

Disease surveillance based on internet-based linear models: an Australian case study of previously unmodeled infection diseases

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Full list of Google Trends terms analysed

The following section lists all search terms analysed in this study and provides tables for each disease indicating the correlation (Spearman rho) between disease notification data and search metrics for the period 2009-14. Blank cells indicate that there was insufficient data to determine the degree of correlation.

Unique Terms: "Barmah forest"; "Chicken pox"; "hep a"; "hep b"; "hep c"; "Ross River"; a cough; alphamox; amoxil; barmah forest; barmah forest virus; biaxsig; blood in mucus; blood in phlegm; blood test; botulism; bromhexine; bronchiolitis; bronchitis; bronchitis contagious; bruise; bruise easily; bruised; cairns flood; ceclor; cervical mucus; chest infection; chest infections; chesty; chesty cough; Chikungunya; chilblains; Chlamydia; cilamox; clarithromycin; codeine linctus; codral; codral cold and flu; cold and flu; cold and flu tablets; cold flu; cold hands; cold hands and feet; cold symptoms; colds; conjunctivitis; conjunctivitis contagious; cough; cough medicine; cough remedies; cough remedy; cough suppressant; coughs; cramping; cramps; Cryptosporidiosis; Cryptosporidium; cymbalta; decongestant; demazin; Dengue; dengue fever; dengue fever symptoms; dengue mosquito; dengue symptoms; dextromethorphan; dextromethorphan hydrobromide; diarrhea; difflam; dimetapp; discharge; dry cough; duro tuss; expectorant; flash floods; flood; flood australia; flood damage; flood damaged cars; flood recovery; Flu; flu and pregnancy; flu contagious; flu cough; flu incubation; flu incubation period; flu injection; flu injections; flu pregnancy; flu shots; flu symptoms; flu tablets; flu treatment; flu vaccinations; fluvax; foot and; foot and mouth; foot and mouth disease; gonococcal; gonorrhea; gonorrhoea; h1n1 flu; h1n1 vaccine; hand foot; hand foot and mouth; hep; hepatitis; Hepatitis A; Hepatitis B; Hepatitis C; hives rash; hooping; human temperature; impetigo; Influenza; influenza a; influenza a virus; influenza symptoms; influenza vaccine; influvac; is pneumonia; is pneumonia contagious; kalixocin; laryngitis; legionella; Legionellosis; legionnaires; lemsip; leptospirosis; linctus; listeria; listeriosis; lozenges; measles; measles outbreak; meningitis; meningococcal; mouth disease; Murray Valley; Murray Valley encephalitis; myxomatosis; nasal congestion; neomycin; neuritis; night sweats; optic neuritis; panvax; pathology; Pertussis; phenomia; phenylephrine; phenylephrine hydrochloride; pholcodine; pleurisy; pneumococcal; pneumonia; pristiq; red cheeks; ;rheumatology; ;rikodeine; ;robitussin; ;ross river; ;ross river fever; ;ross river fever symptoms; ross river virus; ross river virus symptoms; roxar; roxithromycin; rulide; school sores; senega; senega and ammonia; shingles; sinus; sinusitis; staph infection; strepsils; sudafed; swine flu symptoms; symptom checker; symptoms of

dengue; symptoms of dengue fever; symptoms of pneumonia; symptoms of swine; symptoms of swine flu; tamiflu; tamiflu side effects; townsville flood; Varicella; vicks; water flood; white creamy discharge; white discharge; whooping; whooping cough; whooping cough in adults; whooping cough treatment

Barmah Forest virus infection: "Barmah forest"; barmah forest; barmah forest virus; flood australia; flood damage; flood damaged cars; flood recovery; myxomatosis; ross river; ross river fever; ross river virus; water flood

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
ross river virus									0.539
ross river		0.358		0.251					0.414
ross river fever									0.399
flood australia	-0.016				0.194				0.250
water flood					0.112				0.237
flood damaged cars									0.082
"barmah forest"									
barmah forest									
barmah forest virus									
flood damage				0.182					
flood recovery		0.096		0.204					
myxomatosis									

Botulism: botulism; hives rash

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
botulism									0.053
hives rash									

Chikungunya virus infection: Chikungunya; Dengue

bruise easily									
dengue fever symptoms									
dengue mosquito									
dengue symptoms								0.022	
symptoms of dengue									
symptoms of dengue fever									

Gonococcal infection: cervical mucus; discharge; gonococcal; gonorrhoea; gonorrhoea; pristi; staph infection; white discharge

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
discharge		0.795	-0.028	0.298	0.205		0.556	0.265	0.786
white discharge		0.742		0.228			0.643		0.762
pristi		0.642		0.273			0.513		0.594
cervical mucus									0.591
staph infection		0.659					0.544		0.524
gonorrhoea		0.477					0.437		0.422
gonococcal									
gonorrhoea									

Hepatitis A: "hep a"; h1n1 vaccine; hep; hepatitis; Hepatitis A; panvax

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
hepatitis a		-0.167							0.293
panvax									0.256
hepatitis		-0.021		-0.008	-0.191		0.196	-0.198	0.146
hep		-0.026		-0.092			-0.246		-0.191
"hep a"									-0.302
h1n1 vaccine		0.119							

Hepatitis B (newly acquired): "hep b"; hep; hepatitis; Hepatitis B; rheumatology

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
hepatitis		-0.116		-0.014	-0.064		0.157	-0.037	0.123
hepatitis b		-0.002					-0.263		0.034
"hep b"									0.029
rheumatology									-0.072
hep		-0.055		-0.041			-0.184		-0.089

Hepatitis B (unspecified): "hep b"; hep; hepatitis; Hepatitis B; rheumatology

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
hepatitis		0.183		0.097	-0.060		0.067	-0.007	0.230
hepatitis b		0.005					-0.008		0.166
hep		-0.023		-0.167			-0.014		0.117
"hep b"									0.105
rheumatology									-0.056

Hepatitis C (unspecified): Hepatitis C; hepatitis; hep; "hep c"

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
hepatitis		0.193		0.116	-0.149		0.142	-0.035	0.297
hepatitis c		0.064					-0.104		0.266
"hep c"		-0.152							0.189
hep		0.105		-0.052			-0.010		0.027

Influenza (laboratory confirmed): Flu; flu and pregnancy; flu contagious; flu cough; flu incubation; flu incubation period; flu pregnancy; flu symptoms; flu treatment; h1n1 flu; human temperature; Influenza; influenza a; influenza a virus; influenza symptoms; swine flu symptoms; symptoms of swine; symptoms of swine flu; tamiflu; tamiflu side effects

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
flu symptoms	0.344	0.290		0.589			0.485		0.423
influenza		0.364		0.615			0.287		0.383
flu incubation period		0.105							0.362
human temperature									0.321
flu		0.265	0.095	0.276	0.386		0.239	0.280	0.313
flu incubation		0.150							0.308
tamiflu side effects									0.212
swine flu symptoms	0.342	0.150			0.322		0.118	0.305	0.107
flu and pregnancy									
flu contagious									
flu cough									
flu pregnancy									
flu treatment									
h1n1 flu		0.260					0.151		
influenza a									
influenza a virus									
influenza symptoms				0.099			0.100		
symptoms of swine		0.322		0.227	0.079		0.267	0.134	
symptoms of swine flu		0.334		0.224			0.266		
tamiflu					-0.021			-0.016	

Legionellosis: legionella; Legionellosis; legionnaires

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
legionnaires					0.108				0.237

legionella									
Legionellosis									

Leptospirosis: barmah forest virus; cairns flood; flash floods; flood; flood damaged cars; leptospirosis; ross river; townsville flood

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
ross river		0.110		0.059					0.405
cairns flood		0.074		0.182					0.288
flood damaged cars									0.102
barmah forest virus									
flash floods		0.052		0.108			0.094		
flood		0.193	-0.014		0.014		0.123	0.078	
leptospirosis									
townsville flood		0.116		0.165					

Listeriosis: listeria; listeriosis; neuritis; optic neuritis

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
listeria	-0.010								0.091
neuritis									-0.075
listeriosis									
optic neuritis		-0.050					0.064		

Measles: dengue symptoms; measles; measles outbreak

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
measles		0.198		0.263			0.119		0.367
dengue symptoms								-0.028	

hydrochloride									
pholcodine									
pneumococcal									
rikodeine									
robitussin									
senega									
senega and ammonia									
strepsils									
symptoms of pneumonia									

Ross River virus infection: "Ross River"; barmah forest; barmah forest virus; flu injection; flu injections; flu shots; flu vaccinations; fluvax; impetigo; influenza vaccine; influvac; myxomatosis; neomycin; ross river; ross river fever; ross river fever symptoms; ross river virus; ross river virus symptoms; school sores

Term	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Aus
"ross river"		0.456		0.082					0.742
ross river		0.467		0.016					0.732
ross river fever									0.626
ross river virus									0.623
school sores				0.250					0.608
impetigo		0.211							0.452
barmah forest									
barmah forest virus									
flu injection									
flu injections									
flu shots		-0.014							

Google Trends download script

```
list_of_disease = [  
    // "INSERT SEARCH TERM 1",  
    // "INSERT SEARCH TERM 2",  
    // "INSERT SEARCH TERM 3",  
  
]  
  
australian_states = [  
    "AU-ACT",  
    "AU-NSW",  
    "AU-NT",  
    "AU-QLD",  
    "AU-SA",  
    "AU-TAS",  
    "AU-VIC",  
    "AU-WA",  
    "AU"  
]  
  
var disease_helper = {};  
DISEASE_WINDOWS_LOADED = 'windows_loaded';  
DISEASE_CSV = 'csv';  
  
// Initializing a dictionary helper for each  
// disease to remember the number of states (1 state = 1 window)  
// and the csv report  
  
var CSV_DELIMITER = ',';  
var CSV_CARRIAGE = '\n';  
  
var no_data = new Array();  
  
var windows_loaded_callback = function(windows, disease) {  
    default_state = australian_states.length - 1; // last state: the one most likely to have  
data  
    var chartDataLength = windows[default_state].chartData.rows.length;  
    for (var rowID = 0; rowID < chartDataLength; rowID++) {  
        for (var k = 0; k < windows.length + 1; k++) {  
            if (k === 0) {  
                disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] +=  
windows[default_state].chartData.rows[rowID][0].f + CSV_DELIMITER;  
            } else {  
                var temp_k = k - 1;  
                try {  
                    disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] +=  
windows[temp_k].chartData.rows[rowID][3];
```

```

                if (temp_k !== (windows.length - 1)) {
                    disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] +=
CSV_DELIMITER; // we dont want a , for the last value
                }
            } catch(e) {
                //console.log('Exception for temp_k:' + temp_k + ' and
rowID ' + rowID);

                disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] += 'No Data';
                if (temp_k !== (windows.length - 1)) {
                    disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] +=
CSV_DELIMITER;
                }
            }
        }
    }
    disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] += CSV_CARRIAGE;
}

var encodedUri = encodeURI(disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV]);
var link = document.createElement("a");
link.setAttribute("href", 'data:text/csv;charset=utf-8,' + encodedUri);
link.setAttribute("download", disease + ".csv");
link.click(); // This will download the data file named "my_data.csv".
}

var open_window = function(windows, current_state, current_disease, j) {
    var my_window = window.open(window.location.origin + '/trends/trendsReport?q='+
current_disease + '&geo=' + current_state + '&content=1');

    if (!my_window) {
        throw new Error('POP ups are blocked');
    }
    //TODO: if google quota exceeded, retry
    my_window.addEventListener('load', function() {
        disease_helper[current_disease][DISEASE_WINDOWS_LOADED] += 1;

        if(!this.chartData) {
            /*
            We cant find the data
            2 options here.
            - Either there is no data from google.
            - Or we have exceeded our quota
            */
            if
(this.document.getElementById('report').getElementsByClassName('errorTitle')[0].innerHTM
L.indexOf('Not enough search volume') !== -1) {
                //console.log('No data for ' + current_state + ' ' +
current_disease);

```

```

        no_data.push('No data for ' + current_state + ' ' +
current_disease);
        this.close();
    } else {
        //PROBLEM, we ran out of quota
        //NEED A RETRY MECHANISM
        console.log('WARNING: LOOKS like you exceeded your quota
for the data at '+ current_state + ' ' + current_disease);
    }
    } else {
        windows[j] = this;
    }

    this.close();
    if (disease_helper[current_disease][DISEASE_WINDOWS_LOADED] ===
australian_states.length) {
        windows_loaded_callback(windows, current_disease);
    }
});
}

function generate() {
    disease_helper = {};
    for (var index in list_of_disease) {
        var disease = list_of_disease[index]
        disease_helper[disease] = {};
        disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_WINDOWS_LOADED] = 0;
        disease_helper[disease][DISEASE_CSV] = "";
    }

    var i = 0;
    for (var current_disease in disease_helper) {
        disease_helper[current_disease][DISEASE_CSV] += current_disease +
CSV_DELIMITER;
        console.log('Processing ' + current_disease);
        for (var state_index = 0; state_index < australian_states.length; state_index++)
        {
            var current_state = australian_states[state_index];
            disease_helper[current_disease][DISEASE_CSV] += current_state +
CSV_DELIMITER;
        }
        disease_helper[current_disease][DISEASE_CSV] += CSV_CARRIAGE;

        var windows = new Array(australian_states.length);

        for (var j = 0; j < australian_states.length; j++) {
            var current_state = australian_states[j];

            setTimeout(function(windows, current_state, current_disease, j) {
                return (function() {

```

```
open_window(windows, current_state, current_disease,
j);
});
}(windows, current_state, current_disease, j), (i+1) * (j + 1) * 3000);
//slowing down
}
i++;
}
}
```

Model construction

In this section we describe the four models that used a 52-week training period; the approach to producing the other eight models was identical but for a training period of either 104- or 156-weeks. The first model for the 52-week period was denoted 52RC (52-week model; Raw data; Continuous keyword selection). This model was built upon disease notification and search metrics data covering 52 weeks. An additional two weeks search metrics data was provided to the model upon which one and two week predictions of disease notification were made. Search metrics data used in the 52RC model were raw as they were in the format provided by Google Trends. However, the time-series for these search metrics were shifted in accordance with the 52-week cross-correlation results described above. Keyword selection was performed using a robust feature selection method based on multiple hypotheses testing and prediction from the mht R package (45). Once the predictions were recorded an additional data point was made available for each time series and the 52-week window was then shifted forward by one week. The process was then repeated using only 52-weeks data. This process allowed generation of one and two-week predictions with the linear model rebuilt for each predictions while including the most appropriate search metrics at each step.

The second model, denoted 52WC (52 week model; Wavelet transformed data; Continuous keyword selection) used an identical process to the 52RC model, except that data were denoised using wavelet transforms to be input in the linear models. The DaubLeAsymm family of wavelets from the wavethresh R package was used (46). Since the denoising is data-dependent, the wavelet-transformed data were recalculated each time the window was shifting one week because of an additional data point.

The other two models for the 52-week period (52RS: 52 week model, Raw data, Set keywords and 52WS: 52 week model, Wavelet-transformed data, Set keywords) were similarly fitted as to 52RC/52WC, except that the keyword selection in the linear models was not performed at each time point for the validation period (2012-2013). Rather, the terms selected over the training period (2009-2011) were maintained through the entire validation period. Keyword selection for these models was performed using the same process as described above for 52RC/52WC using the 2009-2011 training data. Using the 104 iterations obtained from successive shifts of the 52-week period over 2009-2011, we calculated the frequency of each selected search term in a model. The search terms selected in at least 50% of these models fitted in the training period were used for the construction of the 52RS and 52WS models.

Linear models were built on a 52-week period using the selected search terms. Prediction was obtained as described previously and the prediction accuracy was assessed based on the Mean Square Error of Prediction (provided in the supplementary material) as well as with Spearman correlation between notifications and the resulting prediction.

Models using state level Google Trends and disease notification data were also fitted using the workflow described above. Owing to the loss of Google Trends data when analysing smaller geographical areas, only models that performed well at national level were produced. Models were produced for pneumococcal disease and Ross River virus infection for Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria only.

Wavelet Transform

The search term data collected from Google Trends were pre-processed by wavelet transform. The process depends on the model, either 52WC/52WS, 104WC/WS or 156WC/WS. Since our models were tasked to predict the two following point of the disease notification, the wavelet transforms were performed on 54/106 or 158 data points, for each search term, and each time the window was moved forward one week.

Each 54/106 or 158-week period was written as the sum of weighted elementary functions, describing hierarchically the signal from a rough tendency to the finest details, in a finite number of resolution levels. Here, each signal was decomposed onto the Daubechies basis made of smooth trimodal elementary functions. The corresponding wavelet coefficients were thresholded with a soft-thresholding method (see Mallat, 1999, for details) to reduce signal noise by applying low smoothing. The original signal was then rebuilt based on the denoised wavelet coefficients.

There are several levels of decomposition of an initial spectrum from level $N-1$, high resolution, to level 0, rough tendency. The number of these levels depends on the number of data point; a 54-week period has $N=6$ levels because 54 lies between $2^5=32$ and $2^6=64$, a 106-week period has $N=7$ levels and a 158-week period has $N=8$ levels. The initial signal $f(t)$ is decomposed as the sum of a detail signal $D_{N-1}(t)$ and an approximation $A_{N-1}(t)$. Then the approximated signal $A_{N-1}(t)$ is decomposed into a further detail signal D_{N-2} and a further approximation A_{N-2} . Each approximated signal is decomposed sequentially as the sum of a detail signal and of an approximation signal (residual), as illustrated in Supplementary Figure 1 for the Daubechies basis. The detail signal of level j is obtained as:

$$D_j(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} b_{j,k} \Psi_{j,k}(t)$$

where each $\Psi_{j,k}$ is a translation and a dilation of a so-called mother wavelet $\Psi(t)$ (Daubechies trimodal function here). In practice, the index k is in a finite support. The coefficients b are called the (detailed) coefficients and are equal to $b_{j,k} = \int f(t) \Psi_{j,k}(t) dt$. An empirical estimator of these coefficients is used, from the values of the discretised signal at points t_i . Some of the numerous wavelet coefficients are close to 0, so thresholding is made to reduce the number of non-null coefficients.

Similarly, the approximated signal of level j is obtained as:

$$A_j(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{j,k} \varphi_{j,k}(t)$$

where each $\varphi_{j,k}$ is a translation and a dilatation of a so-called father wavelet $\varphi(t)$. The coefficients a are called the approximated coefficients.

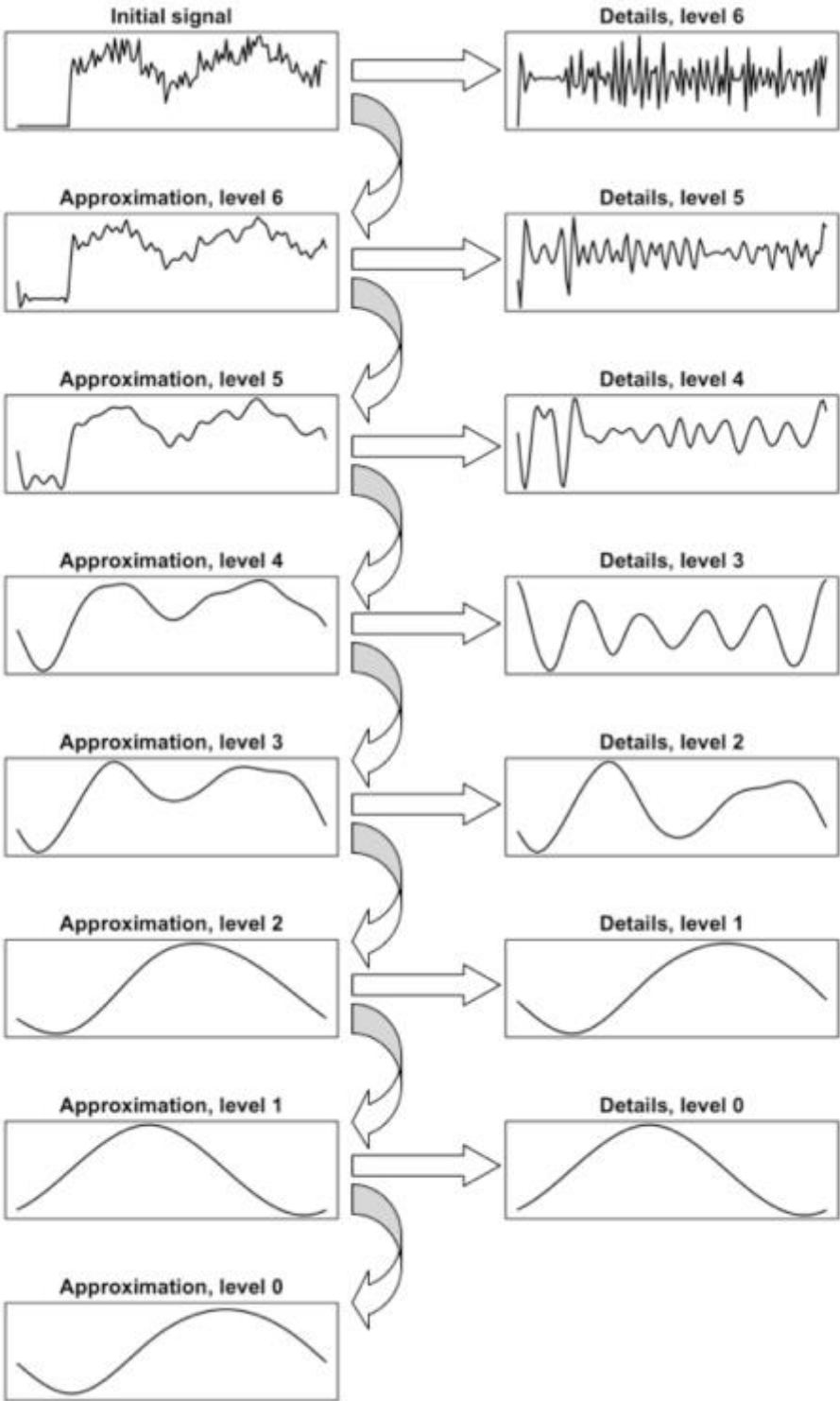
The initial signal $f(t)$ can be entirely reconstructed from all detail signal and the approximation A_0 at the lowest resolution level:

$$f(t) = A_{N-1}(t) + D_{N-1}(t) = A_0(t) + D_{N-1}(t) + D_{N-2}(t) + \cdots + D_0(t)$$

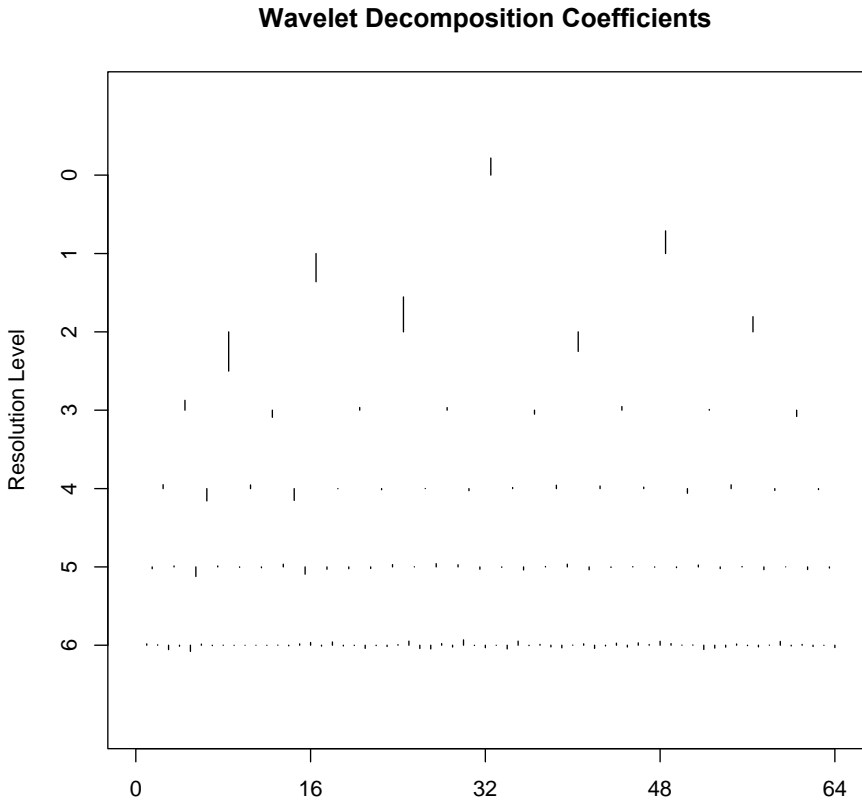
since $A_j(t) = A_{j-1}(t) + D_{j-1}(t)$ for $j \in \{N-1, N-2, \dots, 1\}$.

The (detailed) wavelet coefficients b estimated from the data in Supplementary Figure 1 are plotted in Supplementary Figure 2 for all resolution levels.

Supplementary Figure 1. Pneumococcal disease, Pneumonia search term, 106-week period starting at the tenth week of 2009 (weeks 10 to 114 to learn the model, weeks 115/116 to predict the notification).



Supplementary Figure 2. Pneumococcal disease, Pneumonia search term, 106-week period starting at the tenth week of 2009 (weeks 10 to 114 to learn the model, weeks 115/116 to predict the notification).



Frequency of search term selection in model training

The three tables below indicate the frequency at which each search term was selected for use in training models for pneumococcal disease, Ross River virus infection and pertussis. All values presented are proportions.

Pneumococcal disease	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
a cough	0.18	0.21	0	0	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
amoxil	0.27	0.25	0	0	0.1	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
bronchiolitis	0.02	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
chest infection	0.02	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
chesty	0.02	0.04	0	0	0.1	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
chesty cough	0	0.02	0	0	0.05	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
clarithromycin	0.22	0.24	0	0	0.02	0.02	0	0	1	1	1	1
codral	0.78	0.77	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
cold and flu	0.01	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cold and flu tablets	0.2	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cold flu	0.09	0.08	0	0	0	0.08	0	0	1	1	1	1
cold hands	0.05	0.07	0	0	0.05	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
cold symptoms	0.28	0.27	0	0	0.95	0.88	1	1	1	1	1	1
colds	0.11	0.11	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cough	0.21	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cough medicine	0.03	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cough remedies	0.01	0.03	0	0	0.15	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
dry cough	0.2	0.17	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
flu tablets	0.02	0.04	0	0	0.45	0.35	0	0	0	0	0	0

is pneumonia	0.04	0.07	0	0	0.05	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
laryngitis	0.01	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lozenges	0.09	0.14	0	0	0.12	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
night sweats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
phenylephrine	0.36	0.32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pleurisy	0	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pneumonia	0.02	0.03	0	0	0.05	0.8	0	1	1	1	1	1
red cheeks	0.02	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
roxithromycin	0.01	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rulide	0.08	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sinus	0.05	0.02	0	0	0.15	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
sinusitis	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sudafed	0.35	0.15	0	0	0.02	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
vicks	0.07	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ross River Virus Infection	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
"Ross River"	0.41	0.36	0	0	0.98	0.98	1	1	1	1	1	1
flu injections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
impetigo	0.24	0.26	0	0	0.15	0.32	0	0	1	1	1	1
ross river	0.11	0.16	0	0	0.8	0.78	1	1	1	1	1	1
ross river fever	0.42	0.41	0	0	0.18	0.38	0	0	0	0	0	0
ross river virus	0.7	0.65	1	1	0.15	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0
school sores	0.53	0.42	0	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Frequency of search term selection in predictive models

The three tables below indicate the frequency at which each search term was selected for use in predictive models for pneumococcal disease, Ross River virus infection and pertussis. All values presented are proportions.

Pneumococcal disease	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
a cough	0.19	0.24	0	0	0.01	0.01	0	0	0.02	0	0	0
amoxil	0	0.04	0	0	0.01	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
bronchiolitis	0.09	0.12	0	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.19	0.22	0	0
chest infection	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.31	0	0
chesty	0.35	0.18	0	0	0.05	0.07	0	0	0	0.01	0	0
chesty cough	0.3	0.18	0	0	0.04	0.05	0	0	0.15	0.14	0	0
clarithromycin	0.07	0.05	0	0	0	0.03	0	0	0.15	0.16	1	1
codral	0.06	0.04	1	1	0.16	0.13	1	1	0.33	0.33	1	1
cold and flu	0.02	0.04	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.01	0.04	0	0
cold and flu tablets	0.03	0.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0
cold flu	0.01	0.05	0	0	0.03	0.15	0	0	0.13	0.15	1	1
cold hands	0.09	0.03	0	0	0.04	0.05	0	0	0.18	0.19	0	0
cold symptoms	0.07	0.09	0	0	0.18	0.1	1	1	0.45	0.41	1	1
colds	0.18	0.27	0	0	0.05	0.01	0	0	0.01	0	0	0
cough	0.35	0.19	0	0	0.3	0.27	0	0	0.01	0.02	0	0
cough medicine	0.11	0.03	0	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0.02	0	0
cough remedies	0.07	0.04	0	0	0.03	0	0	0	0.03	0.06	0	0
dry cough	0.26	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02	0.02	0	0
flu tablets	0.17	0.09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0

is pneumonia	0.02	0.1	0	0	0.34	0.15	0	0	0	0.01	0	0
laryngitis	0.05	0.05	0	0	0.04	0.01	0	0	0.03	0.01	0	0
lozenges	0.25	0.31	0	0	0.04	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0
night sweats	0.05	0.06	0	0	0.04	0	0	0	0.11	0.14	0	0
phenylephrine	0.05	0.03	0	0	0.1	0.08	0	0	0.44	0.27	0	0
pleurisy	0.27	0.05	0	0	0.26	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
pneumonia	0	0.12	0	0	0.76	0.77	0	1	0.93	0.94	1	1
red cheeks	0.06	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
roxithromycin	0.07	0.15	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0.04	0.04	0	0
rulide	0.04	0.05	0	0	0.4	0.22	0	0	0.2	0.17	0	0
sinus	0.02	0.13	0	0	0.2	0.09	0	0	0.04	0.05	0	0
sinusitis	0.07	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.04	0.01	0	0
sudafed	0.77	0.54	0	0	0.77	0.65	0	0	0.79	0.76	0	0
vicks	0	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.14	0.08	0	0

Ross River Virus Infection	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
"Ross River"	0.94	0.75	0	0	1	0.95	1	1	1	1	1	1
flu injections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
impetigo	0.06	0.13	0	0	0.15	0.25	0	0	1	1	1	1
ross river	0.03	0.28	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ross river fever	0.13	0.1	0	0	0.12	0.12	0	0	0.12	0.1	0	0
ross river virus	0.74	0.7	1	1	0.01	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0
school sores	0.34	0.23	0	0	0.43	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pertussis	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
Pertussis	0.39	0.39	0	0	0.35	0.2	1	1	0.01	0.01	1	1
whooping	0.03	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
whooping cough	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
whooping cough in adults	0.58	0.57	1	1	0.39	0.39	1	1	0.01	0.01	1	1

National model performance – Spearman’s correlation

National model performance for 1 week (top) and 2 week estimates (bottom), as assessed by Spearman’s correlation. The highest performing models for each disease are indicated in bold.

	1 Week estimate											
	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
Gonococcal infection	0.026	0.038	0.028	0.025	0.088	0.064	0.059	0.067	0.072	0.043	0.047	0.044
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	0.089	0.088	0.180	0.173	0.110	0.088	0.099	0.115	0.061	0.045	0.080	0.075
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.602	0.592	0.567	0.493	0.742	0.693	0.671	0.689	0.703	0.700	0.693	0.678
Ross River virus infection	0.700	0.680	0.648	0.687	0.741	0.684	0.720	0.703	0.728	0.731	0.729	0.732
Pertussis	0.594	0.597	0.593	0.594	0.330	0.387	0.347	0.221	0.213	0.208	0.276	0.269
Chlamydial infection	0.000	0.002	0.008	0.004	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.097	0.100	0.097	0.100
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.353	0.403	0.336	0.290	0.297	0.260	0.340	0.327	0.301	0.338	0.291	0.291
Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.232	0.234	0.357	0.357	0.305	0.325	0.350	0.357	0.199	0.158	0.223	0.207
Cryptosporidiosis			0.245	0.324			0.251	0.307			0.314	0.313
Barmah Forest virus infection	0.246	0.217	0.303	0.177	0.174	0.176	0.161	0.140	0.186	0.165	0.167	0.162
Dengue virus infection	0.002	0.004	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.003	0.006	0.004	0.009	0.003	0.003
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.327	0.317	0.326	0.322	0.401	0.316	0.356	0.290	0.274	0.283	0.236	0.219

	2 Week estimate											
	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
Gonococcal infection	0.024	0.037	0.028	0.009	0.054	0.026	0.051	0.061	0.060	0.044	0.047	0.051
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	0.071	0.075	0.175	0.163	0.126	0.086	0.100	0.089	0.088	0.024	0.074	0.059
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.674	0.617	0.571	0.542	0.734	0.711	0.673	0.705	0.698	0.688	0.695	0.681
Ross River virus infection	0.680	0.705	0.669	0.693	0.736	0.718	0.719	0.749	0.723	0.729	0.723	0.729
Pertussis	0.573	0.583	0.581	0.579	0.312	0.321	0.321	0.203	0.205	0.213	0.272	0.275
Chlamydial infection	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.005	0.106	0.085	0.106	0.085	0.081	0.099	0.081	0.099
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.298	0.283	0.354	0.346	0.329	0.275	0.340	0.339	0.350	0.368	0.316	0.318
Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.263	0.374	0.357	0.361	0.260	0.269	0.344	0.371	0.143	0.116	0.188	0.183
Cryptosporidiosis			0.235	0.326			0.242	0.307			0.293	0.284
Barmah Forest virus infection	0.217	0.205	0.260	0.151	0.144	0.125	0.145	0.125	0.154	0.150	0.144	0.141
Dengue virus infection	0.001	0.000	0.005	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.003	0.005	0.003
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.317	0.298	0.313	0.325	0.381	0.345	0.345	0.303	0.231	0.238	0.192	0.199

National model performance – Mean Square Error of Prediction

National model performance for 1 week (top) and 2 week estimates (bottom), as assessed by Mean Square Error of Prediction. The highest performing models for each disease are indicated in bold.

	1 Week estimate											
	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
Gonococcal infection	1.183	1.237	1.212	1.229	1.181	1.301	1.274	1.368	1.268	1.34	1.356	1.358
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	0.97	1.105	0.84	0.85	0.907	0.964	0.946	0.937	0.954	1.008	0.967	0.976
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.478	0.51	0.523	0.548	0.278	0.347	0.564	0.376	0.42	0.396	0.435	0.437
Ross River virus infection	0.394	0.542	0.465	0.514	0.365	0.537	0.351	0.478	0.289	0.288	0.29	0.288
Pertussis	1.418	1.394	1.447	1.416	2.053	1.659	2.206	2.118	2.299	2.265	2.24	2.189
Chlamydial infection	1.089	1.019	0.983	0.968	0.832	0.789	0.832	0.789	0.847	0.826	0.847	0.826
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.771	0.764	0.83	0.845	0.892	0.942	0.883	0.909	0.994	0.957	1.014	1.014
Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.862	0.879	0.746	0.758	0.773	0.805	0.76	0.76	0.875	0.926	0.884	0.861
Cryptosporidiosis			1.031	1.05			1.071	1.089			1.048	1.049
Barmah Forest virus infection	1.527	1.52	1.072	1.249	1.188	1.214	1.201	1.267	1.18	1.189	1.197	1.203
Dengue virus infection	1.362	1.748	1.355	1.417	1.22	1.263	1.149	1.177	1.101	1.11	1.334	1.342
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.425	0.463	0.406	0.438	0.461	0.485	0.461	0.49	0.718	0.681	0.915	0.922

	2 Week estimate											
	52RC	52WC	52RS	52WS	104RC	104WC	104RS	104WS	156RC	156WC	156RS	156WS
Gonococcal infection	1.213	1.145	1.24	1.217	1.231	1.235	1.306	1.181	1.317	1.266	1.367	1.267
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	1.015	1.071	0.846	0.82	0.903	0.907	0.95	0.918	0.918	1.02	0.979	0.966
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.388	0.496	0.529	0.473	0.311	0.374	0.577	0.454	0.403	0.462	0.446	0.495
Ross River virus infection	0.425	0.449	0.439	0.452	0.364	0.465	0.35	0.378	0.293	0.303	0.295	0.304
Pertussis	1.575	1.562	1.594	1.571	2.166	1.922	2.399	2.313	2.453	2.436	2.397	2.378
Chlamydial infection	1.052	1.103	0.992	1.06	0.856	0.991	0.856	0.991	0.884	0.948	0.884	0.948
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.886	0.813	0.869	0.878	0.951	0.854	0.929	0.854	1.034	0.98	1.046	0.995
Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.862	0.771	0.768	0.789	0.832	0.93	0.769	0.781	0.969	1.06	0.923	0.908
Cryptosporidiosis			1.092	1.098			1.089	1.096			1.058	1.058
Barmah Forest virus infection	1.643	1.677	1.129	1.257	1.202	1.265	1.221	1.249	1.204	1.2	1.221	1.222
Dengue virus infection	1.373	1.527	1.335	1.344	1.269	1.277	1.178	1.175	1.172	1.147	1.341	1.309
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.473	0.464	0.428	0.42	0.49	0.473	0.501	0.481	0.769	0.734	0.966	0.966

National model performance - Mean Square Error of Prediction

National model performance for 1 week (top) and 2 week estimates (bottom), as assessed by Mean Square Error of Prediction. The highest performing models for each disease are indicated in bold.

	1 Week estimate											
	<i>52RC</i>	<i>52WC</i>	<i>52RS</i>	<i>52WS</i>	<i>104RC</i>	<i>104WC</i>	<i>104RS</i>	<i>104WS</i>	<i>156RC</i>	<i>156WC</i>	<i>156RS</i>	<i>156WS</i>
Gonococcal infection	1.183	1.237	1.212	1.229	1.181	1.301	1.274	1.368	1.268	1.340	1.356	1.358
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	0.970	1.105	0.840	0.850	0.907	0.964	0.946	0.937	0.954	1.008	0.967	0.976
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.478	0.510	0.523	0.548	0.278	0.347	0.564	0.376	0.420	0.396	0.435	0.437
Ross River virus infection	0.394	0.542	0.465	0.514	0.365	0.537	0.351	0.478	0.289	0.288	0.290	0.288
Pertussis	1.418	1.394	1.447	1.416	2.053	1.659	2.206	2.118	2.299	2.265	2.240	2.189
Chlamydial infection	1.089	1.019	0.983	0.968	0.832	0.789	0.832	0.789	0.847	0.826	0.847	0.826
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.771	0.764	0.830	0.845	0.892	0.942	0.883	0.909	0.994	0.957	1.014	1.014
Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.862	0.879	0.746	0.758	0.773	0.805	0.760	0.760	0.875	0.926	0.884	0.861
Cryptosporidiosis			1.031	1.050			1.071	1.089			1.048	1.049
Barmah Forest virus infection	1.527	1.520	1.072	1.249	1.188	1.214	1.201	1.267	1.180	1.189	1.197	1.203
Dengue virus infection	1.362	1.748	1.355	1.417	1.220	1.263	1.149	1.177	1.101	1.110	1.334	1.342
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.425	0.463	0.406	0.438	0.461	0.485	0.461	0.490	0.718	0.681	0.915	0.922

	2 Week estimate											
	<i>52RC</i>	<i>52WC</i>	<i>52RS</i>	<i>52WS</i>	<i>104RC</i>	<i>104WC</i>	<i>104RS</i>	<i>104WS</i>	<i>156RC</i>	<i>156WC</i>	<i>156RS</i>	<i>156WS</i>
Gonococcal infection	1.213	1.145	1.240	1.217	1.231	1.235	1.306	1.181	1.317	1.266	1.367	1.267
Varicella zoster (Shingles)	1.015	1.071	0.846	0.820	0.903	0.907	0.950	0.918	0.918	1.020	0.979	0.966
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0.388	0.496	0.529	0.473	0.311	0.374	0.577	0.454	0.403	0.462	0.446	0.495
Ross River virus infection	0.425	0.449	0.439	0.452	0.364	0.465	0.350	0.378	0.293	0.303	0.295	0.304
Pertussis	1.575	1.562	1.594	1.571	2.166	1.922	2.399	2.313	2.453	2.436	2.397	2.378
Chlamydial infection	1.052	1.103	0.992	1.060	0.856	0.991	0.856	0.991	0.884	0.948	0.884	0.948
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	0.886	0.813	0.869	0.878	0.951	0.854	0.929	0.854	1.034	0.980	1.046	0.995

Varicella zoster (Chickenpox)	0.862	0.771	0.768	0.789	0.832	0.930	0.769	0.781	0.969	1.060	0.923	0.908
Cryptosporidiosis			1.092	1.098			1.089	1.096			1.058	1.058
Barmah Forest virus infection	1.643	1.677	1.129	1.257	1.202	1.265	1.221	1.249	1.204	1.200	1.221	1.222
Dengue virus infection	1.373	1.527	1.335	1.344	1.269	1.277	1.178	1.175	1.172	1.147	1.341	1.309
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	0.473	0.464	0.428	0.420	0.490	0.473	0.501	0.481	0.769	0.734	0.966	0.966