

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 2, 2022

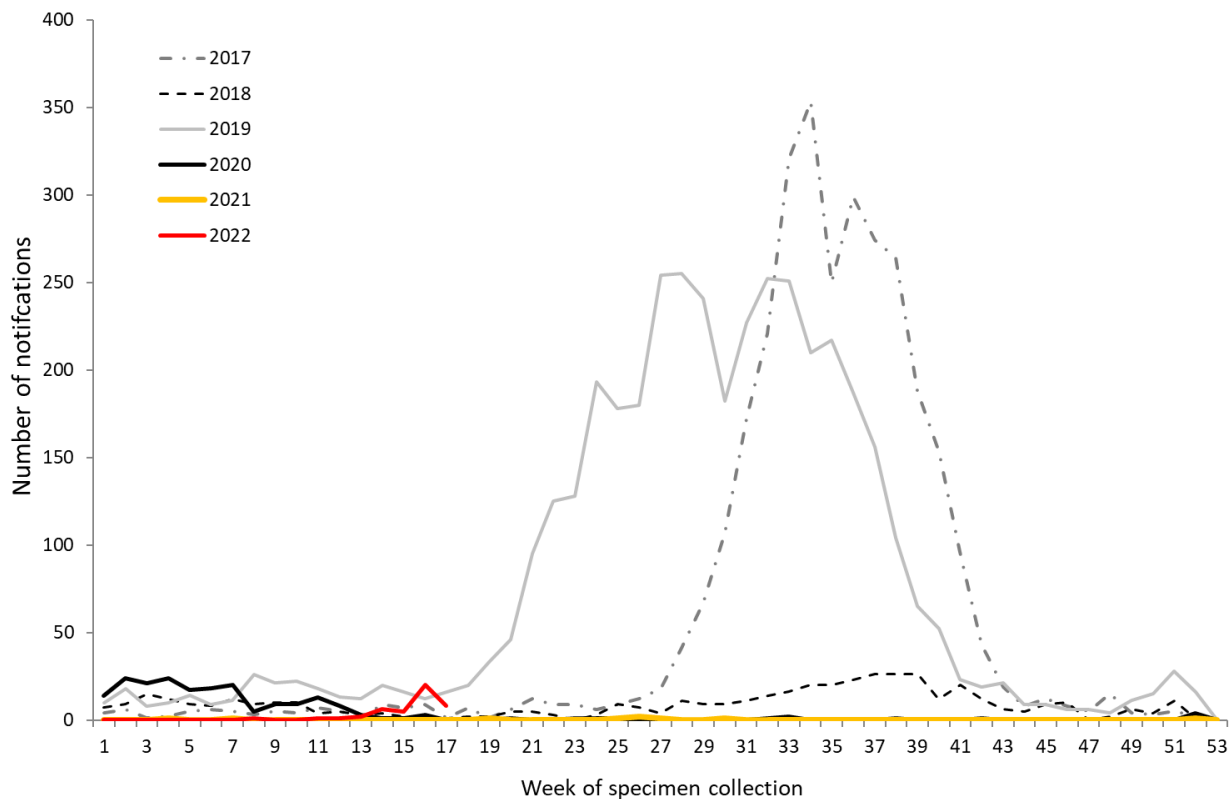
Summary: Influenza, activity has increased markedly in the last fortnight. Subtype A/H3 appears to be the predominant circulating strain.

Reporting Period: 1 January to 24 April 2022

Between 1 January and 24 April 2022 there were 44 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza made to ACT Health (Figure). In contrast, 17 and 256 cases were notified over the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively. Twenty-eight (28) cases were notified in the last fortnight.

Almost all (43/44) cases notified so far in 2022 have been influenza A. Fourteen (14) of these had subtype information available, and 13 were A/H3 and one case (notified in the last fortnight) was A/H1. Nearly 60% of cases (26/44) were aged between 20 and 64 years, 7% were aged under 5 years, and 11% were aged over 65 years.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of specimen collection, 1 January 2017 to 24 April 2022, ACT.



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.
- 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.
- 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 on 28 April 2022 from the ACT Notifiable Disease Management System for the period 1 January 2017 to 24 April 2022, by date of specimen collection.