Virus WAtch

WEEK ENDING 26TH APRIL 2015

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Indicators of influenza activity remain relatively steady, at inter-seasonal levels.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) were steady but presentations and admissions to sentinel Emergency Departments (EDs) increased this week.
- Routine and sentinel detections of influenza virus remain low, with influenza A/H3N2 constituting the majority of subtyped viruses; influenza A/H1N1 and influenza B continue to co-circulate.
- Respiratory syncytial virus activity appears to be increasing.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs continue to fluctuate within expected levels.
- Rotavirus and norovirus detections decreased this week.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

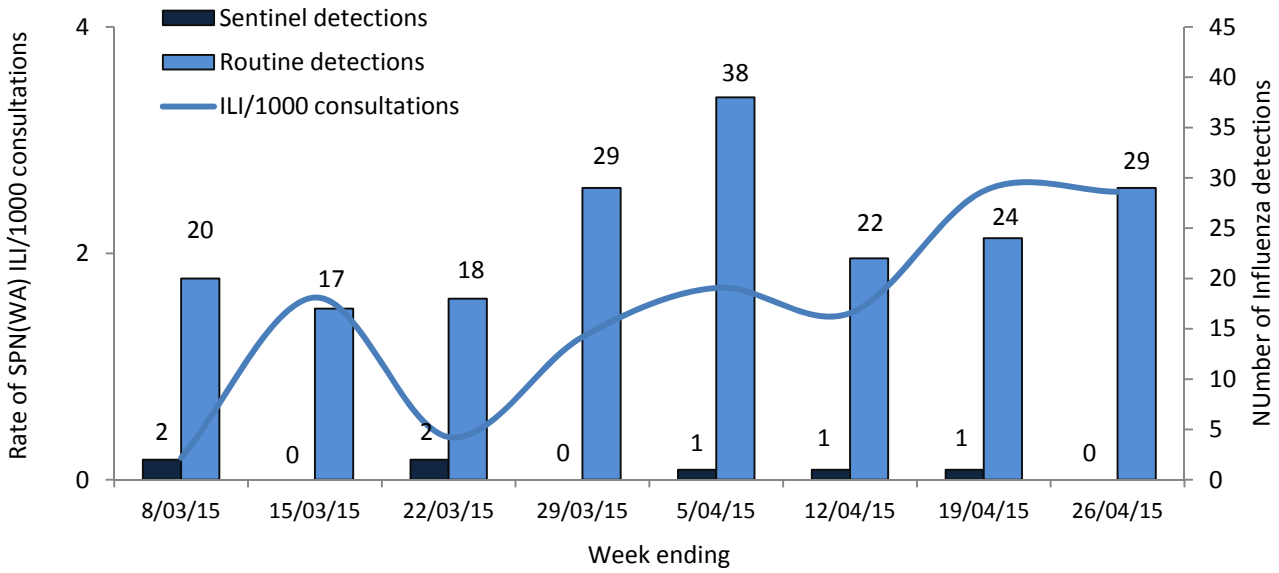
- Shingles and chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are near baseline levels.
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were confirmed this week.

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.

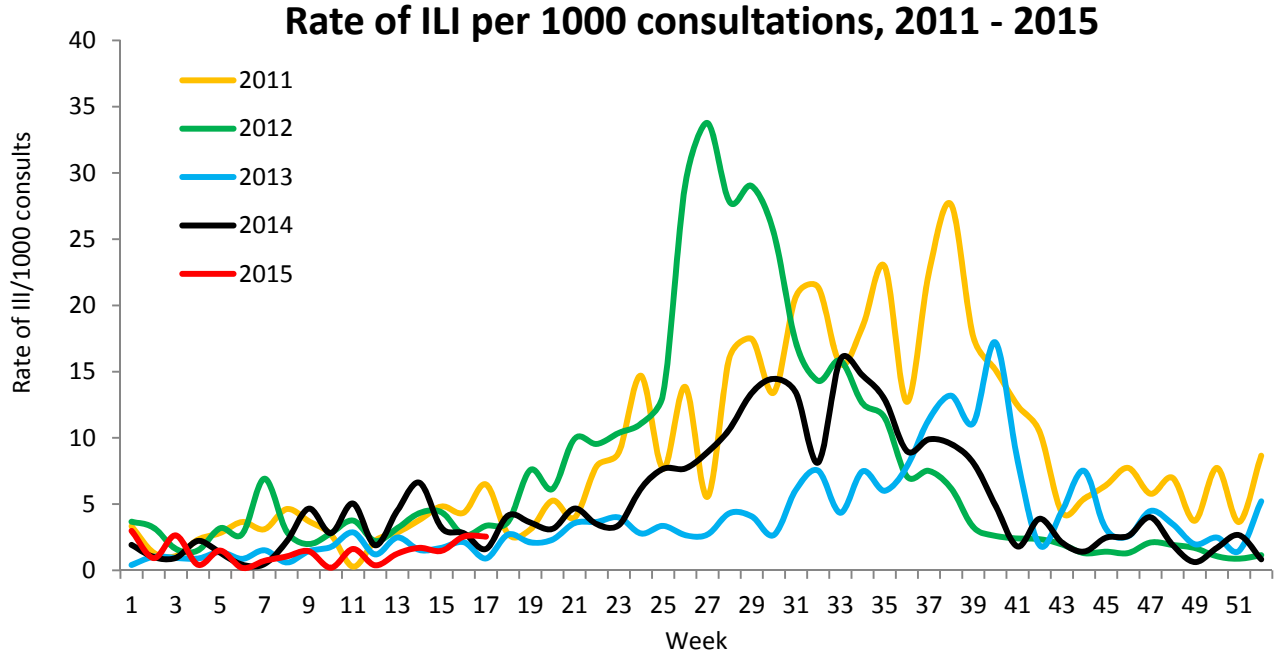
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



The rate of ILI seen at sentinel GPs was steady this week. Of 301 routinely collected specimens, 29 (10%) tested positive for influenza virus; 16 specimens were collected at sentinel GP sites, none of which tested positive for influenza virus.

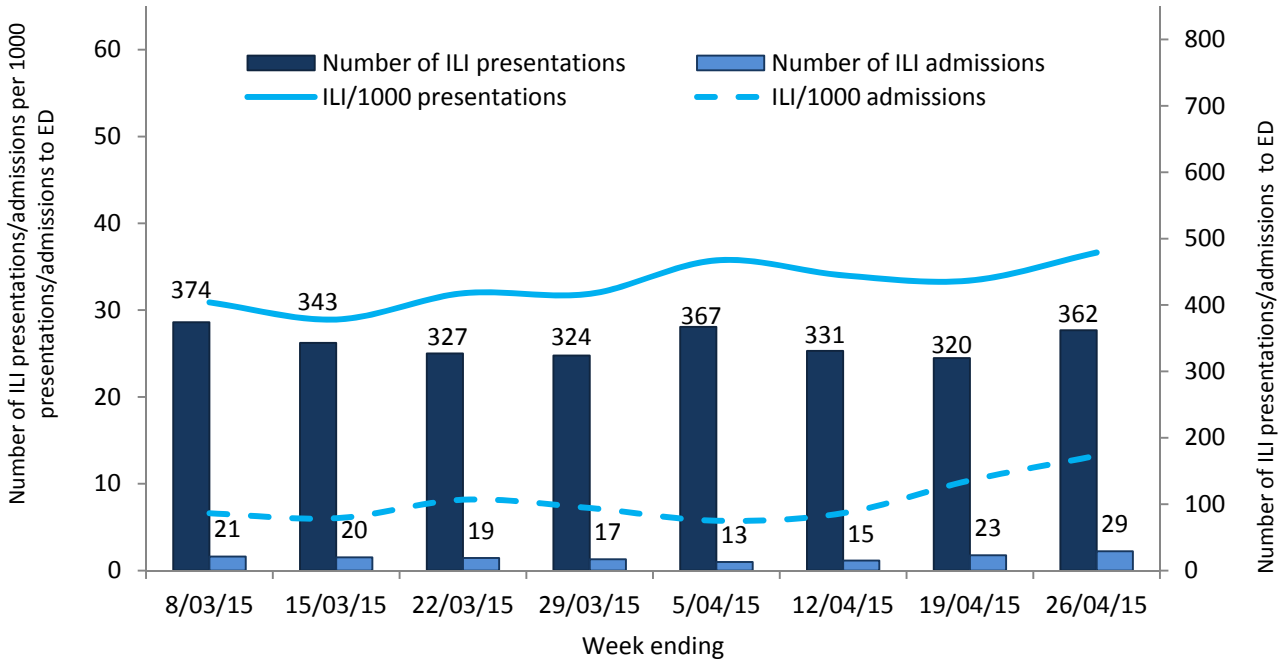
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance
Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs was steady this week and remains consistent with the level of presentations observed during inter-seasonal periods in recent years.

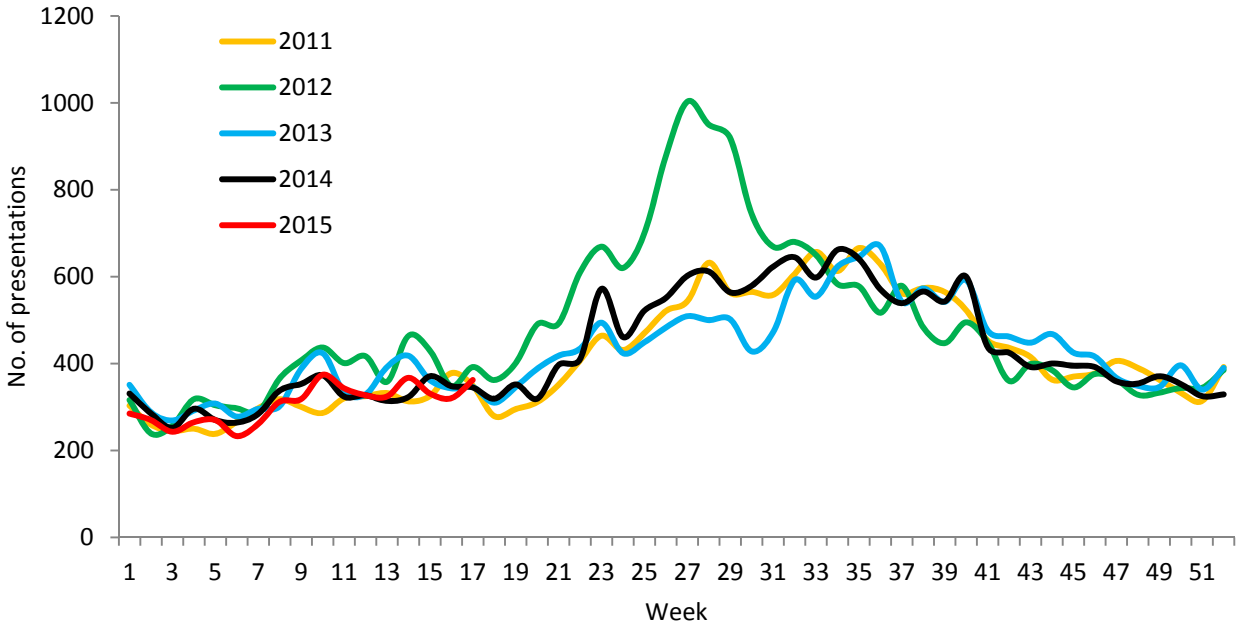
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



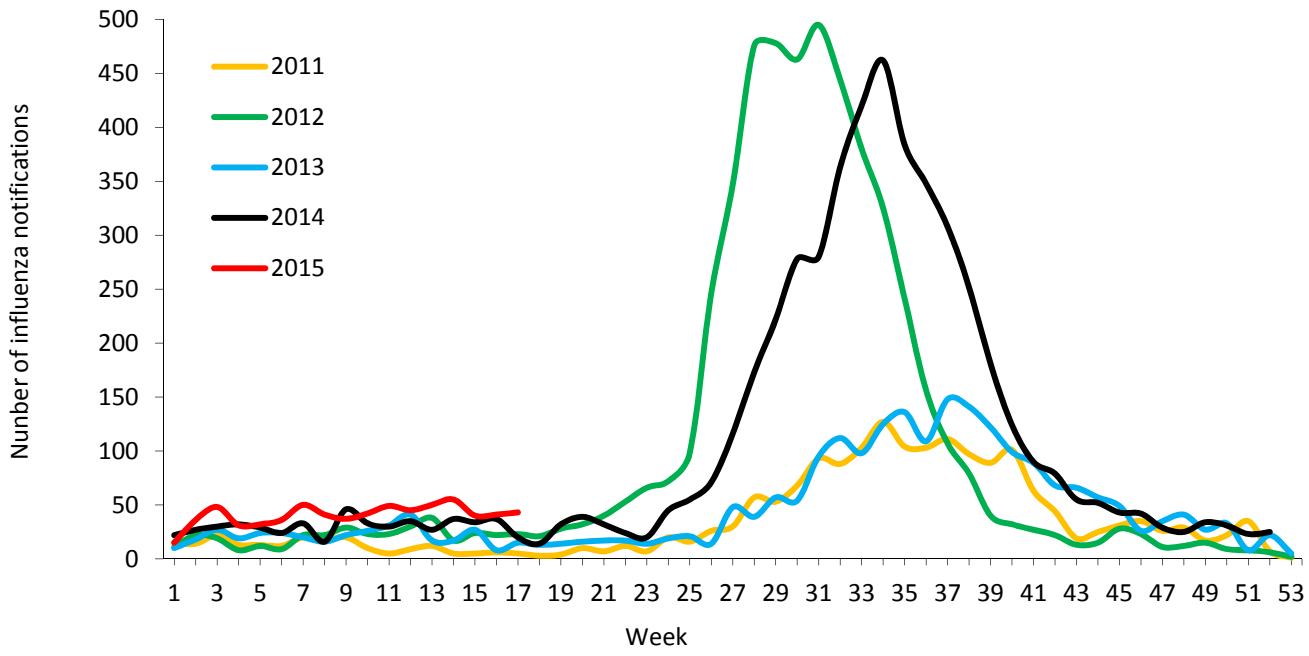
Presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs for viral respiratory illness increased this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2011 - 2015



The number of respiratory viral infection presentations to sentinel EDs remains consistent with expected levels.

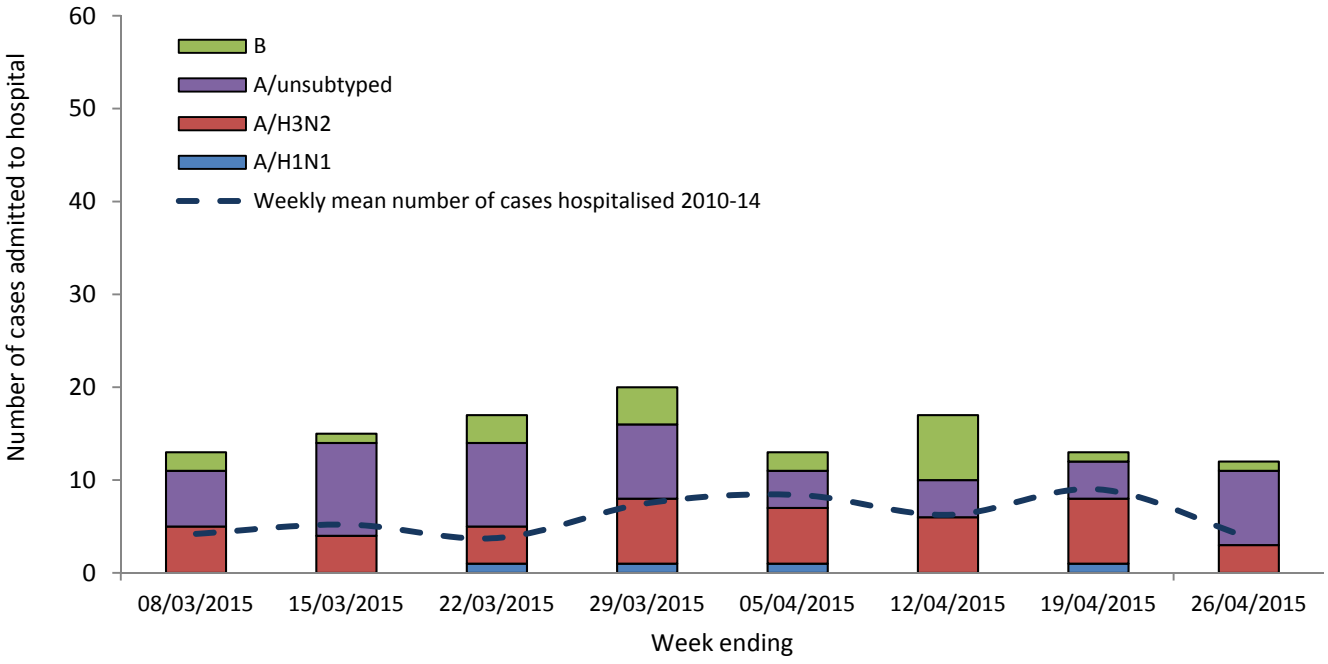
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2011 to 2015



Influenza notifications received by the Department of Health remain consistent with inter-seasonal levels. There were 43 notifications for influenza this week.

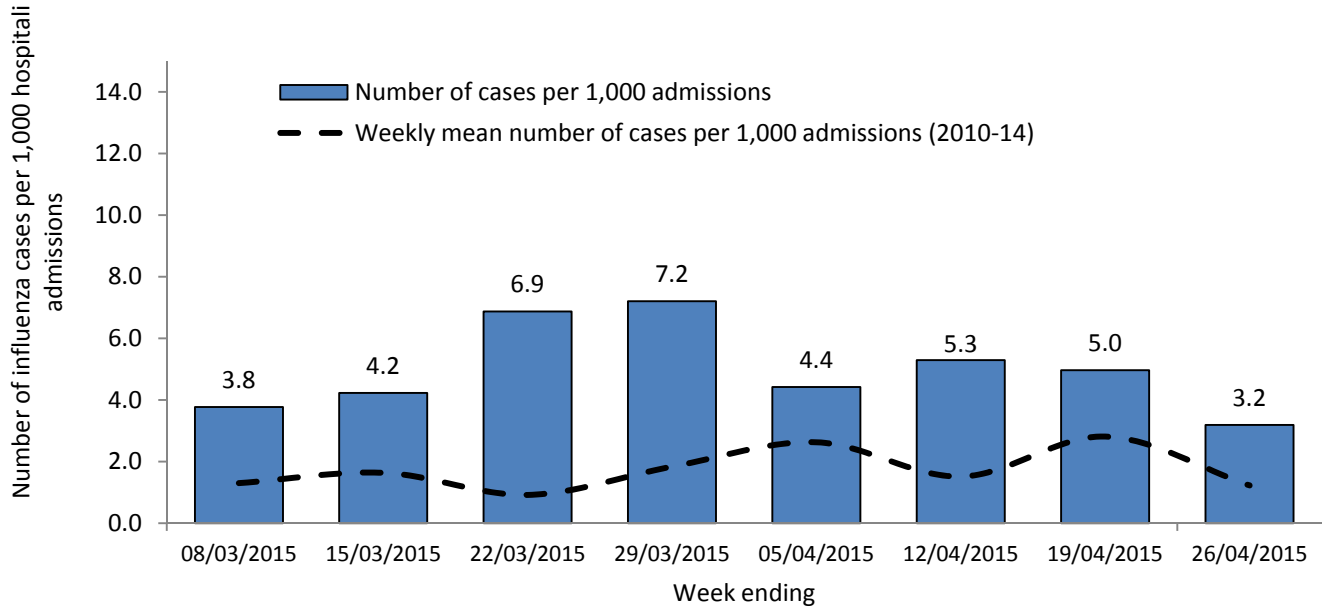
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 20/04/2015 and 26/04/2015.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



Twelve notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week, 8 (67%) influenza A/unsubtyped, 3 (25%) with influenza A/H3N2, and 1 (8%) with influenza B.

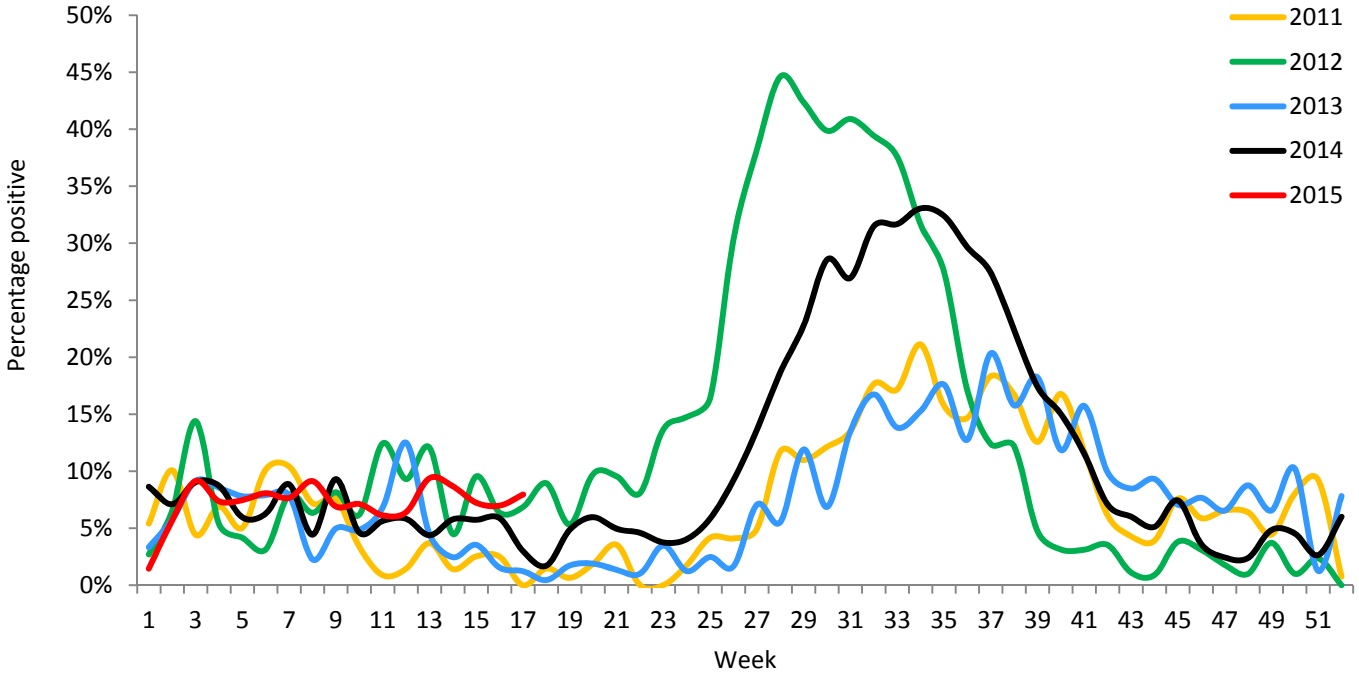
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



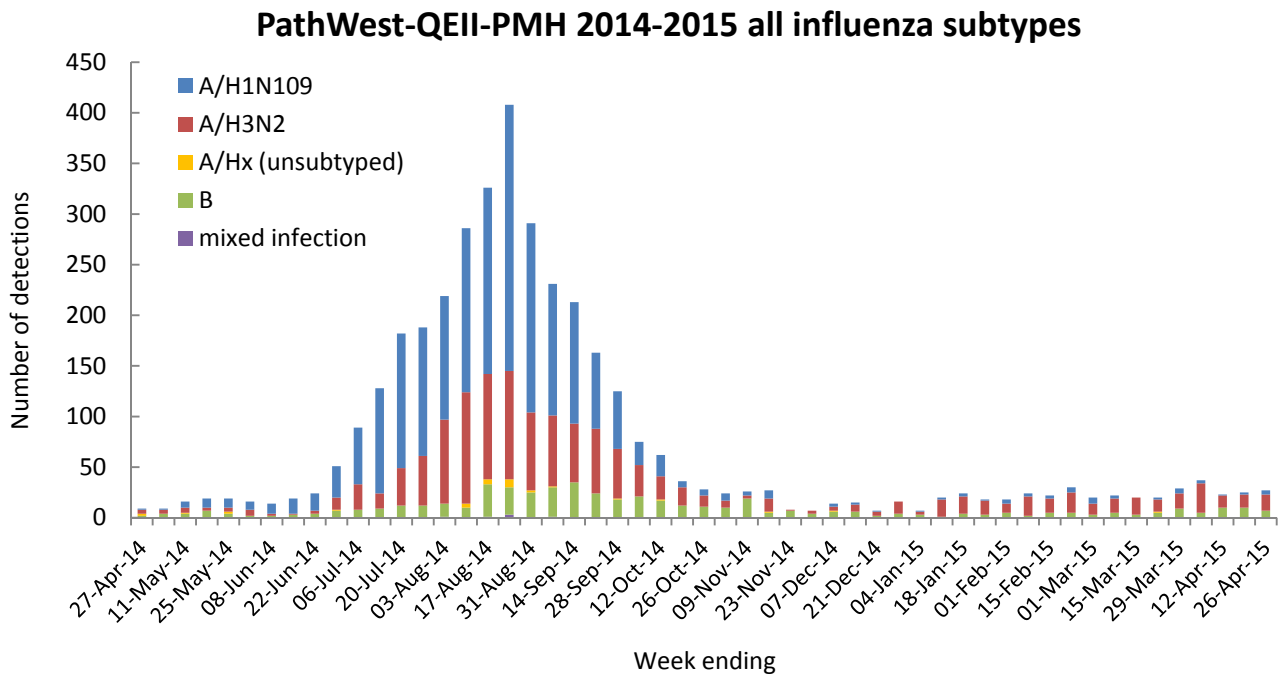
The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza is low and near the average proportion seen during this time period in previous years.

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 2011- 2015

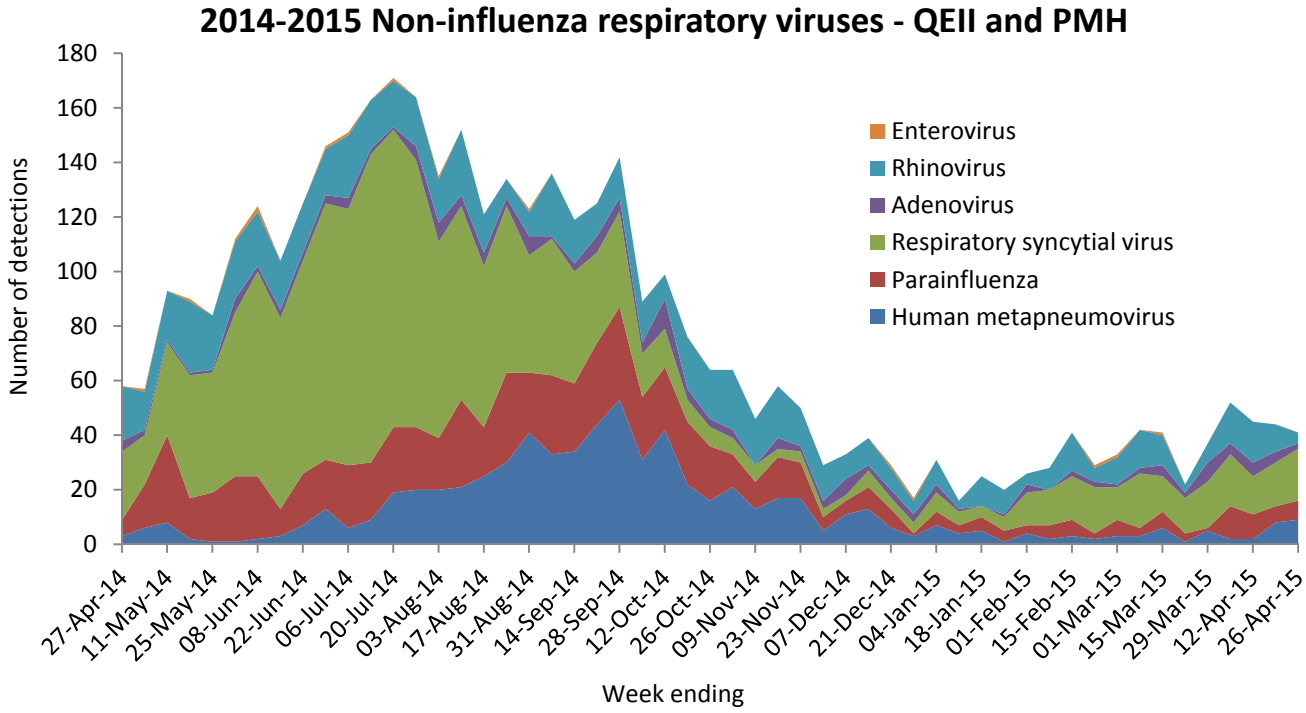


Among samples tested at PathWest this week, 7.9% were positive for influenza virus, which is at the upper margin of values for this time period in recent years.



Twenty-seven influenza viruses were subtyped by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week; 16 (59%) were influenza A/H3N2, 4 (15%) were influenza A/H1N1, and 7 (26%) were influenza B.

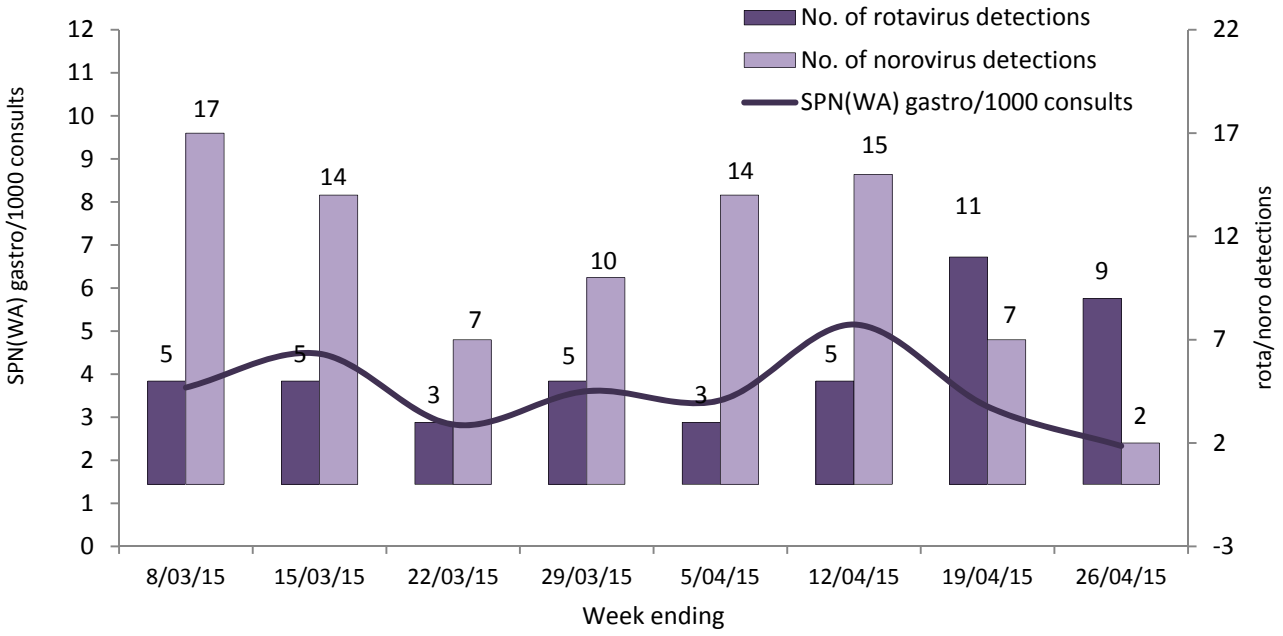
The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 29th April 2015. The number subtyped may not always correspond to the number of influenza detections.



There were opposing trends in non-influenza respiratory virus activity this week, with an increase in RSV and a decline in rhinovirus activity.

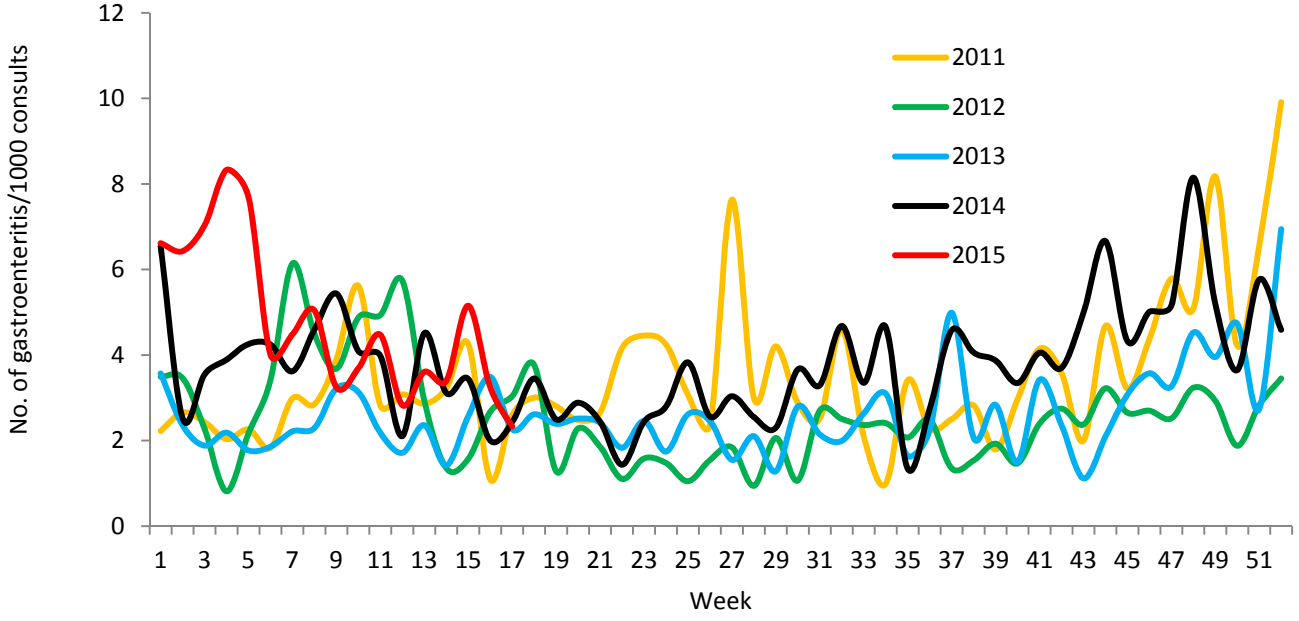
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) decreased this week. Norovirus and rotavirus detections decreased.

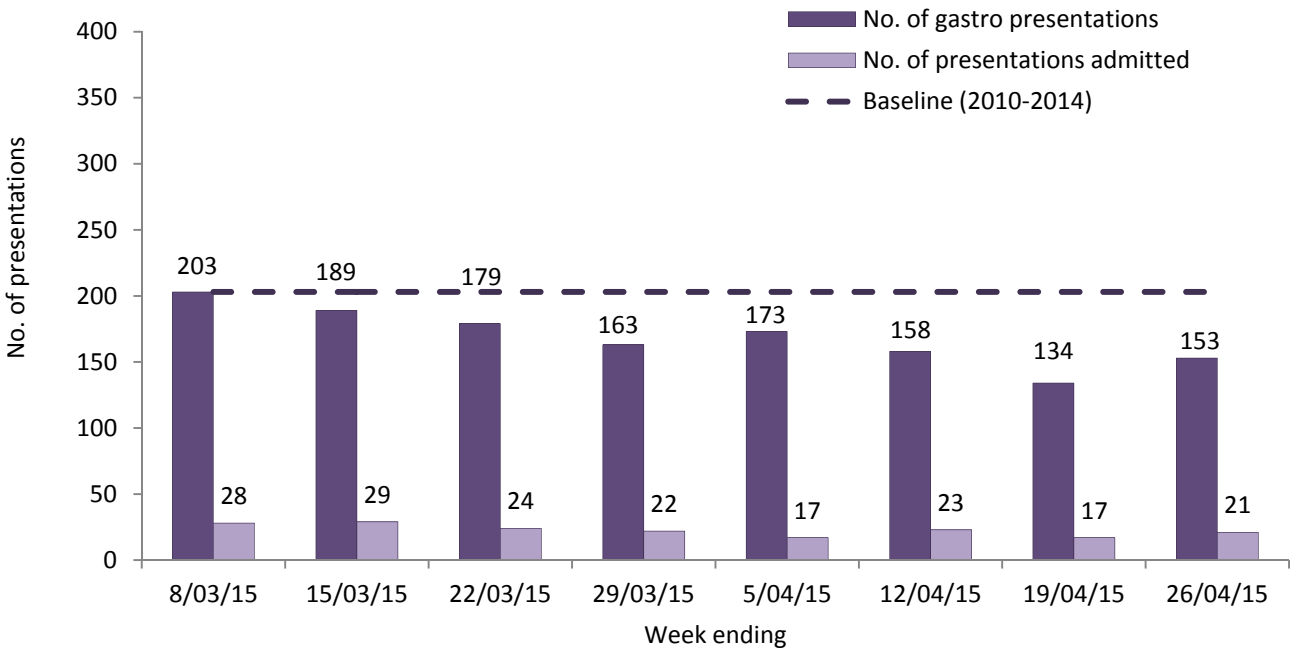
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance
Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2011 - 2015



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continues to fluctuate within expected levels.

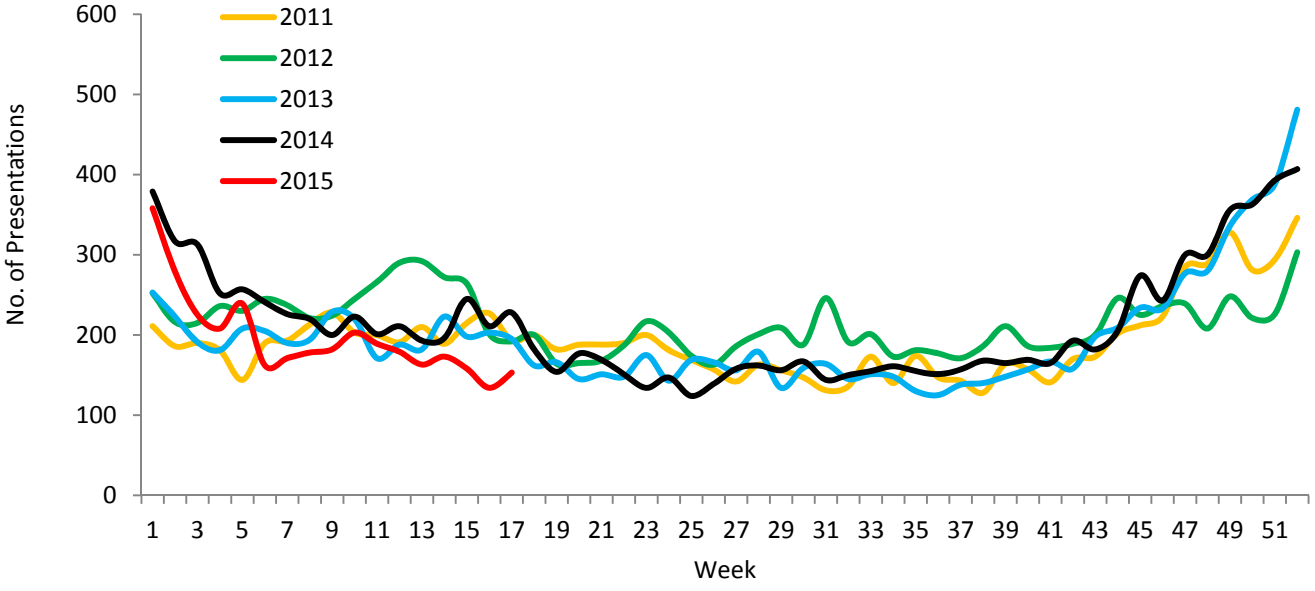
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2011 to week 52, 2014.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remain below baseline level.

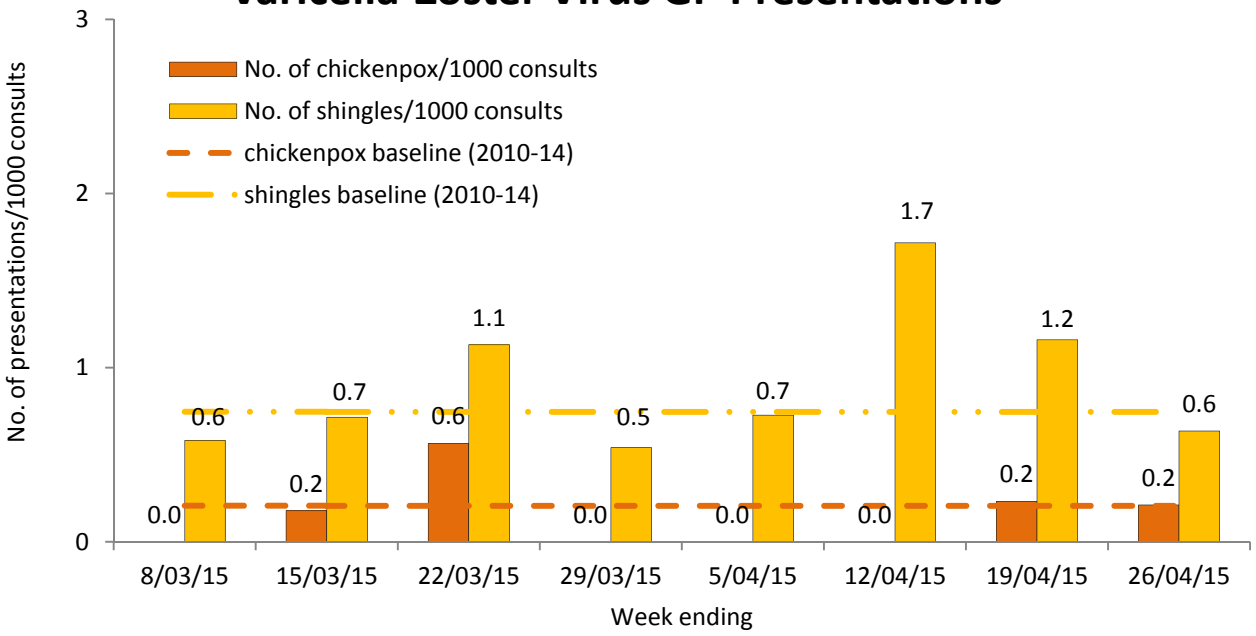
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2011 - 2015



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

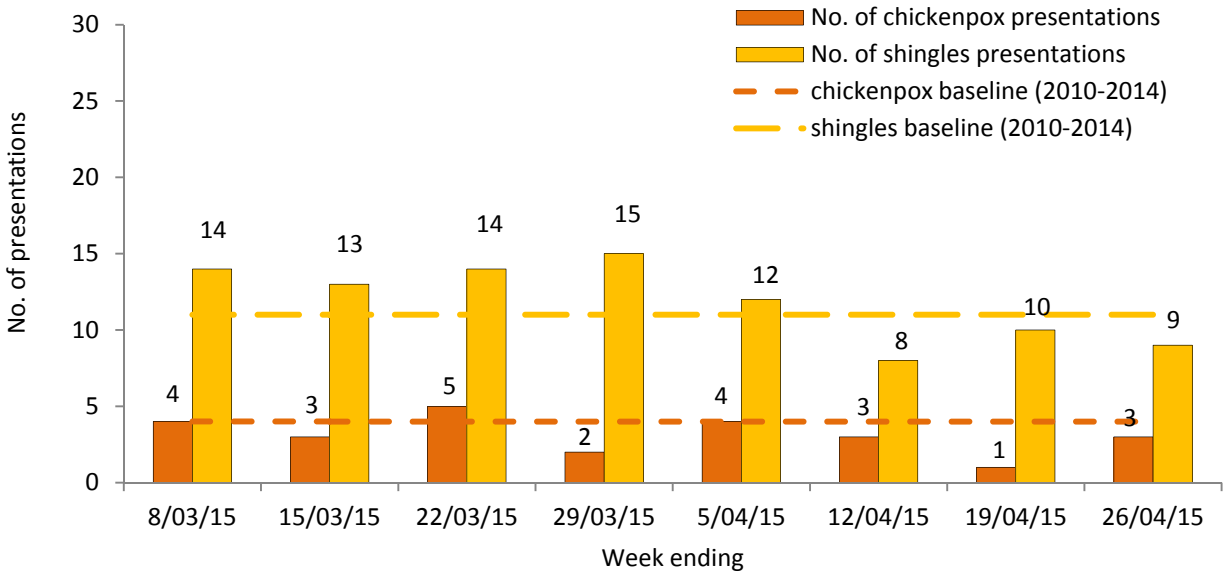


Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs decreased below baseline level. Chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs remain near baseline level. No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

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, 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 and chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline levels this week.