



ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 10, 2019

Summary: Influenza notifications remained high but decreased in week 29 compared to week 28. It is too early to predict if notification numbers will continue to decline in the coming weeks. Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier, the activity observed in 2019 is consistent with activity seen in previous influenza seasons.

Influenza notifications

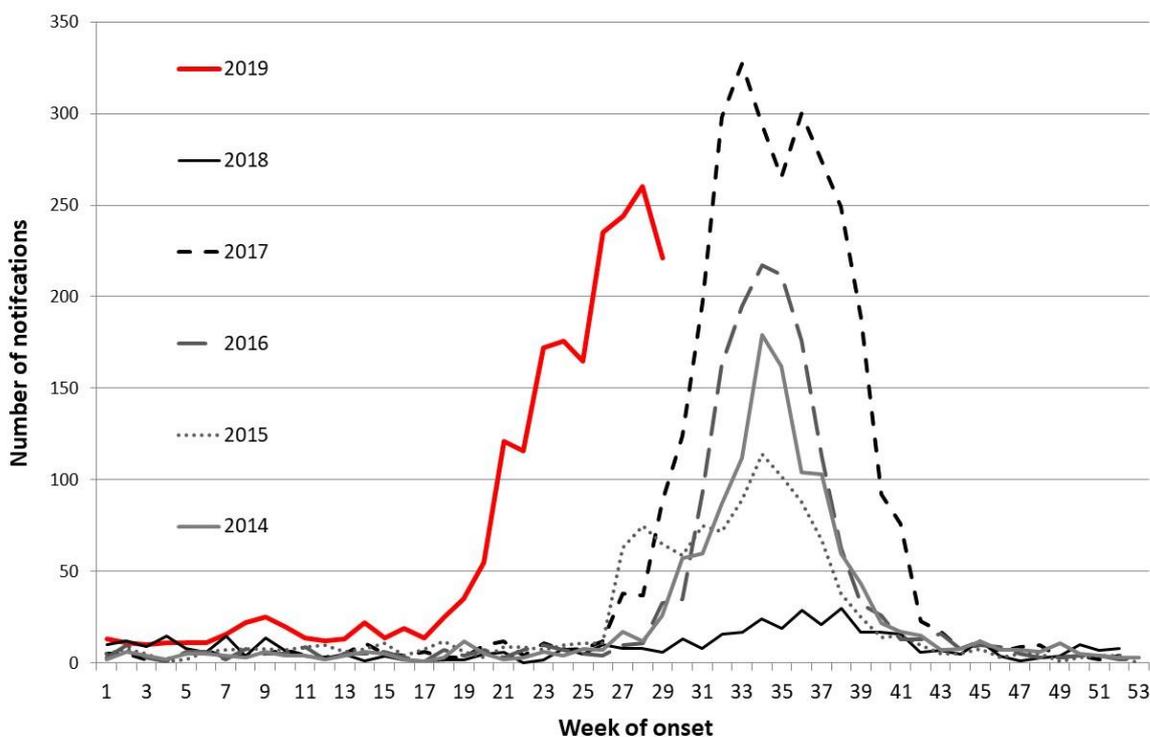
Reporting Period: 1 January to 21 July 2019, Weeks 1-29

Influenza notifications decreased in the last week, compared to the previous week (Figure), however it is too early to predict if notification numbers will continue to decline in the coming weeks. Between 1 January and 21 July 2019, there were 2,083 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 221 (11%) of these notifications occurring in the last week (Figure). Although the 2019 influenza season began earlier, the activity observed in 2019 is consistent with activity seen in previous influenza seasons. 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 remained reasonably steady over the last few weeks, with 21% of notifications in week 29 recorded as influenza B. Year to date, 81% (n=1,679) of notifications were influenza A and 18% (n=376) were influenza B. There have been 28 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 256 (15%) influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 101 (39%) were A/H1 and 155 (61%) were A/H3. In the last four weeks, A/H3 has been more commonly detected than A/H1.

In 2019, notification numbers overall have been highest among adults aged 20-64 years (52%, n=1,077), with only 12% (n=238) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 14% (n=282) among adults 65 years and over.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 21 July 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 24 July 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 21 July 2019, by onset date.

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