

Report No. 15: Week ending 18 August 2019

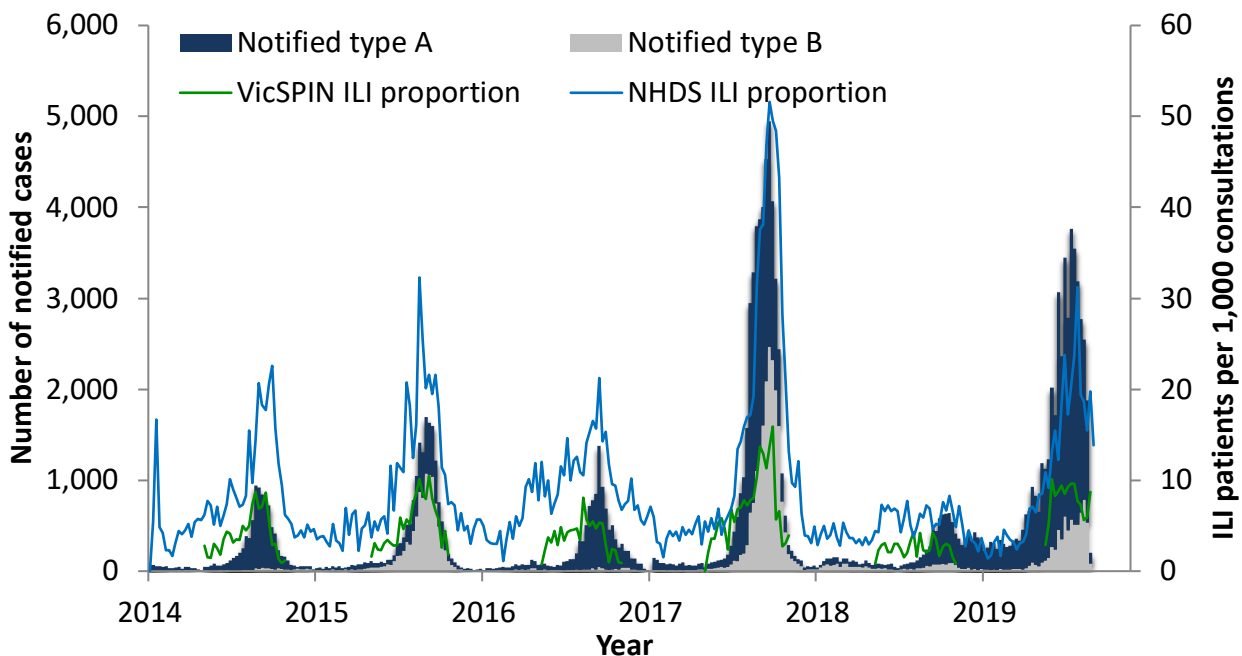
Overview: The 2019 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity remains within the **average** threshold. The total ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN this week has increased slightly and is higher than that observed over the last four weeks, but remains lower than earlier in the season and lower than the same time in 2017.

The number of **notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is 13 times higher than at the same time in 2018 and 2.6 times higher than in 2017**. The majority of notified cases are **type A (84%)**, and type A cases are older than type B cases; 32% of type B cases are aged less than 10 years compared to 21% of type A cases, and 17% of type A cases are aged 65 years and older compared to 4% of type B cases.

Twenty-nine swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which **10% were positive for influenza**. This is much lower than the average for the season (33%). To date, influenza A(H3) was co-detected with A(H1N1)pdm09 in one case. In five additional cases, influenza was co-detected with another respiratory virus.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2014-2019



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week decreased from 19.7 to 13.9 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity remains within the average activity threshold range of 10-35 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN is higher than for the same time in 2018, but lower than in 2017. The proportion remains within the average activity level, with 8.7 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen, which is slightly higher than that observed over the last four weeks. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Twenty-nine swabs were received this week, of which 3 (10%) were positive for influenza (one of A(H3) and two B). Picornaviruses was detected in seven swabs, and parainfluenza and H1N1 were detected in one swab each. (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 18 August 2019

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	83 (99%)	
Total patients seen	6076	92,927
Total patients with ILI	53	709
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	8.7	7.6
Number of specimens received	29	552
Number (%) positive for influenza	3 (10%)	182 (33%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017, 2018 and 2019

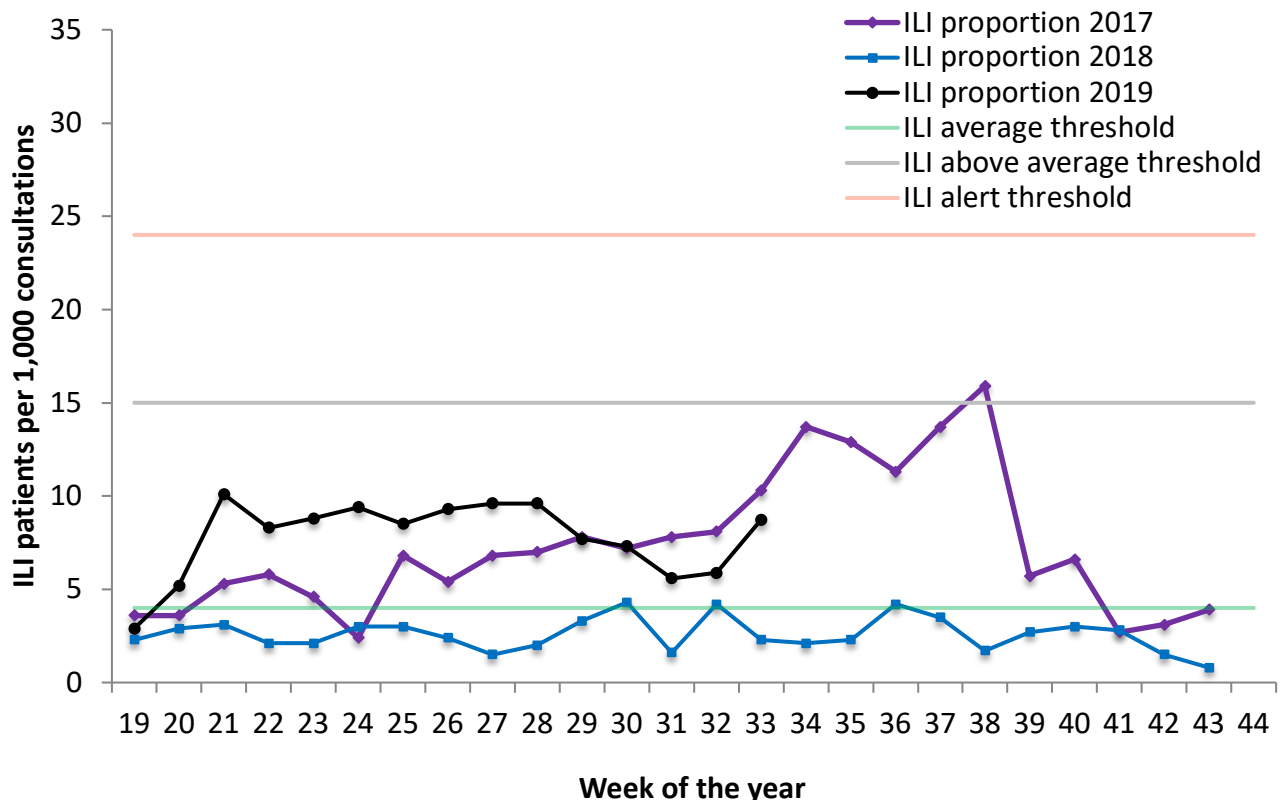
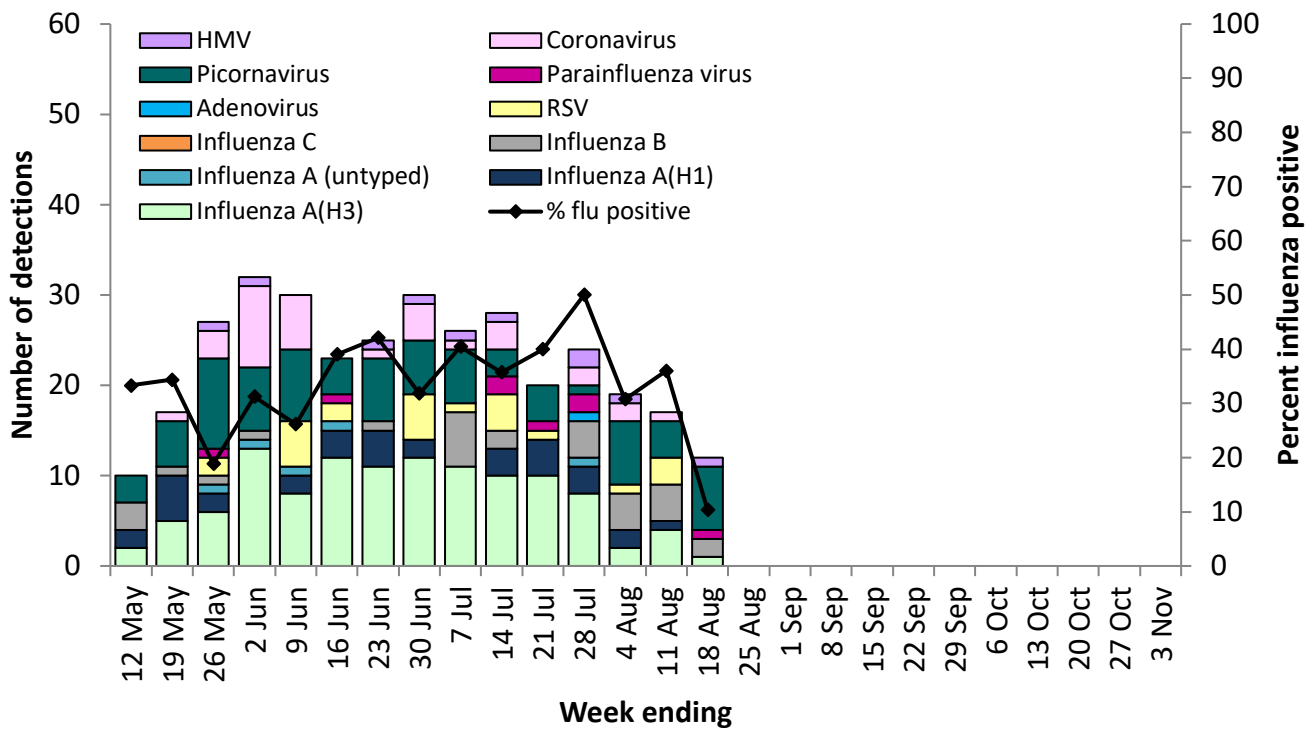


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2019



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- A total of 44,460 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2019, thirteen times the number of cases notified at the same time in 2018 but less than three times the number of cases notified at the same time in 2017 (Figure 1). This number is subject to change as notifications are processed and entered.
- Year to date, 84% of notified cases have been type A (21% aged less than 10 years and 17% aged 65 years and over) and 16% have been type B (32% aged less than 10 years and 4% aged 65 years and over).

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2019 quadrivalent influenza vaccine are: A/Michigan/45/2015-Like (H1N1)pdm09 virus; A/Switzerland/8060/2017-like (H3N2) virus; B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus with the quadrivalent vaccine including B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus as well.
- A total of 254 Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date: 125 as A/Michigan/45/2015-Like; two as A/Michigan/45/2015-Low Reactor; 79 as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Like; 23 as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Low Reactor; 16 as B/Colorado/6/2017-Like; eight as B/Colorado/6/2017-Low Reactor; and one as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like.
- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir, however one isolate has shown resistance to oseltamivir among the 1714 Australian isolates tested so far in 2019.