



WEEK ENDING 26TH OCTOBER 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza and non-influenza virus activity continue to decline.

- ILI presentations to sentinel GPs and emergency departments (EDs), and detections of influenza virus, decreased this week.
- Hospitalisations for influenza decreased and are below baseline level.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased, while presentations to EDs decreased to below baseline level.
- Norovirus detections decreased this week, while rotavirus detections increased.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

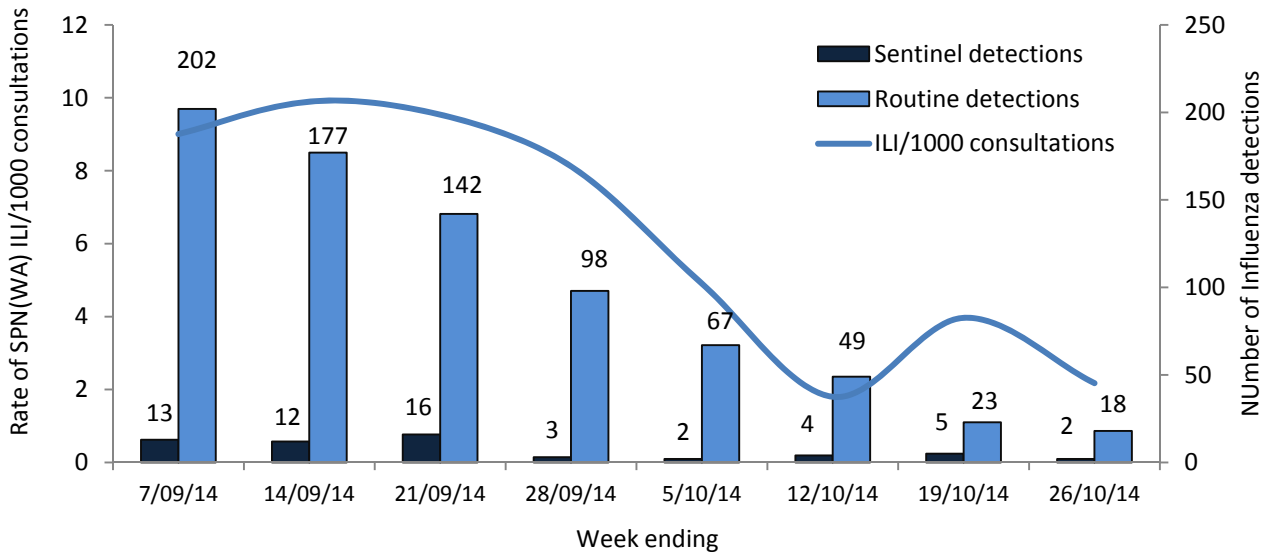
- Chickenpox and shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs continue to fluctuate at around baseline levels.
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.

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.

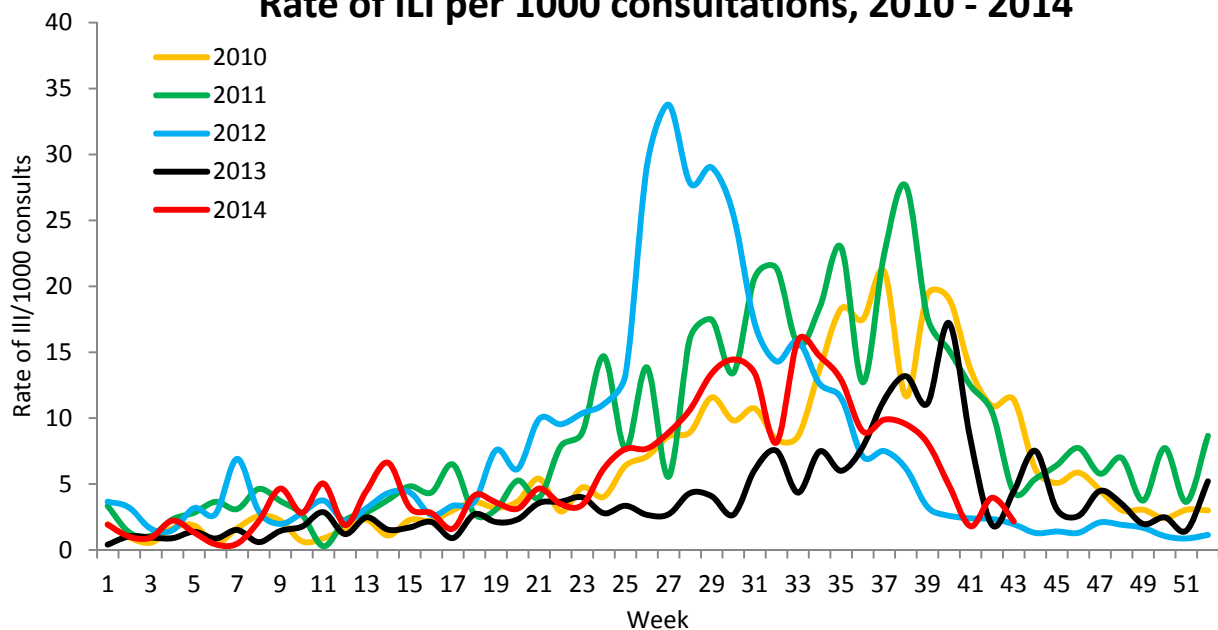
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs decreased this week. Routine detections of influenza virus continued to decline and sentinel detections remain low. Of 344 routinely collected specimens, 18 (5%) tested positive. Of 12 specimens collected at sentinel GP sites with complete testing results, 2 (17%) tested positive for influenza virus.

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

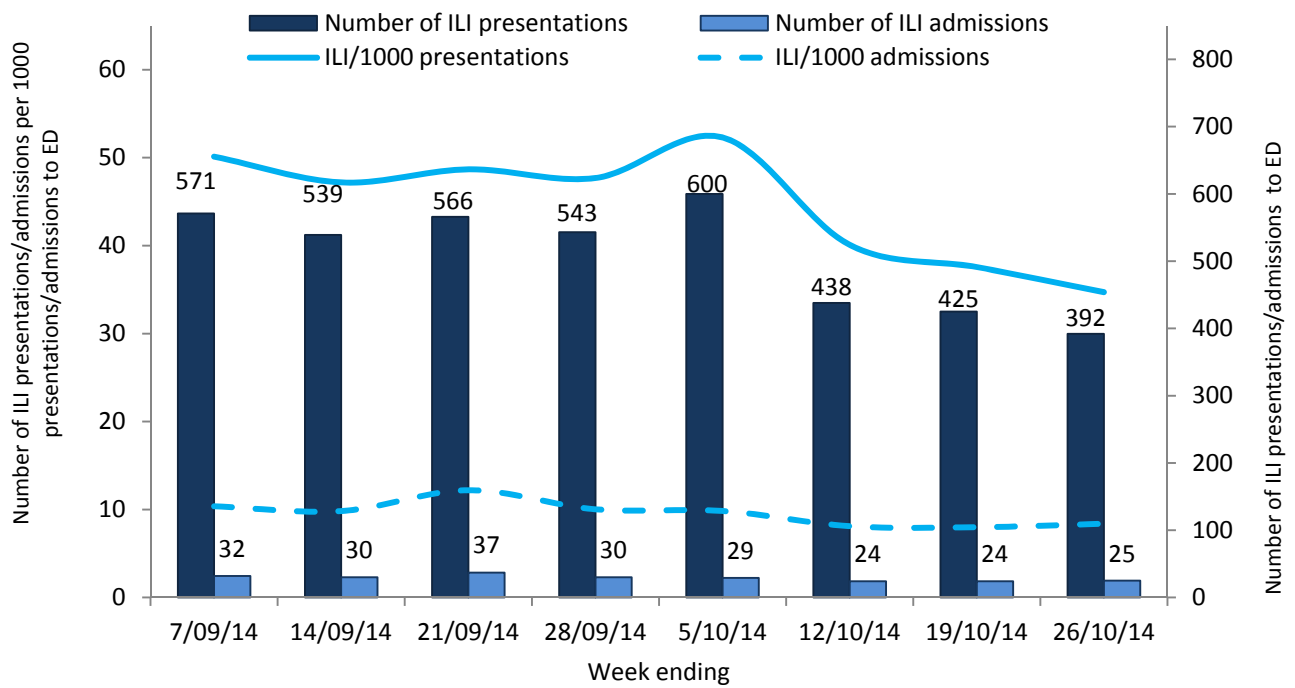


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs decreased to 2.2 cases per 1000 consultations, and remains in the low range of figures seen at this time in recent seasons.



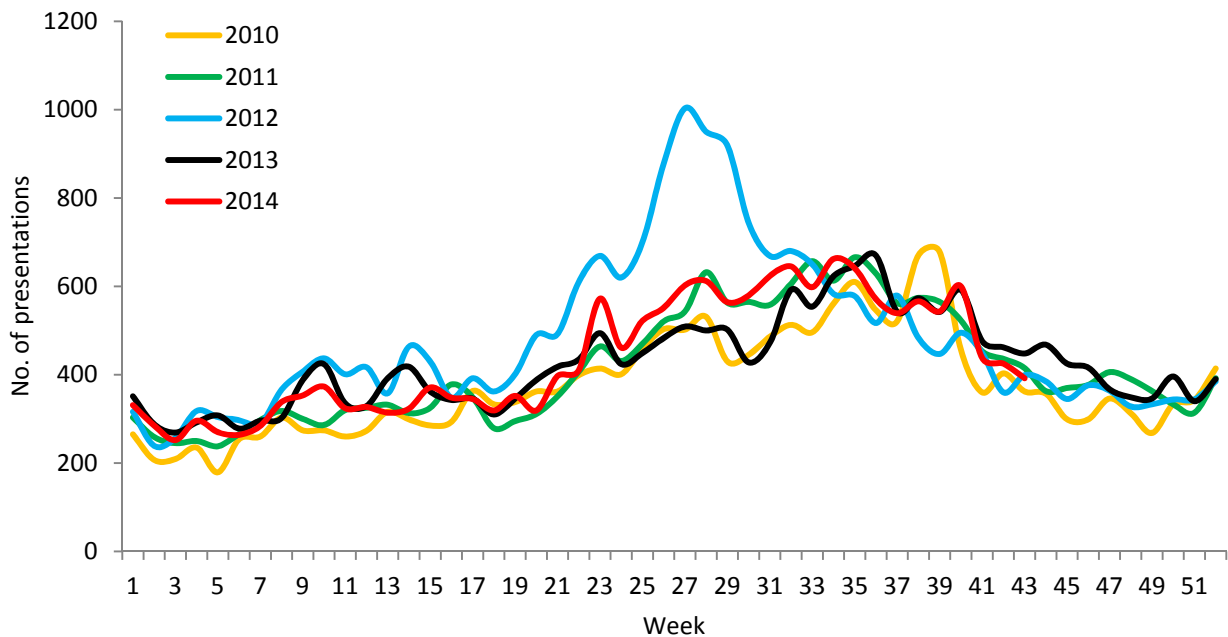
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



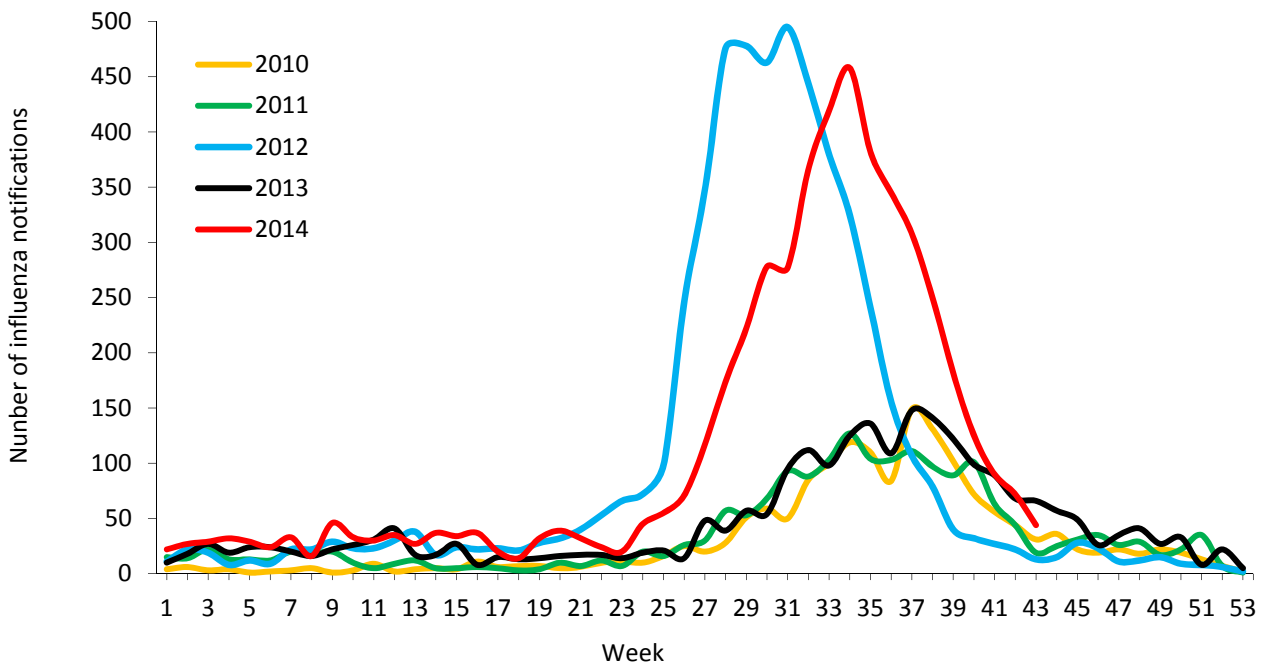
Presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness to sentinel EDs continued to decrease this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



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

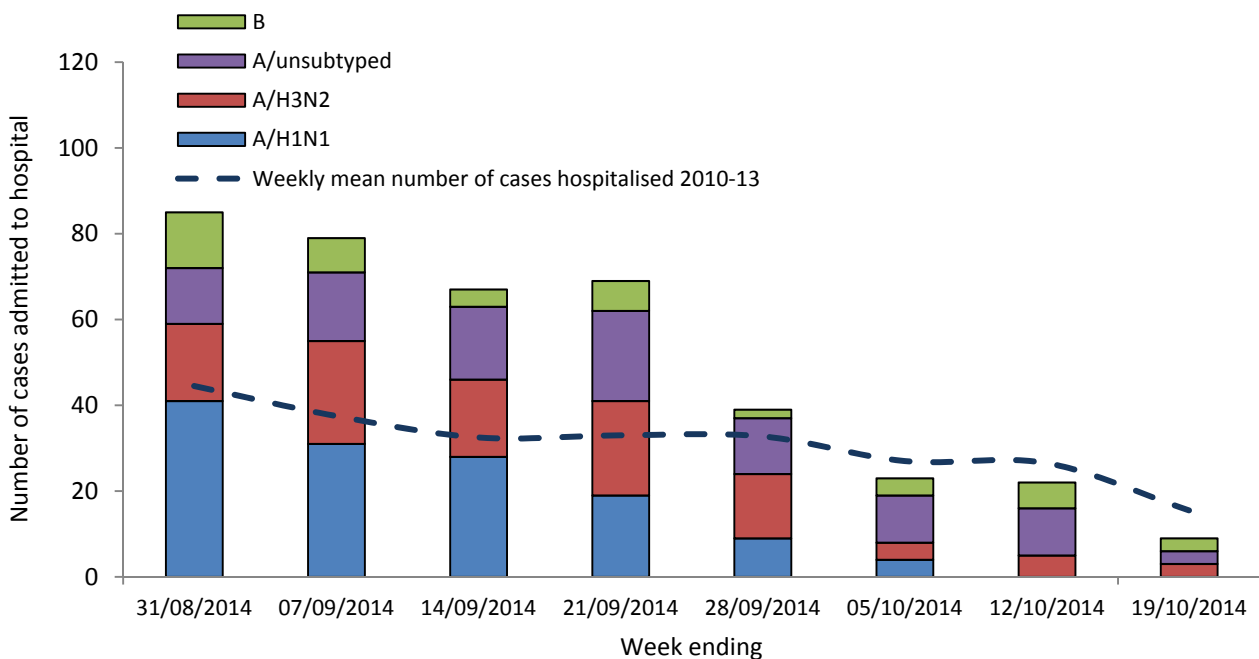
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



The number of confirmed cases of influenza infections notified to the Department of Health decreased; 44 cases of influenza were reported in the previous week.

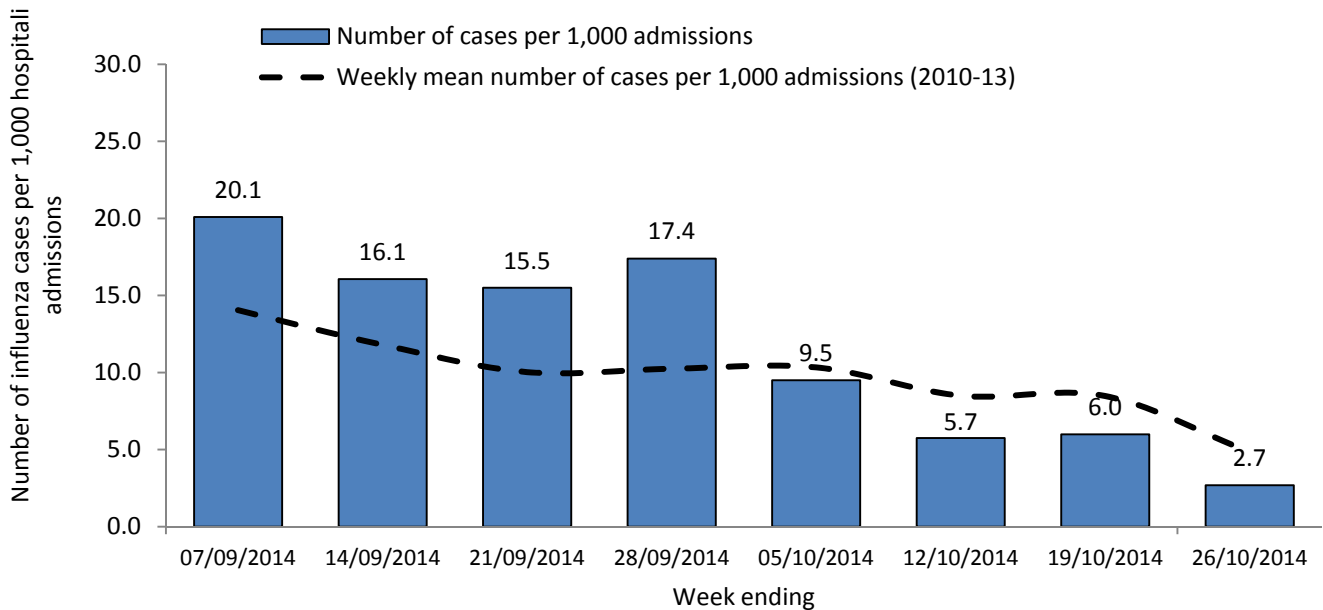
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 20/10/2014 and 26/10/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



There were 9 notified influenza cases hospitalised this week; 3 (33%) were influenza A/H3N2, 3 (33%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, and 3 (33%) were influenza B.

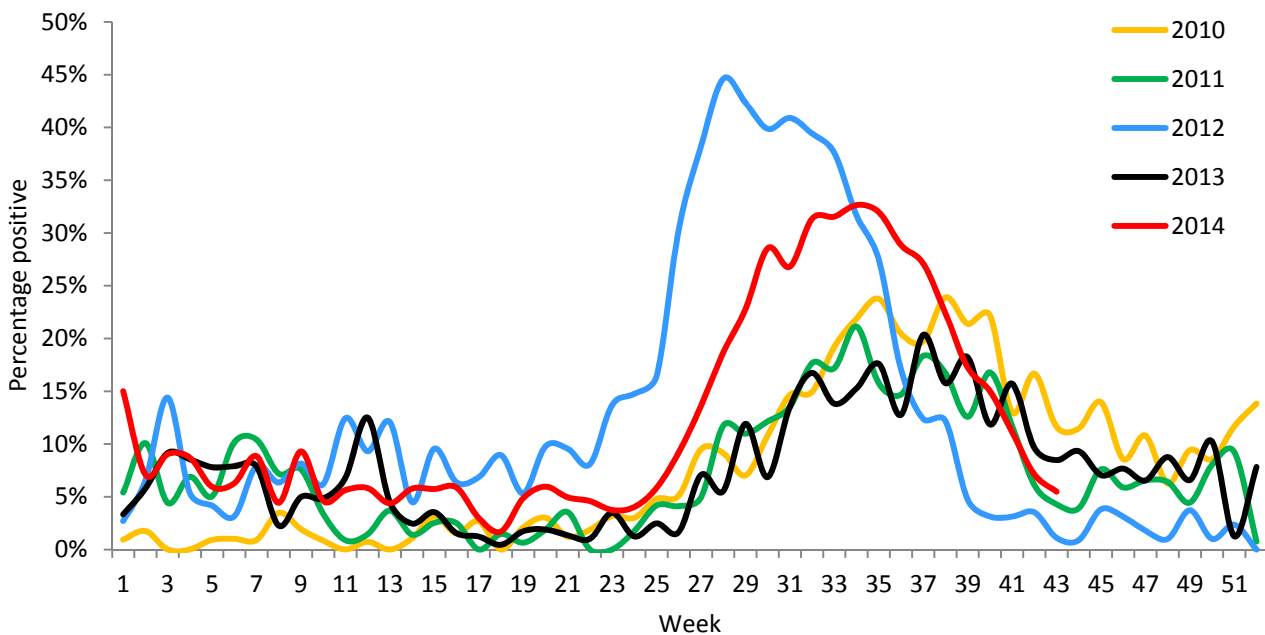
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza decreased to 2.7 per 1,000 admissions, which is below average levels for the corresponding period in recent years.

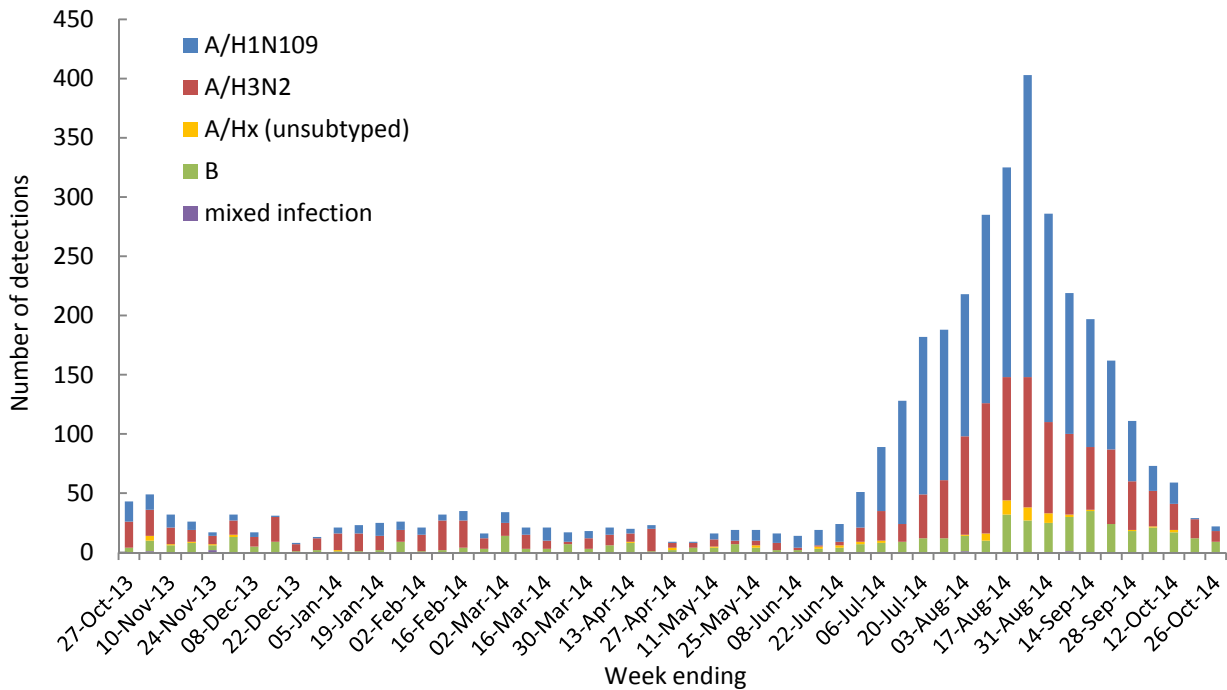
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 5.5% were positive for influenza virus, which is in the mid-range of levels reported at this time during recent influenza seasons.

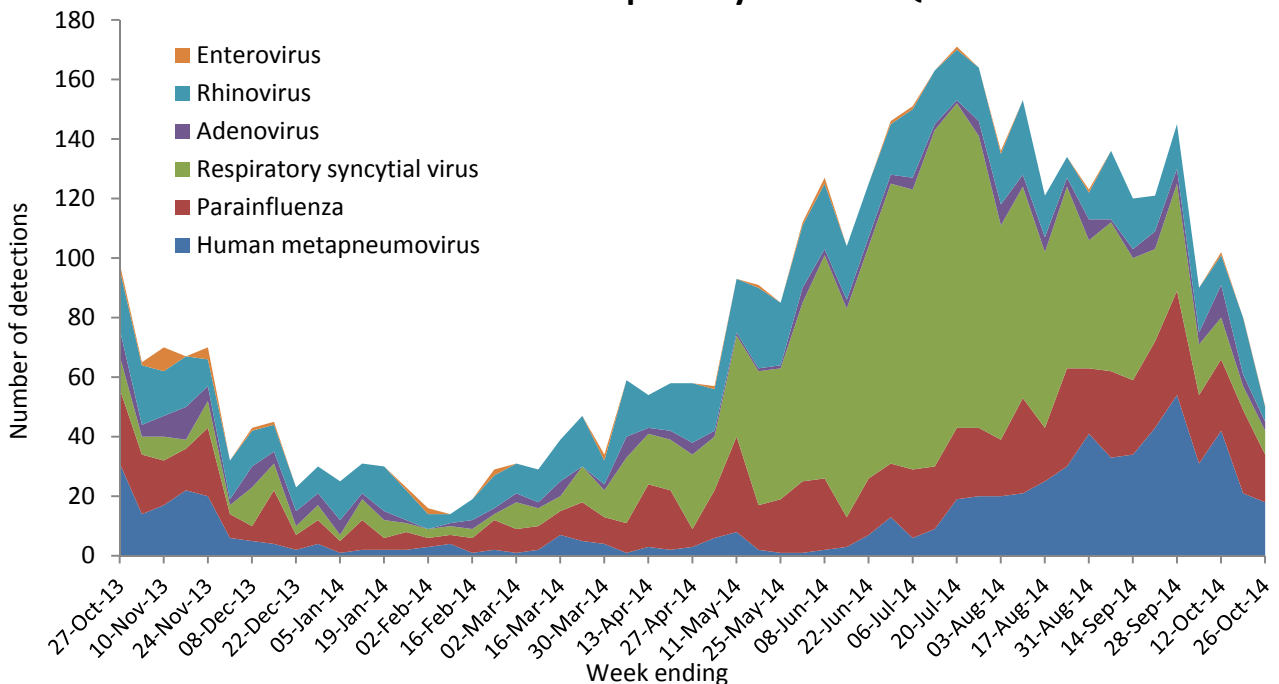
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 influenza subtypes



Twenty two influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 4 (18%) influenza A/H1N1, 9 (41%) influenza A/H3N2, and 9 (41%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 29nd October 2014.

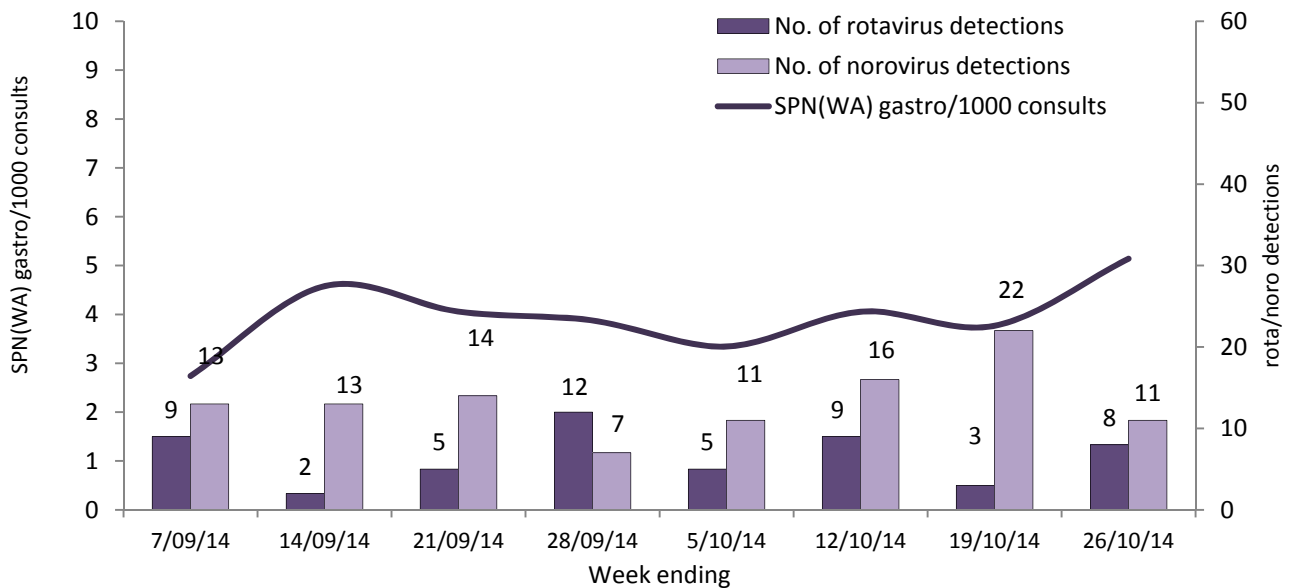
2013-2014 Non-influenza respiratory viruses - QEII and PMH



Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased this week.

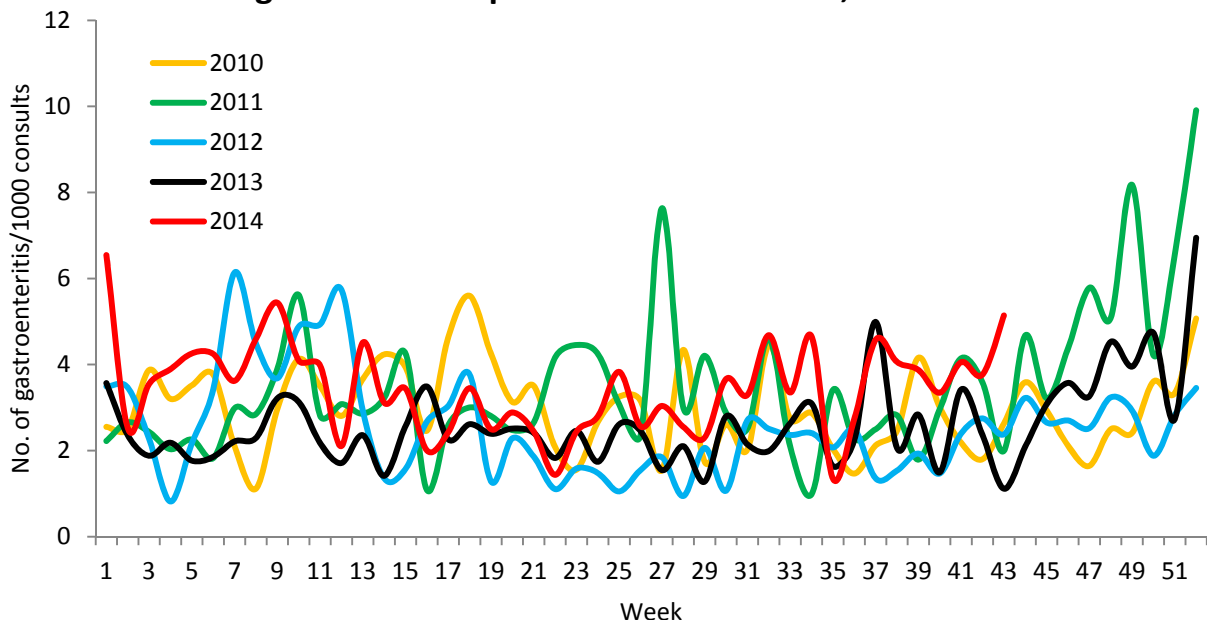
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



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

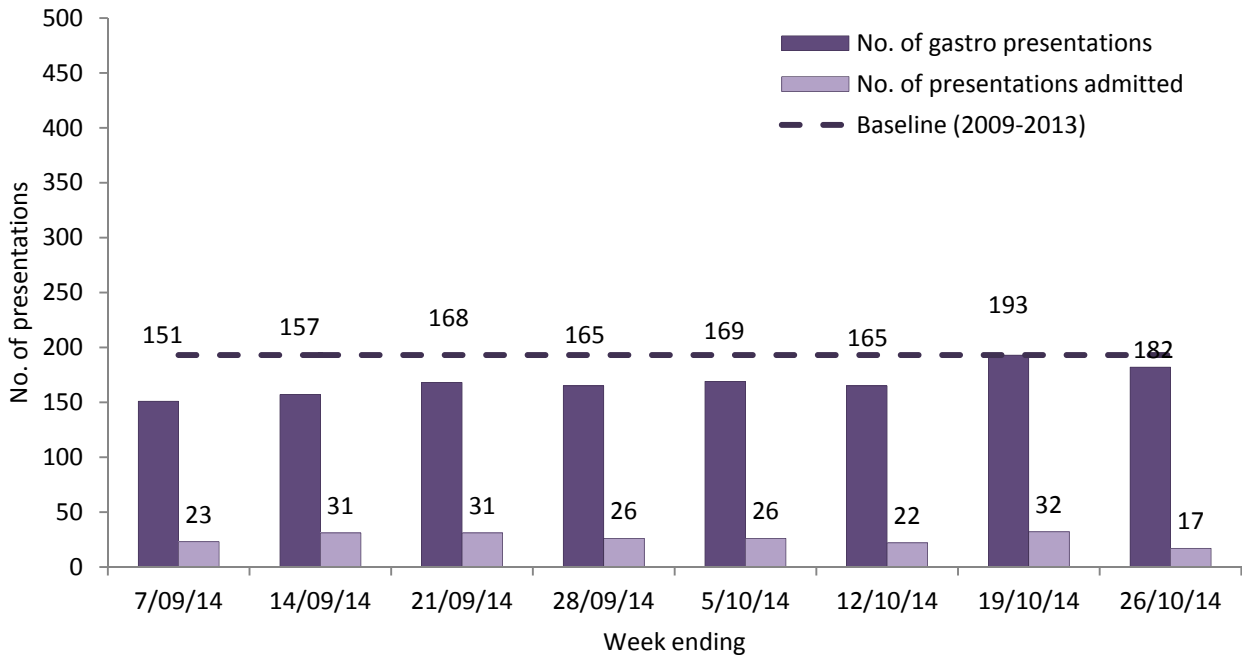
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



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

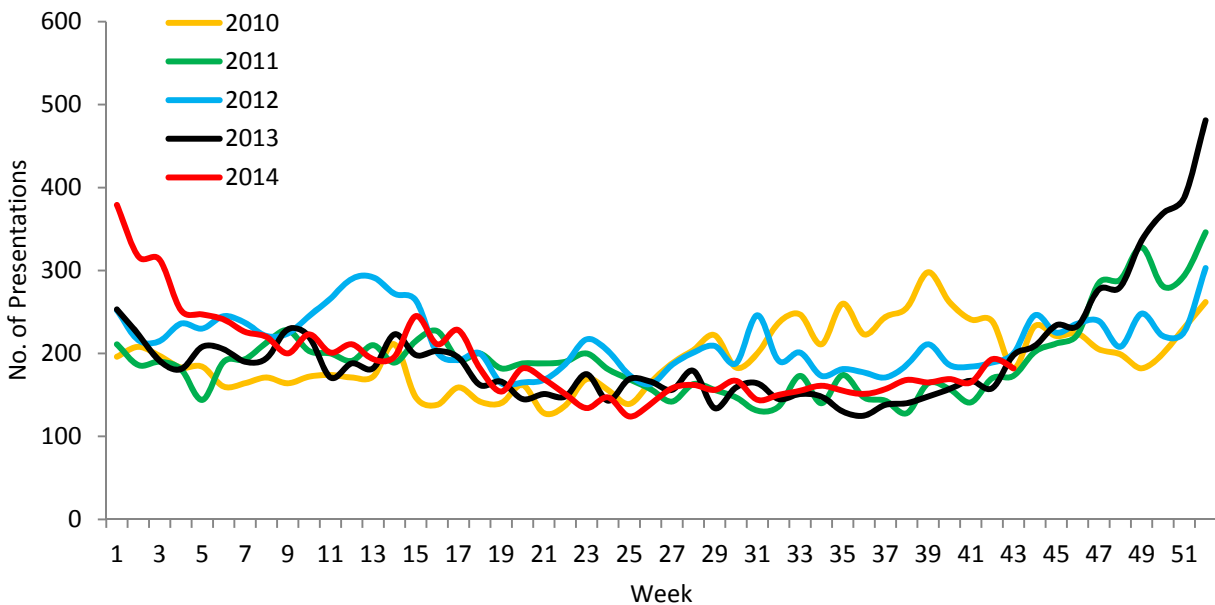
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs decreased this week, and are just below baseline levels.

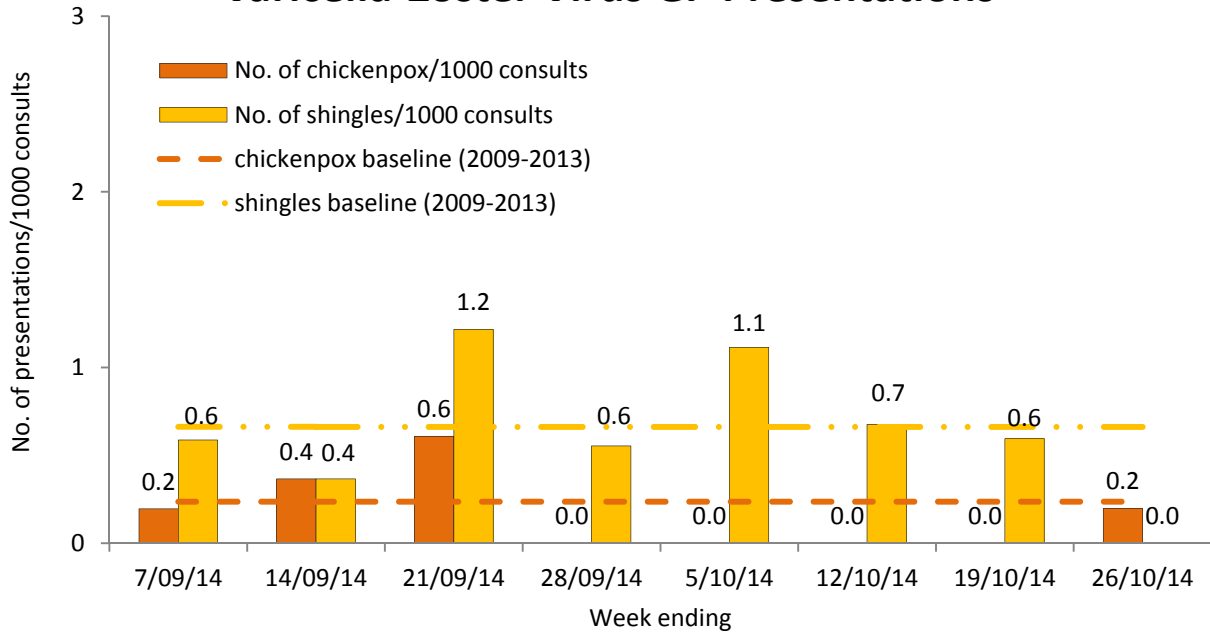
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs decreased slightly this week and remains in the mid-range of values experienced at the same time period in recent years.

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

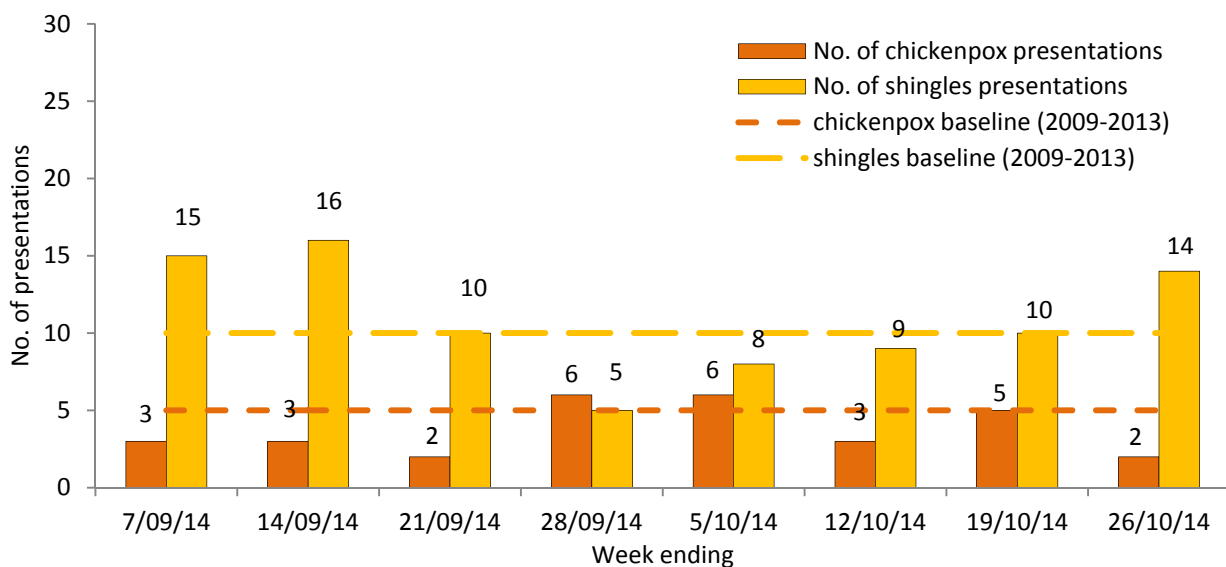


No shingles cases were seen at sentinel GPs. One presentation for chicken pox was reported, taking the rates up to baseline level. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

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 increased, and are above baseline levels. Chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs decreased, and are below baseline levels.

