

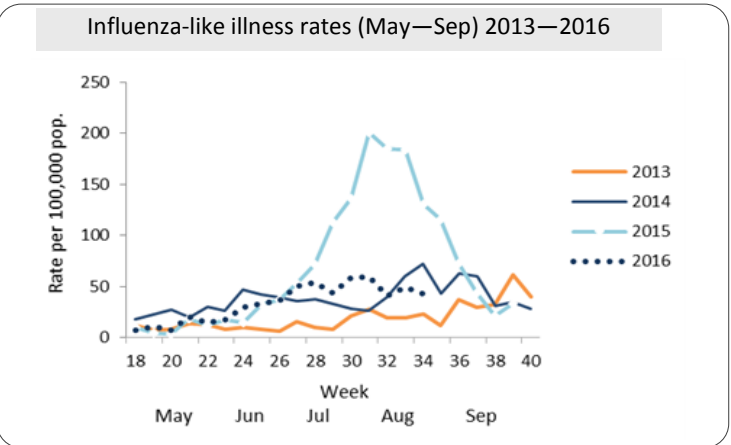
CANTERBURY PRIMARY RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE

Thursday 1st September 2016



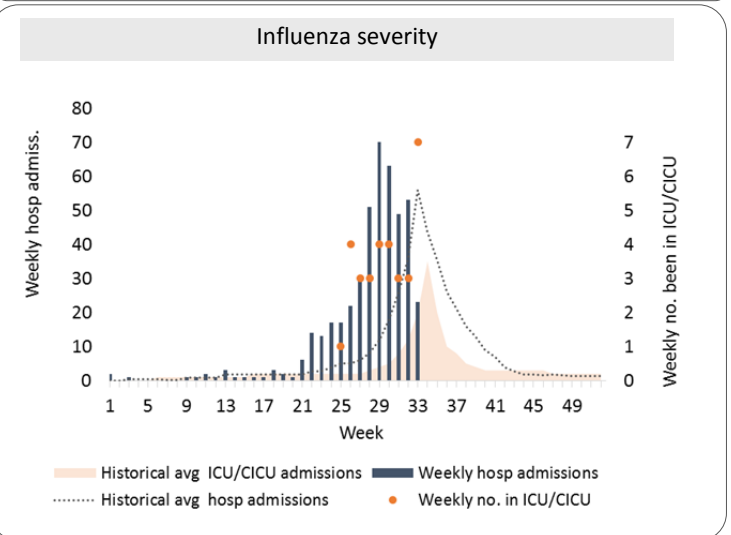
Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team

- Canterbury Influenza Like Illness levels in 2016 continue to run at a low rate. However respiratory infections overall are having a predictably busy effect on General Practice clinics, the Emergency Department and Hospital admissions.
- Canterbury swabs continue to show a preponderance for Influenza type A H3N2. Of the three vaccinated strains, H3N2 has consistently shown poorer vaccine effectiveness over the last 3 years as compared to H1N1 and Influenza type B. All three components were included in the 2016 funded annual vaccination. The 2017 vaccine will be fortified to include both predicted strains of type B (a quadrivalent vaccine).
- Hospitalisation rates for those with influenza remain high for our elderly patients (over 65 yrs).
- Those being afflicted with influenza often appear to be experiencing a high acuity illness with viral pneumonitis resulting in poor oxygen saturations and predisposing towards bacterial pneumonia. ICU admissions for influenza have increased over the last two weeks and are tracking high.
- A Canterbury Influenza and Respiratory Pathogens report produced by Community and Public Health is posted and updated weekly on HealthPathways. This report contains up to date graphs that list other respiratory virus swab isolates.
- Given the high numbers of ED attendances and hospital admissions you may well want to continue your winter capacity plans including:
 - Ensuring good signage, masks, alcohol hand-wash availability for all presenting with coughs and colds.
 - Changing booking systems to allow for same day triaged appointments and/or extended hours.
 - Consideration limiting holidays of doctors and staff over these busiest months (August/September).
 - Consider using acute demand services to either deal to acute cases and/or repeat visits required.



Influenza Swabs Canterbury 2016

Influenza type	This week	Last week	Year to date
A(H1N1)pdm09	4	8	55 (7%)
A(H1N1)	0	0	0 (0%)
A(H3N2)	32	90	708 (91%)
B	0	2	12 (2%)



Kind regards,
 Dr Phil Schroeder
 Canterbury Primary Response Group