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DATA ON INFLUENZA AND COVID-19 IN THE ACT, AUSTRALIA

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Data on influenza and COVID-19 in the ACT

Influenza in the ACT data

2020 ACT Influenza statistics

- 170 notifications of influenza reported
- Deaths N/A

2019 ACT Influenza statistics

- 4072 notifications of influenza reported
- 76% (n=2,961) of notifications were influenza A and 23% (n=905) were influenza B.
- 44 notifications (1%) of cases co-infected with influenza A and B.
- In 2019, notification numbers overall were highest among adults aged 20-64 years (49%, n=1,918). Only 12% (n=466) of notifications among children aged 0-4 years and 15% (n=580) among adults 65 years and over.
- Deaths N/A

2018 ACT Influenza statistics

- Between 1 January and 28 October 2018, there were 420 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health.
- In comparison, there were 3,040 notifications of influenza reported to ACT Health during the same time period in 2017.
- 75.2% of notifications (n=316) were influenza A and 24.5% of notifications (n=103) were influenza B. 1 case co-infected with influenza A and B(0.2%).
- Overall, notifications have been highest among adults aged 30-39 years (15.7%, n=66), followed by children aged 0-4years (13.1%, n=55)and children aged 5-9years (12.9%, n=54).
- Deaths N/A

Sources: Australian Government, Department of Health

http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/source/rpt_4.cfm; ACT Influenza Surveillance Report – No. 21, 2019; ACT Influenza Surveillance Report –No. 17, 2018

Number of influenza deaths in the ACT (current available official data)

- 12 influenza deaths in the ACT in 2016
- 17 influenza deaths in the ACT in 2017

Number and standardised death rate of Influenza deaths (J09-J11), by state - 2016 and 2017 (a)(b)(c)(d)

Influenza deaths (J09-J11)	No. of	No. of	Rate of	Rate of	% Change (no.)
	Influenza deaths 2016	Influenza deaths 2017	Influenza deaths 2016	Influenza deaths 2017	
New South Wales	183	494	1.7	4.5	169.9
Victoria	68	277	0.8	3.3	307.4
Queensland	107	264	1.9	4.4	146.7
South Australia	48	128	1.8	4.6	166.7
Western Australia	34	22	1.2	0.8	-35.3
Tasmania	10	47	np	5.7	370.0
Northern Territory	np	6	np	np	np
Australian Capital Territory	12	17	np	np	41.7
Australia	464	1,255	1.5	3.9	170.5

Footnote(s):

- (a) np - not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated.
- (b) Causes of death data for 2017 are preliminary and subject to a revisions process. See Explanatory Notes 57-60.
- (c) See Explanatory Notes 75-106 for further information on specific issues related to interpreting time-series and 2017 data
- (d) Standardised death rates for 2013-2016 presented in this table have been calculated using final re-based estimated resident population based on the 2016 Census. As a result, these rates may differ from those previously published. Age-standardised death rates for 2017 presented in this table have been calculated using preliminary estimated resident population based on the 2016 Census.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2018,

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/3303.0~2017~Main%20Features~Deaths%20due%20to%20influenza~5>

Influenza-like illness activity in the ACT (winter months 2019)

Week ending	Total % of participants with fever and cough	Total % of participants 65+ with fever and cough	Total % of participants (18-64) with fever and cough	Total % of participants <18 with fever and cough
02 June 2019	3%	<1%	3%	6%
30 June 2019	3%	< 2%	3%	5%
28 July 2019	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A
25 August 2019	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source/s: Flu-tracking reports Australia <https://info.flutracking.net/reports-2/australia-reports/>

Australia-wide flu data

- 2019 fever and cough levels were higher than average from May to July, with activity tapering off after July.
- Levels of influenza-like illness activity in 2019 were above average early in the season, but much lower than average from July to October
- Collectively, FluTracker participants had 65,395 days (179 years) off work or normal duties due to fever and cough symptoms

Source: 2019 FluTracker annual report

- Influenza **and** pneumonia was the 12th leading cause of death in Australia in 2018 (3,102 deaths, median age 89.3). Source: ABS 2018 <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/47E19CA15036B04BCA2577570014668B?OpenDocument>

2020 COVID-19 Data - ACT

- Confirmed cases as of 24 March 2020: **39**
- People tested negative as of 24 March 2020: **2780**
- There are currently 3 COVID-19 patients in Canberra hospitals. The rest are isolating at home with ACT Health support.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in ACT by sex and age group:

By sex		
Male	19	
Female	20	
By age group		Total
0-29		5
30-39		7
40-49		8
50-59		6
60-69		8
70+		5

Source: ACT Department of Health, <https://health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/latest-news>

Criteria for testing:

- You travelled from overseas and have developed respiratory symptoms of COVID-19 (such as shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) OR fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) within 14 days of returning back to Australia.
- You have been in contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19 and you develop respiratory symptoms OR fever within 14 days of last contact.
- You are a healthcare worker with recent onset of respiratory symptoms AND fever irrespective of travel history. Healthcare workers who have fever OR respiratory symptoms should be assessed for testing on a case-by-case basis.
- You are a patient admitted to hospital with acute respiratory illness or unexplained fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), for example, not associated with a urinary tract infection.
- You have an acute respiratory illness or unexplained fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) in a high risk setting, such as aged care facilities, residential care facilities, boarding schools and cruise ships.
- You are a patient with an acute respiratory illness or fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) with a link to a setting where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in Australia, in discussion with your local Public Health Unit or Communicable Disease Control team.

Source: ACT Department of Health, <https://health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/latest-news>

Where patients can be tested

- General practices by a GP (but should call for an appointment and follow reception staff advice)
- The ACT Respiratory Assessment Clinics:
 - The Weston Creek Walk-in Centre (24 Parkinson St, Weston). Open 7:30 am – 10:00 pm daily. Visitors to use a mask and hand sanitiser available at the front door.
 - The Drive Through Respiratory Assessment Clinic at Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC, Flemington Rd & Northbourne Ave, Mitchell). Open 9:30 am – 6:00 pm daily. You must be driving or a passenger in a registered motor vehicle or motorbike to attend this clinic. It cannot be accessed from public transport or on foot.