



WEEK ENDING 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015

## KEY POINTS

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

**Summary:** Influenza and non-influenza respiratory virus activity remain low and at inter-seasonal levels.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs) remain low.
- There were no routine or sentinel detections of influenza virus this week.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses continue to fluctuate at low levels.

### GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and sentinel EDs remain well above baseline levels.
- Norovirus detections have declined over the past two weeks, but remain elevated.

### VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

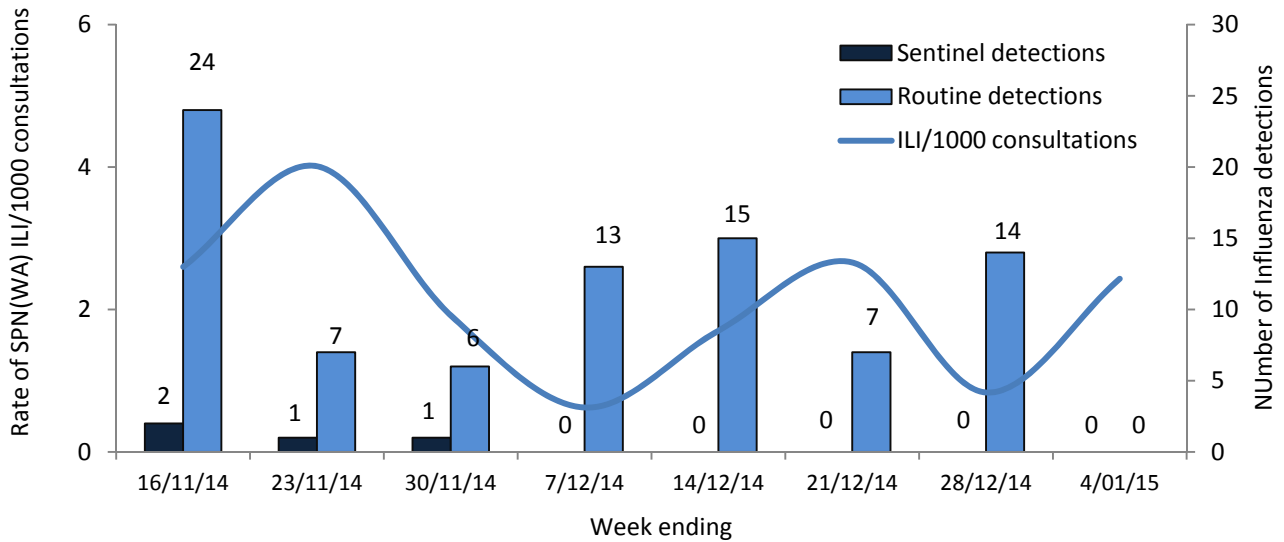
- Shingles presentations to both sentinel GPs and EDs are currently above baseline level, and chickenpox presentations to GPs are also above baseline
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.

Current and archived issues of Virus Watch [http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus\\_watch.pm](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.*

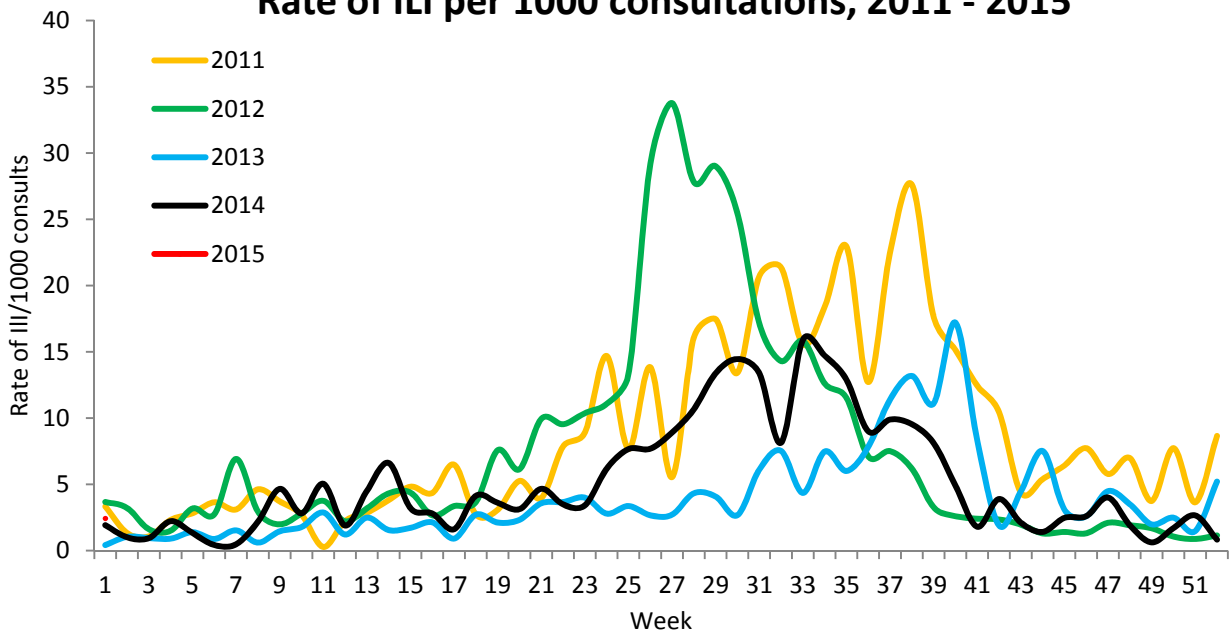
# Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

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



The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs continues to fluctuate between 0-3 ILI per 1,000 consultations. Of 50 routine and 2 sentinel specimens collected, no detections of influenza virus were made this week.

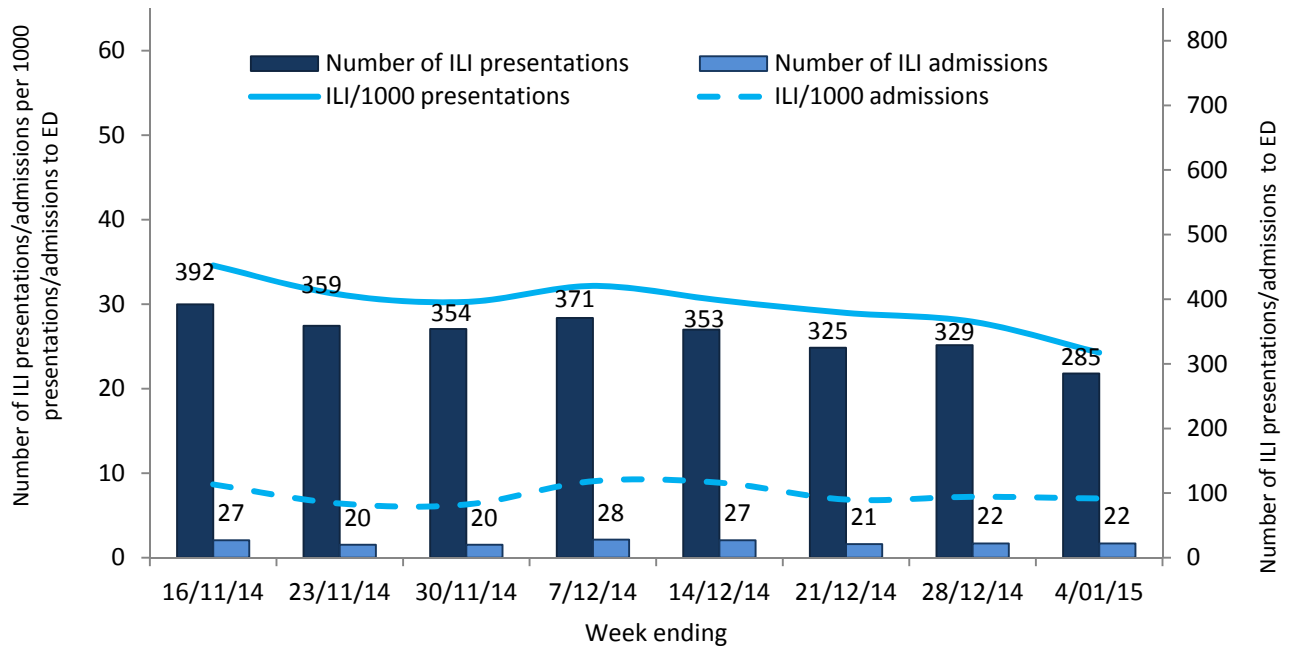
## Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remains low and is consistent with the rate of GP presentations during the same time period in recent years.

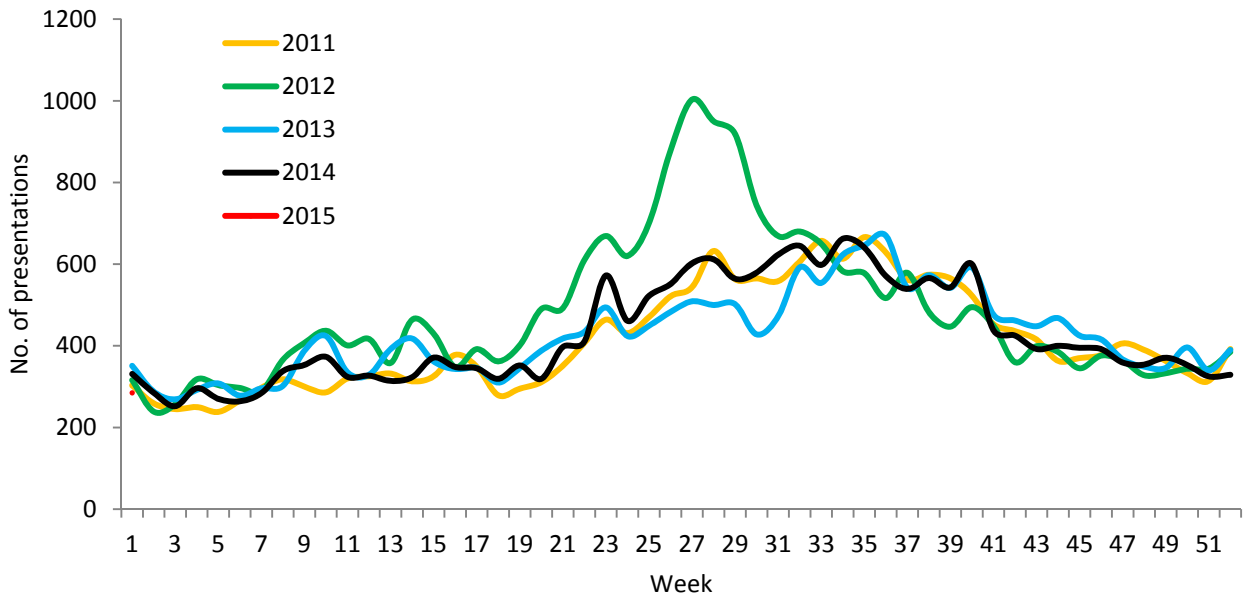
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

### Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



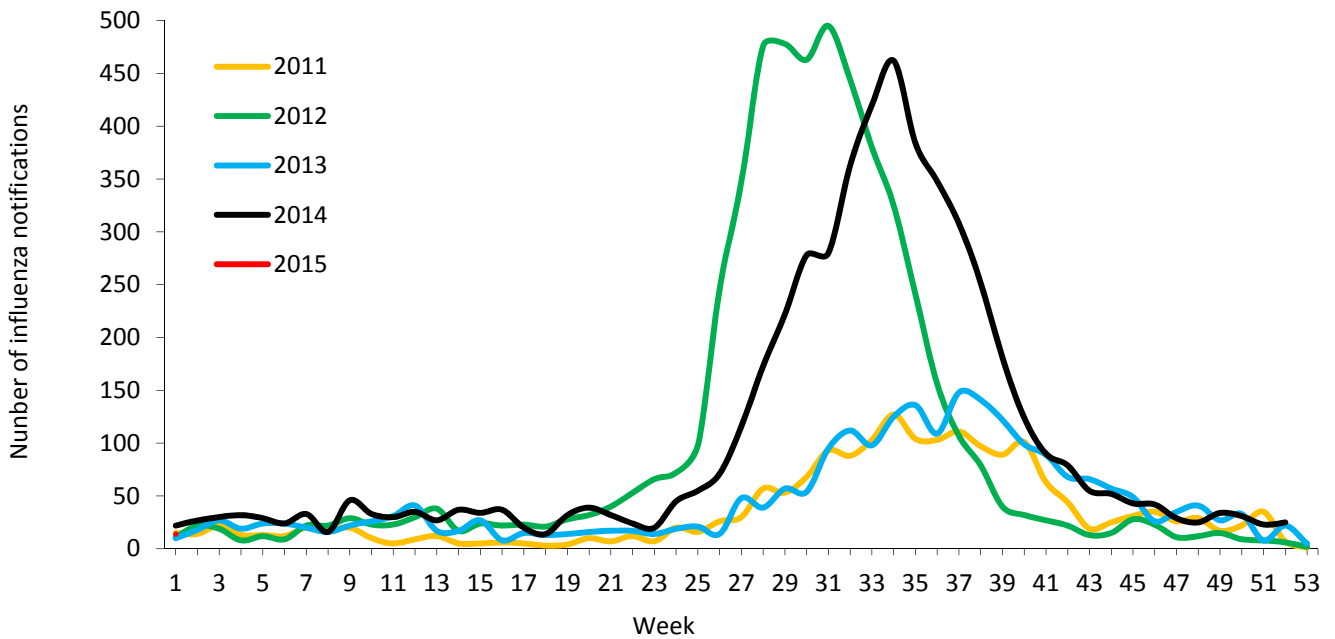
Presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness to sentinel EDs remain low and stable.

### ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2011 - 2015



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs was low and remains within the range of values seen in recent years.

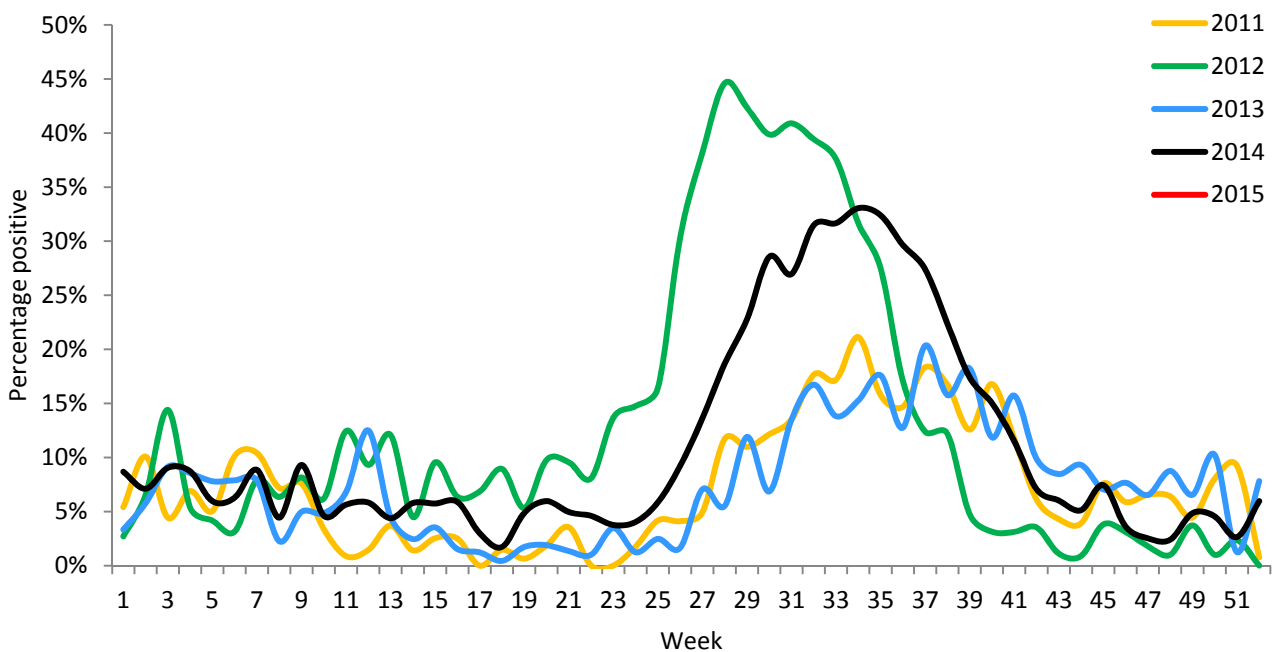
### Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2011 to 2015



**Notifications of cases of influenza infections received by the Department of Health remain at inter-seasonal levels; 14 cases were notified this week.**

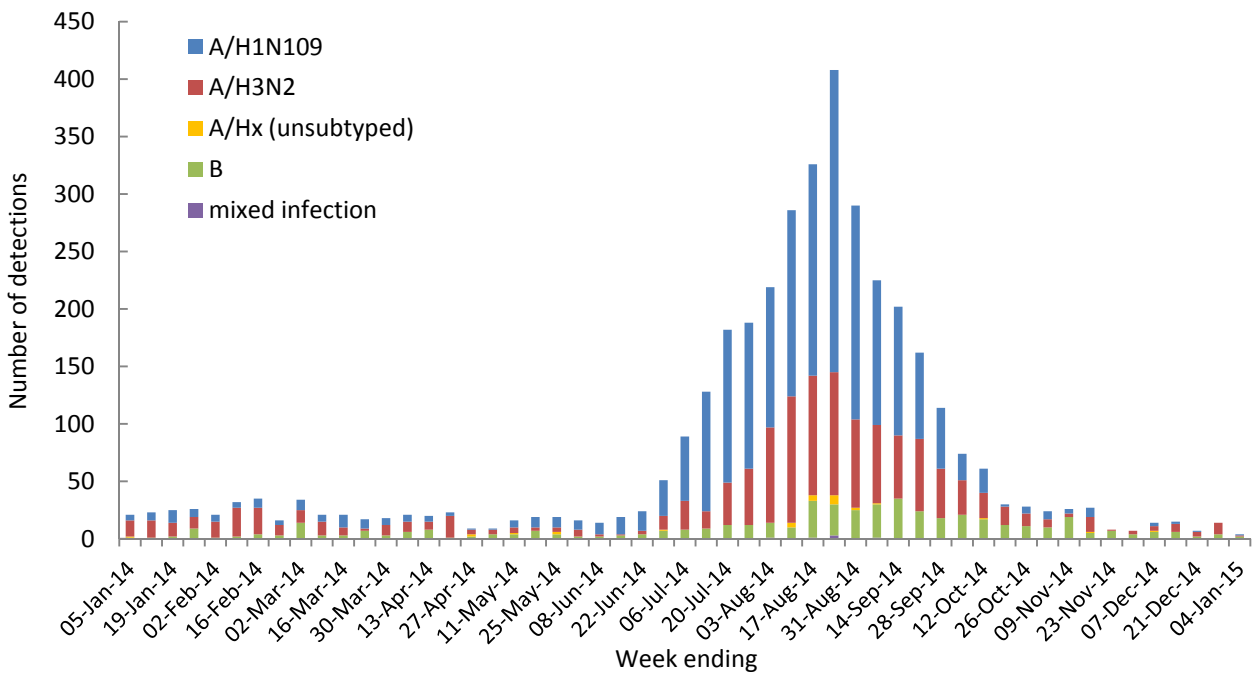
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 29/12/2014 and 04/01/2015.

### PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2011 - 2015



**Among samples tested at PathWest this week, 0% were positive for influenza virus.**

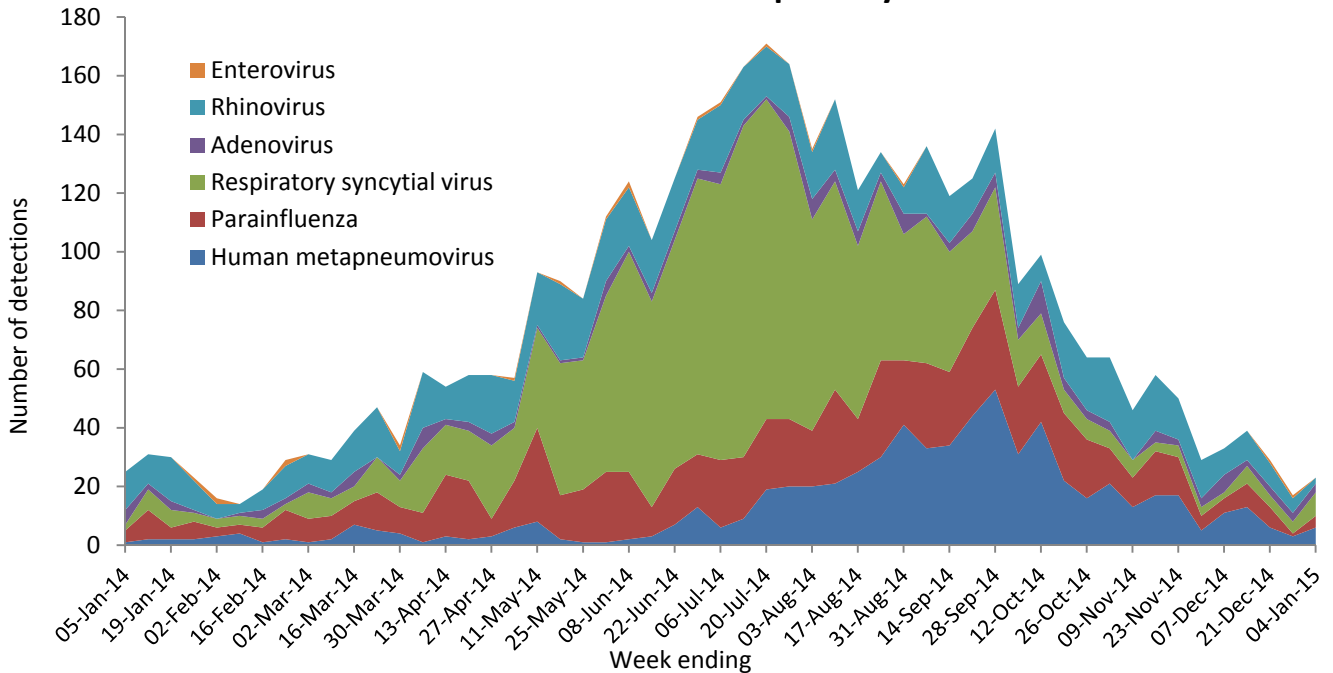
### PathWest-QEII-PMH 2014-15 influenza subtypes



**One influenza virus was characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, which was influenza A/H1N1.**

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 and may not necessarily coincide with the number of virus detections.

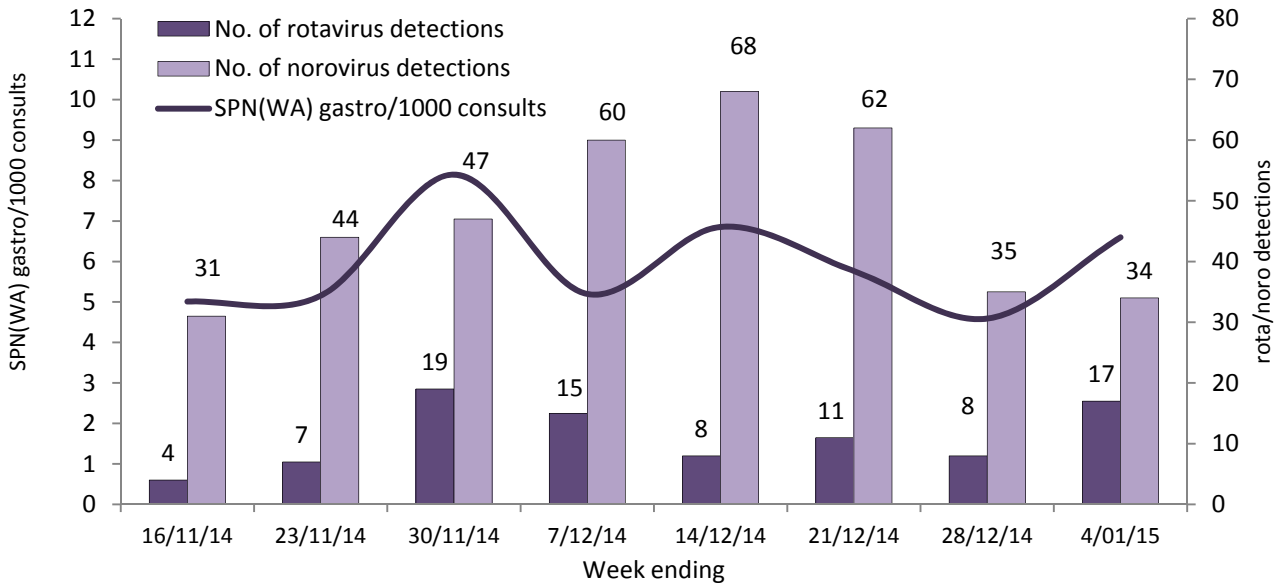
### 2013-2014 Non-influenza respiratory viruses



**Non-influenza respiratory virus activity overall remains low. There was a slight increase in respiratory syncytial virus and human metapneumovirus activity this week.**

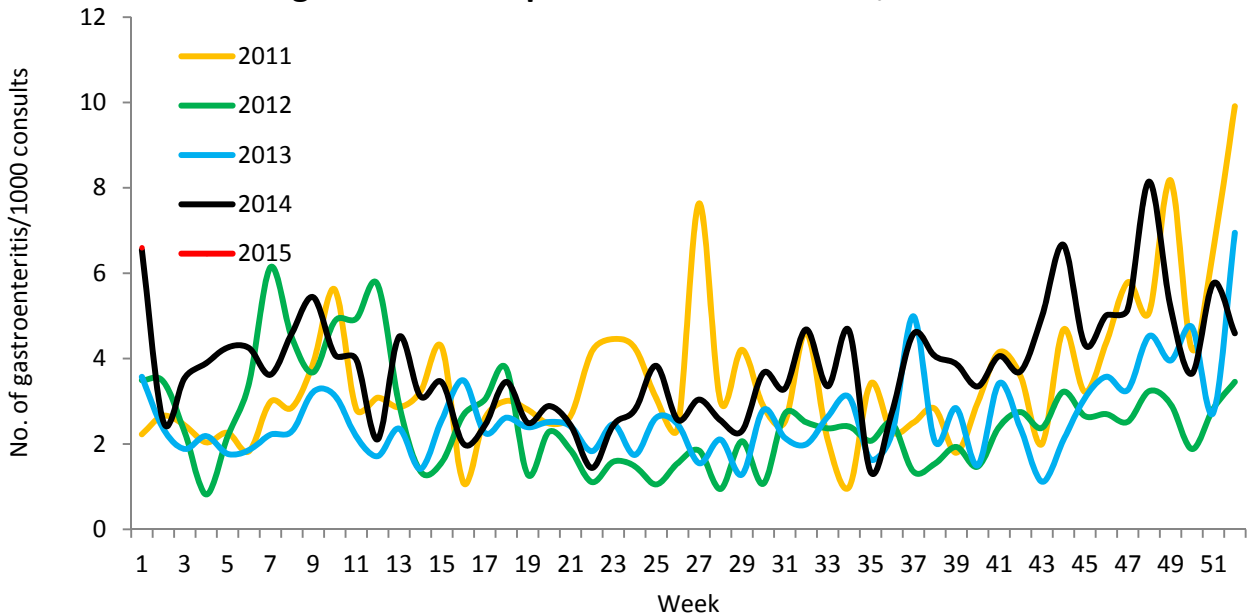
# Gastroenteritis

## Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased to 6.6 per 1,000 consultations this week. Norovirus detections have decreased in the past two weeks; rotavirus detections increased this week.

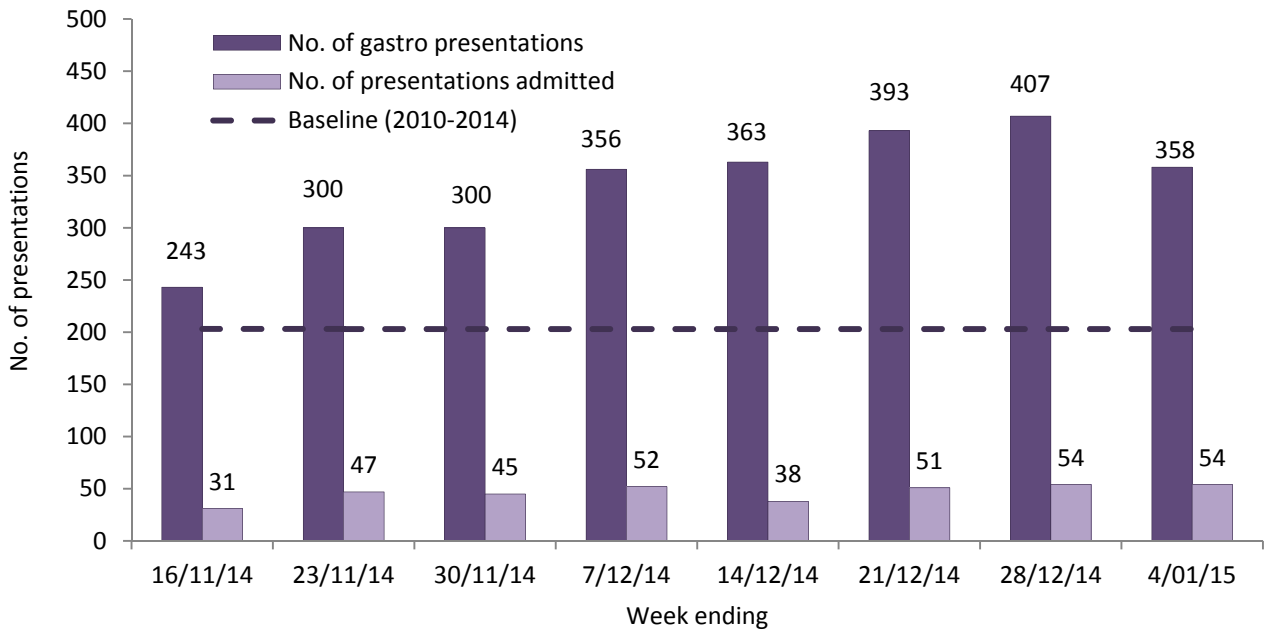
## Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased this week and is in the higher range of presentations seen during the same time period in recent years.

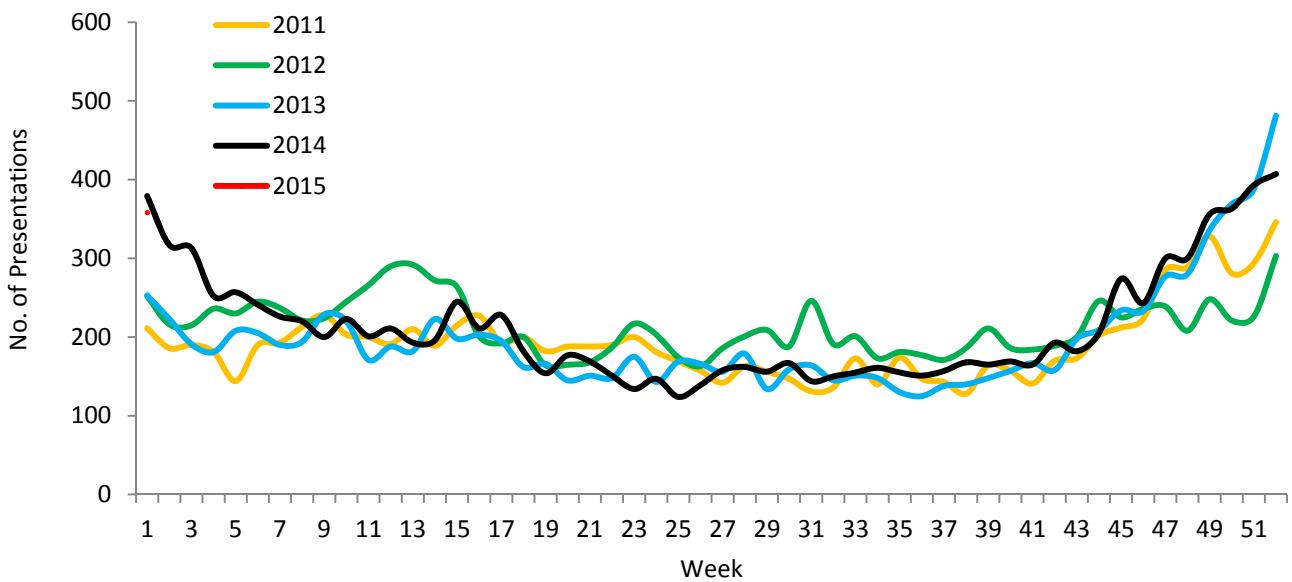
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2011 to week 52, 2014.

### Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



**Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remain well above baseline level.**

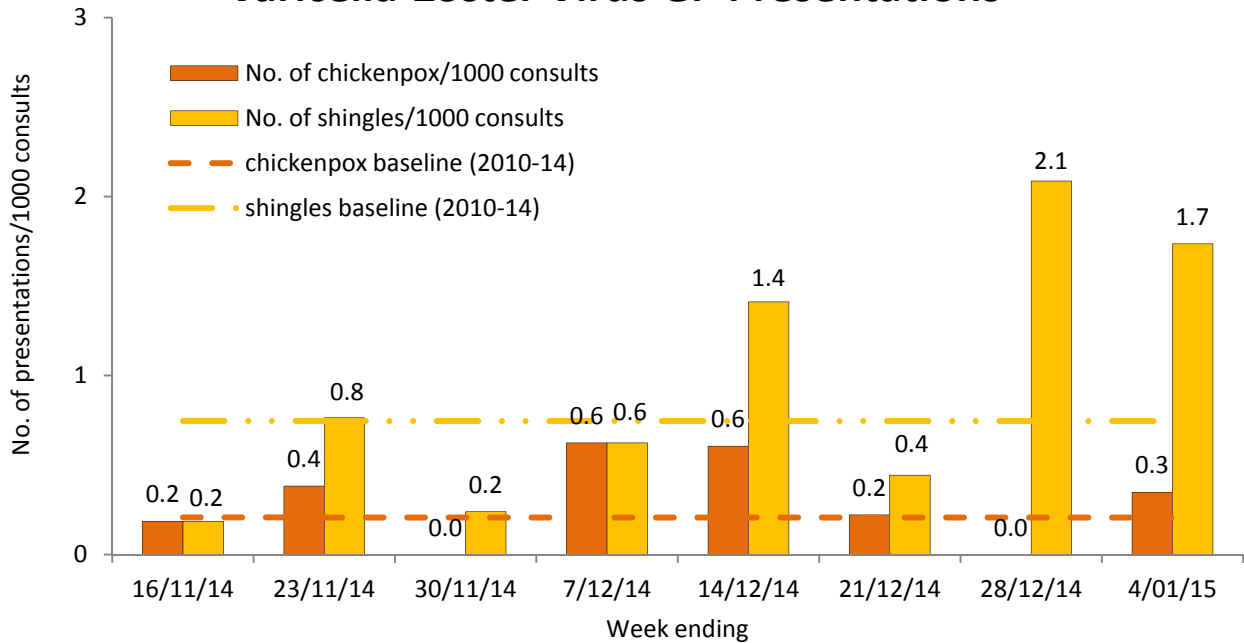
### ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2011 - 2015



**The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains high compared to the number of presentations experienced at the same time period in recent years.**

# Viral Rashes

## Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

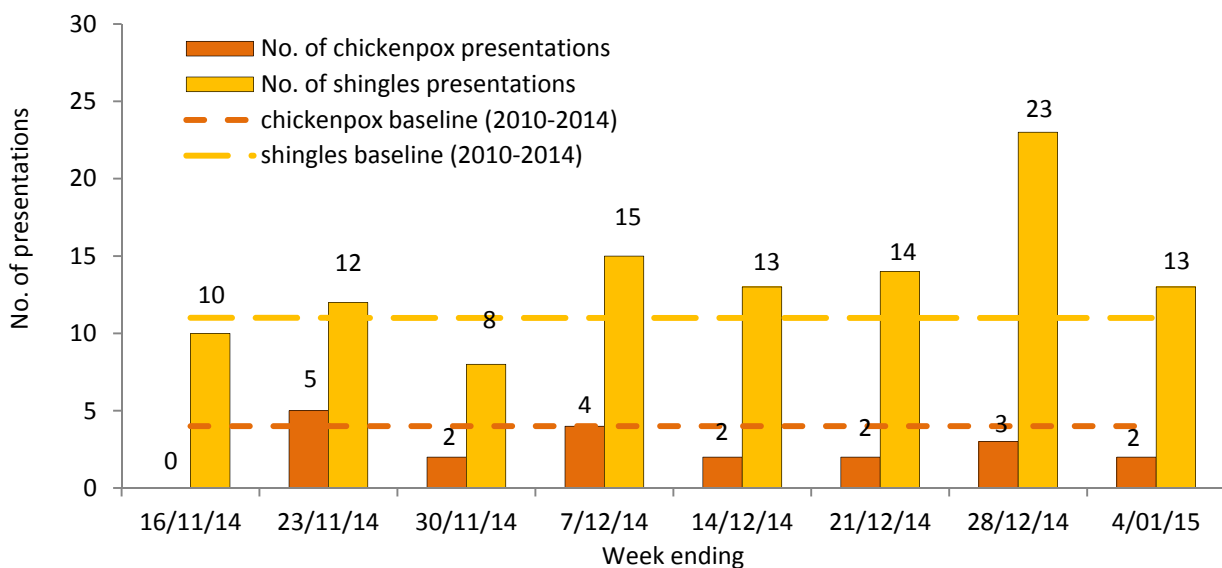


**Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs decreased slightly this week but remain nearly double baseline level. Chickenpox presentations to GPs increased above baseline level this week. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.**

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, 2010 to week 52, 2014.

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, 2010 to week 52, 2014.

## Varicella-Zoster virus ED Presentations



**Shingles presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week but remain above baseline level; chickenpox presentations remain below baseline level.**