

# Victorian Weekly Influenza Report

Health Protection Branch

Report: 27/2019 Issue date: 1 November 2019

**This report comprises data as at: week ending 26 October 2019**

## Summary

- **Notified cases<sup>1</sup>:**
  - Cases in **week ending 26 October** are **LOWER** when compared with cases for the week prior
  - Cases (since 1 January 2019) are tracking over seven times **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: **DECREASING**
  - The predominant influenza type across Victoria is currently: **Type A**
  - National data indicate **A/H3N2 is predominating**
  - Geographical spread<sup>2</sup> is currently: **WIDESPREAD**
  - There were three new respiratory outbreaks due to laboratory-confirmed influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities reported in **week ending 26 October**
  
- **Vaccine distribution figures\*:**
  - Influenza vaccines distributed state-wide: **2,136,813** doses (as at **30 October 2019**)
    - \* includes vaccines distributed as part of Commonwealth and Victorian Immunisation Programs
    - \* excludes vaccines purchased from the private market

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>

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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

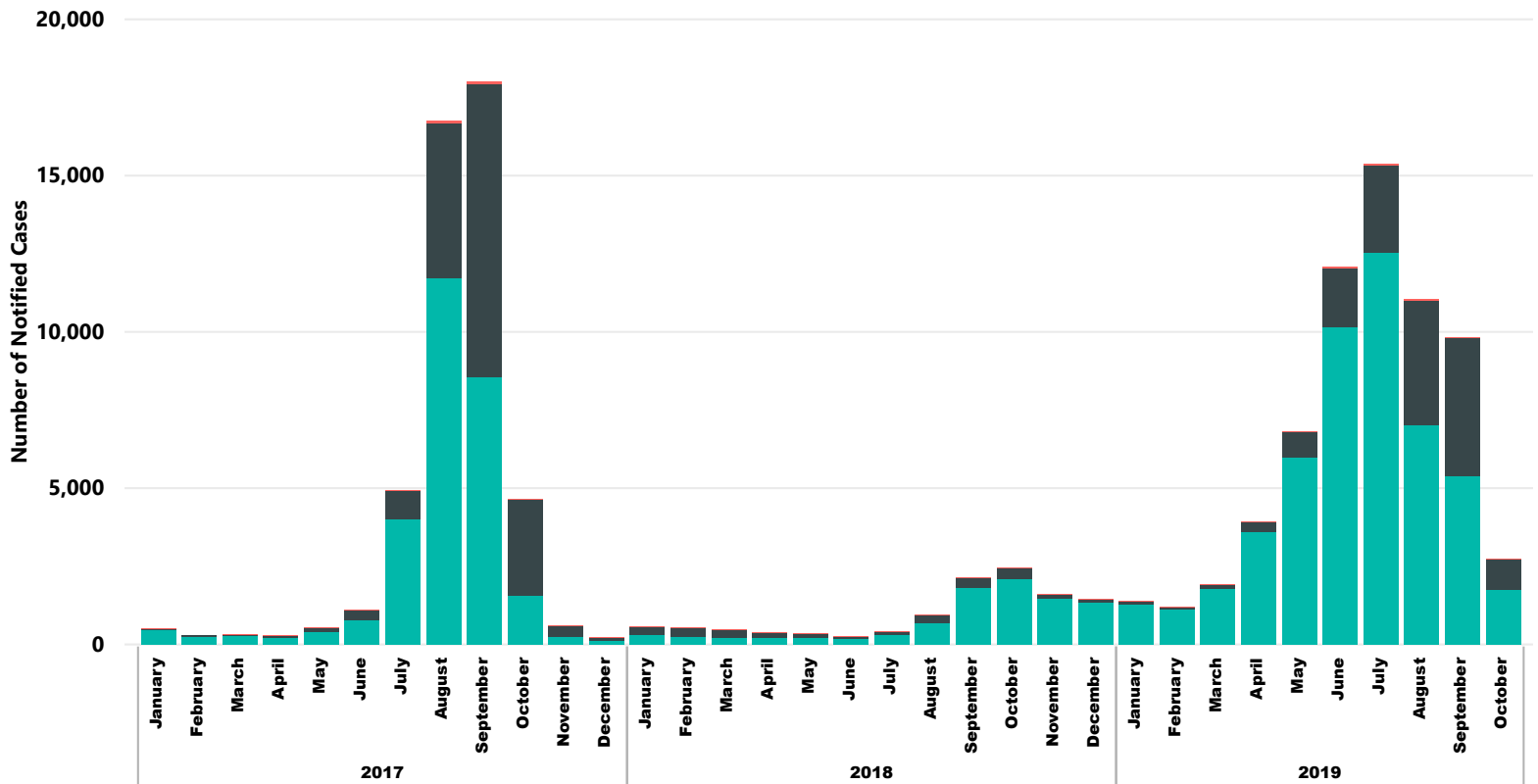
**Localised** – laboratory-confirmed influenza detections above background level in less than 50% of the state

**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

## Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza at week ending: 26/10/2019

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



## Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza as at week ending: 26/10/2019

	Week ending		Year-to-date			January - December	
	26/10/19	19/10/19	2019	2018	2017	2018	2017
<b>Influenza A</b>	313	483	50790	6140	28194	9104	28624
<b>Influenza B</b>	139	238	15521	2109	18827	2343	19341
<b>Other / not typed</b>	0	1	192	146	203	160	235
<b>TOTAL</b>	452 #	722 #	66503 #	8395	47224	11607	48200

# Data from some laboratories incomplete

## Respiratory outbreaks due to influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities year-to-date as at: 26/10/2019

Year-to-date	Outbreaks	Resident cases	Hospitalisations	Deaths **
2019	267	3577	354	137
2018	21	301	36	9
2017	272	3853	457	151

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

Reported deaths which occur during aged care outbreaks may not be due to laboratory-confirmed influenza.



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

SIZE

SIZE / SEVERITY / SPREAD

SPREAD / SEVERITY

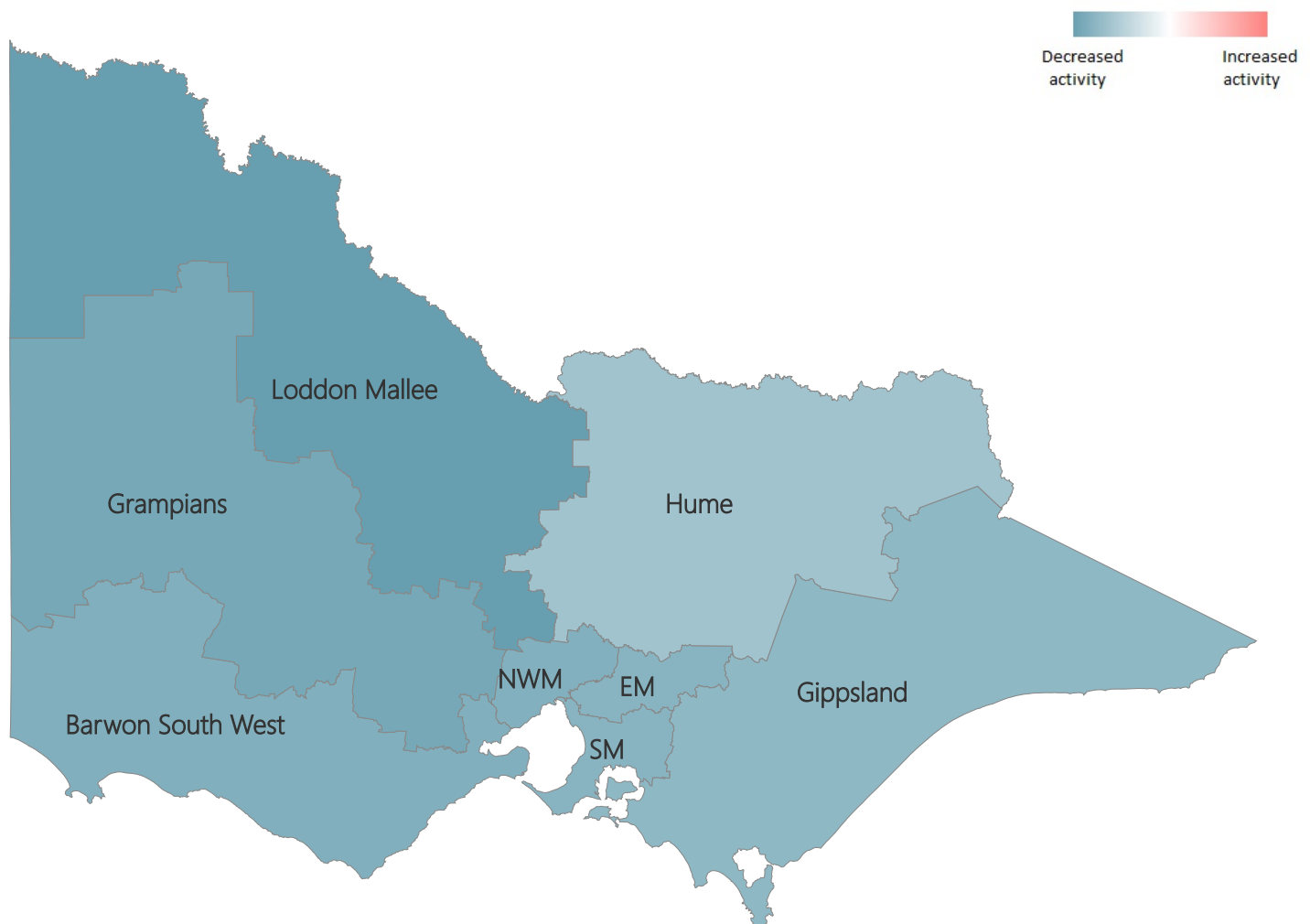
# Influenza Snapshot by region

Report issued: 01/11/2019

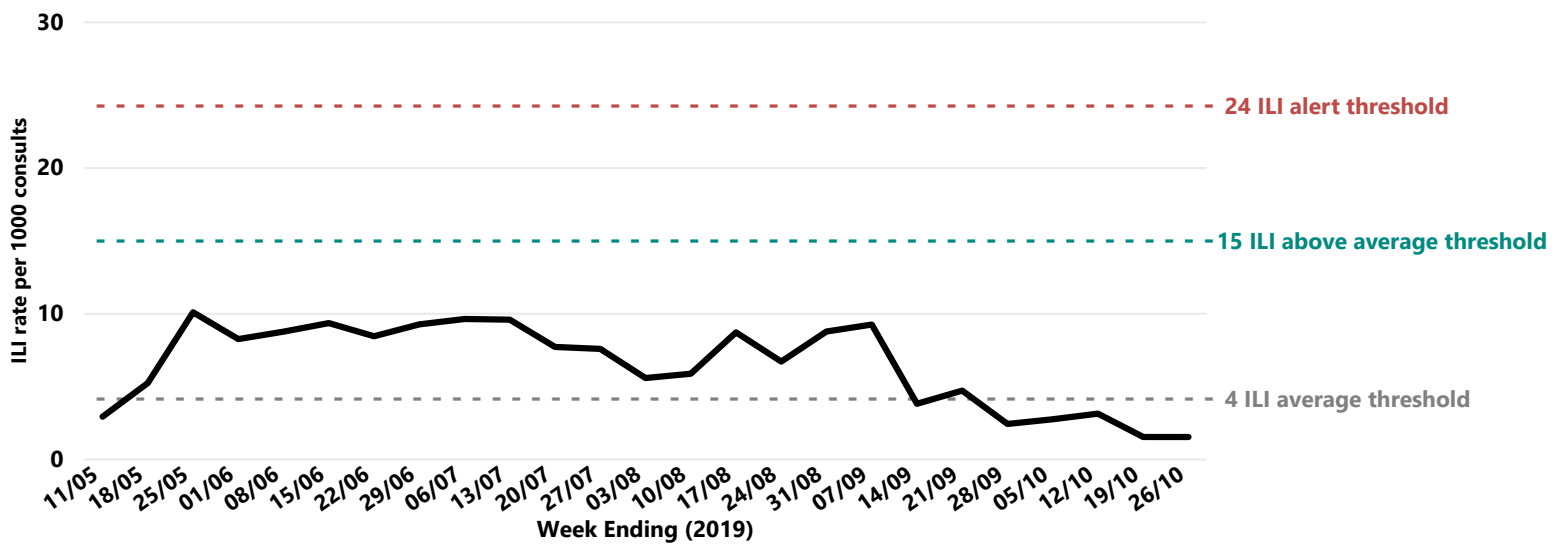
Region	Week ending 26/10/2019	Week ending 19/10/2019	Trend	% change		2019 YTD	2018 YTD	5 yr avg YTD (2014-18)	Trend (5 yr avg to 2019 YTD)	% change (5 yr avg to 2019 YTD)
BARWON SOUTH WEST	7	28	▼	-75%		3382	444	1080.8	▲	213 %
EASTERN METROPOLITAN	34	117	▼	-71%		12472	1521	3540.8	▲	252 %
GIPPSLAND	6	18	▼	-67%		2987	341	915.8	▲	226 %
GRAMPIANS	2	11	▼	-82%		1499	226	472.6	▲	217 %
HUME	11	25	▼	-56%		2891	401	801.4	▲	261 %
LODDON MALLEE	4	41	▼	-90%		2165	322	626.6	▲	246 %
NORTHERN AND WESTERN METROPOLITAN	71	276	▼	-74%		22506	2844	5660.4	▲	298 %
SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN	51	177	▼	-71%		18013	2411	5574	▲	223 %

# Data from some laboratories incomplete

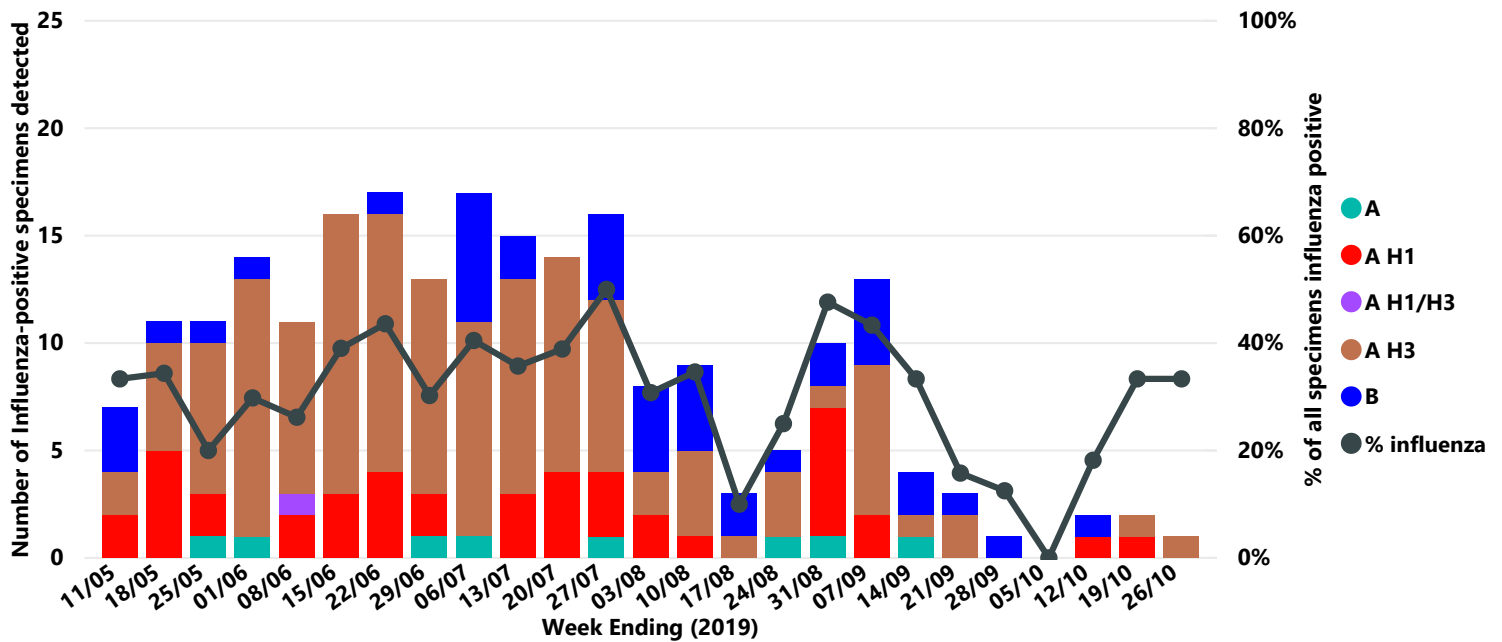
% Week on week change by region



VicSPIN Sentinel GP Consultations rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients) as at : 26/10/2019



VicSPIN Sentinel GP influenza types as at : 26/10/2019



SIZE / SEVERITY / SPREAD

FluCAN sentinel hospital admissions for laboratory-confirmed influenza as at: 26/10/2019

Laboratory-confirmed influenza admissions from 1 April						
	2019		2018		2017	
	year-to-date	ICU %	year-to-date	ICU %	year-to-date	ICU %
Adult #	959	5.6	185	9.7	1,029	10.9
Paediatric #	700	10.1	127	7.1	--	--

# Data from some sites incomplete



SEVERITY

## Weekly Influenza Report - Data sources

<p><b>Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza</b></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><b>Respiratory outbreaks reported to the Health Protection Branch</b></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><b>VicSPIN</b></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. Refer to <a href="https://www.vidrl.org.au/surveillance/influenza-surveillance/">https://www.vidrl.org.au/surveillance/influenza-surveillance/</a> for full weekly reports.</p>
<p><b>FluCAN</b></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 six Victorian hospitals are participating: The Alfred Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, University Hospital Geelong, Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital</p>