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

Influenza Epidemiology in Western Australia

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CDCD

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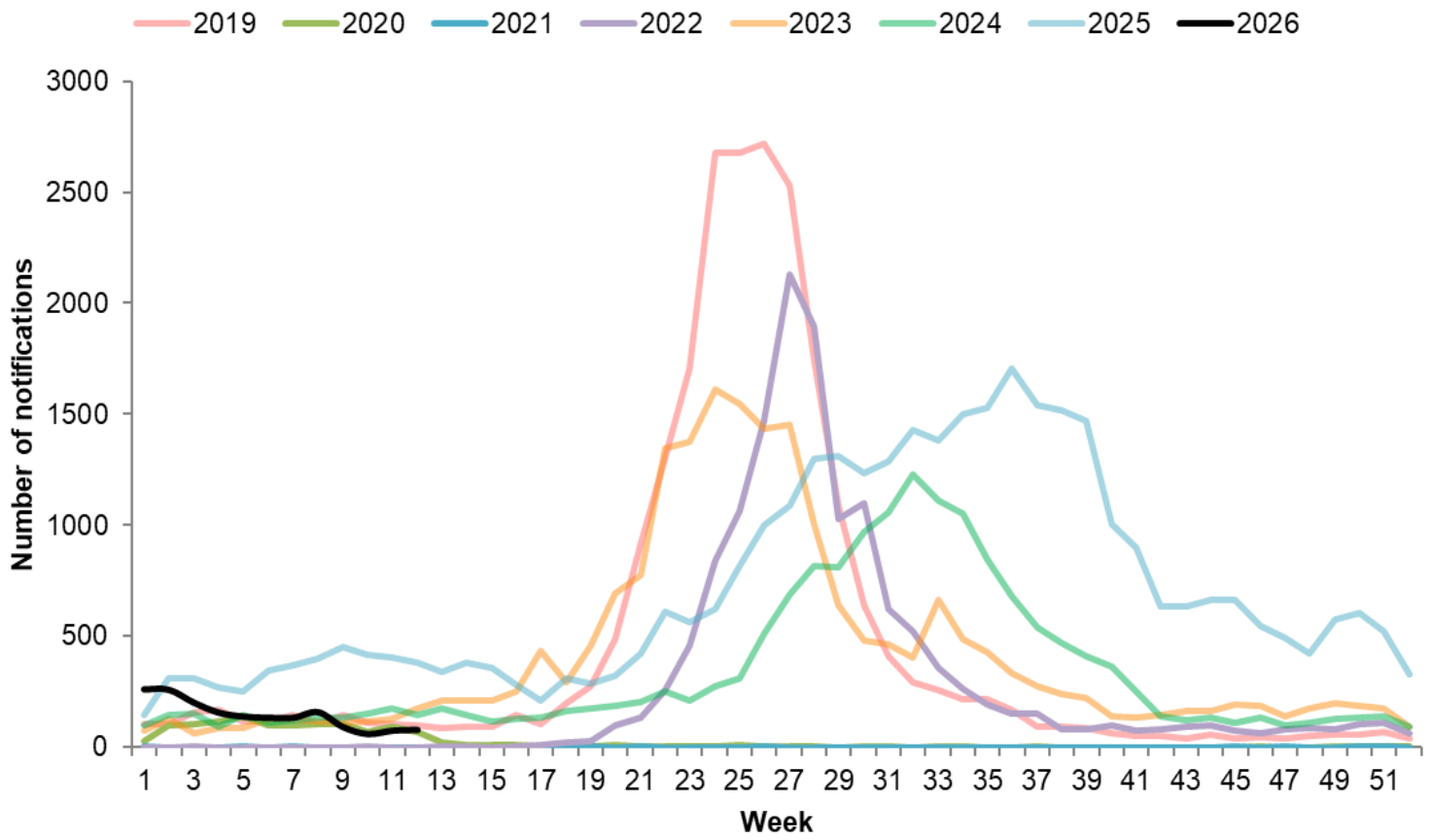
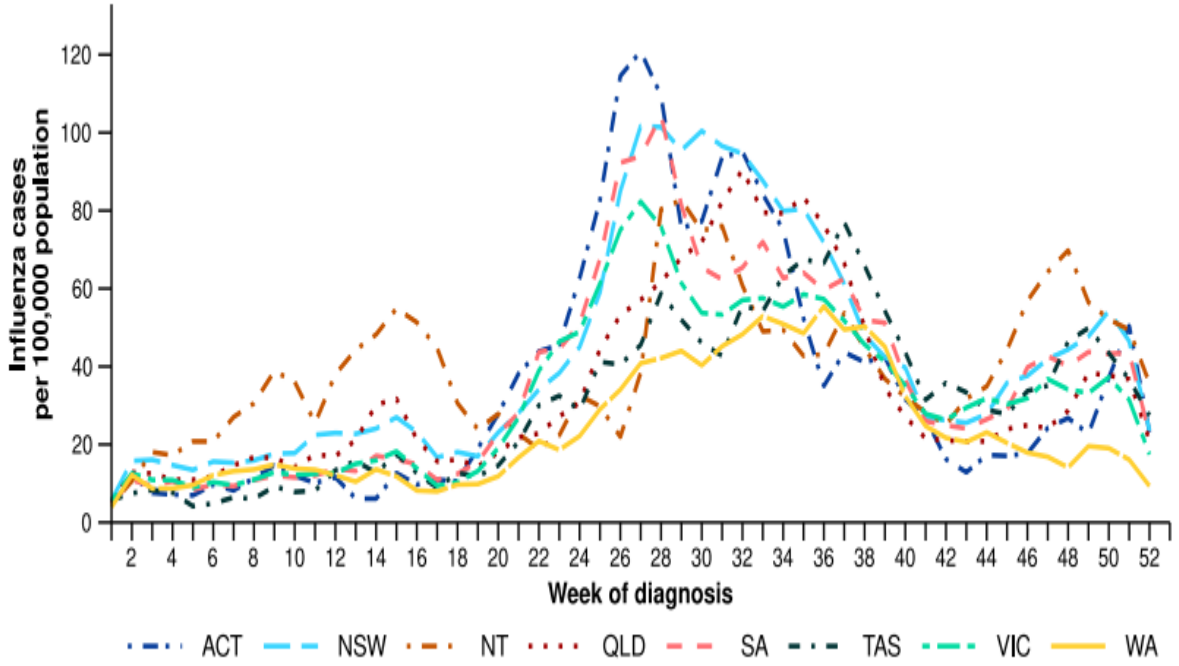


Year	Number of notifications
2018	5,891
2019	23,404
2020	1,227
2021	37
2022	14,186
2023	21,331
2024	17,269
2025	36,507
2026 YTD	1,742

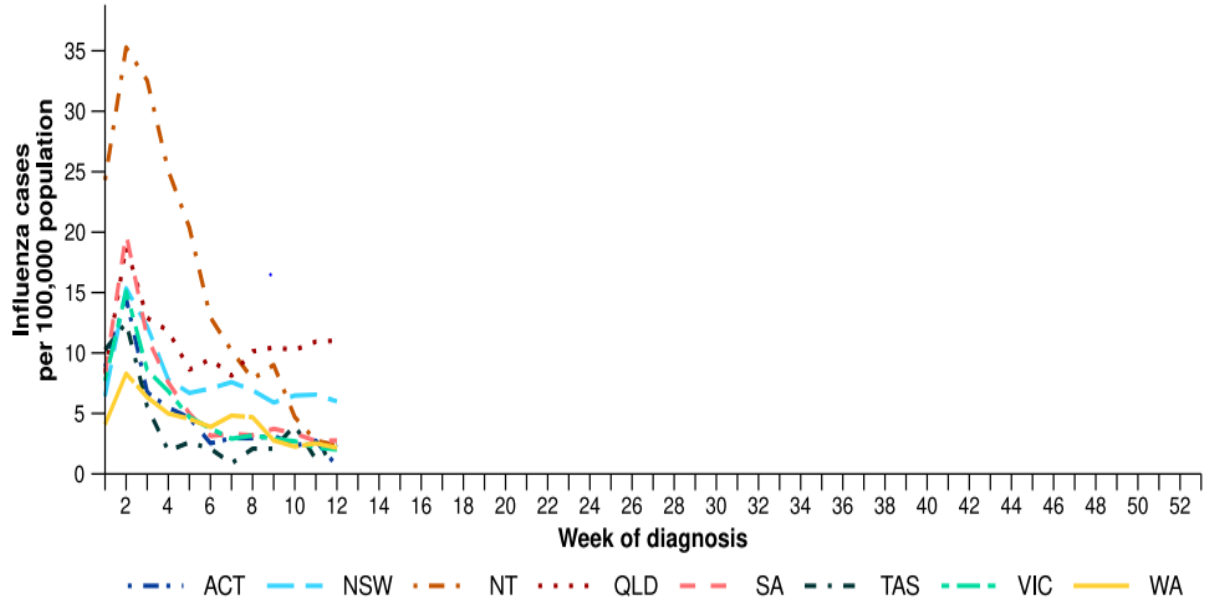
Influenza cases in Australia, 2025 to 2026 YTD

Figure 7: Notification rates* per 100,000 population for influenza cases by state or territory and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 28 December 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)
* Rate per 100,000 population for the given time period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for the reference period June 2024, released 12 December 2024.

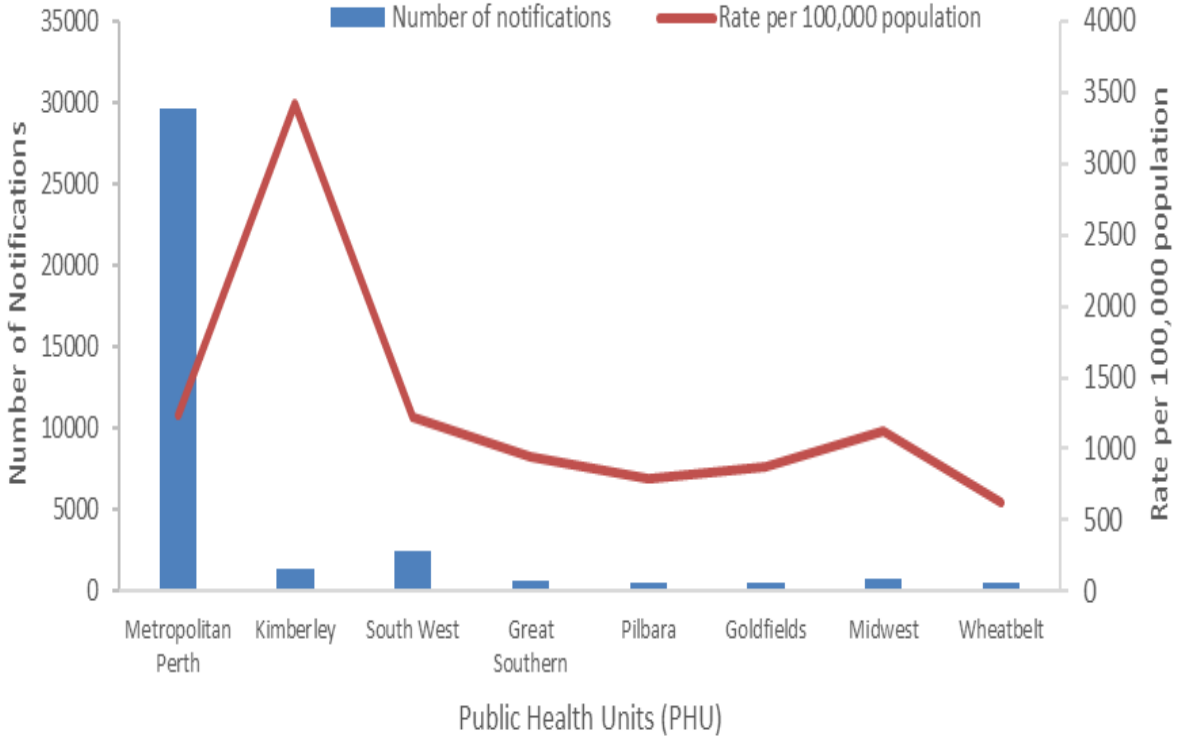
Figure 8: Notification rates per 100,000 population for influenza cases by state or territory and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 22 March 2026

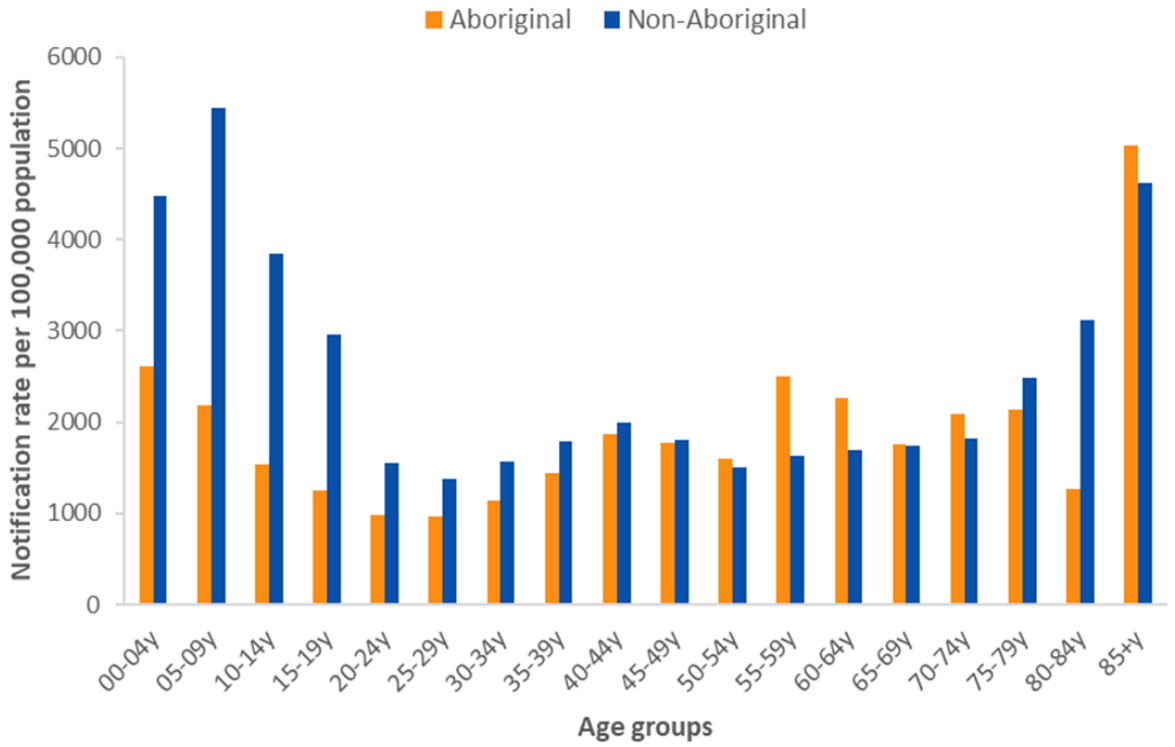


Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

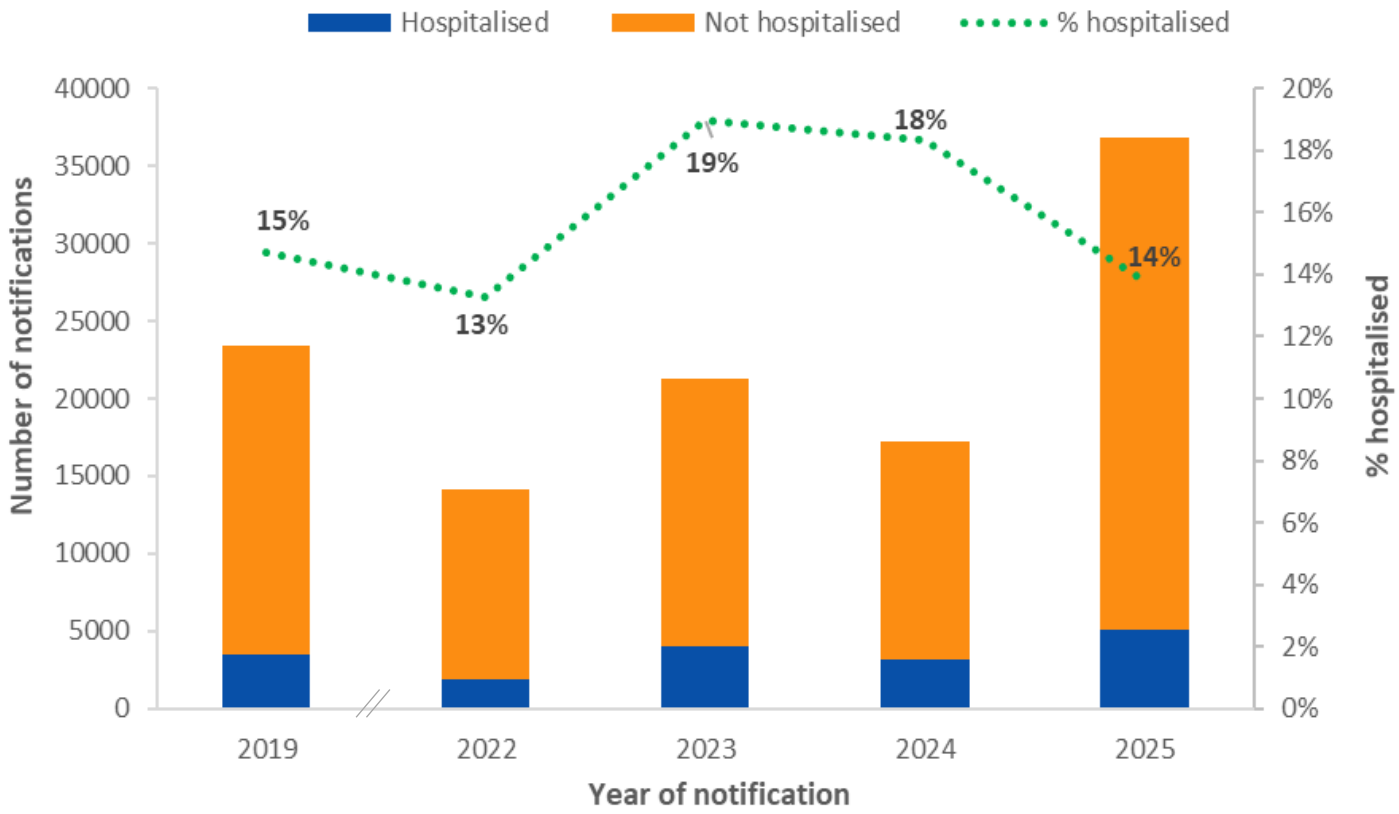
Source: Australian Respiratory Surveillance Summary Report

Influenza in WA by PHU, age and Aboriginality, 2025



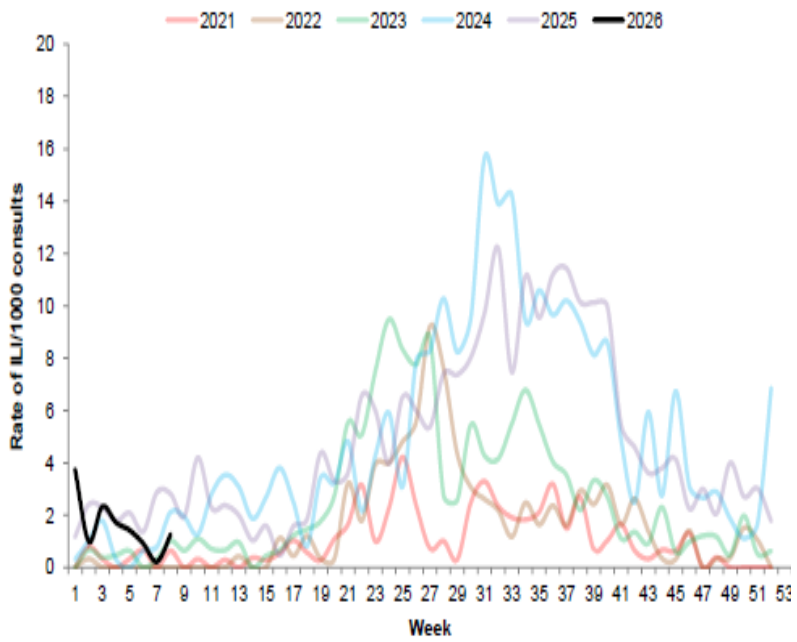


Influenza hospitalisation 2019 to 2025

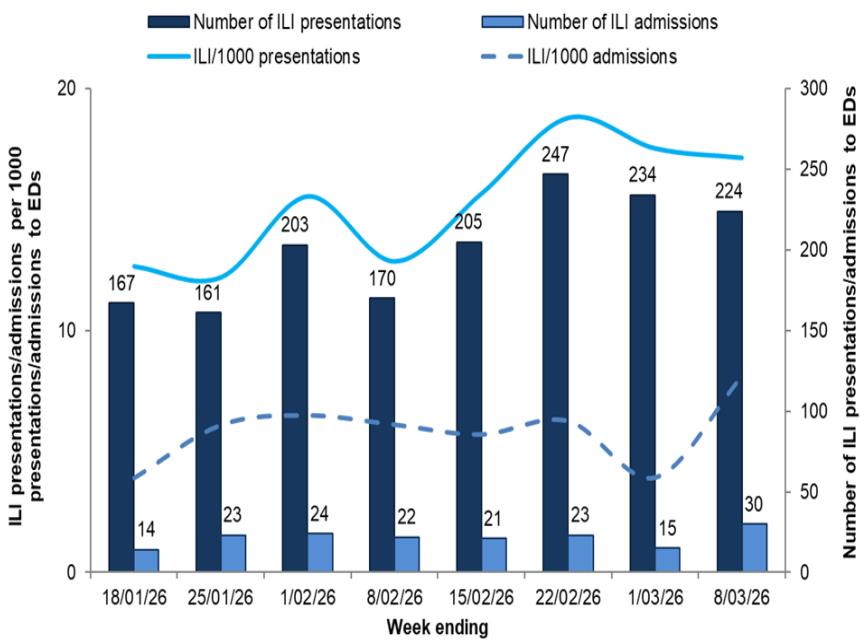


Year	Number of deaths
2019	103
2022	14
2023	21
2024	11
2025	18
2026 YTD	1

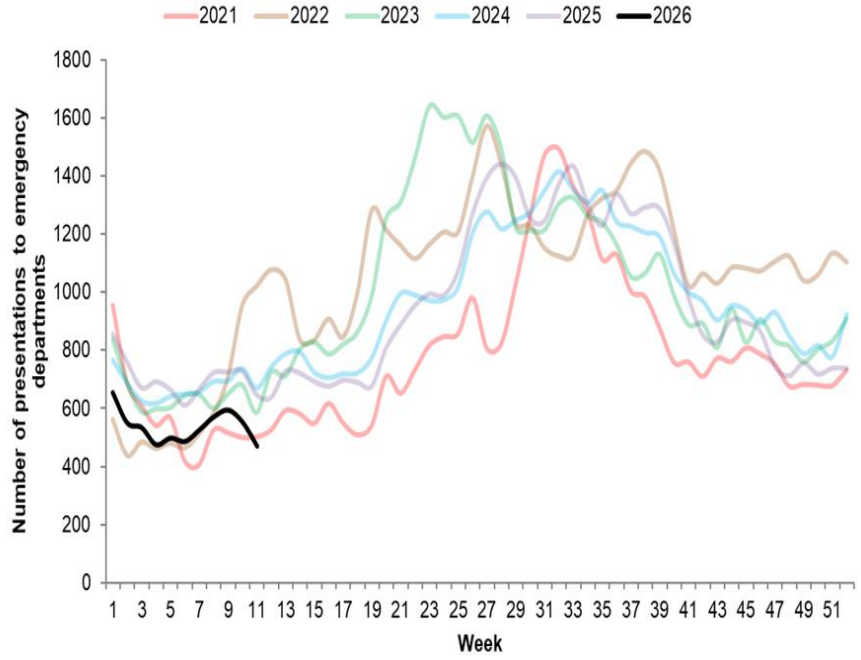
Sentinel surveillance indicators



Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations at sentinel GPs (Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network), 2021 to 2026 YTD



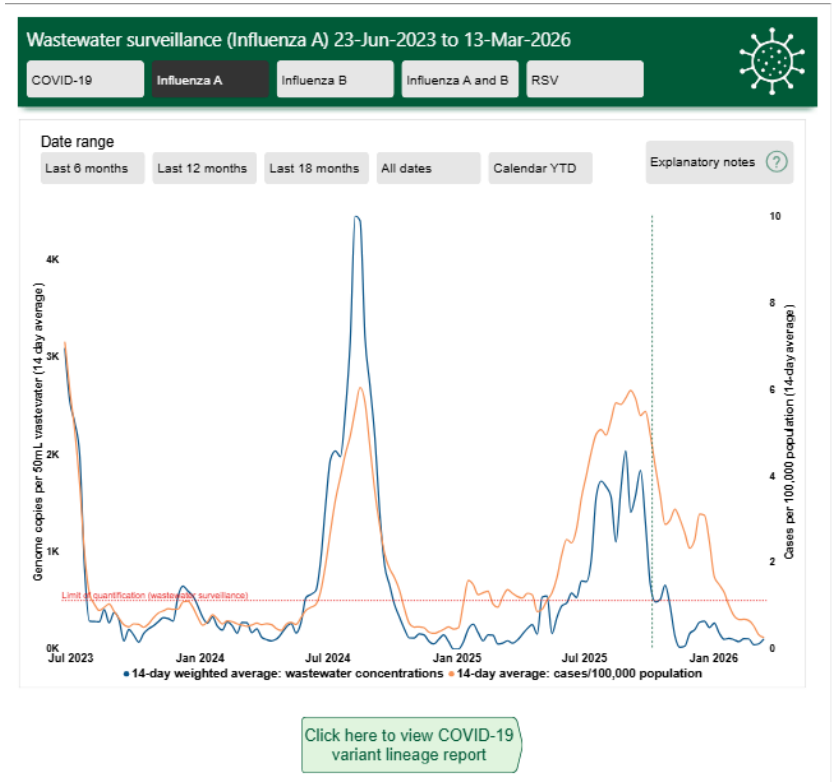
Number and rate of ILI presentations to EDS in the past eight weeks



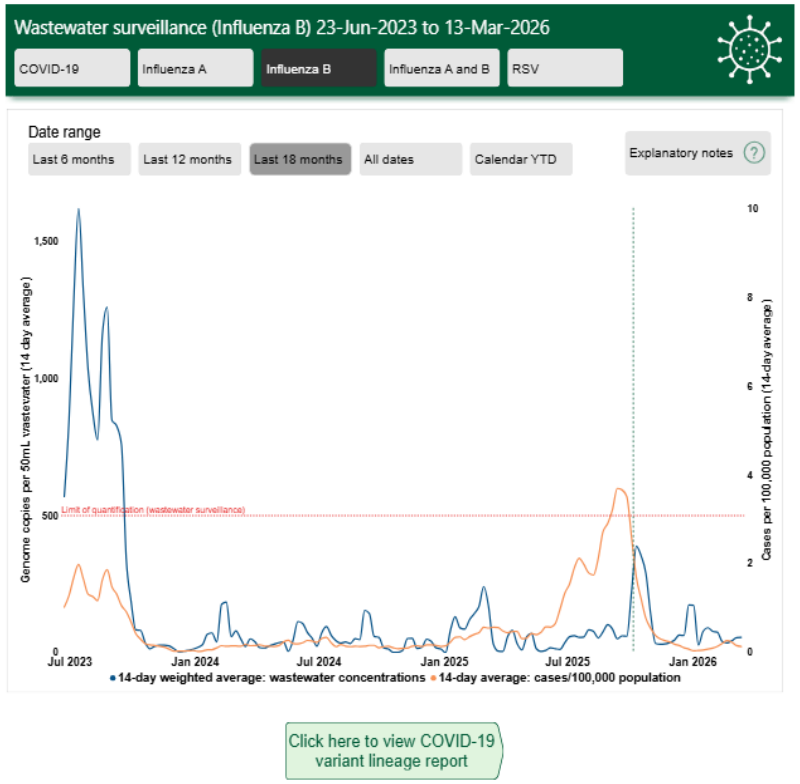
Number of respiratory illness presentations to EDs by week, 2021 to 2026

Source: Virus WAtch report (https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Infectious-disease-data/Virus-Watch)

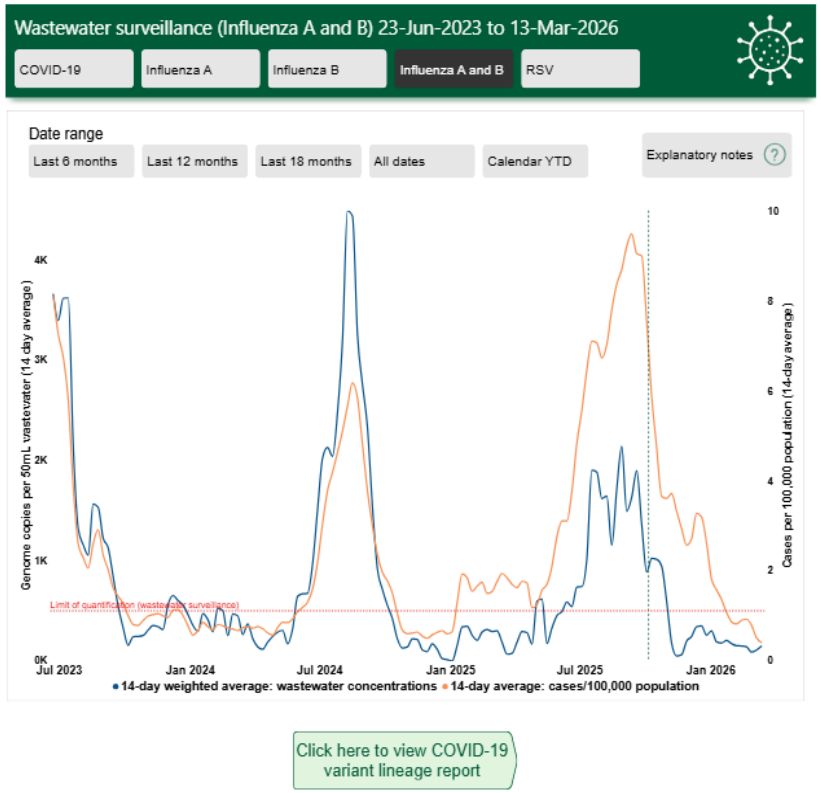
WA Wastewater Surveillance Program



Influenza A virus concentration in wastewater and cases per 100,000 population



Influenza B virus concentration in wastewater and cases per 100,000 population

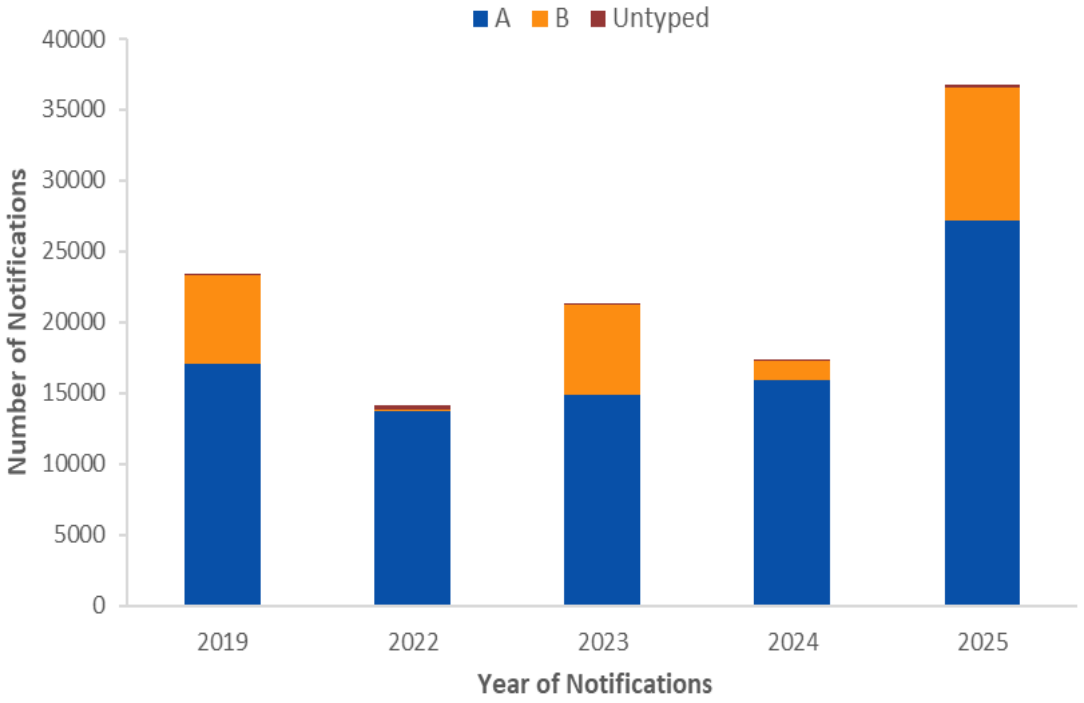


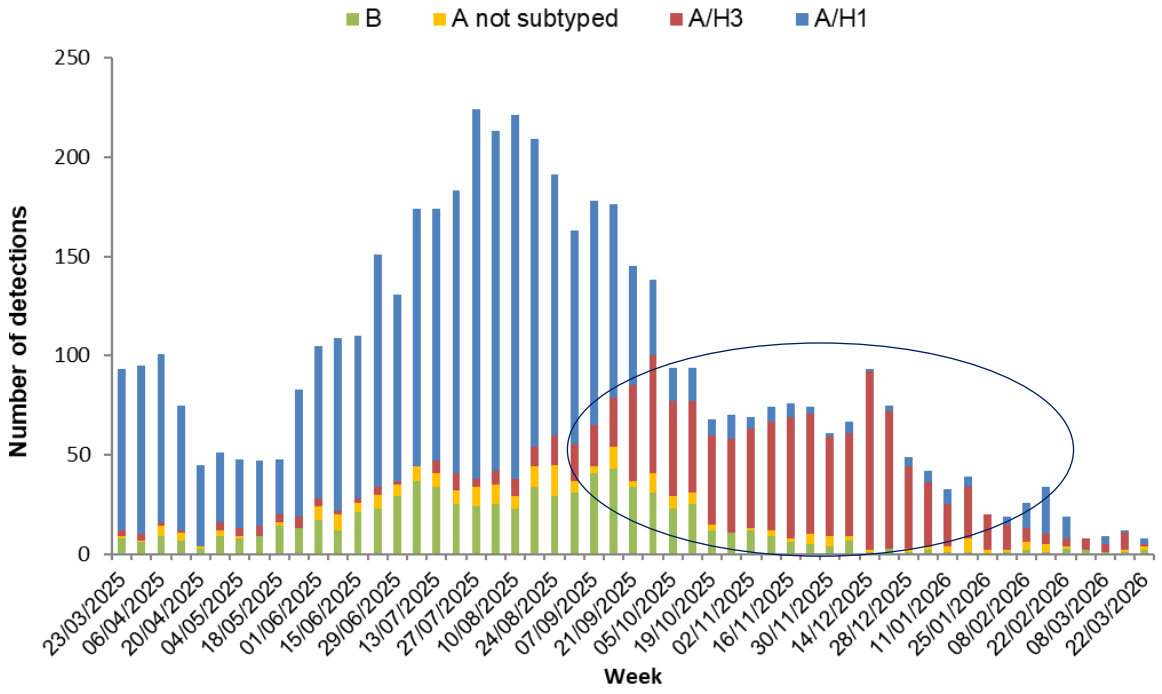
Influenza A and B virus concentration in wastewater and cases per 100,000 population

health.wa.gov.au

Source: Respiratory Virus Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard
https://www.health.wa.gov.au/articles/n_r/respiratory-virus-wastewater-surveillance

Influenza notifications in WA by year, type and subtype

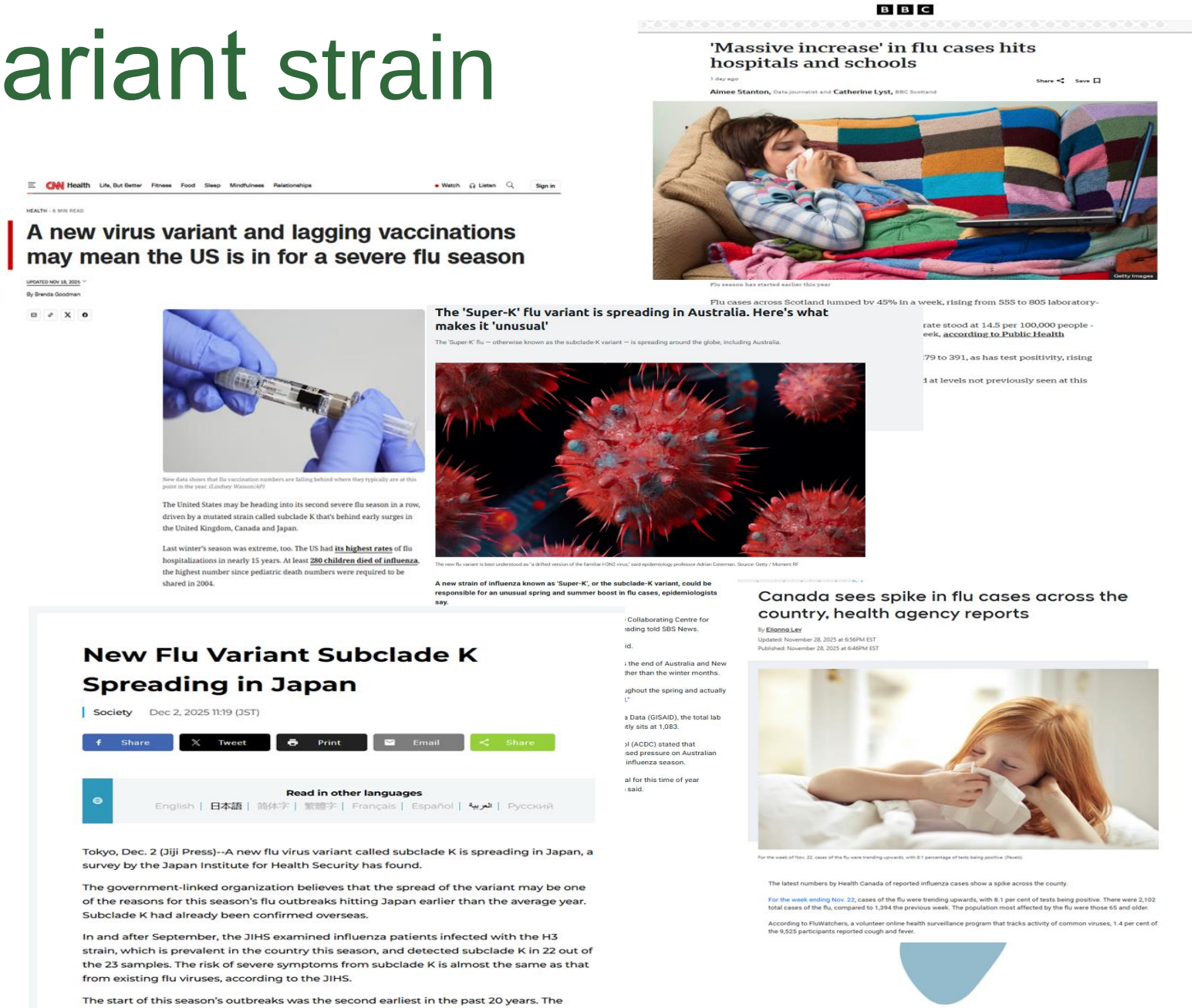




Source: PathWest Laboratory Medicine

“Super K” variant strain

- Newly-emerged influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K
- Rapid rise of subclade K from low-level to geographical widespread after August 2025.
- Normal consequence of antigenic drift
- Mismatch between the 2025 Northern Hemisphere vaccine and this new subclade.
- Limited real-world vaccine effectiveness data



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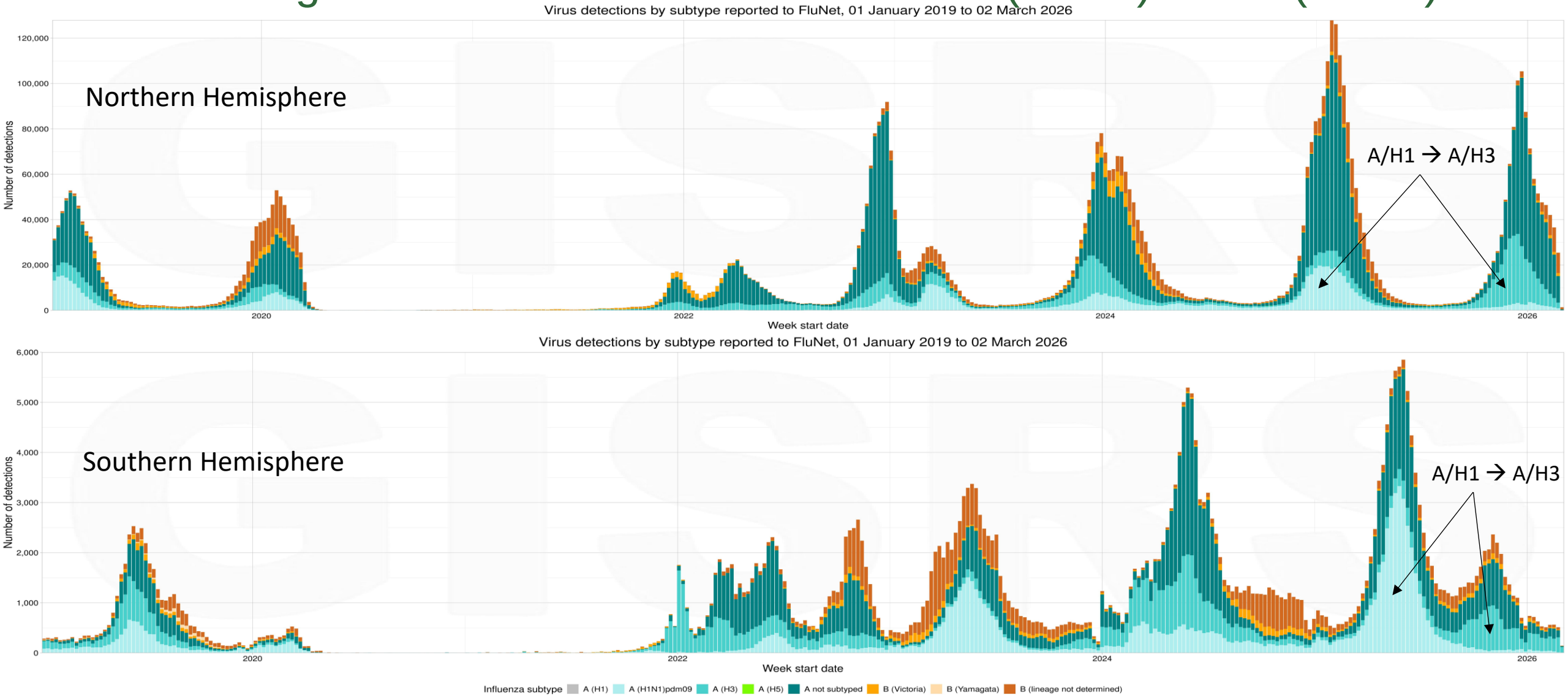
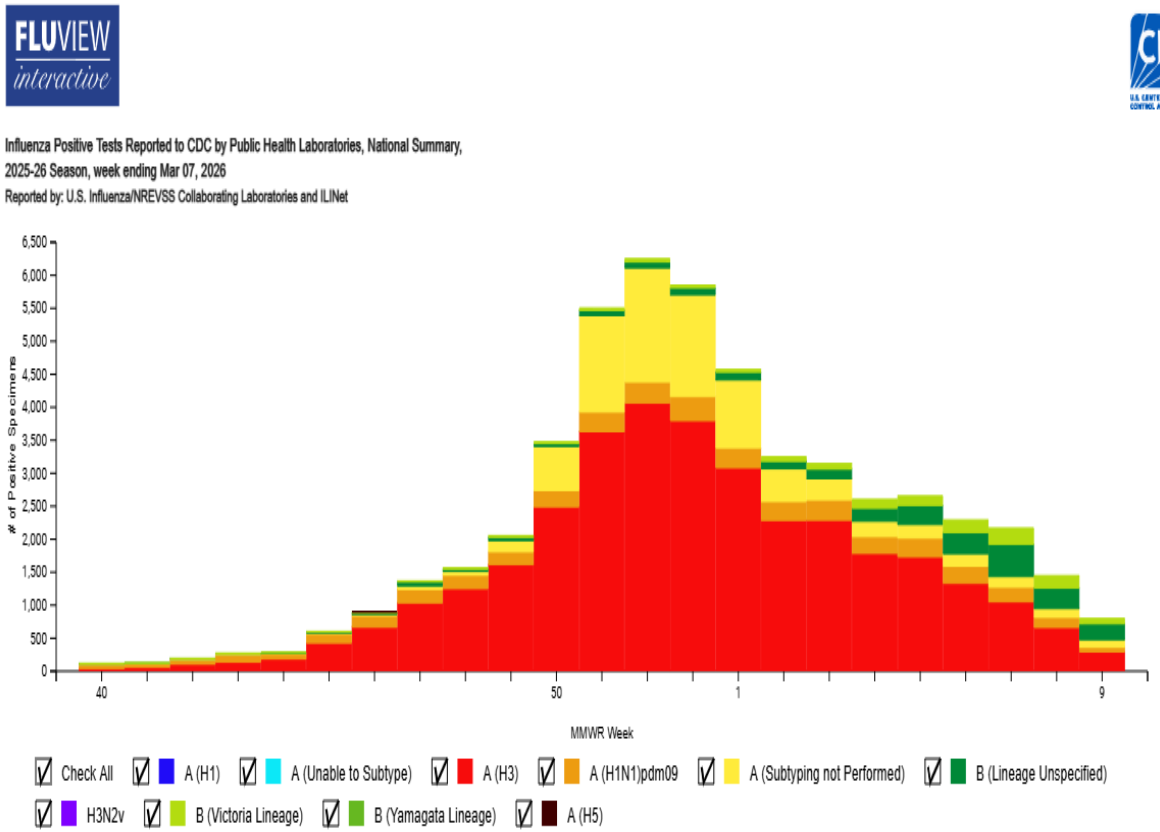
The Antigenic Drift of Seasonal Influenza A (H3N2) and A (H1N1)

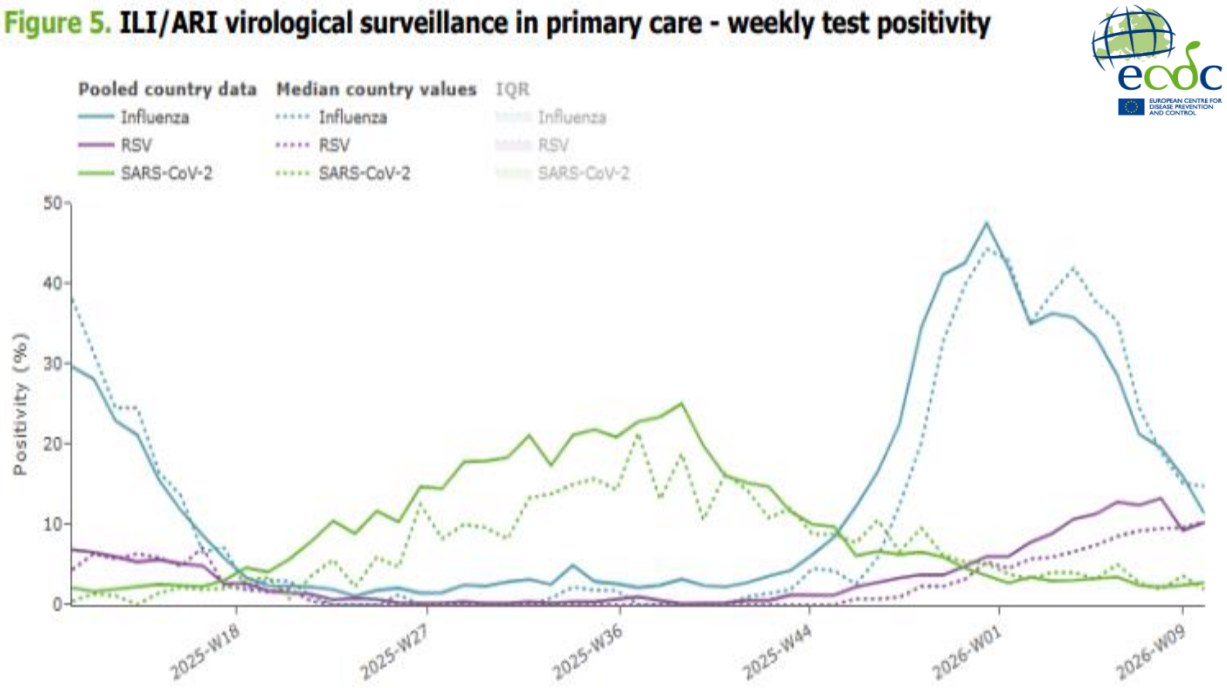


The chart above is displayed for Southern Hemisphere in all sites for week start dates 01 January 2019 to 02 March 2026

Global influenza epidemiology update



Source: Fluview Interactive Dashboard (https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html)



Source: ECDC Communicable Disease Threats Report for week 11 (7-13 March 2026)

Influenza surveillance in WA – Flu Survey

December 2024 to February 2025

- Unseasonal increase in influenza notifications in WA.
- SMS survey (https://www.esendex.com/home) sent to 1,030 cases with 65% (668/1,030) response rate.
- 46% of the surveyed influenza cases reported overseas travel.
- Limitation: No case control group

September and December 2025

- Coincided with increase in A/H3 detections by PathWest.
- Addressed previous survey's limitation by including pertussis as control.
- SMS survey sent to 880 cases with 68% (594/880) response rate.
- Overseas travel was a significant risk for all types of influenza.

Summary

2025 Summary

- Record high notifications so far
- Highest influenza notification rates in <10 years and 80+ years
- Influenza A is the predominant subtype
- Shift from A/H1 to A/H3 observed in PathWest data from August 2025.
- Emergence of Super K – variant of A/H3 in Australia and globally.
- Two surveys indicated international travel was significant risk for all types of influenza.

Acknowledgements

- Surveillance Disease Control team, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
- Information and System Performance Department (ISPD), Department of Health WA
- The Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network (ASPREN)
- PathWest Laboratory Medicine of WA