

CANTERBURY PRIMARY RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE

Tuesday 10 July 2018

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

Nurses' Strike Action

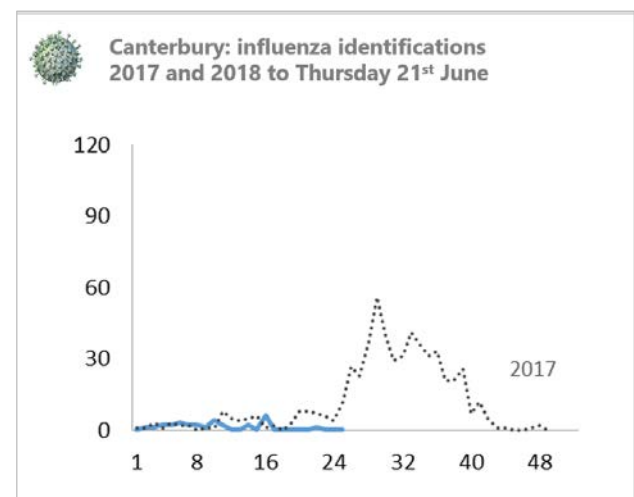
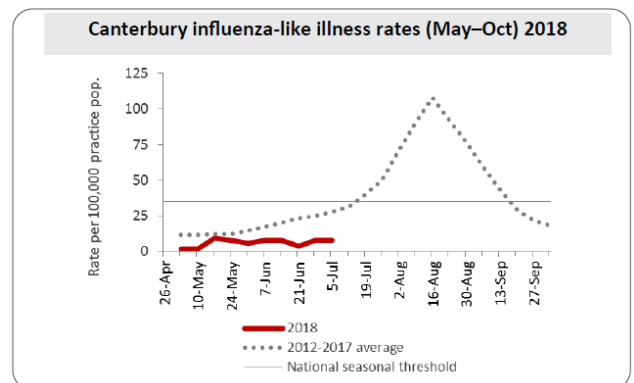
- The CDHB is putting plans in place for the potential hospital nurses' 24 hour strike scheduled for July 12th.
- The hospitals will be encouraging patients to seek care in primary care.
- We know general practice is always working to, or near, capacity, but we have been encouraged to use acute demand and our usual observation facilities, if possible, to prevent an ED presentation or admission if the strike goes ahead.
- Christchurch Hospital will still be open for acutely unwell patients, but will have severely limited capacity.

Influenza and ILI

- Nationally, influenza-like illness (ILI) is currently tracking at a low level.
- In Canterbury, sentinel practice surveillance also has ILI rates tracking at a low level and there have been virtually no positive swabs for influenza over the last 10 weeks. These viral swabs are showing a predominance of rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). In turn these two viruses have been responsible for a significant number of paediatric admissions.
- The CDHB communications team have launched an excellent interactive influenza website resource for the public and employers. Please have a look. <https://flufree.co.nz/>
- We expect that the current ILI rates represent the calm before the storm and you are encouraged to continue your winter capacity plans including:
 - Vaccination programmes for both your staff and patients.
 - Consider limiting holidays of doctors and staff over the likely busiest months (July – September).
 - As ILI activity increases changing booking systems to allow for same day triaged appointments and/or extended hours.
 - Ensuring good signage, masks, alcohol hand-wash availability for all presenting with coughs and colds.

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder
Canterbury Primary Response Group



Go to our website for primary care emergency planning, help and news:

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz

We also have a new phone number:
(03) 375-7199