Virus WAtch

WEEK ENDING 5TH OCTOBER 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity continues to decline.

- Most indicators of influenza activity, including notifications, detections of influenza virus, proportion of positive laboratory tests for influenza, and influenza-associated hospitalisations decreased this week, with the exception of emergency department ILI presentations which increased.
- Influenza A/H1N1, A/H3N2 and B viruses continue to co-circulate.
- Detections of all non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and sentinel emergency departments (EDs) remained relatively stable this week. GP presentations remain above average, in contrast to ED presentations which are below baseline.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

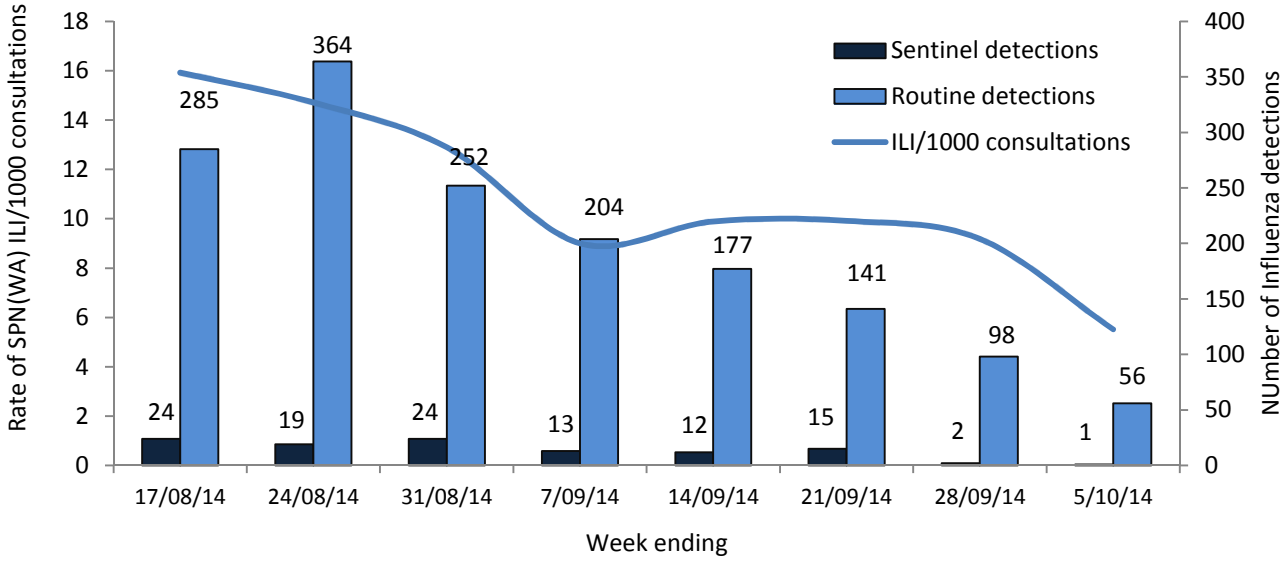
- Chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs remained stable and were at or below baseline levels.
- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs increased, and GP presentations are now above baseline.
- No confirmed cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

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.

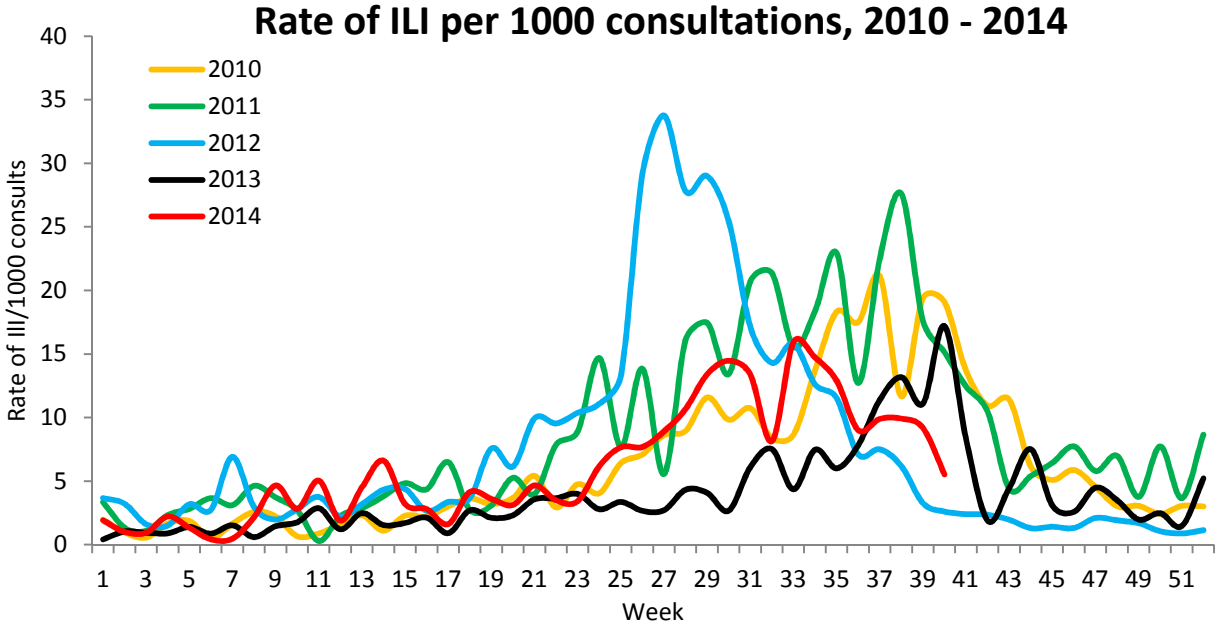
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



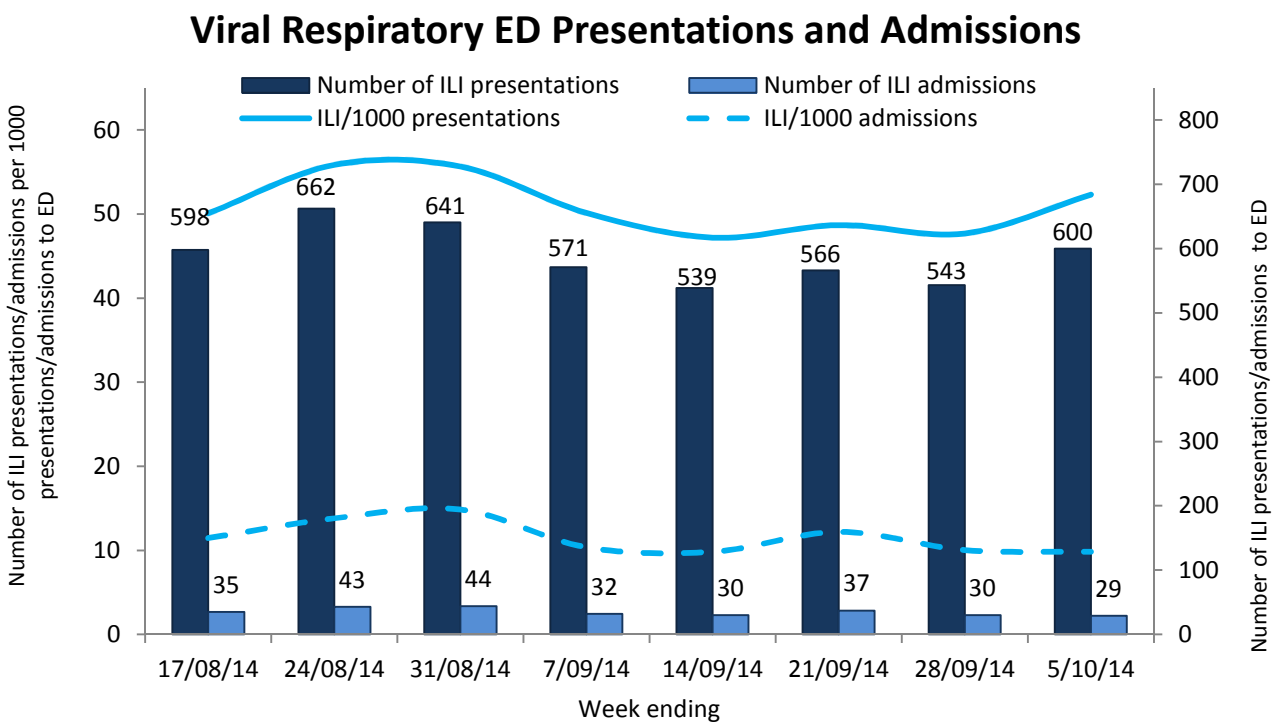
Routine and sentinel detections of influenza virus continue to decrease. Of 398 routinely collected specimens, 56 (14%) tested positive. Of 15 specimens collected at sentinel GP sites with complete testing results, 1 (7%) tested positive for influenza virus. The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs has decreased since last week.

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

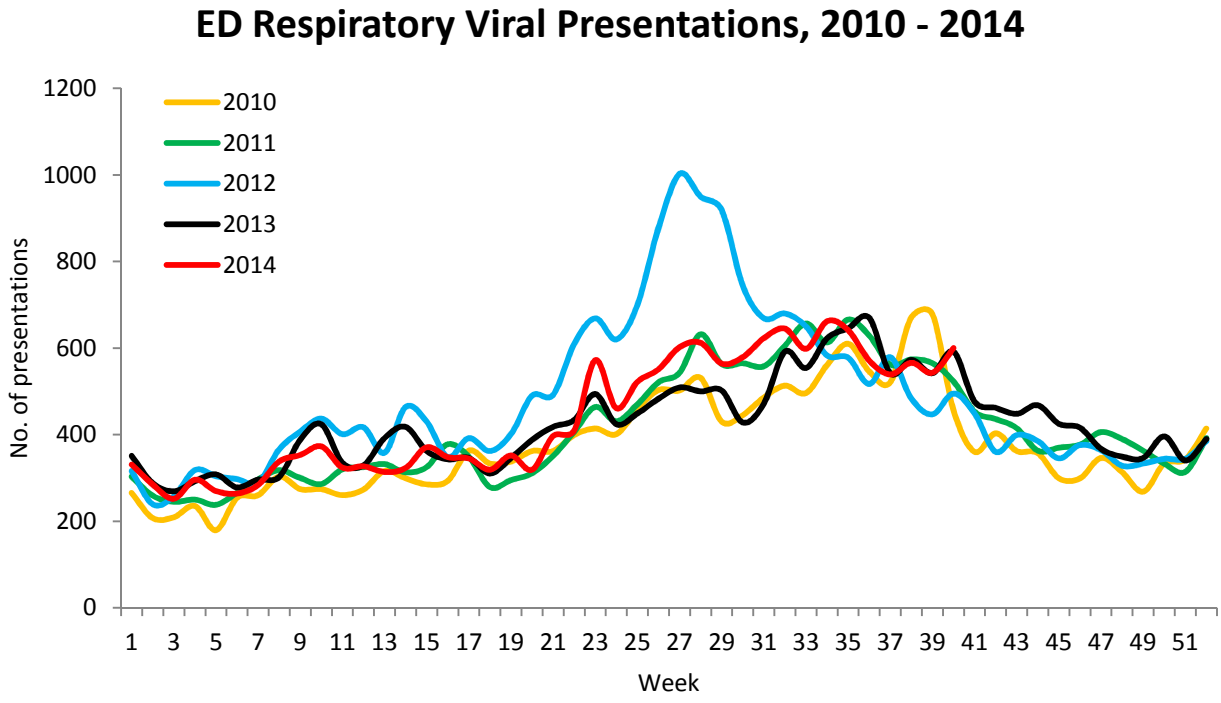


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs dropped to 5.5 cases per 1000 consultations, and is in the mid to low range of figures seen at this time in recent seasons.

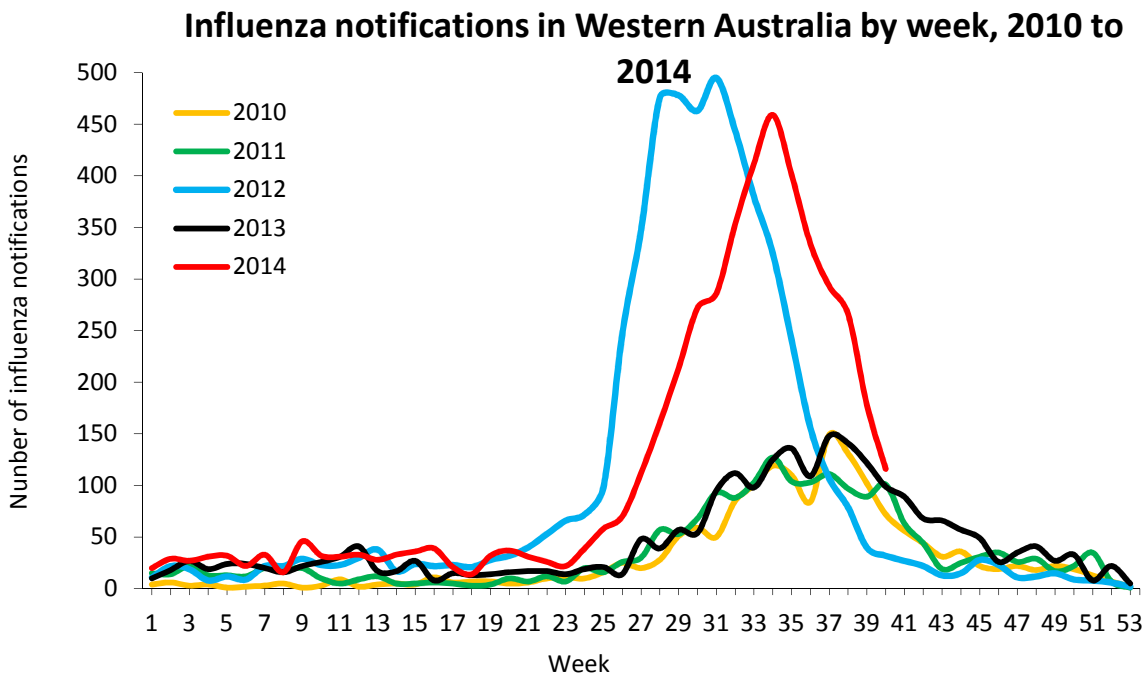
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.



ED presentations for viral respiratory illness increased slightly this week and admissions remained stable.

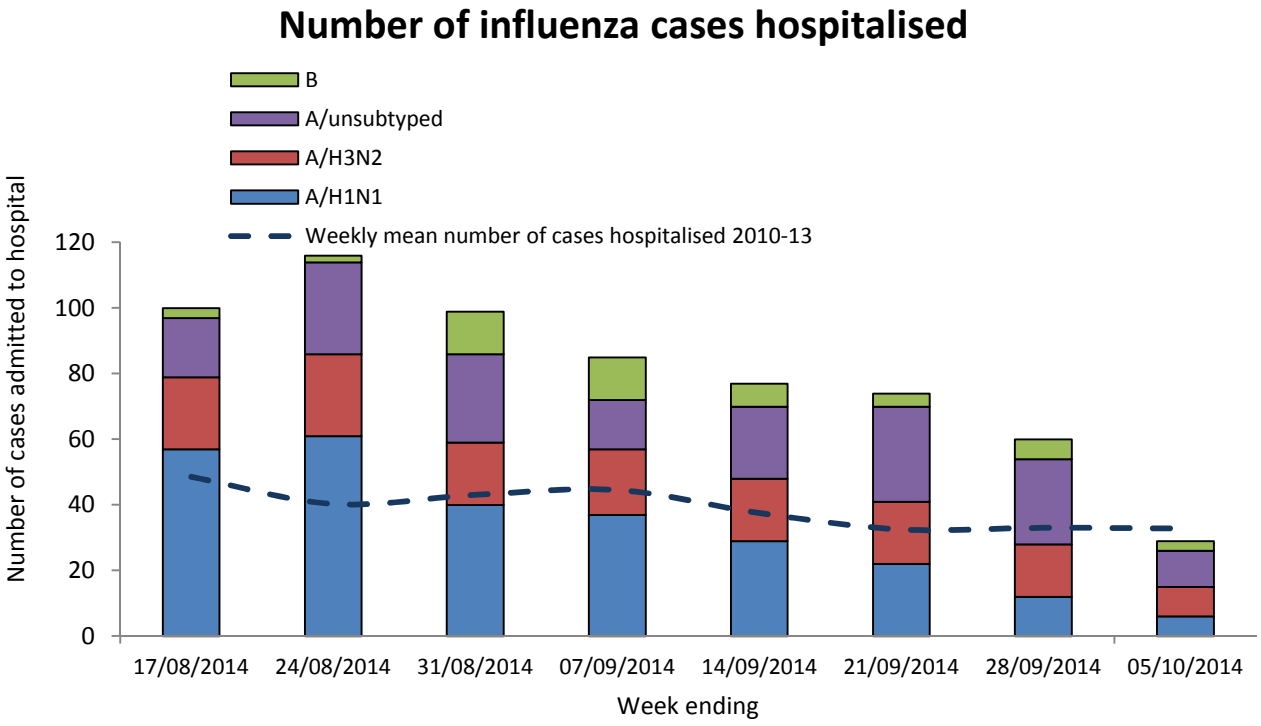


The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains similar to values observed for this time period in recent years.



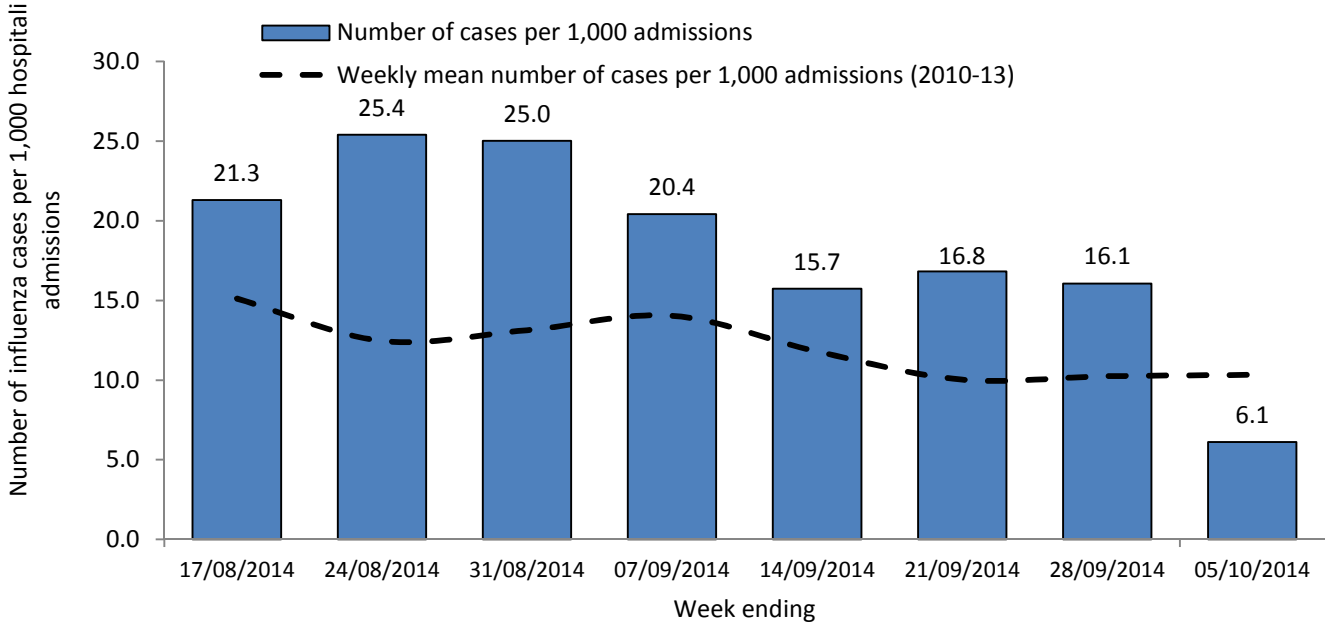
Notifications of confirmed influenza infections to the Department of Health continue to decline; 116 cases of influenza were reported in the previous week.

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 29/09/2014 and 05/10/2014.



There were 29 notified influenza cases hospitalised this week; 9 (31%) were influenza A/H3N2, 6 (21%) were influenza A/H1N1, 11 (38%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, and 3 (10%) were influenza B.

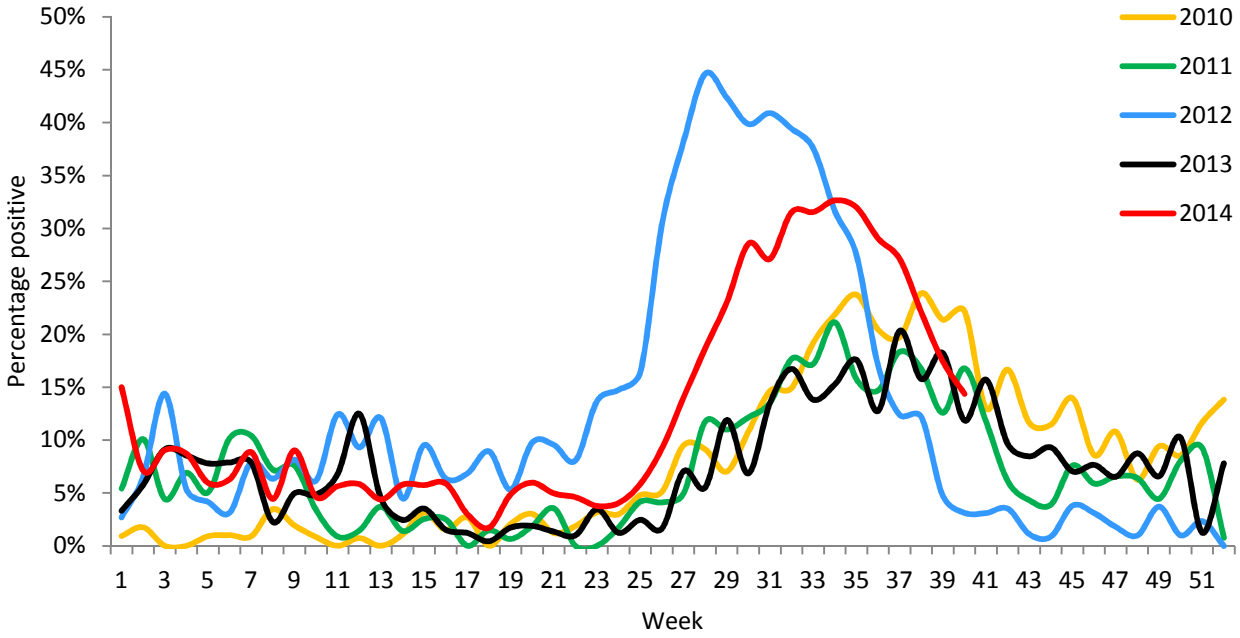
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



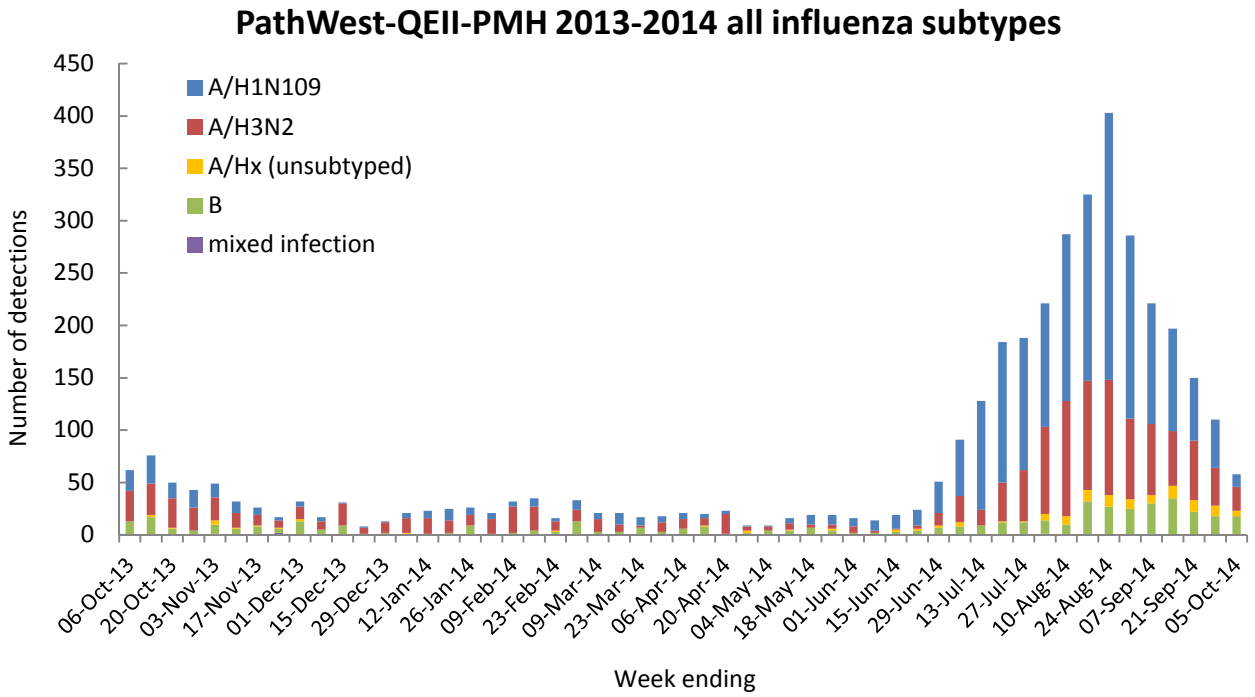
The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza decreased to 6.1 per 1,000 admissions, which is below average levels for the corresponding period in recent years.

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

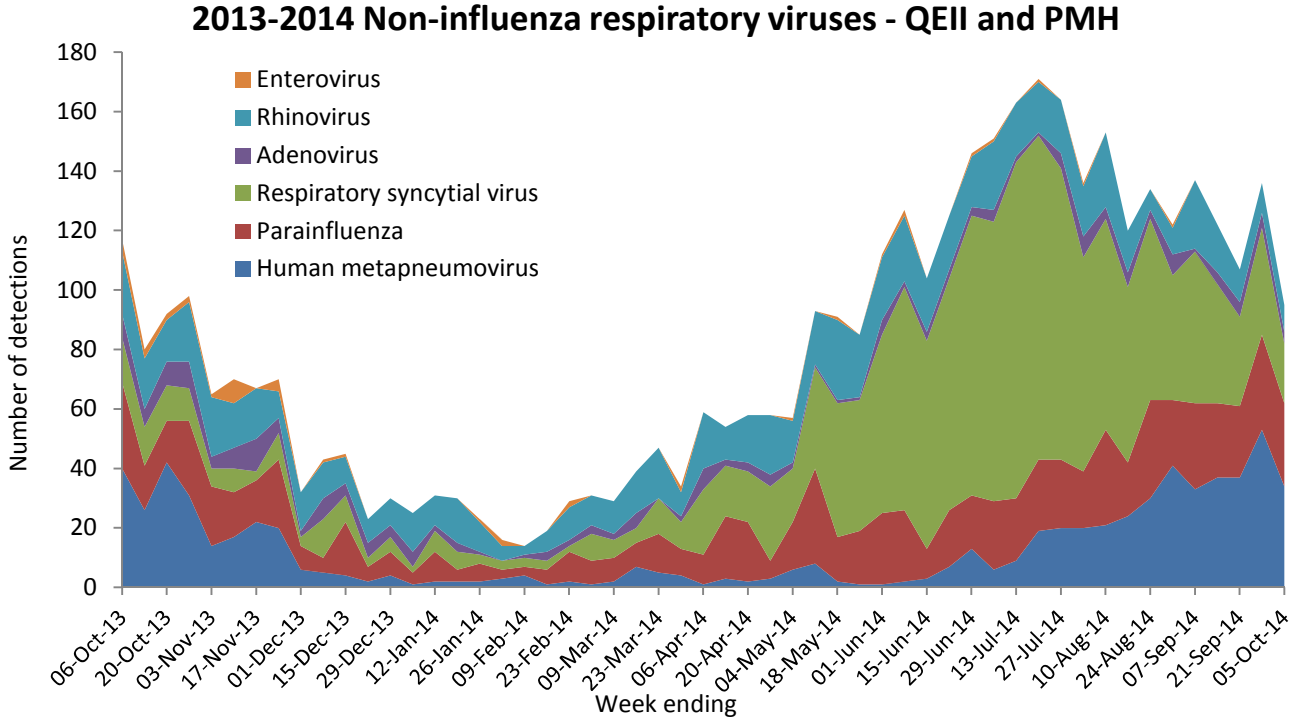


Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 14% were positive for influenza virus, which is in the mid-range of levels reported at this time during recent influenza seasons.



Fifty eight influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 12 (21%) influenza A/H1N1, 23 (40%) influenza A/H3N2, 5 (9%) influenza A/unsubtyped, and 18 (31%) influenza B.

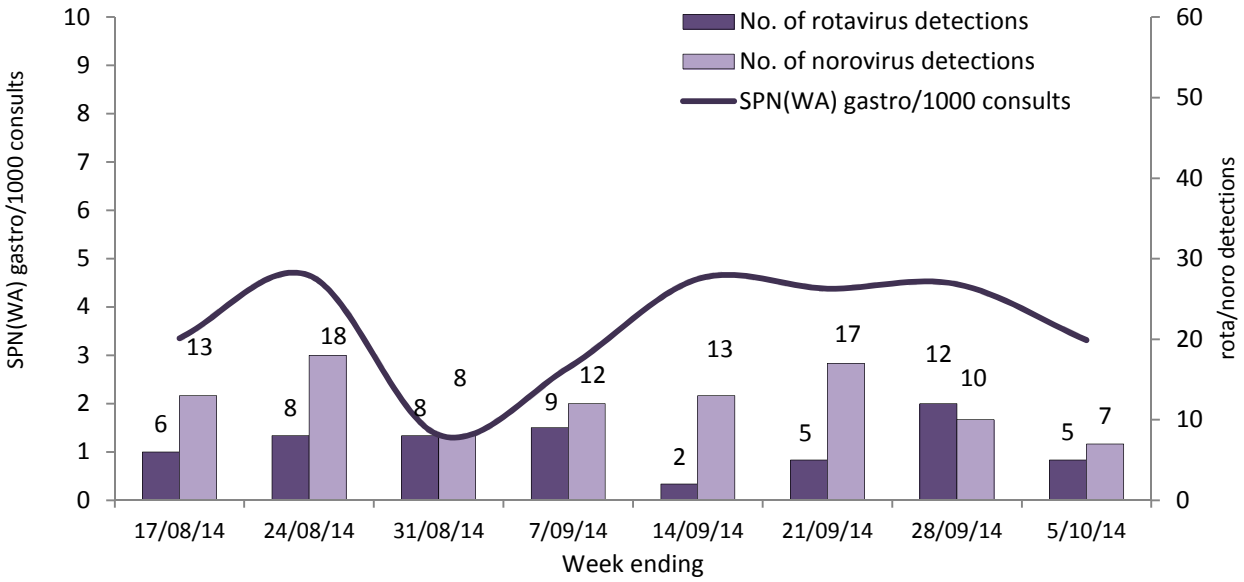
The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 7th October 2014.



All non-influenza respiratory virus activity decreased this week.

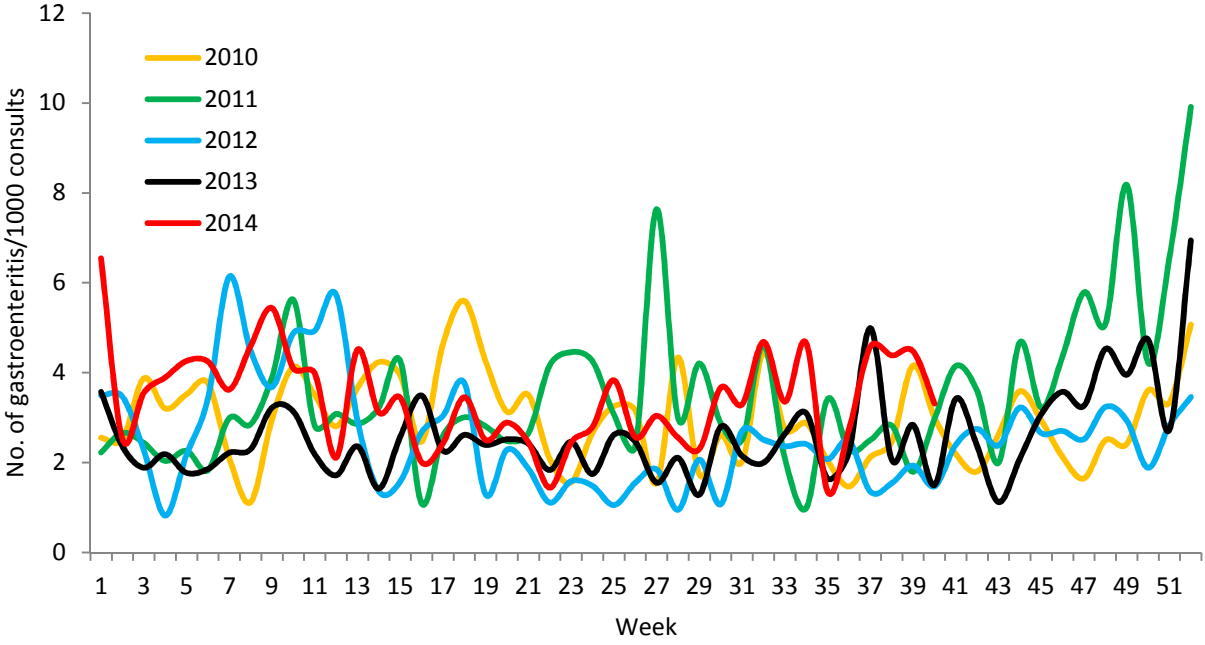
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



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

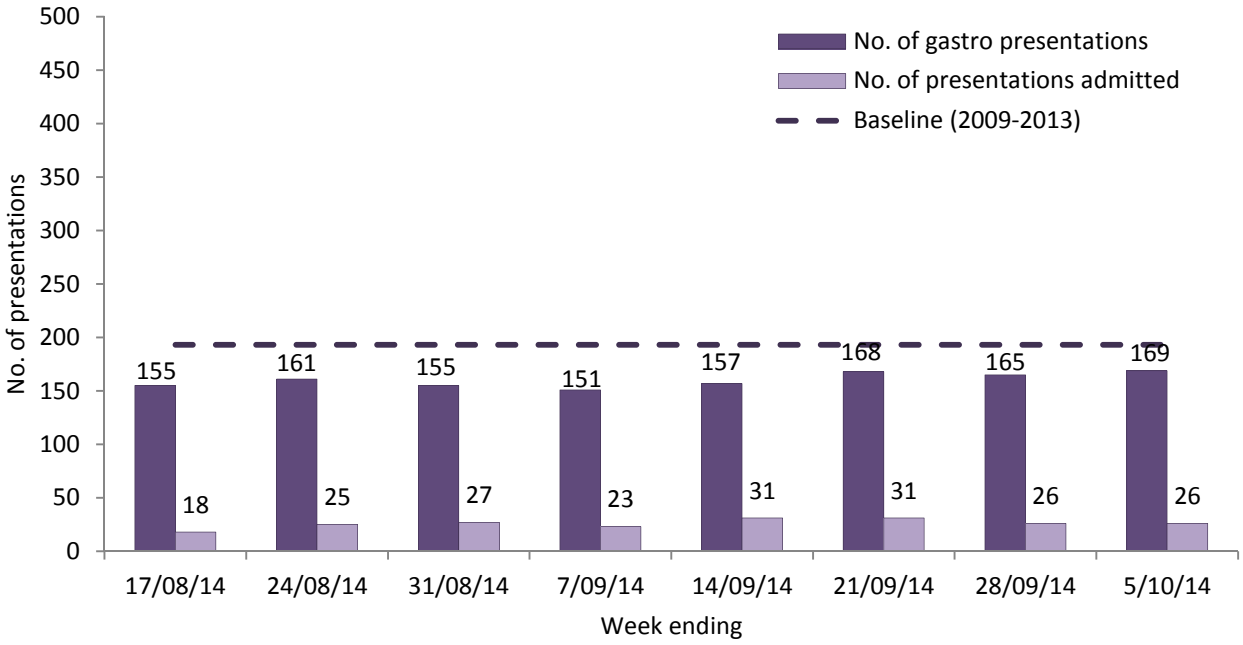
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance
Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs decreased but remains at the upper limit of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

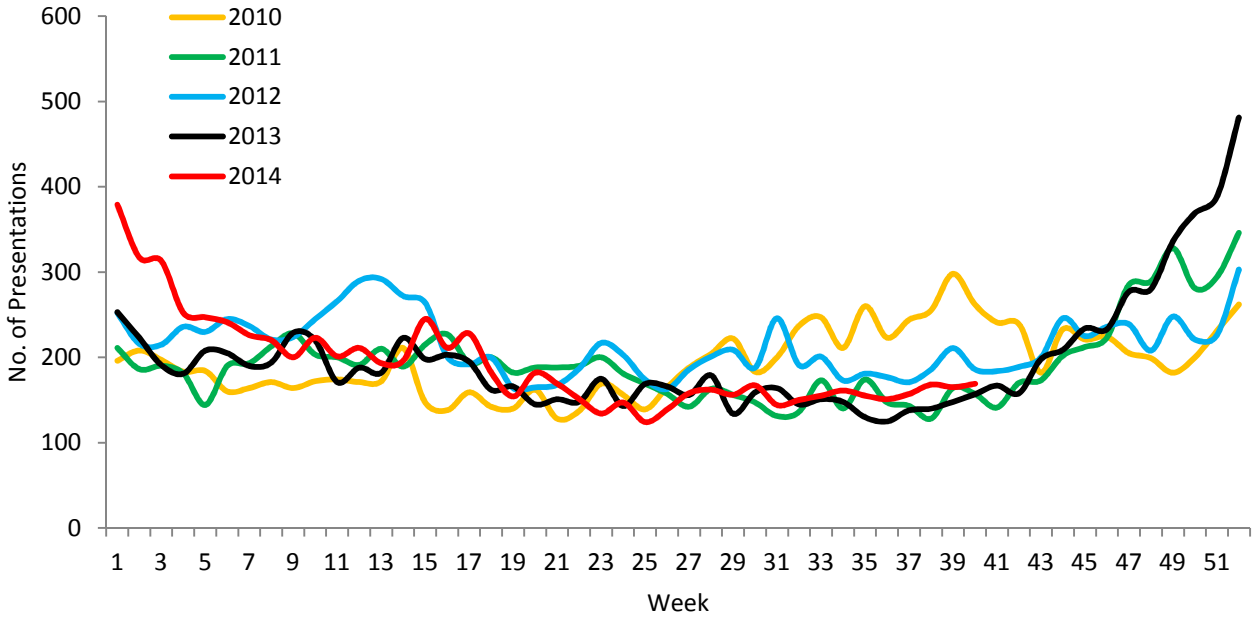
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs was similar to the number of presentations last week, remaining below baseline. Gastroenteritis admissions also remained stable.

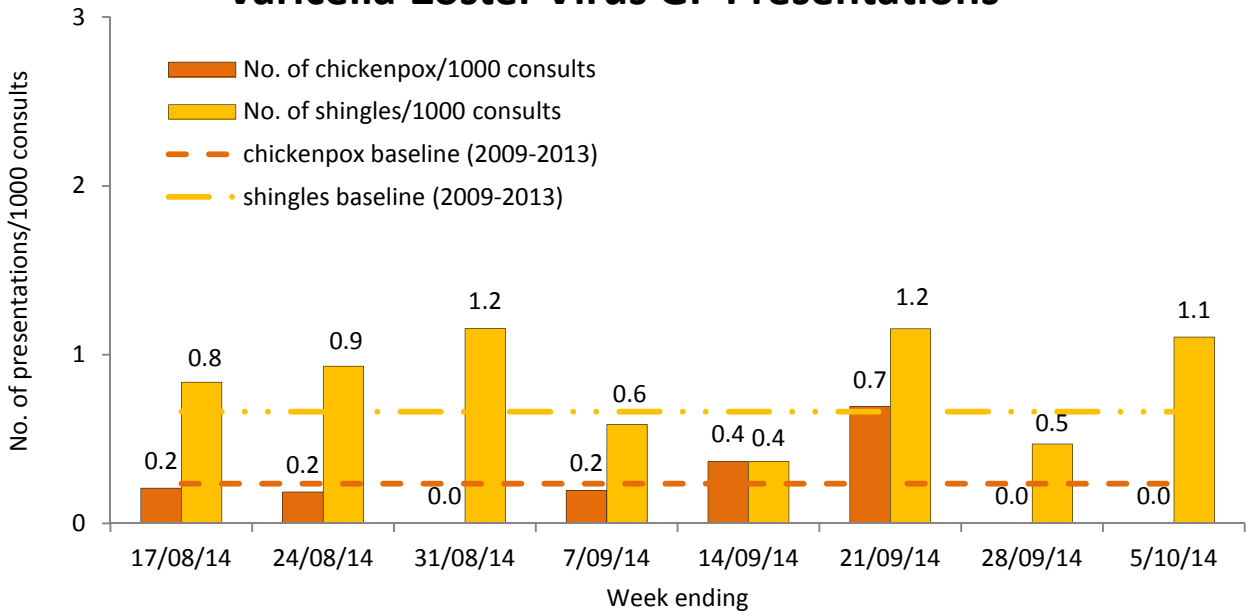
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs was similar 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

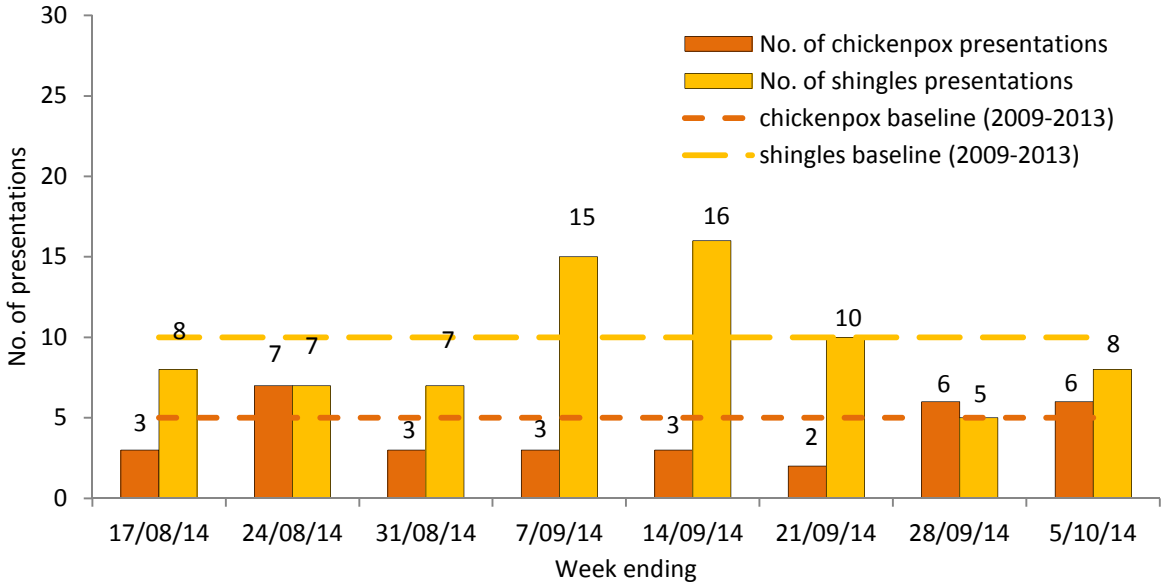


The rate of chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs remained stable this week and is below baseline levels. The rate of shingles presentations increased and is above baseline levels. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

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 slightly and remain below baseline level this week. Chickenpox presentations remained stable and are above baseline level.