



ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 12, 2019

Summary: Influenza notifications have increased in week 31, however it is too early to predict if notification numbers will continue to rise in the coming weeks. Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier, the activity observed in 2019 is consistent with activity seen in previous influenza seasons.

Influenza notifications

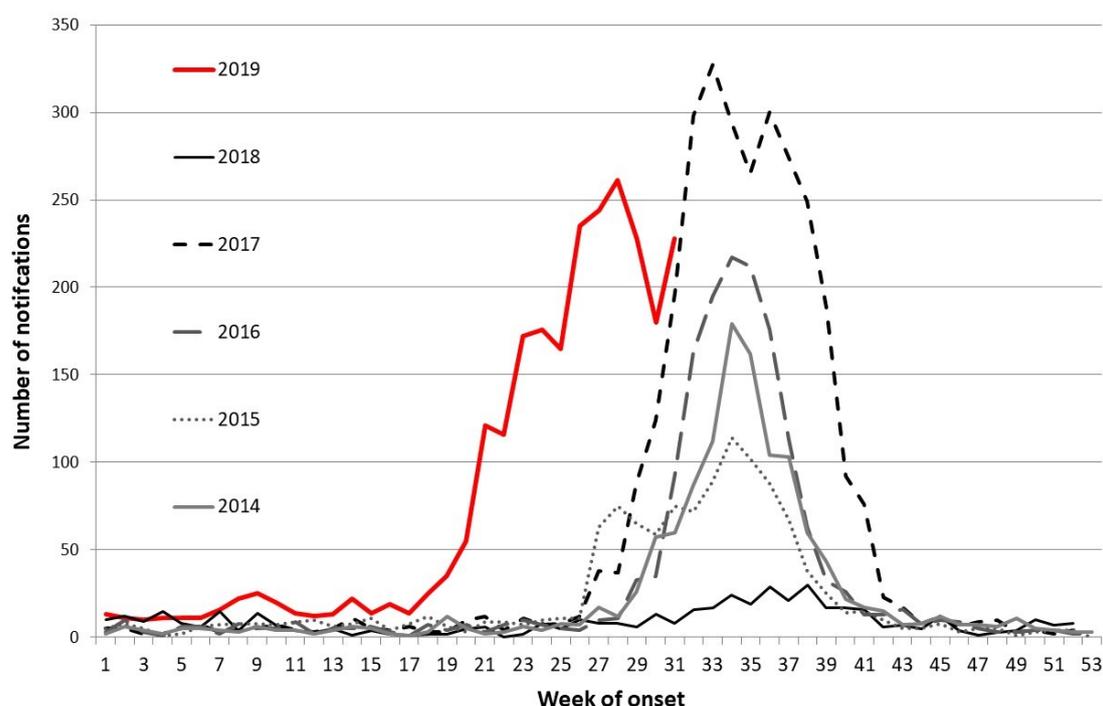
Reporting Period: 1 January to 4 August 2019, Weeks 1-31

Influenza notifications have increased in the last week (Figure), however it is too early to predict if notification numbers will continue to rise (or decline) in the coming weeks. Between 1 January and 4 August 2019, there were 2,499 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 228 (9%) of these notifications occurring in the last week (Figure). Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier, the activity observed in 2019 is consistent with activity seen in previous influenza 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 continued to remain steady over the last few weeks, with 20% of notifications in week 31 recorded as influenza B. Year to date, 80% (n=2,004) of notifications were influenza A and 18% (n=461) were influenza B. There have been 34 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 280 (14%) influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 109 (39%) were A/H1 and 171 (61%) were A/H3. Although the number of samples being subtyped is low, influenza A/H3 continues to be detected more frequently than A/H1.

In 2019, notification numbers overall have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (51%, n=1,284), with only 12% (n=297) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 14% (n=354) among adults 65 years and over.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 4 August 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 6 August 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 4 August 2019, by onset date.

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