

**NATIONAL PRIMARY CARE INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE FORTNIGHTLY REPORT**

Combining data from The Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network (ASPREN)\*  
and the Victorian Sentinel Practitioners Influenza Network (VicSPIN)\*

No. 17, 2019 - 12th August — 25th August 2019

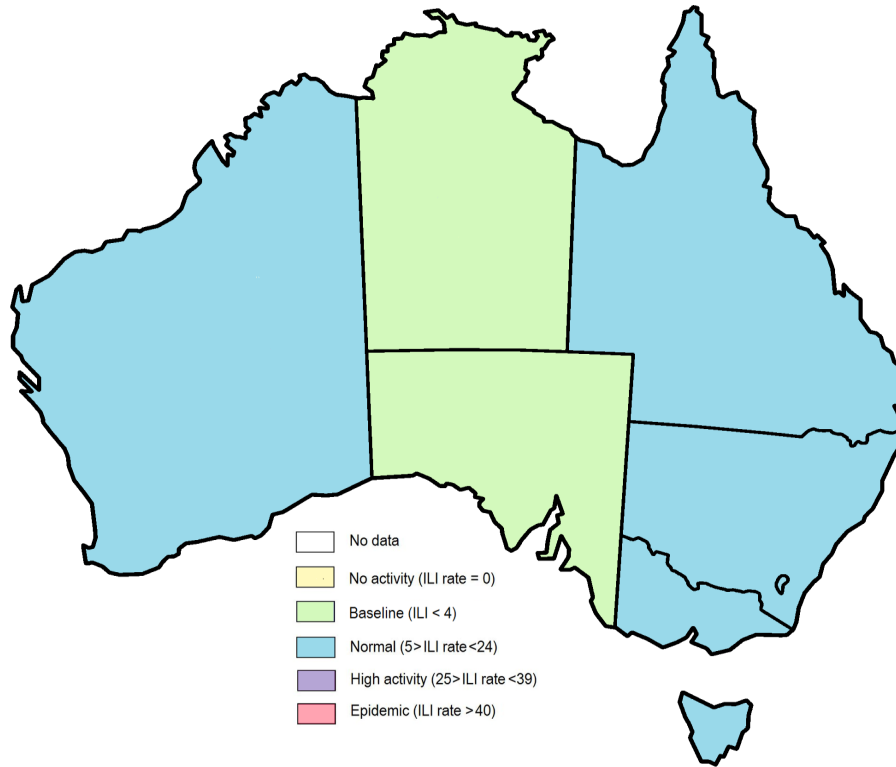


Figure 1. Map of ILI activity by jurisdiction, weeks 33 - 34, 2019.

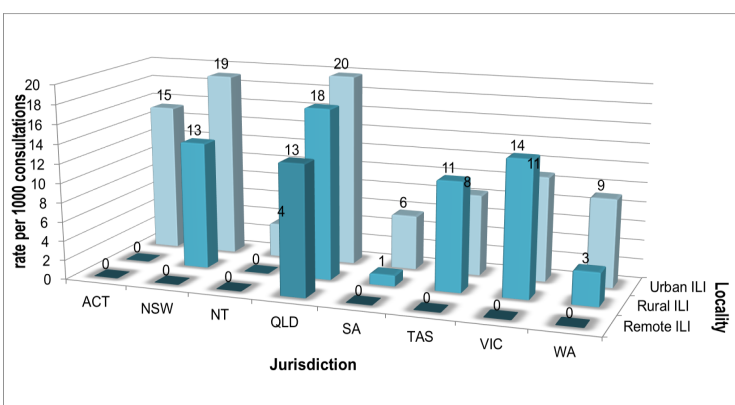


Figure 2. ASPREN + VicSPIN rate of ILI by locality and jurisdiction, weeks 33 - 34, 2019.

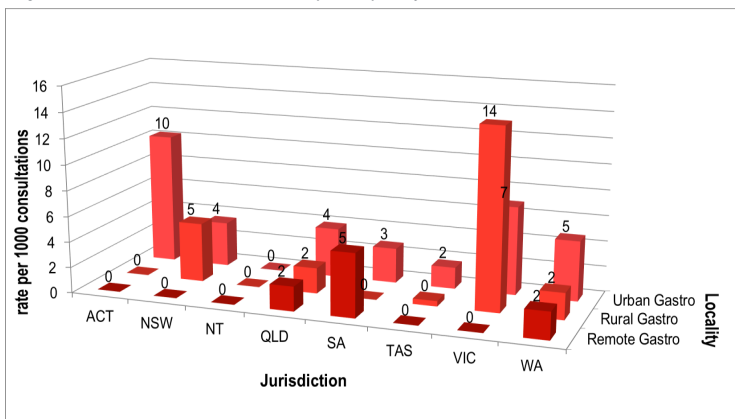


Figure 3. ASPREN rate of gastroenteritis by locality and jurisdiction, weeks 33 - 34, 2019.

**NATIONAL SUMMARY**



Influenza-like-illness levels are increasing

**99**

Cases of influenza have been detected in this reporting period  
76 x Influenza A  
23 x Influenza B

**32%**

Influenza positivity during the reporting period.

**1070**

Cases of influenza have been detected this year:  
873 x Influenza A  
197 x Influenza B



Gastroenteritis levels remain steady at baseline levels

**SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE  
REPORTING**

Reports were received from 367 reporters from 8 states and territories during the reporting period. During weeks 33 and 34 reporters saw a total of 54,892 patients.

**INFLUENZA-LIKE-ILLNESS (ILI)**

Nationally, ILI notifications decreased during the period with 596 notifications being reported in weeks 33–34. ILI rates reported in this period increased to 14 and 12 cases per 1000 consultations (weighted) in weeks 33 and 34 respectively. This was higher than the previous fortnight where rates were 12 cases per 1000 consultations. For the same reporting period in 2018, ILI rates were lower at 6 and 7 cases per 1000 consultations for weeks 33 and 34 (see Fig. 5).

**GASTROENTERITIS**

Nationally, gastroenteritis notifications increased over the period with 144 notifications reported. Gastroenteritis rates reported in this period slightly increased to 4 and 3 cases per 1000 consultations in both weeks 33 and 34, compared to 2 and 3 cases per 1000 consultations in weeks 31 and 32 (see Fig. 5).

\* ASPREN is funded by the Commonwealth's Department of Health, Office of Health Protection, Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Section.

\* VicSPIN is funded by Melbourne Health and the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory.

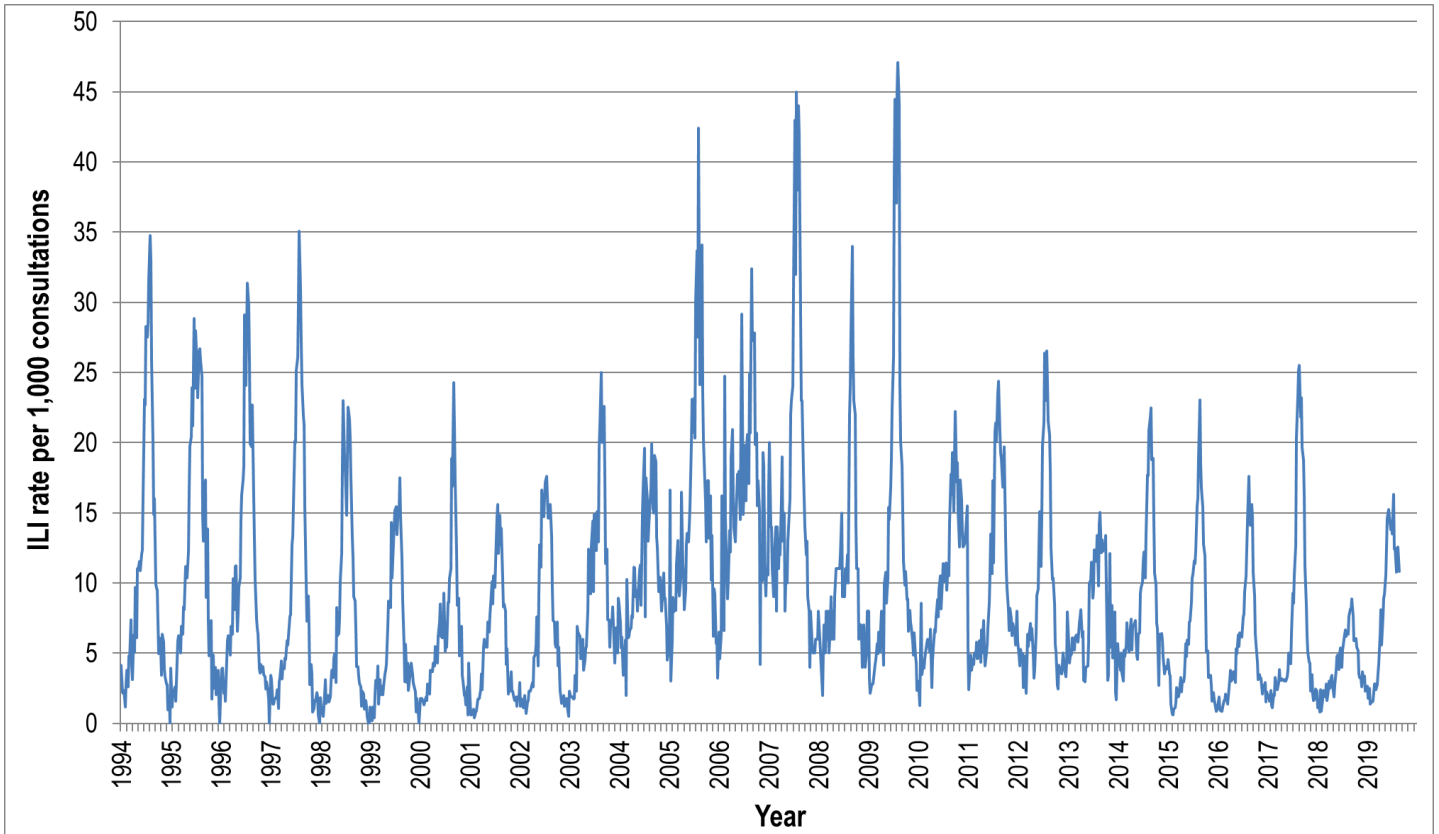


Figure 4. ASPREN ILI rates 1994 - 2019.

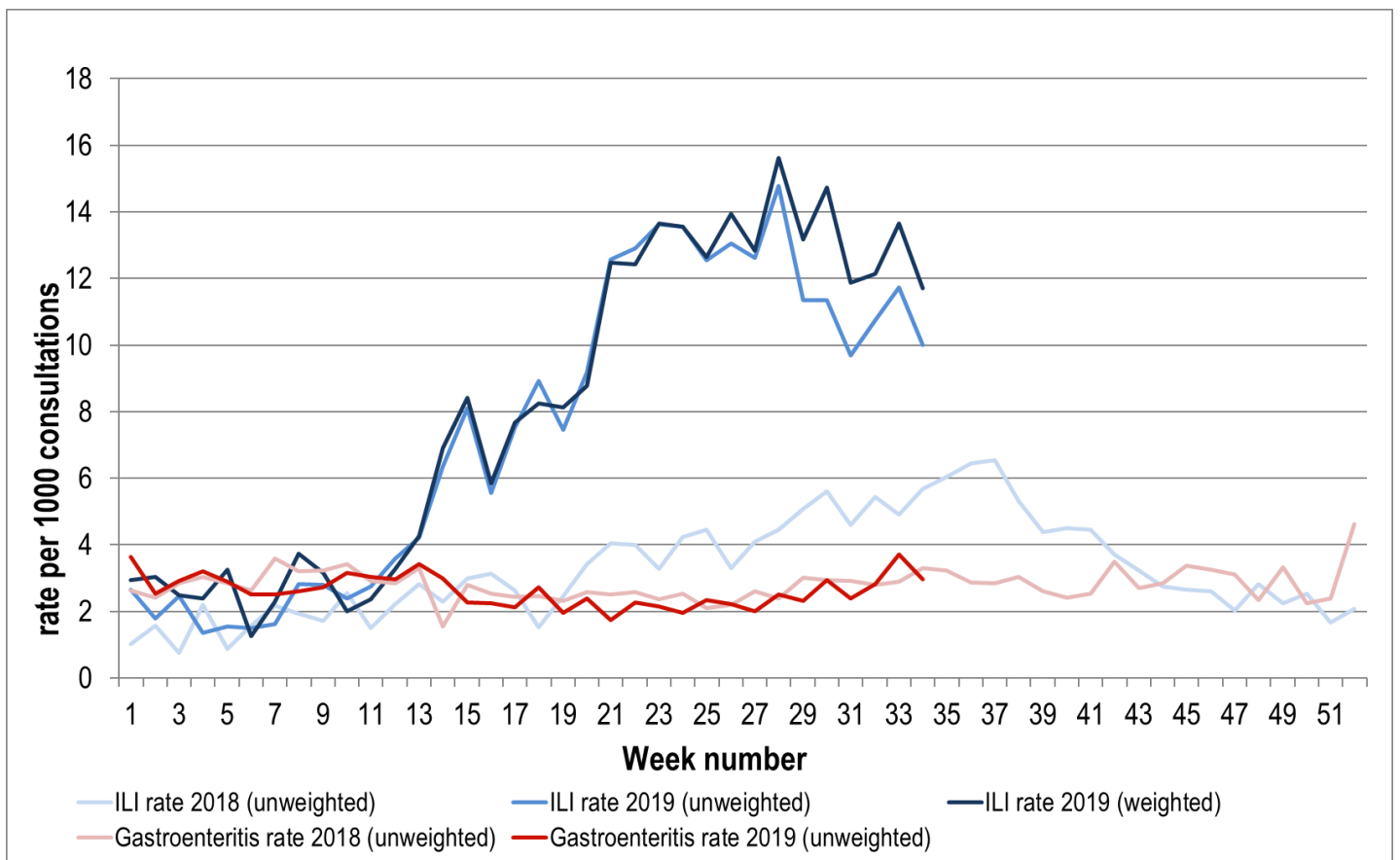


Figure 5. ASPREN + VicSPIN ILI and ASPREN gastroenteritis rates 2018-19. Weighted rates are weighted to account for population size differences between jurisdictions, using population estimates from the 2011 Australian Census.

### VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

52% of all ILI patients were swab tested during weeks 33 - 34 (see Figure 6).

99 cases of Influenza were detected during this period. There were also 62 cases of Rhinovirus detected making it the second most common respiratory virus circulating the nation at present (see figure 8).

# Viral laboratory data are provided by SA Pathology and VicSPIN laboratories.

|  | Reporting Period<br>12 Aug - 25 Aug 2019 | YTD<br>1 Jan - 25 Aug 2019 |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Total number of ILI notifications      | 596                                      | 6124                       |
| Number of swab tests performed         | 310                                      | 3174                       |
| % ILI patients tested                  | 52%                                      | 52%                        |
| % of swab tests positive for influenza | 32%                                      | 34%                        |

Figure 6. ASPREN + VicSPIN virological surveillance results overview for 2019 #

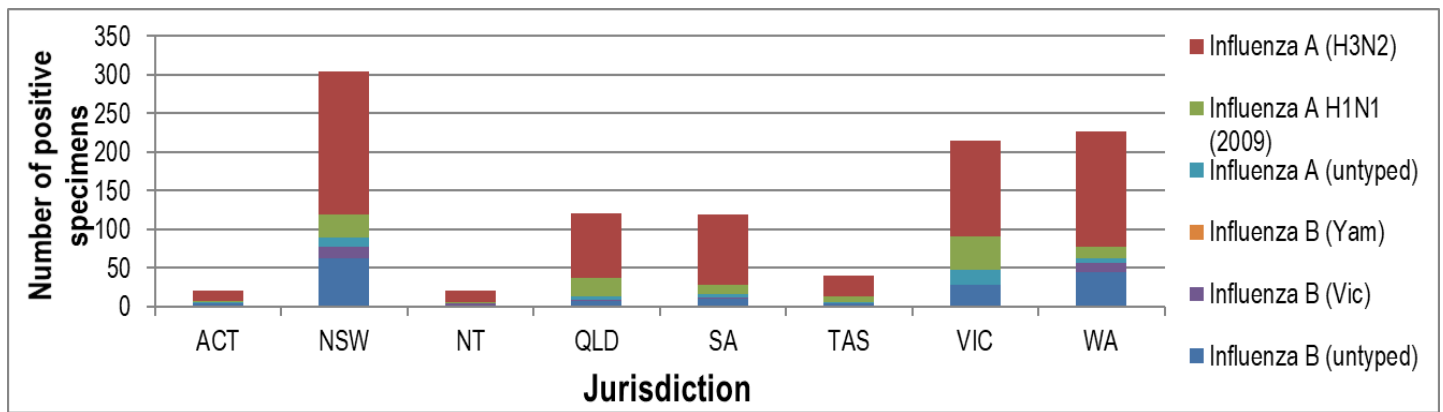


Figure 7. ASPREN + VicSPIN influenza subtype analysis by jurisdiction for 2019 #

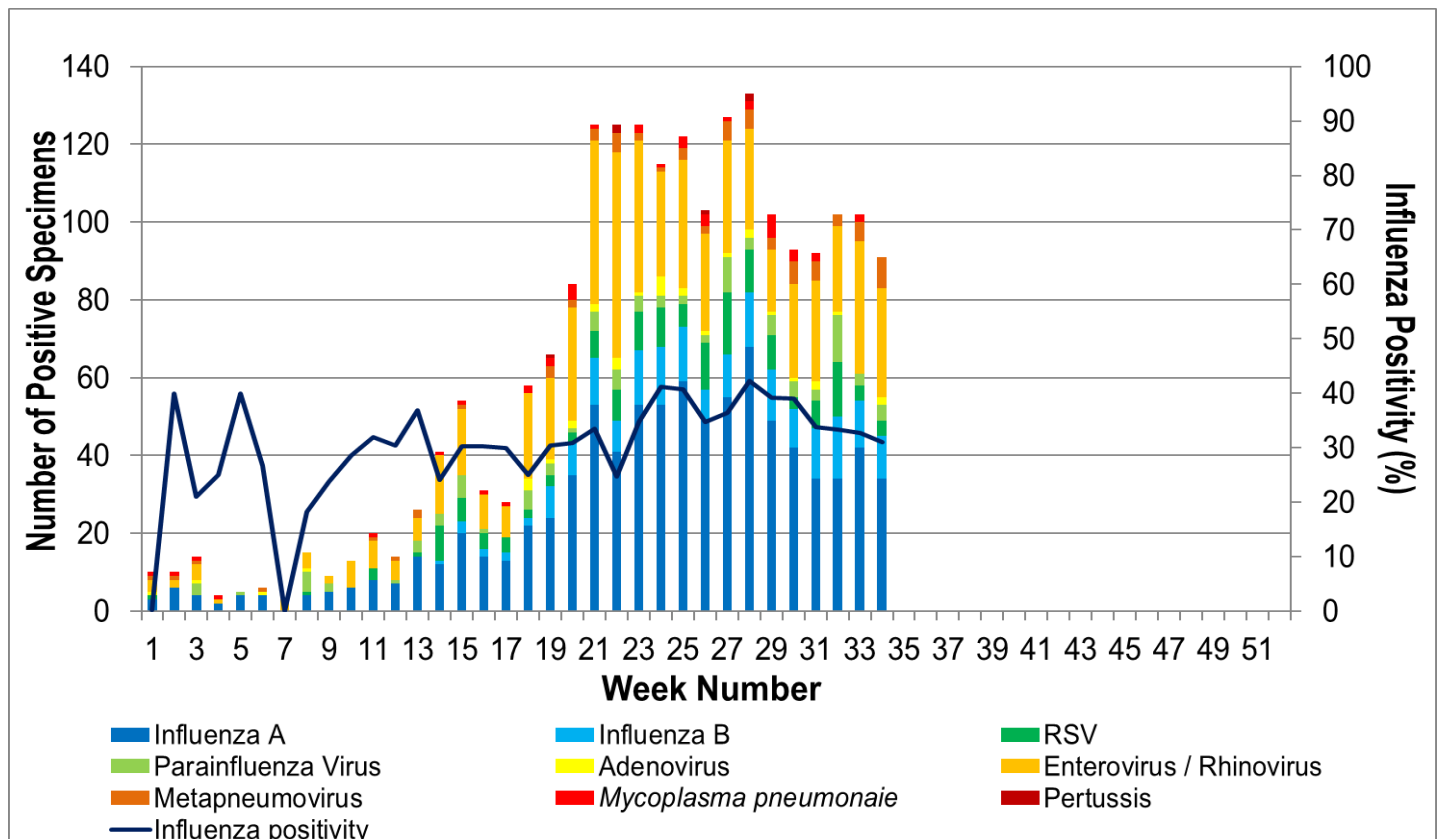


Figure 8. ASPREN, VicSPIN laboratory detection of influenza and other respiratory viruses for 2019 #

The Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health (the Department). The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department.

Please note: This report is based on data available as at 5 September 2019. Delays in the reporting of data may cause data to change retrospectively.