

Report No. 2: Week ending 19 May 2019

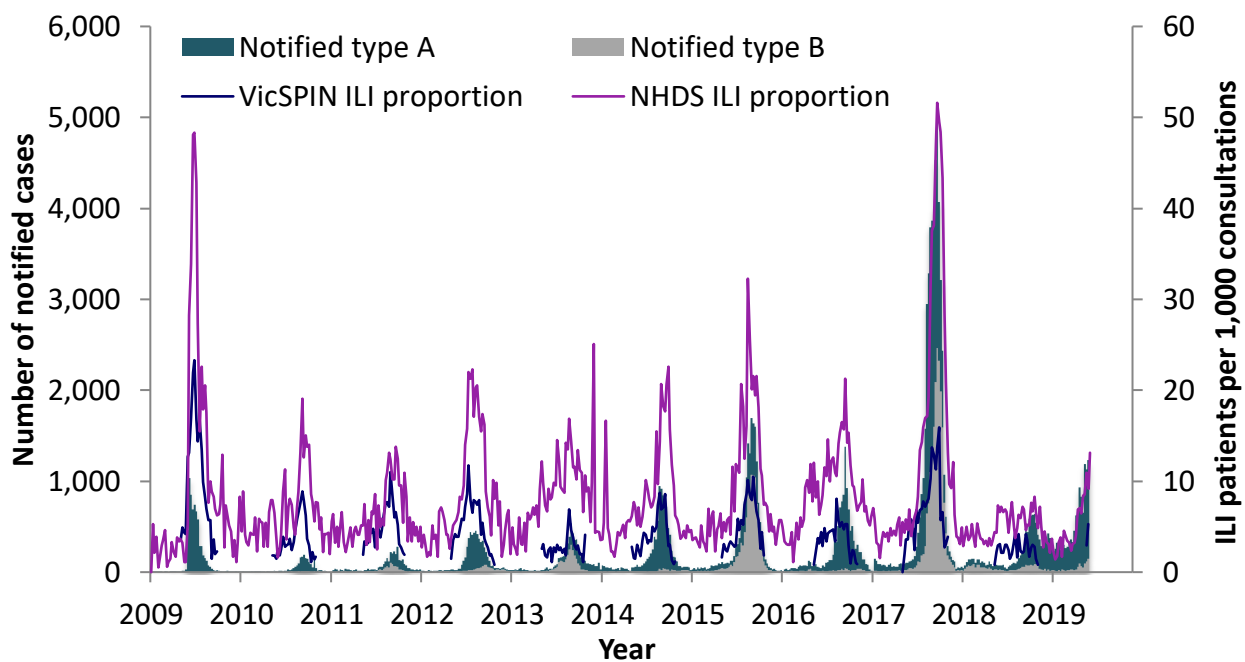
Overview: The 2019 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness activity is currently within the **average** threshold.

The number of **notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is five times higher than at the same time in 2018**. More than **90% of notified cases are type A** and are **older than notified type B** cases; 30% of type B cases are aged less than 10 years compared to 17% of type A cases, and 19% of type A cases are aged 65 years and older compared to 6% of type B cases.

Thirty-one swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which **35% were positive for influenza**.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2007-2019



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week increased from 9.1 the previous week to 13.1 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity is now within the average activity threshold range of 10-35 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportion measured by VicSPIN increased to the average activity level, with 5.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen this week. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Thirty-one swabs were received this week, of which 11 (35%) were positive for influenza (two of type A(H1); four each of A(H3) and A (untyped); and one type B). Picornavirus virus was detected from five (16%) swabs (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 19 May 2019

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	84 (95%)	
Total patients seen	6,827	13,977
Total patients with ILI	36	57
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	5.3	4.1
Number of specimens received	31	52
Number (%) positive for influenza	11 (35%)	18 (35%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2019

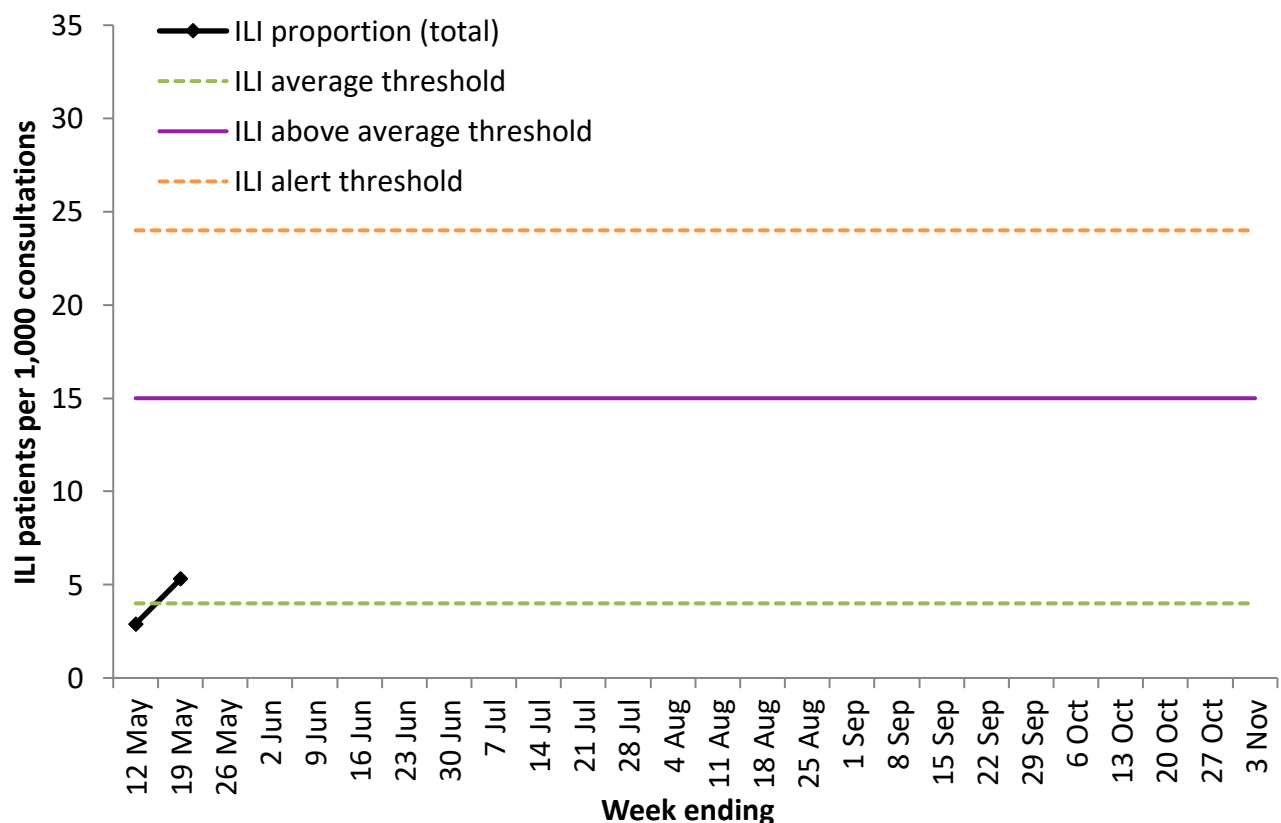
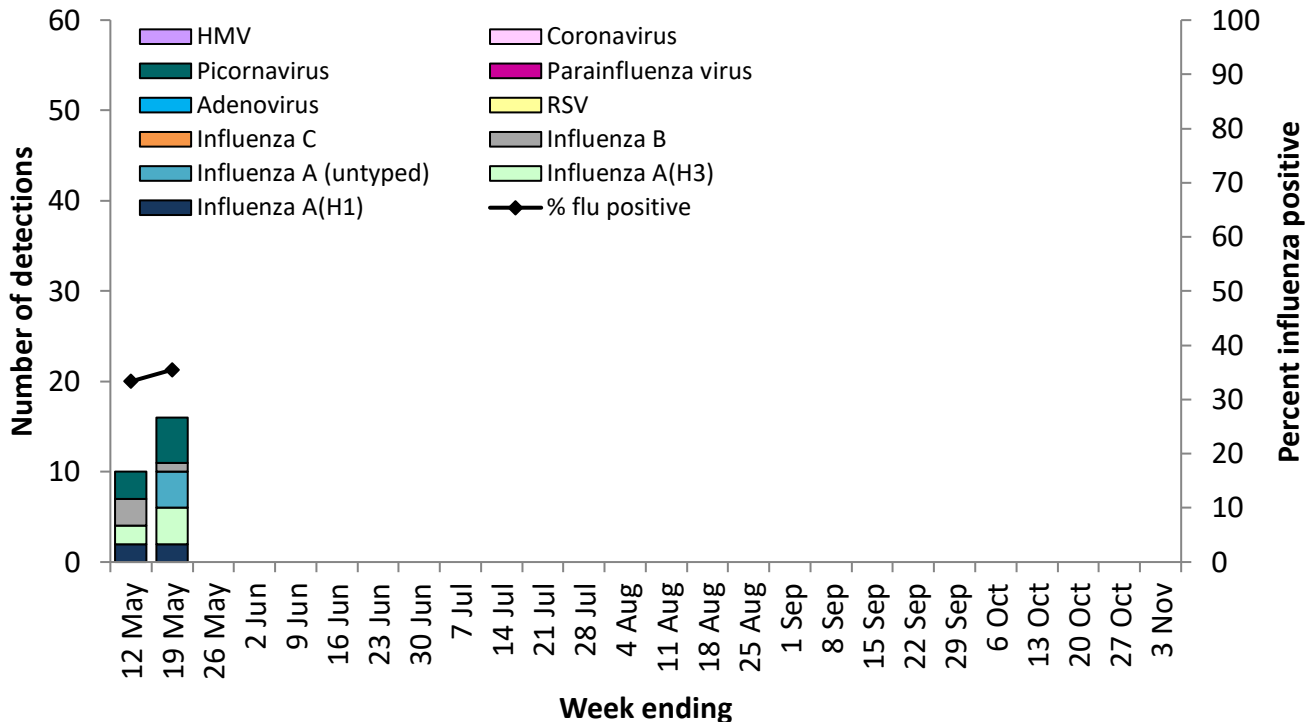


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2019



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza increased 10% from 1,127 to 1,236 cases from the previous week. (Note: this number is subject to change as notifications are processed and entered).
- A total of 11,087 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2019, five times the 2,196 cases notified at the same time in 2018 (Figure 1).
- Year to date, 91% of notified cases have been type A (17% aged less than 10 years and 19% aged 65 years and over) and 9% have been type B (30% aged less than 10 years and 6% 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.
- Seventy-two Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date: 53 as A/Michigan/45/2015-Like; one as A/Michigan/45/2015-Low Reactor; seven as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Like; seven as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Low Reactor; two as B/Colorado/6/2017-Like; one as B/Colorado/6/2017-Low Reactor; and one as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like.
- No isolate has shown resistance to oseltamivir or zanamivir, among the 676 Australian isolates tested so far in 2019.