

Report No. 2: Week ending 16 May 2021

Overview: The 2021 influenza season so far

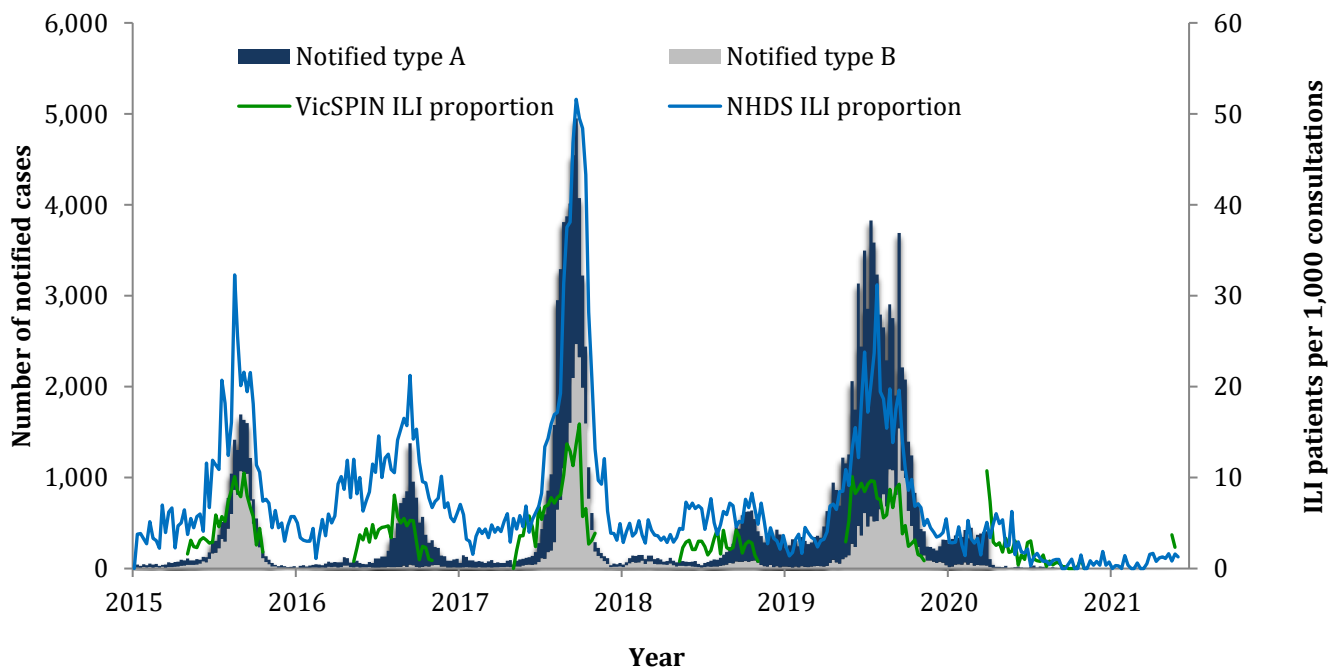
VicSPIN influenza surveillance has commenced with a smaller cohort of GPs contributing data due to changes in clinical practice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some GPs have elected not to collect swabs but will continue to report all ILIs even when the patient has been referred to alternative clinics for swab collection.

Influenza-like illness (ILI) is below the average activity threshold for this reporting week, with 2.3 ILIs per 1000 patients seen.

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is **99% lower** than the number notified by the same time in 2020. The majority of notified cases have been **type A (90%)**. There has also been one influenza type C case.

One swab was received from VicSPIN this week, of which 0 tested positive for influenza.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases, VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2015 – 2021



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for this week is **1.3 0 ILI cases per 1,000** patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity is **well below** the average activity threshold range of 10-35 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN for this week is below the average activity threshold with **2.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen**. (Figures 1 & 2, and Table 1).
- **One swabs** were received from VicSPIN this week (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- There were **0** that tested positive for influenza. (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- **One swab** tested positive for seasonal coronavirus (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 16 May 2021.

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	32 (100%)	
Total patients seen	2557	5250
Total patients with ILI	6	16
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	2.3	3.04
Number of specimens received	1	7
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

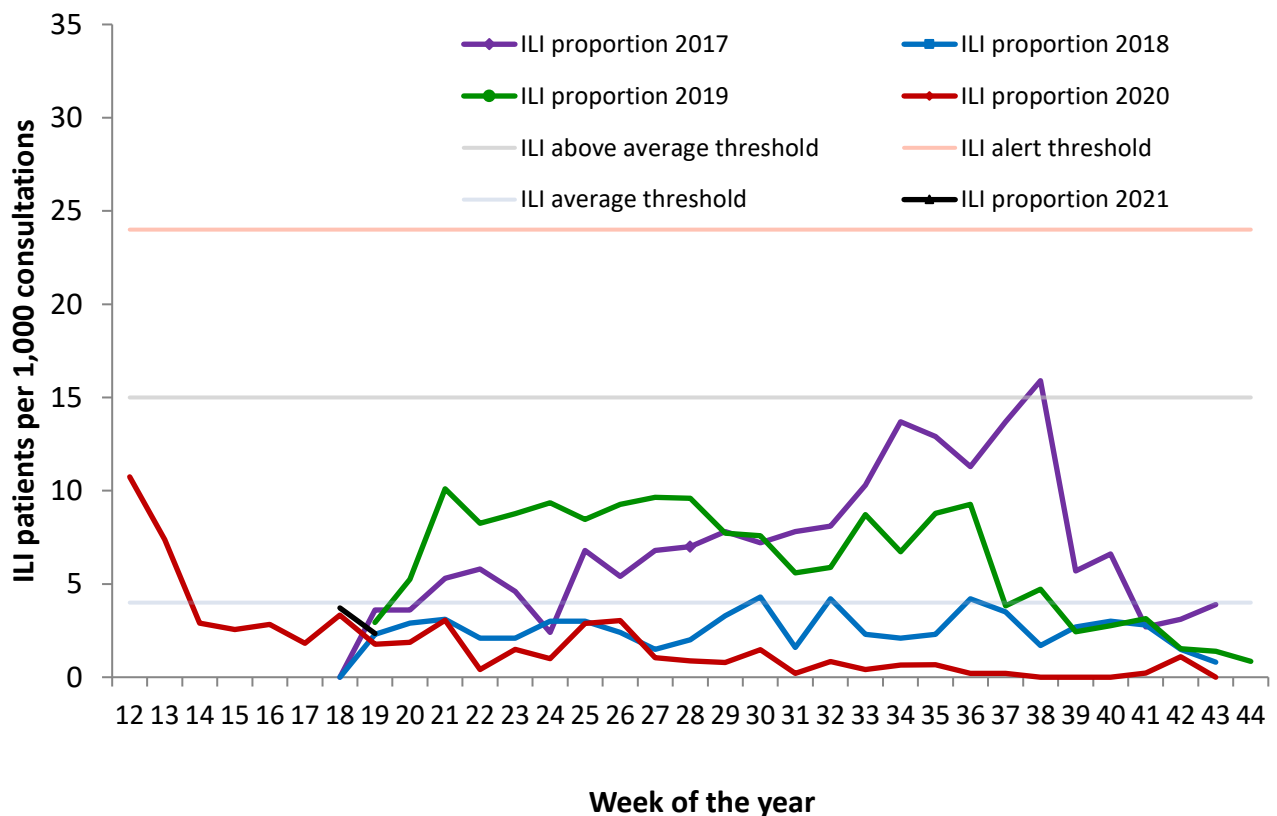
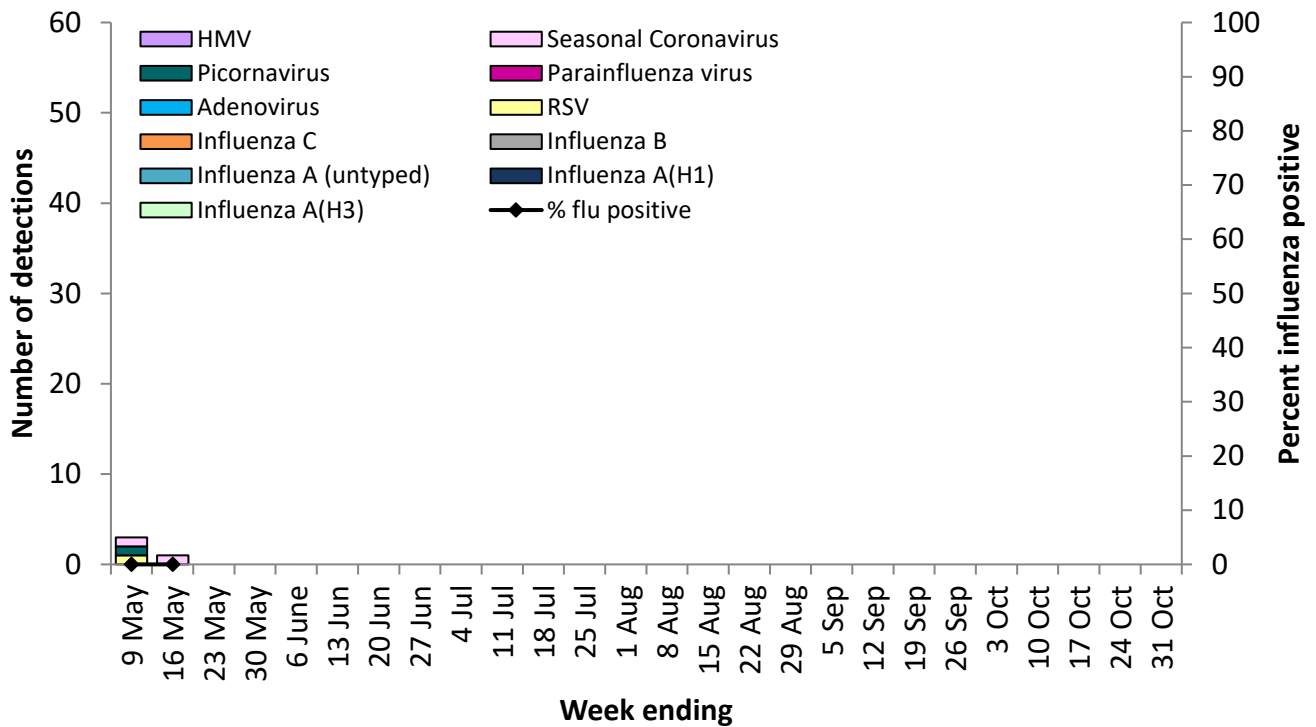


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2021



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for this week, is 1 case.
- A total of 61 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2021, a 99% decrease on the number notified by the same time in 2020 (Figure 1).
- Year to date, 90% of notified cases have been type A (22% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 18% aged 65 years and over) and 8% have been type B (100% of Type B cases are aged between 10 and 65 years).
- There has been one notified case of influenza type C.

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2021 egg-based influenza quadrivalent vaccine are: A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus. The trivalent vaccine excludes the B/Yamagata lineage virus.
- The strains included in the 2021 cell-based influenza quadrivalent vaccine are: A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.

- A total of 0 Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date:
 - 0 as A/Victoria/2570/2019-Like
 - 0 as A/Victoria/2570/2019-Low Reactor
 - 0 as A/Darwin/726/2019-Like
 - 0 as A/Darwin/726/2019-Low Reactor
 - 0 as B/Washington/02/2019-Like
 - 0 as B/Washington/02/2019-Low Reactor
 - 0 as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like
 - 0 as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Low Reactor

N.B. A/Darwin/726/2019 is the cell equivalent of A/Hong Kong/2671/2019-H3N2 vaccine strain.

- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir or oseltamivir, among the 9 Australian isolates tested so far in 2021.