



WEEK ENDING 6TH JULY 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity continues to increase this week, indicating the influenza season has commenced.

- All indicators of influenza activity, including ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs), influenza notifications, laboratory detections and hospitalisations associated with influenza increased this week.
- 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 respiratory syncytial virus increased this week and remain high; adenovirus detections also increased.

GASTROENTERITIS

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

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs remain above expected levels; chickenpox presentations remain low.
- Three secondary cases of measles were reported in contacts of an imported case: one an infant family member; and two young adult contacts from a hospital emergency department. One confirmed case of mumps was notified in an unvaccinated traveller returning from Indonesia. No cases of rubella were reported.

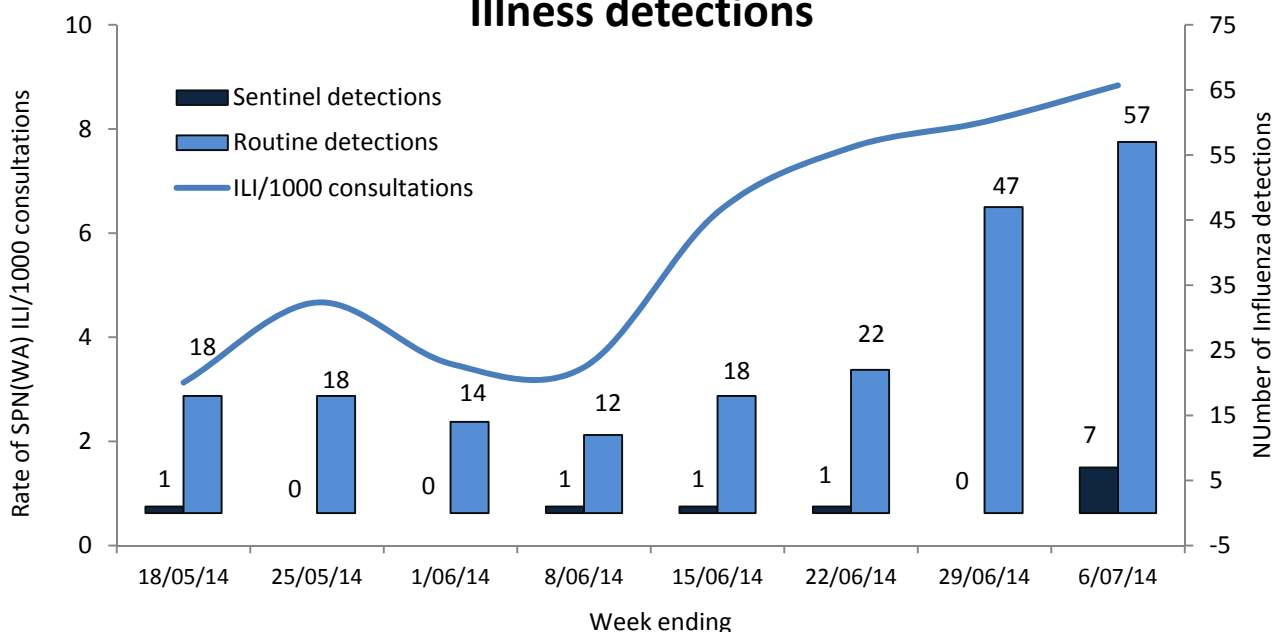
Current and archived issues of Virus Watch http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

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.



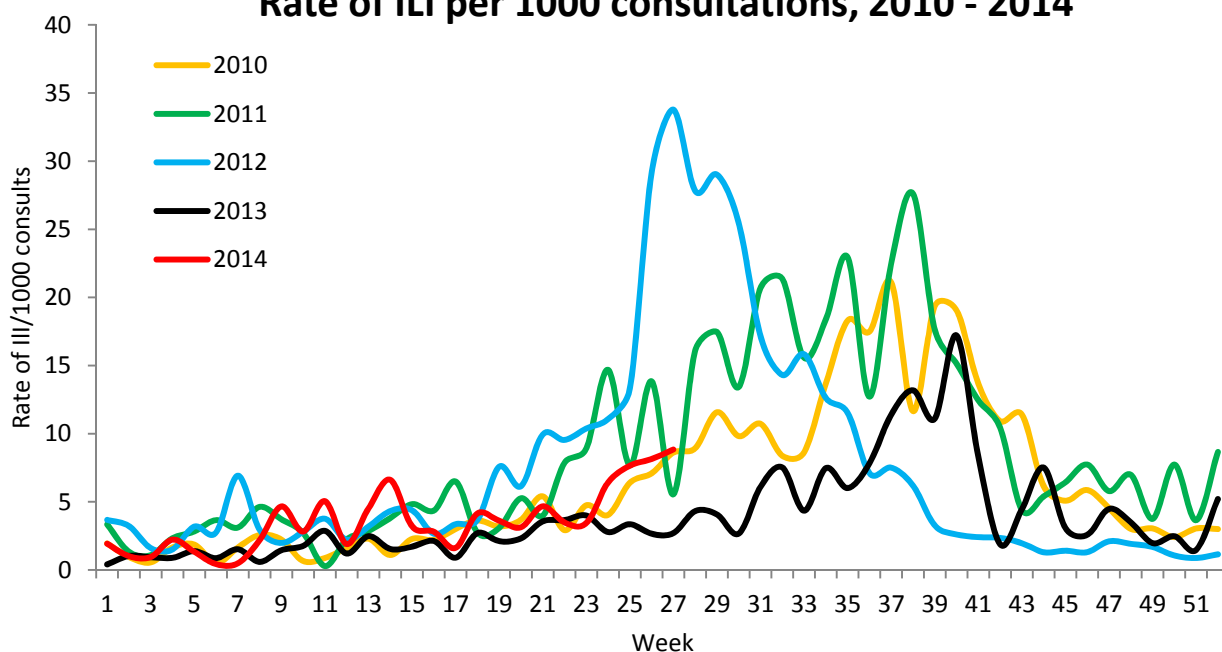
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The number of ILI presentations to sentinel GP practices increased this week, as did routine detections of influenza virus. Seven (17%) of 41 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 376 routinely collected specimens, 57 (15%) tested positive.

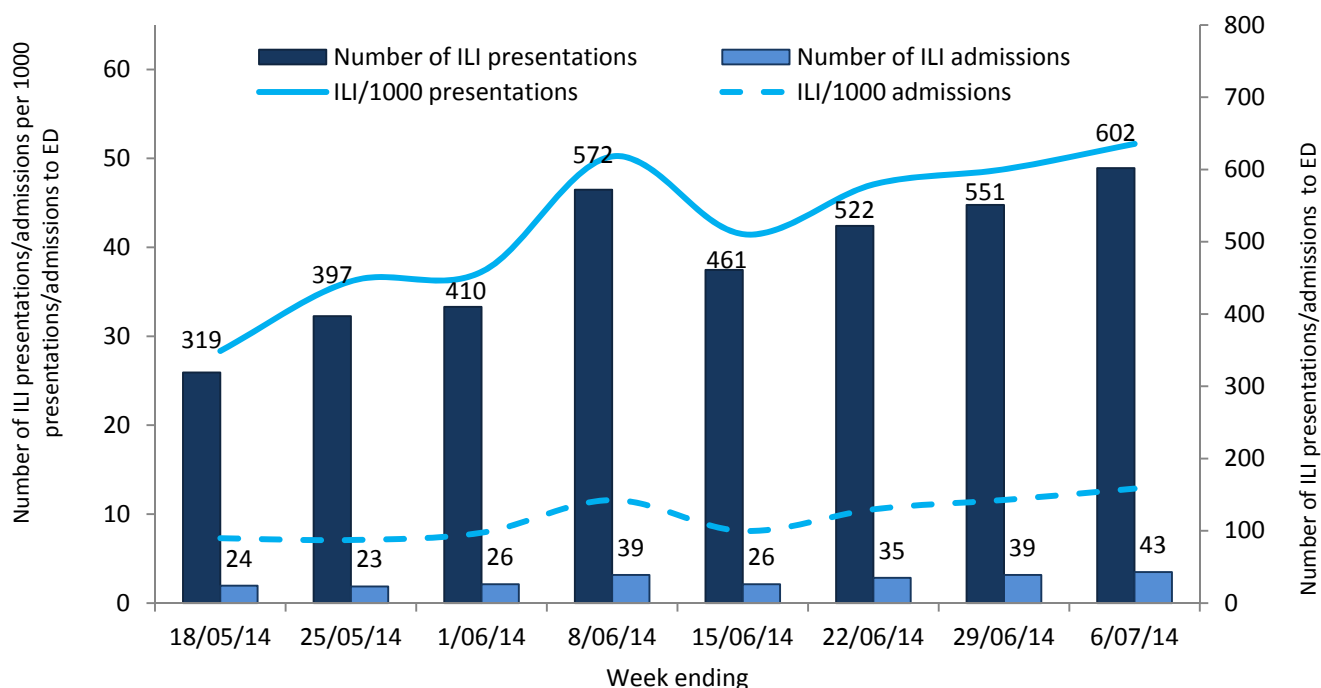
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 8.8 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in previous years.

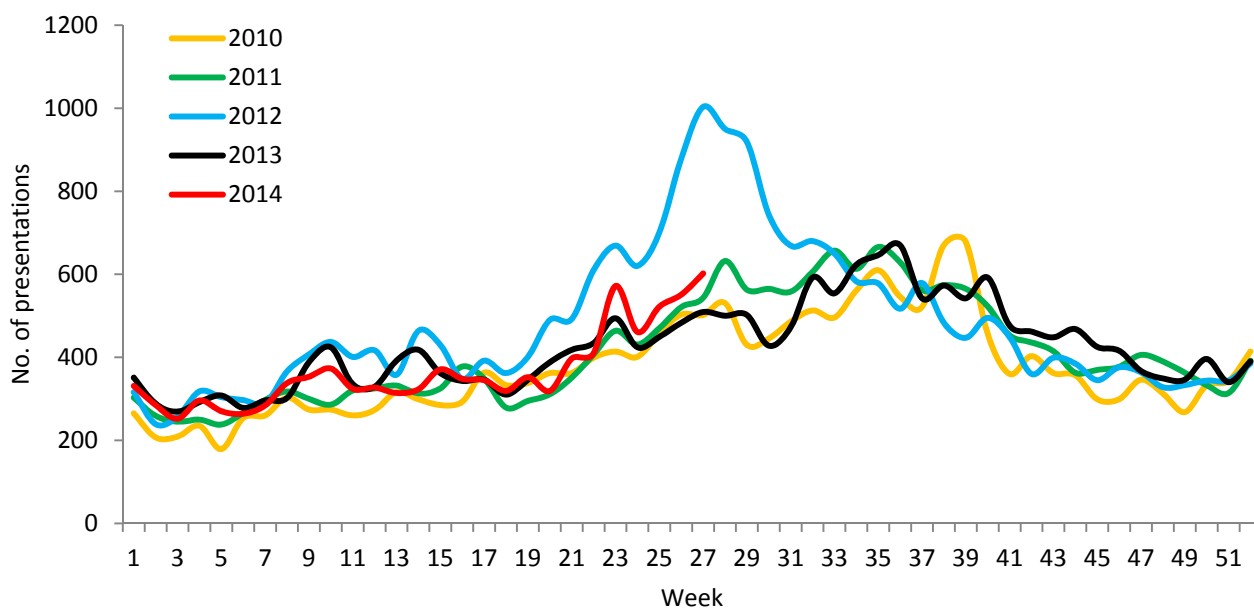
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



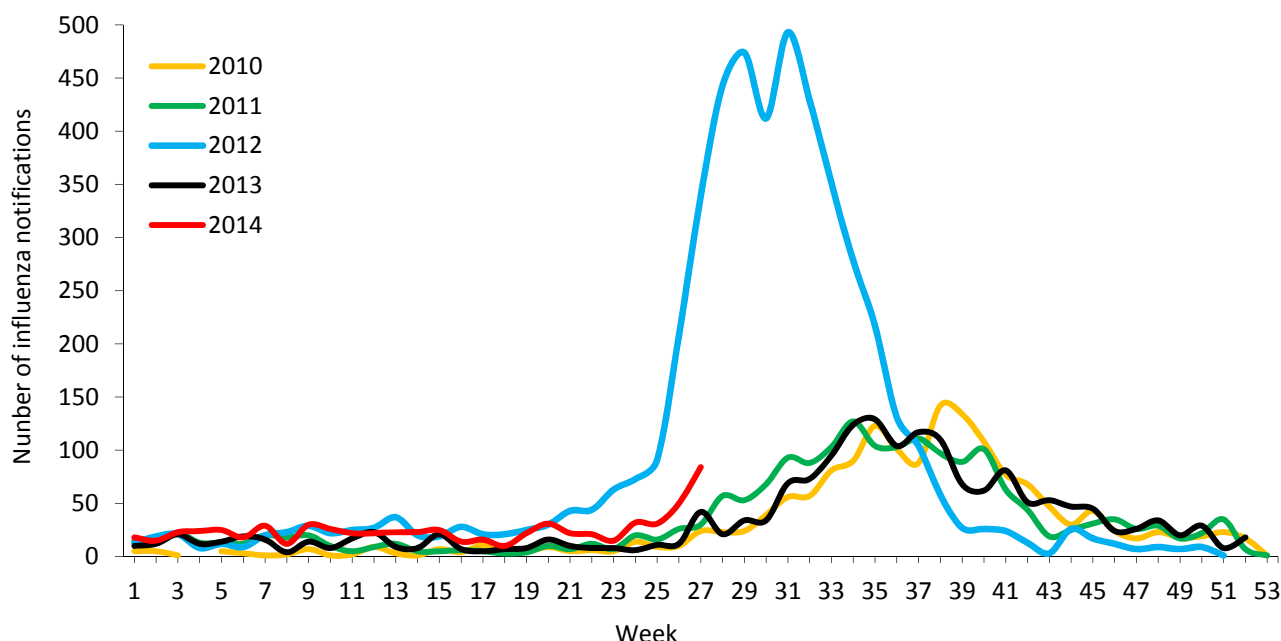
ED presentations and admissions for a viral respiratory illness continue to increase this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week and is slightly higher than the number of presentations reported in recent mild seasons.

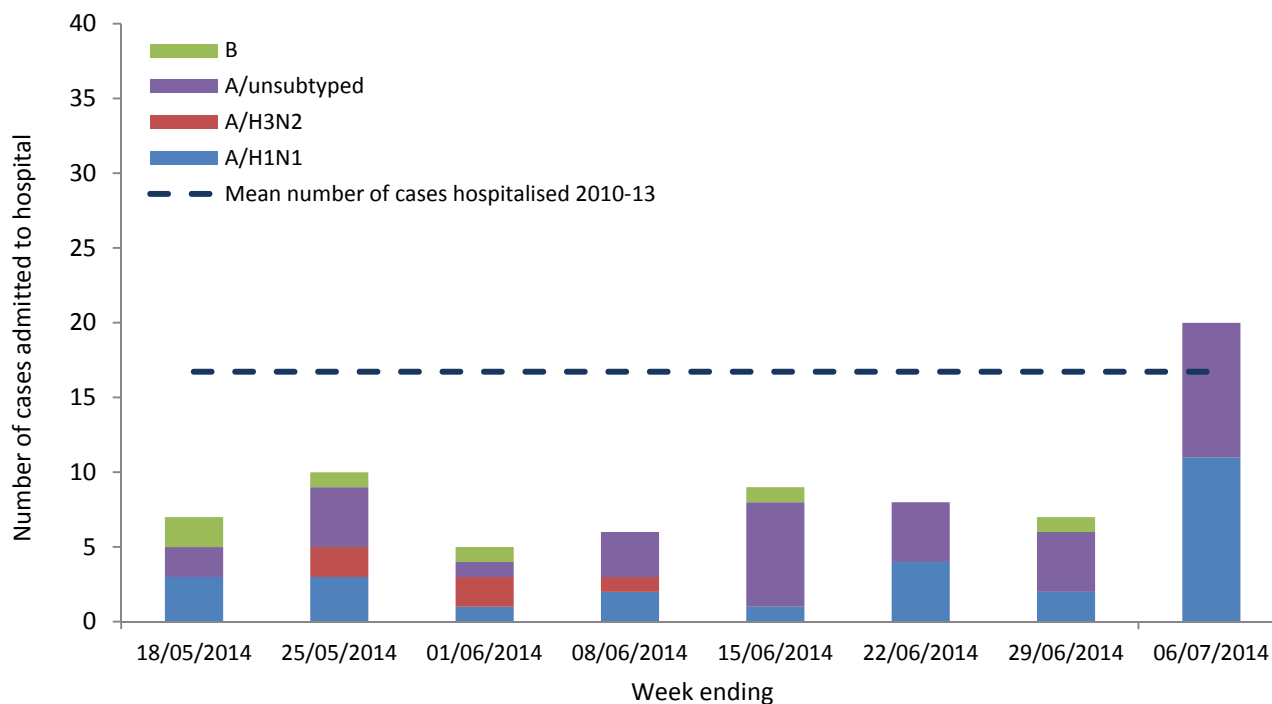
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Eighty four confirmed influenza cases were reported to the Department of Health this week, which is higher than the number of cases reported at this time in recent mild seasons.

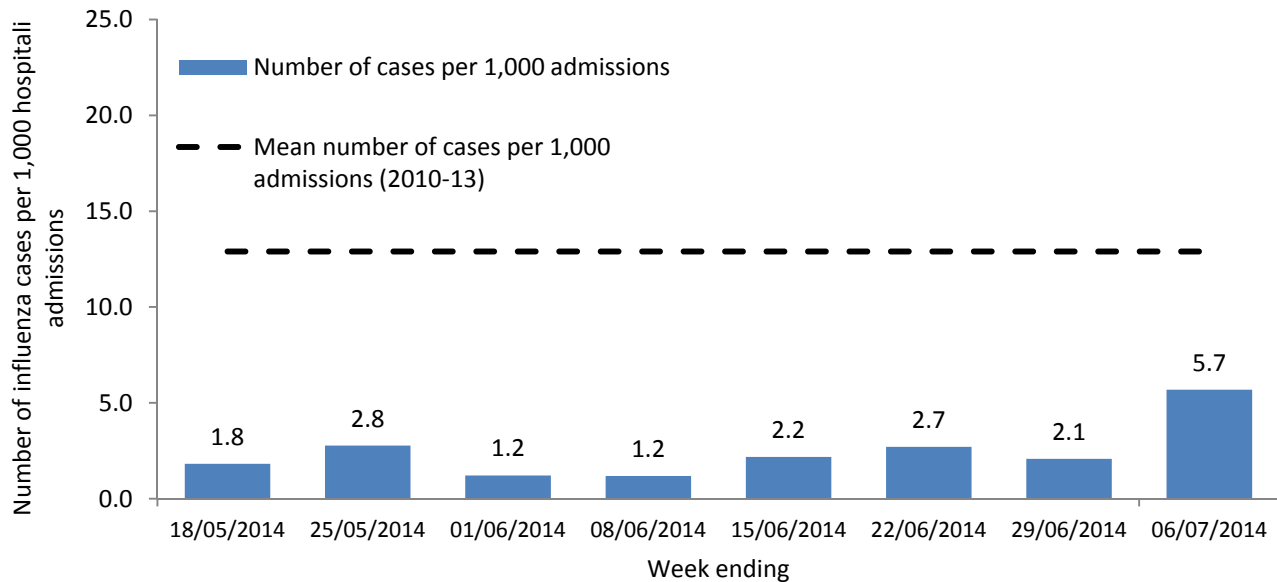
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 30/06/2014 and 06/07/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Twenty notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week: 11 (55%) were influenza A/H1N1, and 9 (45%) were influenza A/unsubtyped.

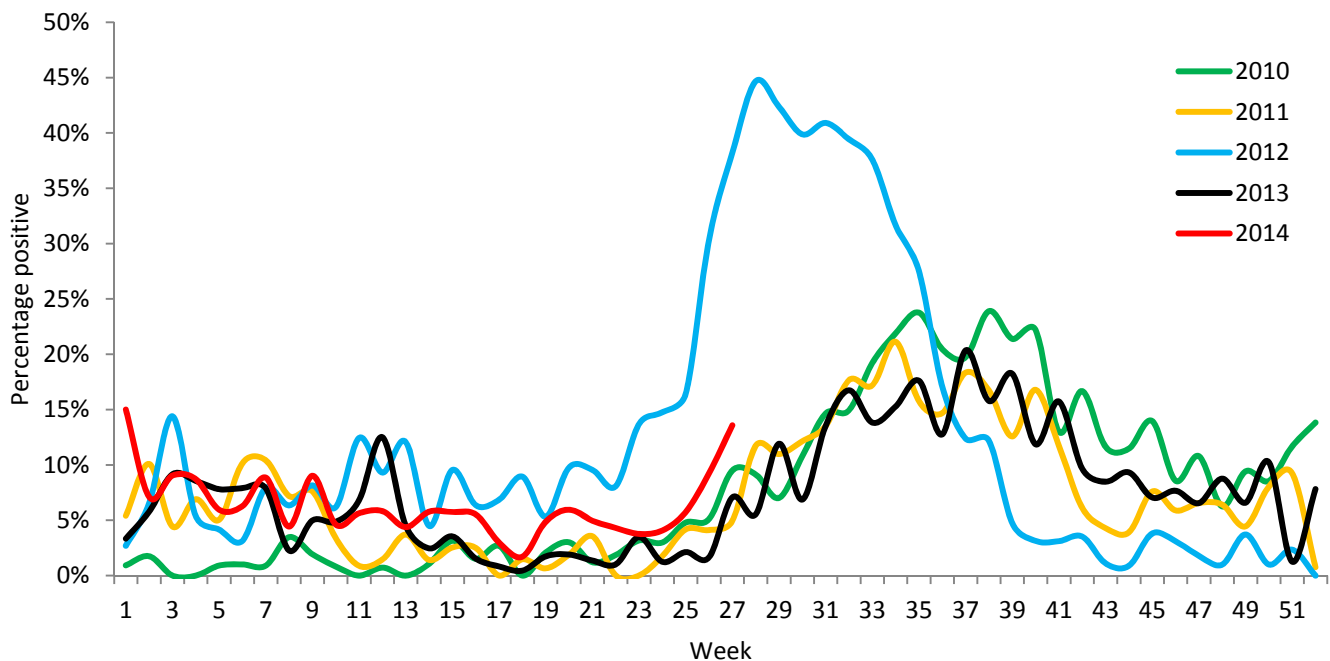
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza increased to 5.7 per 1,000 admissions this week, but remains below the average for recent years.

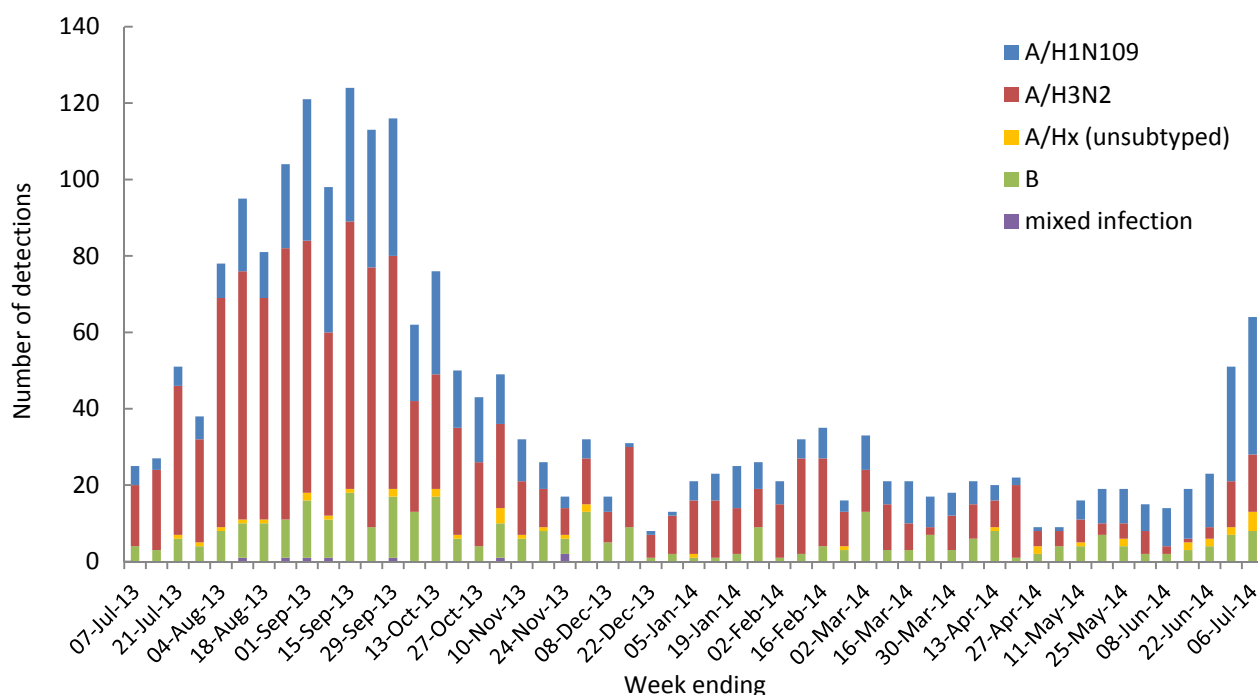
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 14% tested positive for influenza virus, which is higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.

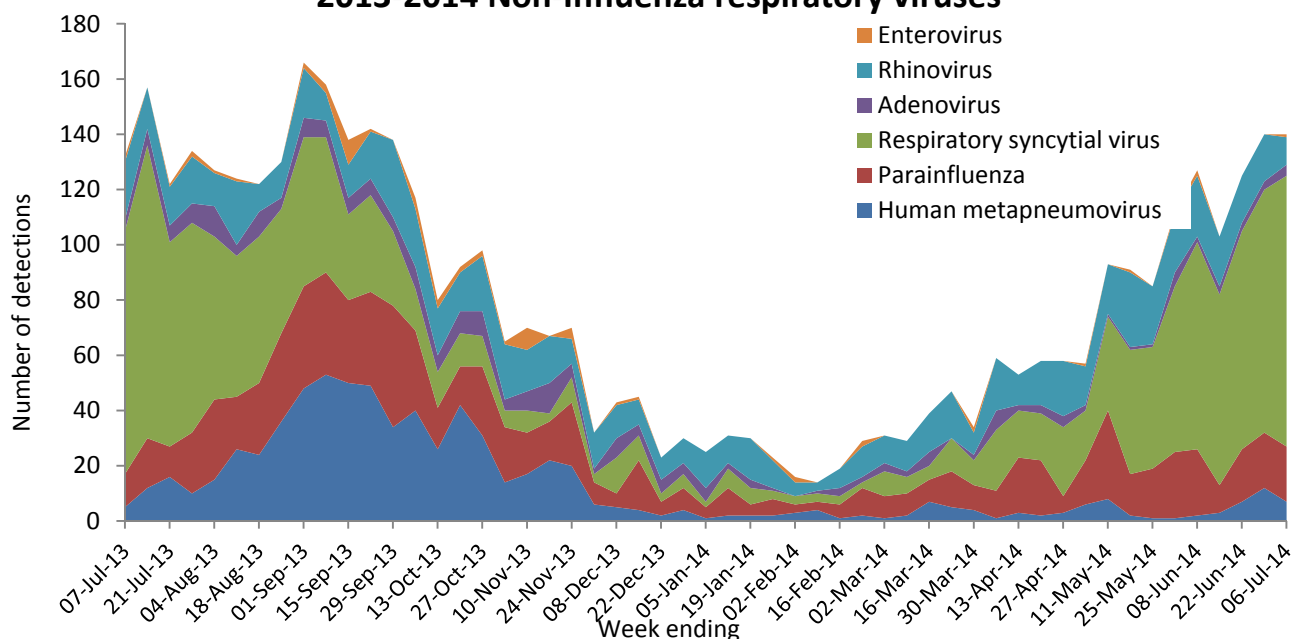
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 influenza subtypes



Sixty four influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 36 (56%) influenza A/H1N1, 15 (23%) influenza A/H3N2, 8 (13%) influenza B, and 5 (8%) 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 9th July 2014.

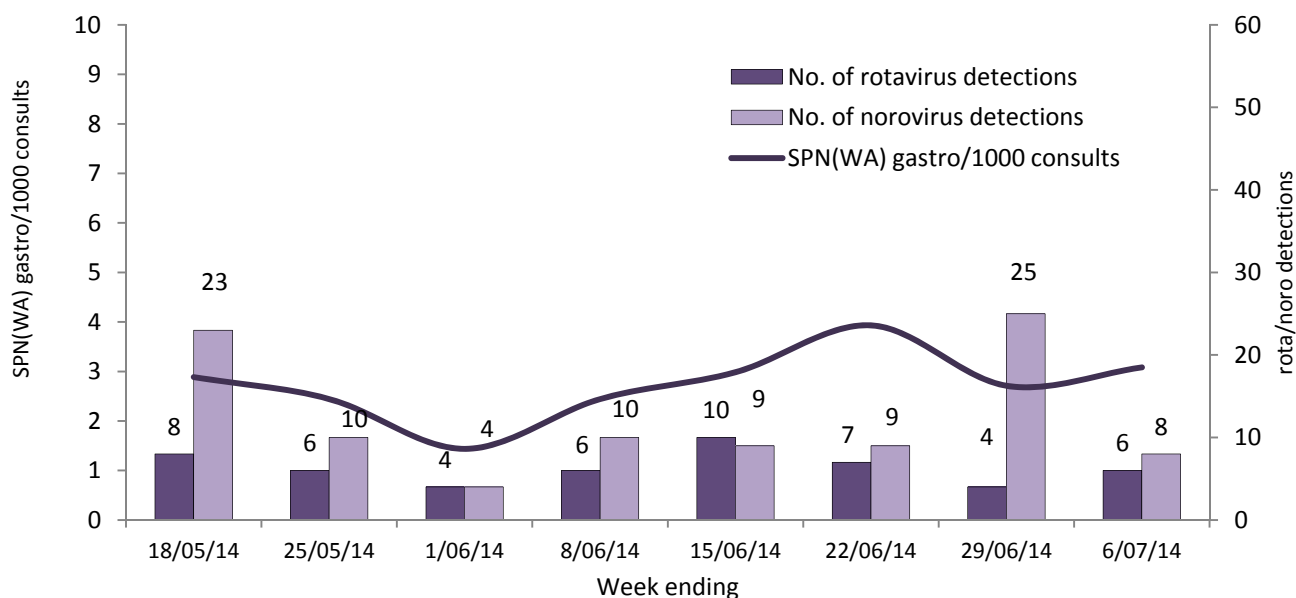
2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



Detections of respiratory syncytial virus and adenovirus increased this week; other non-influenza respiratory virus detections decreased or stabilised this week.

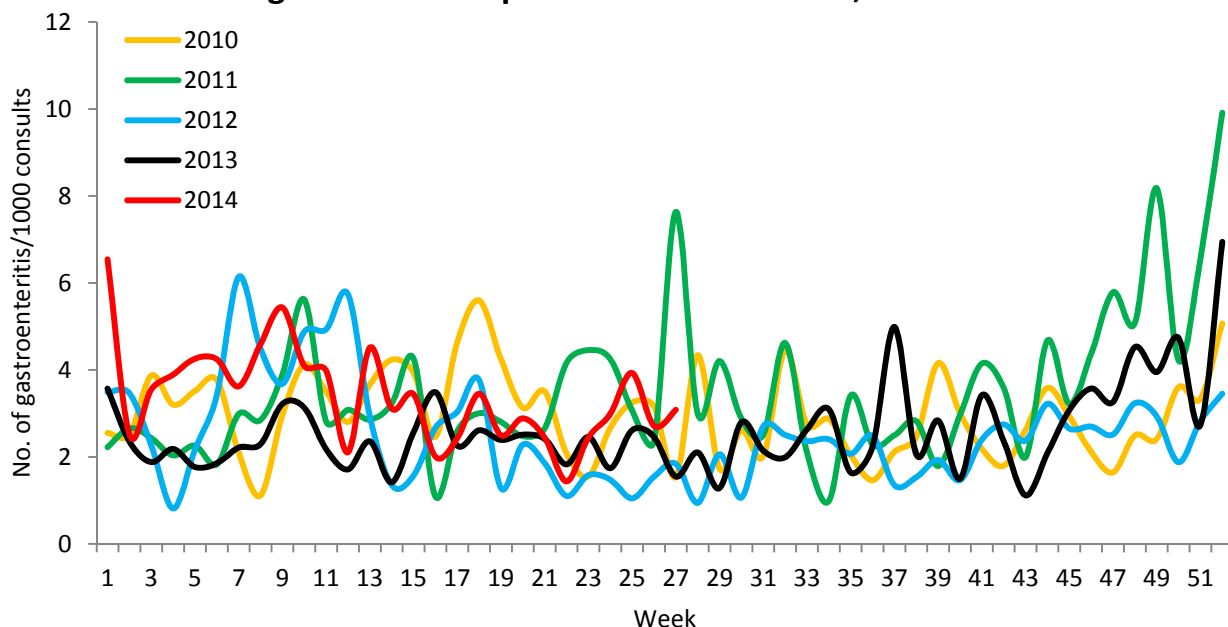
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain stable. Norovirus detections decreased this week; rotavirus detections were similar to the previous week.

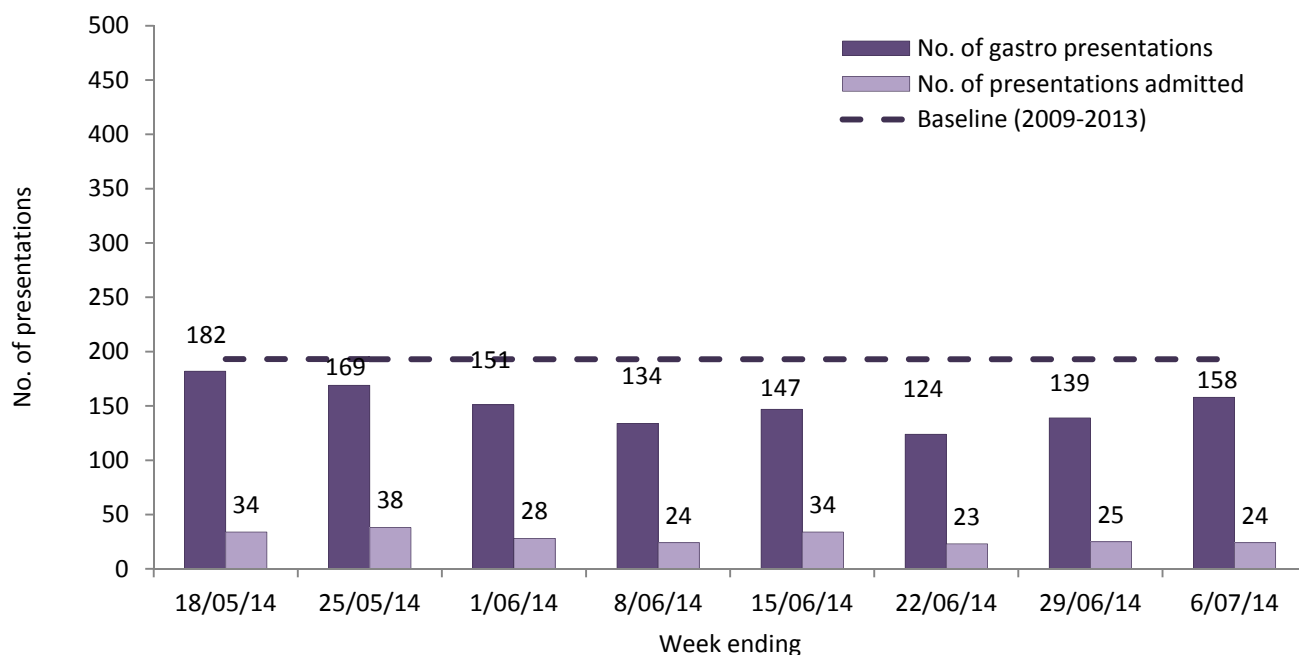
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs remains in the mid-range of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

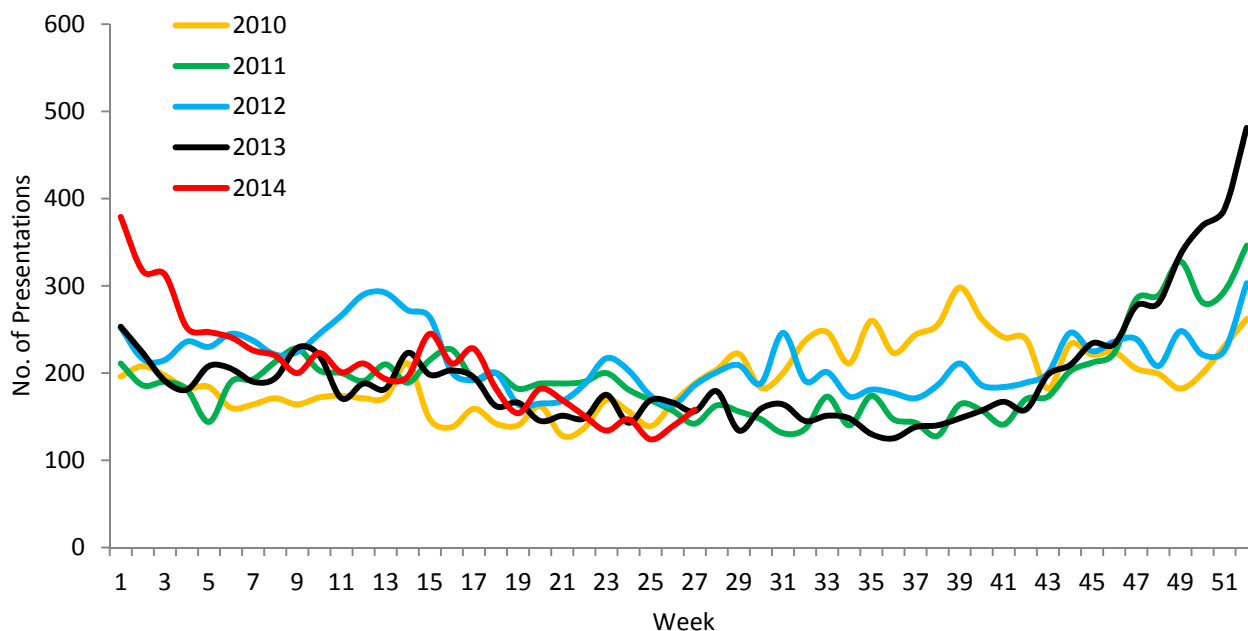
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

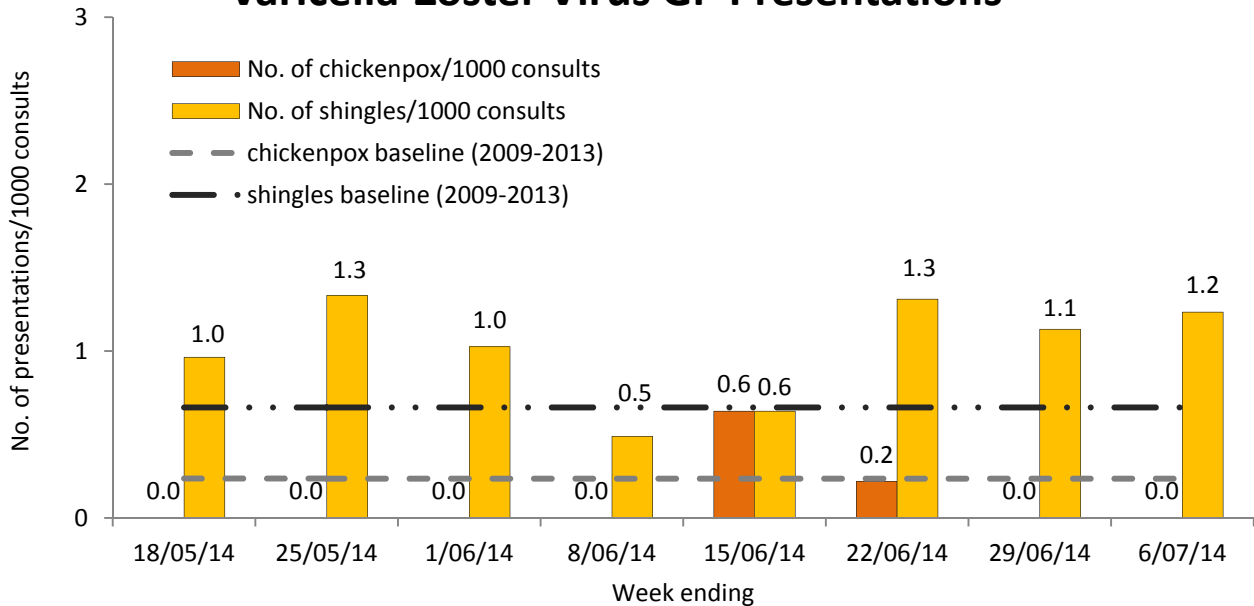
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



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

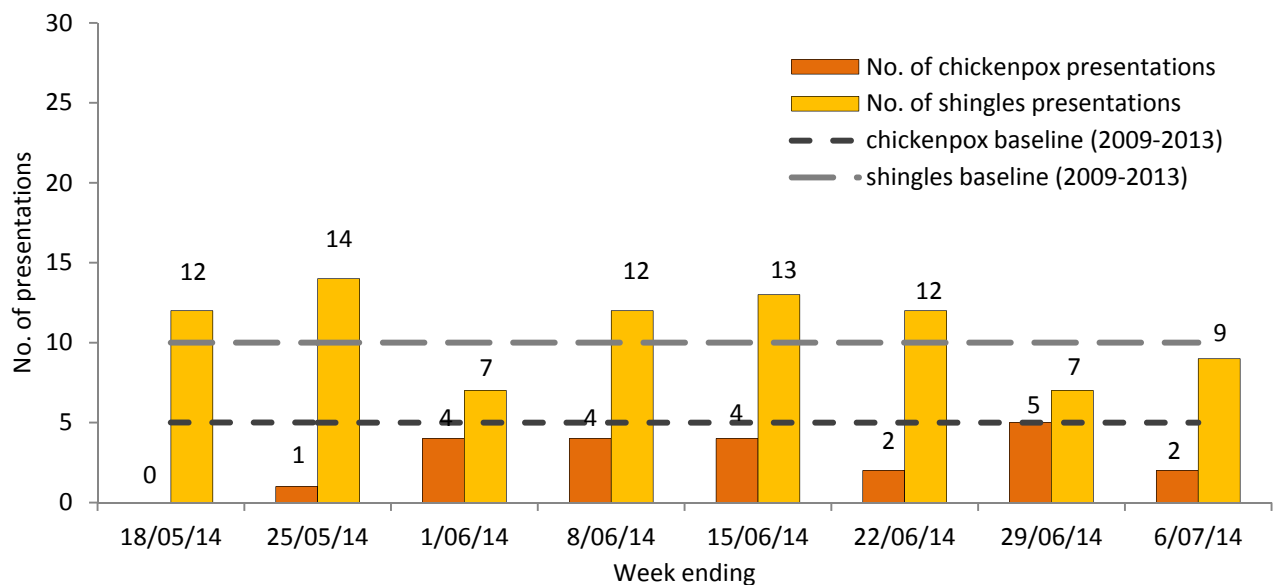


The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remains above baseline. No cases of chicken pox were seen at sentinel GPs this week. Three secondary cases of measles were reported in contacts of an imported case: one an infant family member; and two young adult contacts from a hospital emergency department. One confirmed case of mumps was notified in an unvaccinated traveller returning from Indonesia. No cases of rubella were reported.

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 around baseline level. Chickenpox presentations decreased below baseline level this week.