



WEEK ENDING 29TH JUNE 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity is increasing; non-influenza respiratory virus activity continues to increase.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs) and influenza notifications increased; however, 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 GPs and EDs are within expected levels.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

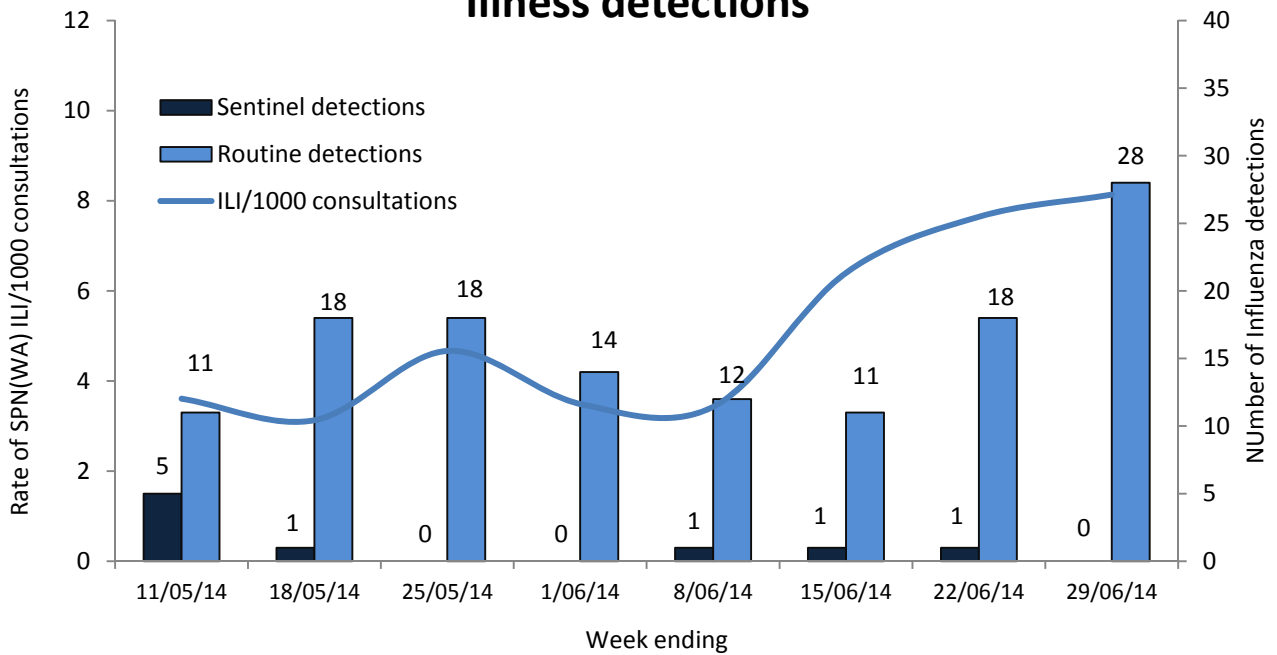
- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs remain above expected levels; chickenpox presentations remain low.
- One secondary case of measles was reported in a household contact of a confirmed case. No confirmed cases of mumps or rubella were reported.

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.

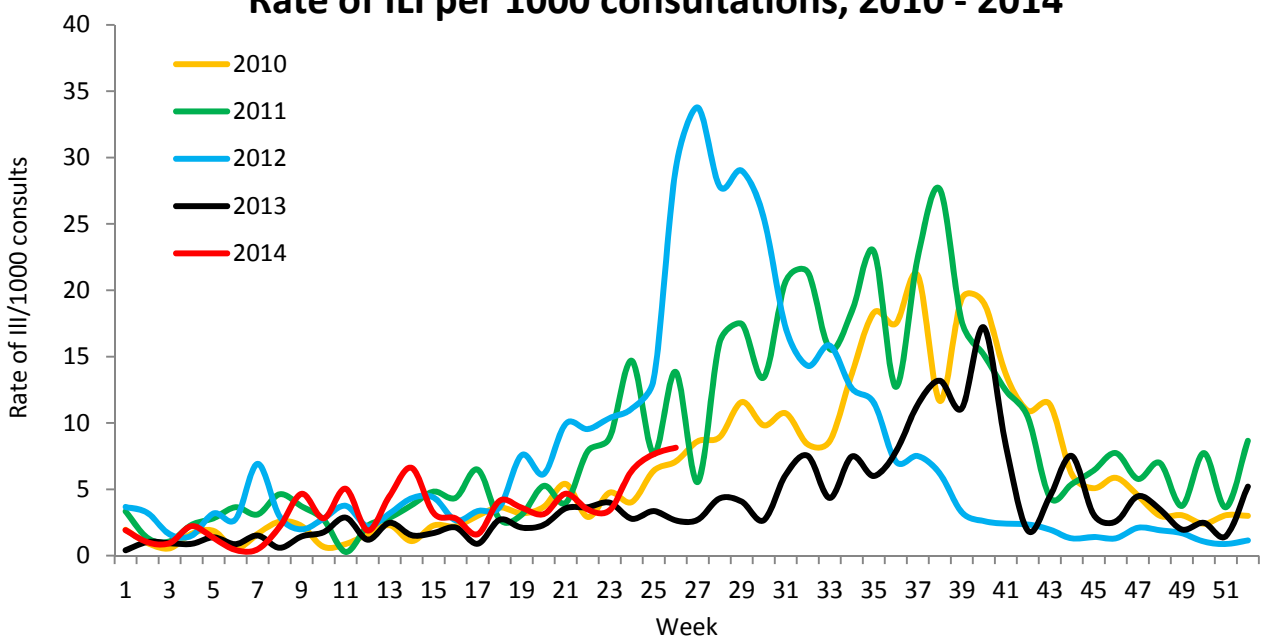
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

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. None of the 14 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 310 routinely collected specimens, 28 (9%) tested positive.

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

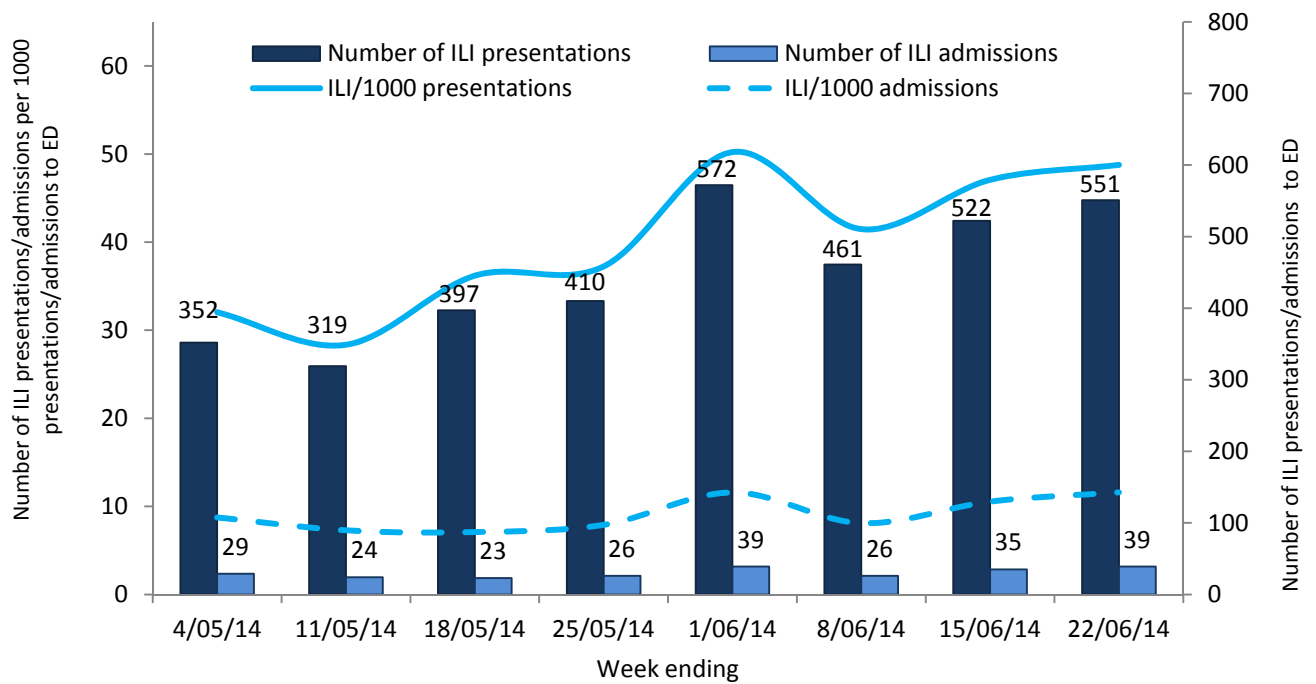


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 8.1 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in previous years.



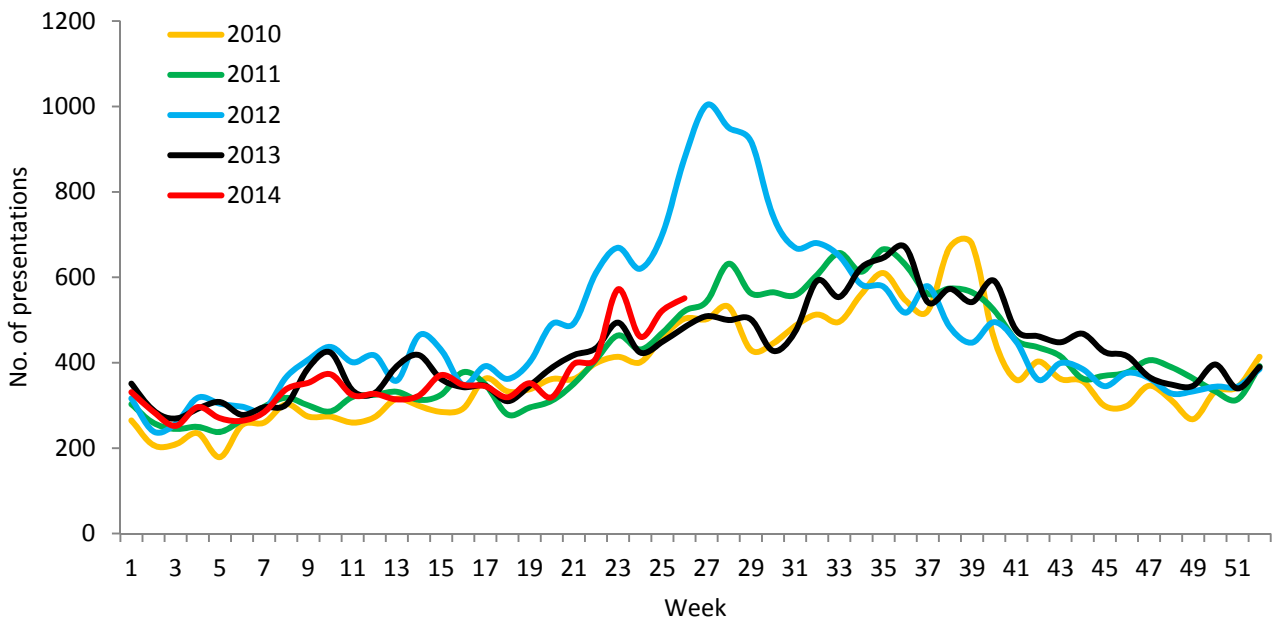
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



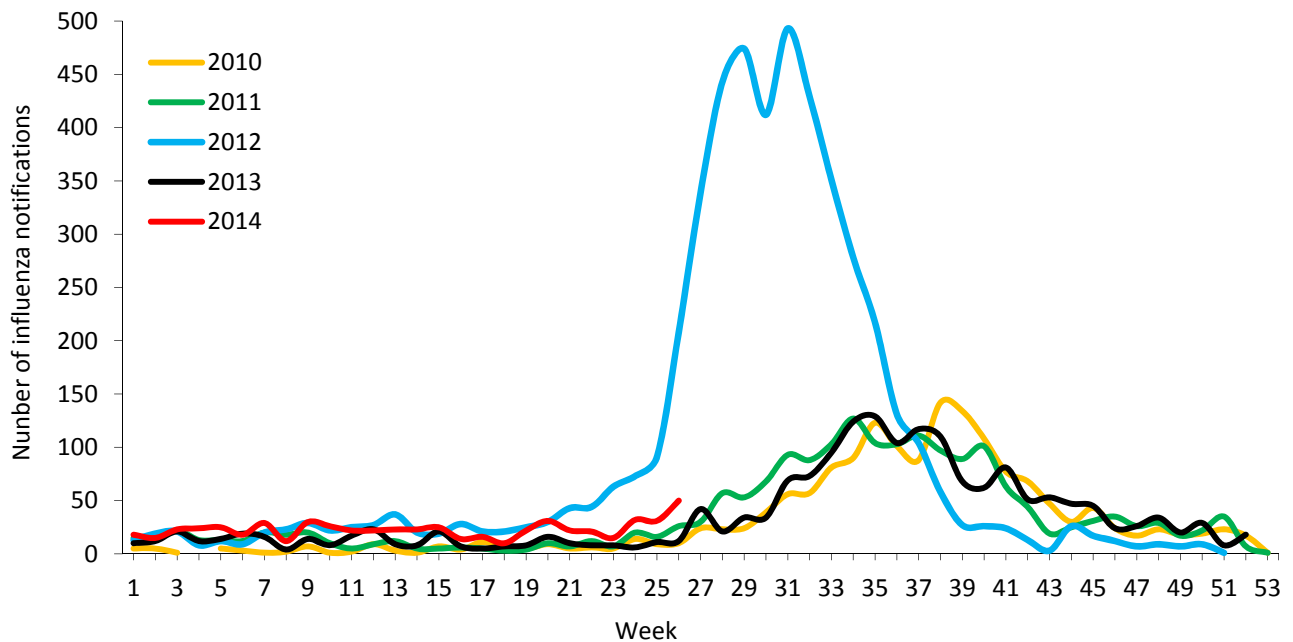
ED presentations and admissions for a viral respiratory illness increased this week.

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.

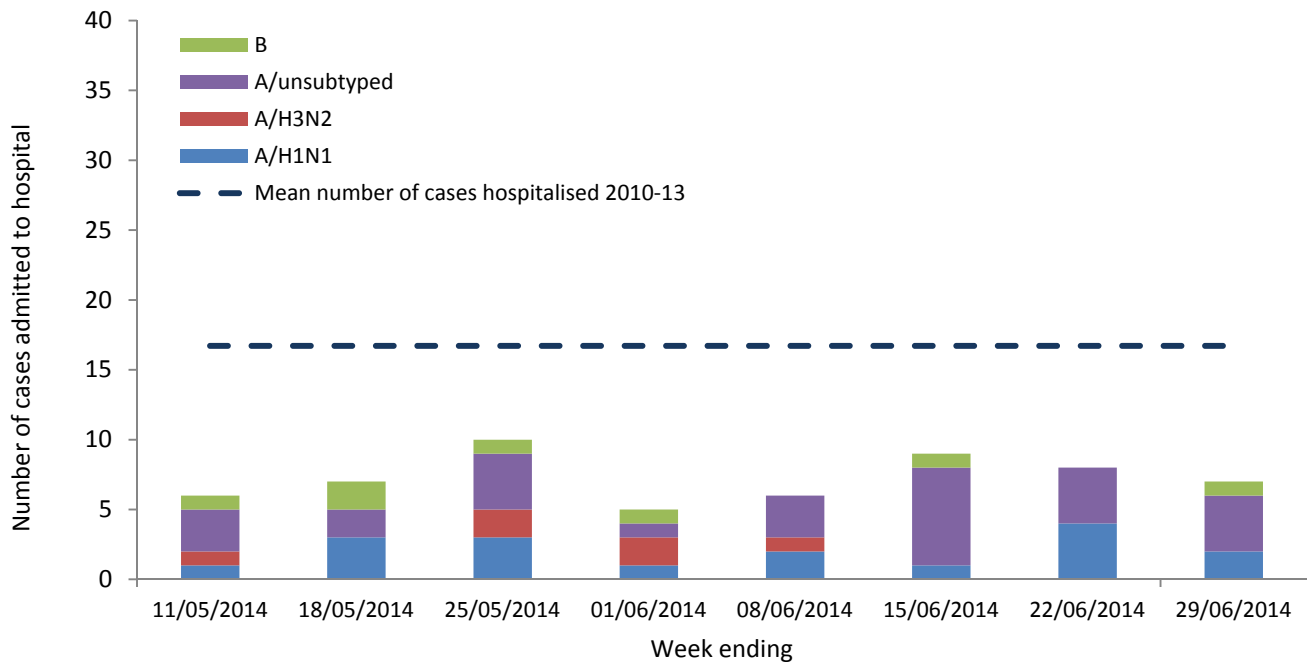
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



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

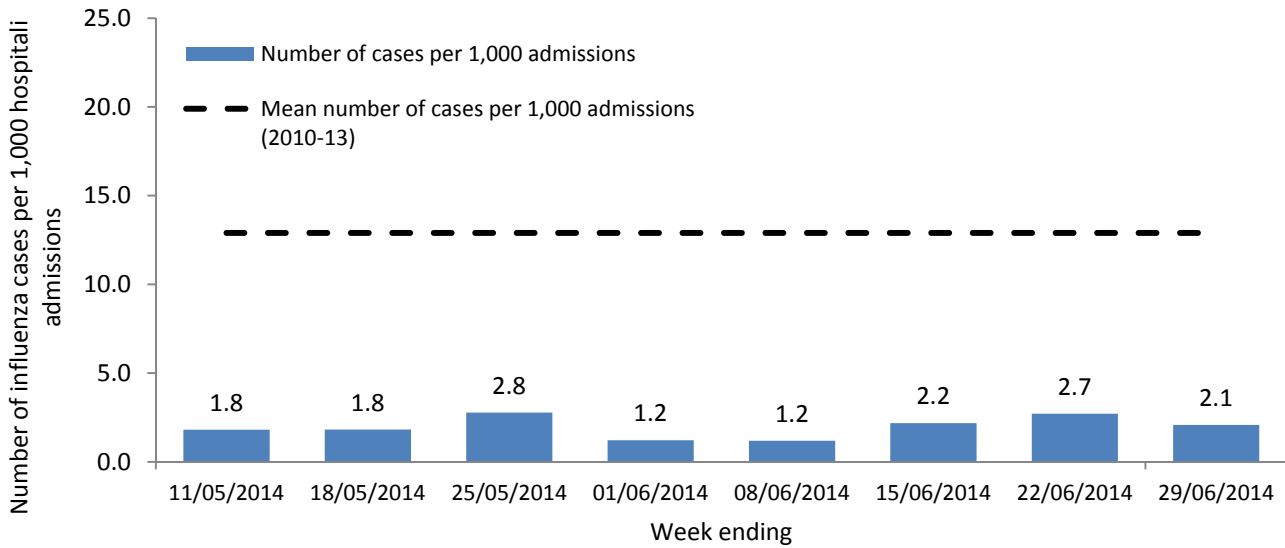
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 23/06/2014 and 29/06/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Seven notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week: 4 (57%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, 2 (29%) were influenza A/H1N1, and 1 (14%) was influenza B.

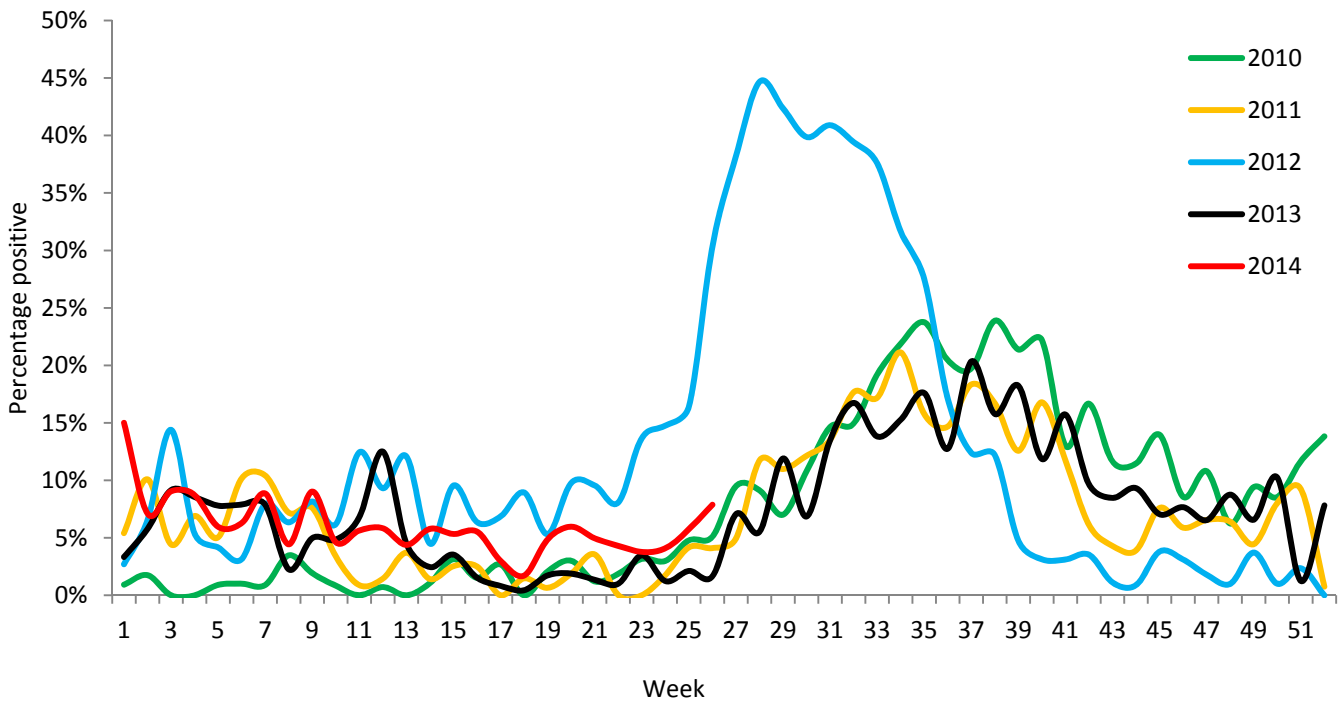
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



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.

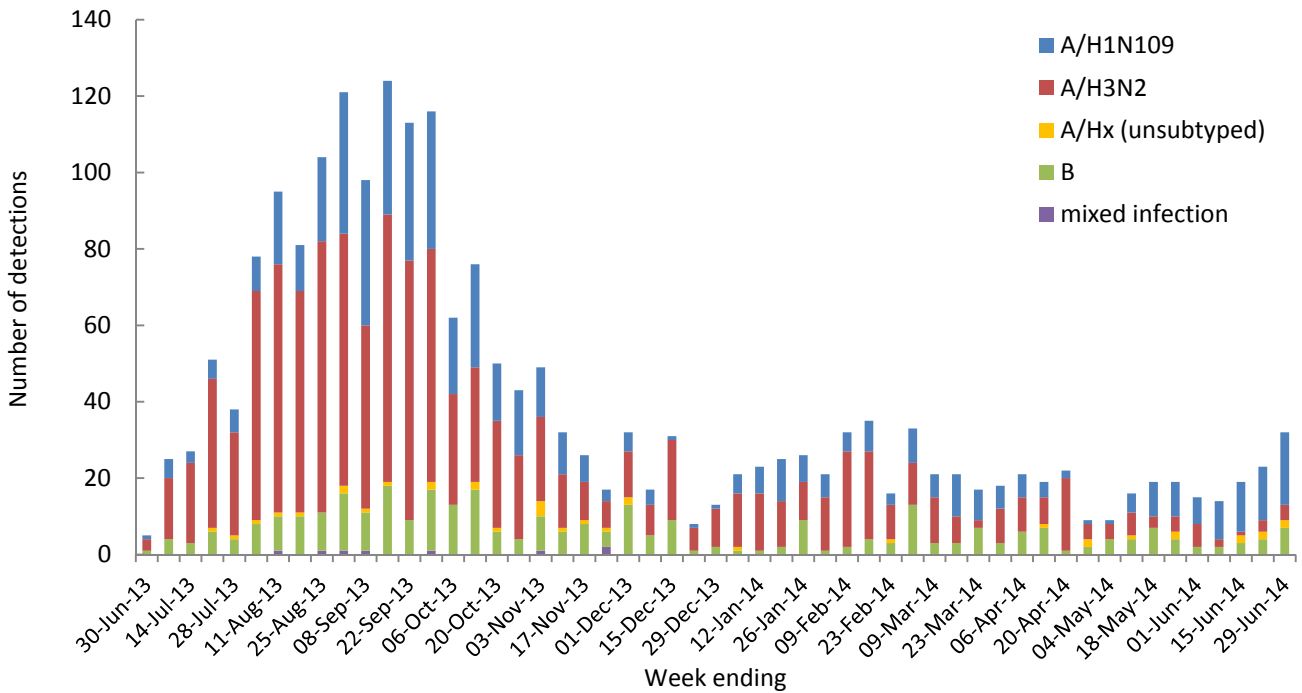
PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 8% tested positive for influenza virus, which is similar to levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.



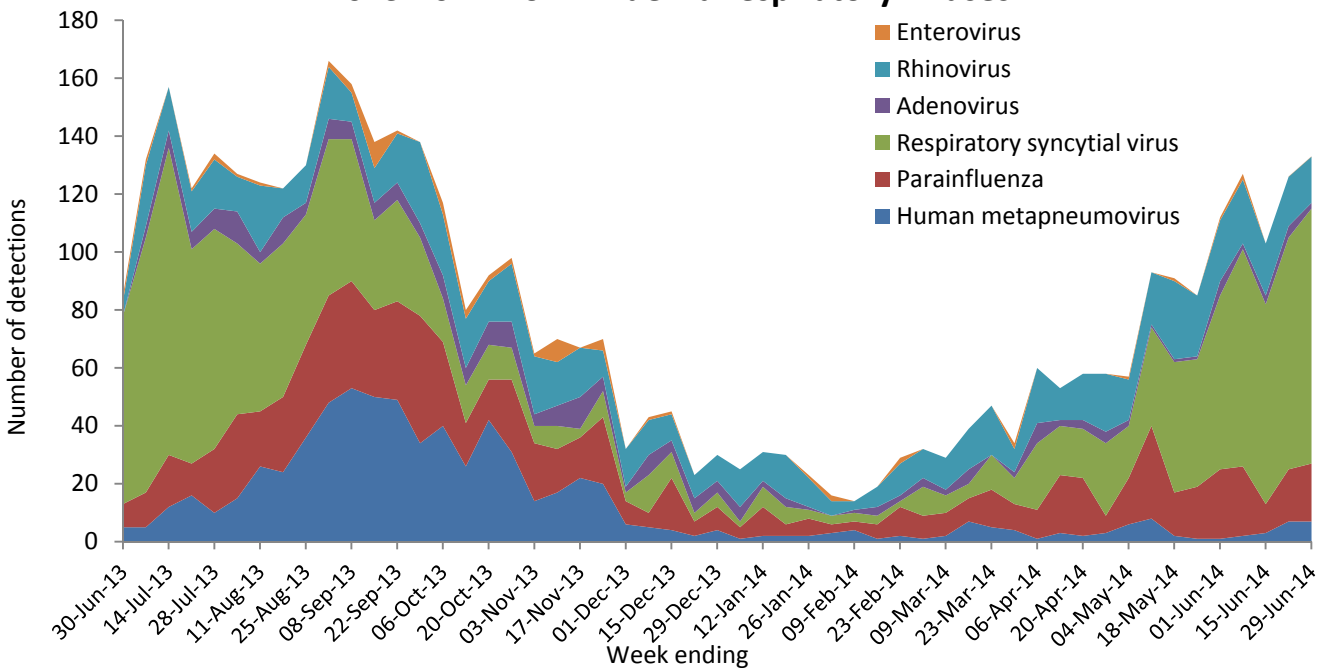
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



Thirty two influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 19 (59%) influenza A/H1N1, 7 (22%) influenza B, 4 (13%) influenza A/H3N2, and 2 (6%) 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 2nd July 2014.

2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses

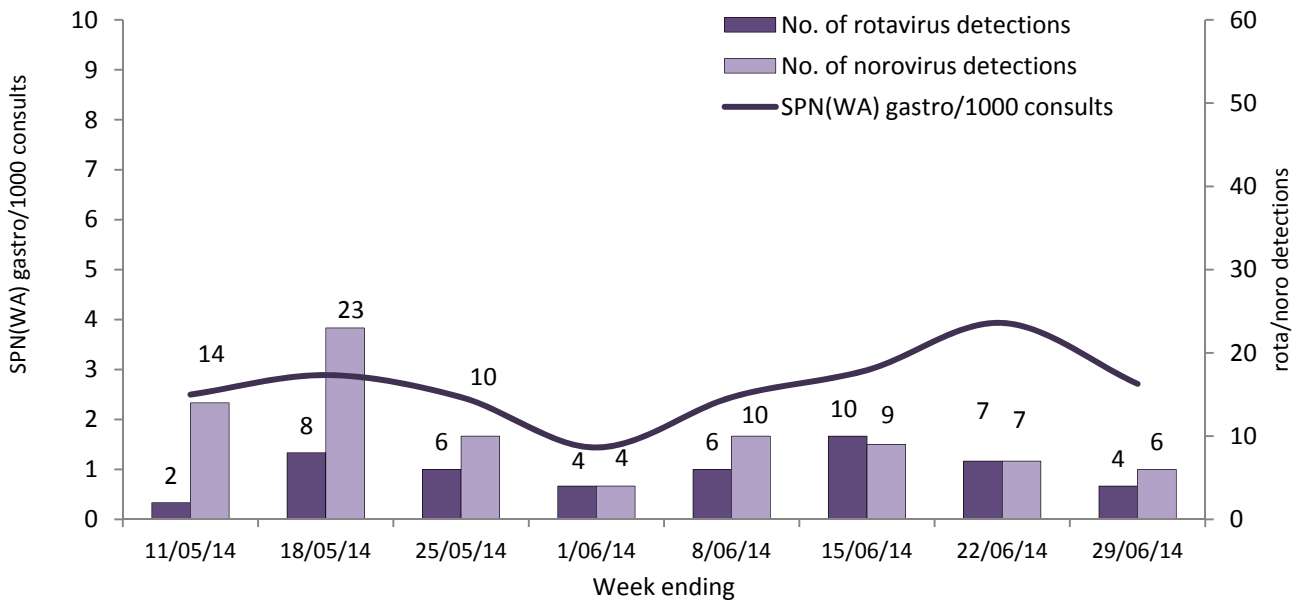


Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses increased this week.



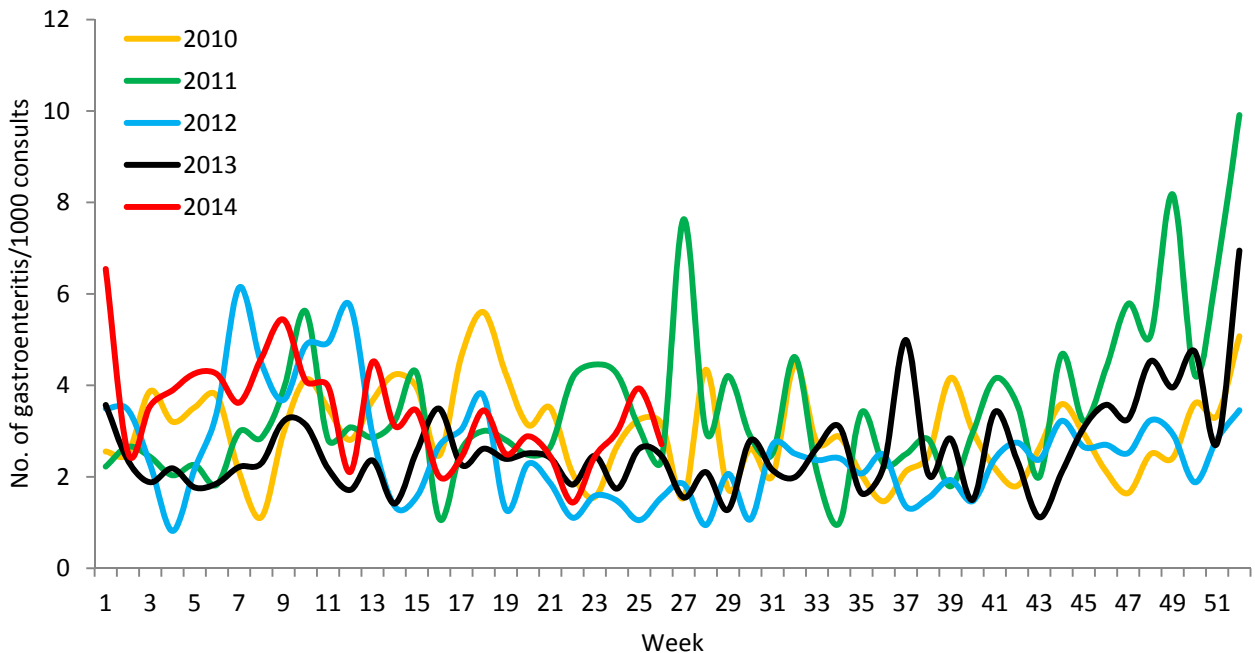
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs decreased this week. Rotavirus and norovirus detections decreased slightly this week.

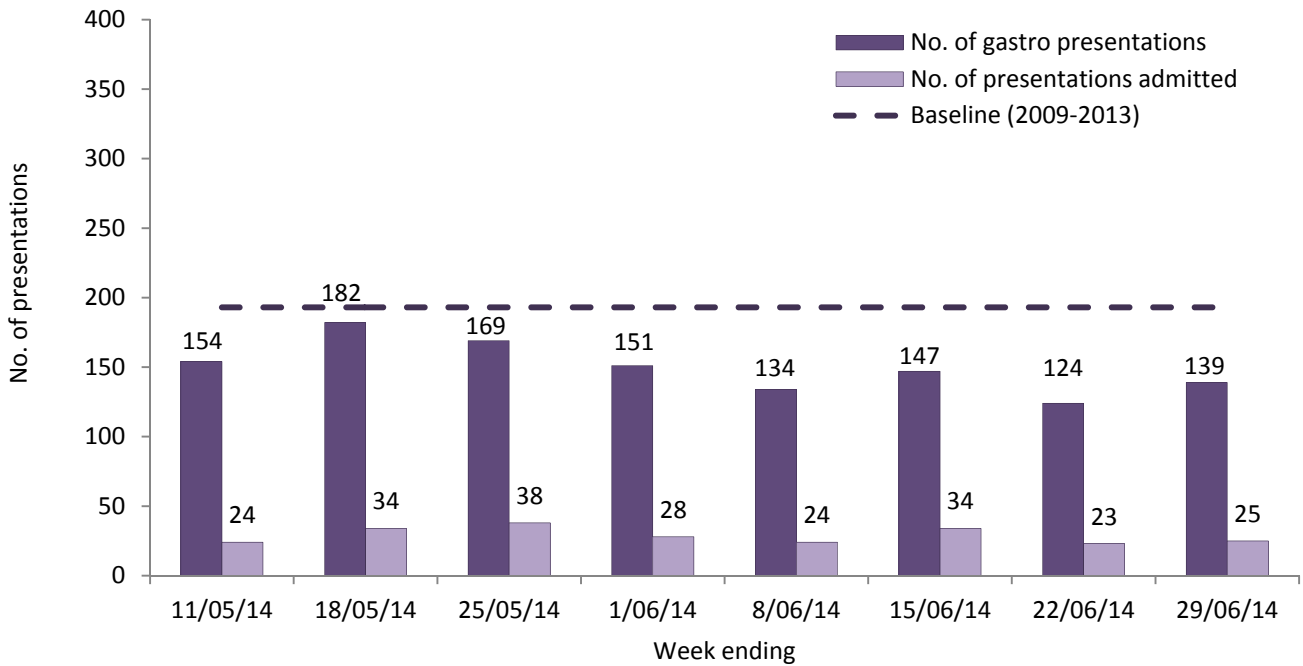
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs decreased this week and is in the mid-range of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

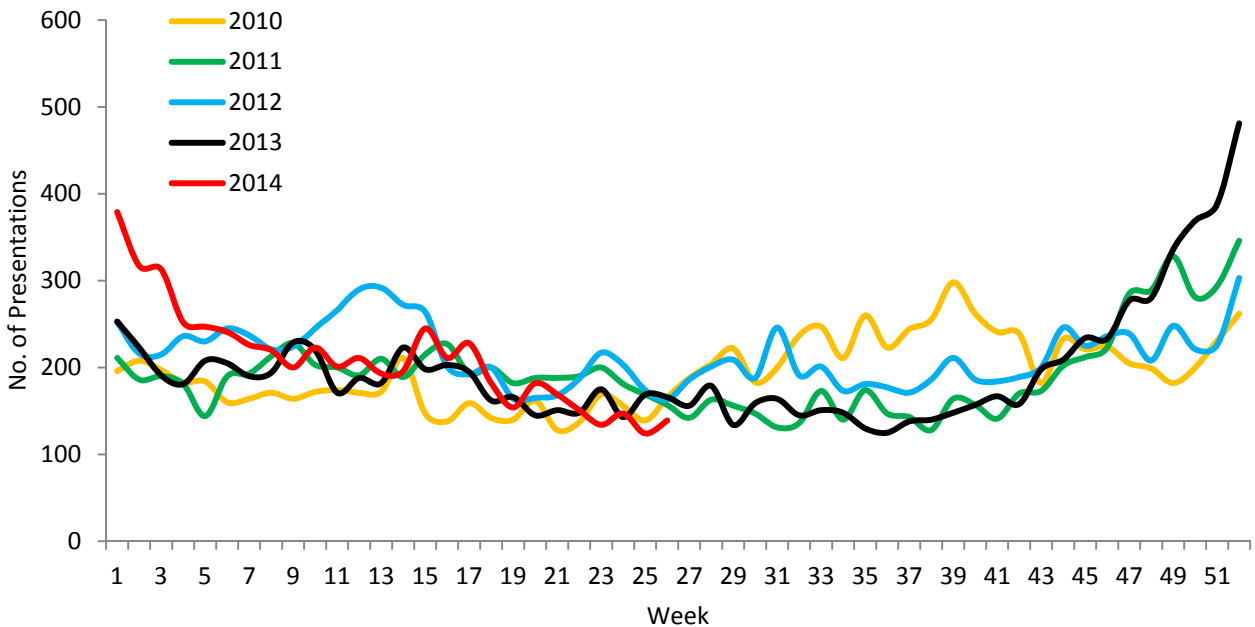
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

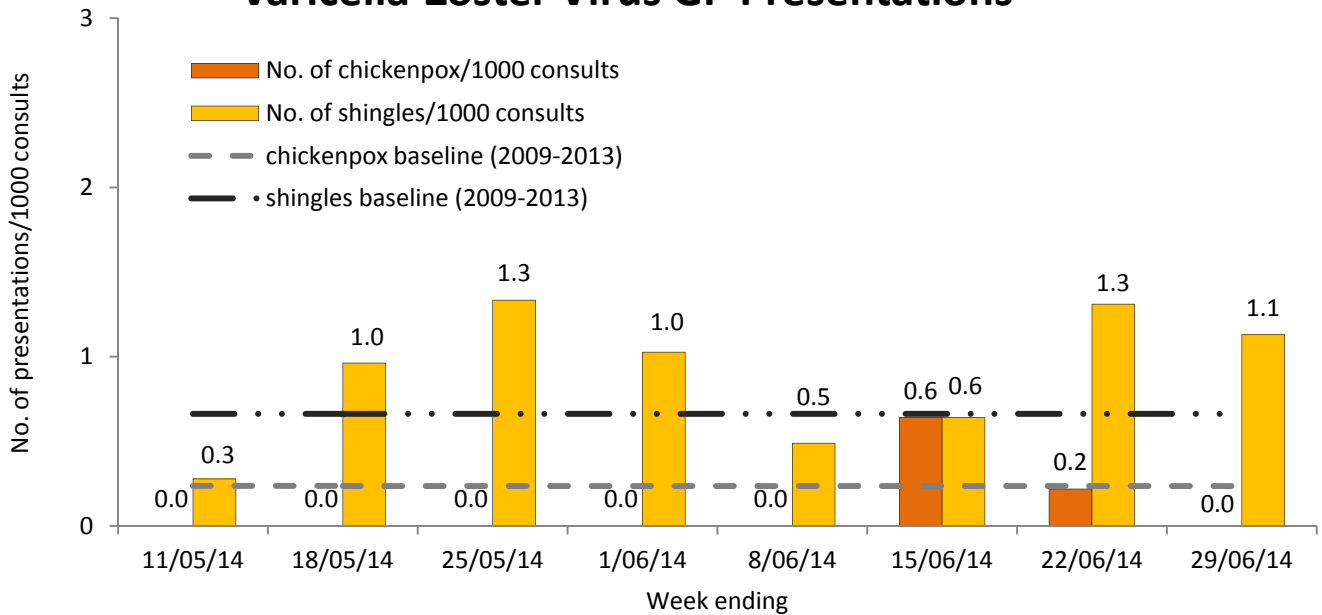
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



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

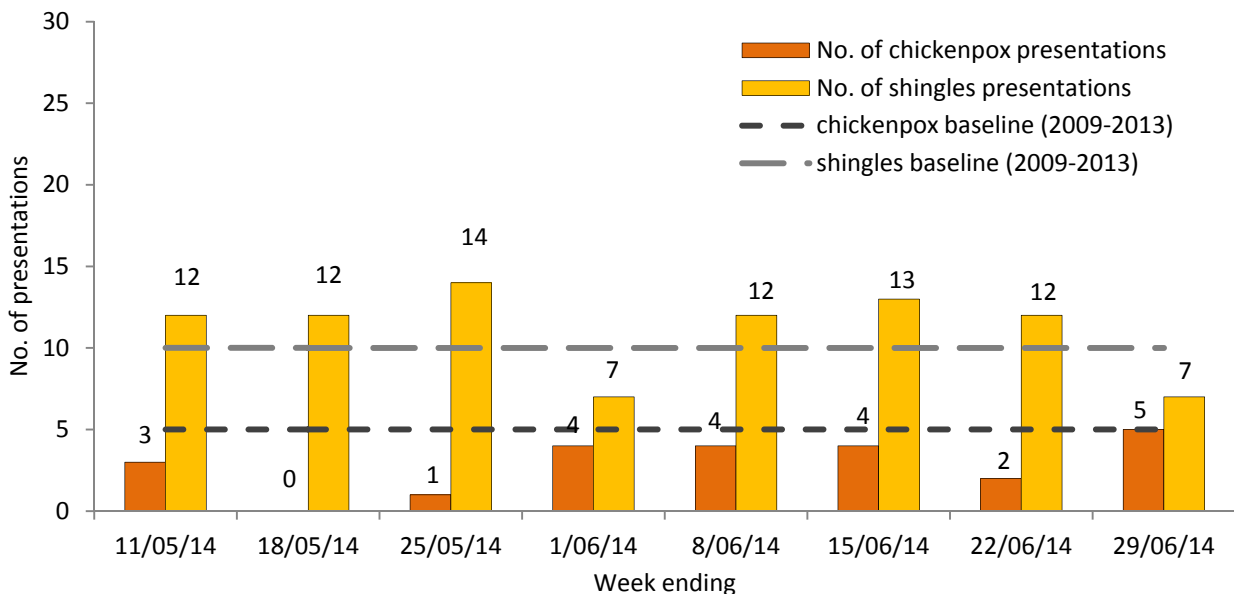


The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remains above baseline. No cases of chicken pox were seen at sentinel GPs this week. One secondary case of measles was reported in a household contact of a confirmed case. No confirmed cases of mumps or rubella were reported.

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 decreased below baseline level. Chickenpox presentations increased this week, reaching baseline level.

