laboratory data are obtained from PathWest laboratories at QEII Medical Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, as well as via notification data sent by all WA laboratories to CDCD, WA Department of Health.

All figures and data were accurate at time of publication, but subject to change.



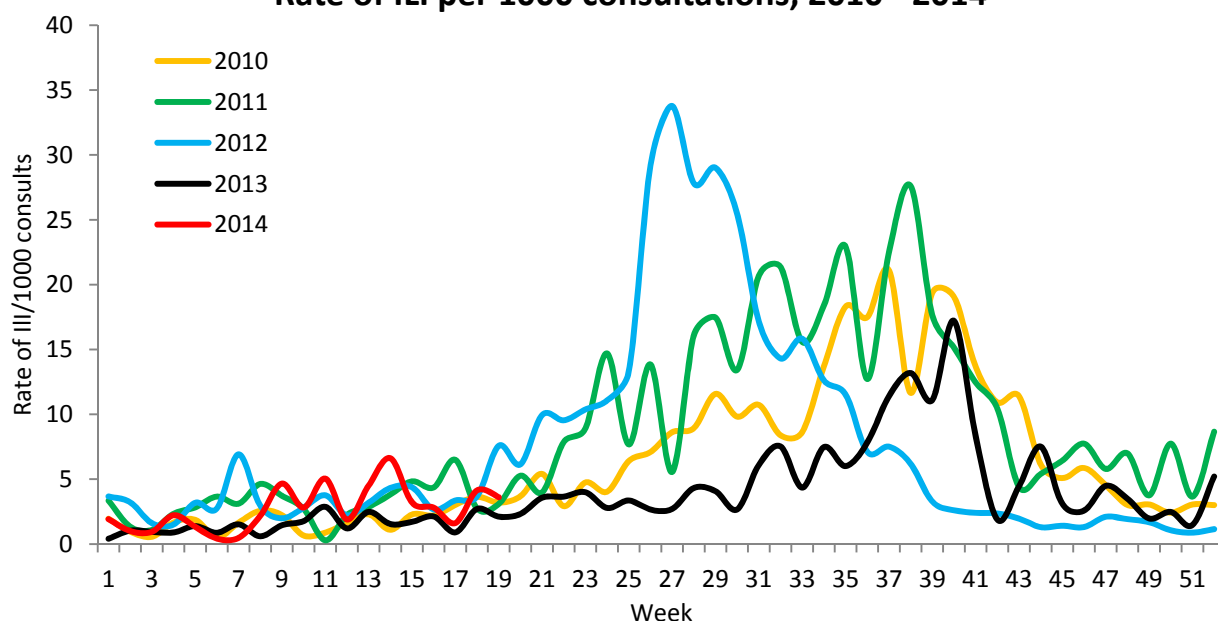
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



ILI attendances at sentinel practices continue to fluctuate at low levels, while routine and sentinel practice detections of influenza virus increased this week. Twenty swabs were collected in sentinel practices, five (25%) of which tested positive for influenza virus; of 273 routinely collected specimens, 12 (4%) tested positive.

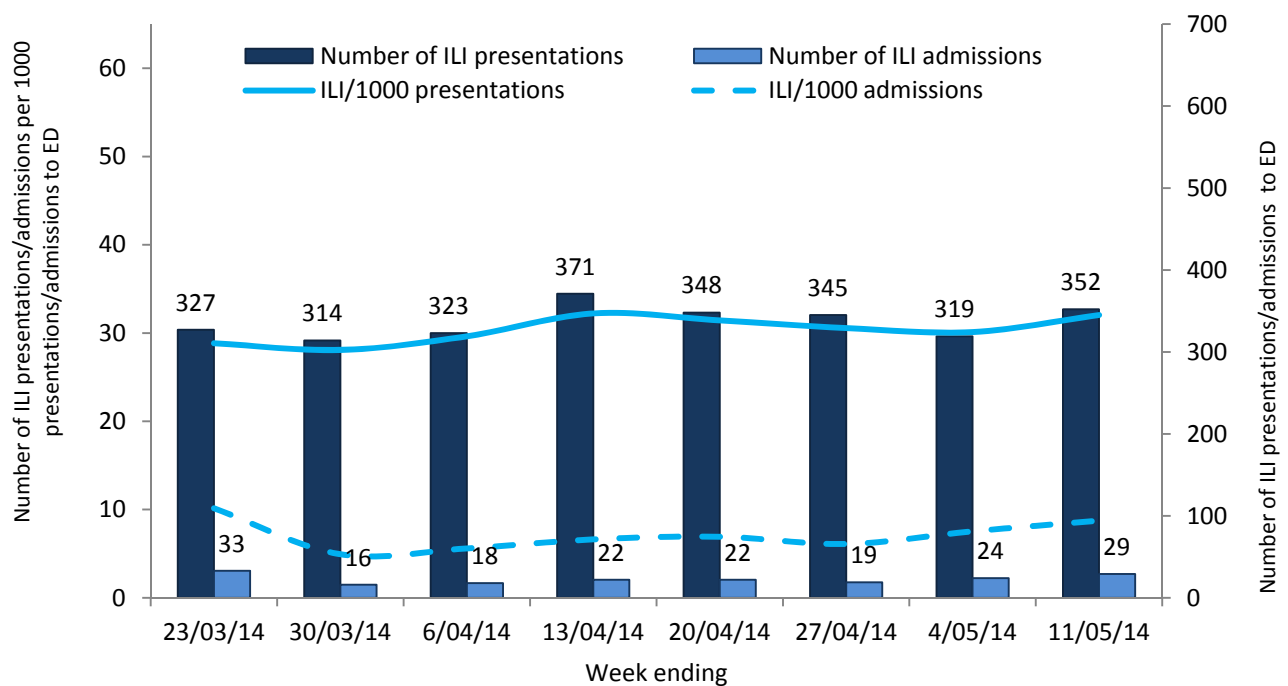
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remains near 4 cases per 1000 consultations this week, which is in the mid-range of levels seen during the corresponding period in recent years.

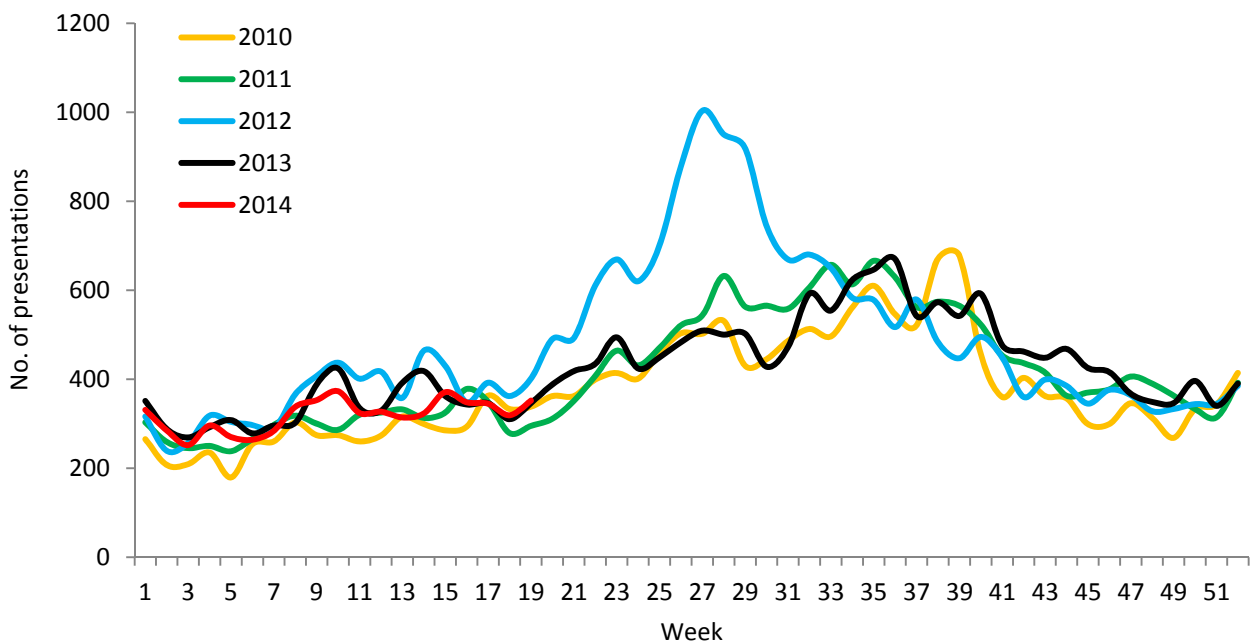
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



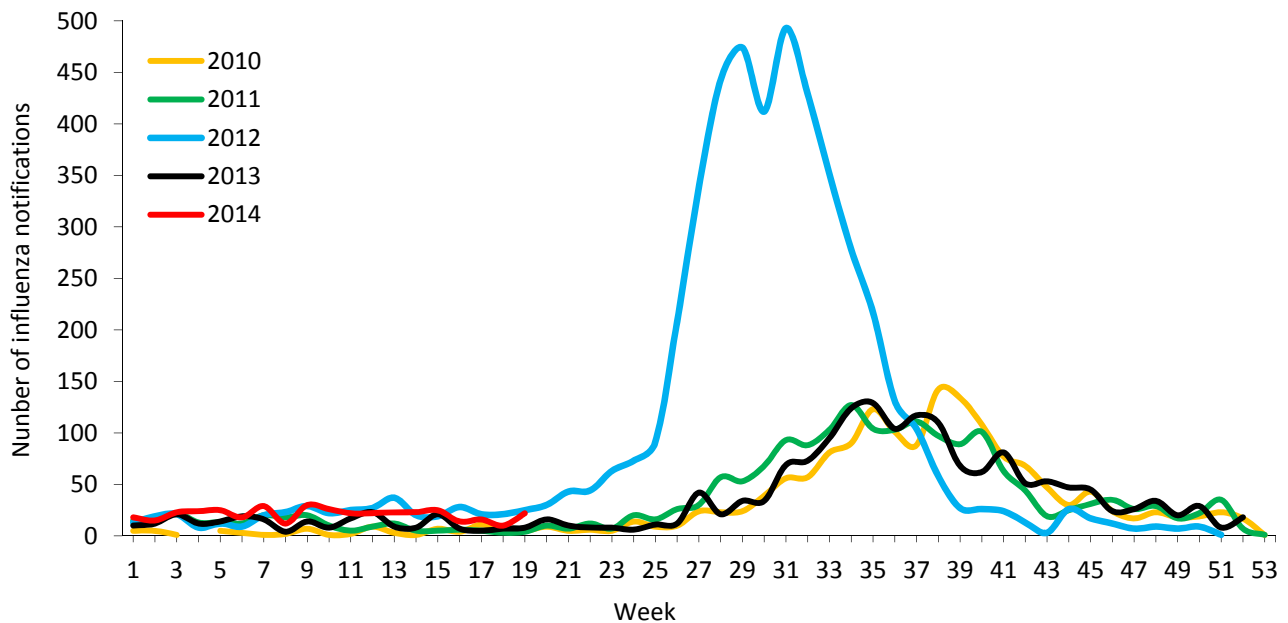
ED presentations and admissions for viral respiratory diseases increased slightly this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of ILI presentations to sentinel EDs remains similar to presentations during the same time period in recent years.

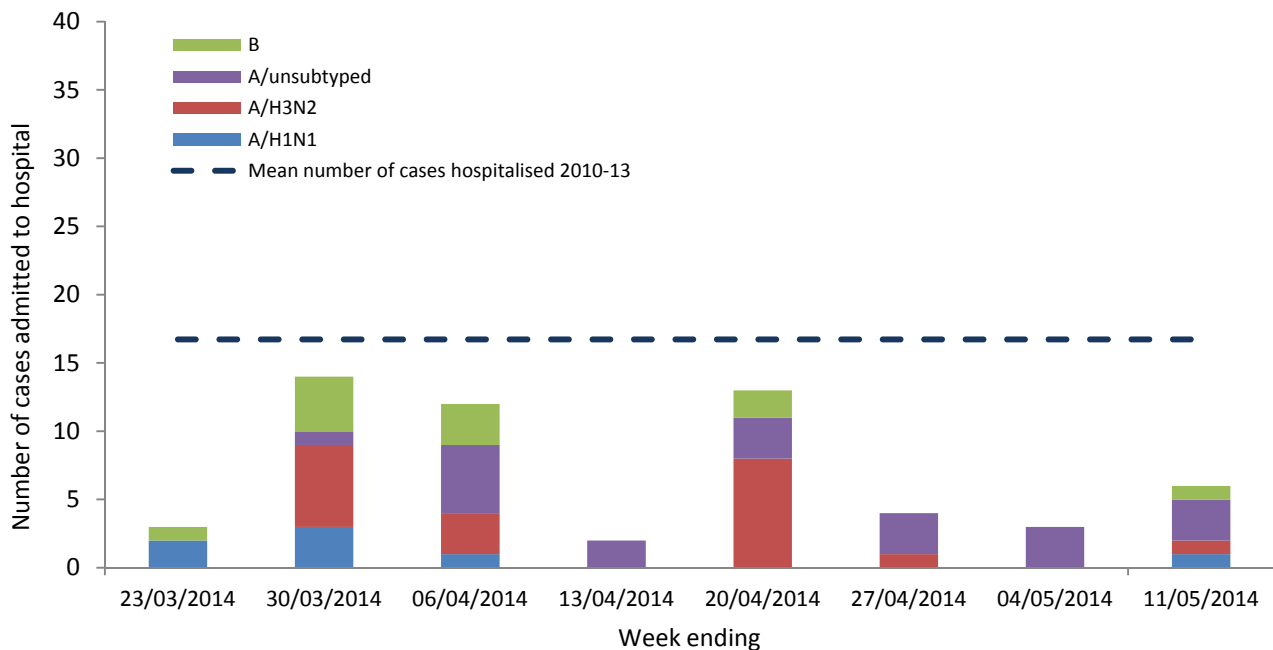
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Twenty two confirmed influenza cases were reported to the Department of Health this week, which is an increase from last week, but consistent with inter-seasonal levels.

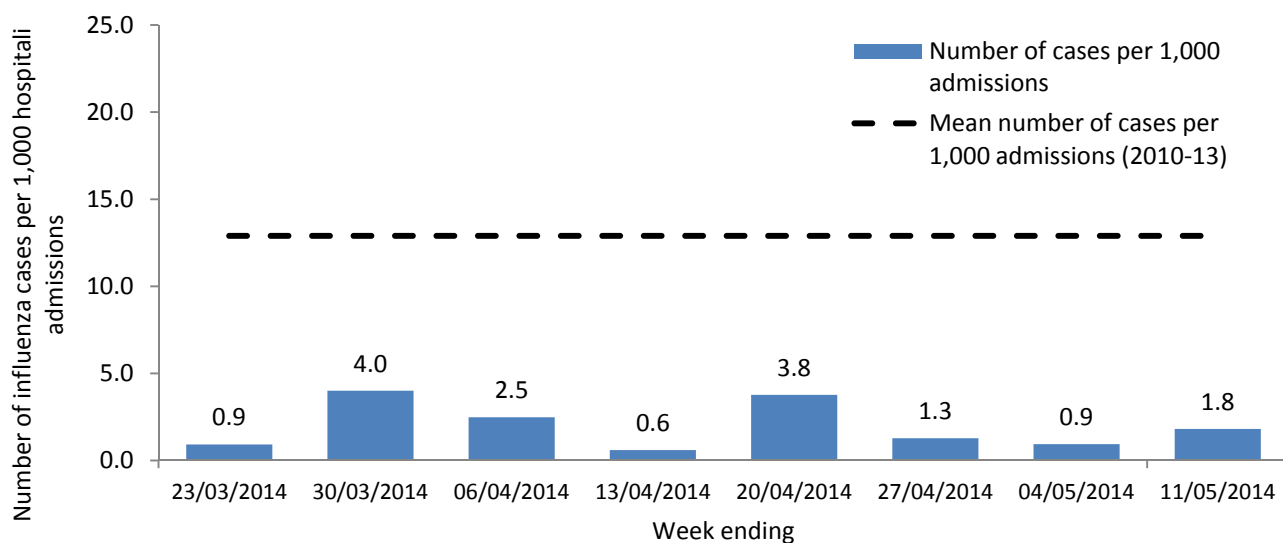
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 05/05/2014 and 11/05/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Six notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week, 1 (17%) with influenza A/H3N2, 1 (17%) with influenza A/H1N1, 1 (17%) with influenza B, and 3 (50%) with influenza A/unsubtyped.

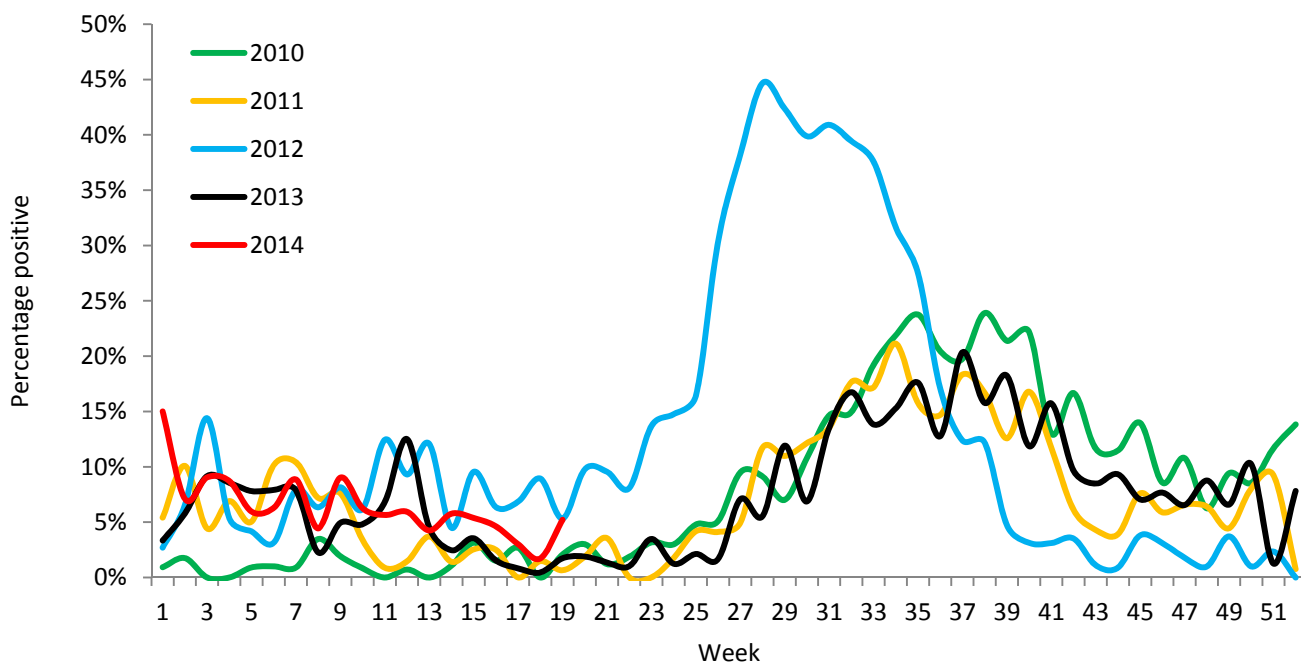
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza remains well below baseline level.

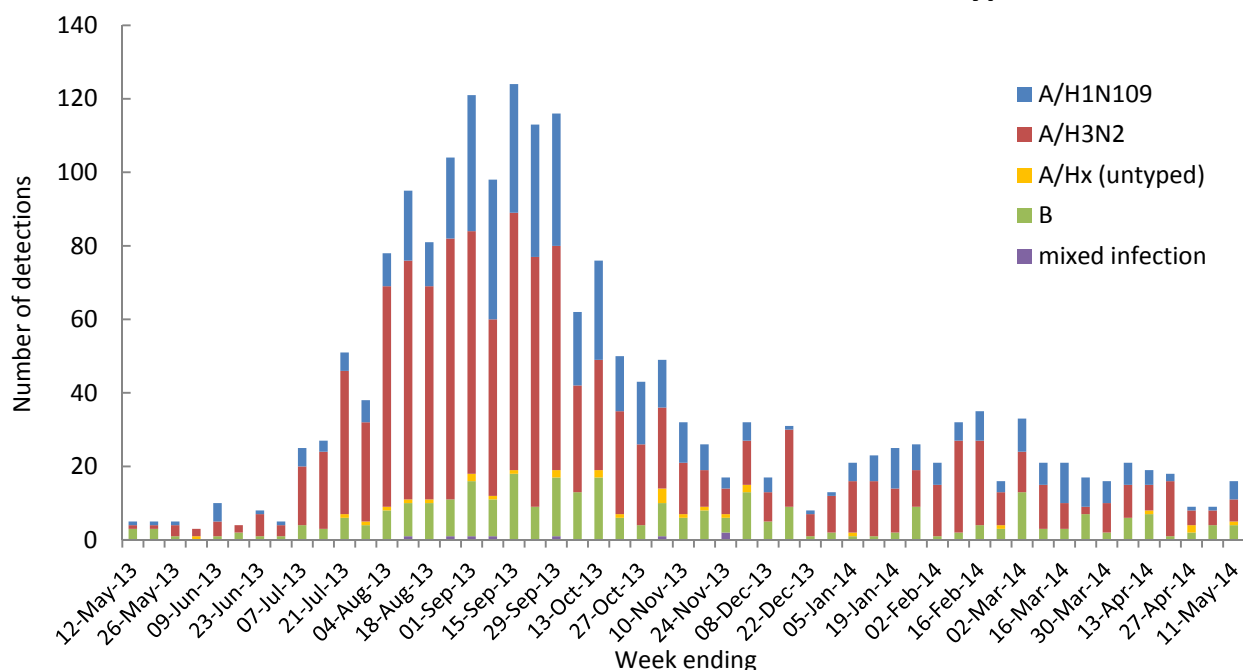
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH Influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 5.3% tested positive for influenza virus, which is higher than the proportion positive during this time period in 2013 and closer to the proportion in 2012.

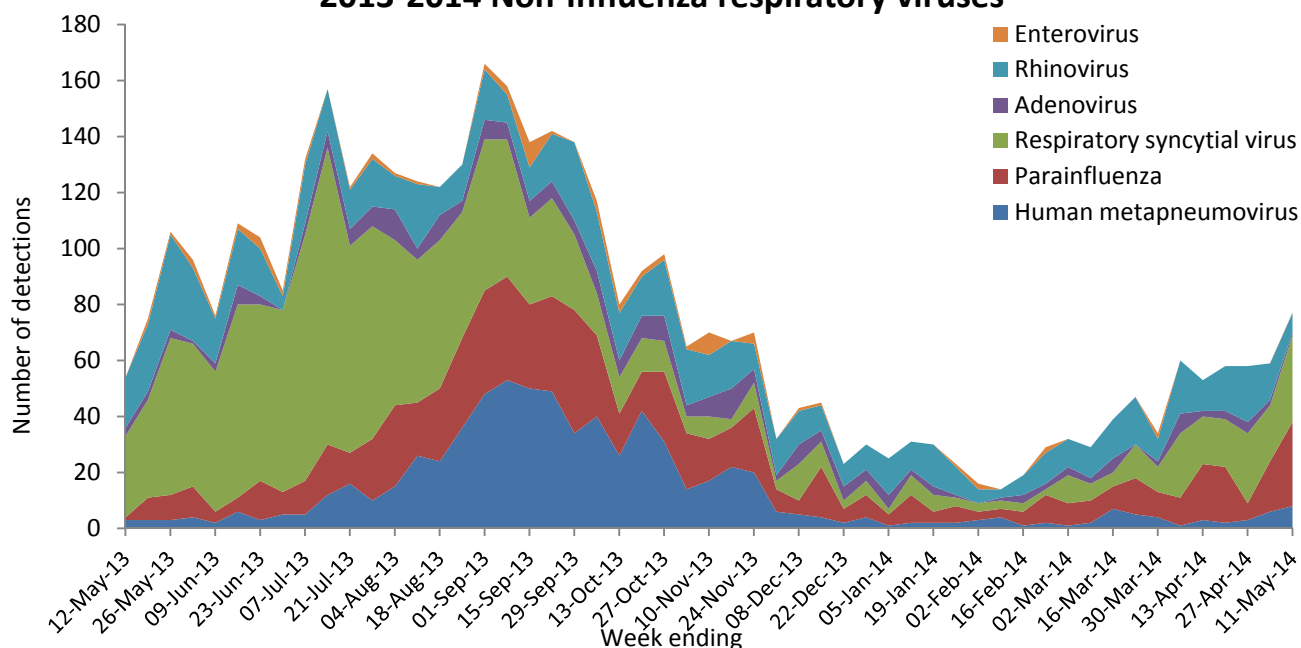
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



Sixteen influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 5 (31%) influenza A/H1N1, 6 (37%) influenza A/H3N2, 1 (6%) influenza A/unsubtyped, and 4 (25%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 14th May 2014 and may differ from numbers described in the above figure.

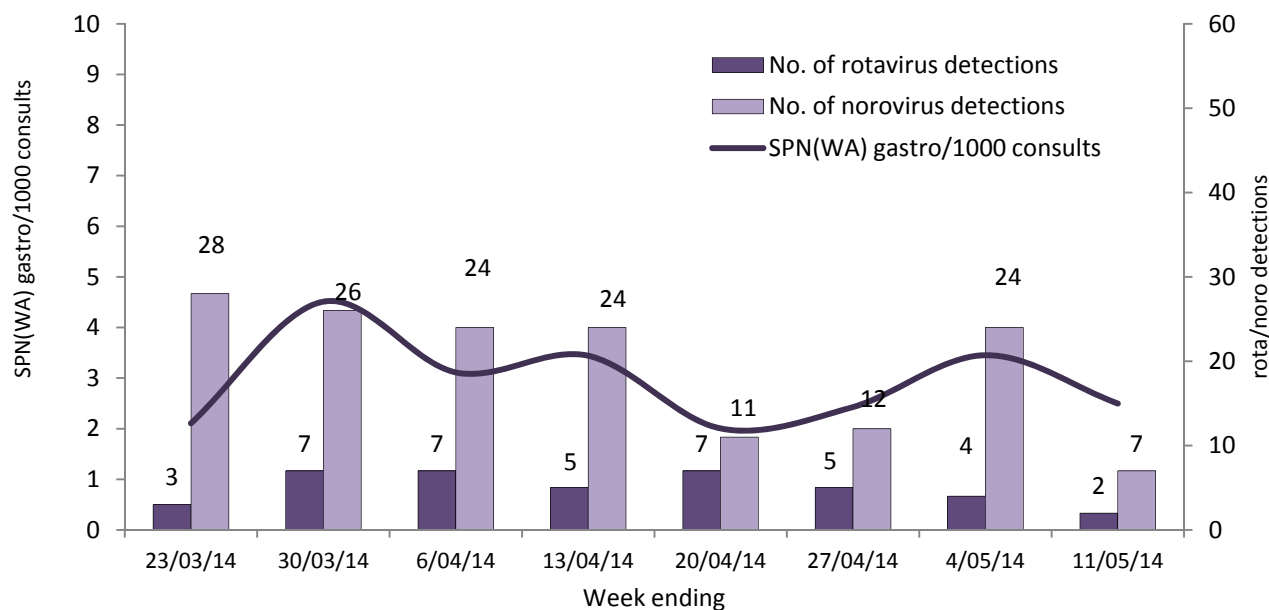
2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



Detections of other respiratory viruses increased this week, particularly respiratory syncytial virus and parainfluenza viruses.

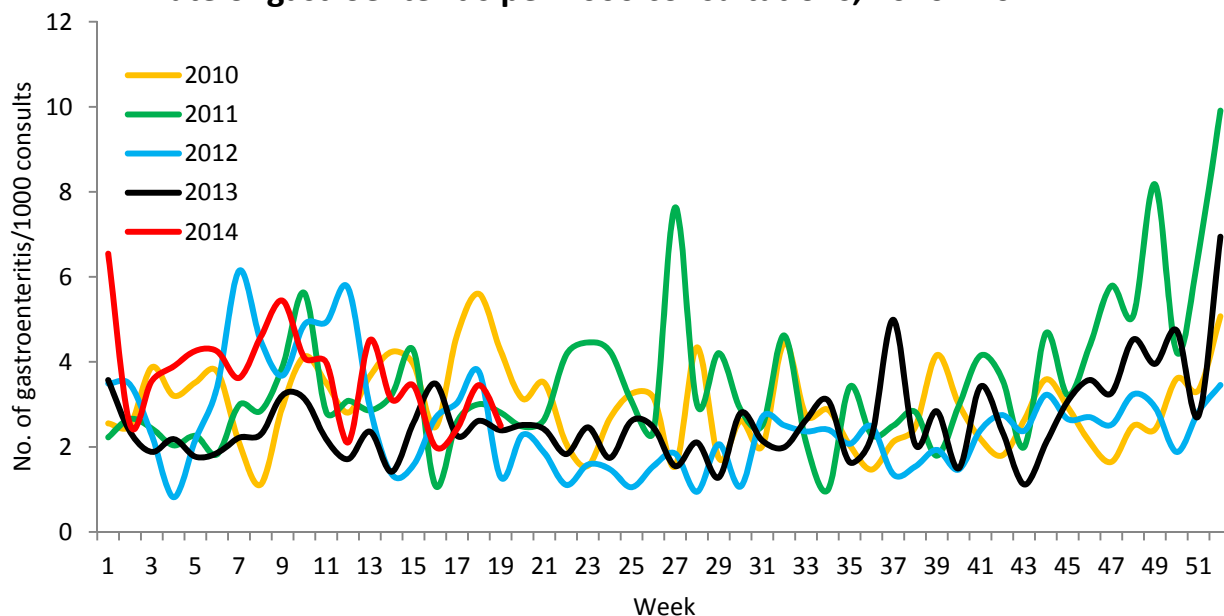
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continue to fluctuate between 2-5 cases per 1000 consultations. Norovirus detections decreased.

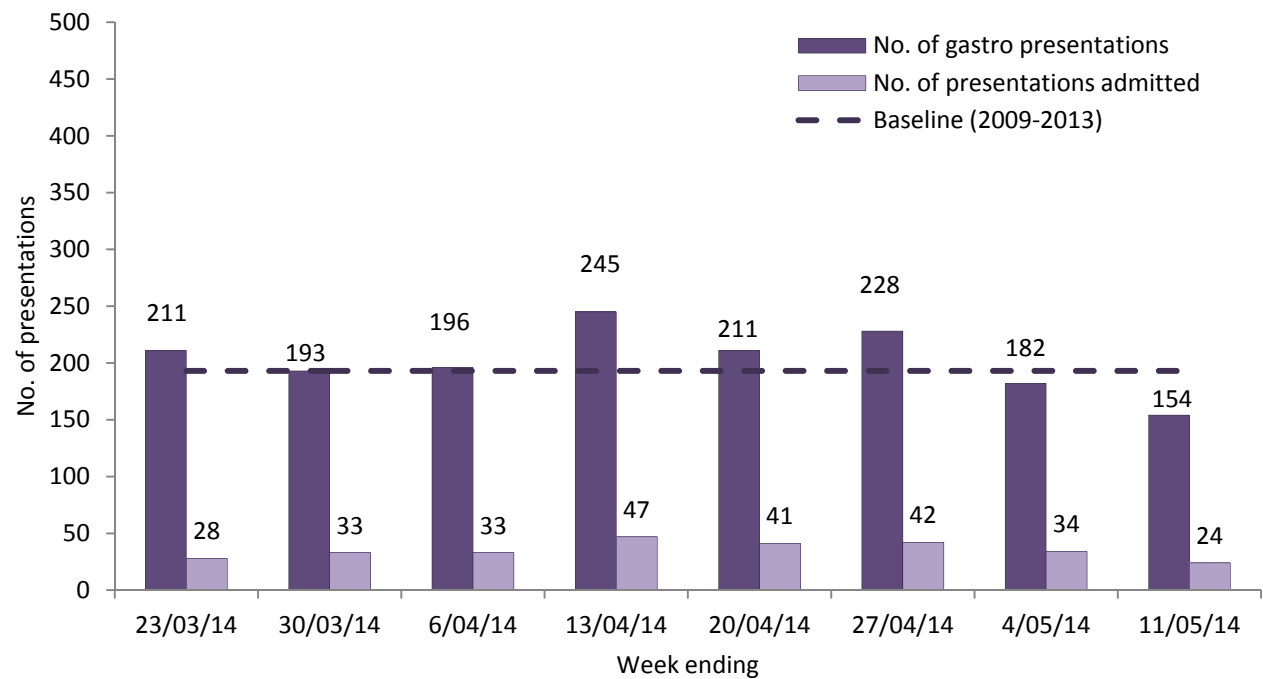
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continues to fluctuate within the range of levels experienced at this time in recent years.

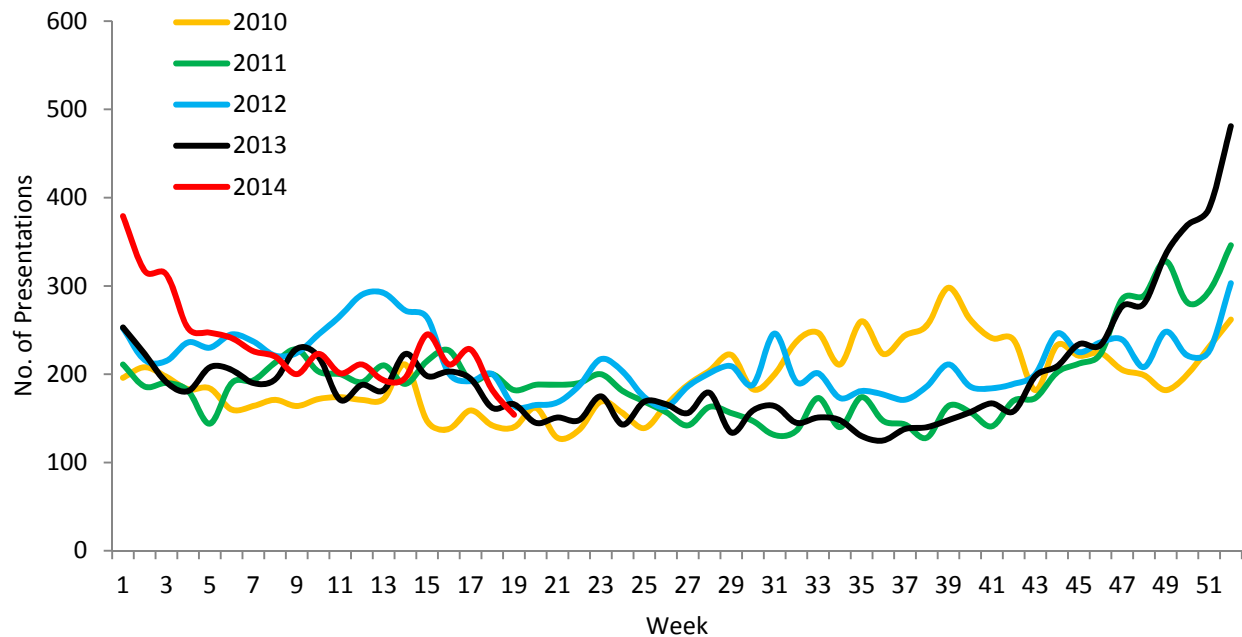
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014

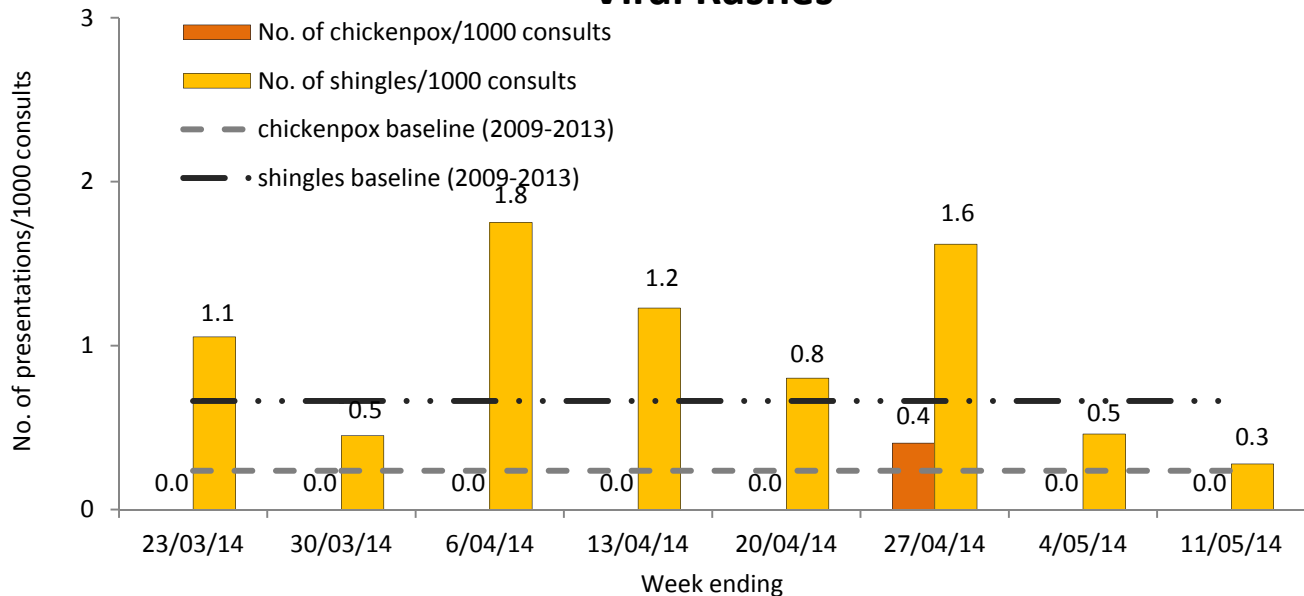


The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs continued to decrease this week, consistent with the range of levels seen during this time period in previous years.



Viral Rashes

Viral Rashes

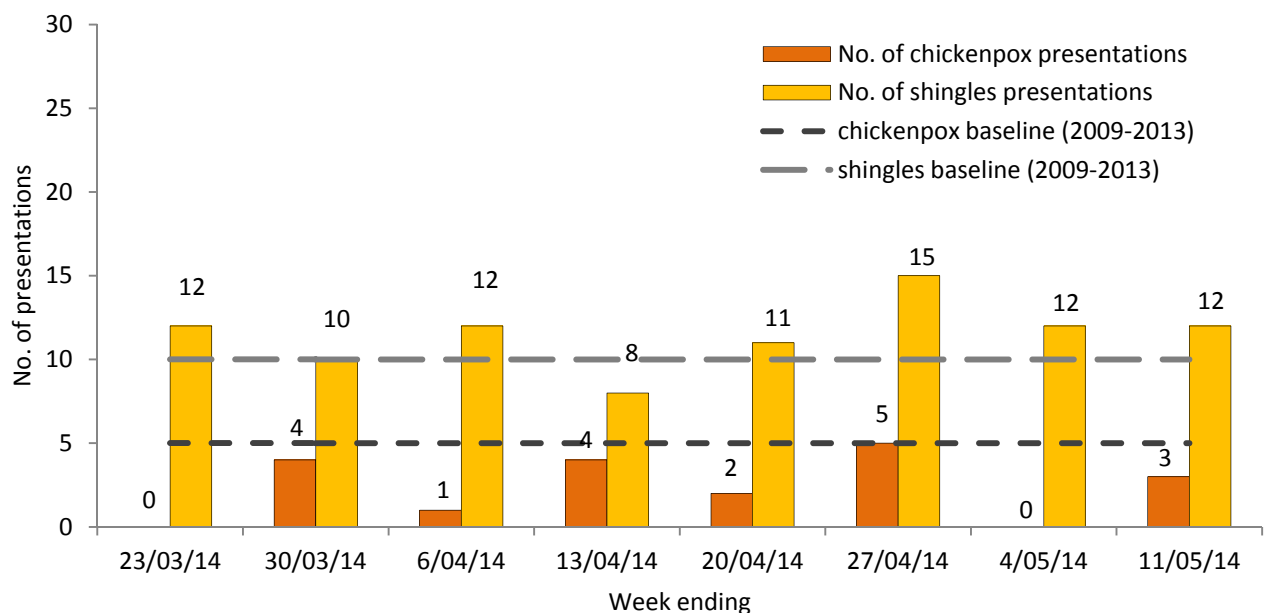


The rate of shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remains below baseline level this week. No chickenpox cases were seen at sentinel GPs. No cases of measles, rubella or mumps were confirmed this week.

Baseline levels for chickenpox and shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs per thousand consultations were calculated using the mean of weekly WA ASPREN data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Varicella-Zoster virus ED Presentations



Shingles presentations to sentinel EDs remain near baseline. Chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs were low this week.