



WEEK ENDING 22ND MARCH 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 emergency departments (EDs) and general practitioners (GPs) remain low.
- Routine and sentinel detections of influenza virus remain low, with influenza A/H3N2 constituting the majority of subtyped viruses.
- Non-influenza respiratory virus detections decreased this week.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are consistent with this time period during previous years.
- Norovirus and rotavirus detections decreased this week.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

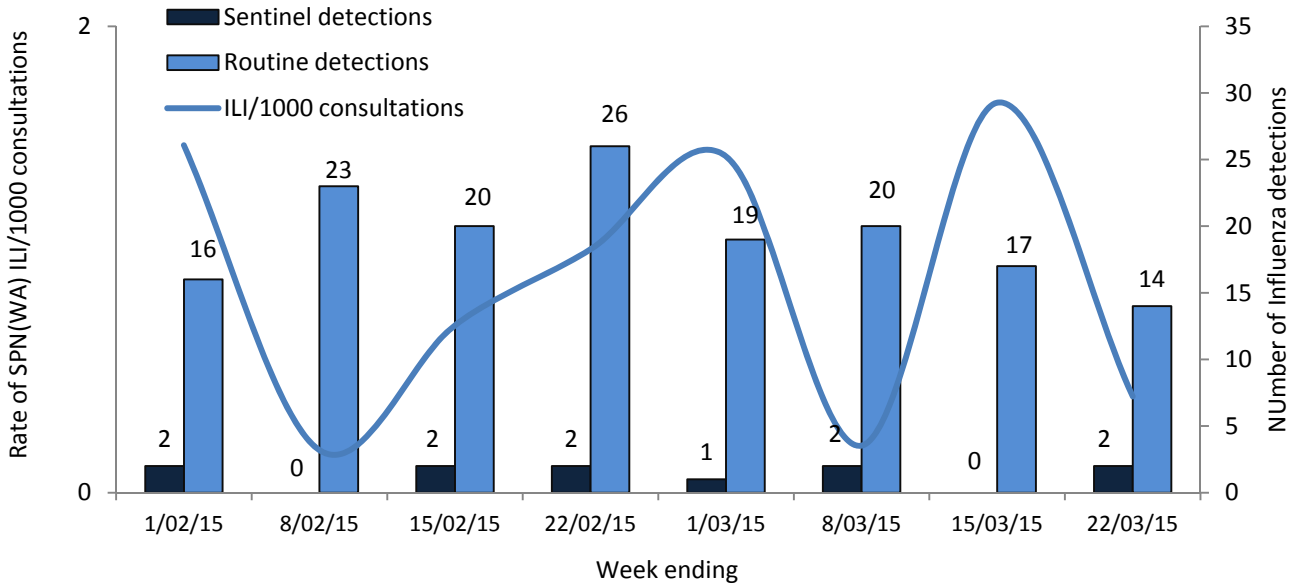
- Both shingles and chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs and GPs are above baseline levels.
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were confirmed this week.

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: Fiona Stanley Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner 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.

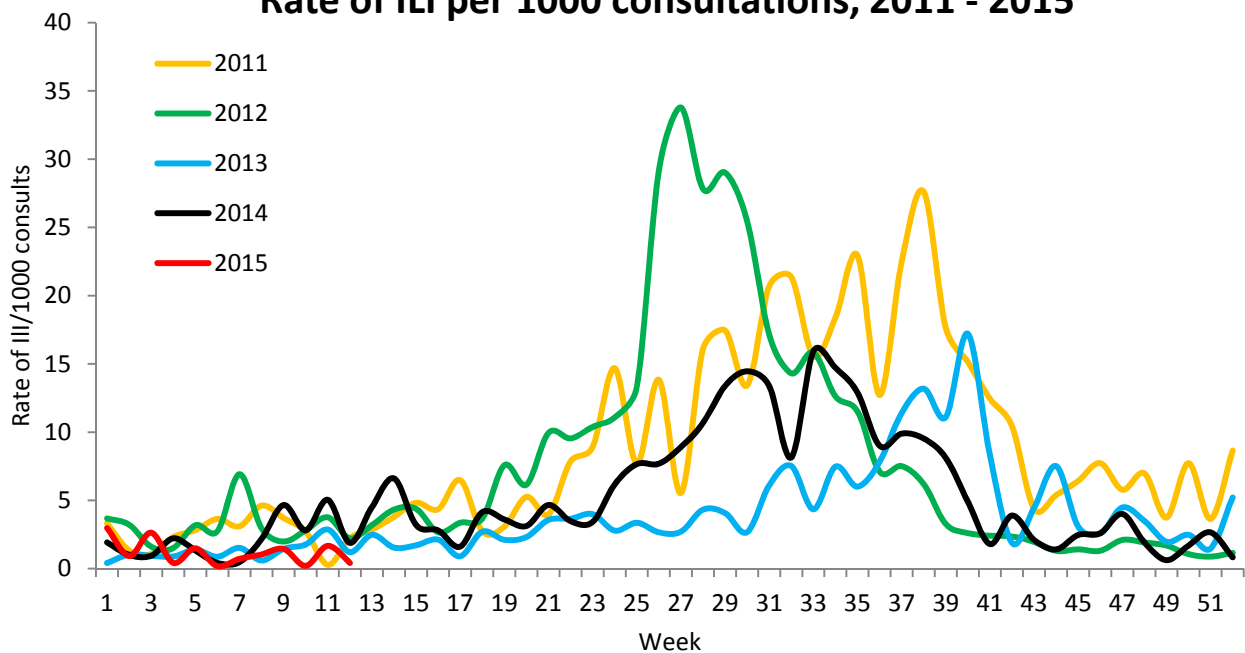
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs decreased this week, and laboratory detections of influenza virus remain low. Of 247 routinely collected specimens, 14 (6%) tested positive for influenza virus. Of 8 specimens collected at sentinel GP sites, 2 (25%) tested positive for influenza virus.

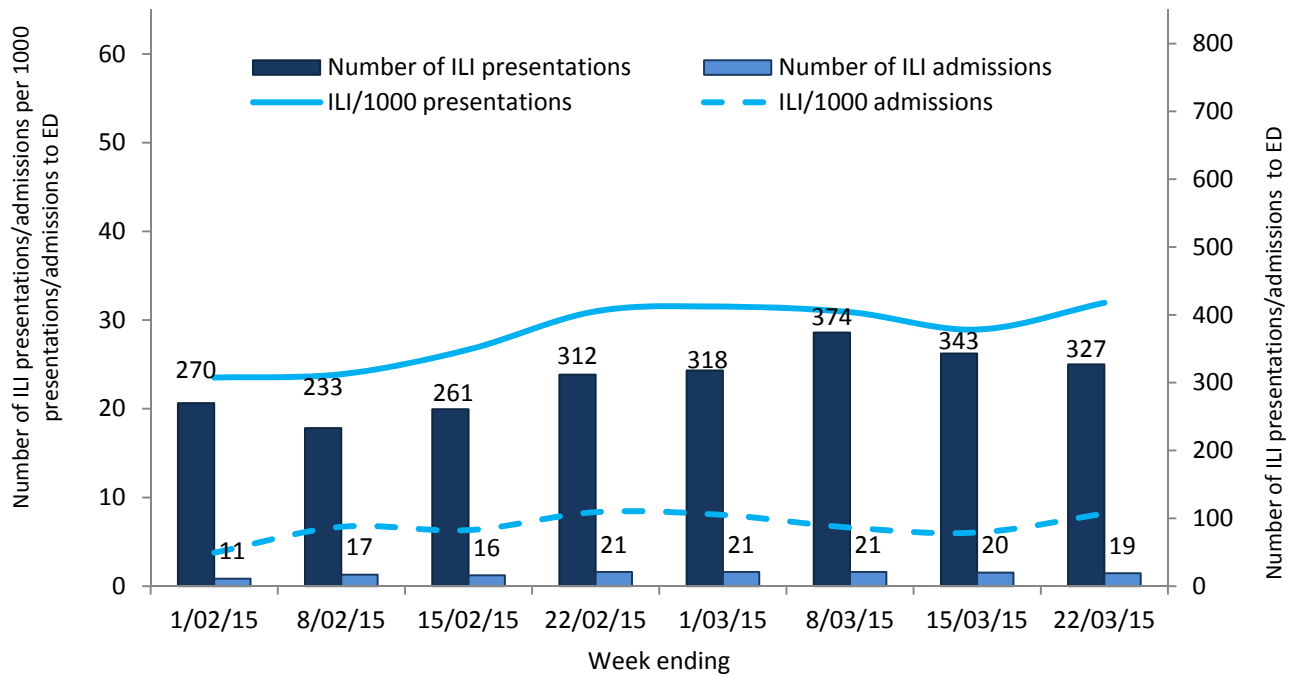
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remains low and is consistent with inter-seasonal periods.

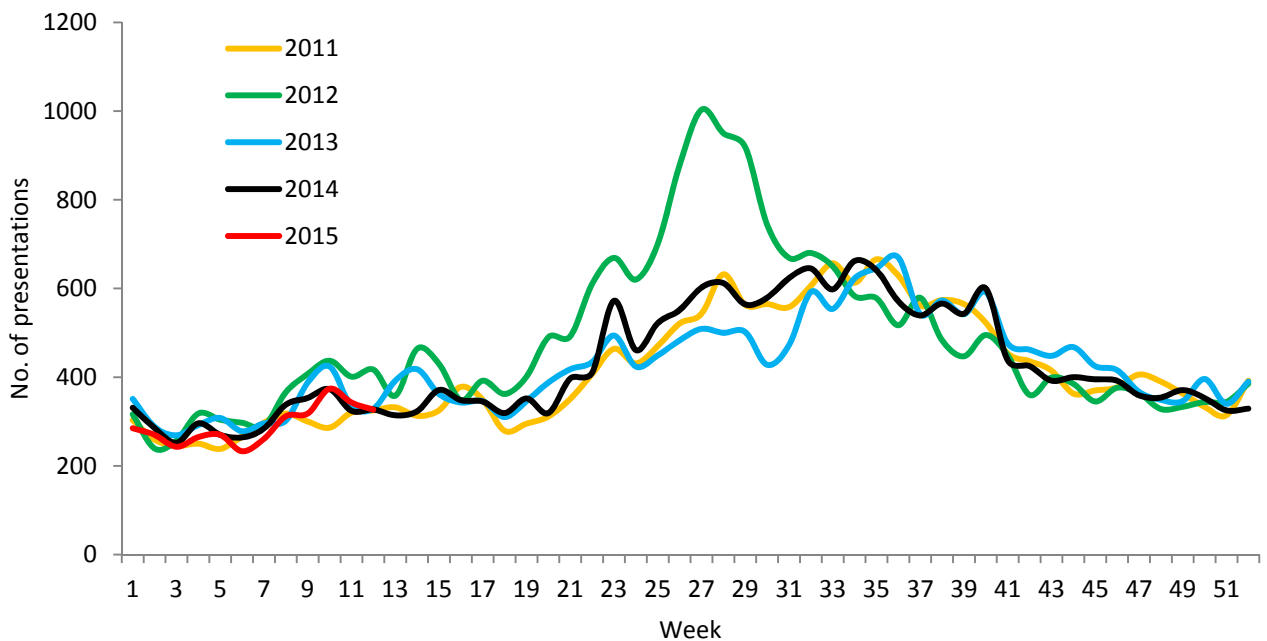
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



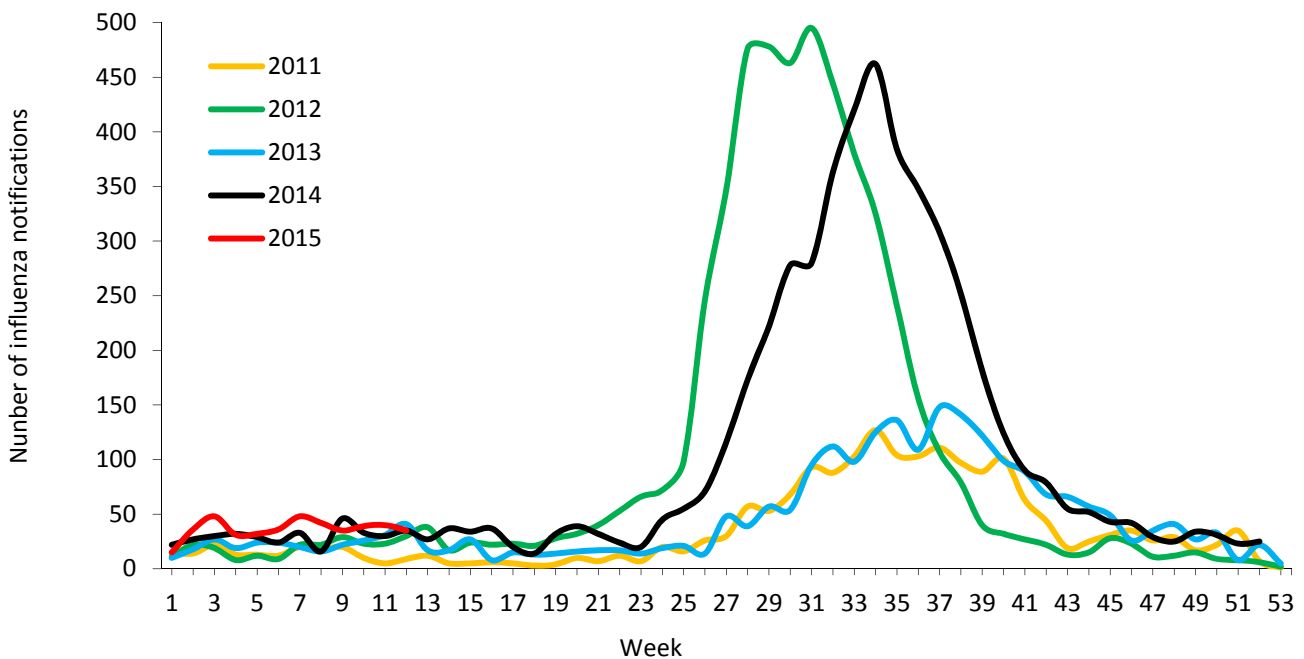
Presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness to sentinel EDs were similar to the previous reporting week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2011 - 2015



The number of respiratory viral infection presentations to sentinel EDs remains consistent with levels experienced in recent years.

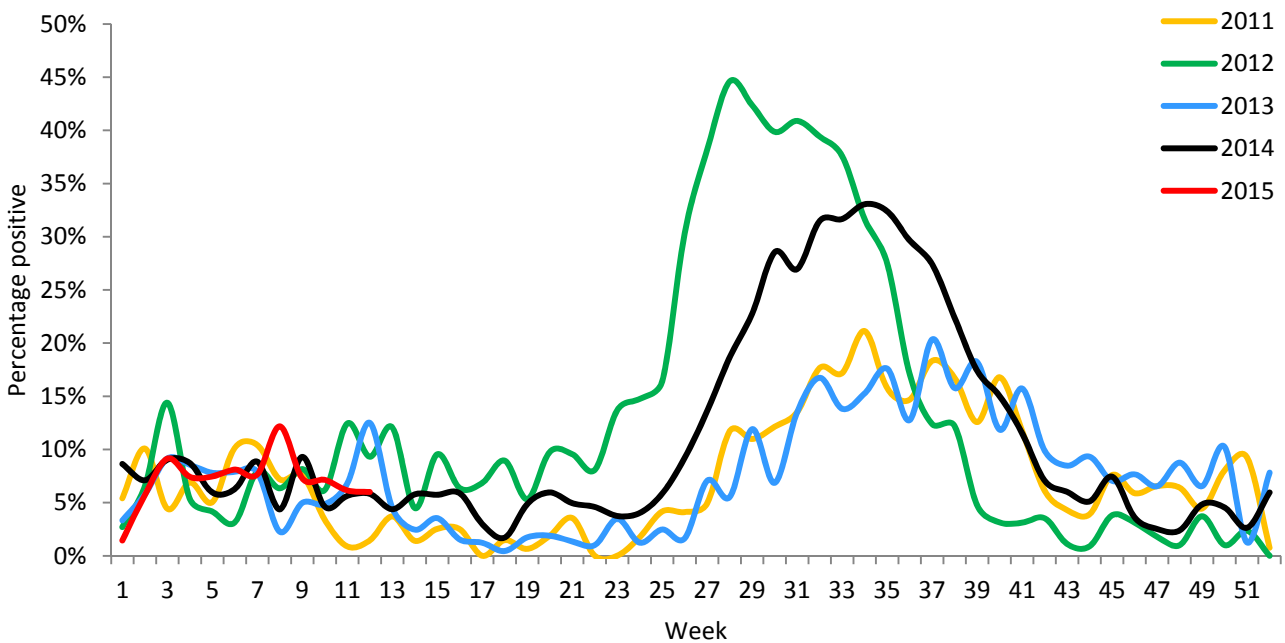
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2011 to 2015



Influenza notifications received by the Department of Health remain consistent with inter-seasonal levels.

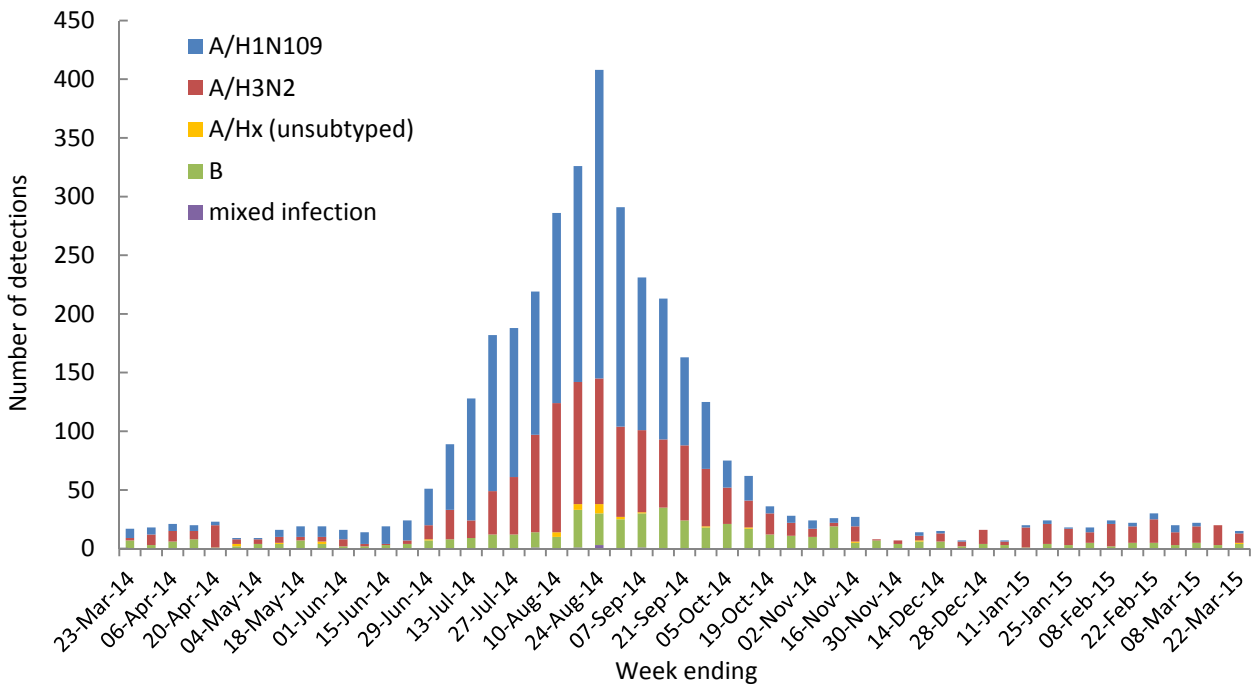
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 16/03/2015 and 22/03/2015.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2011- 2015



Among samples tested at PathWest this week, 5.8% were positive for influenza virus, which is in the expected range of values for this time period in recent years.

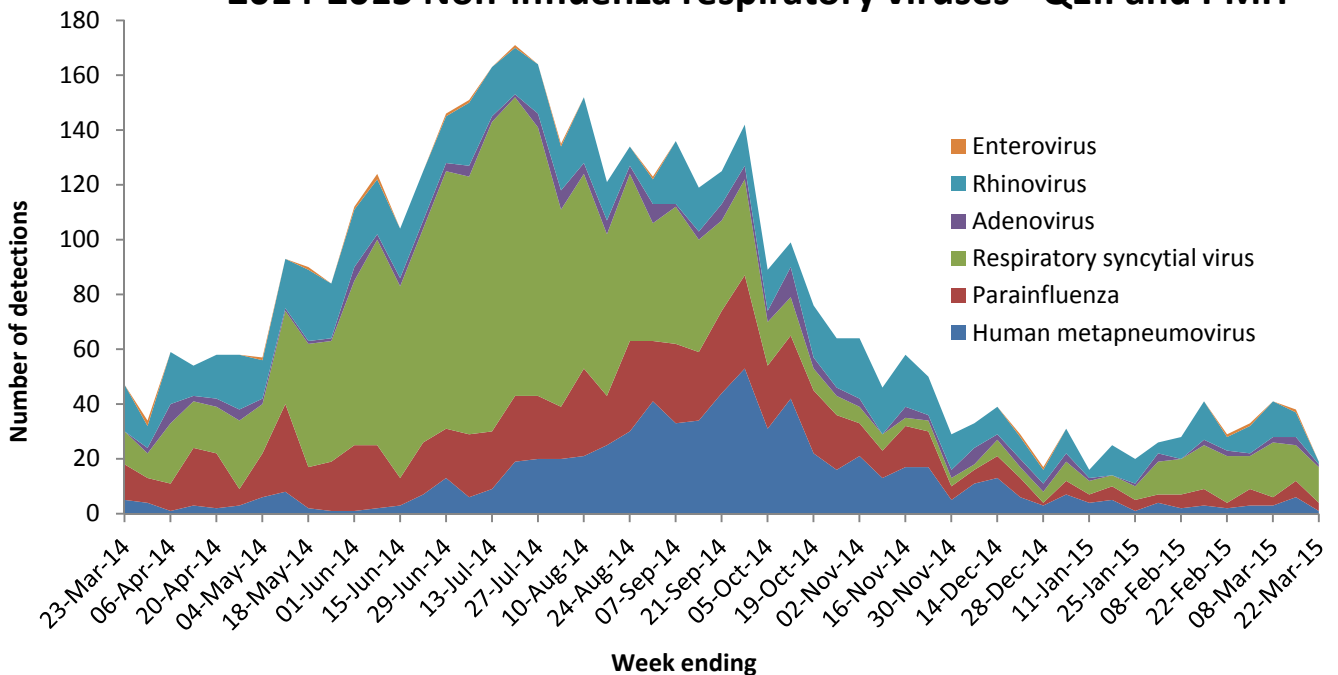
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2014-2015 all influenza subtypes



Fifteen influenza viruses were subtyped by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week; 8 (53%) were influenza A/H3N2; 2 (13%) were influenza A/H1N1; 1 (7%) was influenza A/unsubtyped; and 4 (27%) were influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 25th March 2015. The number subtyped may not always correspond to the number of influenza detections.

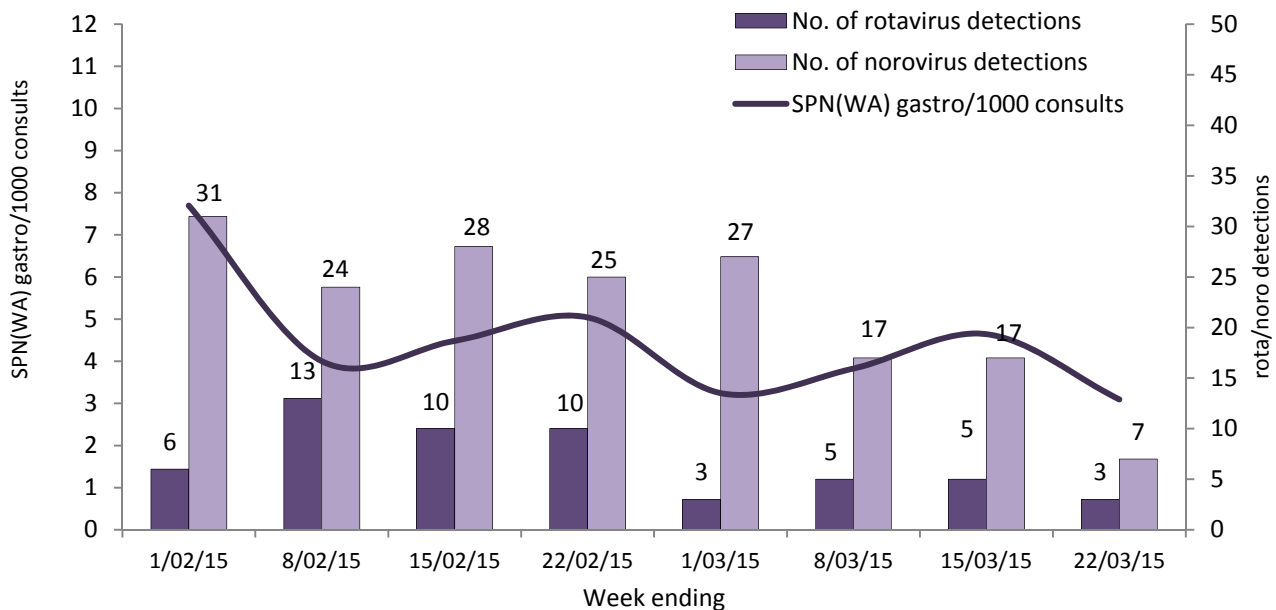
2014-2015 Non-influenza respiratory viruses - QEII and PMH



Non-influenza respiratory virus activity decreased this week.

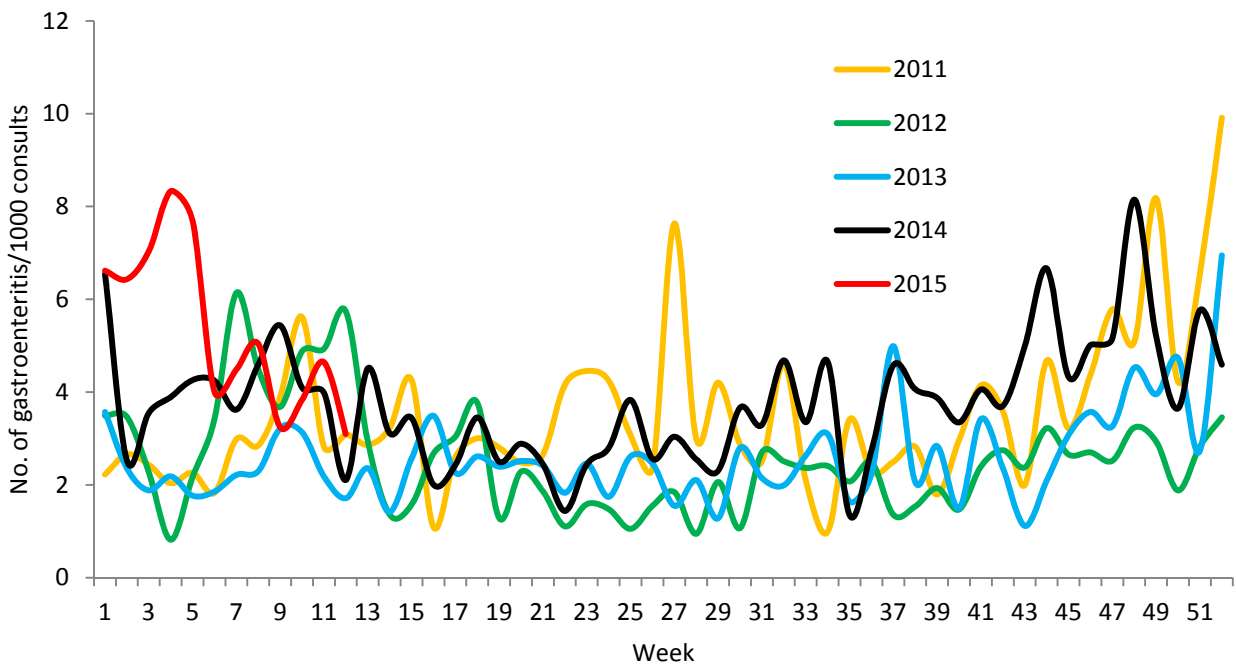
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain between 3-5 per 1,000 consultations this week. Norovirus and rotavirus detections decreased.

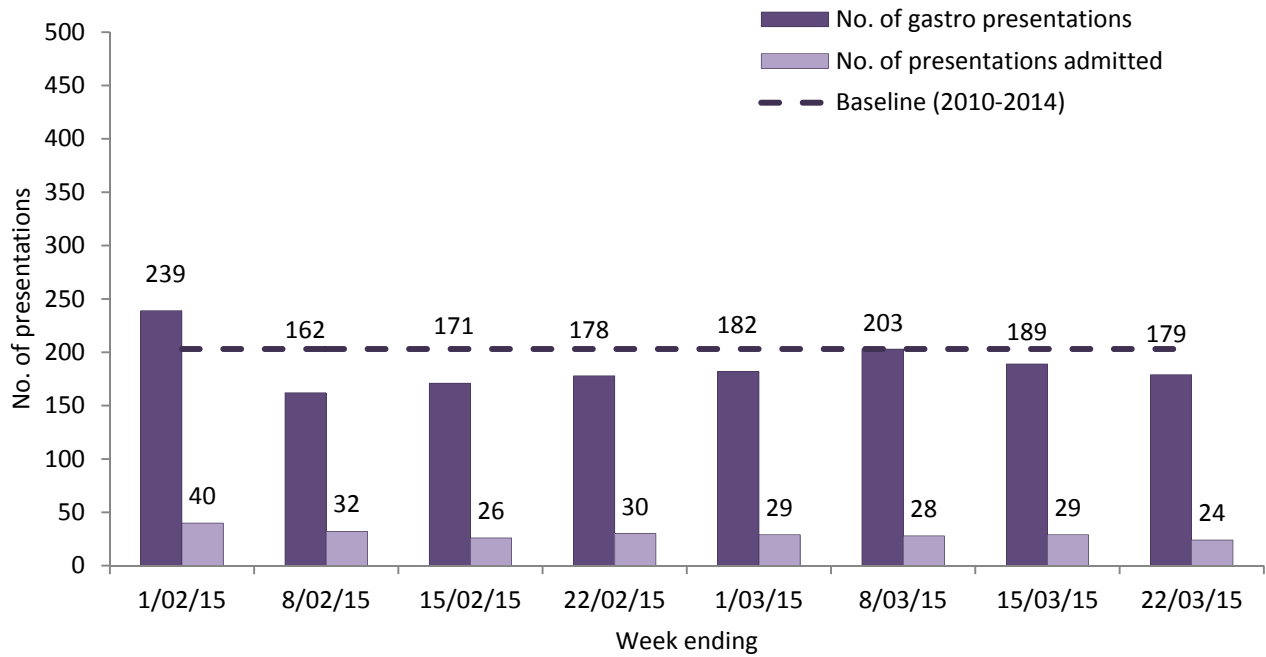
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs remains within levels reported during the same time period in recent years.

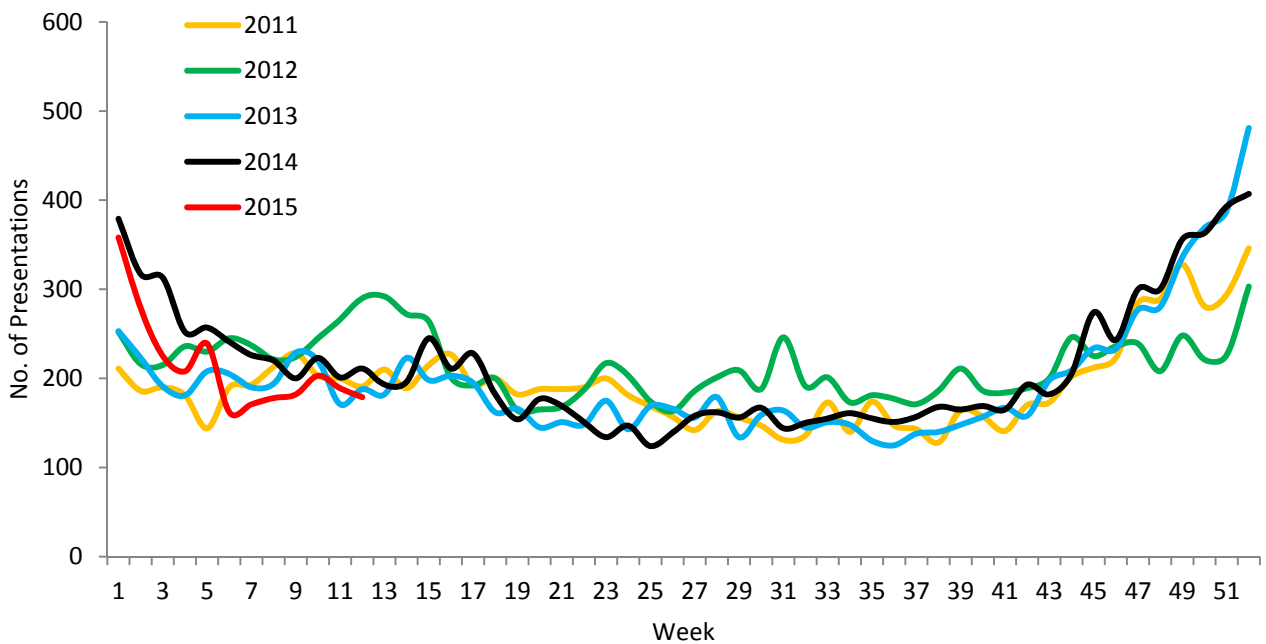
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2011 to week 52, 2014.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remain near baseline level this week.

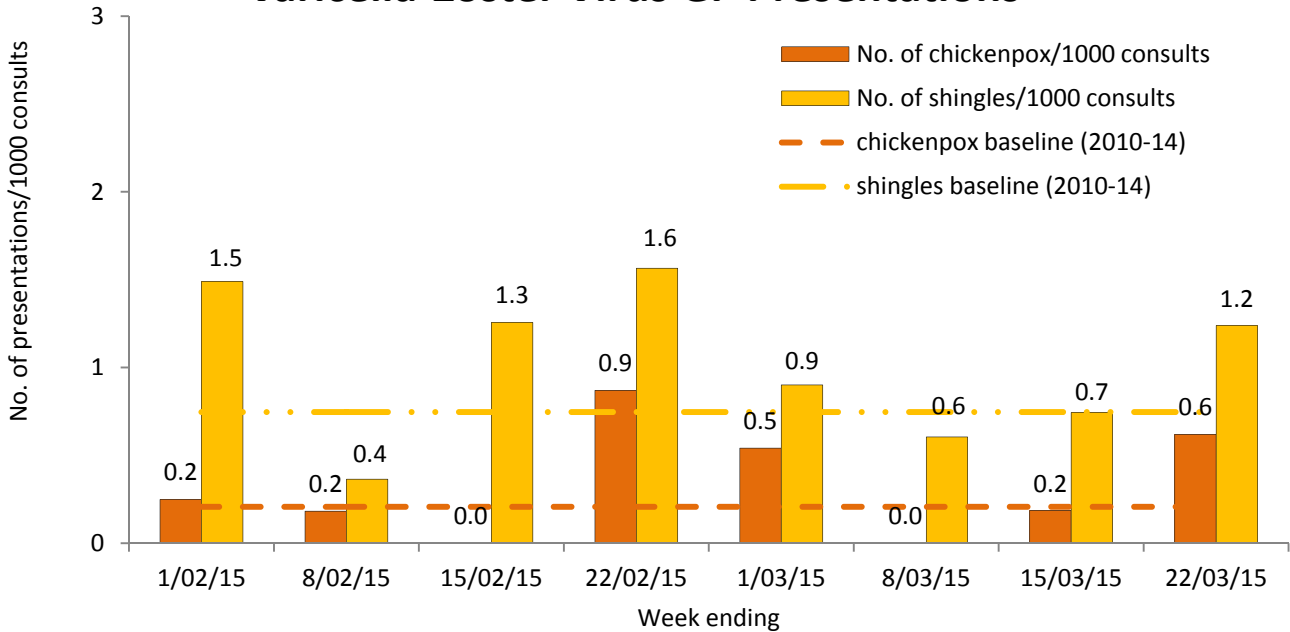
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2011 - 2015



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

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

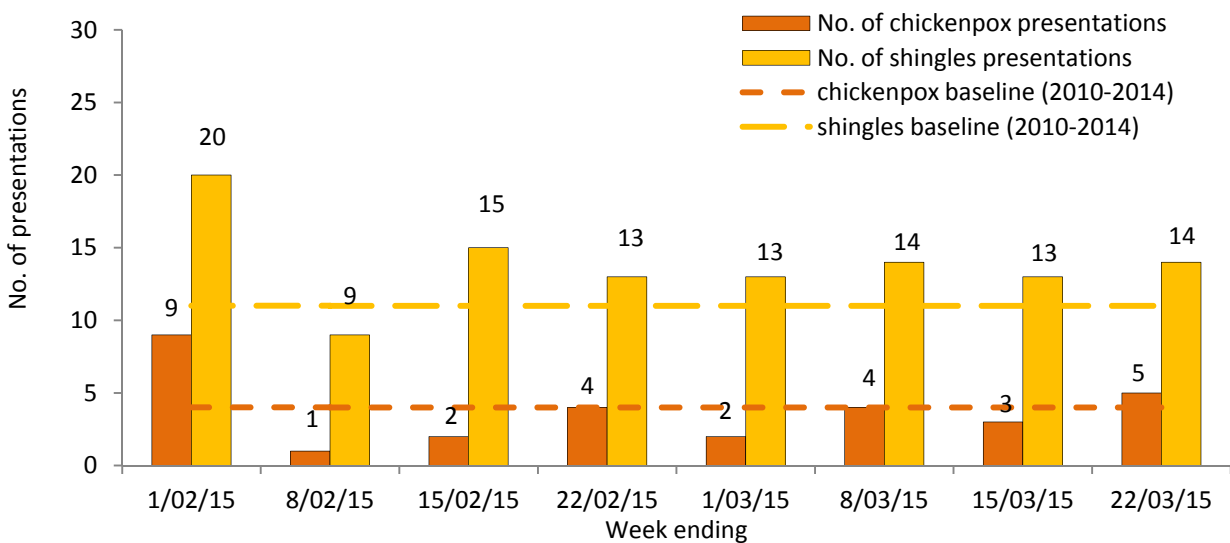


Shingles and chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs both increased this week, reaching twice baseline levels. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.

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 remain just above baseline level this week; chickenpox presentations increased above baseline level.