

## ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 1, 2019

**Summary:** Influenza notifications have fluctuated above background levels since the beginning of 2019, however activity has increased in the last fortnight, which may signal that the 2019 influenza season has begun.

Influenza A has been detected in 93% 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

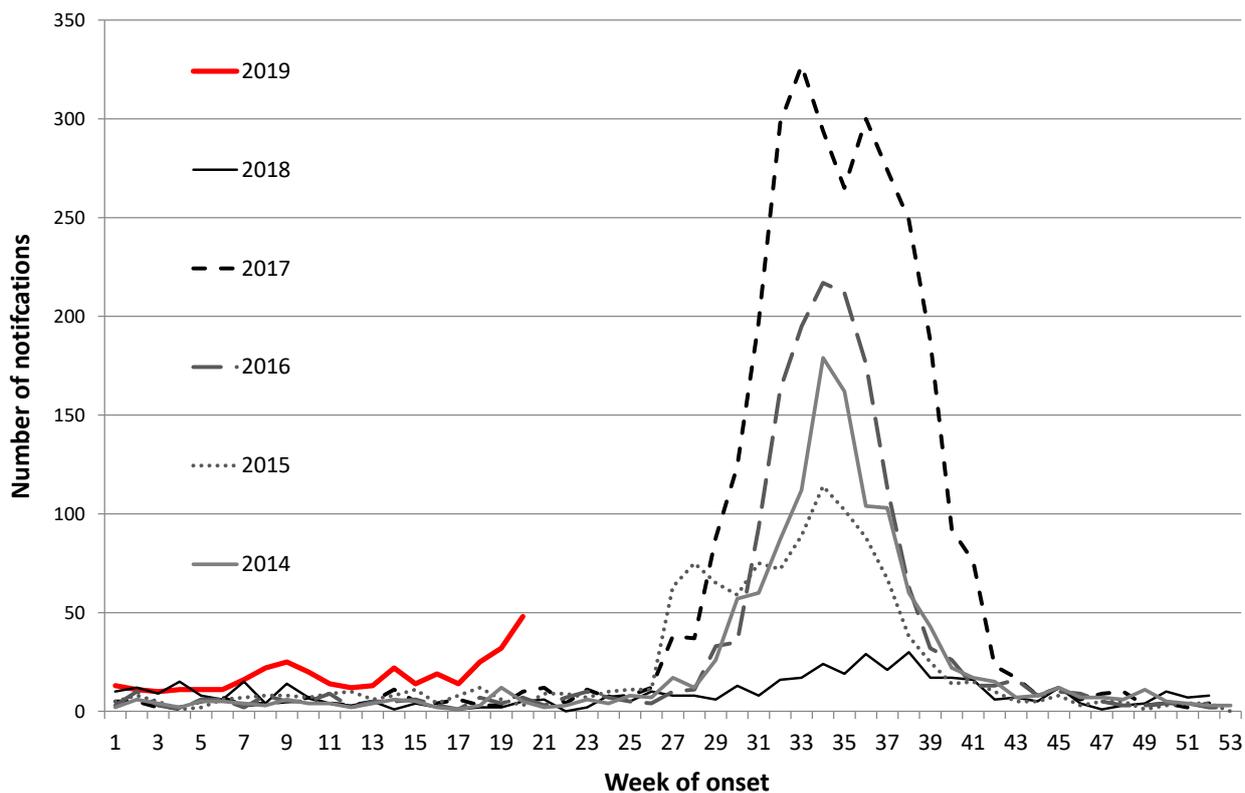
*Reporting Period: 1 January to 19 May 2019, Weeks 1-21*

Between 1 January and 19 May 2019, there were 363 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 80 of these notifications occurring in the last fortnight (Figure). Influenza notifications have fluctuated just above the usual background (inter-seasonal) levels since the beginning of 2019, but numbers have increased in the last fortnight, which may signal the beginning of the 2019 influenza season. In comparison, there were 129 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health during the same time period in 2018.

Year to date, 93% (n=338) of notifications were influenza A and 7% (n=24) were influenza B. There has been one notification of a case co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 114 influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 60 (53%) were H1N1 and 54 (47%) were H3 (presumed H3N2).

Overall, notifications have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (62%, n=225). Of notifications received in 2019, 9% (n=33) have been in children aged 0-4 years and 15% (n=54) have been in adults aged 65 years and over.

**Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 19 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 diagnosed in the ACT in 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 21 May 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 19 May 2019, by onset date.

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