

## ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 2021/1 (17 May 2021)

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

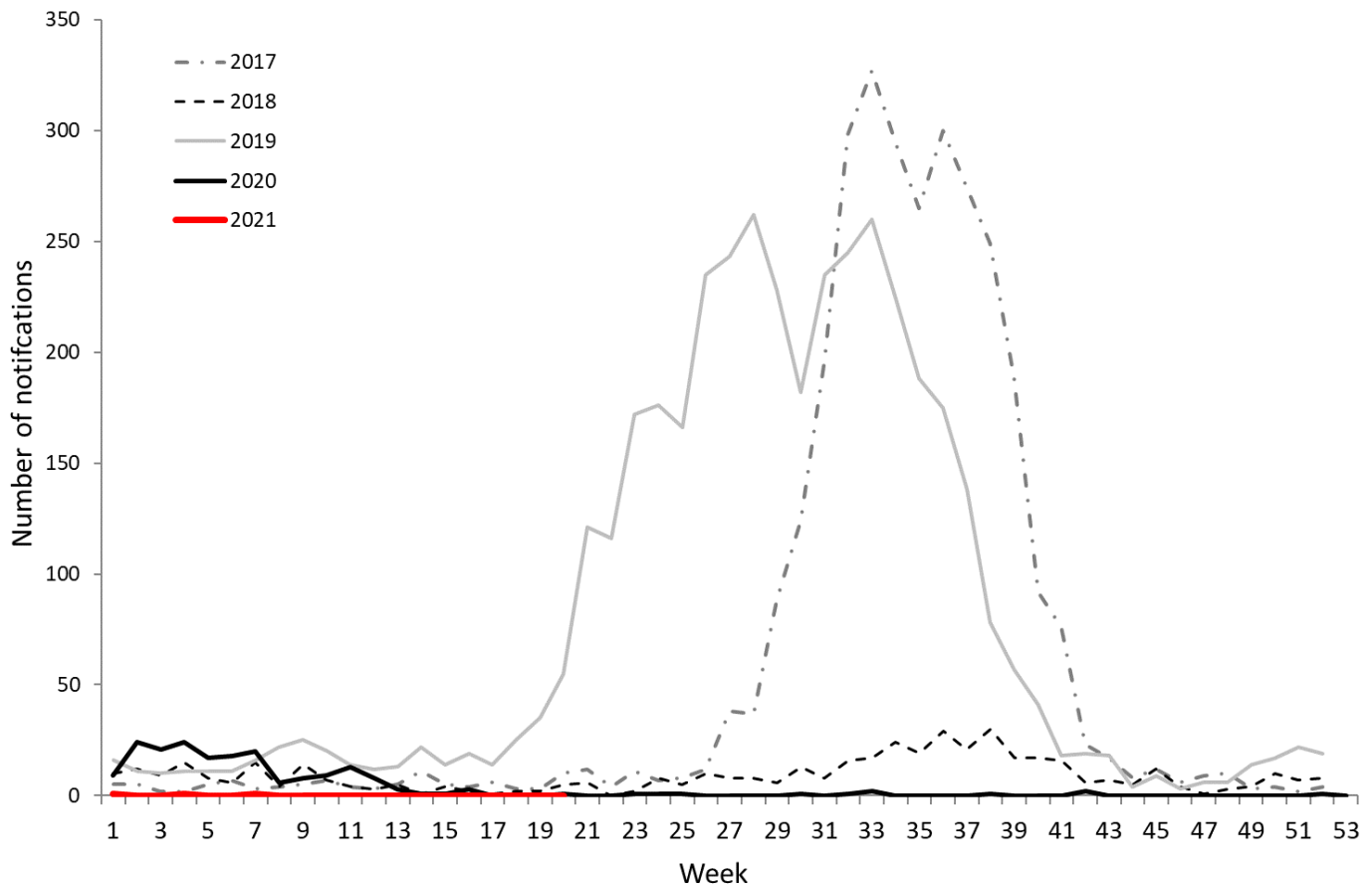
### Influenza notifications

*Reporting Period: 1 January to 9 May 2021*

Between 1 January and 9 May 2021, there were three notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported to ACT Health (Figure). In contrast, 185 and 321 cases were notified over the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The three notifications were received in the first 7 weeks of the year. Two of the 2021 cases were detected by PCR (influenza B), and the other by serology.

**Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of notification, 1 January 2017 to 9 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 14 May 2021 for the period 1 January 2017 to 9 May 2021, by notification date.**

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

*Due to the COVID-19 epidemic in Australia, data reported from the various influenza surveillance systems are may not reflect influenza activity. 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 are also likely influencing transmission of acute respiratory infections, including influenza.*