

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 2, 2021

Summary: Influenza activity remains at a historic low in the ACT, with no cases notified in the last two weeks.

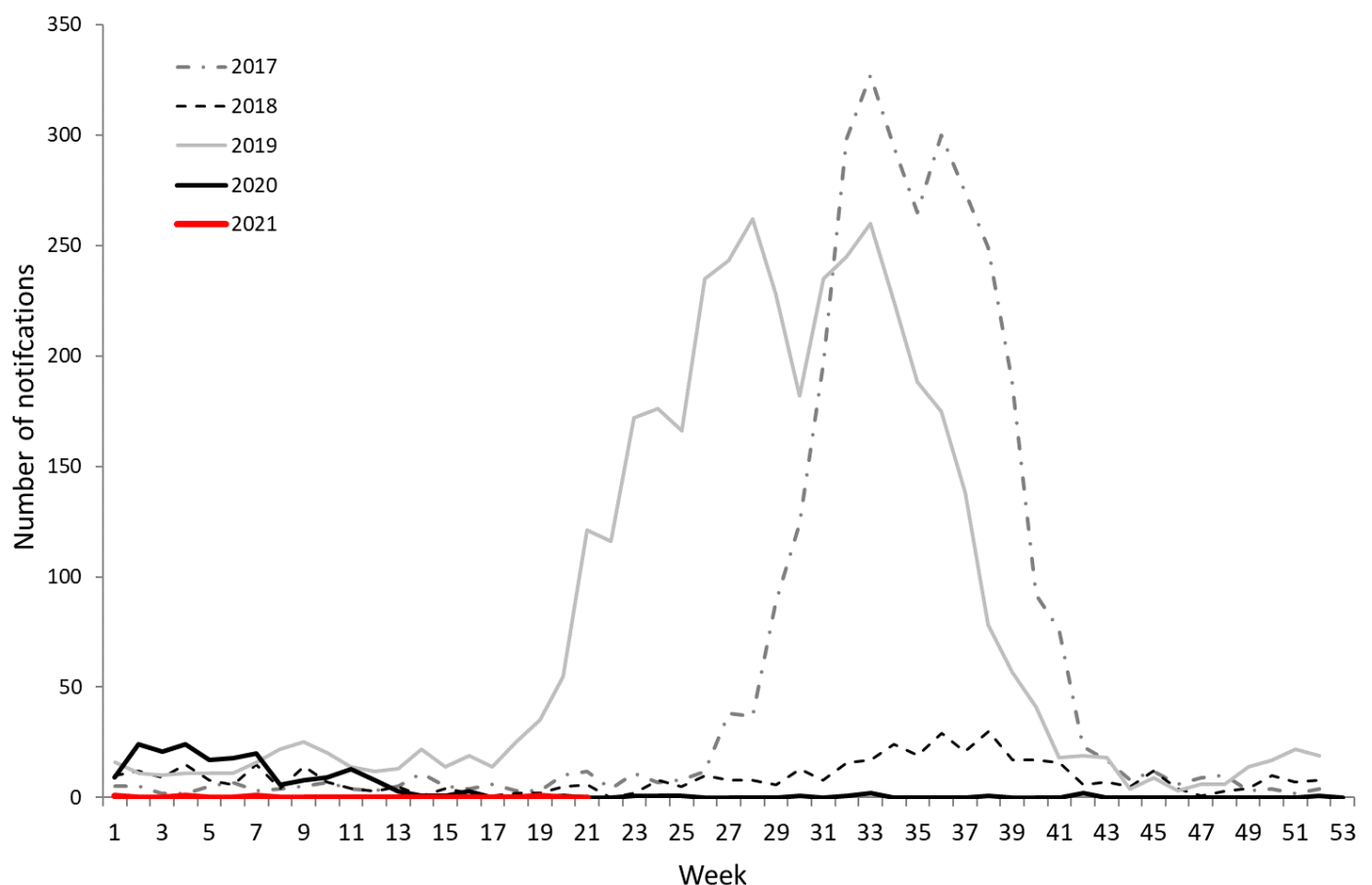
Influenza notifications

Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 May 2021

Between 1 January and 30 May 2021 there were four notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza made to ACT Health (Figure). In contrast, 186 and 497 cases were notified over the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Three of the four 2021 notifications were received in the first 7 weeks of the year (two detected by PCR, one by serology), and one was received in May (serology – single high titre).

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of notification, 1 January 2017 to 30 May 2021, 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.*

Notification data were exported on 31 May 2021 for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 May 2021, by notification date.

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

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic in Australia, interpretation of 2020-21 influenza activity 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. Current COVID-19 related public health measures and the community's adherence to public health messages may also be influencing transmission of acute respiratory infections, including influenza.