

# Victorian Weekly Influenza Report

Health Protection Branch

Report: 1/2019 Issue date: 01 May 2019

**This report comprises data as at: week ending 20 April 2019 (week 16)**

## Summary

- **Notified cases<sup>1</sup>:**

- Cases in **Week 16** are **HIGHER** when compared with cases for the previous week
- 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 as a result of unprecedented inter-seasonal activity
- The influenza season (since 1 April 2019) is currently: **on the UPSLOPE**
- The predominant influenza type across the state is currently: **Type A/H1N1**
- Nationally, the predominating influenza type is: **Type A**, with roughly equal numbers of subtypes **A/H1N1** and **A/H3N2** circulating.
- 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 16**

- **Vaccine distribution figures\*:**

Number of influenza vaccine doses distributed state-wide: **1,270,000** (as at **1 May 2019**)

*\*excludes vaccines purchased from the private market, workplace programs, etc.*

Notifiable disease reports are available 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, only pathology services are required to report influenza to the department.

Clinical information, including number of deaths, is no longer available from the notifications dataset.

2. Definitions of 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;

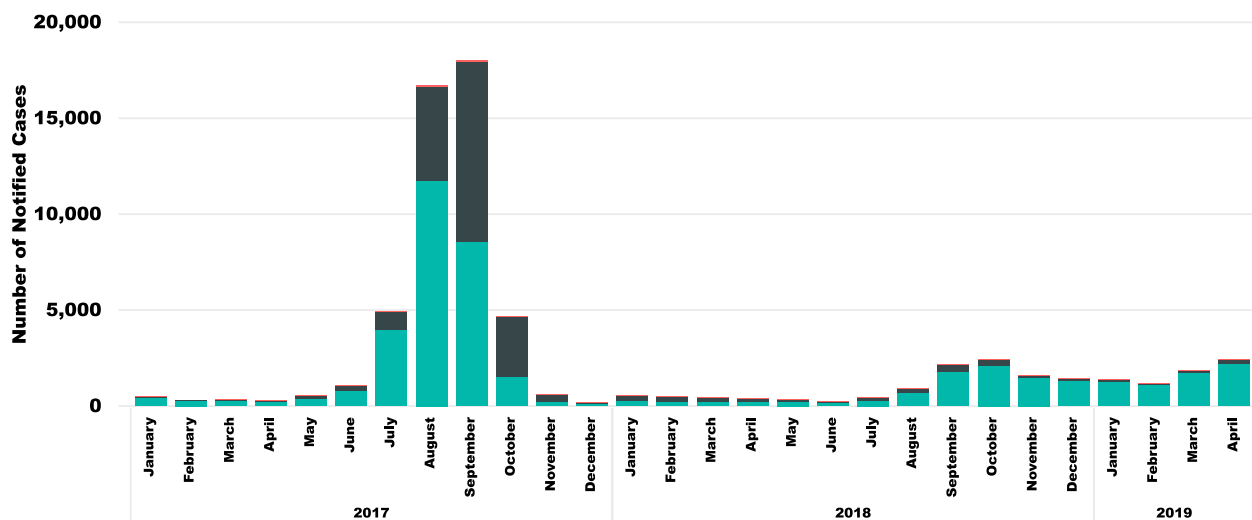
**Widespread** – significant numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported above background level in equal to or greater than 50% of the state.

# Victorian Influenza Snapshot

Report issued: 01/05/2019

## Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza at week ending: 20/04/2019

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



SIZE

SEVERITY

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

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

## Notified cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza as at week ending: 20/04/2019

Age group (years)	Week ending 20/04/2019	Week ending 13/04/2019	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	112	56	▲	100%	623	124	73.8	▲	744 %
05 to 14	164	109	▲	50%	780	124	65.2	▲	1096 %
15 to 64	525	351	▲	50%	4163	1186	687	▲	506 %
65+	142	152	▽	-7%	1322	432	280.8	▲	371 %
Total	943	668	▲	41%	6888	1866	1106.8	▲	522 %

SIZE / SEVERITY / SPREAD

## Respiratory outbreaks due to influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities YTD as at: 20/04/2019

Year-to-date	Outbreaks influenza	Resident cases influenza	Hospitalisations influenza	Deaths influenza
▲				
2017	4	38	2	0
2018	5	59	5	0
2019	23	298	41	17

SPREAD / SEVERITY



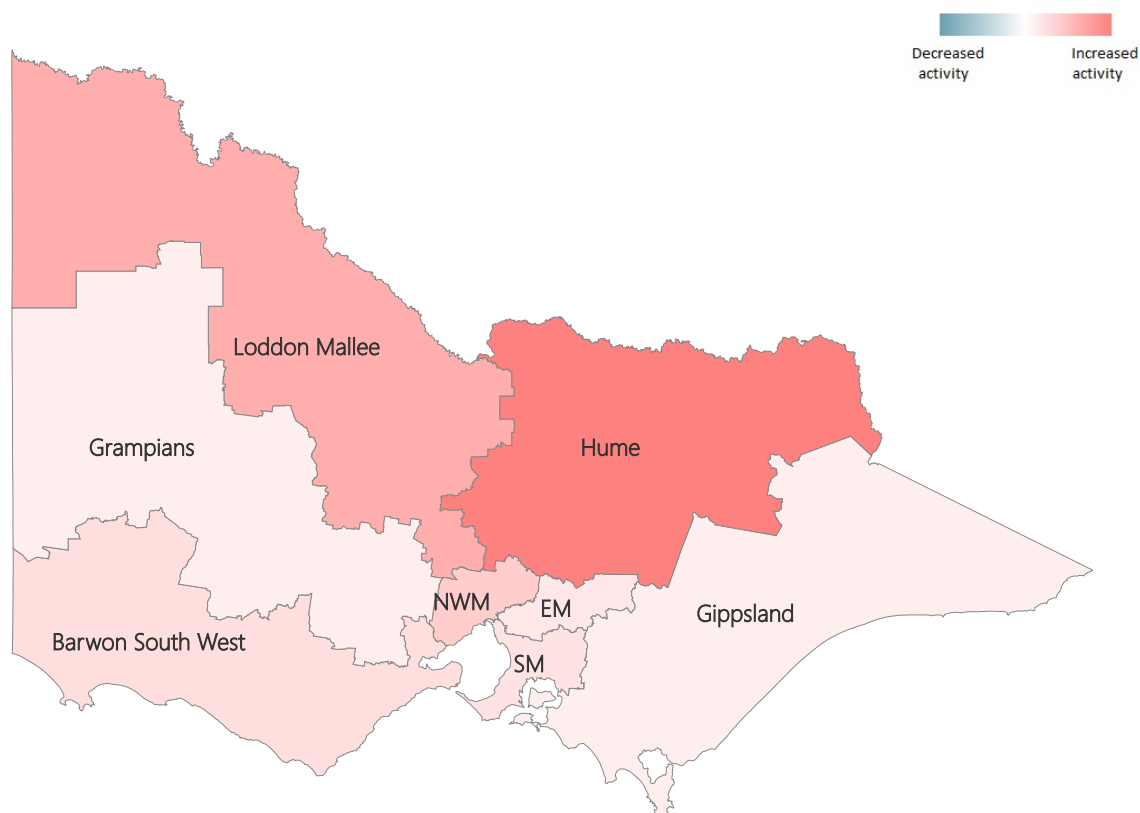
Data are subject to revision.  
Release dates vary by dataset.

# Influenza Snapshot by region

Report issued: 01/05/2019

Region	Week ending 20/04/2019	Week ending 13/04/2019	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)
<b>NORTHERN AND WESTERN METROPOLITAN</b>	309	197	▲	57%	2257	514	326.6	▲	591 %
<b>SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN</b>	256	193	▲	33%	1880	554	346.4	▲	443 %
<b>EASTERN METROPOLITAN</b>	168	132	▲	27%	1280	474	229.8	▲	457 %
<b>BARWON SOUTH WEST</b>	59	43	▲	37%	501	98	62.8	▲	698 %
<b>GIPPSLAND</b>	50	42	▲	19%	262	54	37	▲	608 %
<b>LODDON MALLEE</b>	48	25	▲	92%	265	50	34	▲	679 %
<b>GRAMPIANS</b>	25	21	▲	19%	199	45	25.2	▲	690 %
<b>HUME</b>	22	9	▲	144%	183	56	32	▲	472 %

% Week on week change by region



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

## 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 notified to the Health Protection Branch</b></p>	<p>A subset of the notifications dataset, respiratory outbreaks in residential aged care facilities are reported on a weekly basis. Only outbreaks due to influenza will be reported in 2019. As samples are not collected and tested for all residents during a respiratory outbreak, not all cases, hospitalisations and deaths are 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.</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 four Victorian hospitals are participating: The Alfred Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, and University Hospital Geelong.</p>