

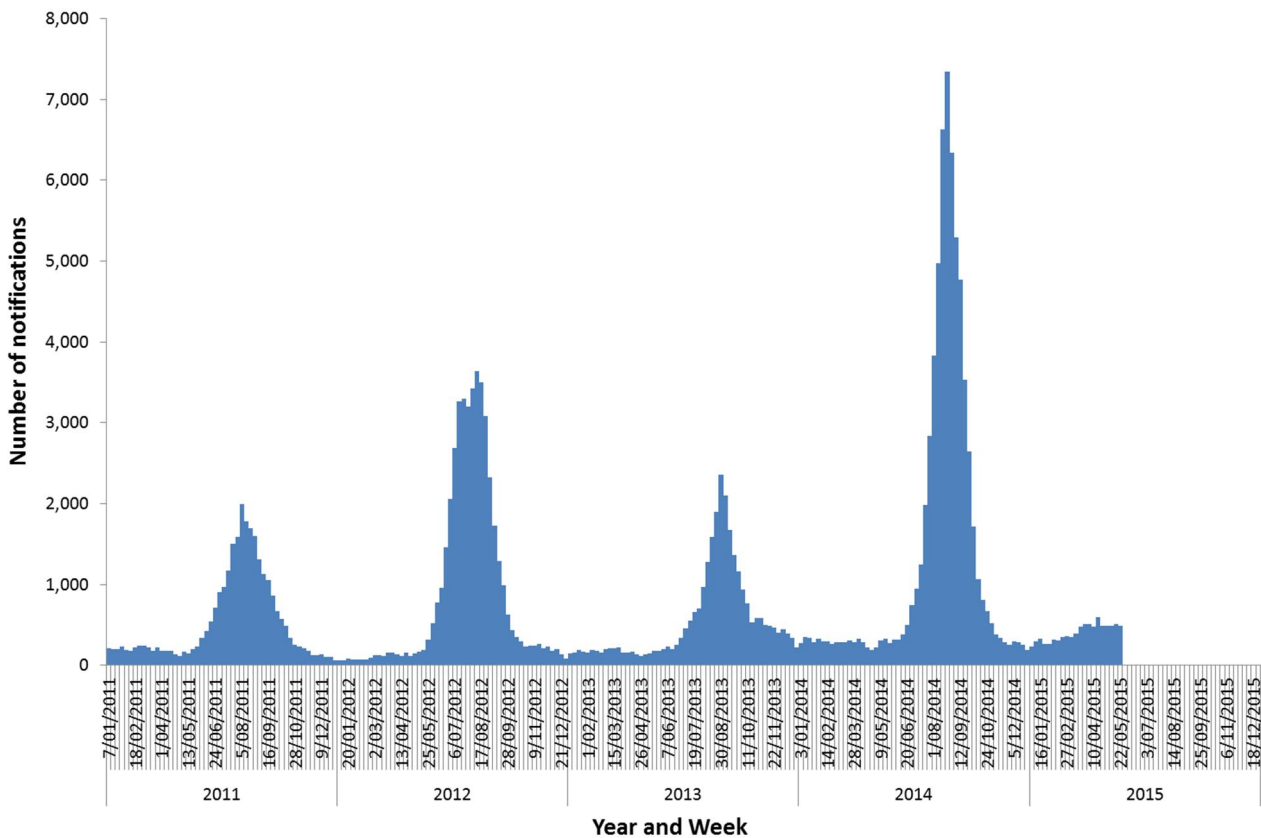


AUSTRALIAN INFLUENZA ACTIVITY UPDATE

SUMMARY

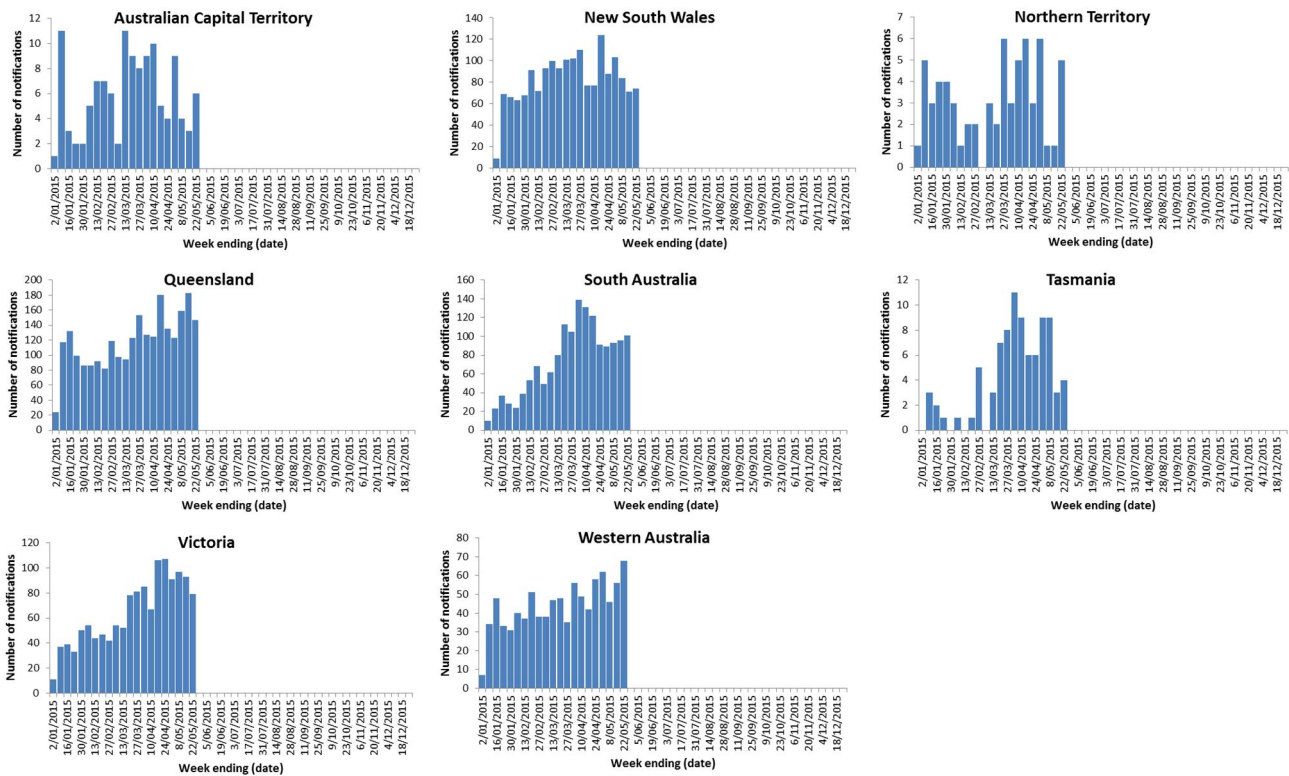
- Australia is currently in the inter-seasonal period for influenza. Overall influenza activity is low and stable, but higher than at the same time in previous years (Figure 1).
- Influenza activity across jurisdictions is variable (Figure 2). Influenza activity is higher in most jurisdictions compared to the same period in previous years.
- This year to date, influenza A is the predominant circulating virus type; of those viruses where subtyping data are available, influenza A(H3N2) is the most common (Figure 3). Influenza B is circulating at increasing levels in recent weeks.
- Of the limited number of isolates that have been further characterised for similarity with the vaccine components, influenza A viruses appear to be well matched. Over 80% of the influenza B viruses characterised are a match to the trivalent vaccine strain; the remaining influenza B viruses matching the additional strain in the quadrivalent vaccine.
- Influenza-like illness (ILI) levels detected through the sentinel GP ILI surveillance system are increasing (Figure 4). In the most recent fortnight, rhinovirus infection was the most common cause of ILI detected.

Figure 1: Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January 2011 to 22 May 2015



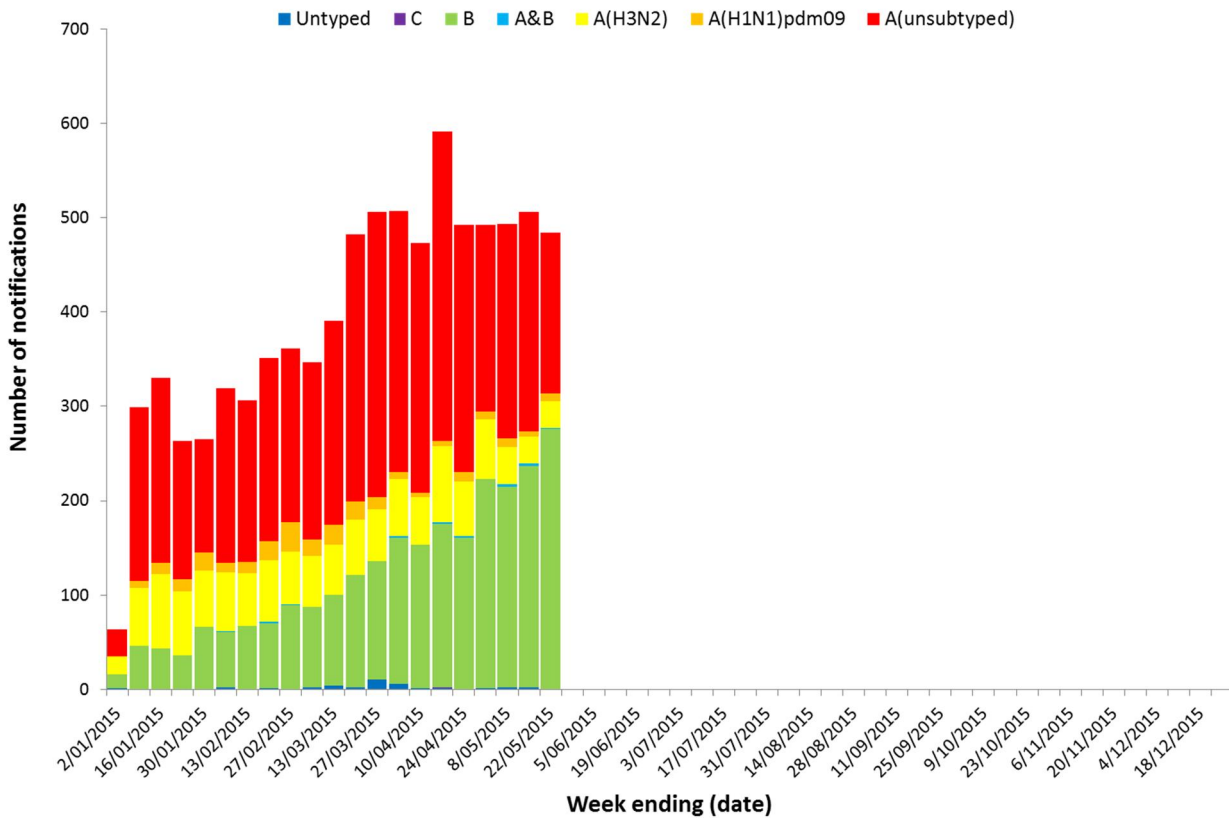
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Figure 2: Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January to 22 May 2015, by state or territory and week



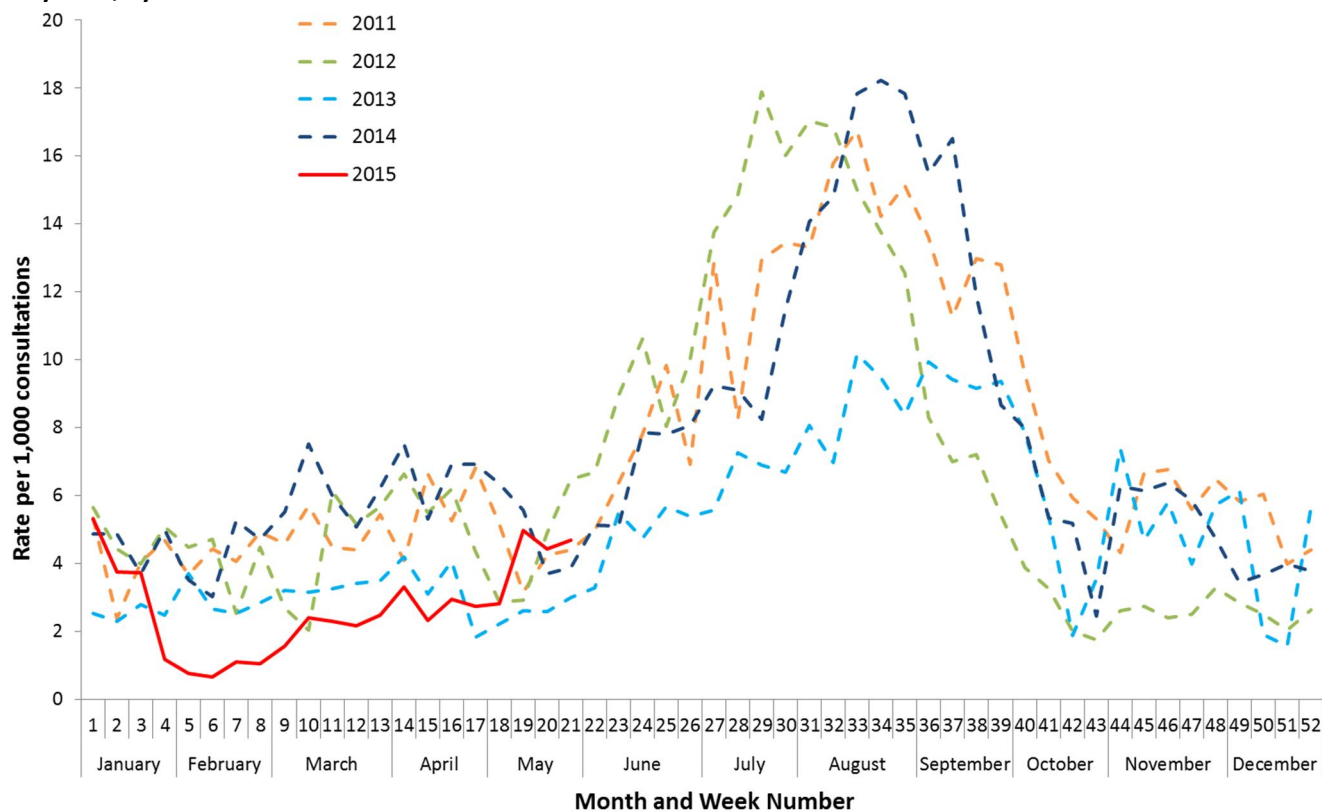
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
 Note: Each figure has a different vertical scale range

Figure 3: Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January to 22 May 2015, by subtype and week



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Figure 4: Weekly rate of ILI reported from sentinel General Practitioner ILI surveillance systems, 1 January 2011 to 24 May 2015, by week



Source: Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network. Data from the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory General Practitioner influenza-like illness surveillance system is included from May to October each year.

Background

The Australian Influenza Surveillance Report and Activity Updates are compiled from a number of data sources, which are used to monitor influenza activity and severity in the community. These data sources include laboratory-confirmed notifications to NNDSS; influenza associated hospitalisations; sentinel influenza-like illness (ILI) reporting from general practitioners and emergency departments; ILI-related call centre calls and community level surveys; and sentinel laboratory testing results.

The Australian Influenza Surveillance Report is published on a fortnightly basis during the influenza season, typically between May and October. Influenza activity updates will be published outside of the seasonal period. A more in-depth end-of-season report is also published in *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* journal. All reports are collated and made available at www.health.gov.au/flureport

Contacts

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