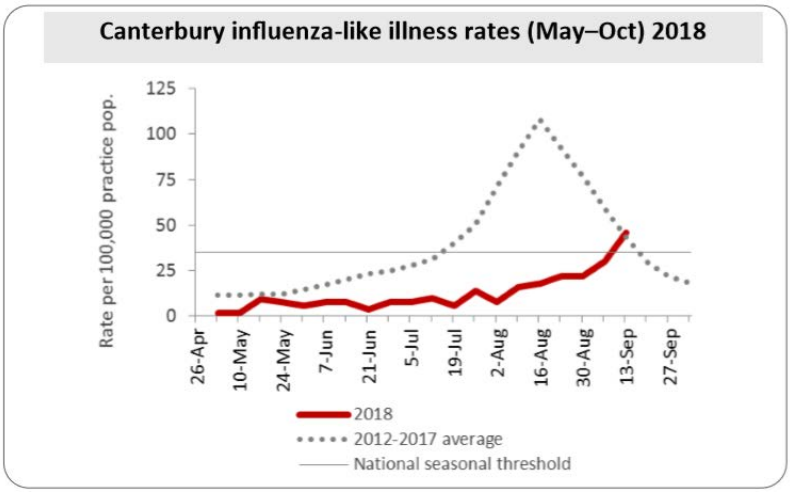
CANTERBURY PRIMARY RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE
Tuesday 18th September 2018

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

Influenza and ILI

- In Canterbury, sentinel practice reporting shows influenza-like illness (ILI) is currently tracking at a moderate level. Over this last week ILI rates rose for the first time above the national seasonal threshold.
- However, the number of positive viral swabs for influenza and other respiratory viruses across the region is beginning to fall. The predominant virus isolated in Canterbury remains Influenza Type A (H1N1) pdm09, previously known as 'swine flu'.
- There remains a reasonable chance that a patient seen with influenza-like-illness symptoms (sudden onset fevers, headache, myalgia, cough) will truly have influenza rather than another respiratory virus.
- You are encouraged to continue your winter capacity plans including:
    - Using booking systems to allow for same day triaged appointments and/or extended hours.
    - Ensuring good signage, masks, alcohol hand-wash availability for all patients and especially those presenting with coughs and colds. You can download posters from the CPRG website: http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz/plan-prepare/influenza/



Influenza types

Influenza type	This week	Last week	Year to date
A(H1N1)pdm09	44	59	303 (87%)
A(H3N2)	0	0	1 (0%)
B	3	2	43 (12%)

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

In an emergency, ring us on:
(03) 375-7199

or email us on: **eoc@cprg.org.nz**