

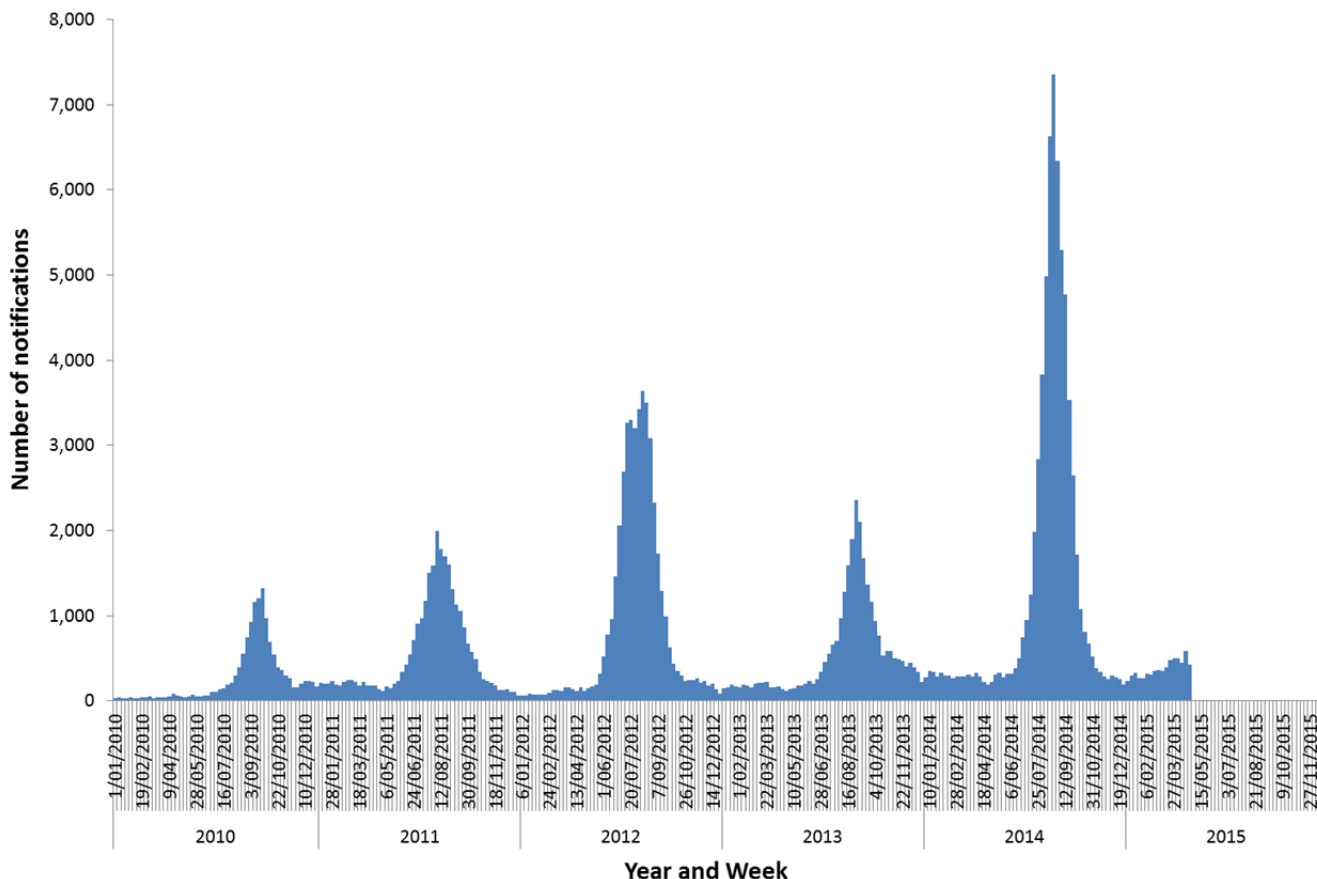


AUSTRALIAN INFLUENZA ACTIVITY UPDATE

SUMMARY

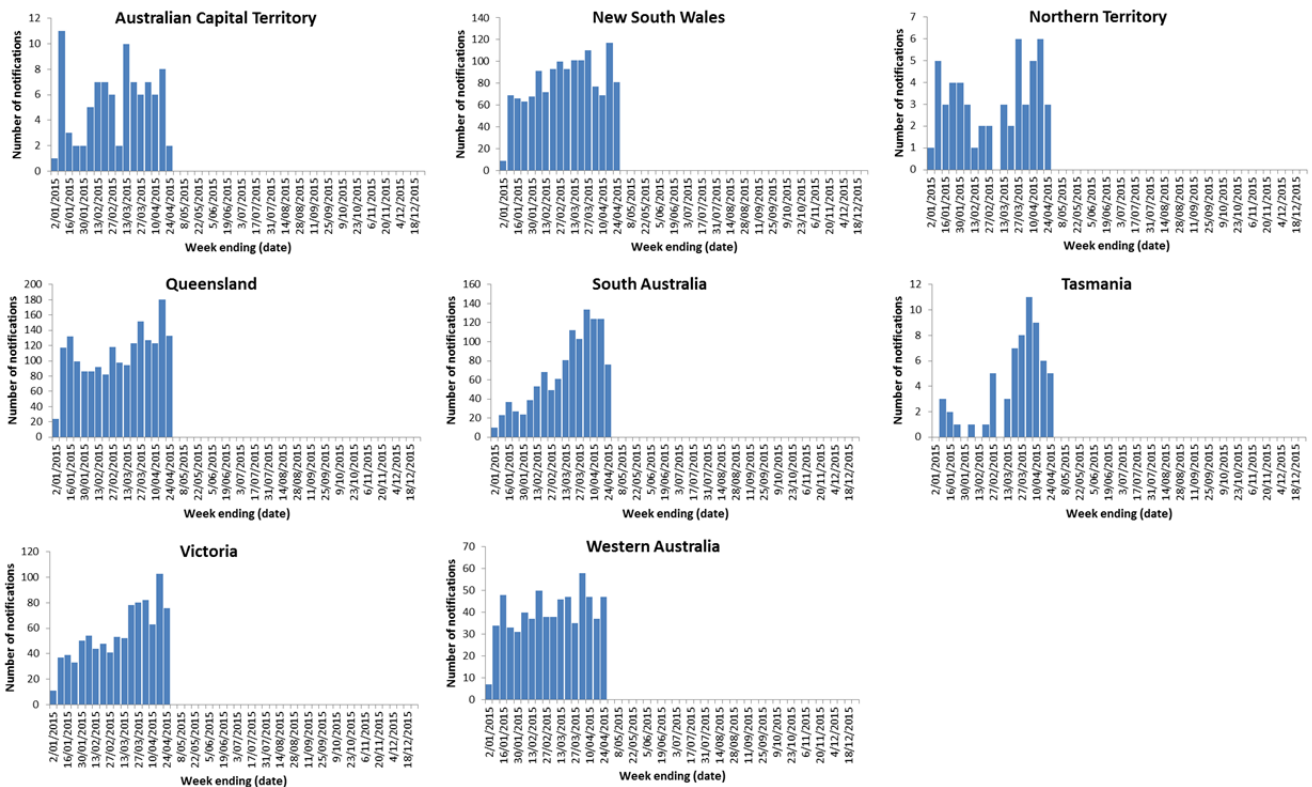
- Australia is currently in the inter-seasonal period for influenza, with overall influenza activity at low levels (Figure 1 and Figure 4).
- Influenza activity across jurisdictions is variable (Figure 2). Activity since the start of the year has been higher in a majority of jurisdictions than at the same time last year, however many jurisdictions have reported a decline in activity in the most recent reporting week compared with the week prior.
- Nationally, 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 viruses circulating in Australia appear to be a good match with the 2015 seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine.
- Influenza-like illness (ILI) levels detected through the sentinel GP ILI surveillance system remain lower than previous years (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 24 April 2015



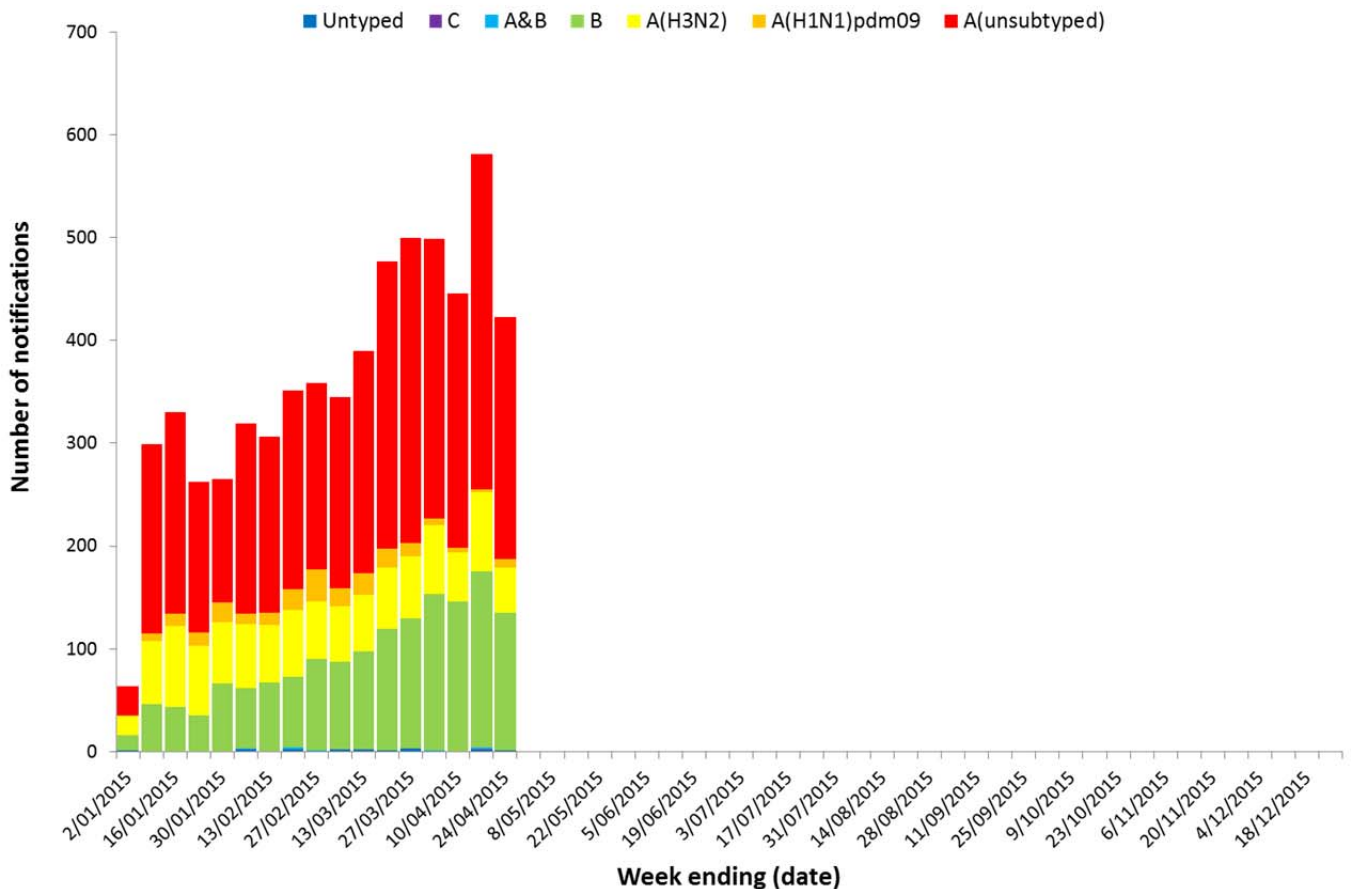
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Figure 2: Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January to 24 April 2015, by state or territory and week



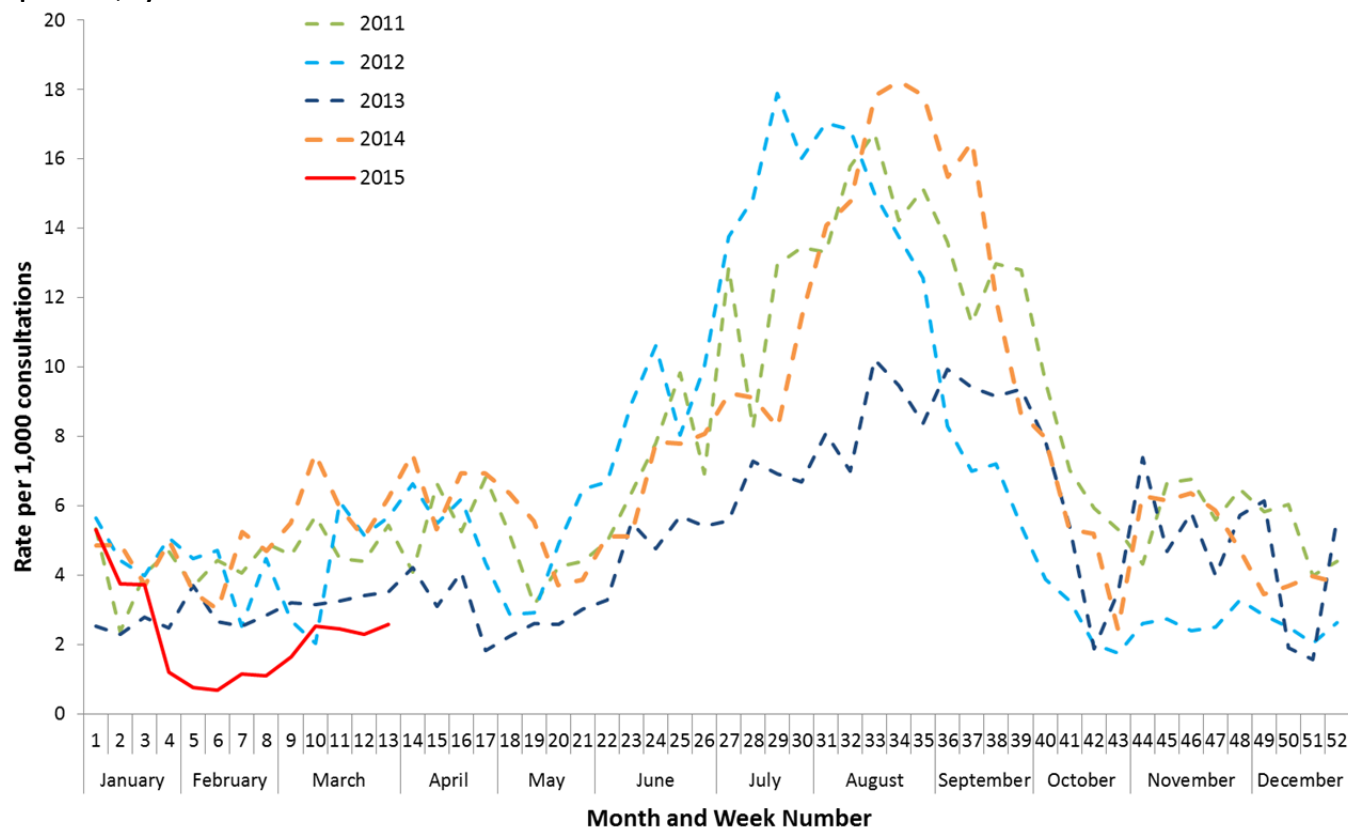
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
 Note: Each figure has a different vertical scale range

Figure 3: Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January to 24 April 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 26 April 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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