

Snapshot of Victoria's 2016 influenza season – 30 October, 2016

Key points

- As at 30 October, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in the community and notified cases had returned to inter-seasonal levels.
- Most activity in the 2016 influenza season occurred between late July and late September, with a peak in late August/early September.
- The 2016 season was lower in magnitude compared to 2015. As at 30 October, 37% fewer cases of influenza had been notified compared to the same time last year.
- This is the final influenza season snapshot for 2016.

The following figure and table compare the main findings from the notifiable disease and GP sentinel surveillance systems for this year and last year.

Figure. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation proportion in Victoria, 2015-2016.

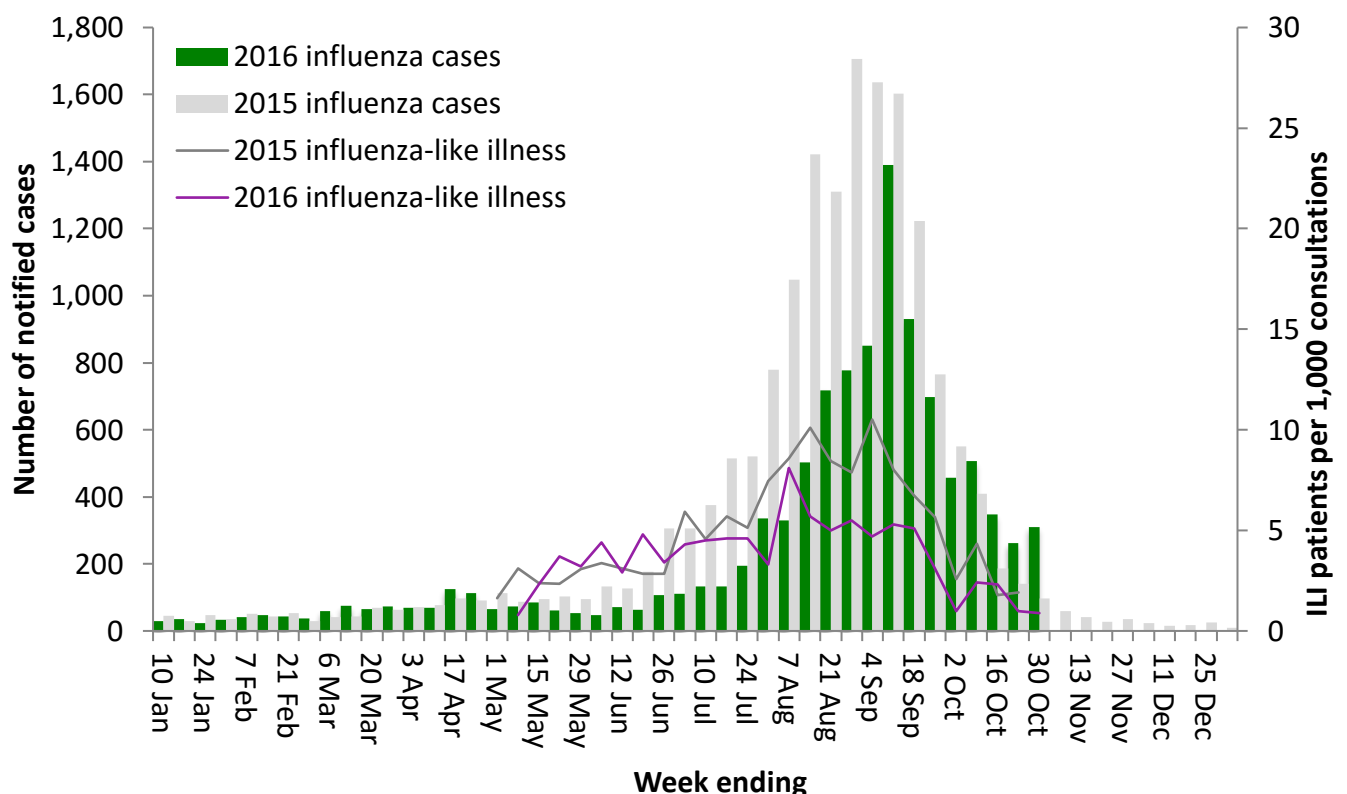


Table. Comparison of notified cases of influenza and influenza-like illness for week ending 23 October (week 43) in 2015 and 2016.

	2016	2015
Number of notified influenza cases for the week	309	96
Number of notified influenza cases for the year-to-date	10,539	16,714
ILI proportion for the week (per 1,000 patients)	0.9	1.9
Peak ILI proportion observed for the year (per 1,000 patients)	8.1 (week 31)	10.5 (week 35)

Victoria experiences an influenza season each year. Most cases are usually reported between June and September, but the commencement, duration and size of each season varies from year to year.

Epidemiologists and virologists at The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) at the Doherty Institute, in partnership with the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, conduct surveillance to monitor influenza activity in Victoria.

This page describes the key features of the surveillance for influenza-like illness collected from two sources:

- *Notifiable disease surveillance* is conducted by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services. All cases of laboratory confirmed influenza diagnosed by doctors or laboratories in Victoria must be notified to the department. Numbers reported may vary from week-to-week as notifications data are updated.
- The *Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network (VicSPIN)* is a network of about 100 Victorian GPs who submit weekly reports about the proportion of their patients with influenza-like illness (a clinical syndrome used as a proxy for influenza activity) and samples for testing.

Further information

More detailed analysis about the influenza season from VicSPIN, DHHS and other data sources is provided in the [Weekly influenza report](#). For media enquiries, please contact the Doherty Institute's Communications Manager, Rebecca Elliott, on (03) 8344 8360 or rebecca.elliott@unimelb.edu.au or DHHS media on (03) 9096 8840.