



WEEK ENDING 22ND JUNE 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Non-influenza respiratory virus activity continues to increase; there are early indications of an increase in influenza activity.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs) increased, but influenza notifications and hospitalisations remain low.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped in the past week were influenza A/H1N1, but influenza B and influenza A/H3 are also circulating.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses increased this week, and respiratory syncytial virus activity remains high.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs are within expected levels; presentations to sentinel GPs increased this week.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are above expected levels; chickenpox presentations remain low.
- Six cases of measles have been confirmed in the past week: 5 unvaccinated children from one family with an unidentified local source, and one case in an unvaccinated young adult who was infected in Singapore. No cases of rubella or mumps were notified this week.

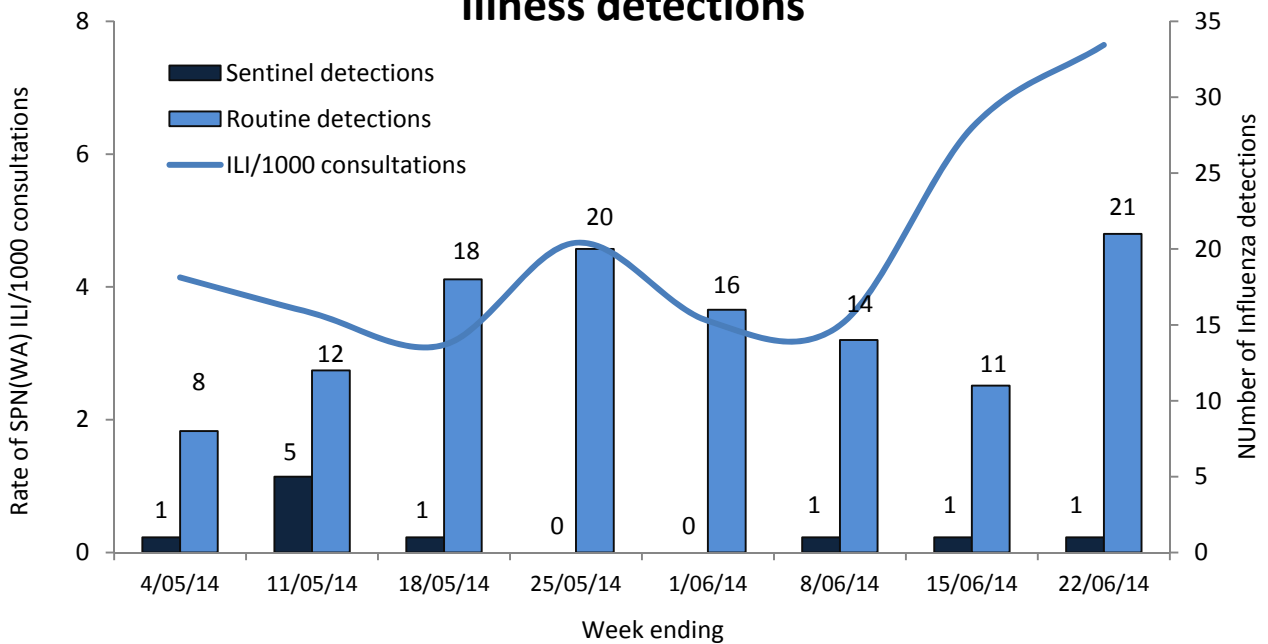
Current and archived issues of Virus Watch http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

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.



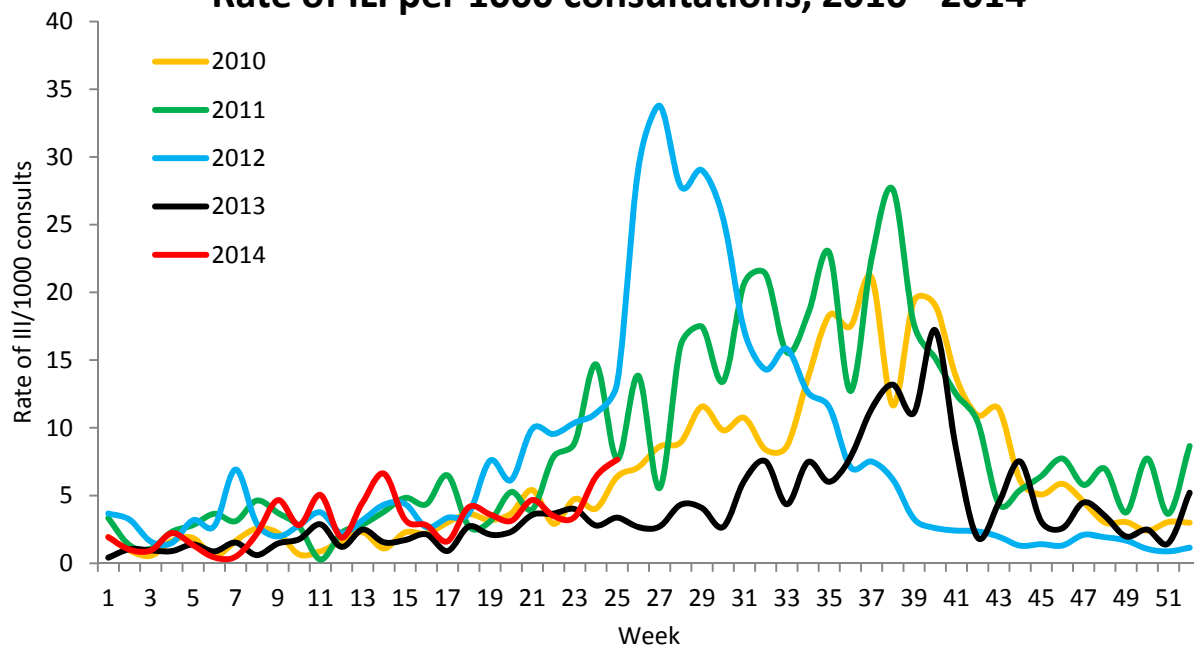
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The number of ILI presentations to sentinel GP practices increased this week; one (7%) of the 14 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus; of 292 routinely collected specimens, 21 (7%) tested positive.

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

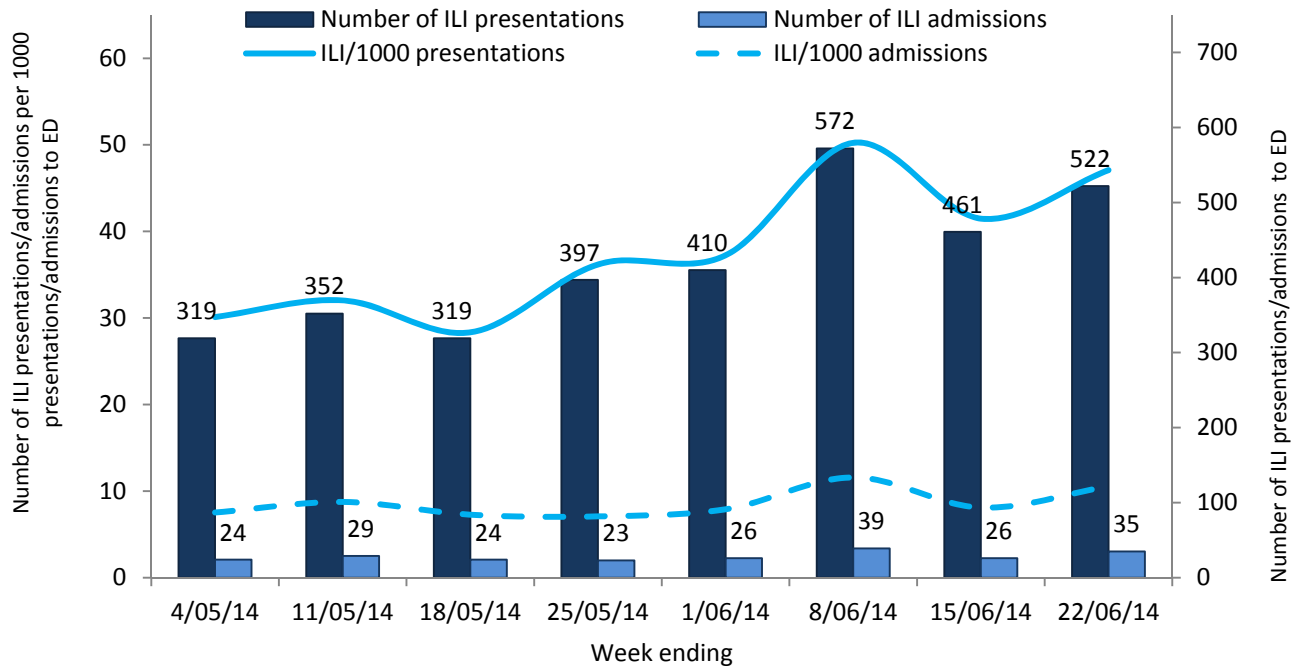


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased to 8 cases per 1000 consultations this week and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in previous years.



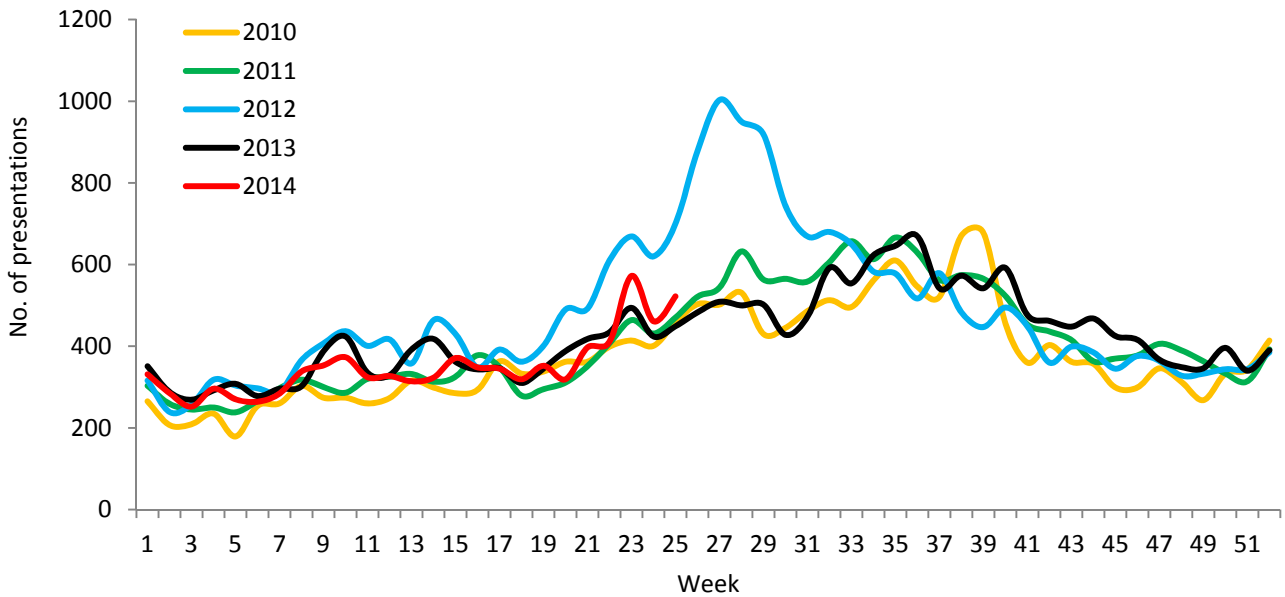
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



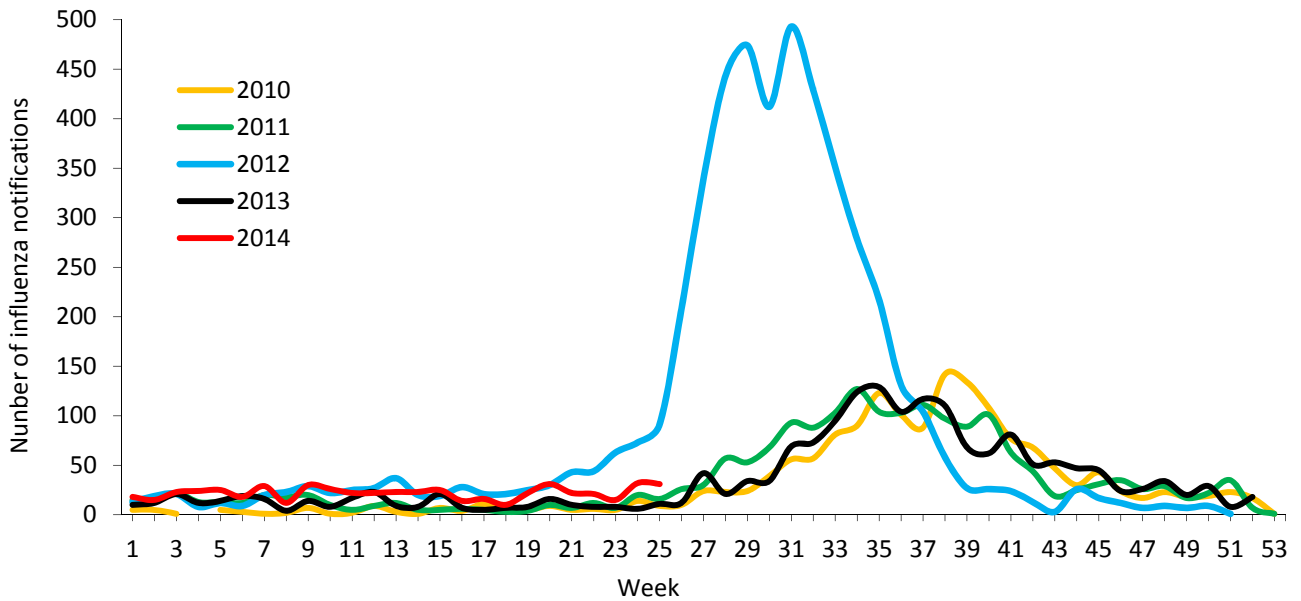
ED presentations and admissions for a viral respiratory illness increased this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week and is similar to levels at this time in recent mild seasons.

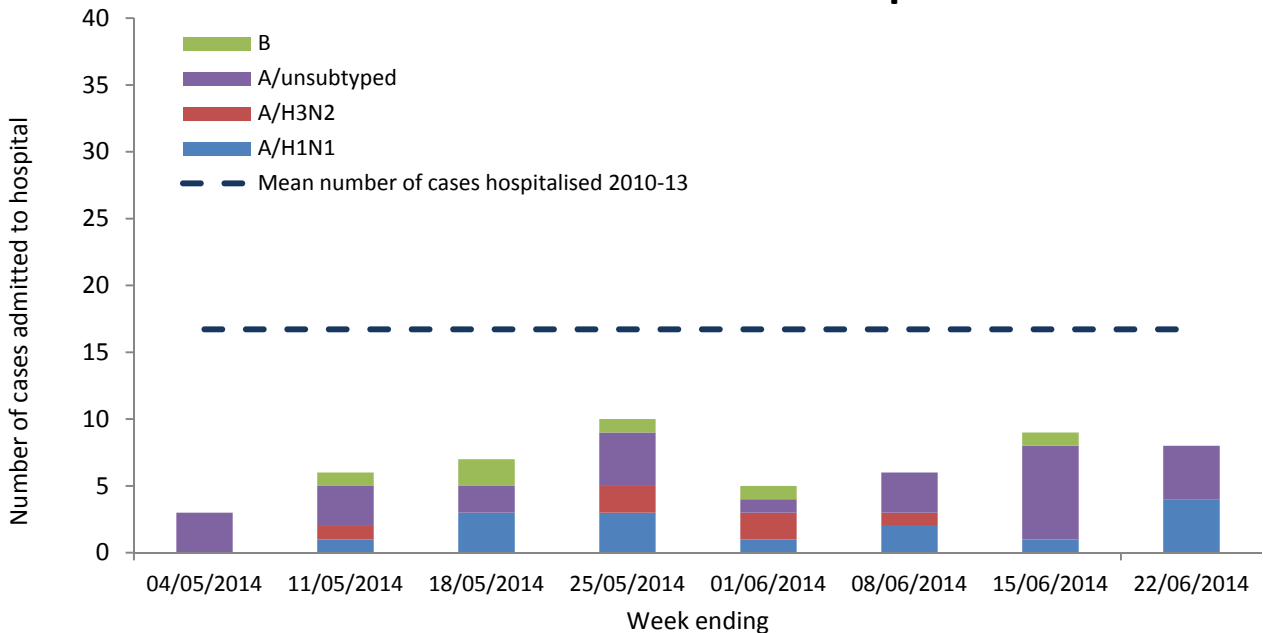
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Thirty-one confirmed influenza cases were reported to the Department of Health this week, which is just above levels at this time in recent mild seasons.

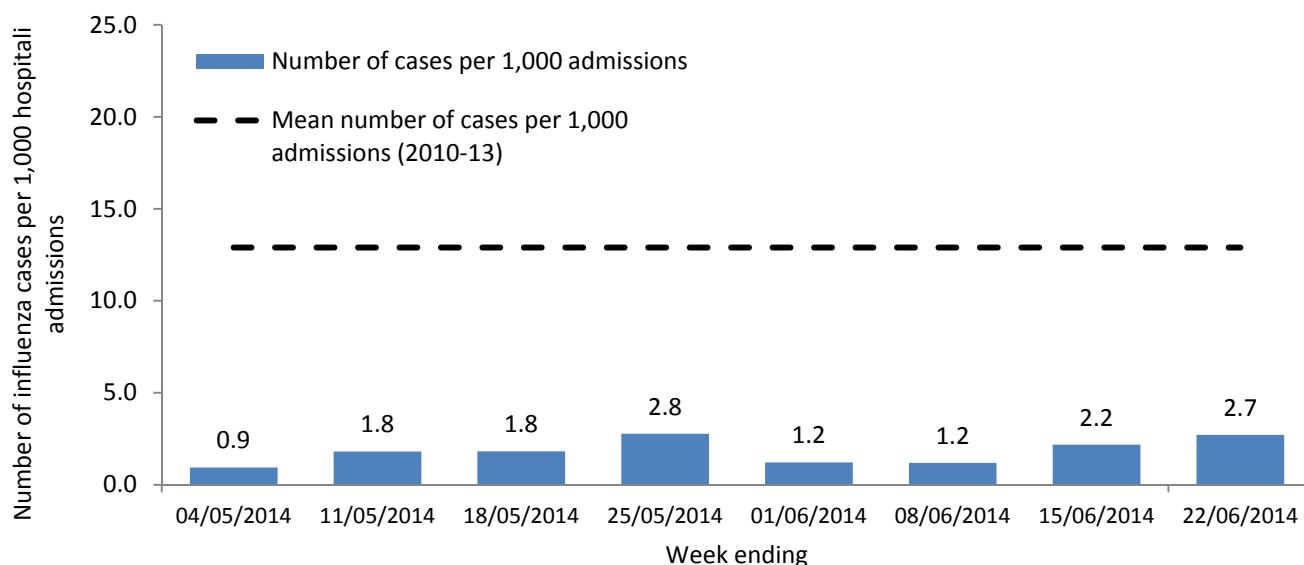
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 16/06/2014 and 22/06/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Nine notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week: 4 (50%) were influenza A/untsubtyped; 4 (50%) were influenza A/H1N1; and no typing was available for 1 case.

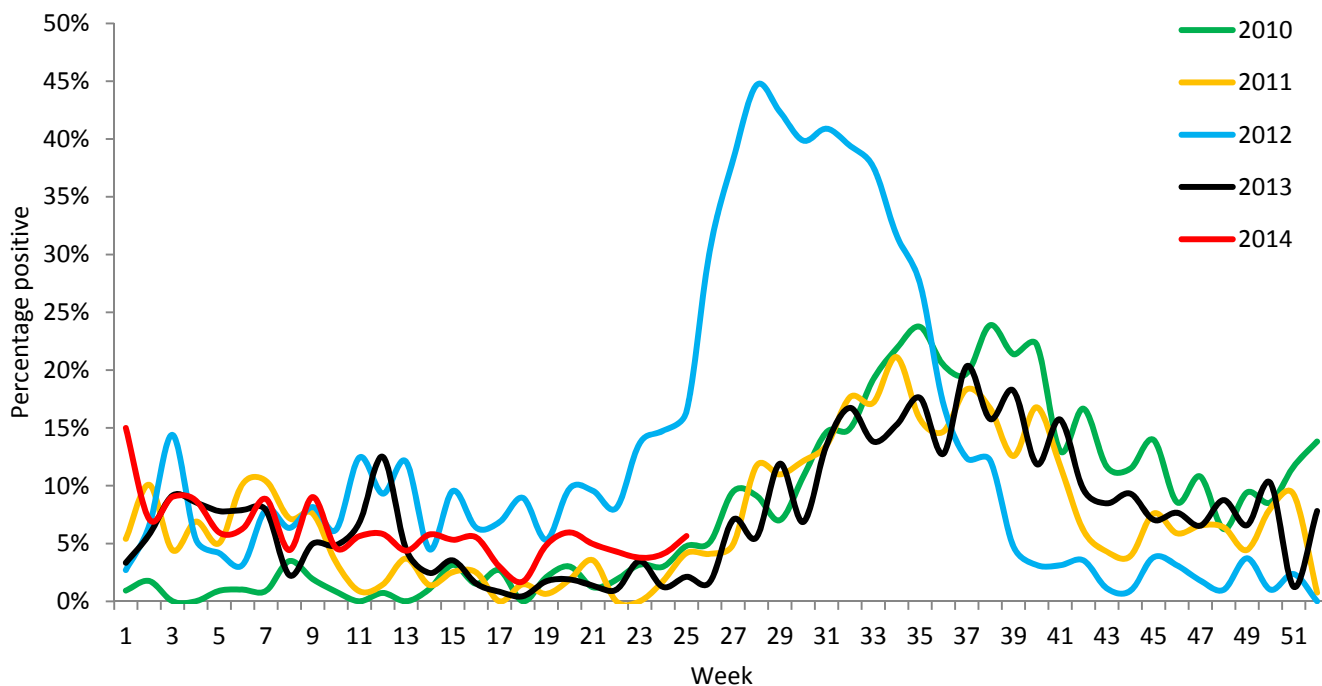
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



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

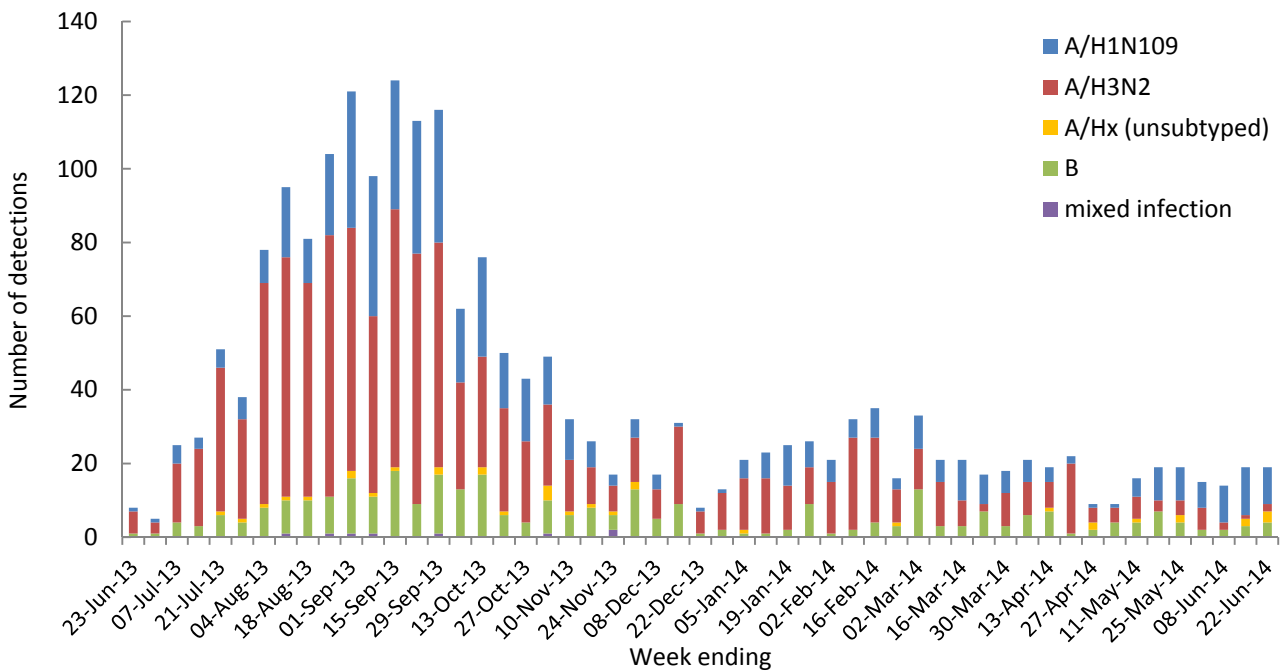
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 5.6% tested positive for influenza virus, which is similar to levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.

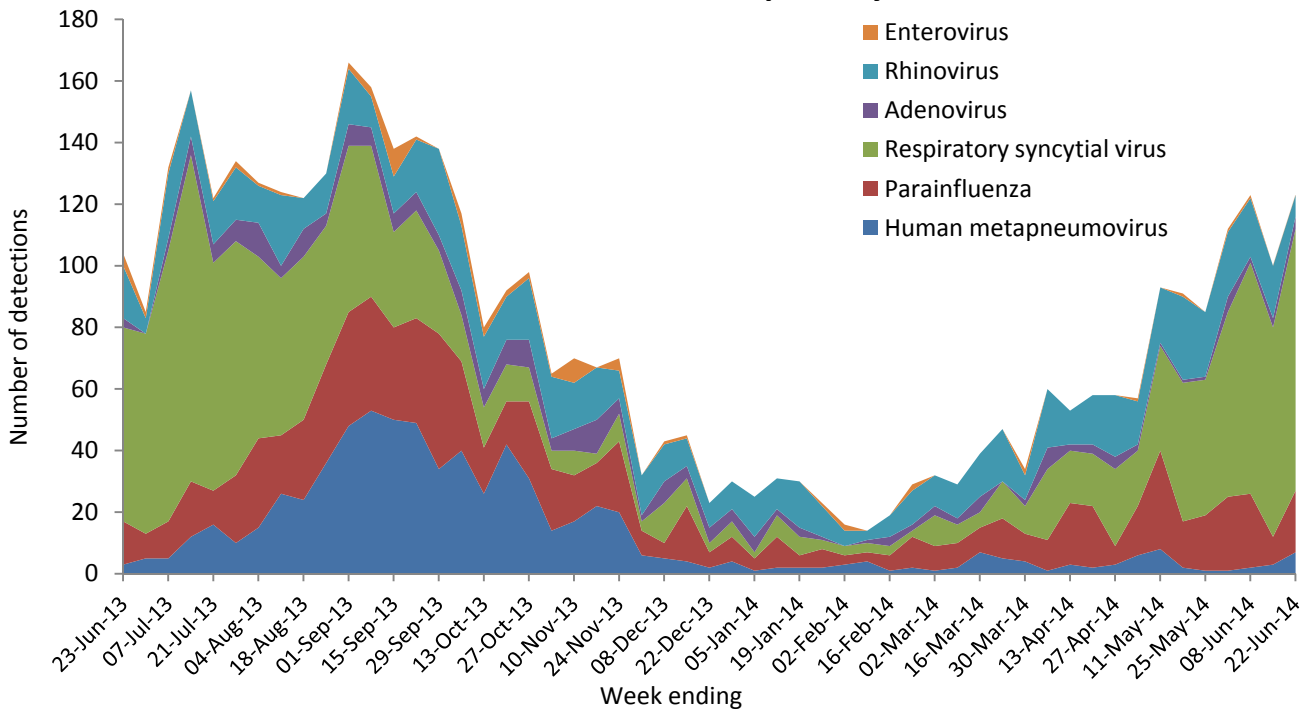
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



Nineteen influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 10 (53%) influenza A/H1N1, 4 (21%) influenza B, 2 (11%) influenza A/H3N2, and 3 (16%) influenza A/unsubtyped.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 25th June 2014 and may differ from numbers described in the above figure.

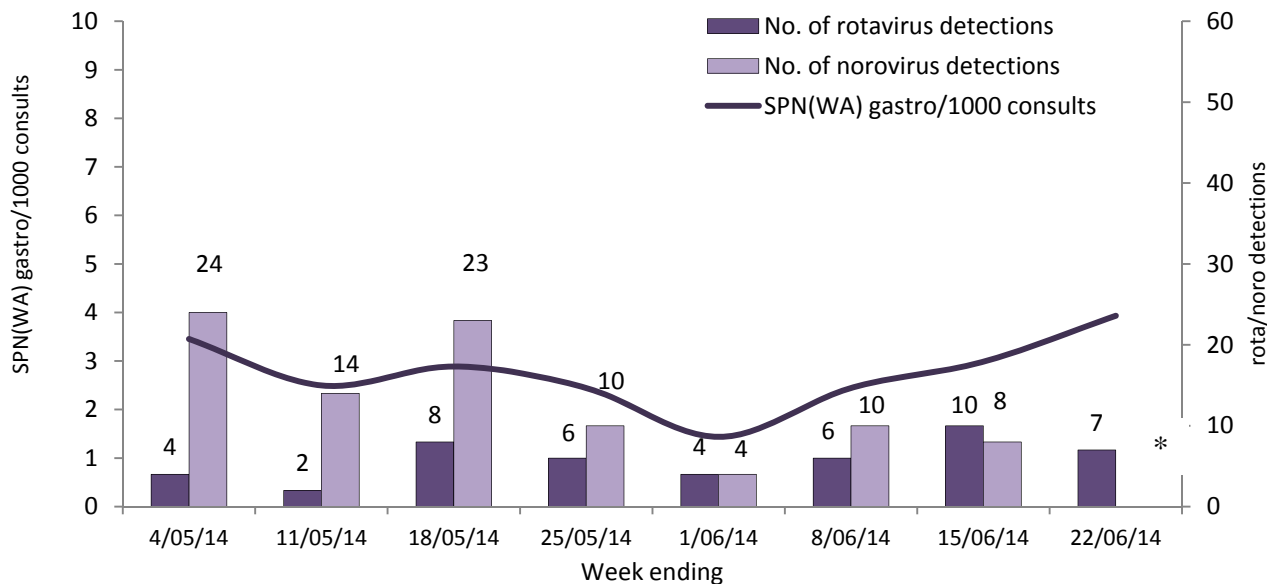
2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses increased this week.

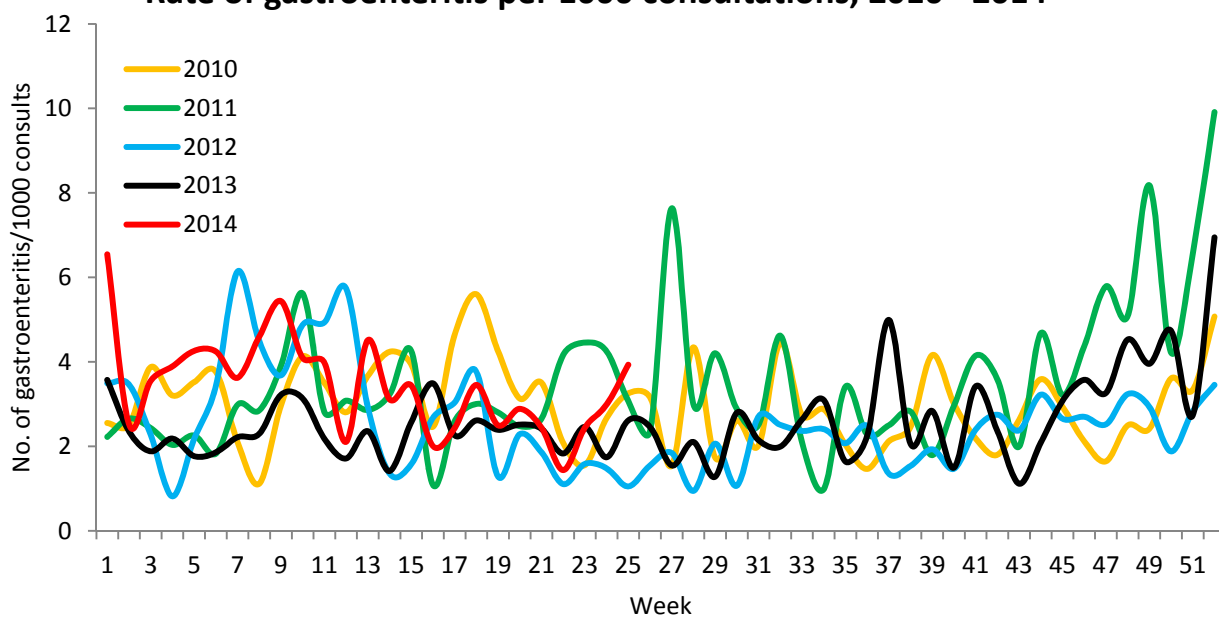
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



There was little change in the rate of gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs this week. Rotavirus detections remain similar to detections from last week. *Norovirus detections were unavailable this week.

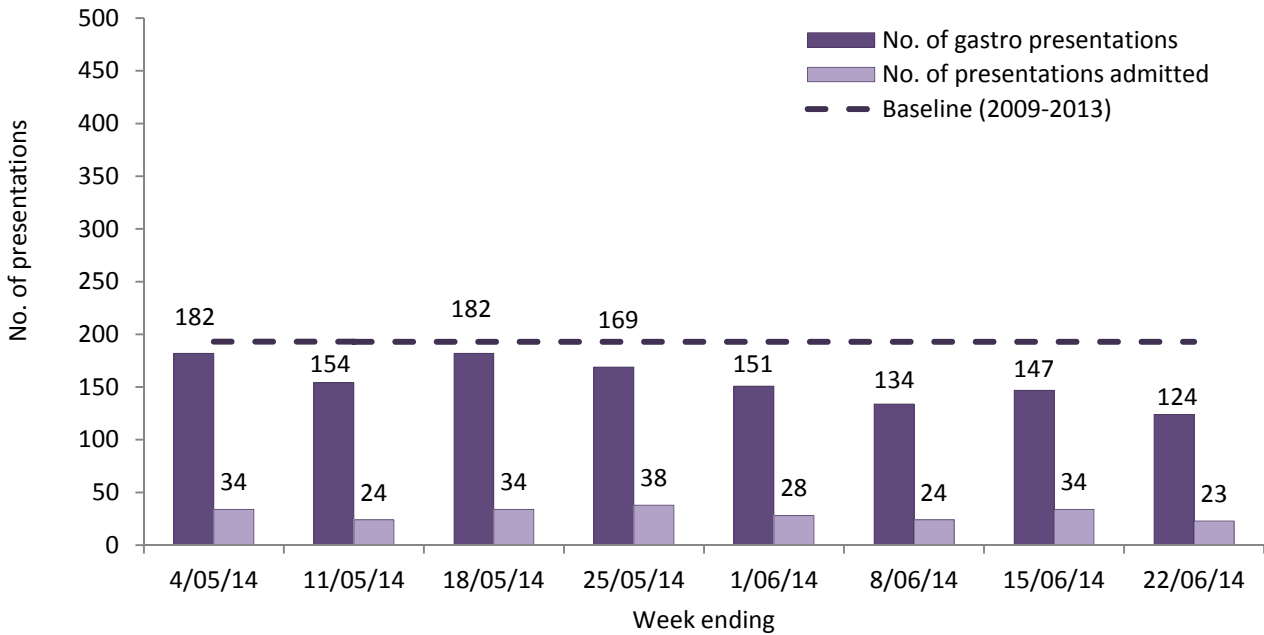
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased this week and is higher than the range of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

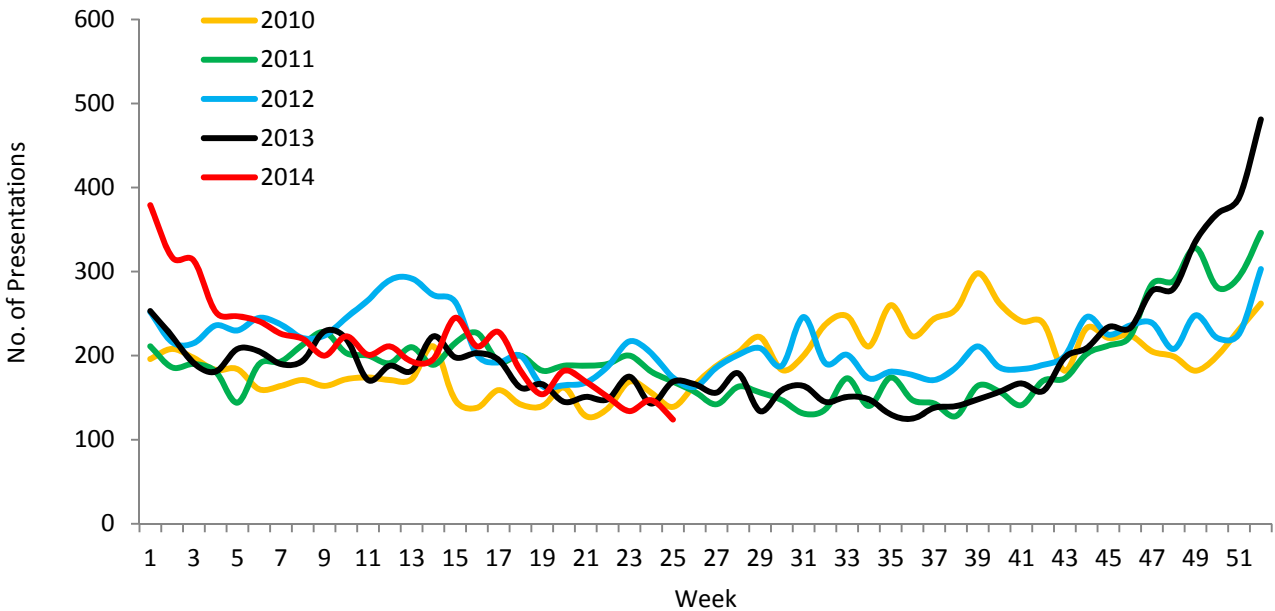
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

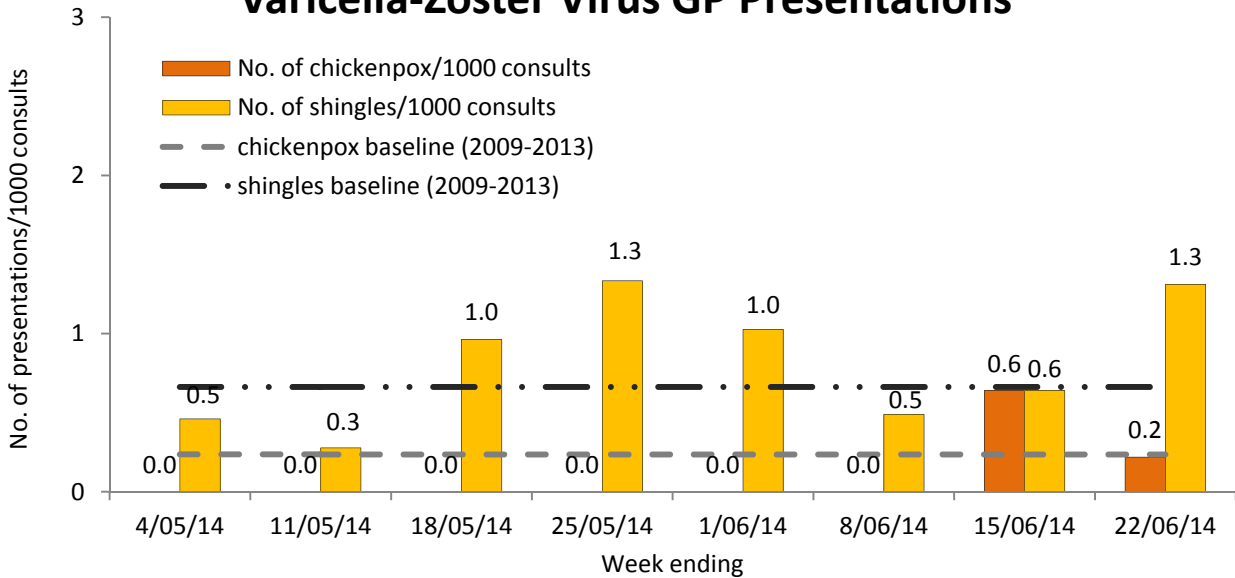
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the lower range of values compared to the same time period in recent years.

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

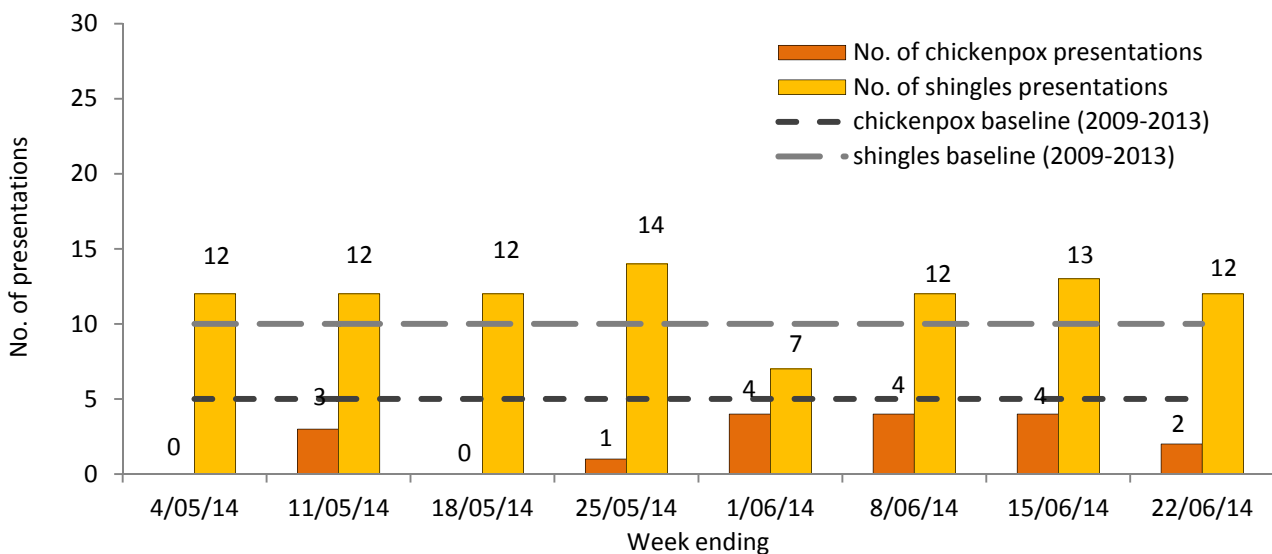


The rate of chickenpox presentations to SPN(WA) GPs reached baseline levels this week. The rate of shingles presentations increased and is now above baseline. Six cases of measles have been confirmed in the past week: 5 unvaccinated children from one family with an unidentified local source, and one case in an unvaccinated young adult who was infected in Singapore. No cases of mumps or rubella were notified.

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 above baseline level. Chickenpox presentations remain below baseline level.

