

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 1, 2022

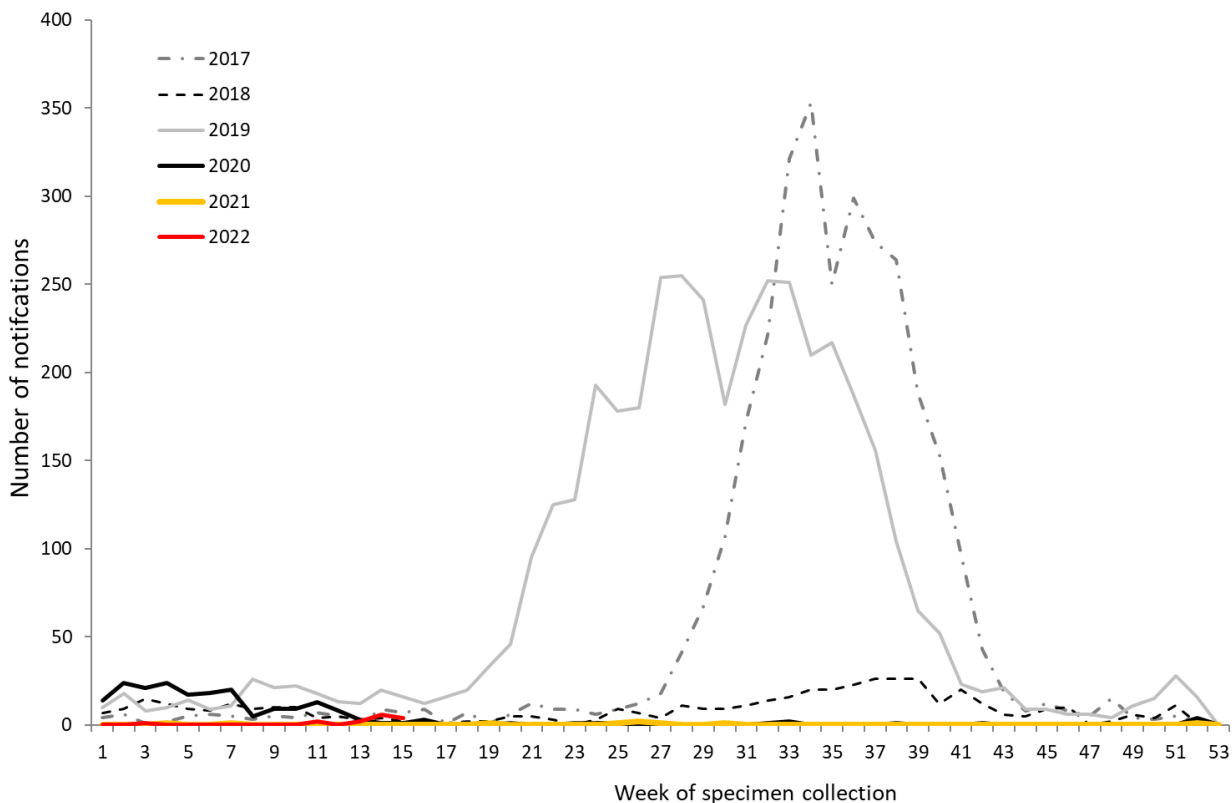
Summary: Influenza notifications remained at a historic low in the ACT during the first quarter of 2022. However, activity has increased slightly in the last fortnight. Subtype A/H3 appears to be the predominant circulating strain.

Reporting Period: 1 January to 17 April 2022

Between 1 January and 17 April 2022 there were 15 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza made to ACT Health (Figure). In contrast, two (2) and 228 cases were notified over the same period in 2021 and 2019, respectively. Ten (10) cases were notified in the last fortnight.

Most (14/15) cases notified so far in 2022 have been influenza A. Four (4) of these had subtype information available, and all were H3. Twenty percent of cases (3/15) were aged 65 years or older, a further 20% were aged between 10 and 19 years, and the remaining 60% were aged between 20 and 64 years.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of specimen collection, 1 January 2017 to 17 April 2022, 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 residents of the ACT. Generally, notified cases represent only a small proportion of cases of influenza occurring in the community. From 01/01/2022, the laboratory-confirmed influenza case definition excludes those identified by single high antibody titre. This change has minimal impact on the interpretation of influenza notification trends. Notification data were exported from the ACT Notifiable Disease Management System for the period 1 January 2017 to 17 April 2022, by date of specimen collection.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interpretation of 2020-2022 influenza notification data should consider: the impact of travel restrictions, quarantine, and social distancing measures; likely changes in health seeking behaviour of the community; and focussed testing for COVID-19 response activities.