

Report No. 15: Week ending 28 June 2020

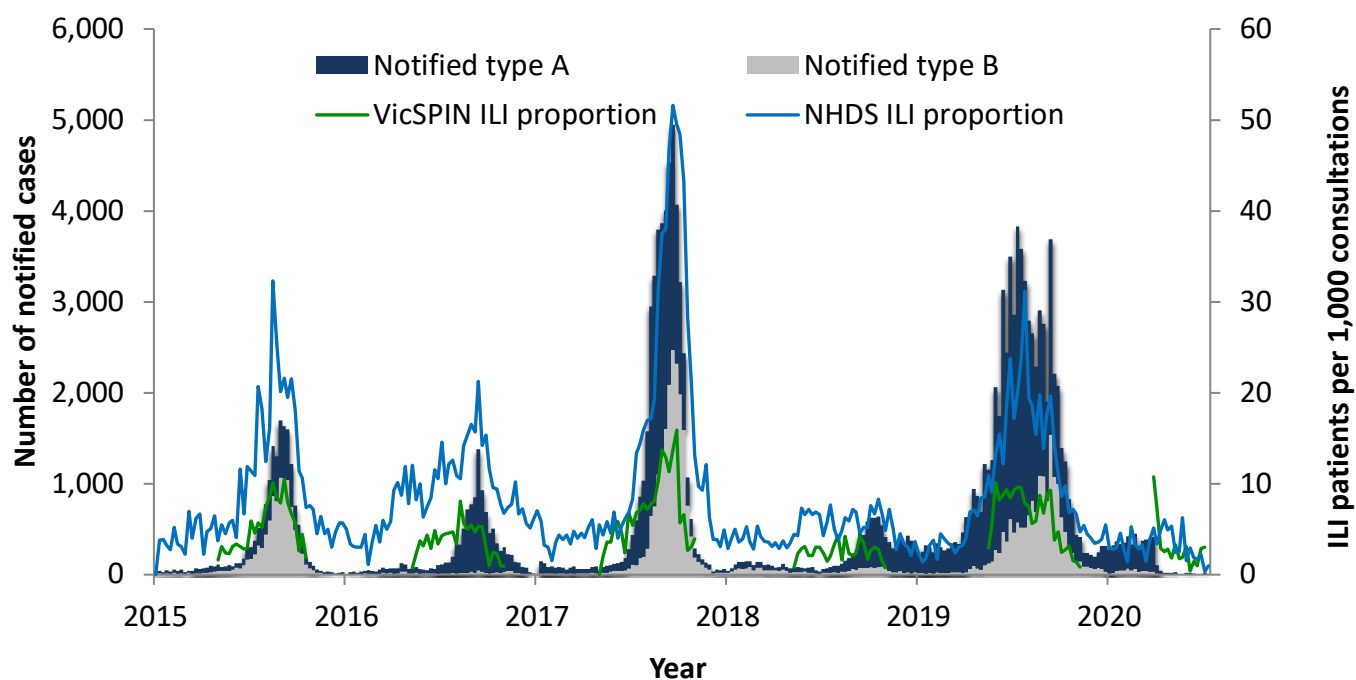
Overview: The 2020 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness (ILI) for the 15th reporting week is similar to last week and remains **below the average activity threshold** with **3.0 ILIs per 1000 patients seen**

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is less than **one fifth times** the number notified by the same time in 2019. The majority of notified cases over the season have been **type A (88.5%)**, and type A cases are older than type B cases.

Three swabs were received from VicSPIN this week of which zero swabs (0%) were positive for influenza. Picornavirus was detected in one swab and one swab has results pending.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2015 – 2020



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for this week is 1.0 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity has increased slightly since last week but remains **below** 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 similar to last week and continues to be below the average activity level with 3.0 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Three swabs were received this week of which 0 (0%) were positive for influenza. Picornavirus was detected in one swab and one swab has results pending (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 28 June 2020

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	52 (100%) [#]	
Total patients seen	4,948	65,819
Total patients with ILI	15 [*]	191
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	3.0	2.9
Number of specimens received	3	119
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	1 (0.8%)

[#]One GP has left the clinic and will no longer be participating in VicSPIN.

^{*} Some of these patients with ILI were sent to Covid-19 clinics for testing and did not have a swab collected for influenza testing.

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

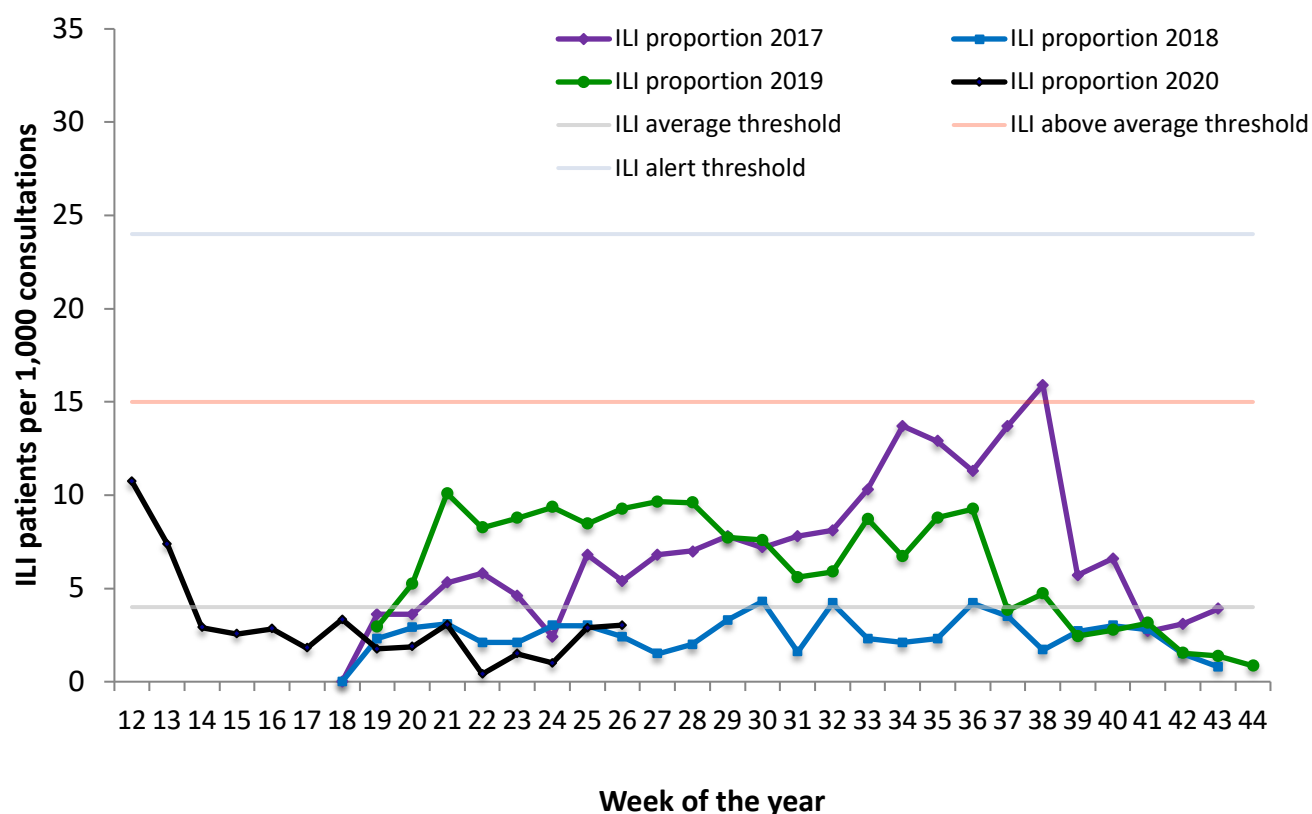
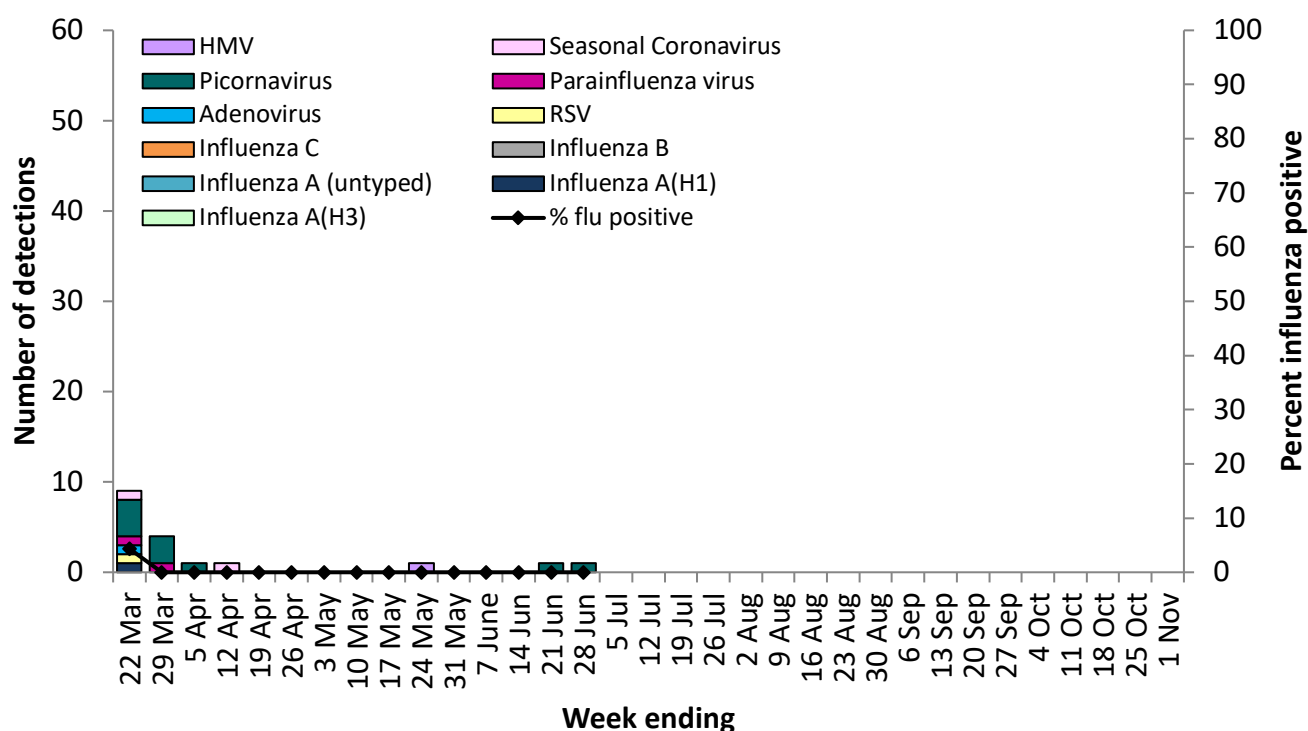


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2020



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- A total of 4,802 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2020, less than 0.2 times the number notified by the same time in 2019 (Figure 1). This number is subject to change as notifications are processed and entered.
- Year to date, 88.5% of notified cases have been type A (14% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 16% aged 65 years and over) and 11.5% have been type B (20% of Type B cases are aged less than 10 years and 7% aged 65 years and over). However, there has been a shift in the ratio of type A to B, with 94% type A and 6% type B in the last four weeks.

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2020 influenza vaccine are: A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; A/South Australia/34/2019 (H3N2)-like virus and B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus. All seasonal influenza vaccines available for use in Australia in 2020 are quadrivalent vaccines (QIV).
- A total of 89 Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date: 31 as A/Brisbane/02/2018-Like; 45 as A/Brisbane/02/2018-Low Reactor; 4 as A/South Australia/34/2019-Like; 3 as A/South Australia/34/2019-Low Reactor; and 6 as B/Washington/02/2019-Like.
- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir but two isolates have shown resistance to oseltamivir, among the 222 Australian isolates tested so far in 2020.