

## Report No. 3: Week ending 23 May 2021

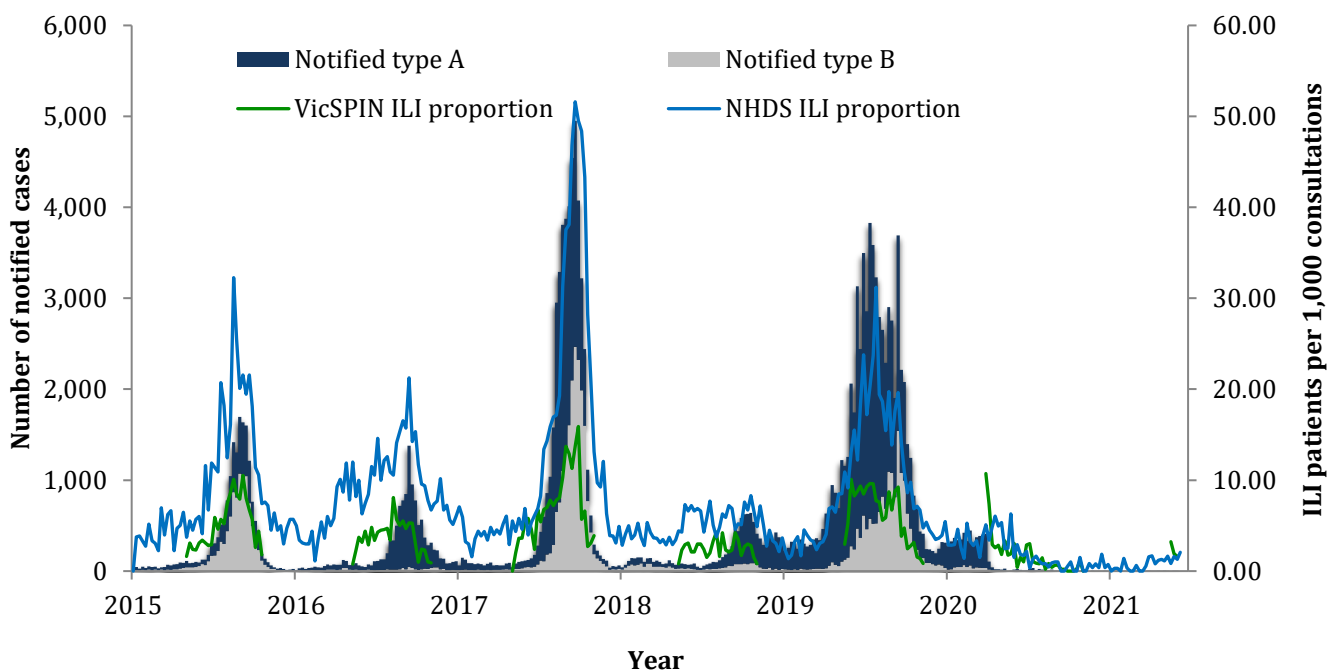
### Overview: The 2021 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness (ILI) is **below the average activity** threshold for this reporting week, with **1.7 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 (89%)**. There has also been one case of a co-infection with influenza type A and B, and one case of influenza type C.

**Three swabs** were 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 **2.07 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 **1.7 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen**. (Figures 1 & 2, and Table 1).
- **Three 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).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 23 May 2021.

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	32 (100%)	
Total patients seen	3621	9892
Total patients with ILI	6	22
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	1.7	2.2
Number of specimens received	3	9
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

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

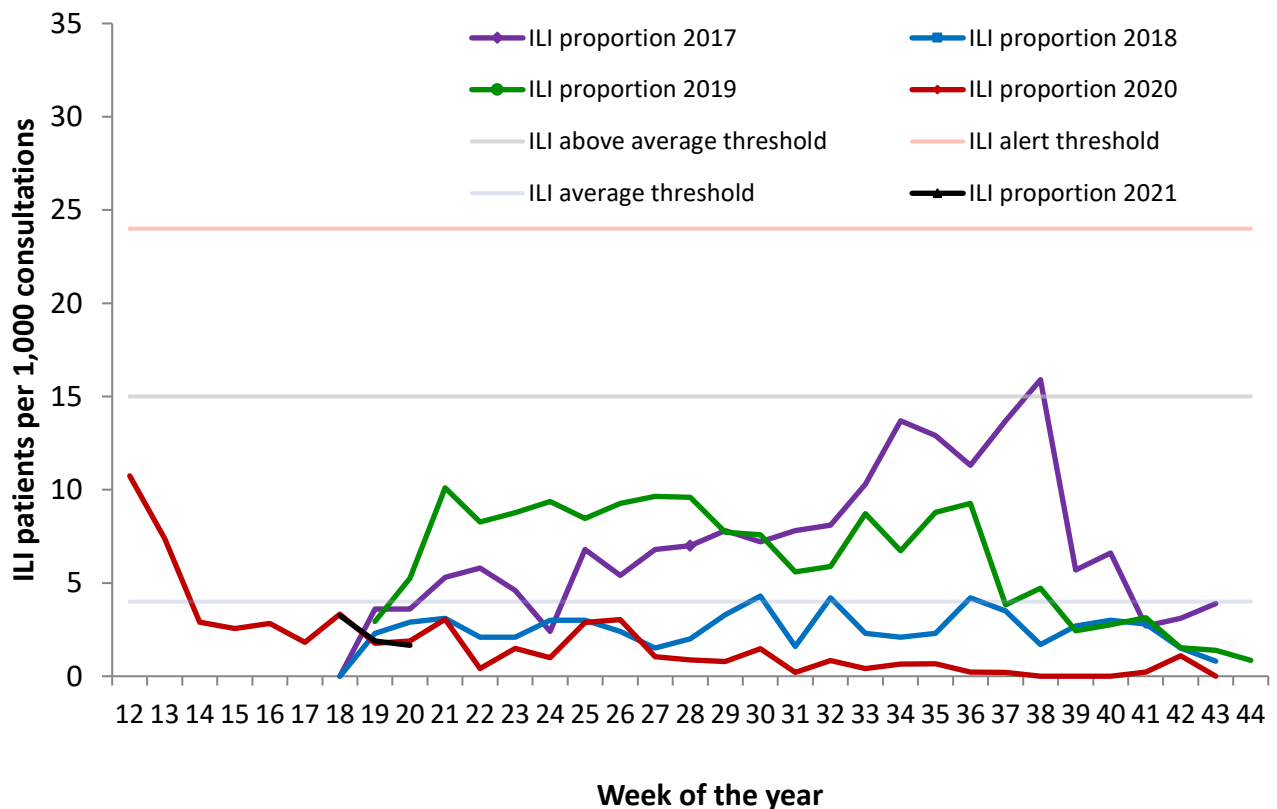
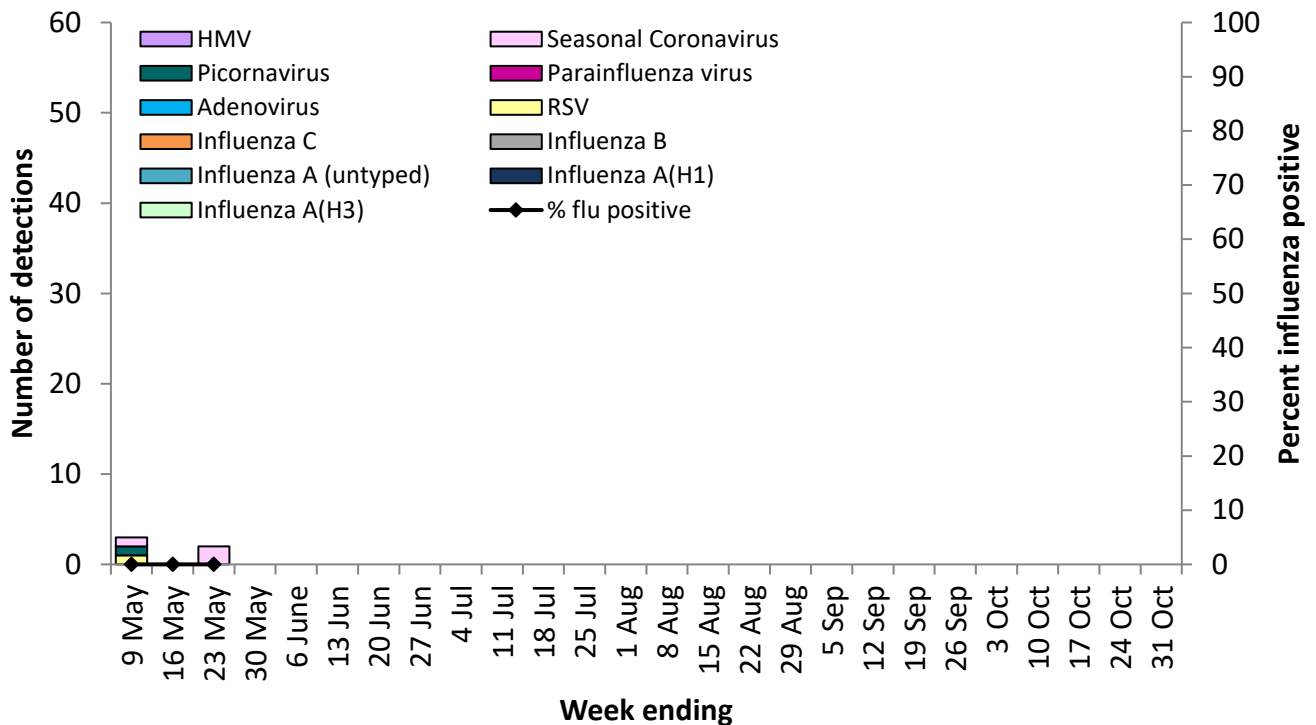


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2021



## 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 2 cases.
- A total of 63 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, 89% of notified cases have been type A (21% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 20% 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 and one notified case of a co-infection with influenza type A and B.

### 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.