

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 10, 2022

Summary: Influenza notifications are steady since the last report. Subtype A/H3 appears to be the predominant circulating strain. So far this season, notification rates have been highest among people in the 5-9 year and 10-19 year age groups, consistent with the national picture.

Reporting Period: 1 January to 19 June 2022

Between 1 January and 19 June 2022 there were 1,383 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza made to ACT Health (Figure), and 195 cases had their specimens collected in the week to 19 June 2022.

Almost all (1381/1383) cases notified so far in 2022 have been influenza A. Of the 312 with subtype information available, 255 (82%) were A/H3 and 57 cases were A/H1. Overall, notification rates have been highest for the 5-9 year and 10-19 year age groups (Table).

Figure: Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of specimen collection, 1 January 2017 to 19 June 2022, ACT.

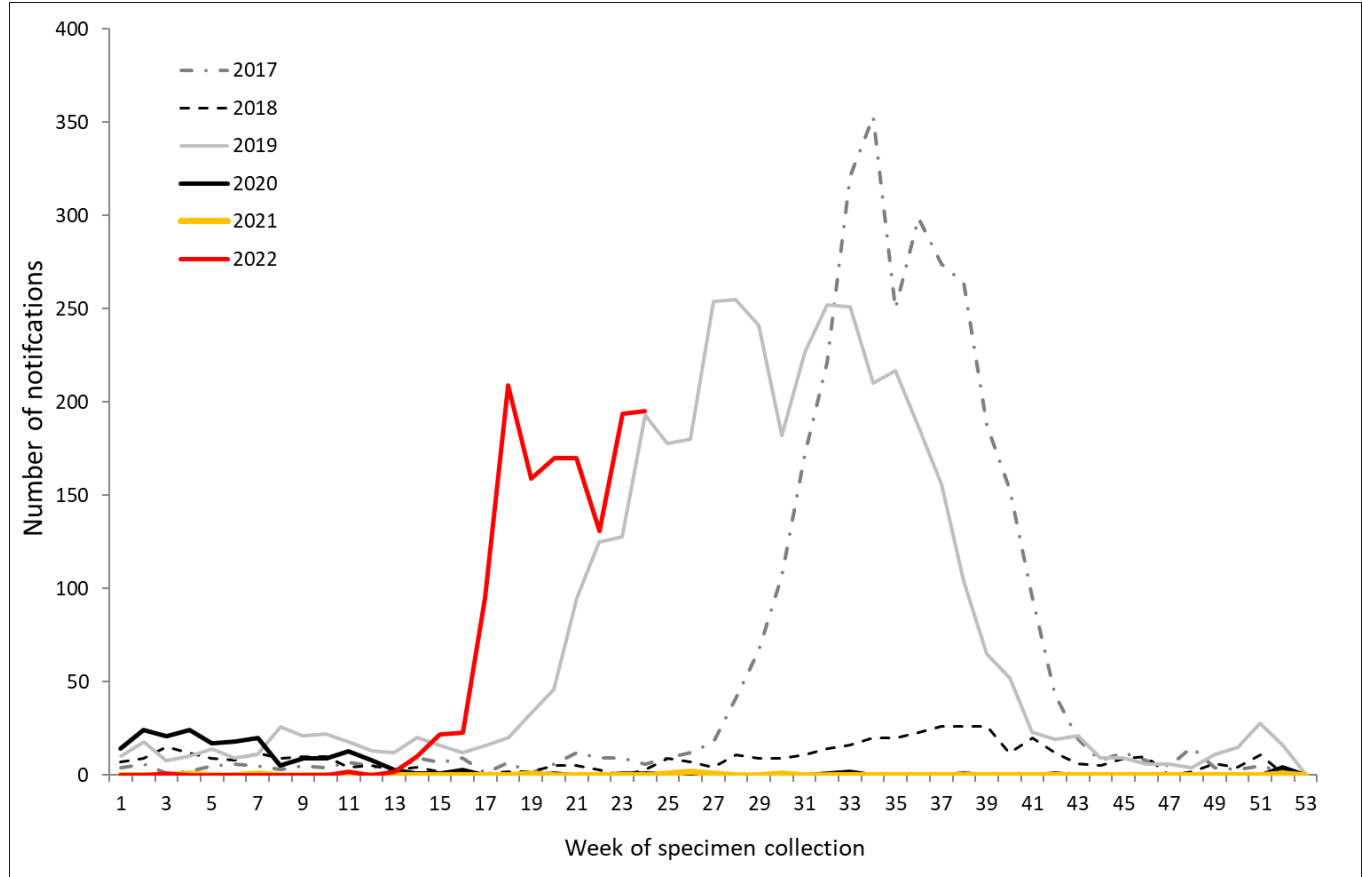


Table: Number and proportion of influenza notifications by age group 1 January 2022 to 19 June 2022, ACT.

| Age Group | Number of notifications | Proportion of notifications | Rate (notifications per 100,000 age-specific population) |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 0-4 years | 140 | 10% | 516.1 |
| 5-9 years | 180 | 13% | 1058.4 |
| 10-19 years | 371 | 27% | 737.1 |
| 20-64 years | 598 | 43% | 225.3 |
| 65 years and over | 94 | 7% | 157.5 |
| Total | 1383 | 100% | 329.6 |

Data Caveats

- 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.
- 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.
- Notification data were exported on 21 June 2022 from the ACT Notifiable Disease Management System for the period 1 January 2017 to 12 June 2022, by date of specimen collection. Rates are calculated using ABS resident population estimates for September 2021.