



# Virus Watch

WEEK ENDING 05<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012

## KEY POINTS

### INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES

- ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and respiratory viral presentations to Perth EDs remain low and relatively stable. Influenza laboratory detections made by PCR at PathWest QEII continue to decrease after a spike in the week ending 22/01/2012.
- Influenza detections comprised 40% (2) influenza B virus and 60% (3) A-H3 virus.

### GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week, while gastroenteritis presentations to Perth EDs and norovirus positives identified at PathWest QEII remain stable.
- No cases of Rotavirus were notified this week.

### VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- No chickenpox or shingles presentations were reported to SPN(WA) GPs this week and presentations to Perth EDs continue to fluctuate at relatively low levels.
- No cases of measles or mumps were notified this week. One possible case of rubella is being investigated.

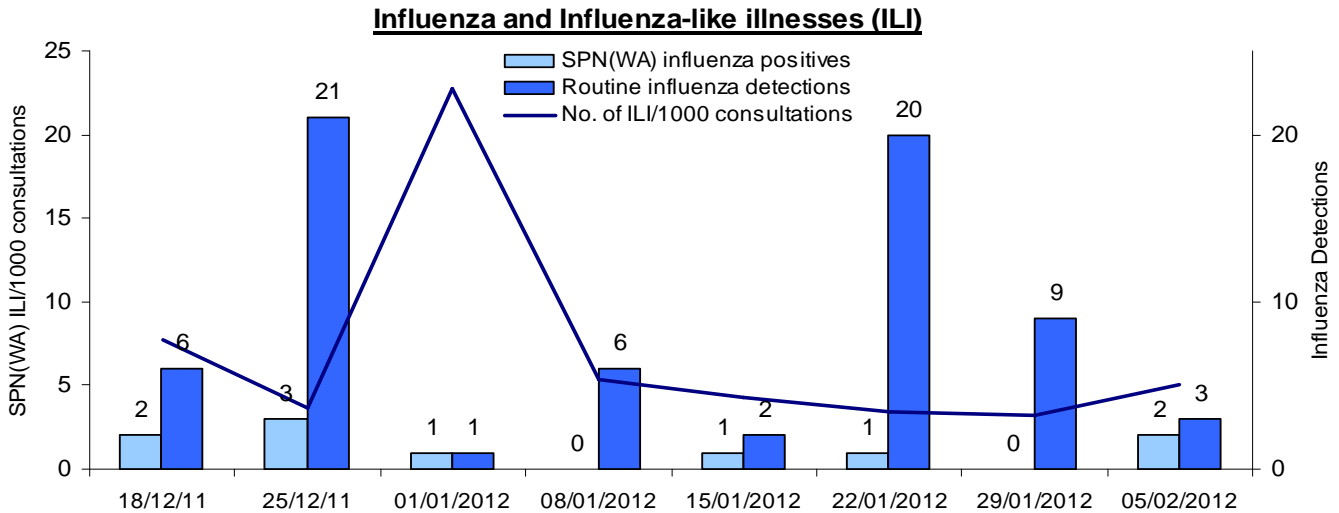
### Links

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](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm)

*Virus Watch 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.*

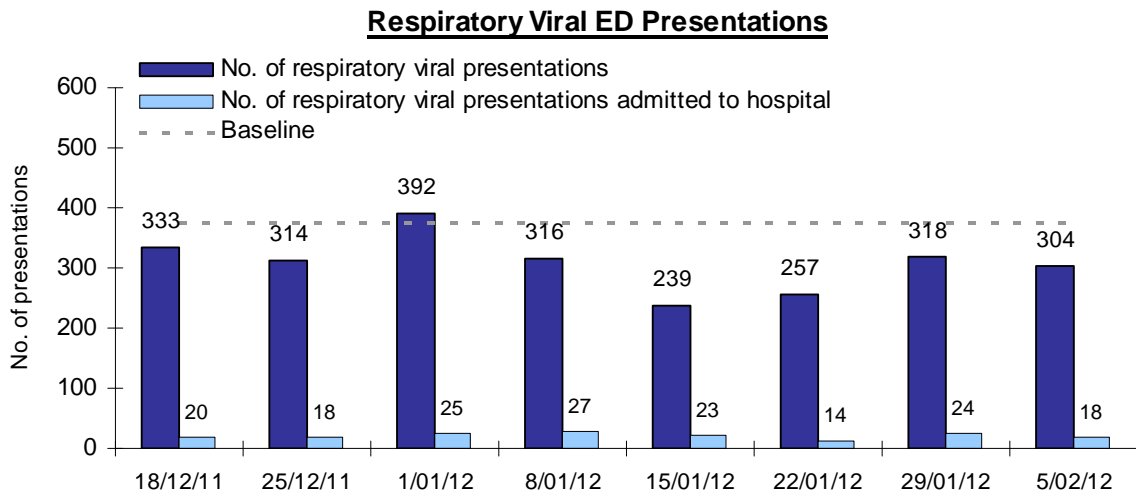


# Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses



**ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain low and relatively stable, while influenza laboratory detections made by PCR at PathWest QEII continue to decrease. Influenza detections comprised 40% (2) influenza B virus, 60% (3) A-H3 virus.**

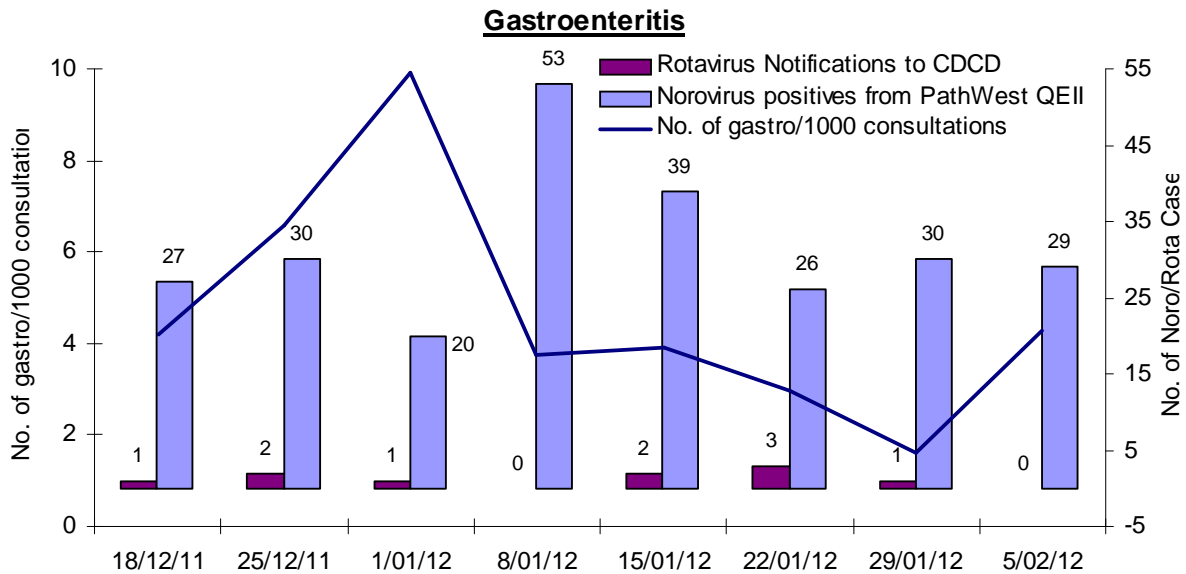
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations. Baseline levels for respiratory viral presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010



**Respiratory viral presentations to Perth EDs decreased this week and remain below baseline level. The proportion of presentations admitted to hospital also decreased compared to last week.**

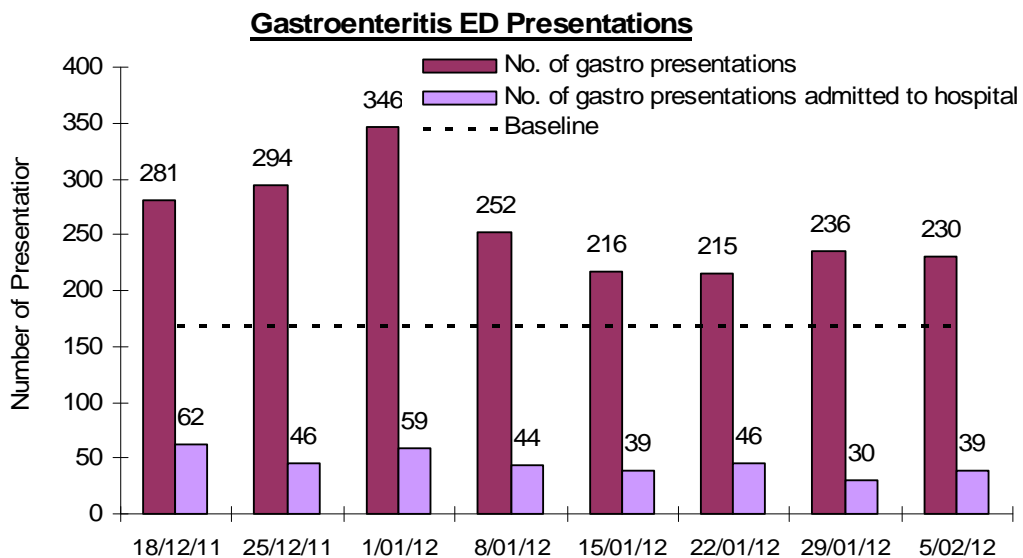


# Gastroenteritis



**Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week, yet the number of norovirus positive samples identified at PathWest QEII remain stable. No Rotavirus infections were notified this week.**

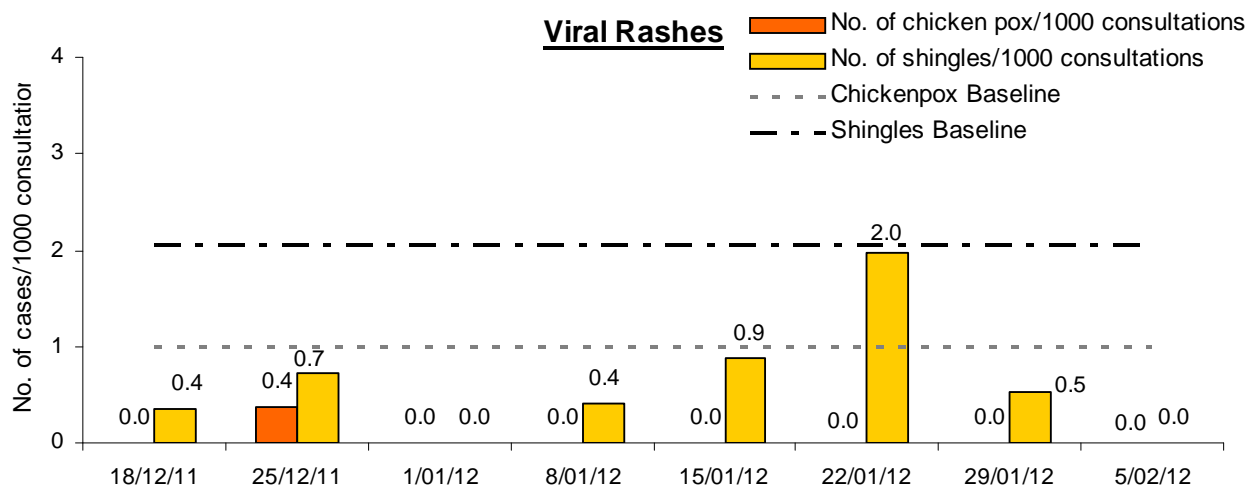
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2008 to week 52, 2010.



**Gastroenteritis presentations to Perth EDs remain stable but the proportion of presentations admitted to hospital increased.**



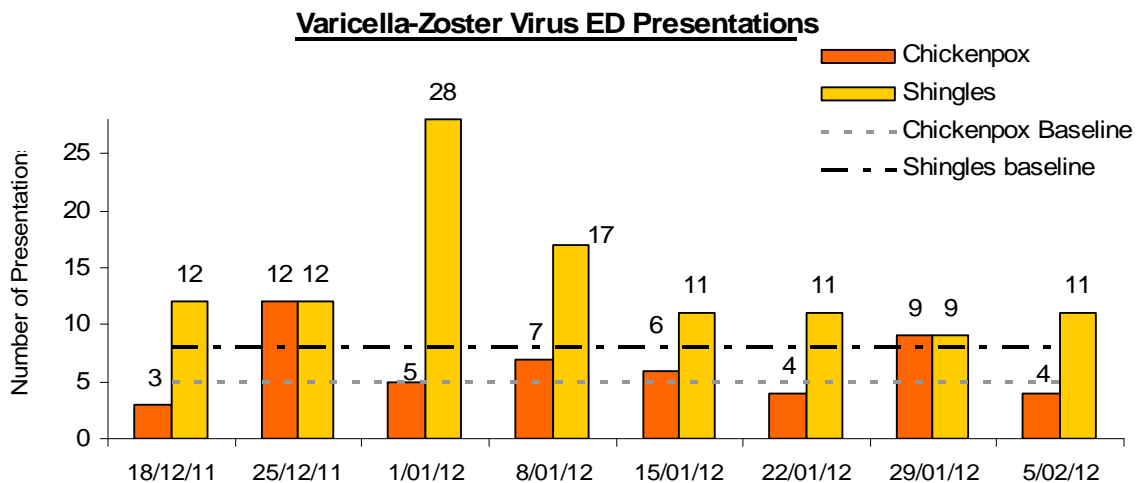
# Viral Rashes



**No chickenpox or shingles presentations were reported to SPN(WA) GPs this week. A possible case of rubella remains under investigation.**

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.



**Shingles presentations to Perth EDs increased this week. Chickenpox presentations decreased to below baseline.**

