1. Influenza Notifications and ASPREN Influenza Like Illness

Figure 1: Laboratory confirmed influenza notifications in Queensland from 1st January 2010 to 24th October 2010, by onset week and type. Also, Consultation rates for influenza like illness in Queensland reported to the ASPREN sentinel network 1st January 2009 to 24th October 2010.

Data Sources: Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions Register 25/10/2010 and ASPREN website 25/10/2010

Influenza Notifications

Year to date 2164 cases of influenza (1997 type A, 163 type B and 4 untyped) have been notified to Queensland Health. 882 of the influenza A notifications are confirmed as pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection while 92 have been H3N2. Figure 1 shows notifications for influenza A and B by week of onset. An increasing trend in notifications is noted from around week 29. The number of laboratory confirmed cases appears to have reached it’s peak in week 37. During week 42 notification numbers again increased. The recent week’s (43) data may be incomplete.
Figure 2: Age and gender profile of Influenza notifications in Queensland (2010) to 24th October

Data Source: Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions Register 25/10/2010

Figure 2 shows 2010 laboratory confirmed influenza notifications by age group and gender. Notifications are highest in the 10–19 and 20–29 year age groups for males and females respectively.

**ASPREN**

ASPREN is a national syndromic surveillance program co-ordinated by the Discipline of General Practice at the University of Adelaide and The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. One of the conditions under surveillance is influenza like illness (ILI).

General practitioners (GP) participating in the ASPREN program contribute data on the proportion of consultations which are ILI related. Currently there are 20 Queensland GPs participating in the program, although not all may participate each week.

Figure 1 shows ILI rates (per 1000 consultations) for presentations to Queensland GPs participating in the ASPREN program. There is rising trend from week 30 to 39 which is consistent with the rise in laboratory confirmed influenza notifications. A decreasing trend is noted from week 40 followed by a sharp rise in week 43 (NB recent week’s data may be incomplete). It is possible that the recent increase in consultation rates is an artefact of waning GP participation in the recent week.
2. Hospital Admissions in Queensland

Table 1: Hospital admissions in Queensland due to confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases by Health Service District, from 1st January to 24th October, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Service District</th>
<th>Cumulative Admissions (since 01/01/2010)</th>
<th>Currently Admitted (24/10/2010)</th>
<th>Cumulative ICU (since 01/01/2010)</th>
<th>Currently in ICU (24/10/2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cairns and Hinterland</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape York</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Queensland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central West</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Health Services</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darling Downs-West Moreton</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro North</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro South</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Isa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torres Strait-Northern Peninsula</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Hospitals§</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data extracted from Epilog at 08:13 25/10/2010 and was correct at time of extract
†Accuracy of counts from public hospitals depends on the timeliness of data entry and may underestimate admission depending on the time of data extract.
§Private hospital data last updated 25/10/2010

Epilog is a web based application which is used to store data related hospitalisation due to pandemic (H1N1)2009 infection in Queensland public hospitals and selected private hospitals. Analysis and reporting of data helps to inform strategies for optimizing health services and providing the best possible care for hospitalised cases.

Cumulative and current confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza admissions to hospital generally, and ICU specifically, are summarized in Table 1 by Health Service District (HSD).

Forty-eight percent (87/182) of patients admitted to public hospitals (overall) were male compared with 56% (24/43) admitted to ICU (Figure 3). The number of hospitalisations is highest in the 0-4 age group. Hospitalisation of females in the 20-29 year age group was approximately four times higher than males in the same group. Males above forty years show a higher frequency of hospitalisation compared with females of similar age (Figure 3).
Figure 3: Age and gender profile of confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza cases admitted to public hospitals in Queensland 1st January to 24th October 2010

Figure 4: Confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza cases admitted to public hospitals in Queensland by week of admission 1st July to 24th October 2010
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza admissions have been steadily increasing since week 34. A decreasing trend is apparent from week 39, although an increase is apparent in week 41. ICU admissions show a similar pattern to admissions overall (Figure 4). There have been two deaths attributed to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza since 1st January 2010.

Figure 5: Hospital Bed occupancy of confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza cases admitted to public hospitals in Queensland 1st July to 24th October 2010

Total bed occupancy, due to confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza, showed 2 similar peaks on 17th and 27th September followed by a plateau in early October to mid October. A decreasing trend is now apparent (Figure 5).
3. **Antiviral Courses Dispensed (from the National Stockpile) by Community Pharmacies**

![Graph showing weekly courses of oseltamivir dispensed by community pharmacies from 1st January to 25th October, 2010, with monthly moving average.](image)

**Figure 6:** Weekly courses of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) dispensed by community pharmacies from 1st January to 25th October, 2010, with monthly moving average.

Source: Pharmacy Guild of Queensland 25/10/201

Figure 6 shows a sharp rise in the number of weekly courses of oseltamivir dispensed by community pharmacies between week 33 and week 37, followed by decreasing trend during weeks 38 and 39. The number of courses dispensed increased again in weeks 40 and 41. The number of courses dispensed in the most recent weeks (weeks 42 and 43) shows a plateau. The monthly moving average shows a downward trend from week 41.

4. **Influenza Activity in Australia (reporting period 9th October to 15th October, 2010)**

- Levels of influenza-like illness (ILI) in the community decreased through all surveillance systems this reporting period. Sporadic, regional or widespread activity was reported within jurisdictions. The number of laboratory confirmed notifications continued to be lower compared to the previous reporting period, suggesting the peak of notifications has passed.
- There were 387 laboratory confirmed notifications of influenza during this reporting period, including 264 pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases. Notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were highest in South Australia.
- Results from sentinel laboratory surveillance systems for this reporting period show that 9% of the respiratory tests conducted over this period were positive for influenza, which is a decrease from the last reporting period (17%). In 2010, a total of 1,245 specimens have been positive for influenza (of 14,100 specimens tested), of which 66% were pandemic (H1N1) 2009, 9% were
A/H3N2, 23% were influenza B and 2% were influenza A untyped.

- In recent weeks there has been an increase in the proportion of influenza type B in Western Australia.
- As at 15 October 2010, there have been 10,042 confirmed cases of influenza entered into the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in 2010. A total of 43,700 confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 have occurred in Australia since May 2009.
- Sentinel hospitals reported a decrease in the number of influenza associated hospitalisations compared to the previous reporting period, with five admissions, including three for pandemic (H1N1) 2009. ANZICS reported a decrease in ICU admissions for influenza this reporting period, with one admission and the APSU reported no cases of influenza complications in children (<15 years) during this reporting period.

Source: Australian Influenza Surveillance Report No. 41, 9 October 2010 – 15 October 2010

5. International Influenza Activity (reporting period 9th October to 15th October, 2010)

The WHO has advised that the world is no longer in phase 6 of influenza pandemic alert, and has moved into the post pandemic period. As at 1 August 2010 there have been over 18,449 deaths associated with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza worldwide since April 2009.

The WHO has reported that influenza activity is decreasing in most parts of the Southern Hemisphere and the season has not appeared to have started in the Northern Hemisphere. Influenza A/H3N2 is now the predominant influenza virus worldwide after several weeks of increasing detections, although many areas still have active transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Most of the influenza A/H3N2 viruses detected are A/Perth/16/2009-like, which is the strain included in the seasonal vaccine for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

In New Zealand, the ILI consultation rate peaked in early August and has now returned to below baseline levels. Of the influenza viruses identified through sentinel and non-sentinel swab testing in the past week, 81% were pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza.

Source: Australian Influenza Surveillance Report No. 41, 9 October 2010 – 15 October 2010
6. Virology

Typing and antigenic characterisation – WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference & Research on Influenza (WHO CC) in Melbourne

From 1 January to 17 October 2010, there were 1,115 Australian influenza isolates subtyped by the WHO CC with the majority of isolates typed as pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Table 5).

Table 2: Typing of influenza isolates from the WHO Collaborating Centre, from 1 January to 17 October 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type/Subtype</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
<th>VIC</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A(H1N1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic (H1N1)2009</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>1013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(H3N2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>1115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: WHO CC

Please note: There may be up to a month delay on reporting of samples. Isolates tested by the WHO CC are not necessarily a random sample of all those in the community, hence proportions of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 to seasonal are not representative of the proportions circulating.

Antigenic characterisation of 734 pandemic (H1N1) 2009 isolates has shown 654 to be the A/California/7/2009-like strain and 6 a low reactor version of this strain. Antigenic characterisation of 44 type A/H3N2 isolates has shown 35 to be the A/Perth/16/2009-like and 9 to be the A/Perth/16/2009-like low reactor versions of the strain. One isolate was antigenically characterised as a low-reactor version of B/Florida/4/2006-like, 28 were characterised as B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and 1 a low reactor version of this strain.

Source: Australian Influenza Surveillance Report No. 41, 9 October 2010 – 15 October 2010

Antiviral Resistance

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

The WHO Collaborating Centre in Melbourne has reported that from 1 January 2010 to 17 October 2010, no isolates (out of 751 tested) have shown resistance to oseltamivir or zanamivir by enzyme inhibition assay (EIA) and two pandemic (H1N1) 2009 isolates (out of 41 tested) have shown the H275Y mutation known to confer resistance to oseltamivir.

Source: Australian Influenza Surveillance Report No. 41, 9 October 2010 – 15 October 2010

2011 Southern Hemisphere Vaccine

The WHO has recommended that the composition of vaccines for use in the 2011 influenza season (southern hemisphere winter) contain the following:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus
The 2011 composition is the same as the current 2010 Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.

Source: Australian Influenza Surveillance Report No. 41, 9 October 2010 – 15 October 2010  