

Victorian Weekly Influenza Report

Health Protection Branch

Report: 4/2019 Issue date: 24 May 2019

This report comprises data as at: week ending 18 May 2019 (week 20)

Summary

- **Notified cases¹:**
 - Cases in **Week 20** are **HIGHER** when compared with cases for the week prior
 - Cases (since 1 January 2019) are tracking **HIGHER THAN** cases for the same time in 2018, and are **ABOVE EXPECTED LEVELS** for this time of the year
 - Weekly notifications of influenza (since 1 April 2019) are trending: **UPWARDS**
 - The predominant influenza type (and subtype) across the state is currently: **Type A**
 - National data indicate almost equal numbers of **types A/H1N1** and **A/H3N2** are circulating
 - Geographical spread² is currently: **WIDESPREAD**
 - There were **three** new respiratory outbreaks due to laboratory-confirmed influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities reported in **Week 20**

- **Vaccine distribution figures*:**
 - Influenza vaccines distributed state-wide: **1,722,000** doses (as at **18 May 2019**)
**excludes vaccines purchased from the private market, workplace programs, etc.*

Additional disease reports can be found at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infectious-diseases-surveillance/interactive-infectious-disease-reports/state-wide-surveillance-report>

1. As of 1 September 2018, notification data includes only laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

As clinical information is no longer collected in the notification dataset, and timely mortality data are not available, number of deaths among all notified cases is not reported

2. Geographic spread:

Sporadic – small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported, not above expected background level;

Localised – laboratory-confirmed influenza detections above background level in less than 50% of the state;

Regional – significant numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported above background level in less than 50% of the state;

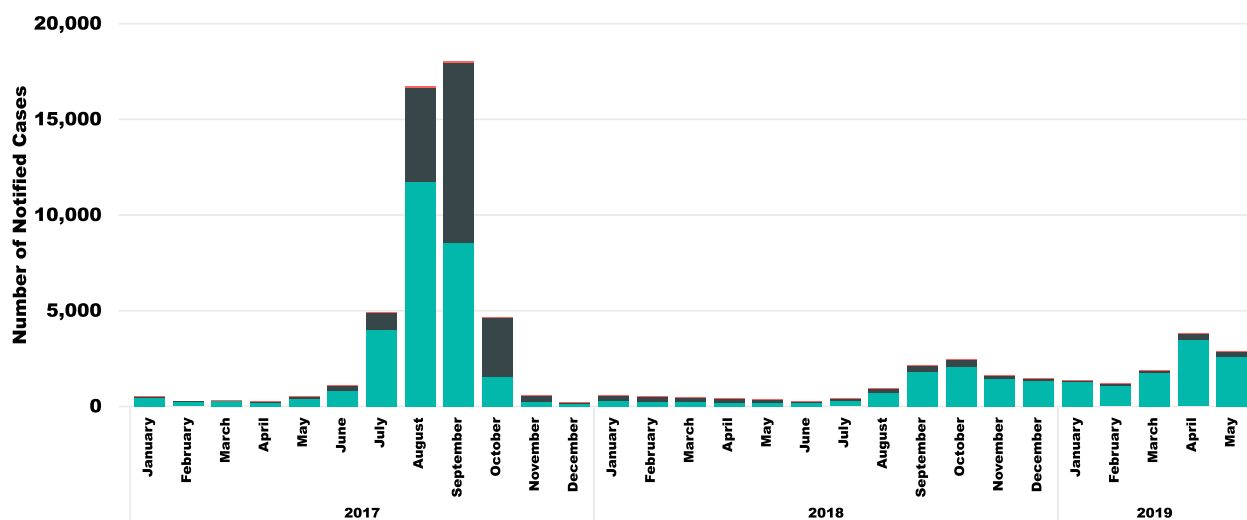
Widespread – significant numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported above background level in equal to or greater than 50% of the state.

Victorian Influenza Snapshot

Report issued: 24/05/2019

Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza at week ending: 18/5/2019

Influenza Type ● Influenza A ● Influenza B ● Other/not typed



SIZE

SEVERITY

FluCAN sentinel hospital data / ICU admissions will be available in late May.

VicSPIN sentinel GP data indicating community levels of influenza-like illness will be available in late May

Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza as at week ending: 18/5/2019

Age group (years)	Week ending 18/05/2019	Week ending 11/05/2019	Trend	% change	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	5 yr avg YTD (2014-18)	Trend 5 yr avg to 2019 YTD	% change (5 yr avg to 2019 YTD)
▲									
00 to 04	141	96	▲	47%	1040	154	100	▲	940 %
05 to 14	260	171	▲	52%	1410	176	100.6	▲	1302 %
15 to 64	647	656	▽	-1%	6582	1372	898.2	▲	633 %
65+	200	218	▽	-8%	2131	495	351.4	▲	506 %
Total	1248	1141	▲	9%	11163	2197	1450.2	▲	670 %

SIZE / SEVERITY / SPREAD

Respiratory outbreaks due to influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities year-to-date as at: 18/5/2019

Year-to-date	Outbreaks	Resident cases	Hospitalisations	Deaths **
2019	39	599	54	23
2018	5	59	5	0
2017	7	81	10	1

SPREAD/ SEVERITY

** Refer to last page of report for an explanation of the aged care respiratory outbreak dataset.

Reported deaths are not necessarily due to laboratory-confirmed influenza.



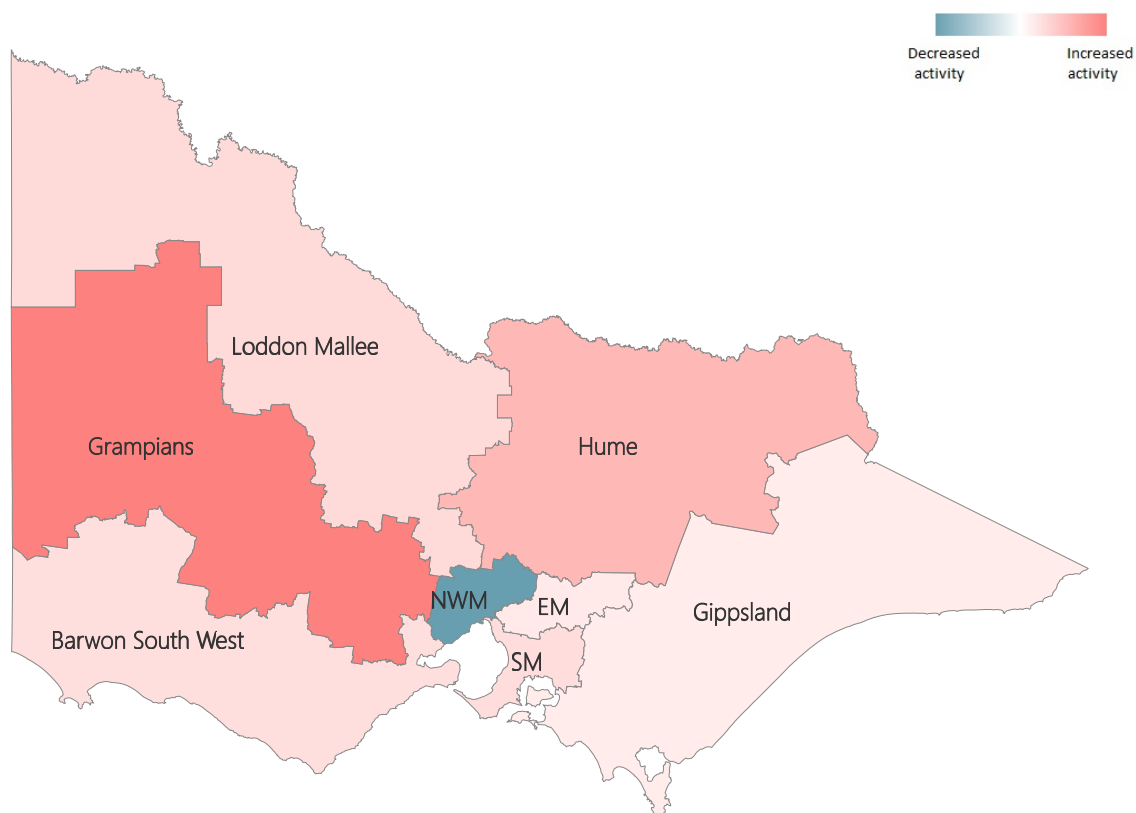
Data are subject to revision.
Release dates vary by dataset.

Influenza Snapshot by region

Report issued: 24/05/2019

Region	Week ending 18/05/2019	Week ending 11/05/2019	Trend	% change	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	5 yr avg YTD (2014-18)	Trend (5 yr avg to 2019 YTD)	% change (5 yr avg to 2019 YTD)
NORTHERN AND WESTERN METROPOLITAN	382	425	▽	-10%	3675	623	426.4	▲	762 %
SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN	306	252	▲	21%	2956	657	449	▲	558 %
EASTERN METROPOLITAN	229	202	▲	13%	2075	540	301.8	▲	588 %
BARWON SOUTH WEST	97	81	▲	20%	801	107	89	▲	800 %
HUME	75	52	▲	44%	357	68	41	▲	771 %
LODDON MALLEE	48	39	▲	23%	434	56	39.6	▲	996 %
GRAMPIANS	41	23	▲	78%	329	58	34.4	▲	856 %
GIPPSLAND	28	25	▲	12%	357	64	53.4	▲	569 %

% Week on week change by region



Data are subject to revision. Release dates vary by dataset.

Weekly Influenza Report - Data sources

<p>Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza</p>	<p>It is a Victorian statutory requirement that pathology services notify the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) of a case of laboratory-confirmed influenza within five days of confirmation. These data are stored in the department's notifiable diseases database, the Public Health Event Surveillance System (PHESS). During influenza season, data on notified cases are reported weekly (a week is defined as Sunday to Saturday). Laboratory reporting is increasing due to the widespread availability of influenza testing. As of 1 September 2018, medical practitioners were no longer required to report influenza.</p>
<p>Respiratory outbreaks reported to the Health Protection Branch</p>	<p>Reporting of respiratory outbreaks in aged care facilities to the department is not legislated, but is encouraged. Samples are not collected and tested for all residents during outbreaks, but if any case tests positive for influenza, the outbreak is deemed to be due to influenza. The cases included in this report are residents who experienced an influenza-like illness during the course of the outbreak, but not all cases, hospitalisations and deaths are necessarily due to laboratory-confirmed influenza.</p>
<p>VicSPIN</p>	<p>The Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network (VicSPIN) is a sentinel general practitioner (GP) surveillance program funded by the department, and coordinated by the Epidemiology Unit of the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) based at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity. VIDRL is one of the department's two public health reference laboratories. Approximately 90 GPs submit weekly reports from May to October detailing the proportion of their consultations that were for patients with influenza-like illness and the proportion that were swabbed for virological testing.</p>
<p>FluCAN</p>	<p>The Influenza Complications Alert Network (FluCAN) is a rapid alert system for severe respiratory illness. The sentinel surveillance system is a national system (across major hospitals throughout Australia) providing both clinical and laboratory information for reported cases. The following four Victorian hospitals are participating: The Alfred Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, and University Hospital Geelong.</p>