



WEEK ENDING 13TH JULY 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity continued to increase this week, with A/H1N1 virus predominant.

- Indicators of influenza activity, including ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs), influenza notifications, proportion testing positive and hospitalisations associated with influenza all increased this week.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped in recent weeks have been influenza A/H1N1, with a fall in the proportion of A/H3 and influenza B viruses detected, .
- Detections of respiratory syncytial virus increased this week and remain high.

GASTROENTERITIS

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

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

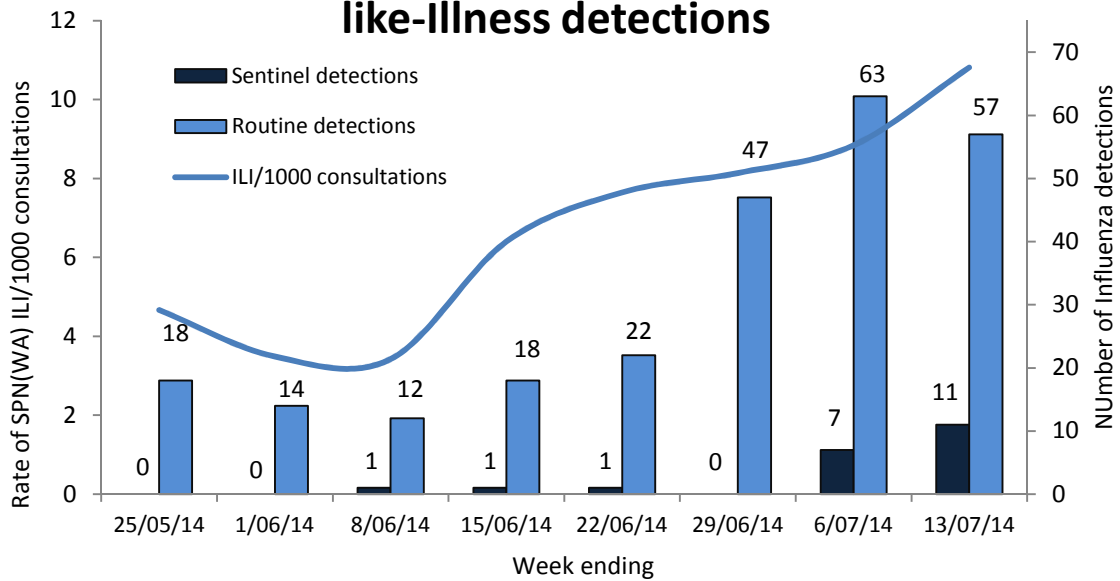
- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs remain above expected levels; chickenpox presentations remain low.
- Two confirmed cases of measles were notified; one in an unvaccinated hospital contact of an imported case and one in an unvaccinated infant from the Philippines. No confirmed cases of mumps or 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.

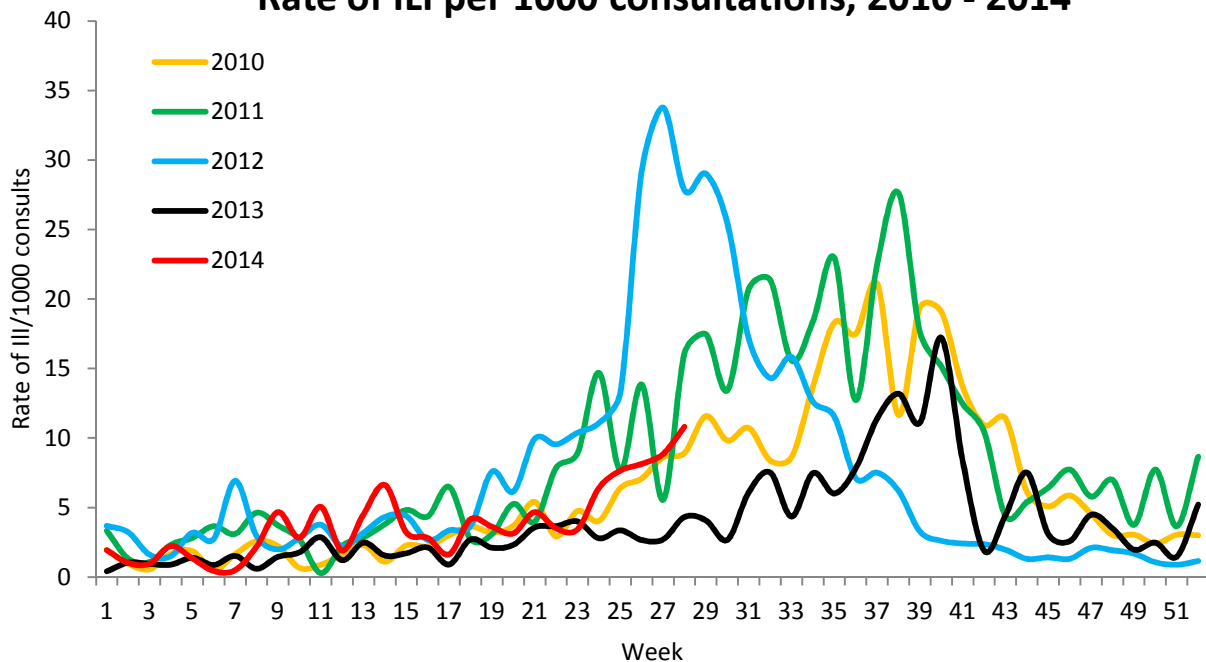
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The number of ILI presentations to sentinel GP practices increased this week, routine detections of influenza virus decreased slightly. Eleven (20%) of 55 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 382 routinely collected specimens, 57 (15%) tested positive.

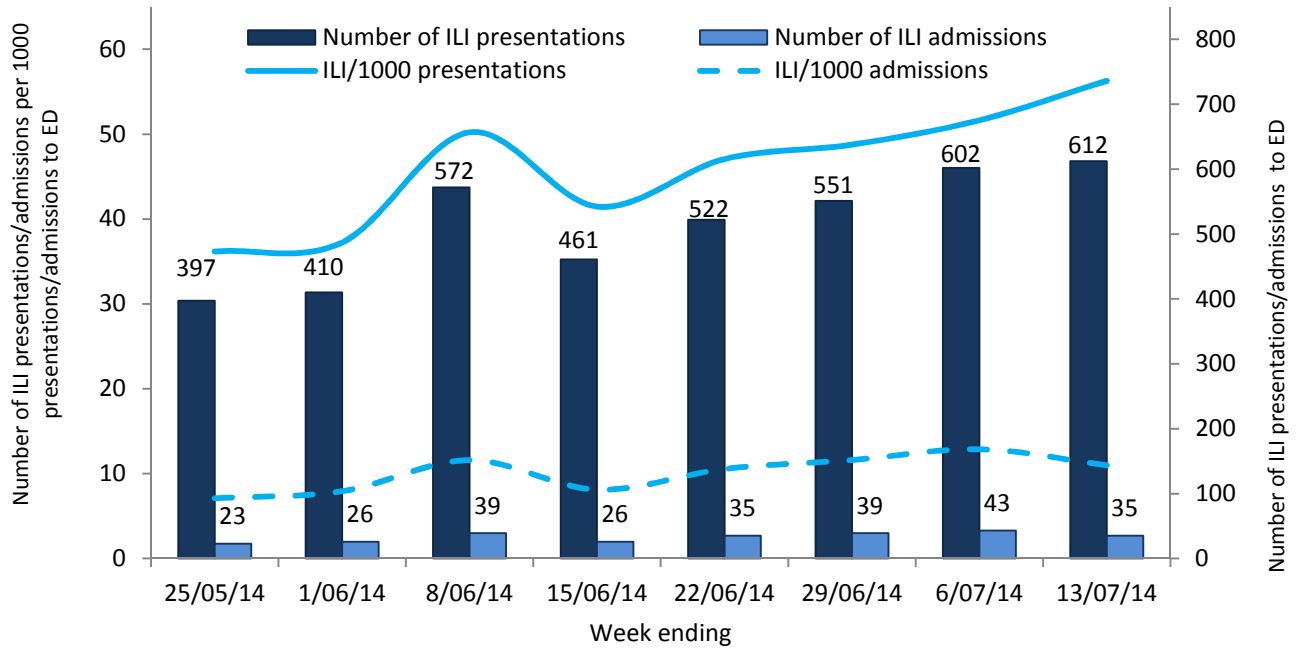
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 10.8 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in previous years.

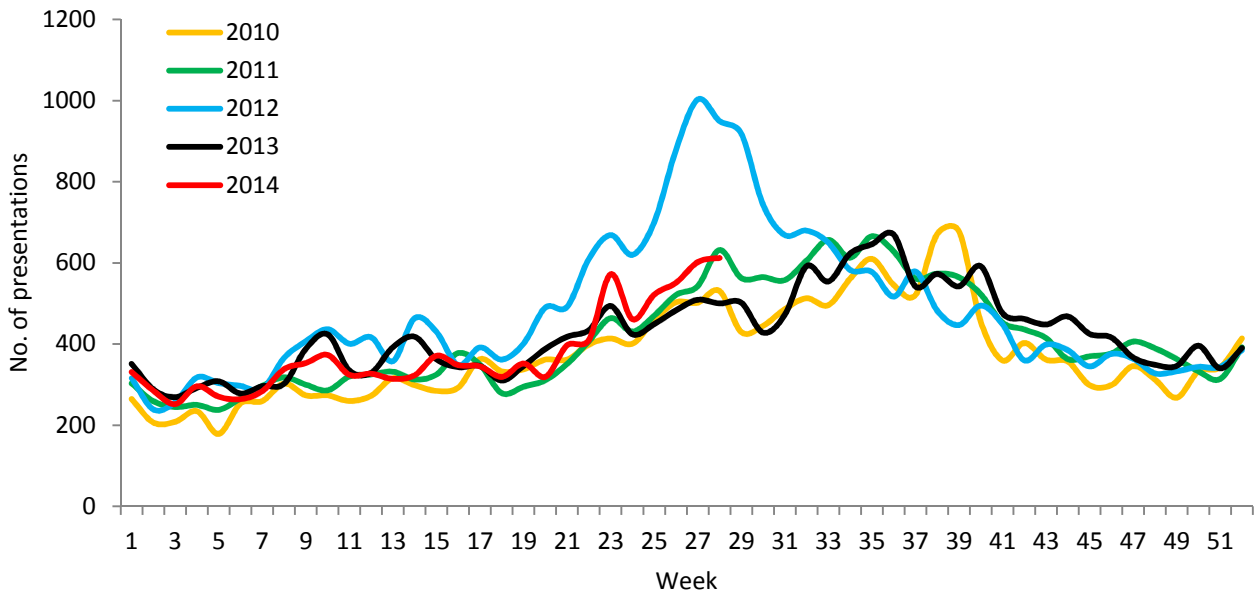
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



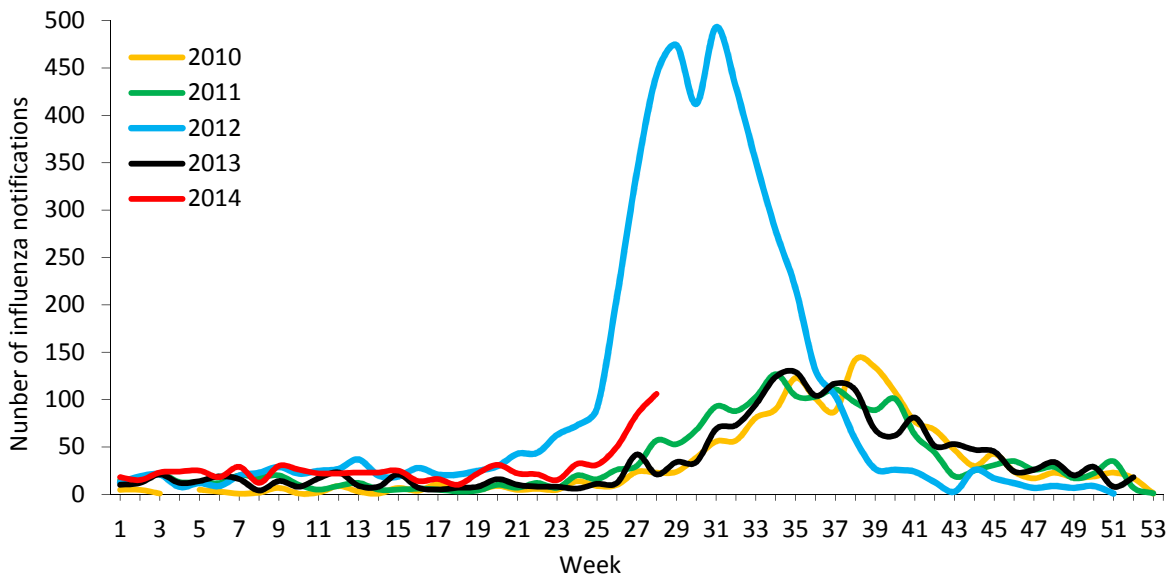
ED presentations for viral respiratory illness continued to increase this week, reaching 56 ILI per 1000 presentations. ED admissions decreased slightly.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



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

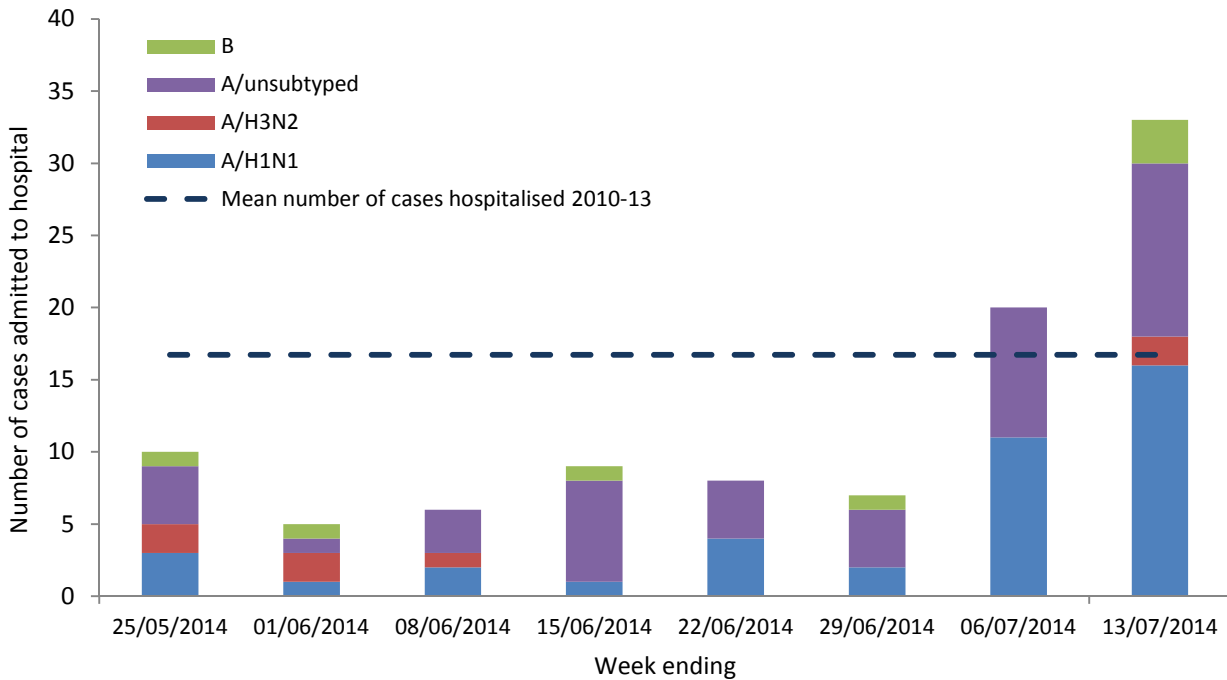
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Notifications of confirmed influenza to the Department of Health increased this week, and are currently higher than levels at this time in recent mild seasons, but well below the level reported in 2012.

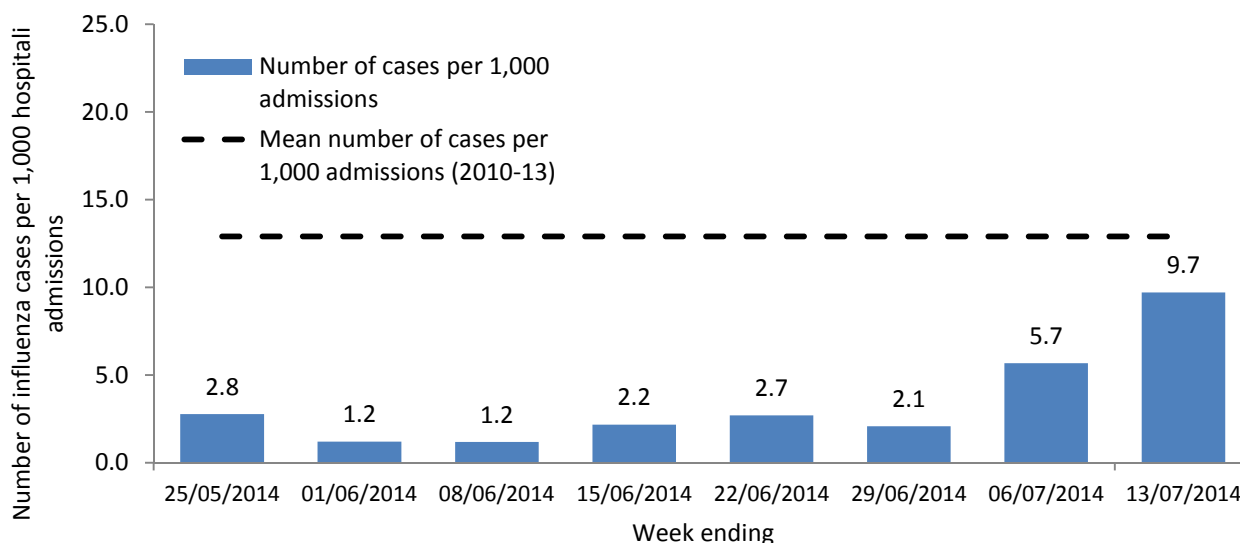
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 07/07/2014 and 13/07/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Thirty-three notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week: 16 (48%) were influenza A/H1N1, 12 (36%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, 3 (9%) were influenza B, and 2 (6%) were influenza A/H3N2.

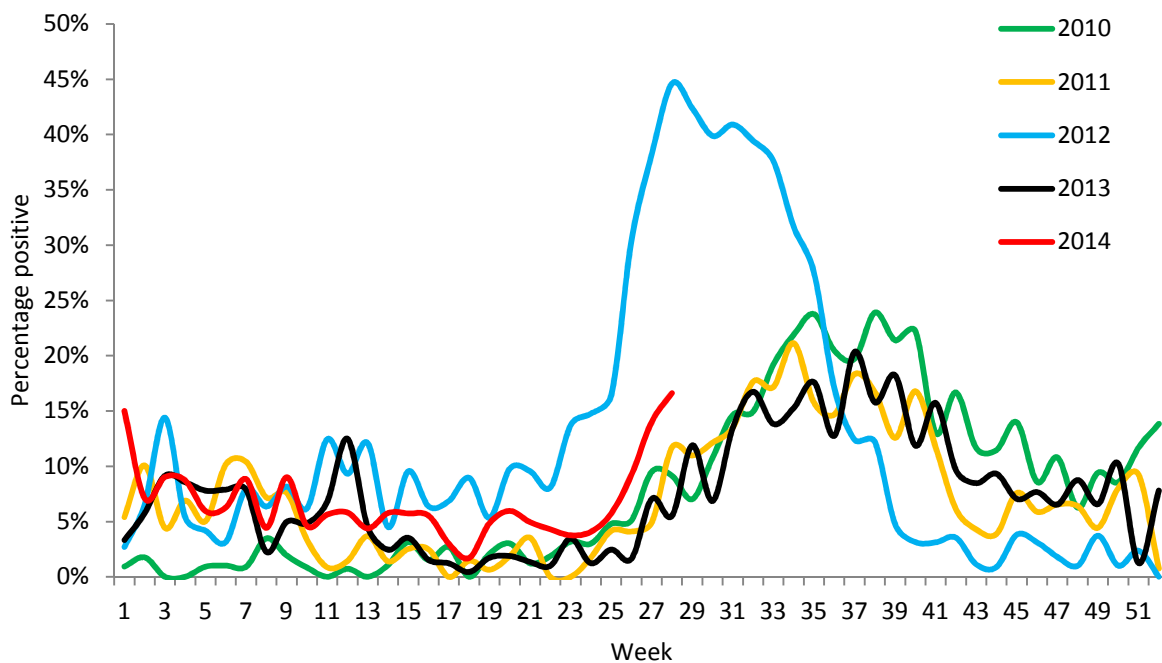
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



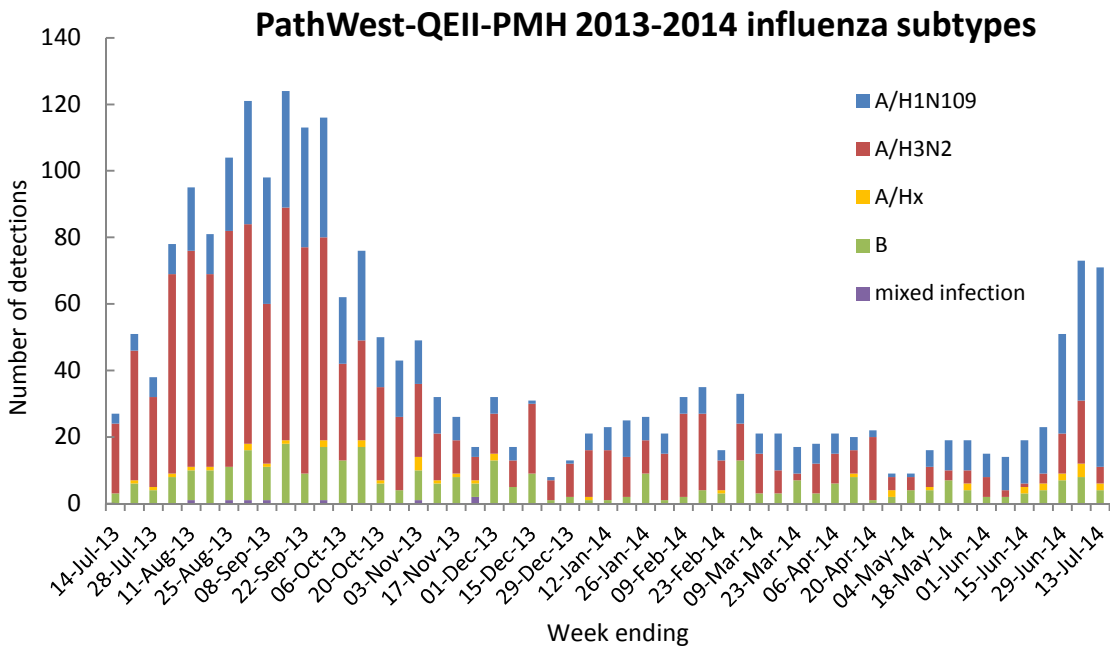
The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza increased by 70% to 9.7 per 1,000 admissions this week, but remains below the average for recent years.

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

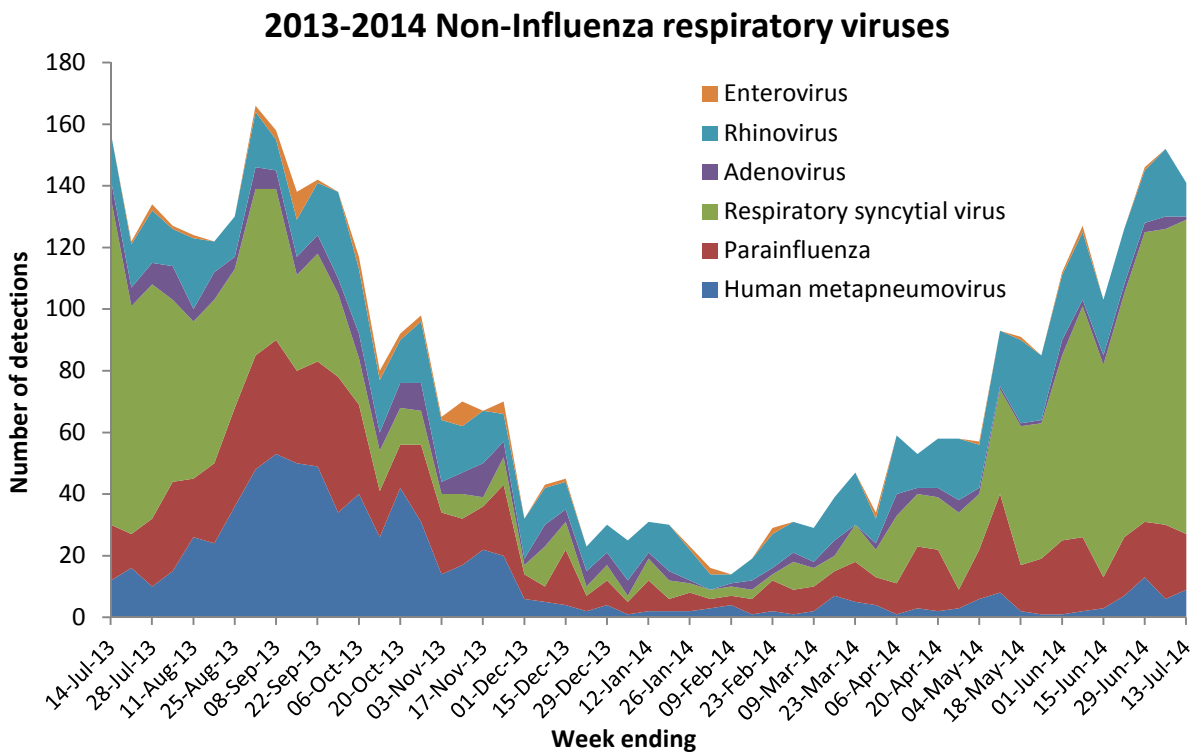


Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 17% tested positive for influenza virus, which is higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.



Eighty six influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 60 (70%) influenza A/H1N1, 5 (6%) influenza A/H3N2, 4 (5%) influenza B, and 2 (2%) influenza A/unsubtyped.

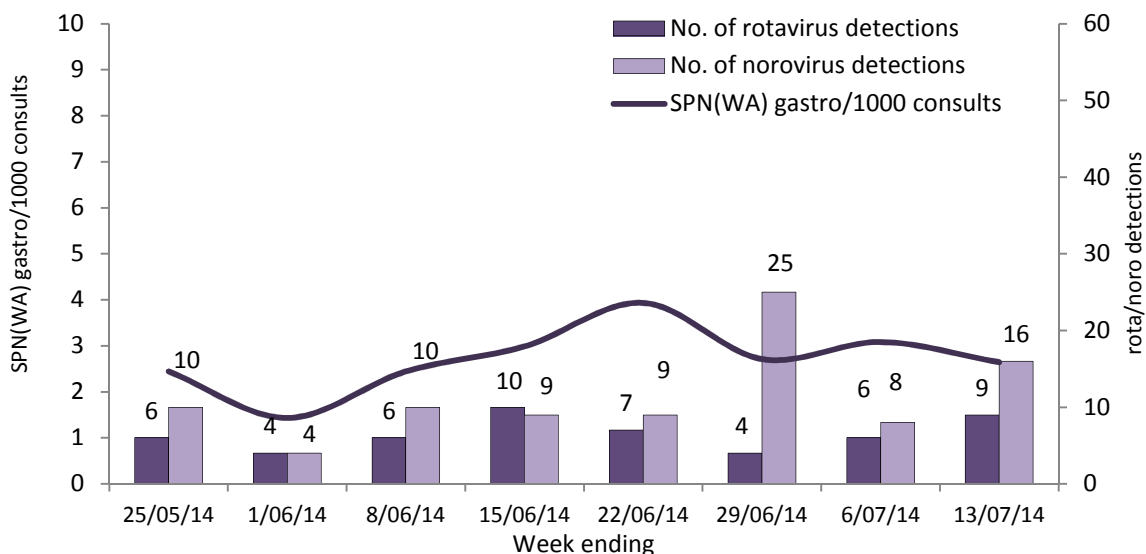
The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 9th July 2014.



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

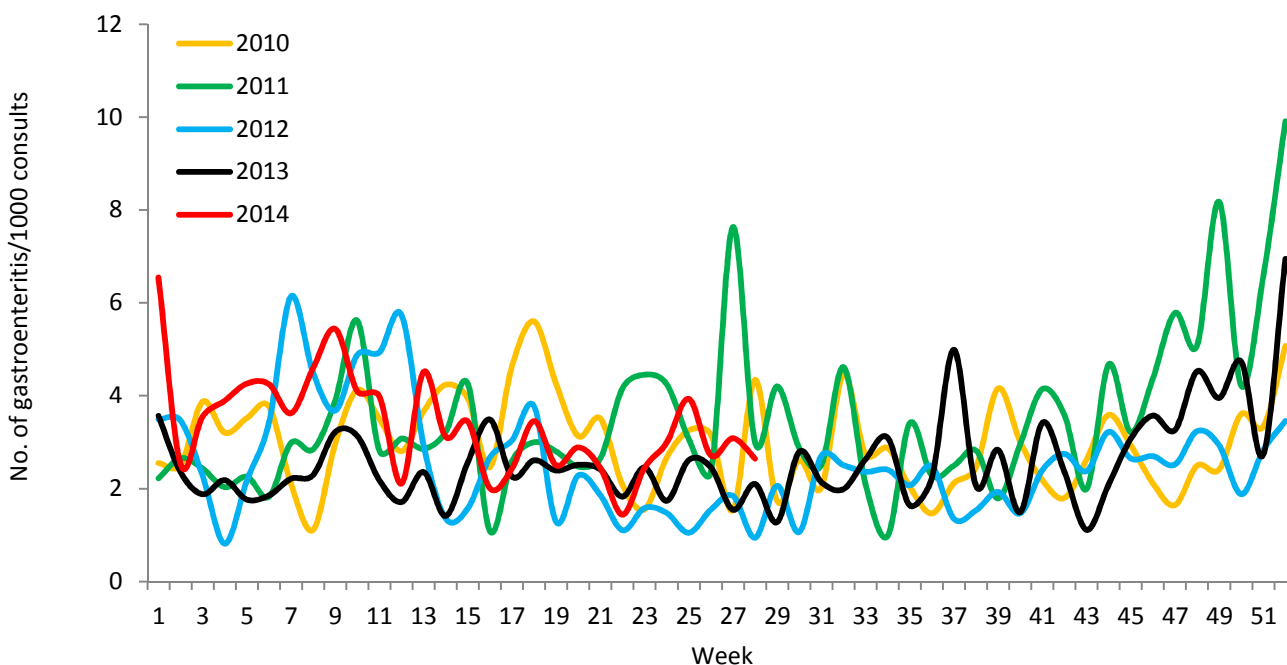
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain stable. Norovirus detections doubled this week..

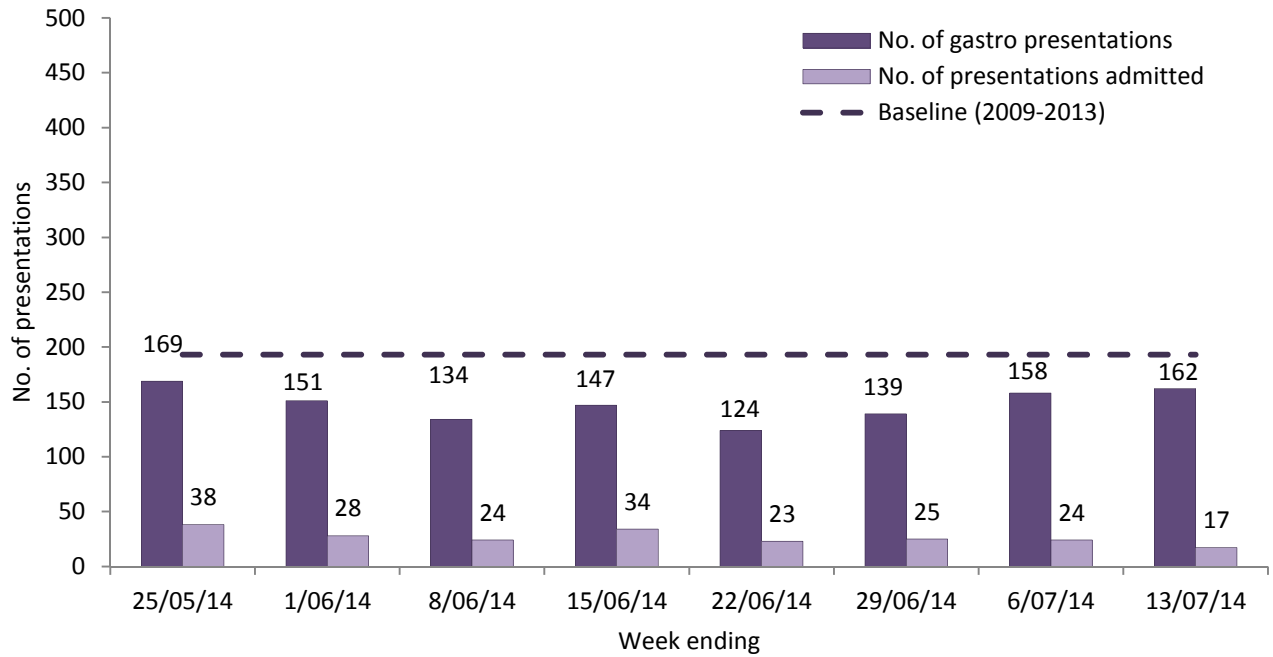
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



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

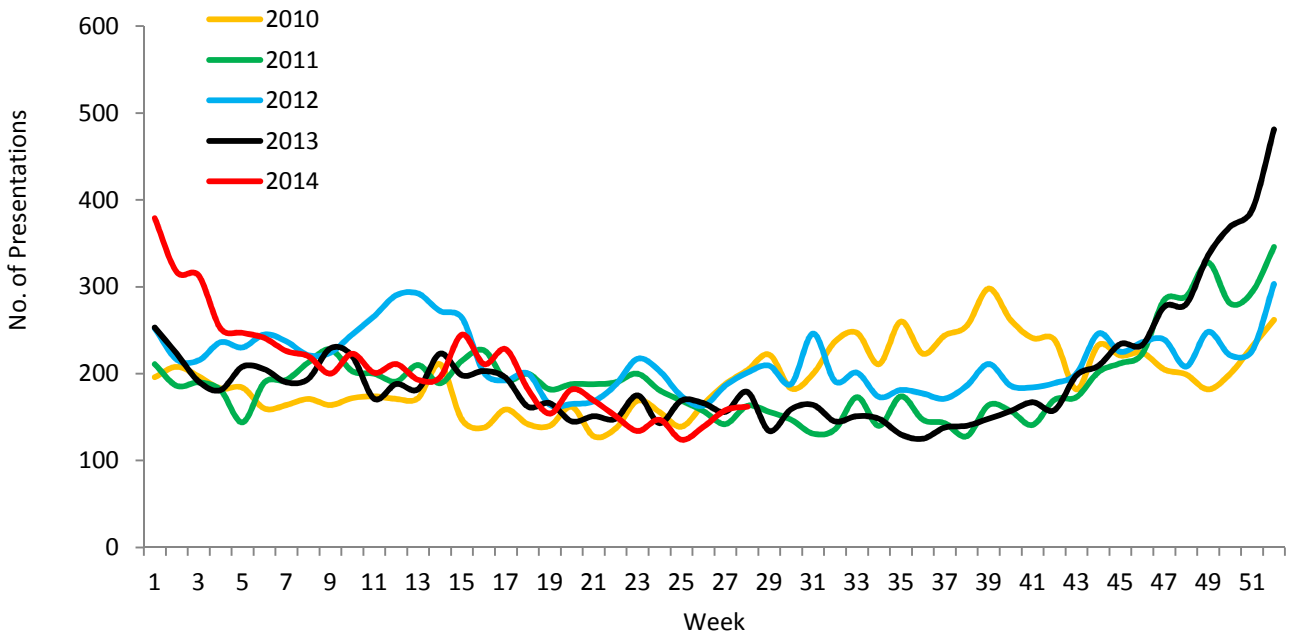
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

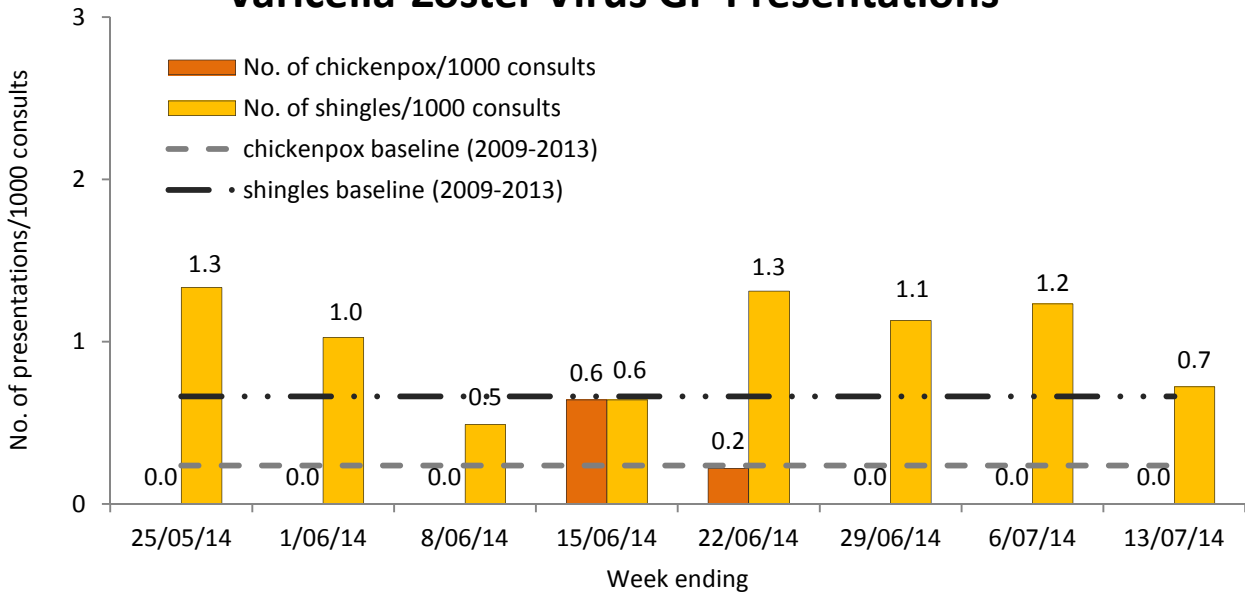
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



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

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

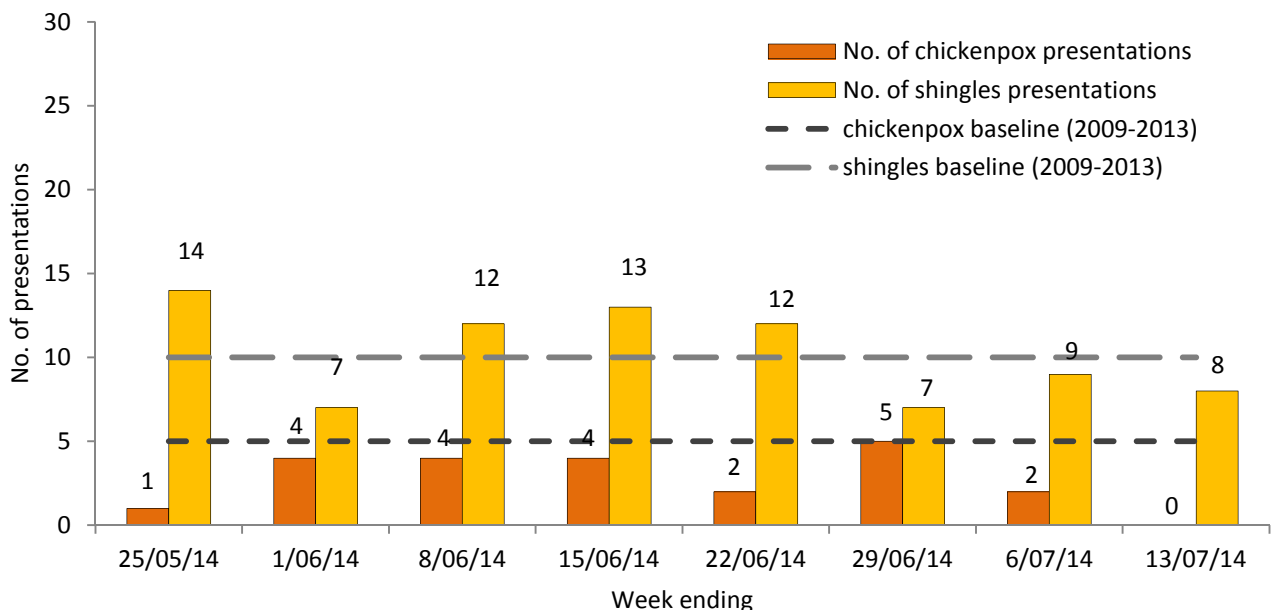


The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remains slightly above baseline. No cases of chicken pox were seen at sentinel GPs this week. Two cases of measles were confirmed; one in a hospital contact of an imported case and one in an unvaccinated infant from the Philippines. No confirmed cases 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 remain around baseline level. No chickenpox presentations were made at sentinel EDs this week.

