

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 2, 2019

Summary: Influenza notifications have continued to increase in the last fortnight, indicating that the 2019 influenza season has begun. This is the earliest start to an influenza season compared to the previous ten years. Influenza A has been detected in 91% of notifications so far in 2019, with a mix of A/H1 and A/H3 circulating. The majority of notifications have been among adults aged 20-65 years.

Influenza notifications

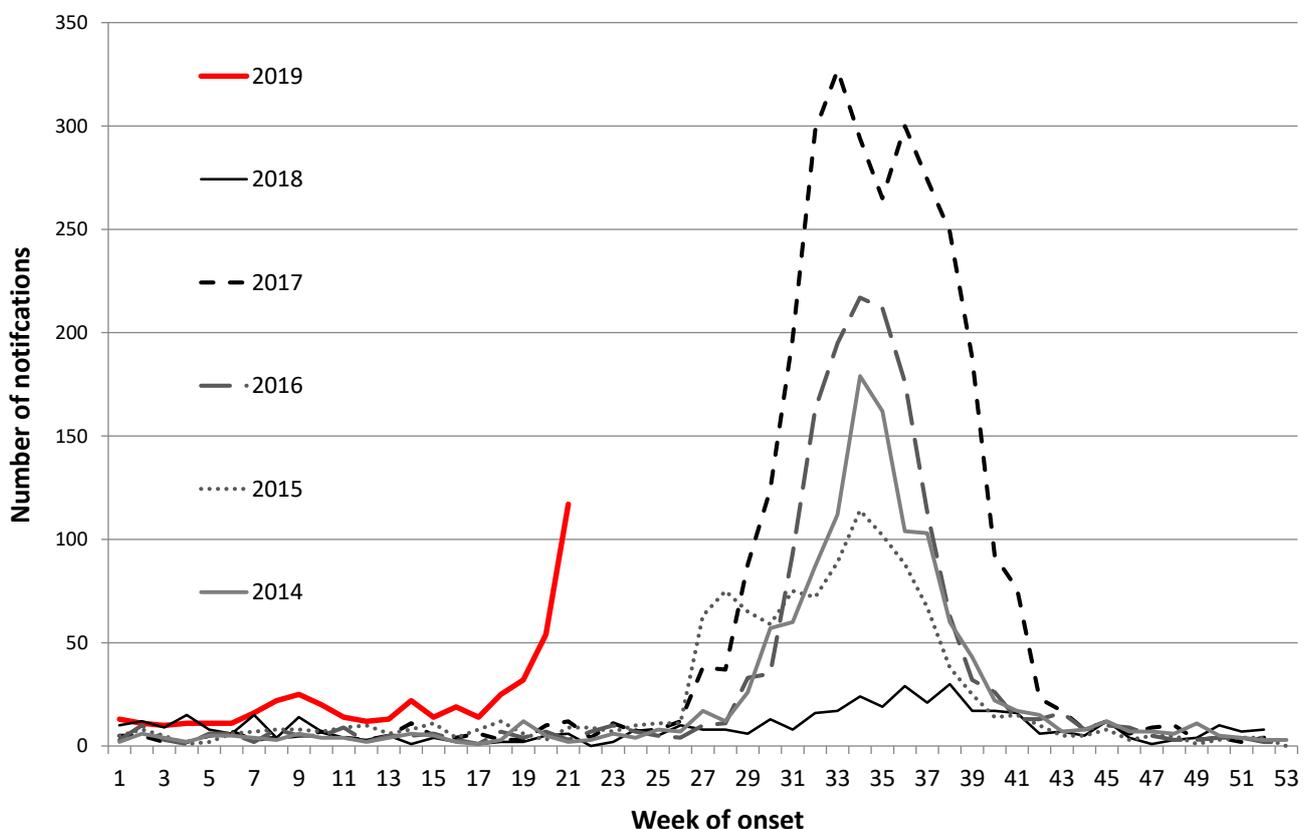
Reporting Period: 1 January to 26 May 2019, Weeks 1-21

Between 1 January and 26 May 2019, there were 486 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 171 of these notifications occurring in the last fortnight (Figure). In comparison, there were 135 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health during the same time period in 2018. Influenza notifications have continued to increase in the last fortnight, which indicates that the 2019 influenza season has begun.

Year to date, 91% (n=443) of notifications were influenza A and 8% (n=39) were influenza B. There have been four notifications of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 136 influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 74 (54%) were H1N1 and 62 (46%) were H3 (presumed H3N2).

Overall, notifications have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (61%, n=297). Of notifications received in 2019, 10% (n=49) have been in children aged 0-4 years and 13% (n=64) have been in adults aged 65 years and over.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 26 May 2019, ACT.



**Data provided for the current and most recent weeks may be incomplete. All data are preliminary and subject to change as updates are received. Notification data include all cases of influenza diagnosed by a laboratory among residents of the ACT. Generally, notified cases represent only a small proportion of cases of influenza occurring in the community.*

Notification data were exported on 28 May 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 26 May 2019, by onset date.

Source: Notifiable Diseases Database, ACT, Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT Health.