



## ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 16, 2019

**Summary:** Influenza notifications remain high but have decreased again in week 35. Notifications in 2019 have surpassed the total number for 2017, noting that the 2019 influenza season began much earlier compared to previous seasons.

### Influenza notifications

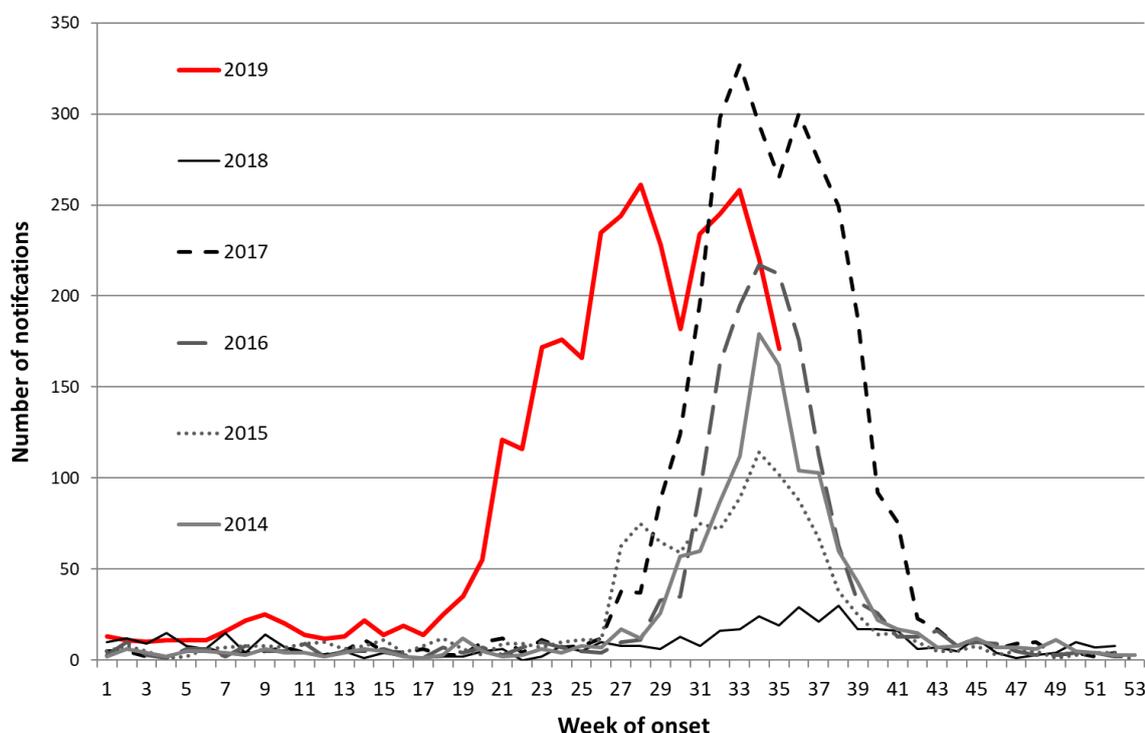
Reporting Period: 1 January to 1 September 2019, Weeks 1-35

Influenza notifications remain high but have decreased again in the last week (Figure). Between 1 January and 1 September 2019, there were 3,402 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health, with 171 (5%) of these notifications occurring in the last week (Figure). Notifications in 2019 have surpassed the total number for 2017, noting that the 2019 influenza season began much earlier compared to previous 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 stable in the last week compared to previous weeks, with 32% of notifications in week 35 recorded as influenza B (compared with 33% in week 34 and 35% in week 33). Year to date, 76% (n=2,601) of notifications were influenza A and 22% (n=759) were influenza B. There have been 42 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B. Of the 335 (13%) influenza A notifications with subtype information available, 114 (34%) were A/H1 and 221 (66%) 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=1,701), with only 12% (n=401) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 14% (n=472) among adults 65 years and over.

**Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of onset, 1 January 2014 to 1 September 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 3 September 2019 for the period 1 January 2014 to 1 September 2019, by onset date.

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