



## ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 8, 2019

**Summary:** Influenza notifications remained high in week 27, with influenza B continuing to account for 23% of notifications in the last week. Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier than any season in the previous five years, the current level of activity is not unusual when compared to previous seasons.

### Influenza notifications

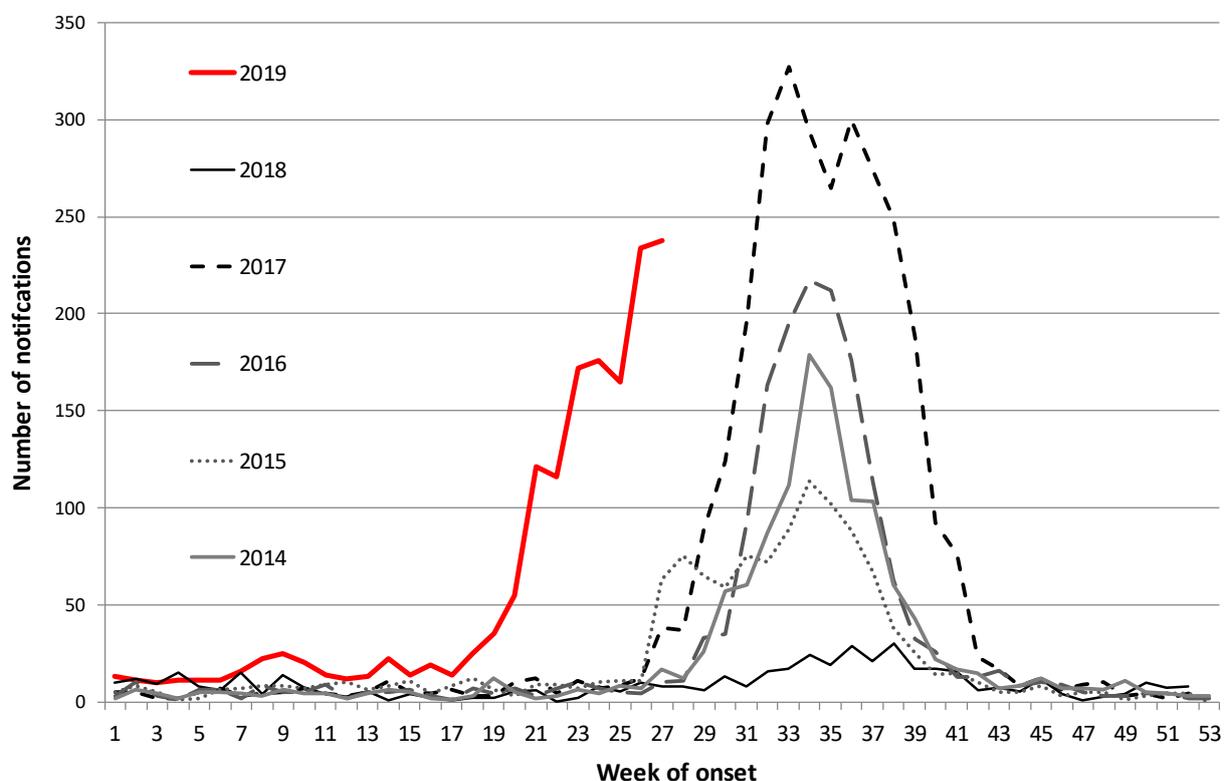
*Reporting Period: 1 January to 7 July 2019, Weeks 1-27*

Influenza notifications remained high in the last week (Figure). Between 1 January and 7 July 2019, there were 1,595 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 238 (15%) of these notifications occurring in the last week (Figure). Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier than any season in the previous five years, the current level of activity is not unusual when compared to previous seasons. In 2017, there were a total of 3,098 influenza notifications reported, and activity peaked at 327 notifications in one week (reporting week 33).

The proportion of influenza B notifications has remained reasonably stable, with 23% of notifications in week 27 recorded as influenza B. Year to date, 82% (n=1,310) of notifications were influenza A and 16% (n=262) were influenza B. There have been 23 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 217 (17%) influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 99 (46%) were A/H1 and 118 (54%) were A/H3. In the last fortnight, A/H3 has been more commonly detected than A/H1.

In 2019, notification numbers overall have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (52%, n=835), with only 11% (n=174) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 13% (n=211) among adults 65 years and over.

**Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 7 July 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 9 July 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 7 July 2019, by onset date.

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