

Virus WAatch

WEEK ENDING 27TH NOVEMBER 2011

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES

- ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and Perth Emergency Departments increased this week, but remain at relatively low levels.
- Influenza laboratory detections made by PCR at PathWest QEII and PMH decreased. Influenza detections comprised 41% (7) influenza B virus, 41% (7) A-H3 virus, 12% (2) influenza A (unspecified) virus, and 6% (1) A-H1N1 (2009) virus.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and Perth EDs increased sharply this week.
- Norovirus positives identified at PathWest QEII increased, while rotavirus notifications received at CDCD remain stable.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Chickenpox and shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and Perth EDs continue to fluctuate at low to moderate levels.
- One case of locally-acquired measles was reported in a Perth resident who was a contact of an overseas-acquired case. One case of mumps was reported in a Perth resident for whom travel history is currently unknown. No cases of rubella were reported.

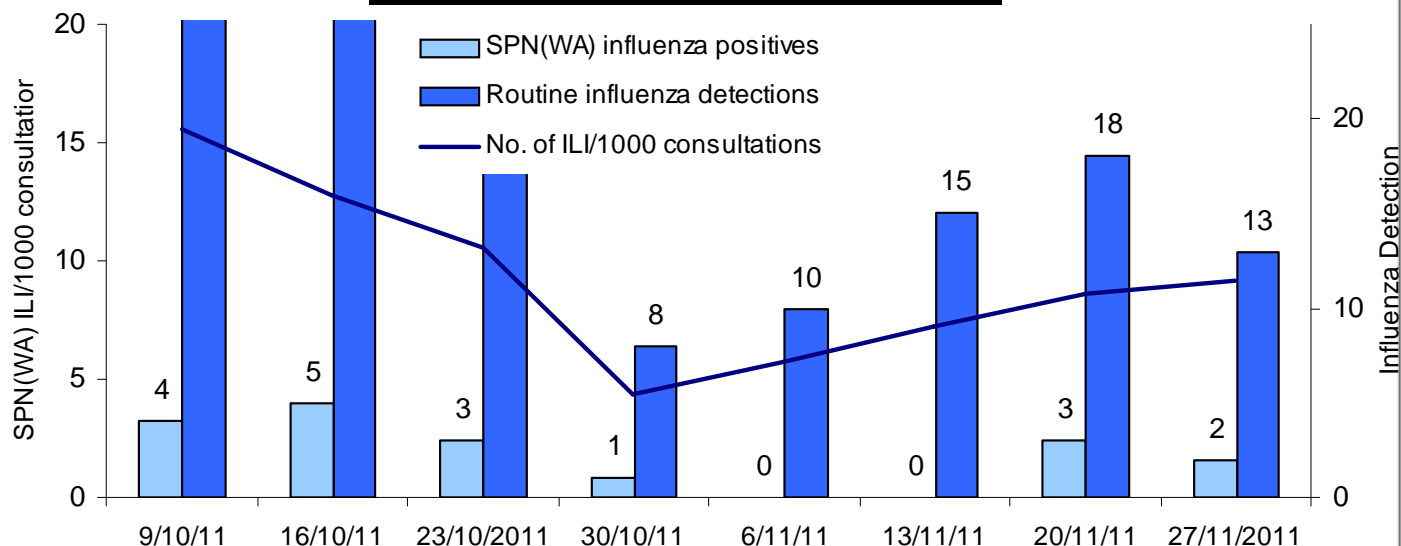
Links

Current and archived issues of Virus Watch, Virus News and EDSS News
http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

Virus WAatch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, together with relevant laboratory information, to alert health care workers in WA to important circulating viruses. General Practice data are collected by members of the Sentinel Practitioners Network of Western Australia - SPN(WA). Emergency Department data are provided by Perth Hospital Emergency Departments via the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS). Viral laboratory data are obtained from PathWest laboratories at QEII Medical Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, as well as via notification data sent by all WA laboratories to CDCD, WA Department of Health. All figures and data were accurate at time of publication, but subject to change.

Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

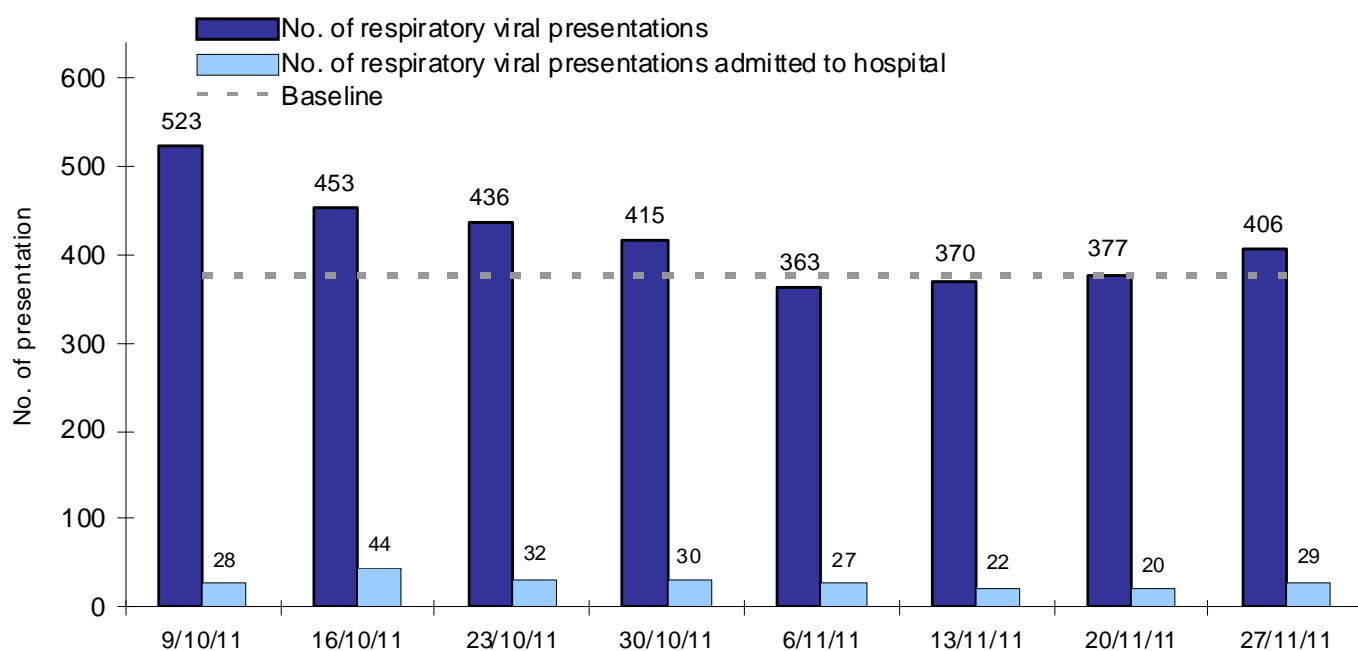
Influenza and Influenza-like illnesses (ILI)



ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased slightly this week, but remain at relatively low levels, while influenza laboratory detections made by PCR at PathWest QEII and PMH decreased. Influenza detections comprised 41% (7) influenza B virus, 41% (7) A-H3 virus, 12% (2) influenza A (unspecified) virus, and 6% (1) A-H1N1 (2009) virus.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations. Baseline levels for respiratory viral presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010.

Respiratory Viral ED Presentations

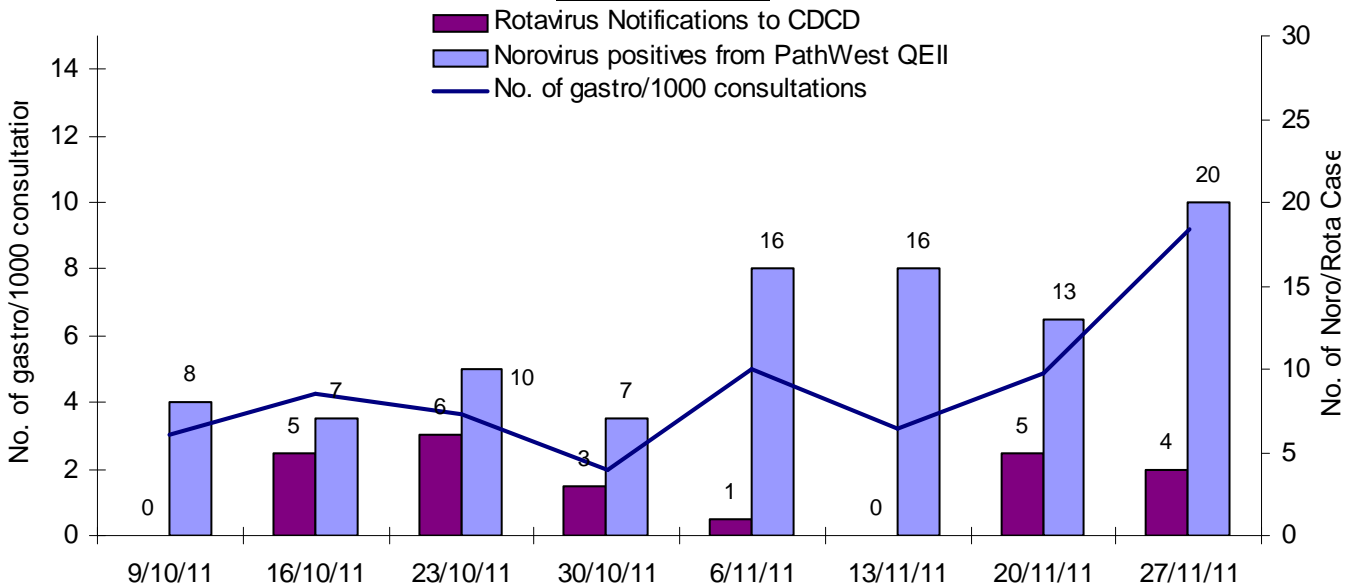


Respiratory viral presentations to Perth EDs increased this week, and sit just above baseline level. The proportion of presentations admitted to hospital increased slightly this week.



Gastroenteritis

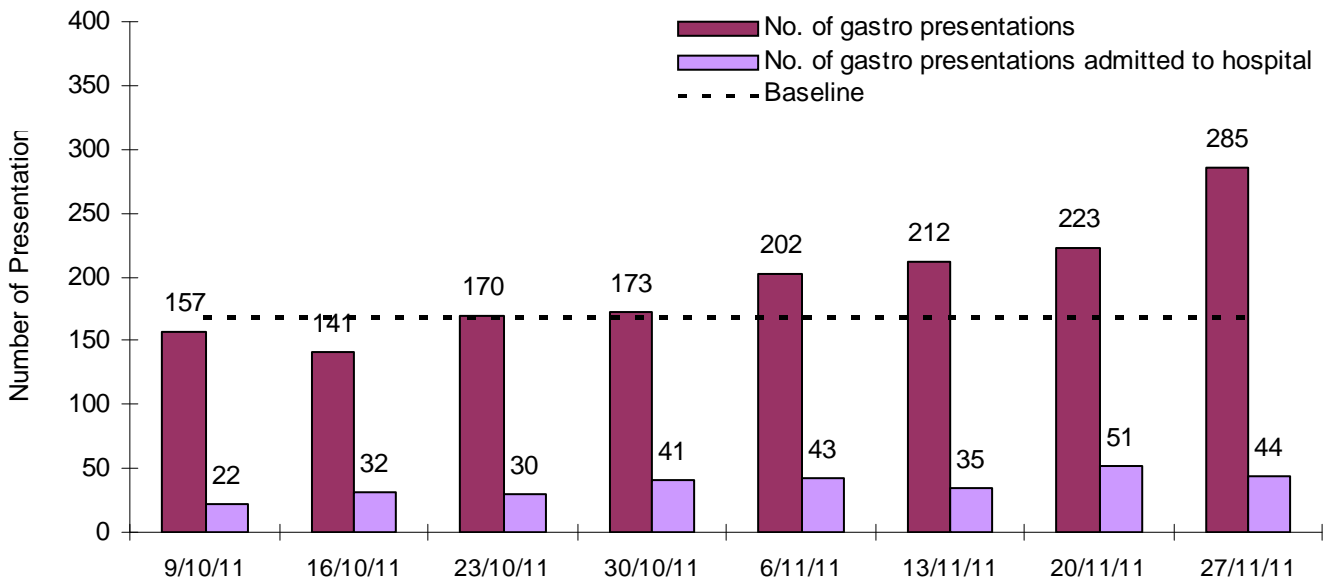
Gastroenteritis



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased sharply this week. Norovirus positives identified at PathWest QEII increased, while rotavirus notifications received at CDCD remain stable.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010.

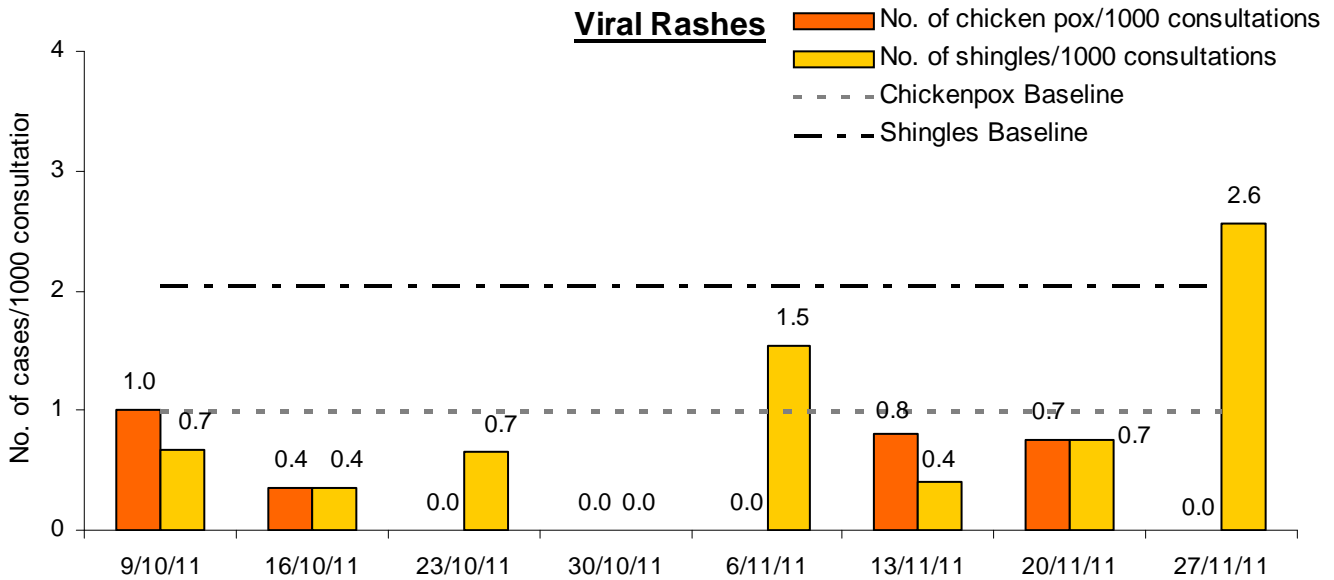
Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to Perth EDs increased sharply this week. The proportion of presentations admitted to hospital decreased from 23% to 15% this week.



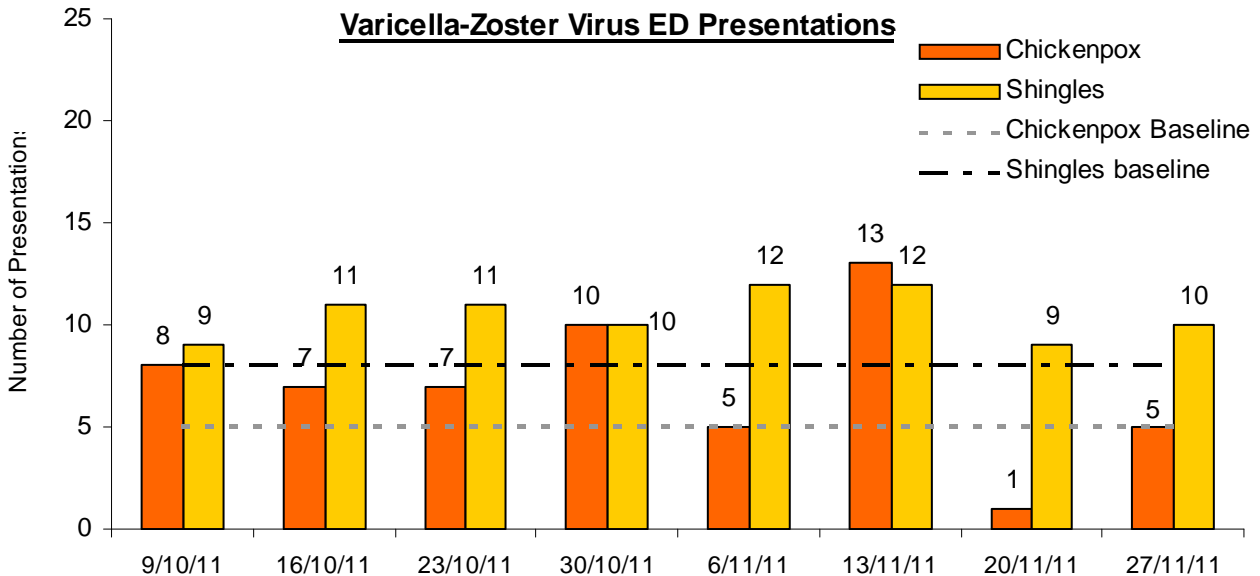
Viral Rashes



Chickenpox presentations to SPN(WA) GPs decreased this week, while shingles presentations increased. One case of measles was reported in a Perth resident who was a contact of an overseas-acquired case. One case of mumps was reported in a Perth resident, recent overseas travel history is unknown. No cases of rubella were reported.

Baseline levels for chickenpox and shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs per thousand consultations were calculated using the mean of weekly WA ASPREN data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010.



Chickenpox presentations to Perth EDs increased this week. One chickenpox patient was admitted to hospital.

