ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 14, 2019

Summary: Influenza notifications have remained high, with a slight increase in the last week (week 33). The proportion of influenza B notifications has continued to increase in the last week, with 36% of notifications in week 33 recorded as influenza B, compared with 32% in week 32 and 20% in week 31.

Influenza notifications

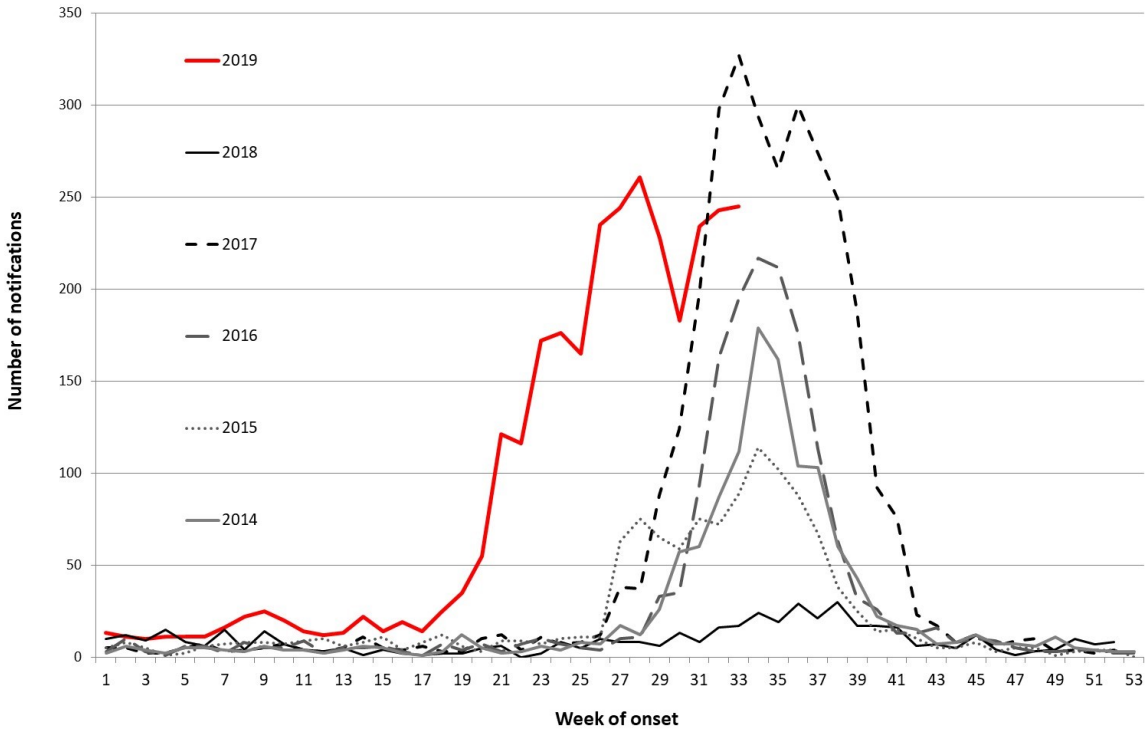
Reporting Period: 1 January to 18 August 2019, Weeks 1-33

Influenza notifications have remained high, with a slight increase in the last week (Figure). Between 1 January and 18 August 2019, there were 2,996 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 245 (8%) of these notifications occurring in the last week (Figure). Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier, the activity observed in 2019 is similar to activity seen in the 2017 influenza season. 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 increase in the last week, with 36% of notifications in week 33 recorded as influenza B (compared with 32% in week 32 and 20% in week 31). Year to date, 78% (n=2,334) of notifications were influenza A and 21% (n=627) were influenza B. There have been 35 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 300 (13%) influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 110 (37%) were A/H1 and 190 (63%) 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 (50%, n=1,512), with only 12% (n=365) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 14% (n=420) among adults 65 years and over.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 18 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 20 August 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 18 August 2019, by onset date.

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