



WEEK ENDING 07TH SEPTEMBER 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity is declining. Non-influenza respiratory virus activity was relatively stable this week.

- Indicators of influenza activity, including notifications, proportion of positive laboratory tests for influenza, ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs), Emergency Department ILI presentations and influenza-associated hospitalisations decreased this week.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped were influenza A/H1N1; epidemic A/H3N2 activity in the West Kimberley region continues to decrease. Influenza B continues to circulate at a low level.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased or remained stable this week.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are relatively stable and at expected levels.

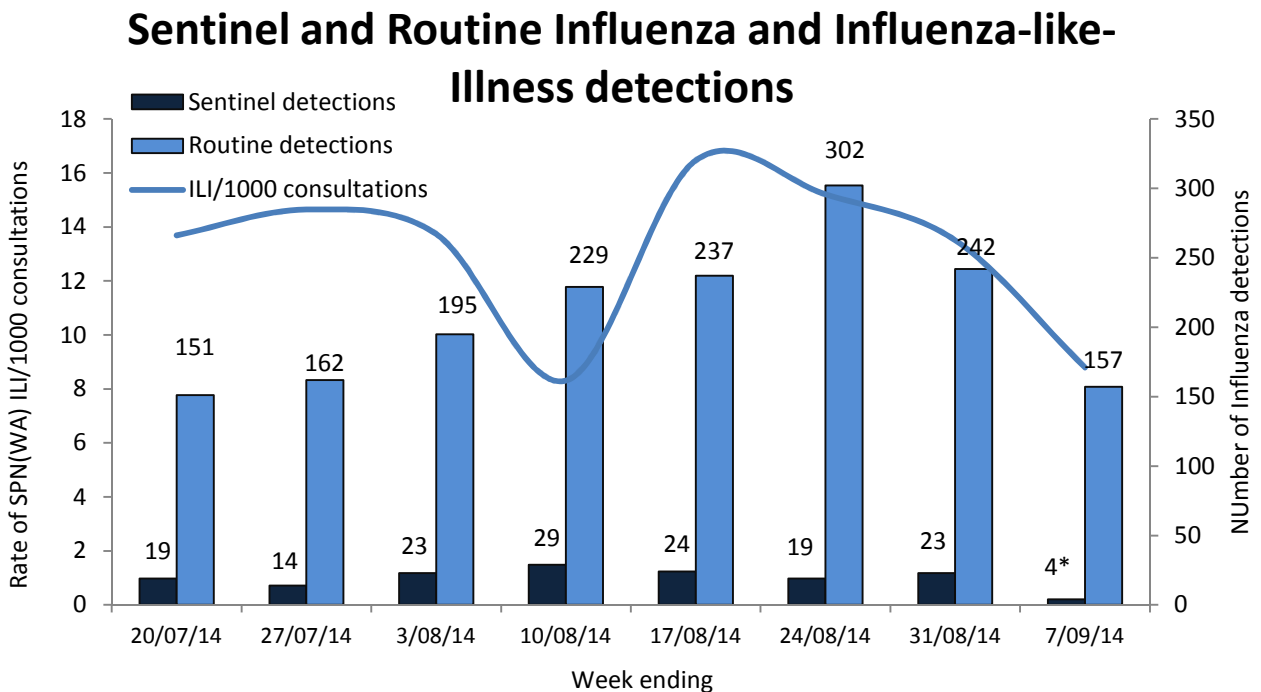
VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles and chickenpox presentations to GPs and sentinel EDs continue to fluctuate at around baseline levels.
- No confirmed cases of measles, 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

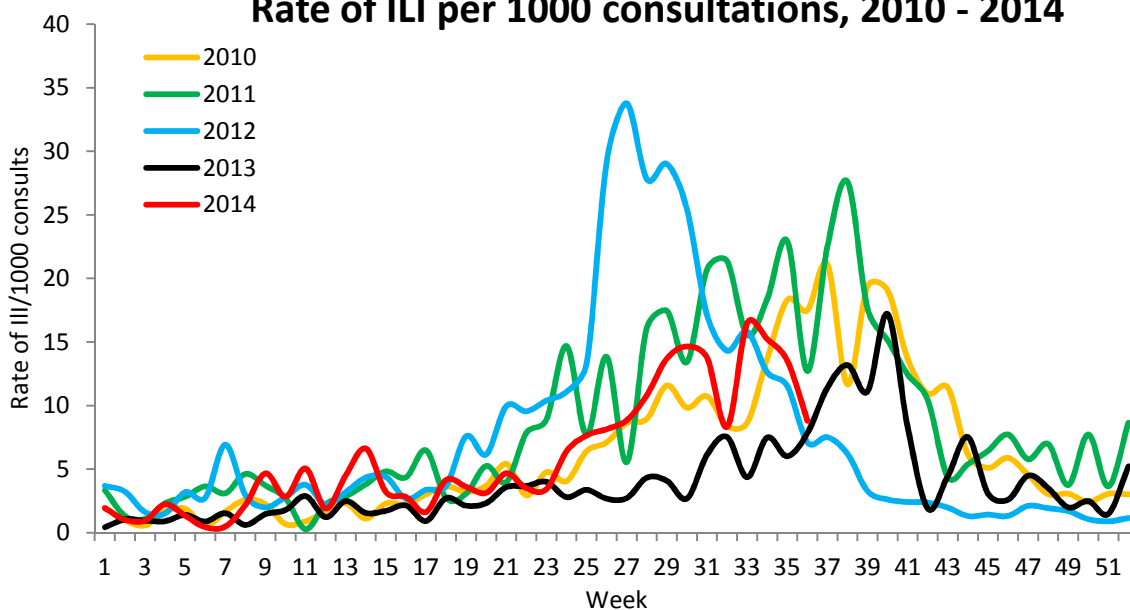
Virus Watch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, 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



ILI presentations to sentinel GPs and routine detections of influenza virus continued to decrease this week. Of 618 routinely collected specimens, 157 (25%) tested positive.*Testing of swabs collected at sentinel practices is incomplete, but 17% of specimens tested thus far have been positive for influenza virus.

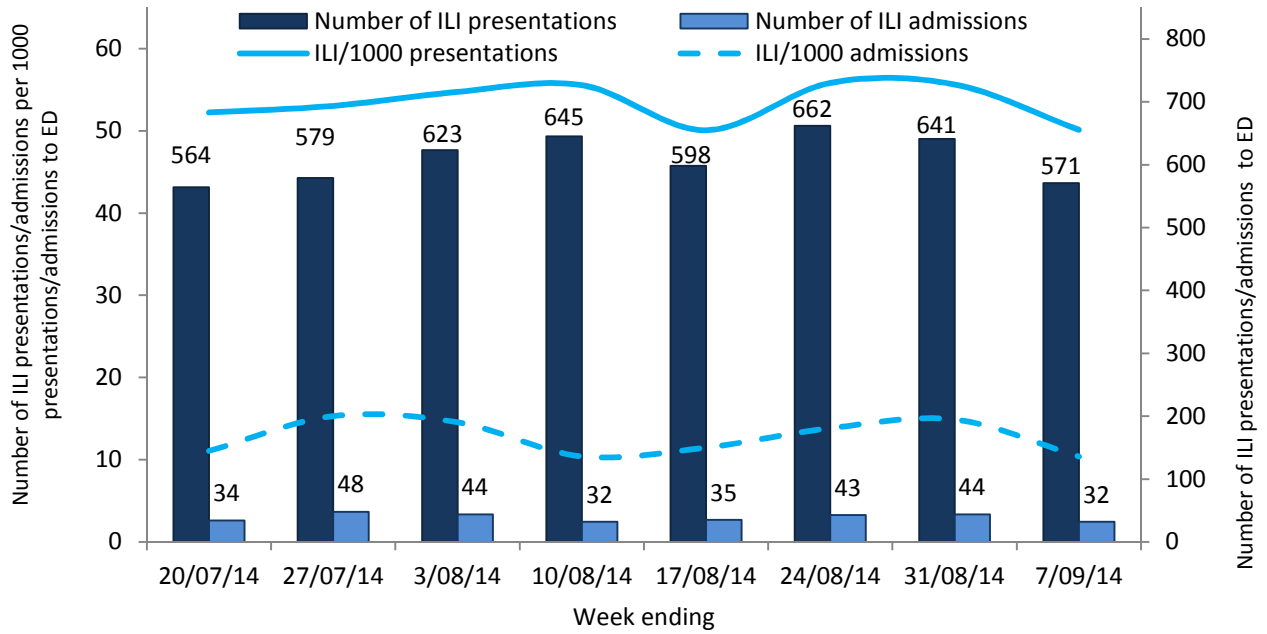
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs decreased to 9 cases per 1000 consultations, and is around the lower range of figures seen at this time in recent seasons.

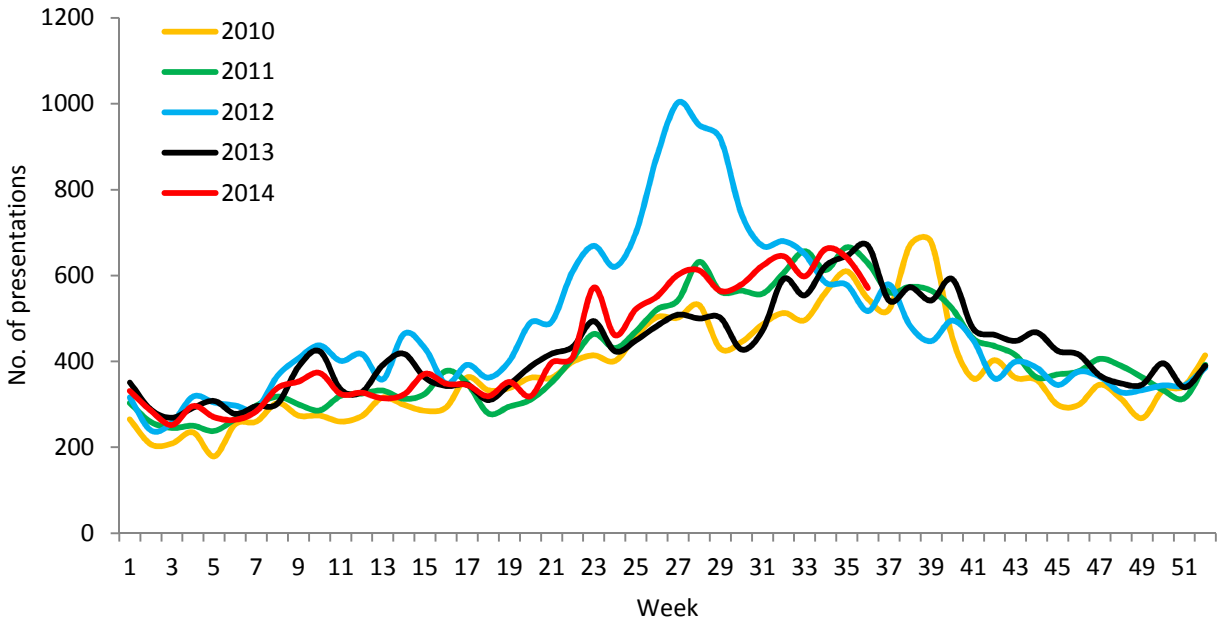
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



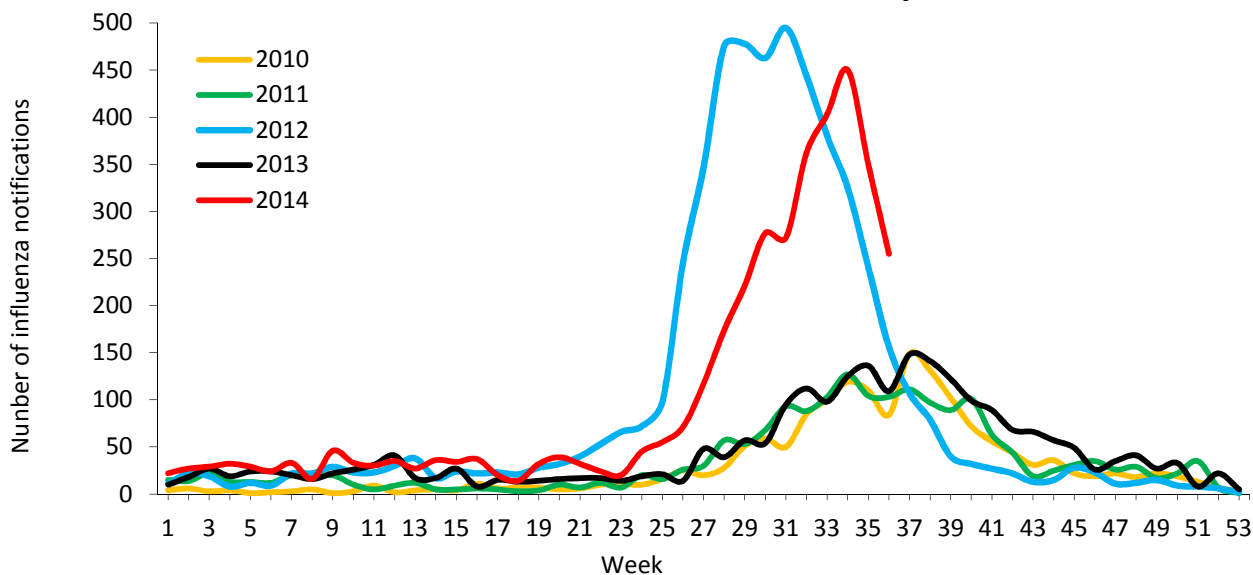
ED presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness decreased this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week and is in the mid-range of values for this time period in recent years.

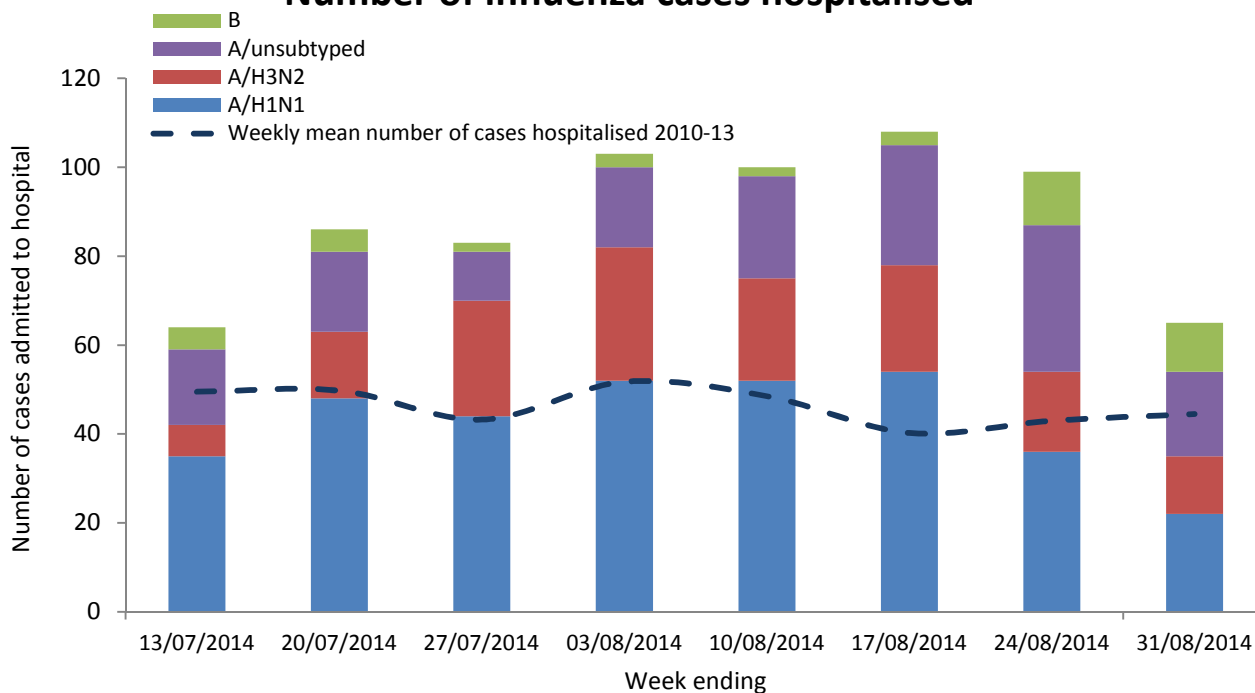
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Notifications of confirmed influenza to the Department of Health remain higher than levels at this time in recent mild seasons but are in decline. Influenza A/H3N2 activity in the West Kimberley region has significantly decreased.

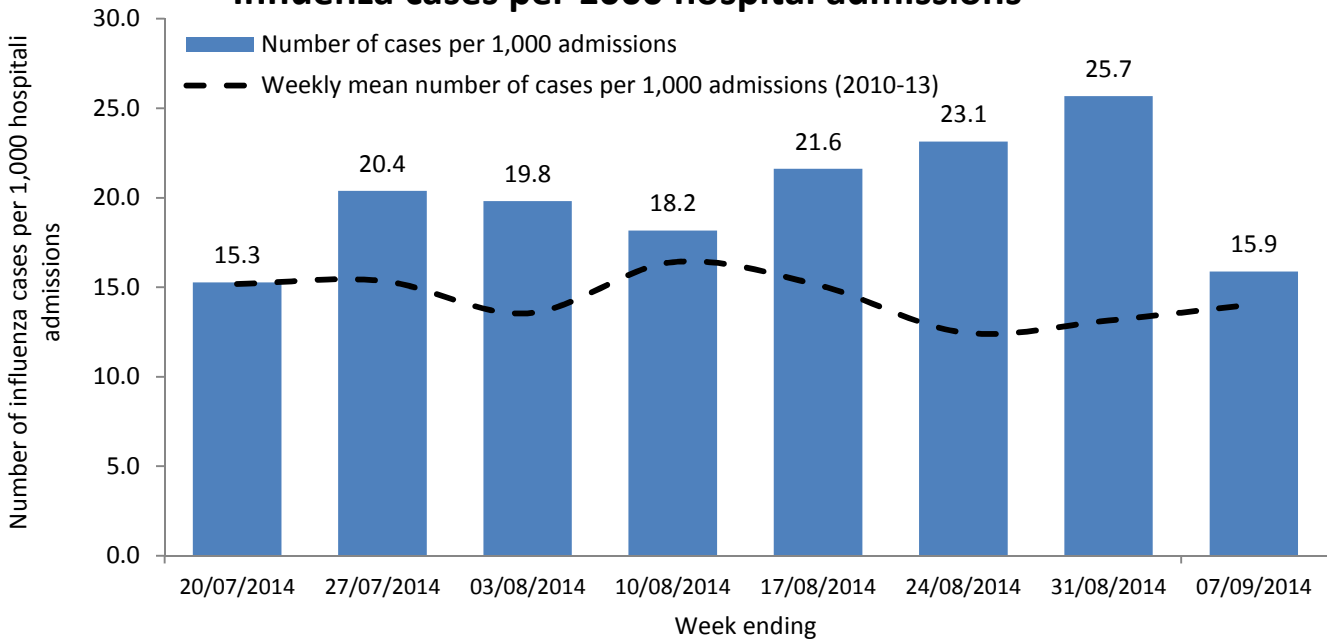
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 25/08/2014 and 31/08/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



There were 65 hospital admissions for influenza recorded this week; 13 (20%) were influenza A/H3N2, 22 (34%) were influenza A/H1N1, 19 (29%) were influenza A/untypified, and 11 (17%) were influenza B.

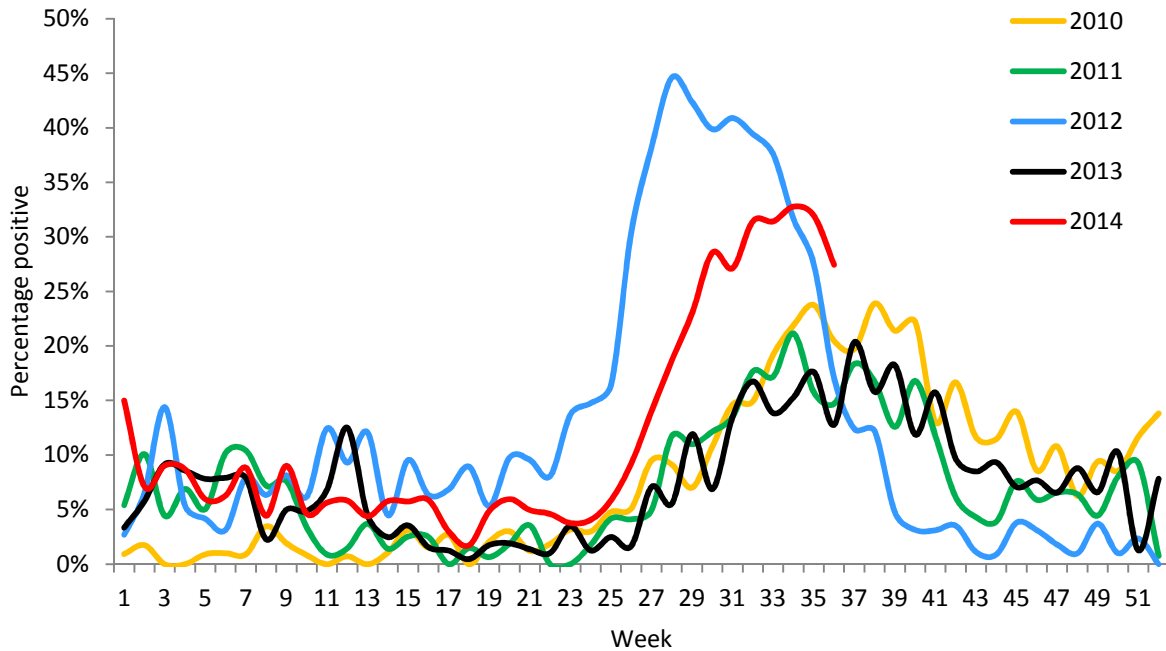
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza remains just above average levels for the corresponding period in recent years.

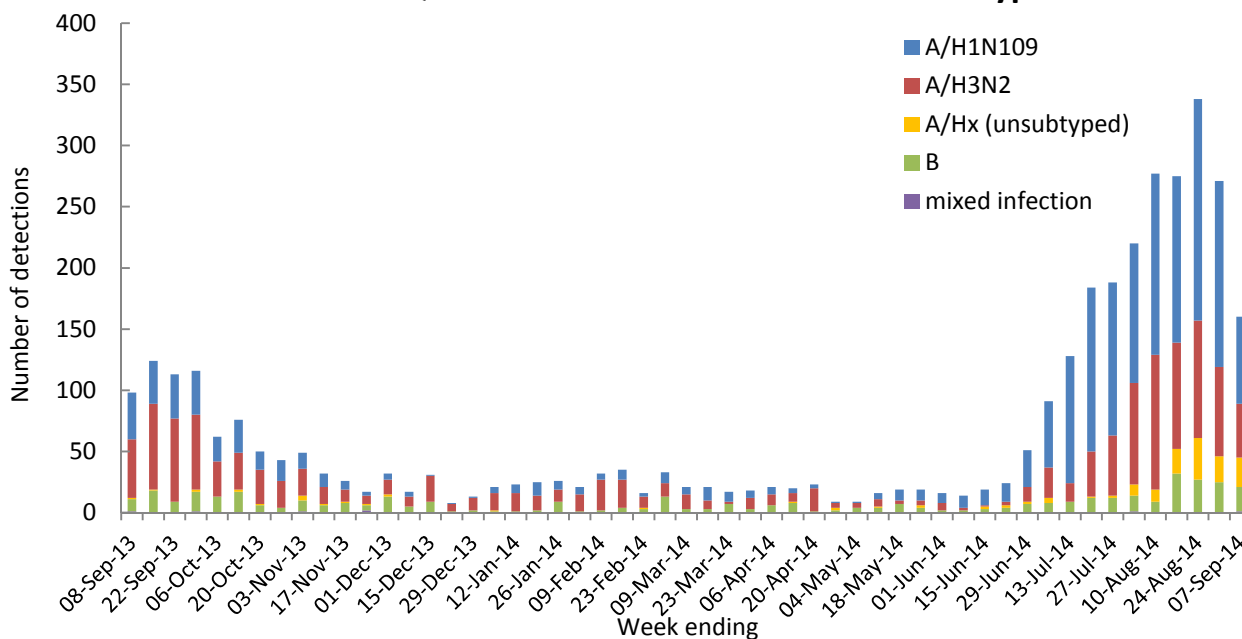
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 27% were positive for influenza virus, which remains higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.

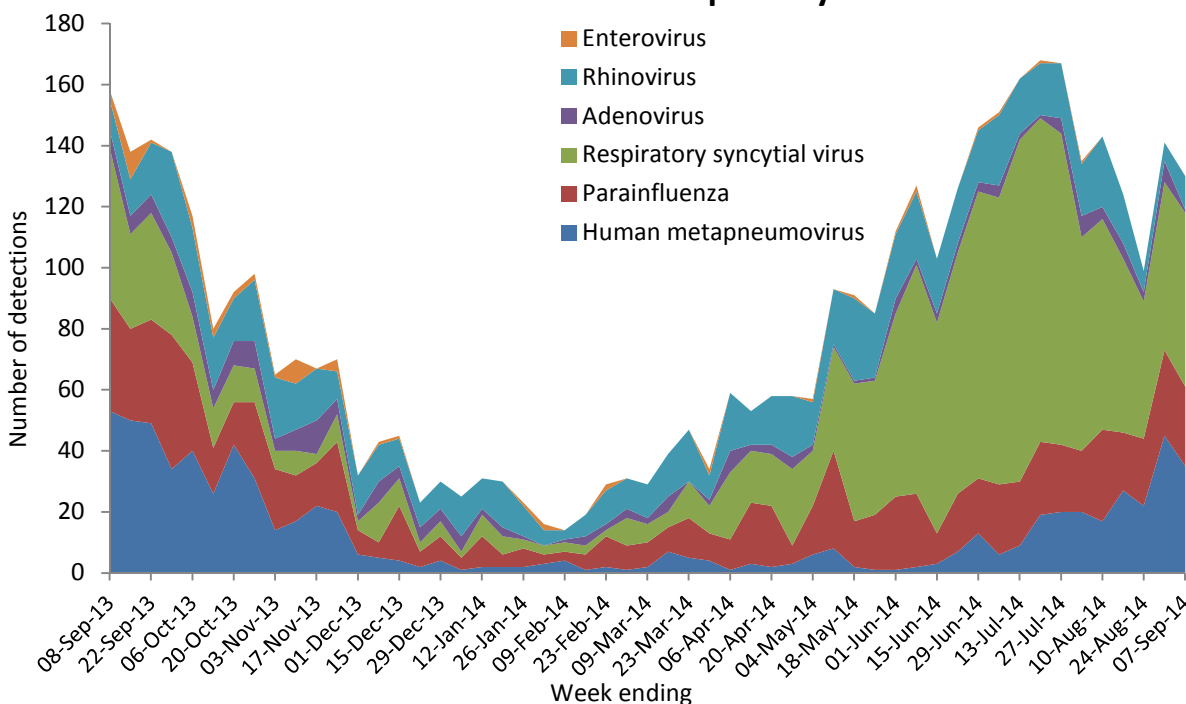
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 all influenza subtypes



One hundred and fifty nine influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 71 (45%) influenza A/H1N1, 44 (28%) influenza A/H3N2, 24 (15%) influenza A/unsubtyped, and 20 (12%) influenza B. A/H1N1 continues to be the predominant strain.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 10th September 2014.

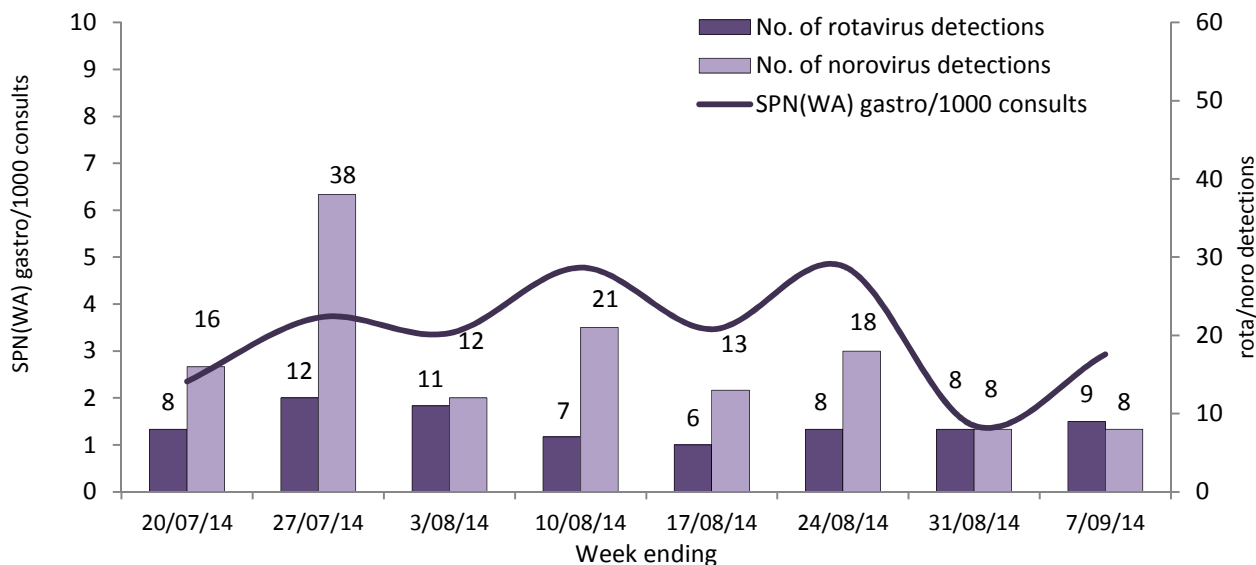
2013-2014 Non-influenza respiratory viruses



Non-influenza respiratory virus activity was relatively stable this week, with the exception of human metapneumovirus and adenovirus which decreased.

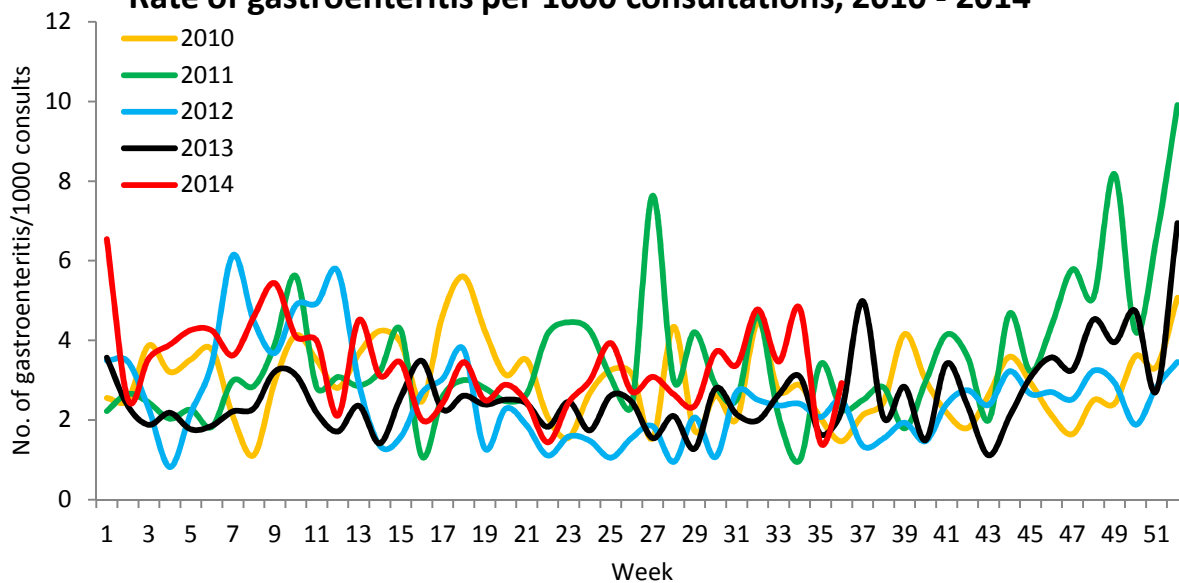
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 3 per 1,000 consultations. Norovirus detections and rotavirus detections remained stable.

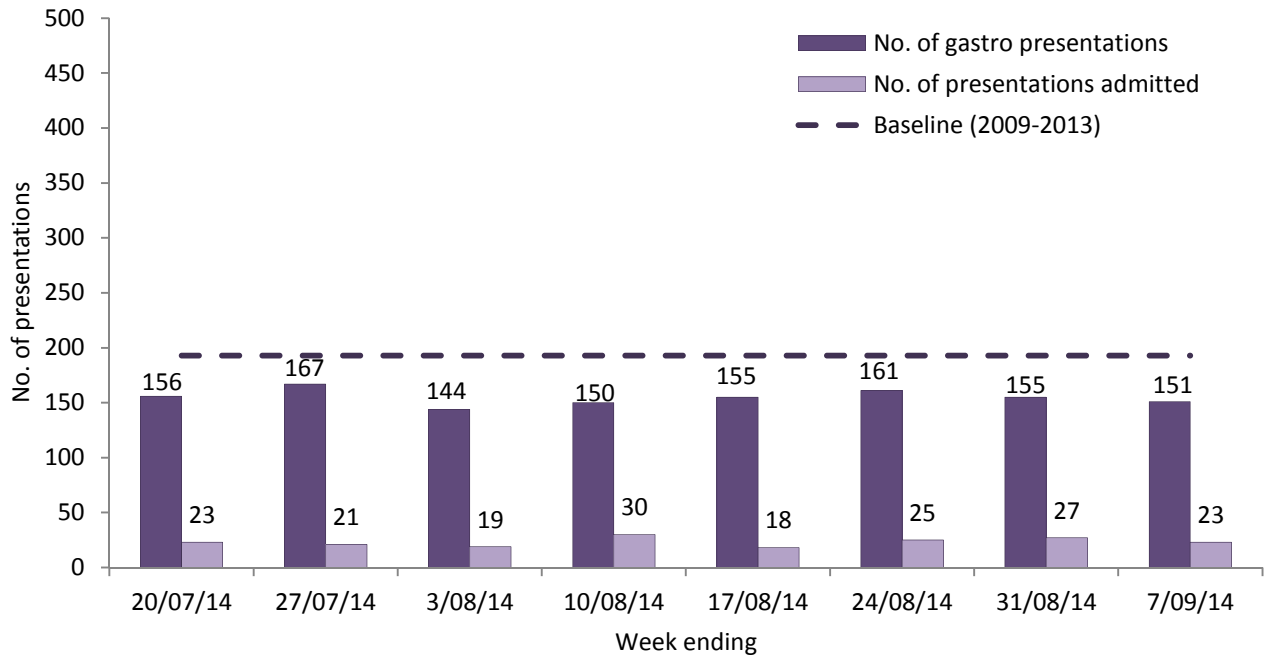
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



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

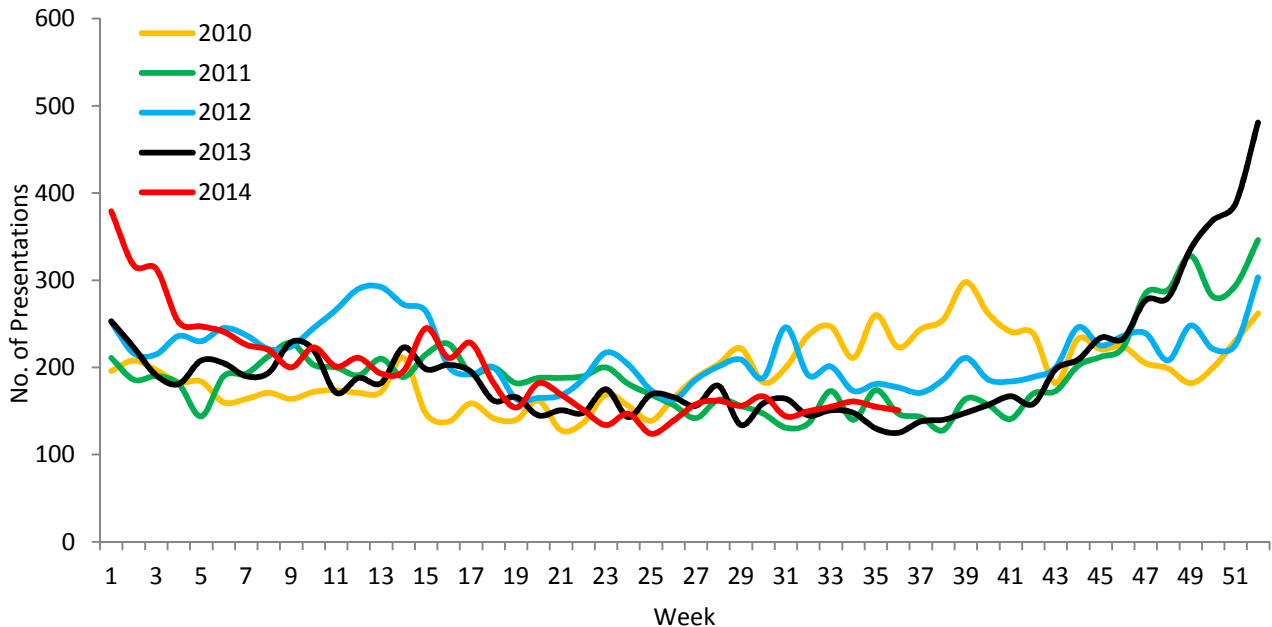
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs were stable this week and remain below baseline.

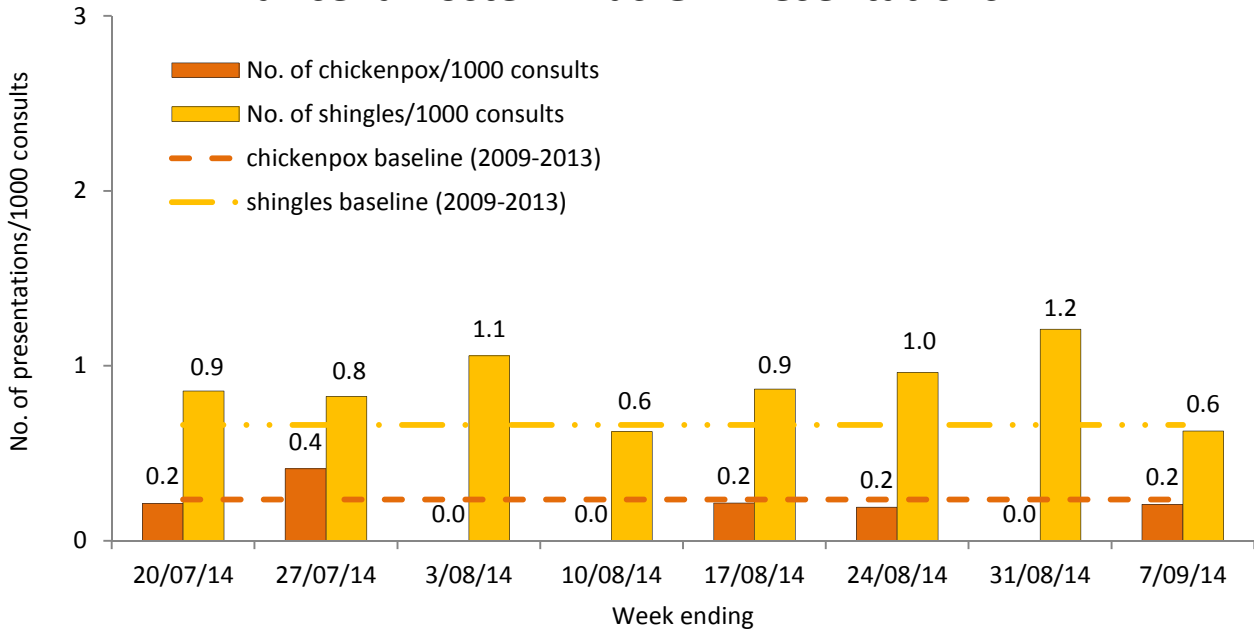
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the lower range of values experienced at the same time period in recent years.

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

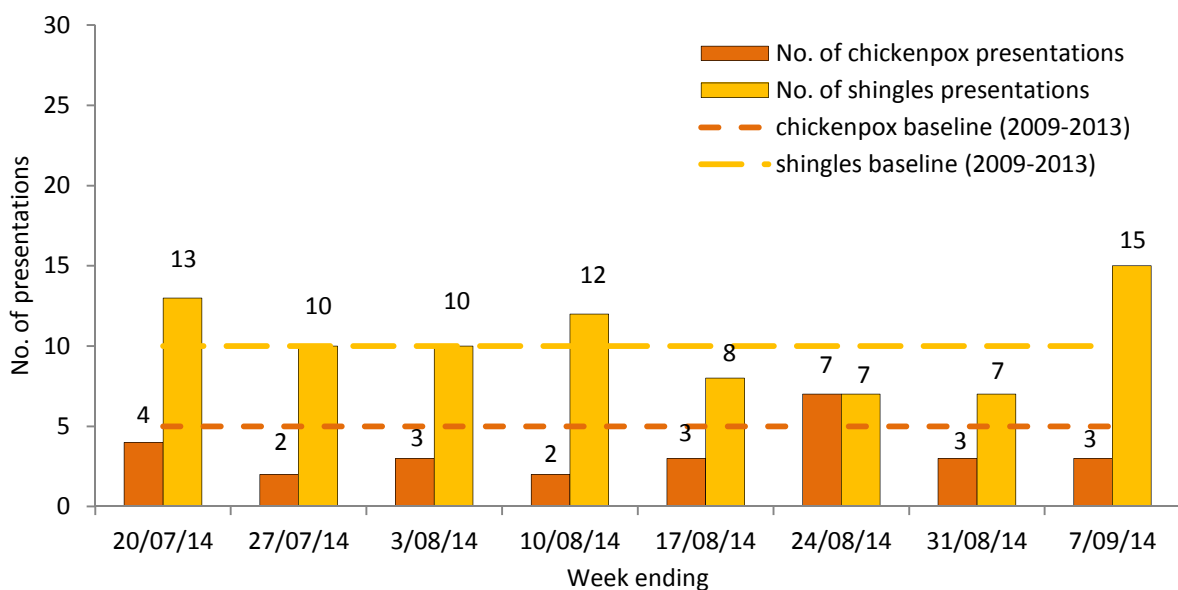


The rate of shingles presentations to sentinel GPs decreased to baseline levels; chickenpox presentations are at baseline. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported last week.

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 increased and are above baseline. Chickenpox presentations remained stable and are below baseline levels.

