

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 1, 2020

Summary: Following a high number of influenza notifications in the inter-seasonal period, notifications dropped around mid-March 2020. Despite increased testing, there have been no cases notified with onset in the last fortnight. This likely indicates a decrease in influenza activity due to the COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions. Influenza A has been detected in 90% of notifications so far in 2020, with a mix of A/H1 and A/H3 circulating. The majority of notifications have been among adults aged 20-65 years.

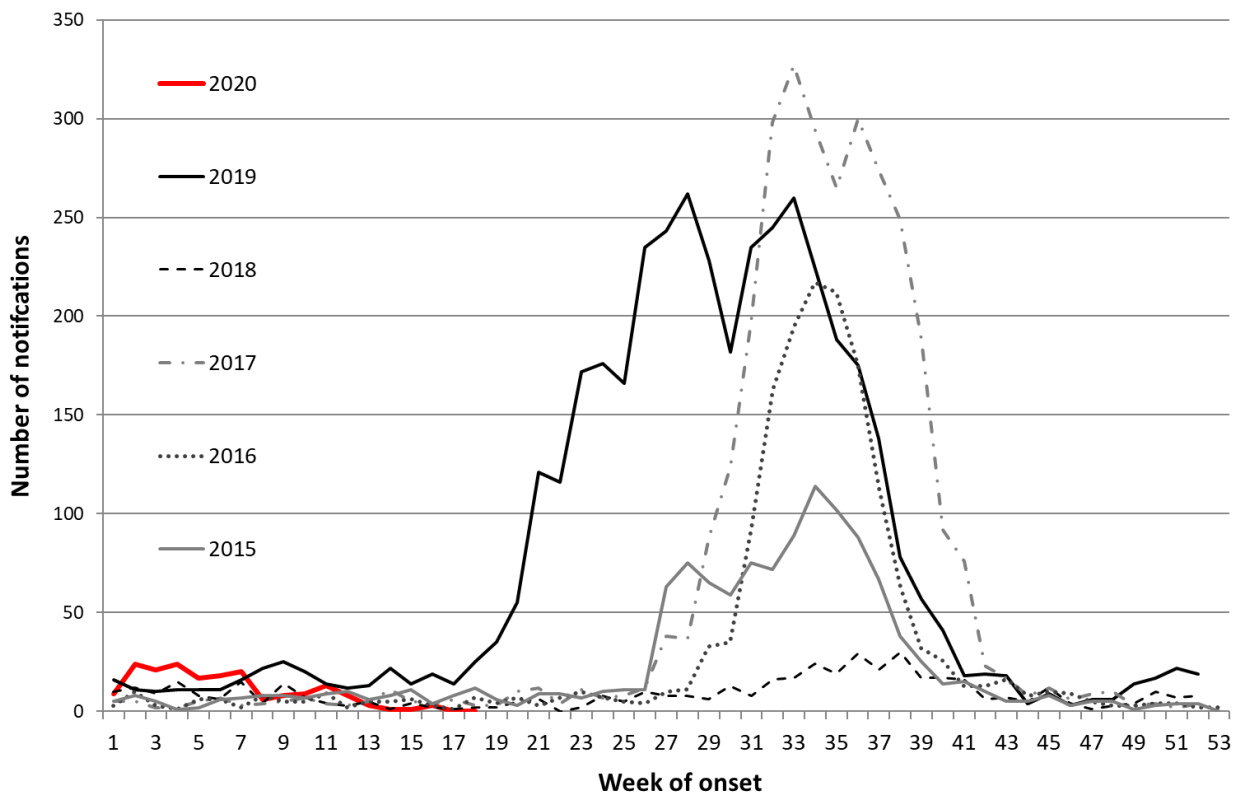
Influenza notifications

Reporting Period: 1 January to 3 May 2020, Weeks 1-18

Between 1 January and 3 May 2020, there were 183 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with none of these notifications occurring in the last fortnight (Figure). In comparison, there were 286 notifications of influenza reported during the same time period in 2019. Influenza notifications were above the usual background (inter-seasonal) levels from the beginning of 2020 until mid-March, when numbers dropped. In the context of markedly increased influenza testing, this likely reflects reduced influenza activity due to the physical distancing restrictions associated with the COVID-19 response.

Year to date, 90% (n=166) of notifications were influenza A and 10% (n=19) were influenza B7. Of the 51 influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 42 (82%) were H1 and nine (18%) were H3. Overall, notifications have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (63%, n=116). Of notifications received in 2019, 12% (n=22) have been in children aged 0-4 years and 11% (n=22) have been in adults aged 65 years and over.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 3 May 2020, 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 5 May 2020 for the period 1 January 2014 to 3 May 2020, by onset date.

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