

Snapshot of Victoria's 2017 influenza season – 22 September, 2017

Key points

- As at 17 September, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in the community indicates influenza activity in Victoria is still elevated.
- The increase in cases to mark the start of the season occurred earlier this year (late June) compared to last year (early August). The peak rate at which ILI was diagnosed in the VicSPIN general practice surveillance program this year was the highest observed since 2009.

The following figure and table compare the main findings from GP sentinel surveillance system for this year and the previous three years.

Figure. VicSPIN influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation proportion in Victoria, 2014-2017.

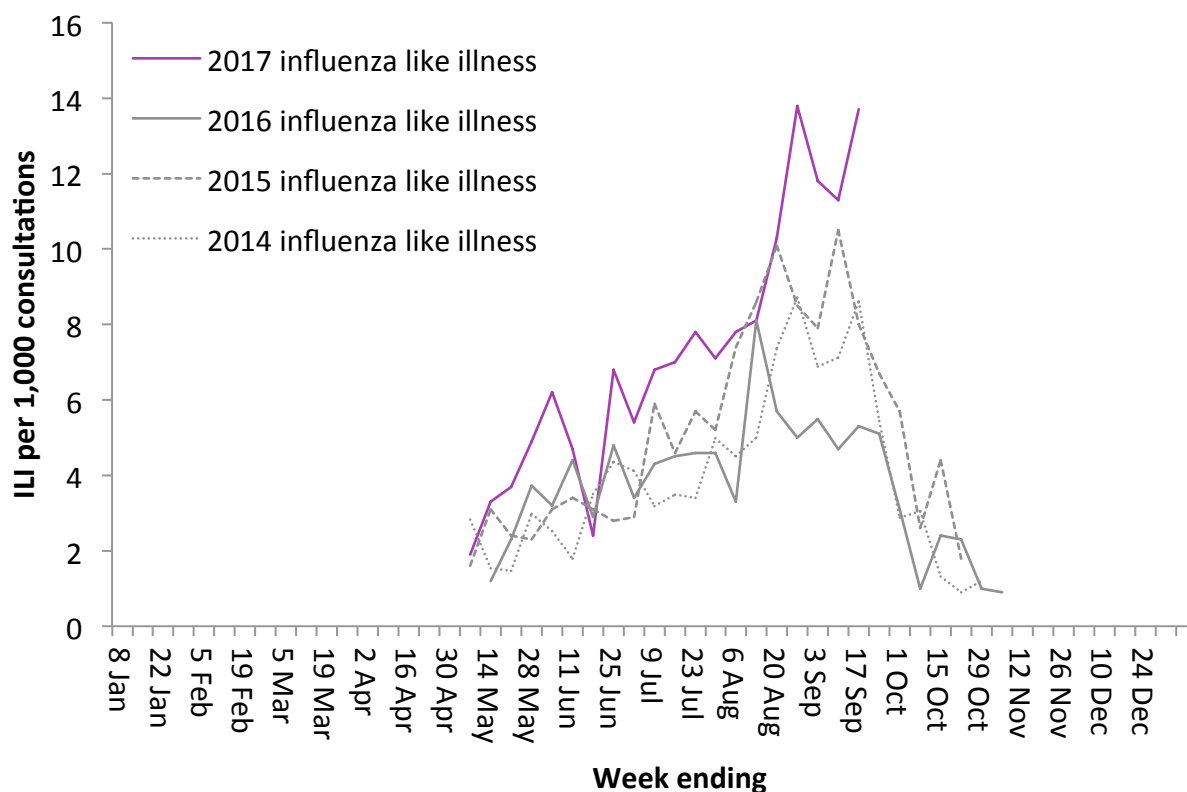


Table. Influenza-like illness for week ending 17 September (week 37), 2014 to 2017.

	2017	2016	2015	2014
ILI proportion for the week (per 1,000 patients)	13.7	5.3	8.0	8.6
Peak ILI proportion observed for the year (per 1,000 patients)	13.8	8.1	10.5	8.7
Week peak ILI proportion observed	34	31	36	34

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 (DHHS), conduct surveillance to monitor influenza activity in Victoria.

Surveillance for influenza-like illness is conducted on a number of sources. This page utilizes data from the *Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network (VicSPIN)*, a network of about 80 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 Media and Communications Advisor, Liz Lopez, on (03) 8344 8378 or lopez.e@unimelb.edu.au or DHHS media on (03) 9096 8840.