

ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 5, 2021

Summary: Influenza activity remains at a historic low in the ACT, with four (4) cases notified in the last two weeks.

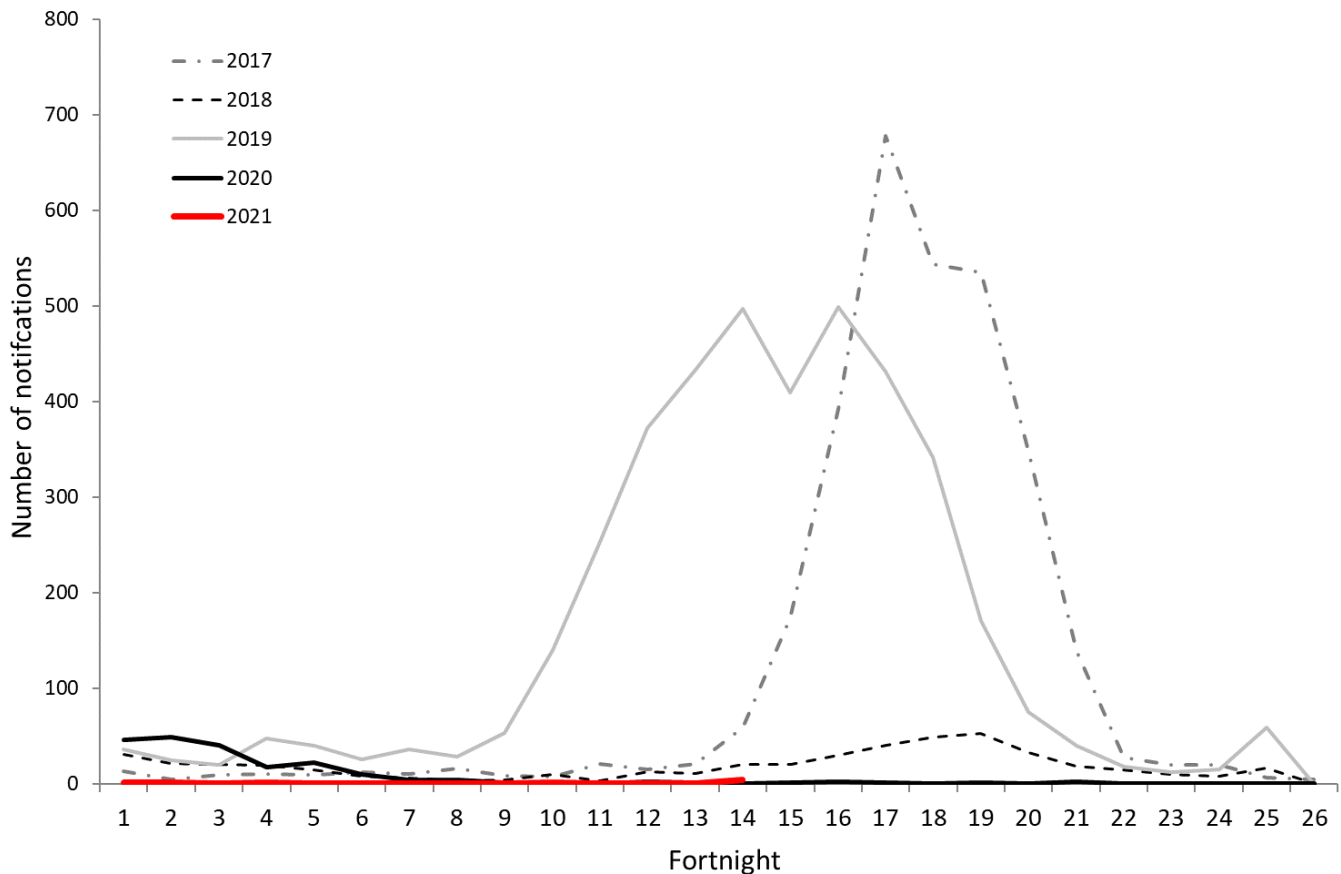
Influenza notifications

Reporting Period: 4 January to 18 July 2021

✓ 22/7/21
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Between 4 January and 18 July 2021 there were eight (8) notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza made to ACT Health (Figure). In contrast, 197 and 2,004 cases were notified over the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively. Four (4) notifications were received in the past fortnight, including one (1) PCR-positive case detected in hotel quarantine interstate. The remaining three (3) cases were detected by serology (single high titre) and likely represent immunity gained via vaccination or past infection.

Figure. Number of influenza notifications, by week and year of notification, 1 January 2017 to 18 July 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 from the ACT Notifiable Disease Management System for the period 1 January 2017 to 18 July 2021, by notification date.

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.