Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Public Health

PathWest
LABORATORY MEDICINE WA

Virus WAtch

WEEK ENDING 10TH JUNE 2012

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES

- **ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs have increased steadily over recent weeks and remain higher than at the same time in the past two years. Presentations to Perth EDs also continue to increase, but the proportion of cases requiring admission decreased this week.**
- **30% of specimens collected in sentinel practices were positive for influenza virus, double the previous week.**
- **Influenza positive samples comprised 53% (19) influenza AH3N2 virus and 47% (17) influenza B virus, with no AH1N1 pandemic strain detections.**
- **Laboratory detections of RSV have also increased over recent weeks.**

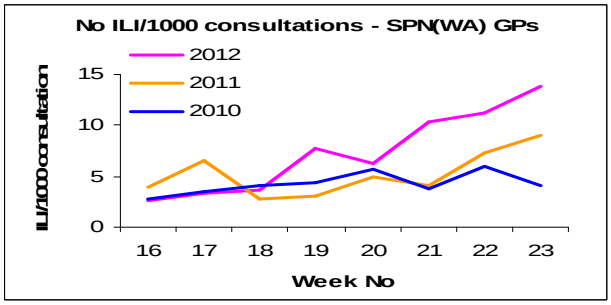
GASTROENTERITIS

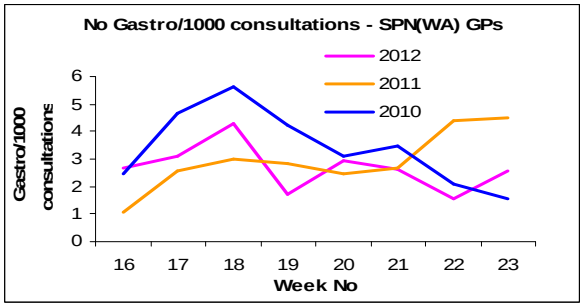
- **Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and Perth EDs remain relatively stable, and SPN(WA) consultation rates are similar to those observed for the same period in the past two years.**
- **Norovirus positives identified at PathWest QEII decreased compared to last week.**

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- **Chickenpox and shingles presentations to both SPN(WA) GPs and Perth EDs continue to fluctuate at or below baseline levels.**
- **No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.**

ILI and gastroenteritis notifications per thousand SPN(WA) consultations for the current 8 week reporting period: 2010 – 2012

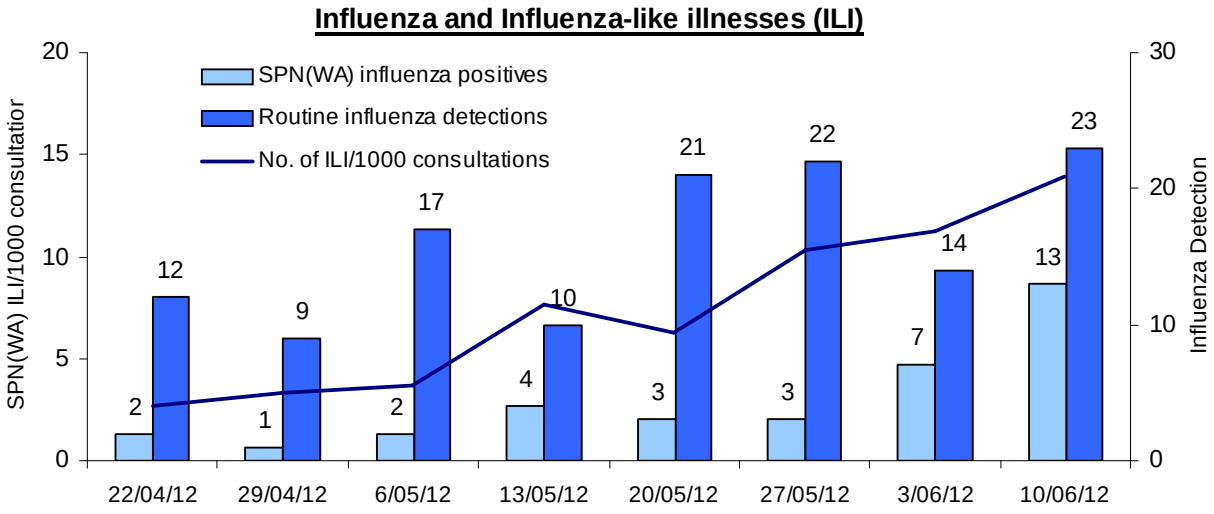




Current and archived issues of Virus Watch, Virus News and EDSS News
http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

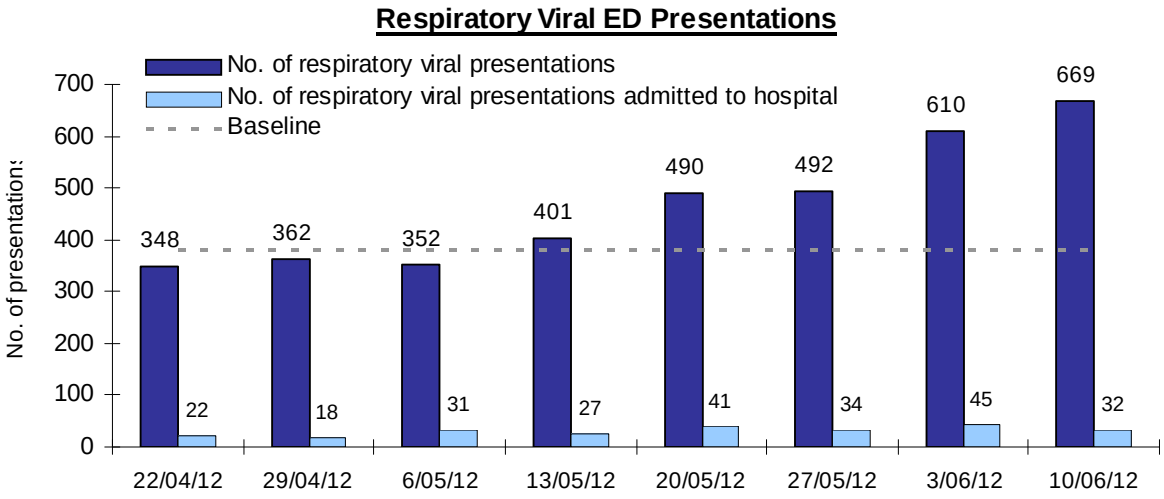
Virus WAtch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, 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



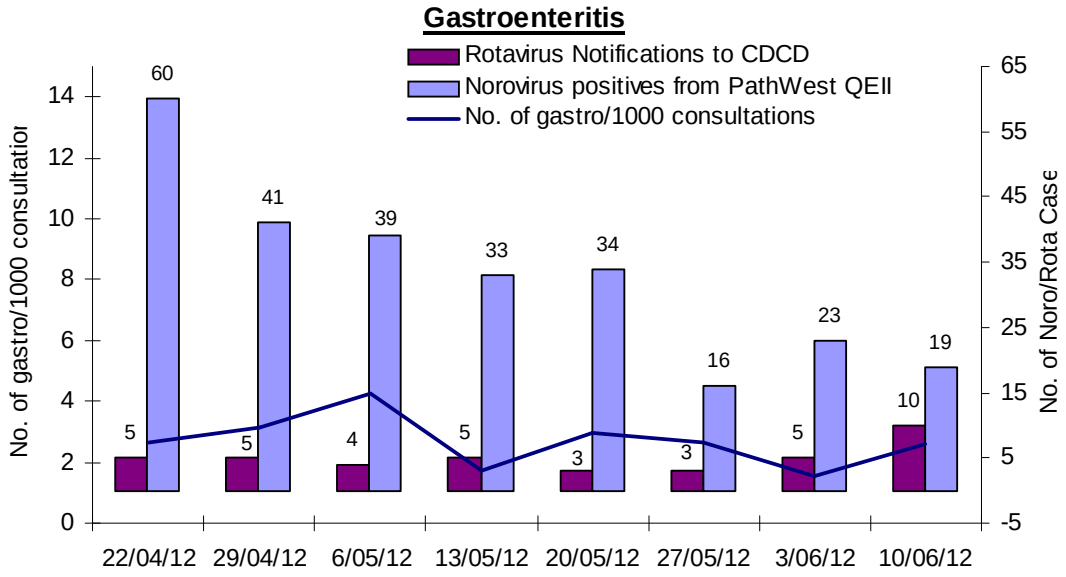
ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs continue to increase, while routine laboratory detections made by PCR at PathWest QEII have been relatively steady over recent weeks. However, the number (13) and proportion (30%) of specimens collected in sentinel practices that were influenza positive doubled this week. Overall influenza detections comprised 53% (19) influenza AH3N2 virus and 47% (17) influenza B 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, 2011



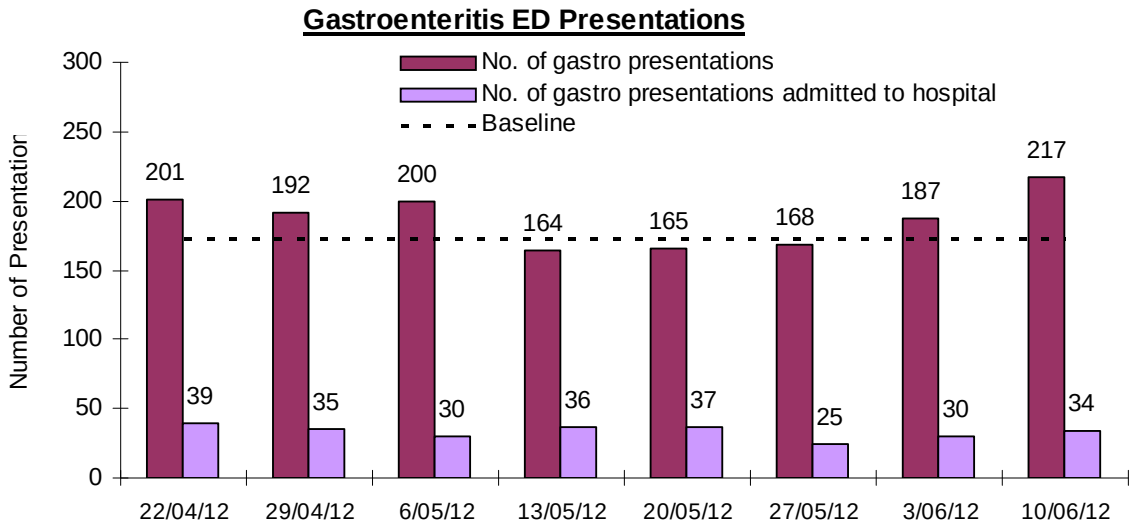
Respiratory viral presentations to Perth EDs continue to increase. In contrast, admissions decreased this week (4.7%).

Gastroenteritis



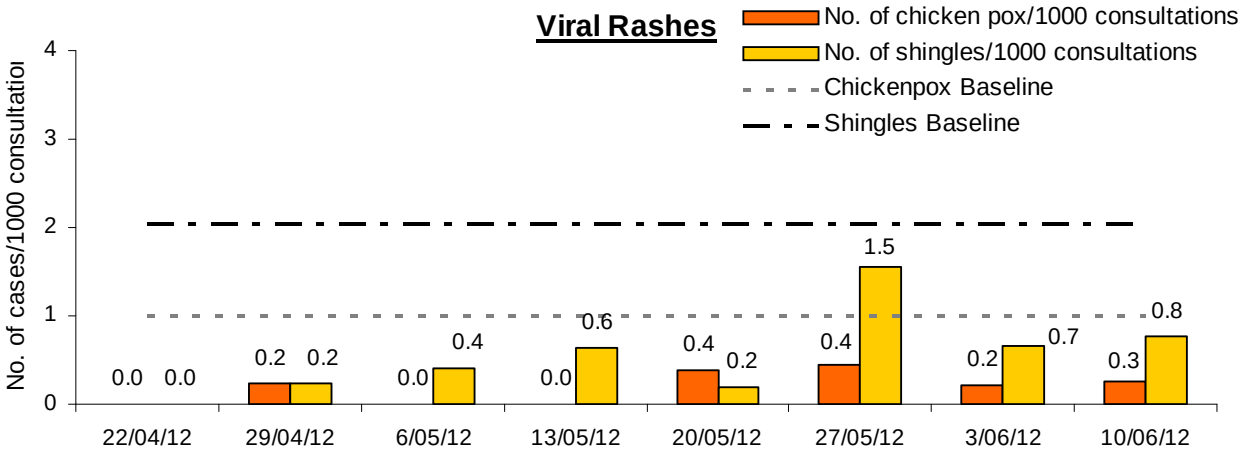
Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs and the number of norovirus positive samples identified at PathWest QEII remain relatively stable.
Ten cases of rotavirus infection were notified.

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, 2011.



Gastroenteritis presentations to Perth EDs increased this week. Admissions remain relatively stable.

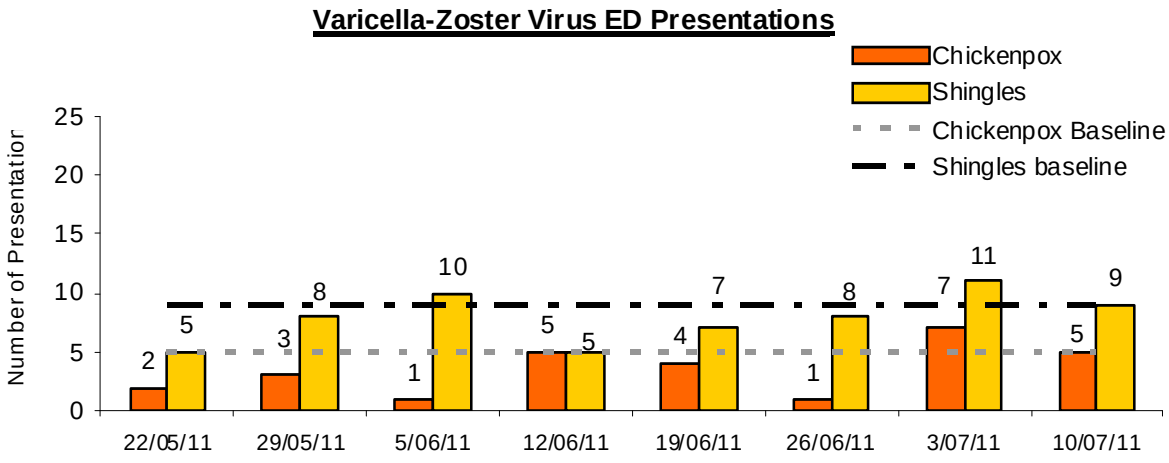
Viral Rashes



Presentations with chickenpox or shingles reported by SPN(WA) GPs continue to fluctuate at low levels.
No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were notified.

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, 2011.

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, 2011.



Both shingles and chickenpox presentations to Perth EDs continue to fluctuate at around baseline levels.