

## Report No. 33: Week ending 1 Nov 2020

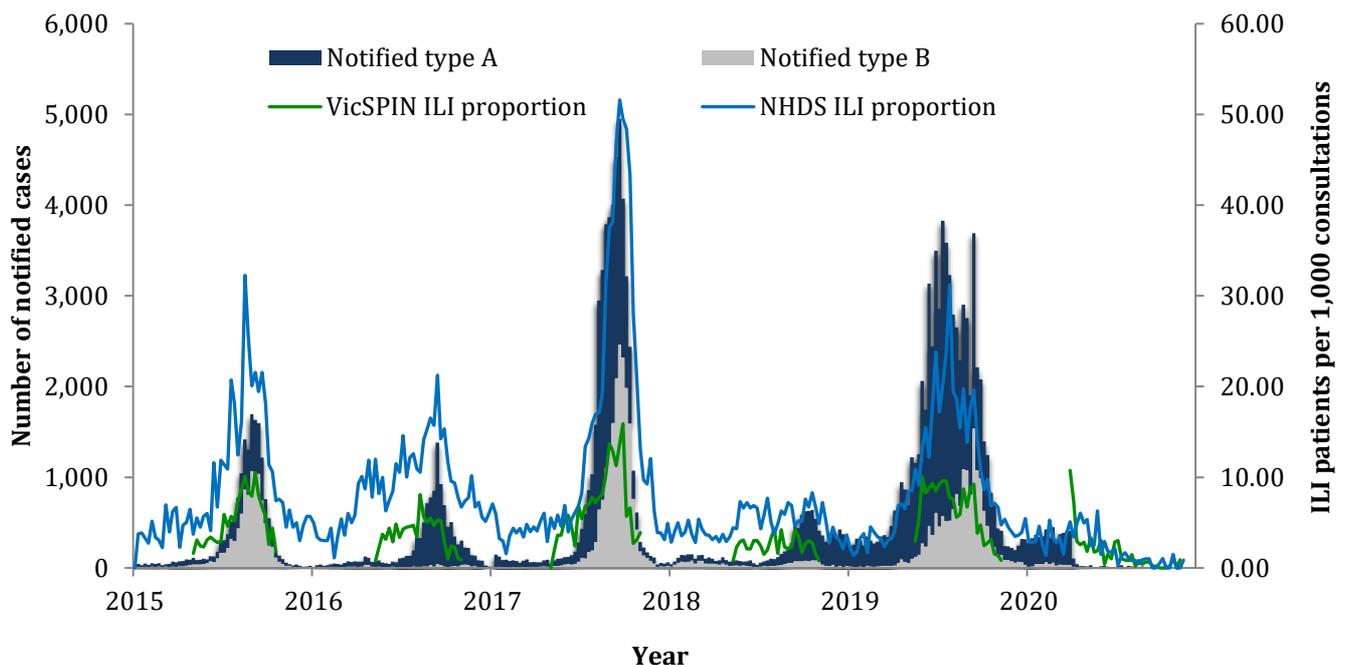
### Overview: The 2020 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness (ILI) for the 33<sup>rd</sup> reporting week is slightly higher than last week but continues to be **well below** the average activity threshold with **0.9 ILIs per 1000 patients seen**

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is **93% lower** than 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.

**One swab** was received from VicSPIN this week, the results of which are still pending.

*Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases, 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 0.85 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity is similar to last week and continues to be **well 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 slightly higher than last week (with 4 ILIs compared to 0 the previous week) but continues to be well below the average activity threshold with 0.9 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen. (Figures 1 & 2, and Table 1).
- One swab was received from VicSPIN this week with results still pending (Figure 3 and Table 1).

*Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 1 November 2020*

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	49 (96%)	
Total patients seen	4362	149,436
Total patients with ILI	4	236
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	0.9	1.6
Number of specimens received	1*	126
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	1 (0.8%)

\*Result still pending

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

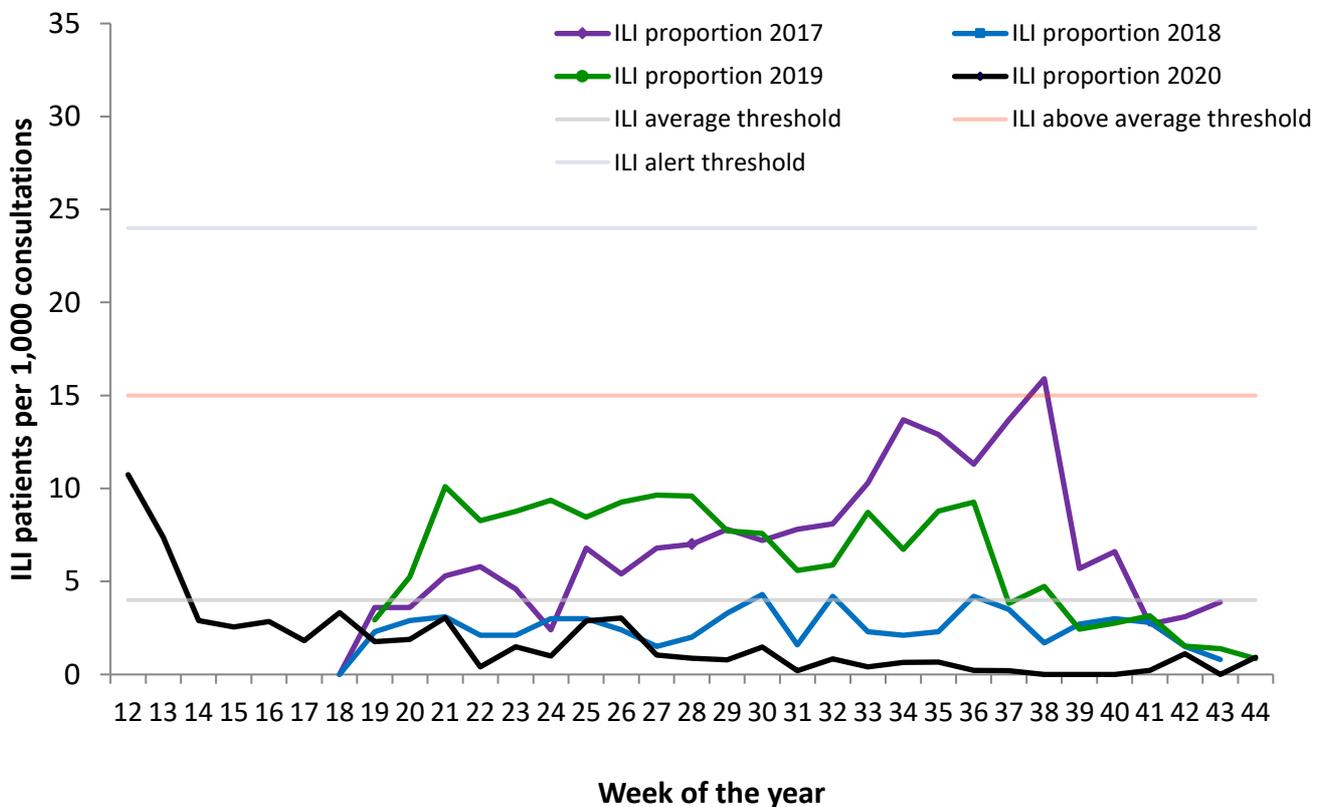
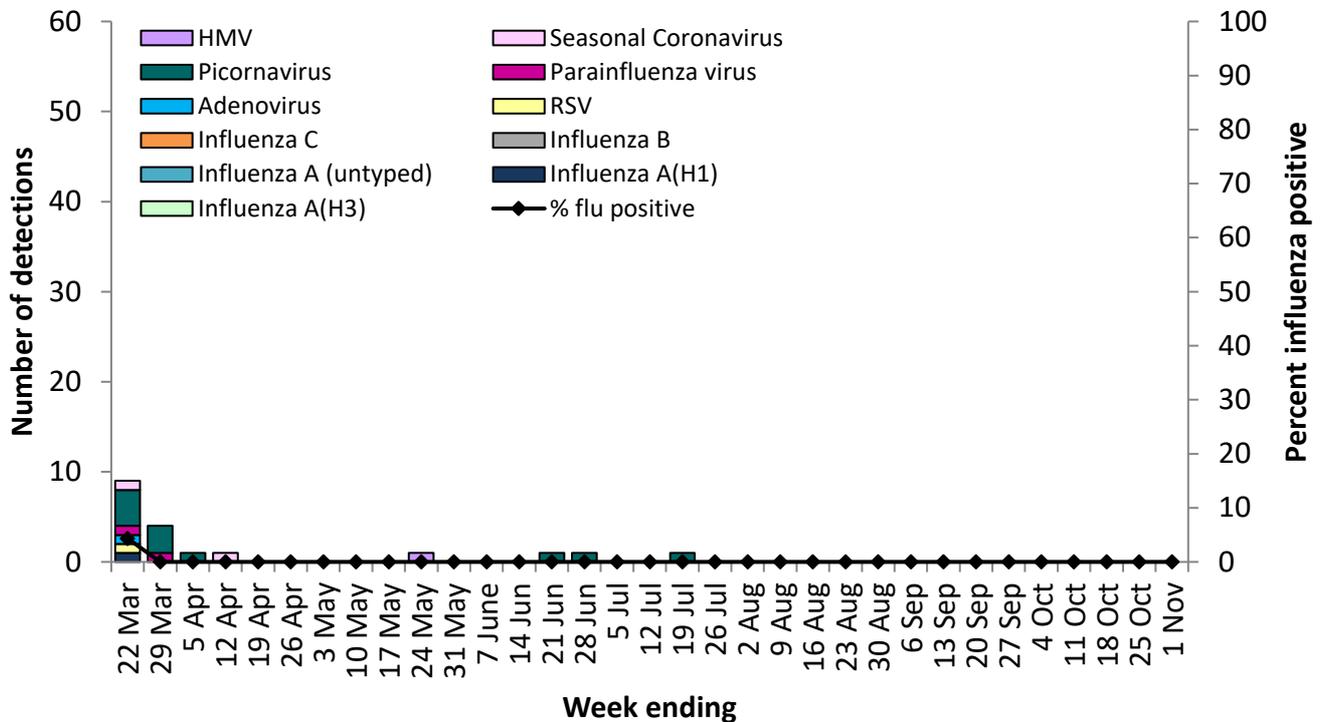


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2020



## Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

### Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is similar to last week with 3 cases.
- A total of 4,947 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2020, a 93% decrease on the number notified by the same time in 2019 (Figure 1).
- 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).

### 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 92 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; 5 as A/South Australia/34/2019-Like; 3 as A/South Australia/34/2019-Low Reactor; 7 as B/Washington/02/2019-Like and 1 as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like.
- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir, however two isolates have shown resistance to oseltamivir, among the 323 Australian isolates tested so far in 2020.