# Virus WAtch

## WEEK ENDING 16TH NOVEMBER 2014

## KEY POINTS

### INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

**Summary**: Influenza and non-influenza virus activity continue to decline and are at inter-seasonal levels.

- Detections of influenza virus decreased this week.
- Hospitalisations for influenza and presentations to sentinel emergency departments (EDs) for ILI remained stable, and are at baseline level.
- Influenza A/H3N2 and influenza B continue to co-circulate at low levels.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses continue to decline.

### GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and sentinel EDs decreased but the latter are above expected levels.
- Several outbreaks of gastroenteritis at aged care and child-care facilities have been reported to the Department of Health in recent weeks, with some confirmed to be due to norovirus.
- Overall, norovirus and rotavirus detections decreased this week.

### VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

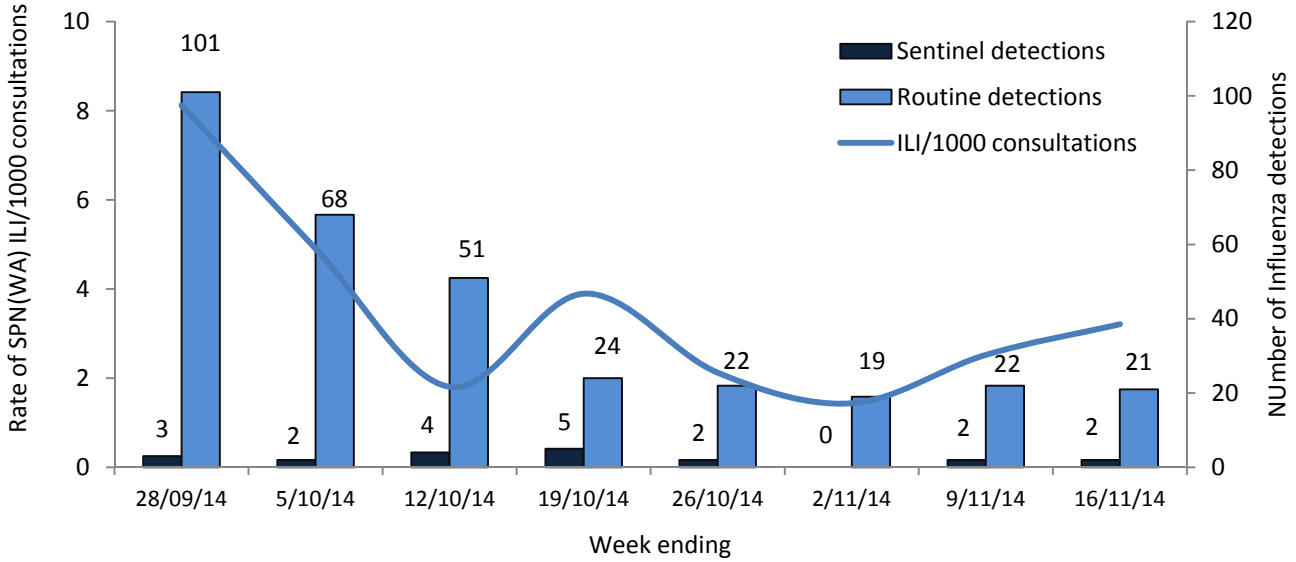
- Shingles and chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs and GPs remain near or below baseline.
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.

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.*

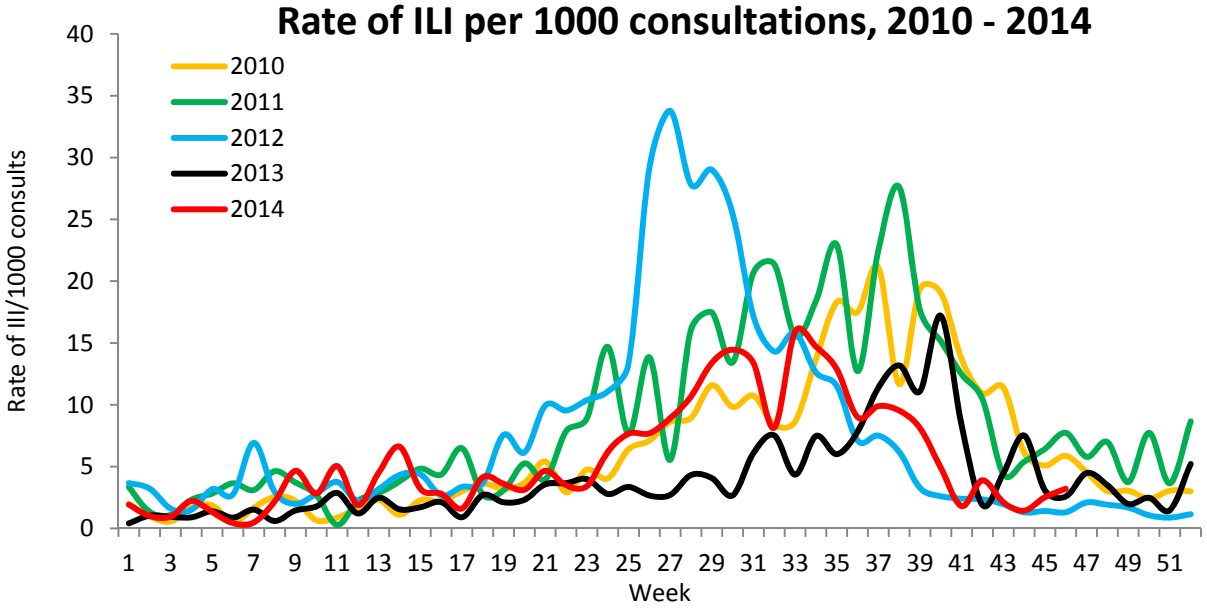
# Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

## Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections




**The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs increased slightly to 3.2 ILI per 1,000 consultations. Routine and sentinel detections of influenza virus remain low. Of 271 routinely collected specimens, 12 (4%) tested positive for influenza virus. Of 12 specimens collected at sentinel GP sites, 2 (17%) tested positive.**

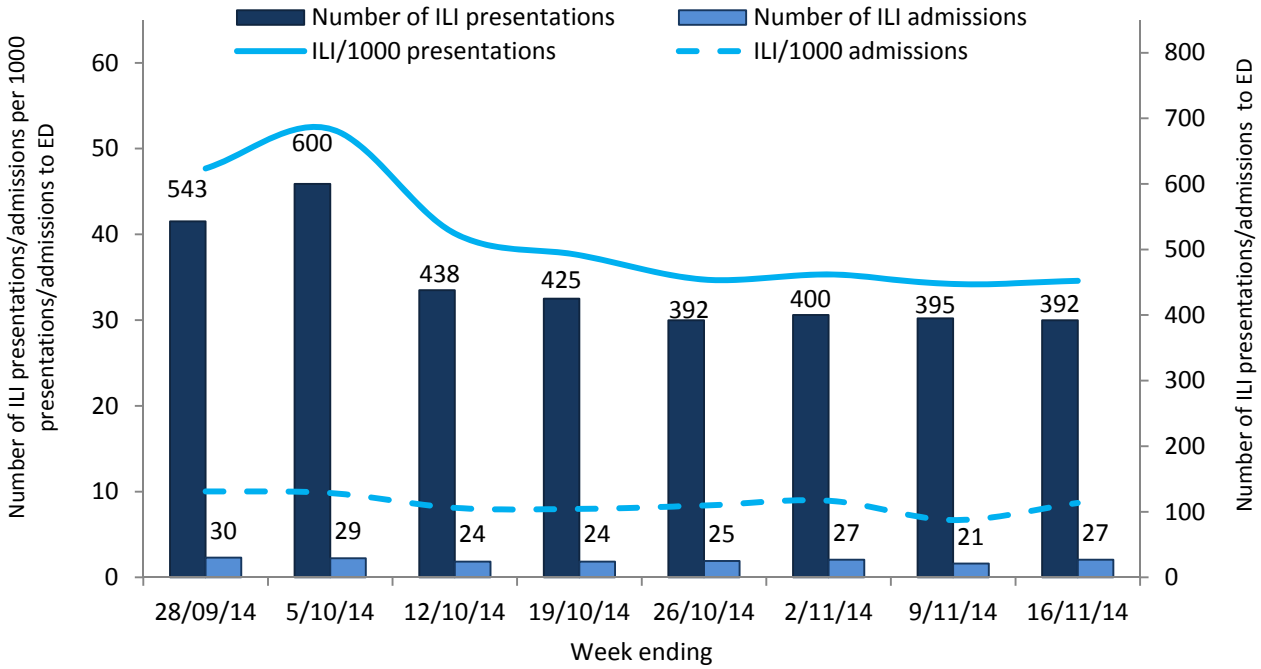
## Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance
## Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014




**The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs is in the mid-range of figures seen at this time in recent seasons.**

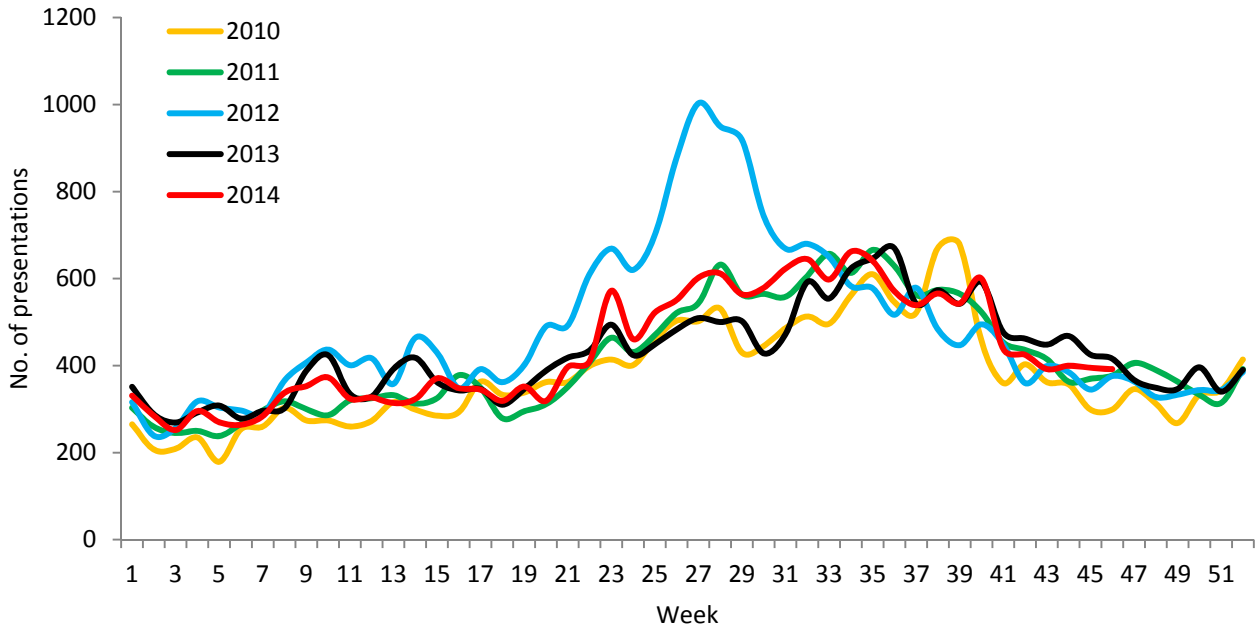
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

## Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



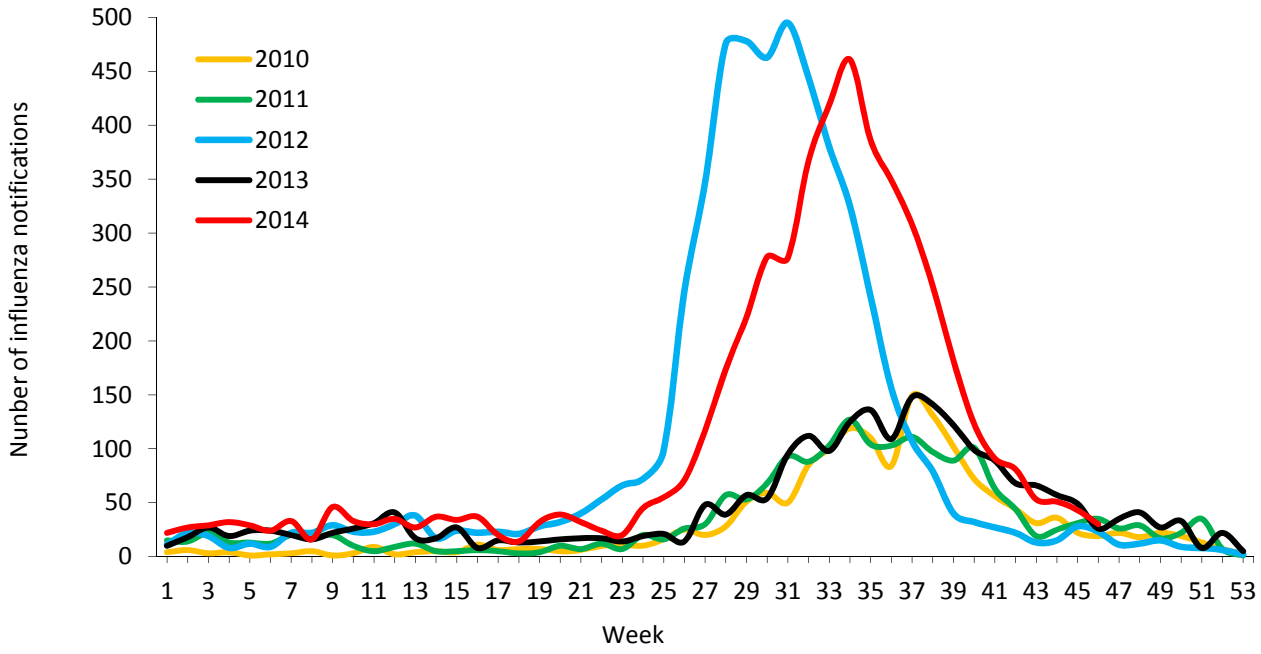

**Presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness to sentinel EDs remain low.**

## ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014




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

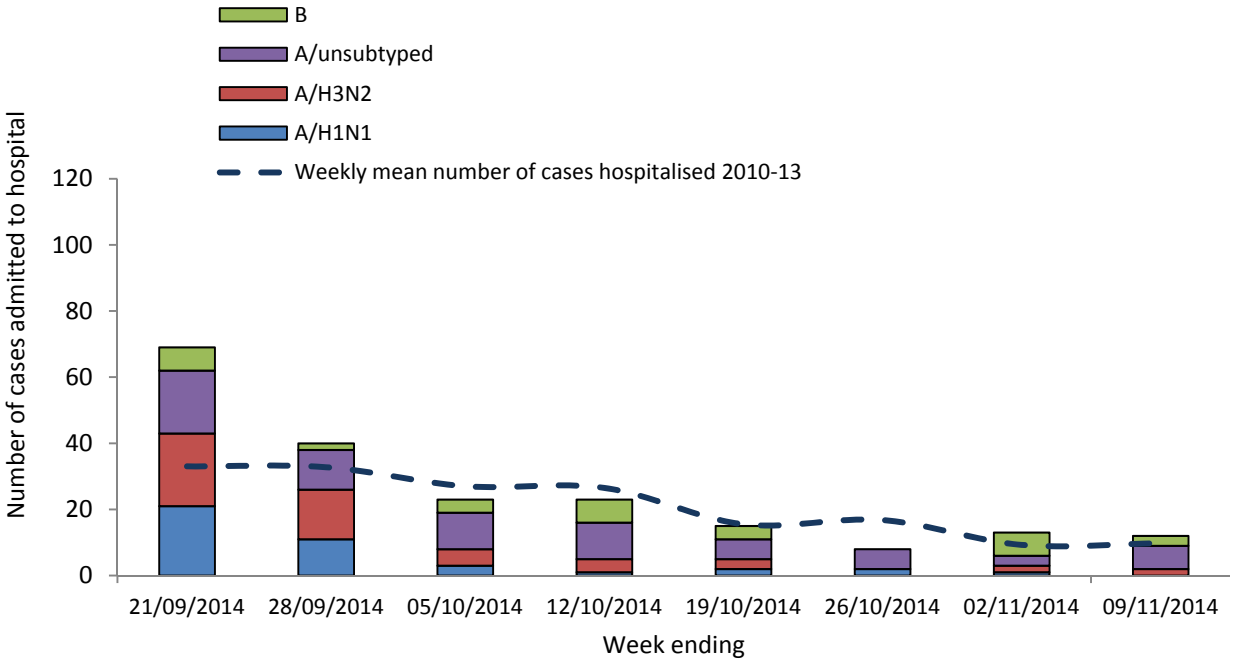
## Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014




**Notifications of cases of influenza infections received by the Department of Health continue to decline; 30 cases were notified.**

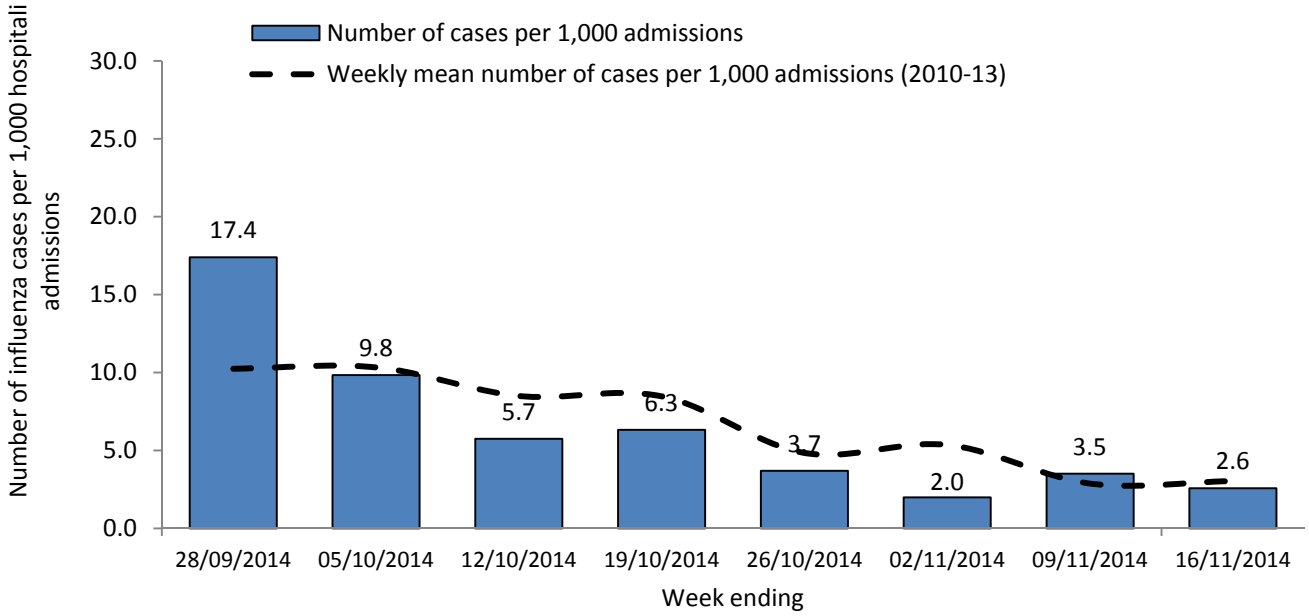
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 10/11/2014 and 16/11/2014.

## Number of influenza cases hospitalised




**There were 12 notified influenza cases hospitalised this week; 3 (25%) were influenza B, 2 (17%) were influenza A/H3N2, 0 (0%) were influenza A/H1N1, and 7 (58%) were influenza A/unsubtyped.**

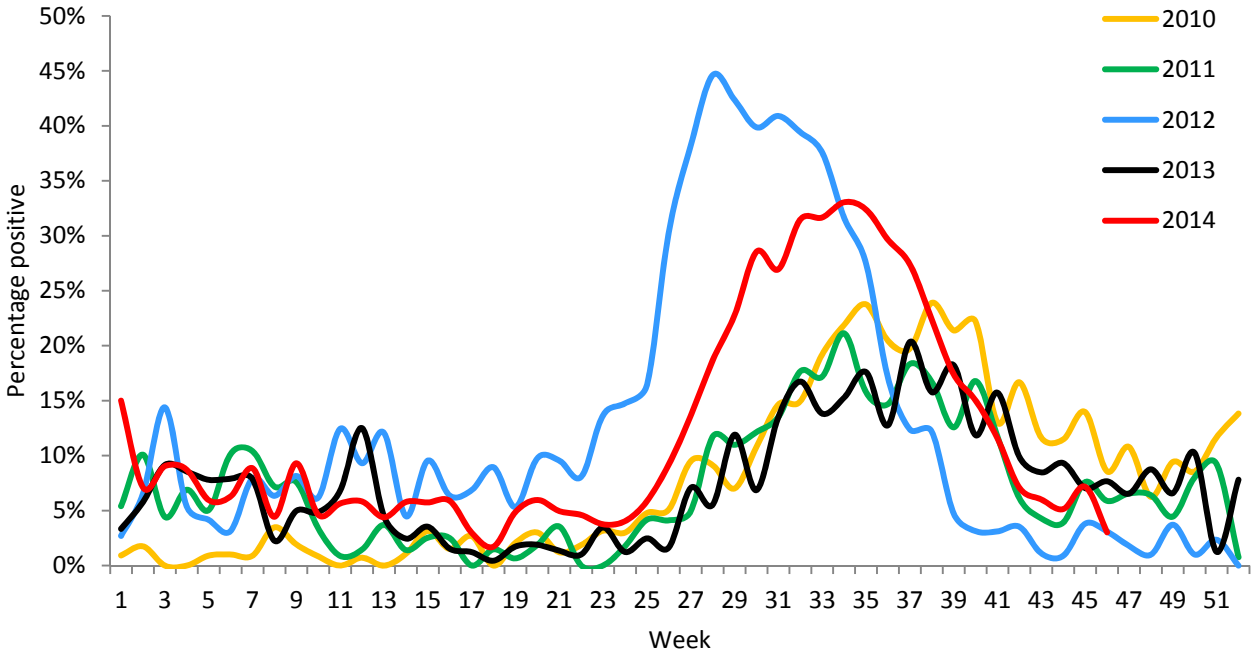
## Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



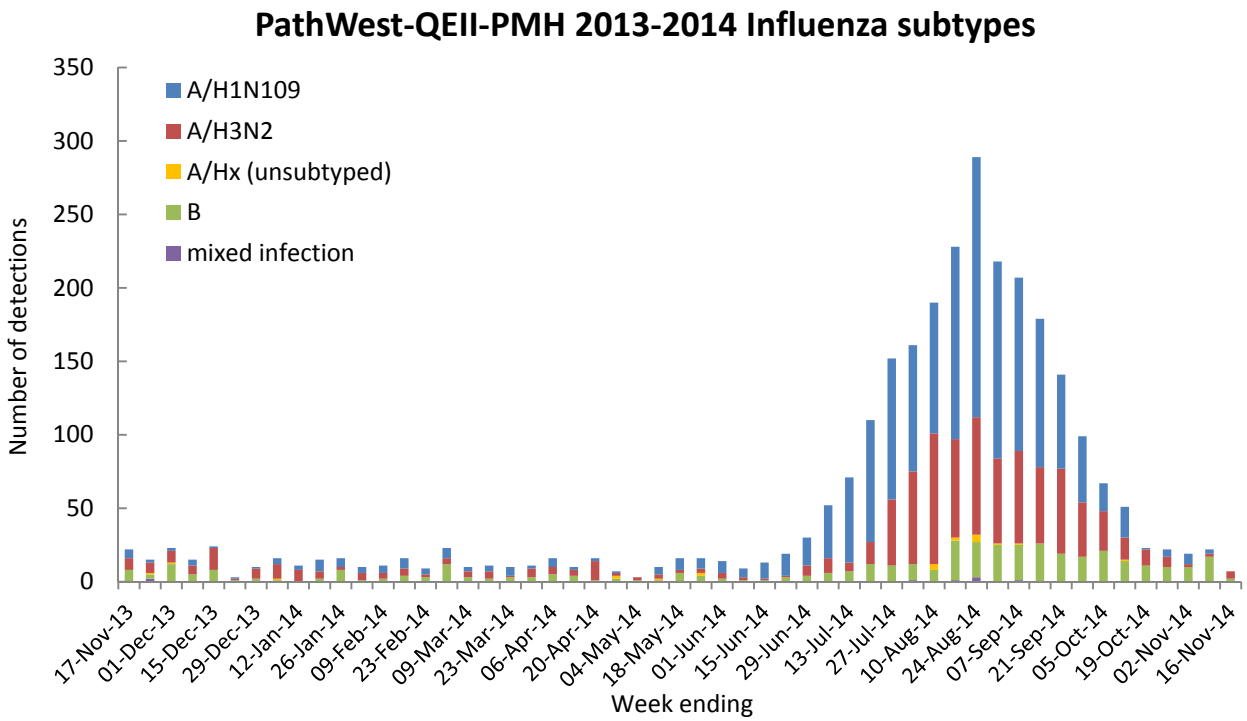

**The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza remains at around 3 per 1,000 admissions, which is near average levels for the corresponding period in recent years.**

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

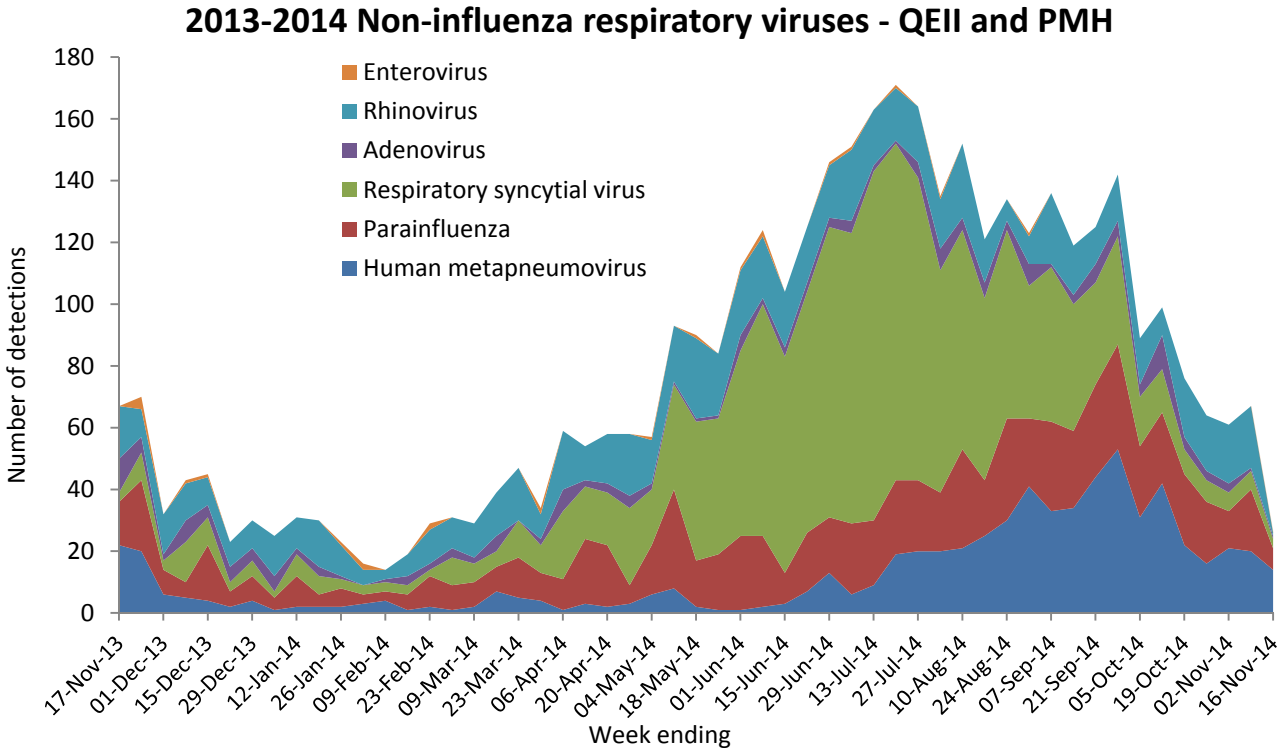



**Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 3.1% were positive for influenza virus, which is in the lower range of levels reported at this time during recent influenza seasons.**




**Six influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 1 (17%) influenza B, and 5 (83%) influenza A/H3N2.**

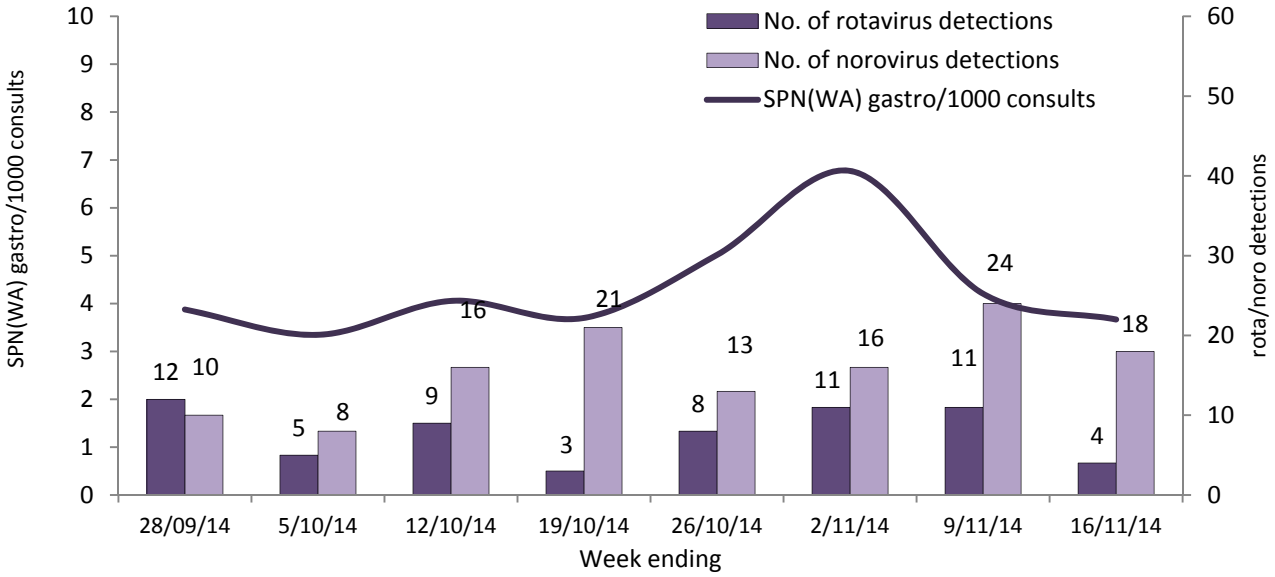
The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 19th November 2014.




**Detections of all non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased this week.**

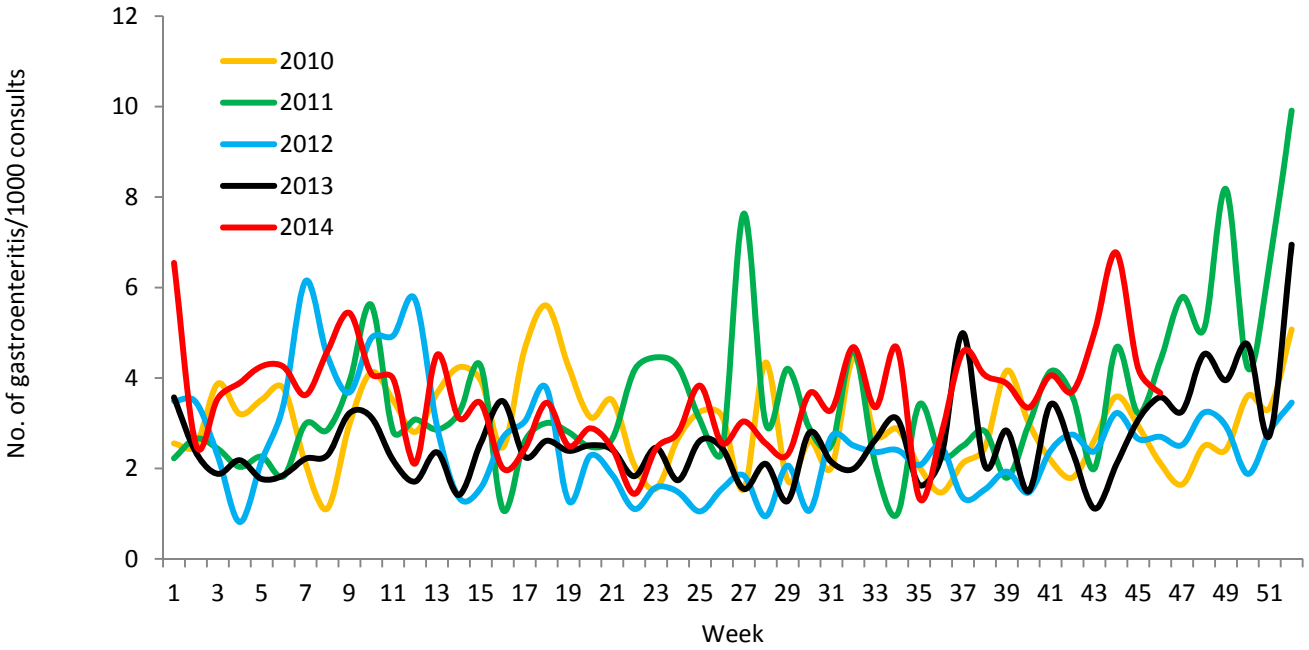
# Gastroenteritis

## Gastroenteritis GP Presentations




**Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain near 4 per 1,000 consultations this week. Norovirus and rotavirus detections decreased.**

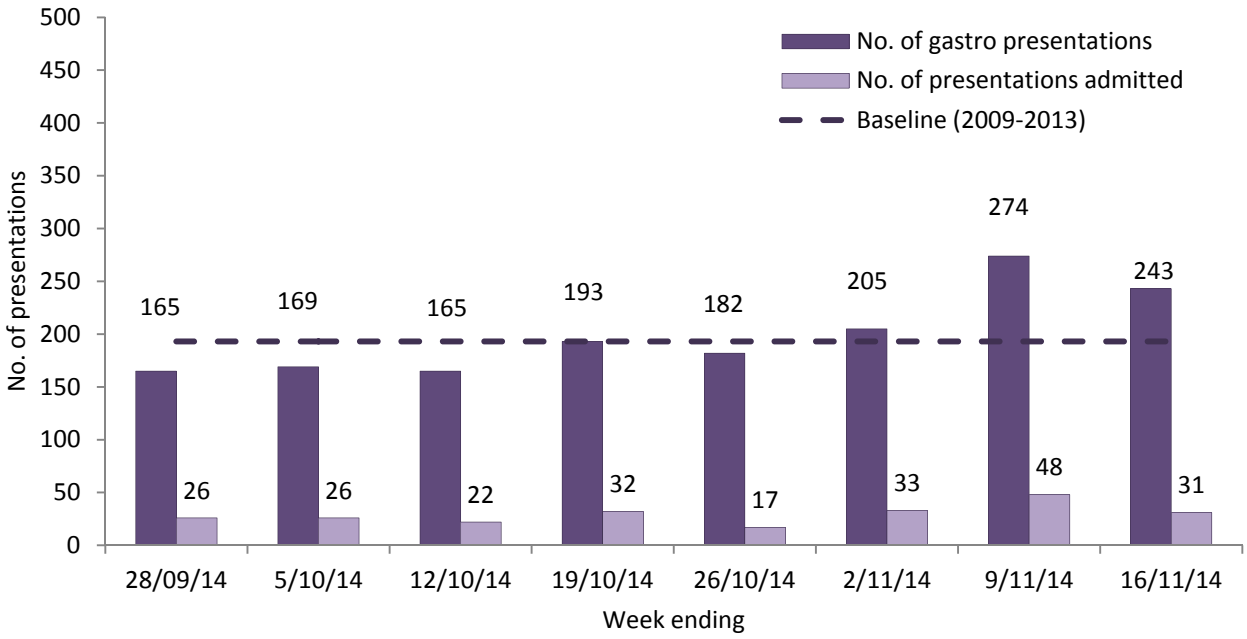
## Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance
## Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014




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

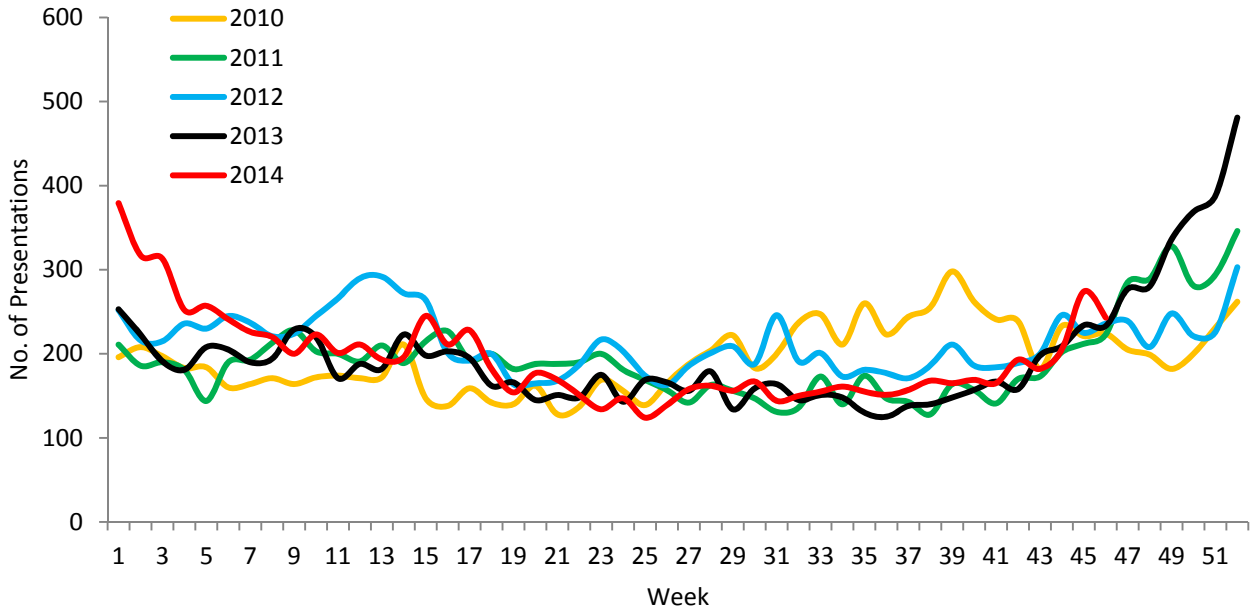
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

## Gastroenteritis ED Presentations




**Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs decreased this week but remain above baseline level.**

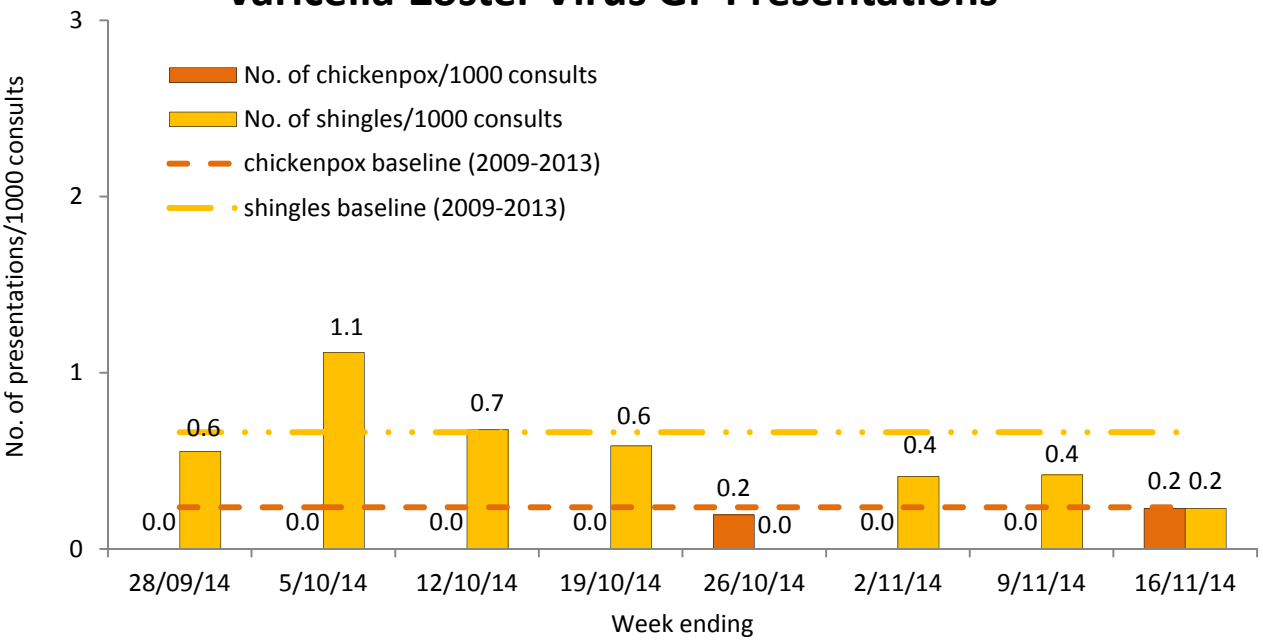
## ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014




**The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week, and is similar to the number of presentations experienced at the same time period in recent years.**

# Viral Rashes

## Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations




**Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs remain below baseline level, and chickenpox presentations are at baseline level. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this 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.

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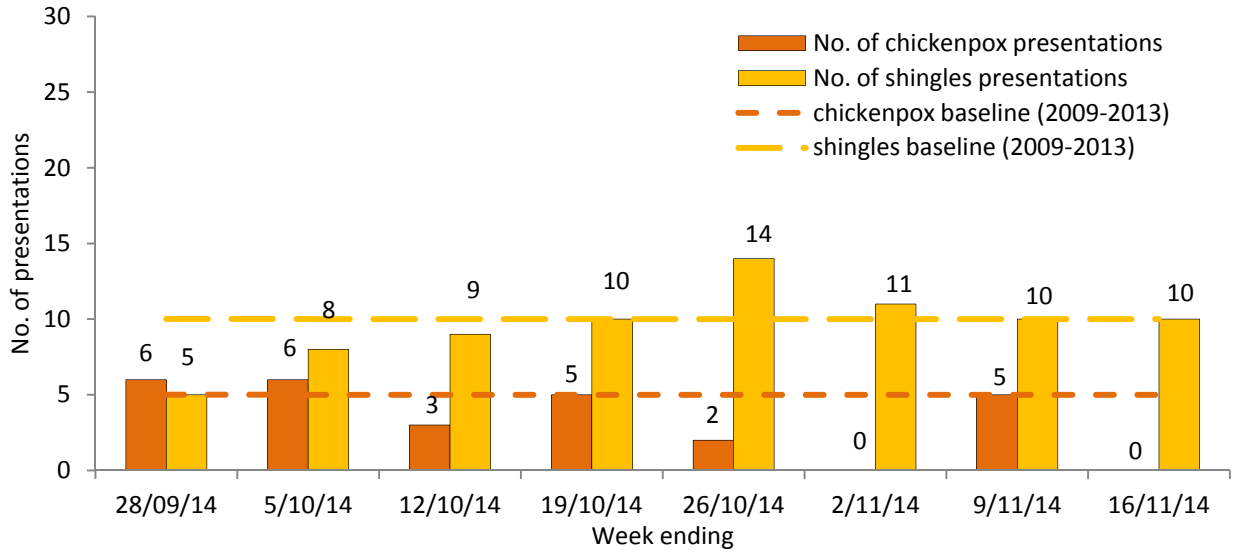
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

## Varicella-Zoster virus ED Presentations




**Shingles presentations to sentinel EDs remain near baseline level. No chickenpox cases were seen at sentinel EDs this week.**