

Influenza is at a high level of activity. COVID-19 is at a low level. RSV is at a moderate level of activity.

Summary

Influenza activity is still at a high level of activity. COVID-19 activity is at a low level of activity. RSV is at a moderate level of activity. Influenza vaccinations are important at this time, especially for people who are at risk of severe disease.

Data sources and methods

NSW Health continually reviews the methods used to monitor respiratory virus activity in New South Wales. This is due to changes in testing, notification patterns and levels of respiratory virus, including COVID-19, in the community. These changes affect the usefulness of notifications for monitoring virus activity and community transmission over time. The Public Health, Rapid, Emergency and Syndromic Surveillance (PHREDSS) data, COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program, Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) data and the NSW Sentinel Laboratory Network results are currently of most value for monitoring COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses of importance in the community. Public registration of positive COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) in NSW ceased on 30 September 2023. NSW Health also monitors COVID-19 [outbreaks in residential aged-care facilities](#) that are published by the Australian Government and COVID-19 antiviral prescriptions dispensed in NSW.

The data source for this report updates as new information becomes available. Therefore, this report cannot be directly compared to previous versions of the NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report or to previous reporting periods. For additional information on the data sources and methods presented within this report please refer to [COVID-19 surveillance report data sources and methodology](#).

Public Health Rapid, Emergency, Disease and Syndromic Surveillance

The PHREDSS system provides daily information about presentations to NSW public hospital emergency departments and subsequent admission to hospital categorised by symptom profile. Here we report on COVID-19, influenza-like illness and bronchiolitis (which is mainly caused by respiratory syncytial virus, RSV, though can be caused by other respiratory infections). These PHREDSS indicators, particularly the number of people admitted to hospital, are useful for monitoring the severity of illness and the impact on the health system.

Interpretation: Emergency Department (ED) presentations and admissions for COVID-19 remained stable in the last week. While the number of ED presentations for influenza decreased and the number of admissions remained stable, they are still at a high level. ED presentations and admissions for bronchiolitis in young children are at a moderate level. For children under 5 years of age with bronchiolitis, 77.0% of presentations and 77.9% of admissions, were for infants less than one year old.

Figure 1. 'COVID-19' weekly counts of unplanned emergency department (ED) presentations and admission following presentation, 1 February 2024 - 24 August 2025, persons of all ages

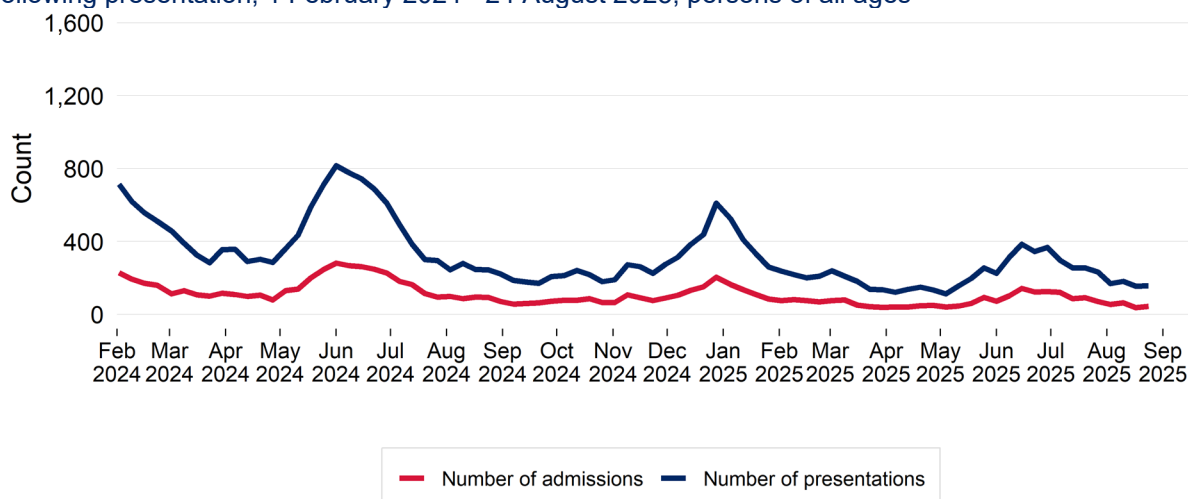


Figure 2. 'Influenza-like illness' weekly counts of unplanned emergency department (ED) presentations and admission following presentation, 1 February 2024 - 24 August 2025, persons of all ages

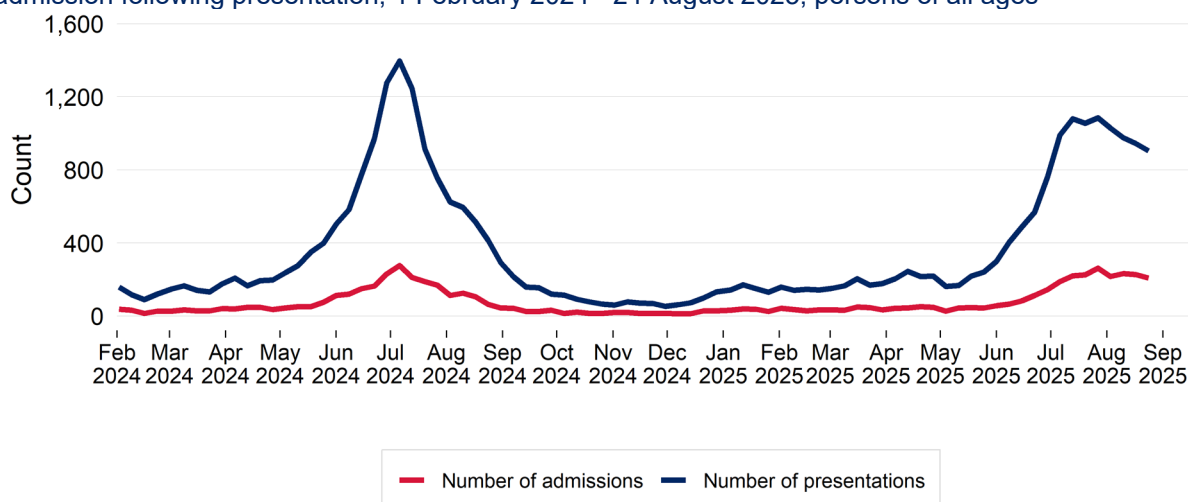
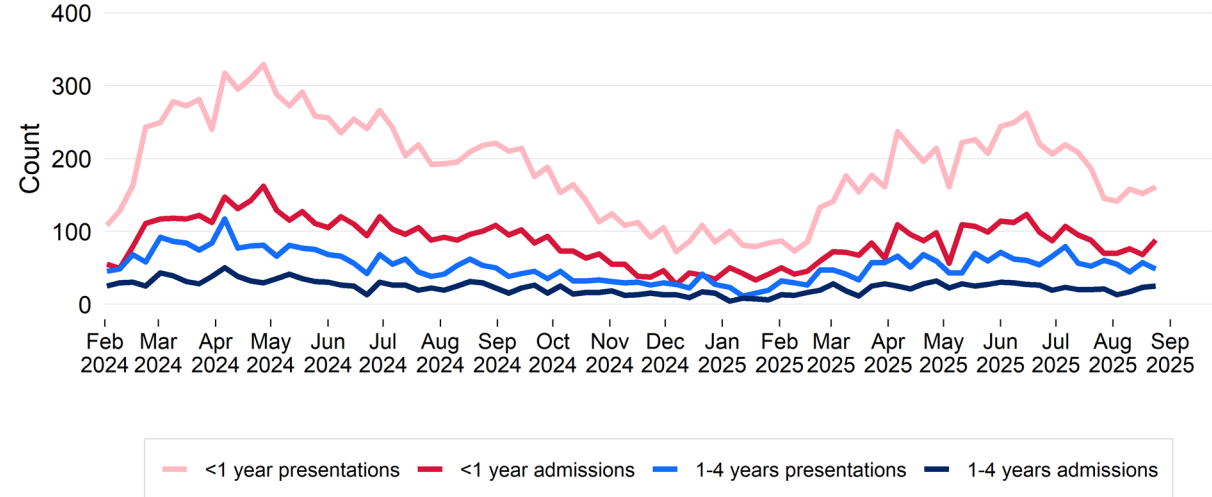


Figure 3. Bronchiolitis weekly counts of unplanned emergency department (ED) presentations and admission following presentation, 1 February 2024 - 24 August 2025, children aged 0-4 years



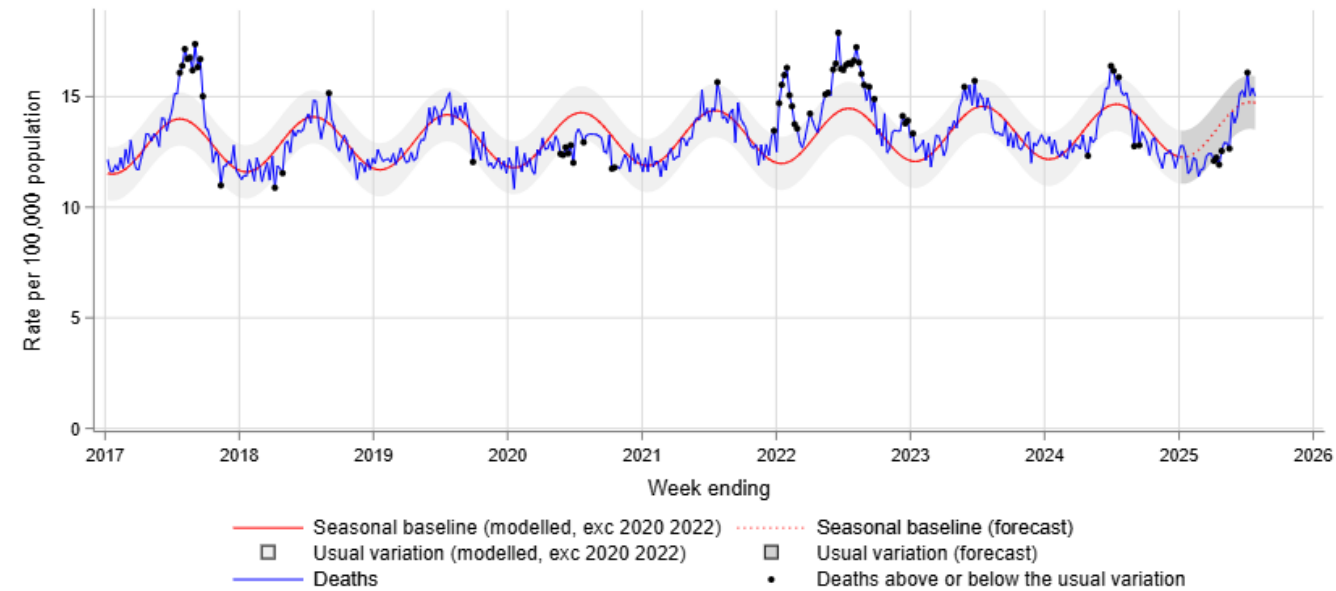
Death surveillance

All-cause mortality

The model for rapid surveillance of excess all-cause mortality in NSW is updated annually, and has a focus on surveillance for increased mortality in recent months. The model outputs for the current year should not be directly compared to previous years' outputs, due to a change in the baseline of the model. The NSW model supports surveillance of the impact of circulating viruses such as COVID-19 and influenza on all-cause mortality. This is not the same approach as that used by the [ABS](#) or by the [Actuaries Institute](#) to examine excess mortality associated with COVID-19 during the pandemic period. These approaches modelled excess mortality in the absence of COVID-19.

Interpretation: Weekly lag adjusted all-cause mortality is above the seasonal baseline (red line) but within the threshold of the usual variation band (grey shading).

Figure 4. All-cause death rate per 100,000 population, all ages, 1 January 2017 to 27 July 2025



Notes:

In this report, due to the time interval between a death occurring and the date on which the death is registered, only deaths reported 4 weeks prior to the date of analysis are used. Deaths are lag adjusted for the weeks ending 22 June 2025 to 27 July 2025. For additional information see [COVID-19 surveillance report data sources and methodology](#) for details.

Notifications of COVID-19, influenza and RSV

Notification data is obtained from laboratory tests for infections. This indicator provides information about community infection.

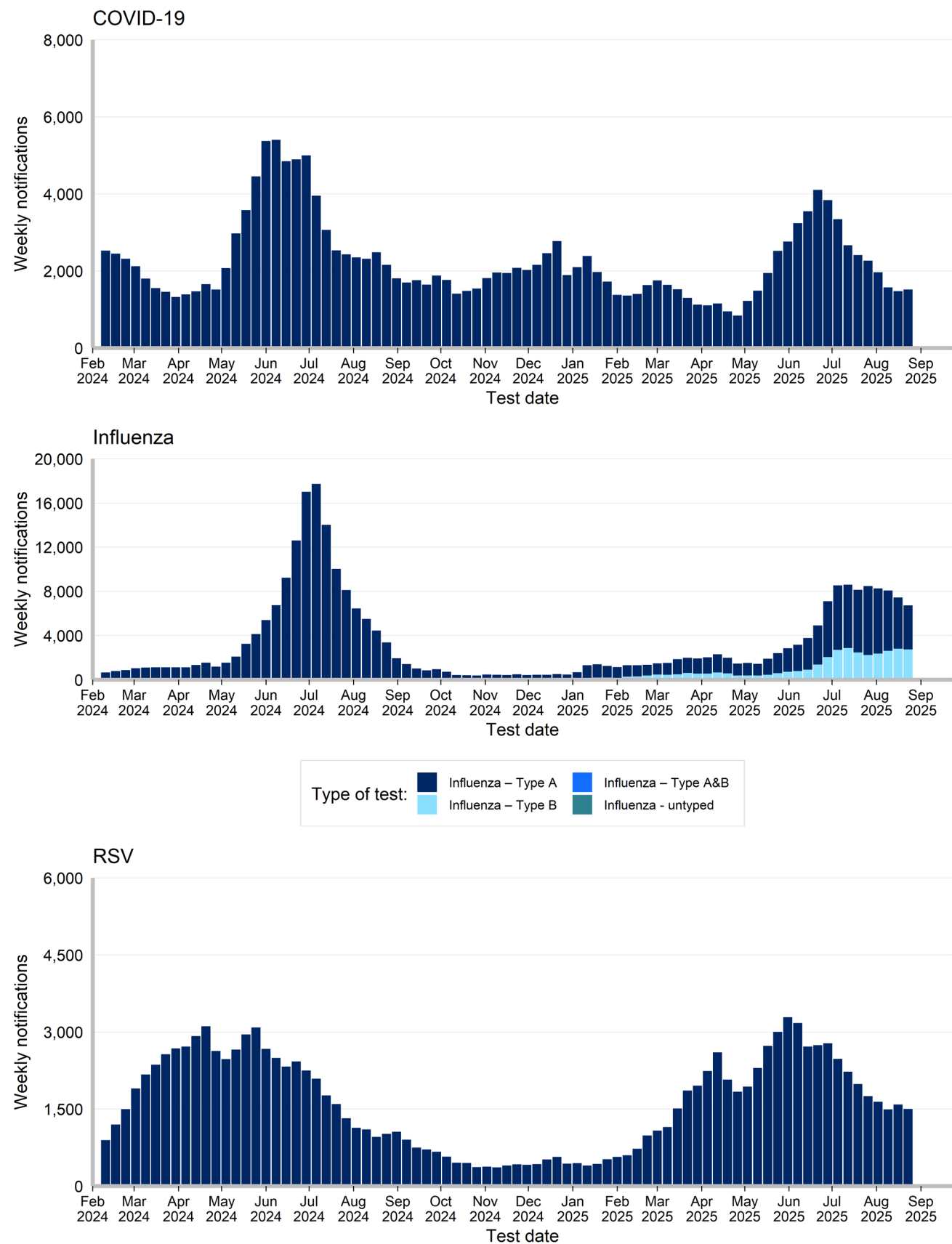
Interpretation: In the past week there was an increase of 3.1% in COVID-19 notifications, a decrease of 9.1% in influenza notifications, and a decrease of 5.4% in RSV notifications.

Table 1: Notifications of COVID-19, influenza and RSV, NSW, tested in the week ending 23 August 2025

	COVID		Influenza		RSV	
	Week ending 23 August 2025	Year to Date	Week ending 23 August 2025	Year to Date	Week ending 23 August 2025	Year to Date
Gender						
Female	868	38,800 (58%)	3,470	62,204 (52%)	813	31,926 (53%)
Male	646	28,297 (42%)	3,243	57,175 (48%)	682	28,268 (47%)
Age group (years)						
0-4	163	6,782 (10%)	800	16,016 (13%)	543	29,594 (49%)
5-9	86	1,988 (3%)	1,159	18,493 (15%)	140	4,755 (8%)
10-19	146	4,581 (7%)	1,285	18,628 (16%)	122	3,350 (6%)
20-29	123	5,252 (8%)	419	7,594 (6%)	68	2,138 (4%)
30-39	181	7,740 (12%)	736	13,219 (11%)	61	3,071 (5%)
40-49	186	7,516 (11%)	762	13,812 (12%)	86	2,615 (4%)
50-59	141	6,437 (10%)	481	10,085 (8%)	100	3,125 (5%)
60-69	148	6,669 (10%)	426	8,502 (7%)	102	3,665 (6%)
70-79	162	8,113 (12%)	355	7,149 (6%)	122	3,745 (6%)
80-89	120	7,927 (12%)	220	4,586 (4%)	101	2,990 (5%)
90+	68	4,116 (6%)	74	1,335 (1%)	52	1,165 (2%)
Local Health District of residence						
Central Coast	59	2,259 (3%)	222	3,108 (3%)	48	2,071 (3%)
Far West	2	109 (0%)	4	124 (0%)	8	81 (0%)
Hunter New England	169	4,864 (7%)	525	8,703 (7%)	102	6,302 (10%)
Illawarra Shoalhaven	96	2,820 (4%)	380	5,577 (5%)	58	3,095 (5%)
Mid North Coast	22	960 (1%)	111	1,996 (2%)	33	1,014 (2%)
Murrumbidgee	31	1,872 (3%)	310	3,885 (3%)	133	1,826 (3%)
Nepean Blue Mountains	89	4,001 (6%)	311	8,273 (7%)	87	4,543 (8%)
Northern NSW	30	1,869 (3%)	182	3,770 (3%)	51	1,561 (3%)
Northern Sydney	221	8,776 (13%)	1,010	15,186 (13%)	206	7,761 (13%)
South Eastern Sydney	127	6,604 (10%)	619	10,851 (9%)	154	5,549 (9%)
South Western Sydney	207	10,219 (15%)	847	18,836 (16%)	150	8,297 (14%)
Southern NSW	25	1,135 (2%)	172	2,676 (2%)	50	1,329 (2%)
Sydney	111	5,335 (8%)	398	7,373 (6%)	94	3,738 (6%)
Western NSW	55	1,587 (2%)	192	3,749 (3%)	100	1,992 (3%)
Western Sydney	277	14,363 (21%)	1,428	25,009 (21%)	220	10,954 (18%)
Aboriginal status						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	36	1,422 (2%)	194	3,388 (3%)	61	1,882 (3%)
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	784	35,477 (53%)	3,485	63,857 (53%)	751	27,786 (46%)
Not Stated / Unknown	696	30,243 (45%)	3,049	52,217 (44%)	685	30,555 (51%)
Total	1,516	67,142 (100%)	6,728	119,462 (100%)	1,497	60,223 (100%)

Note: Total includes all cases including those with missing gender, age, LHD; or who are interstate or overseas residents.

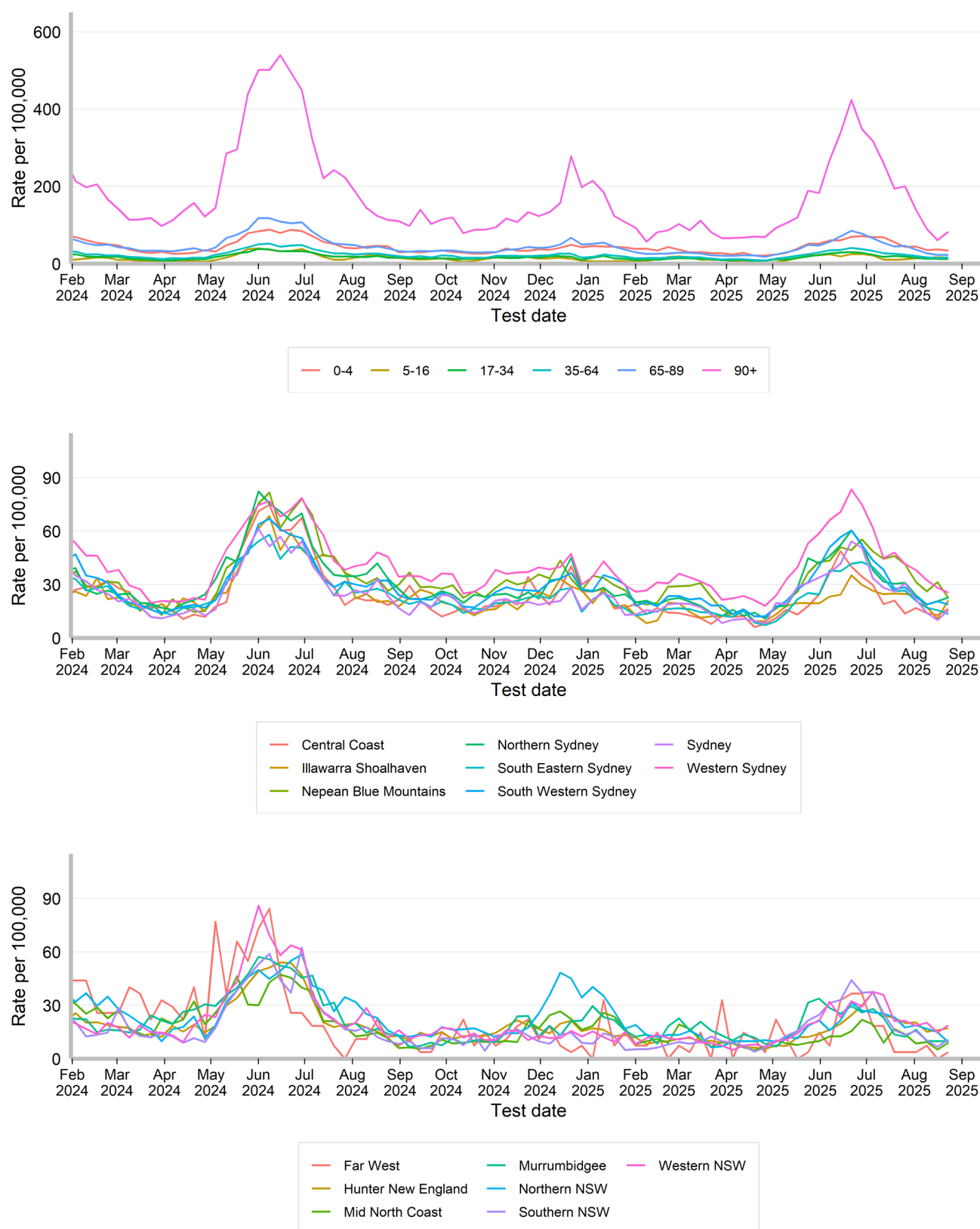
Figure 5. Weekly notifications of COVID-19*, Influenza and RSV, by date of test and type of test performed, NSW, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025



Rates of COVID-19 notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of COVID-19 notifications are low in all age groups.

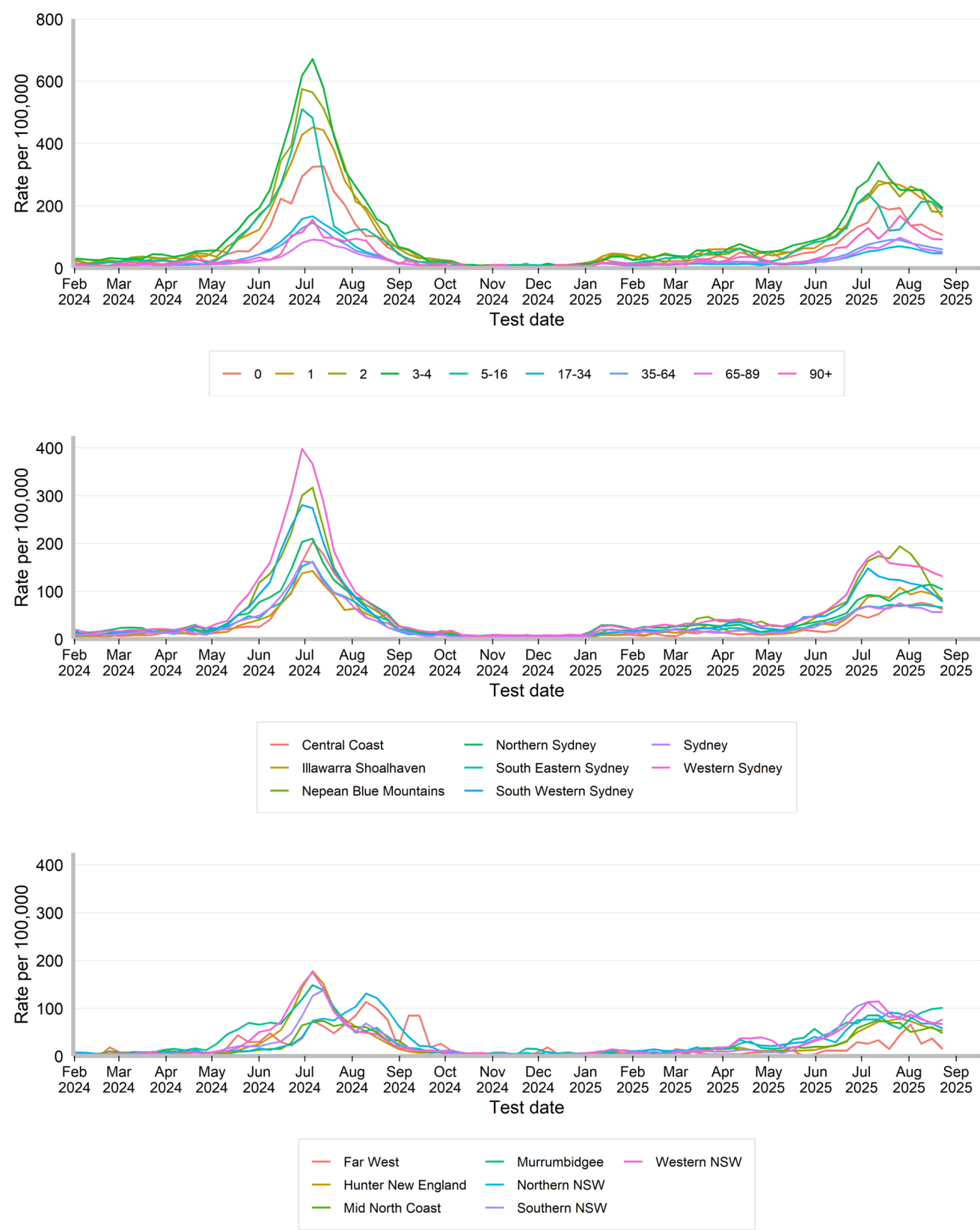
Figure 6. Weekly rate of COVID-19* notifications per 100,000 population, by age group, Local Health District and test date, NSW, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025



Rates of influenza notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of influenza notifications have plateaued in most age groups and regions.

Figure 7. Weekly rate of influenza notifications per 100,000 population, by age group, Local Health District and test date, NSW, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025



Rates of RSV notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of RSV notifications have been decreasing or stable in the last week.

Figure 8. Weekly rate of respiratory syncytial virus notifications per 100,000 population, by age group and test date, NSW, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025

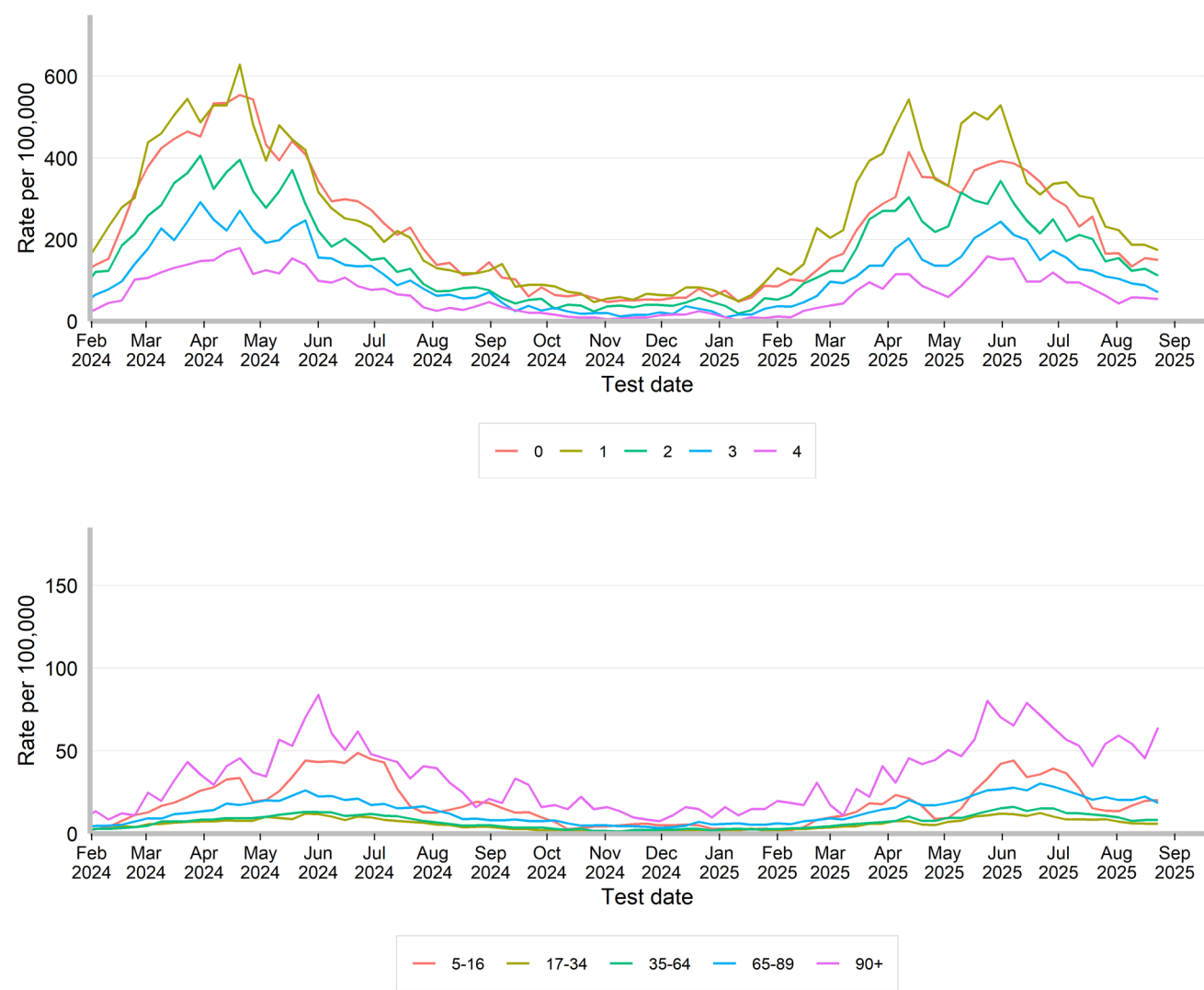
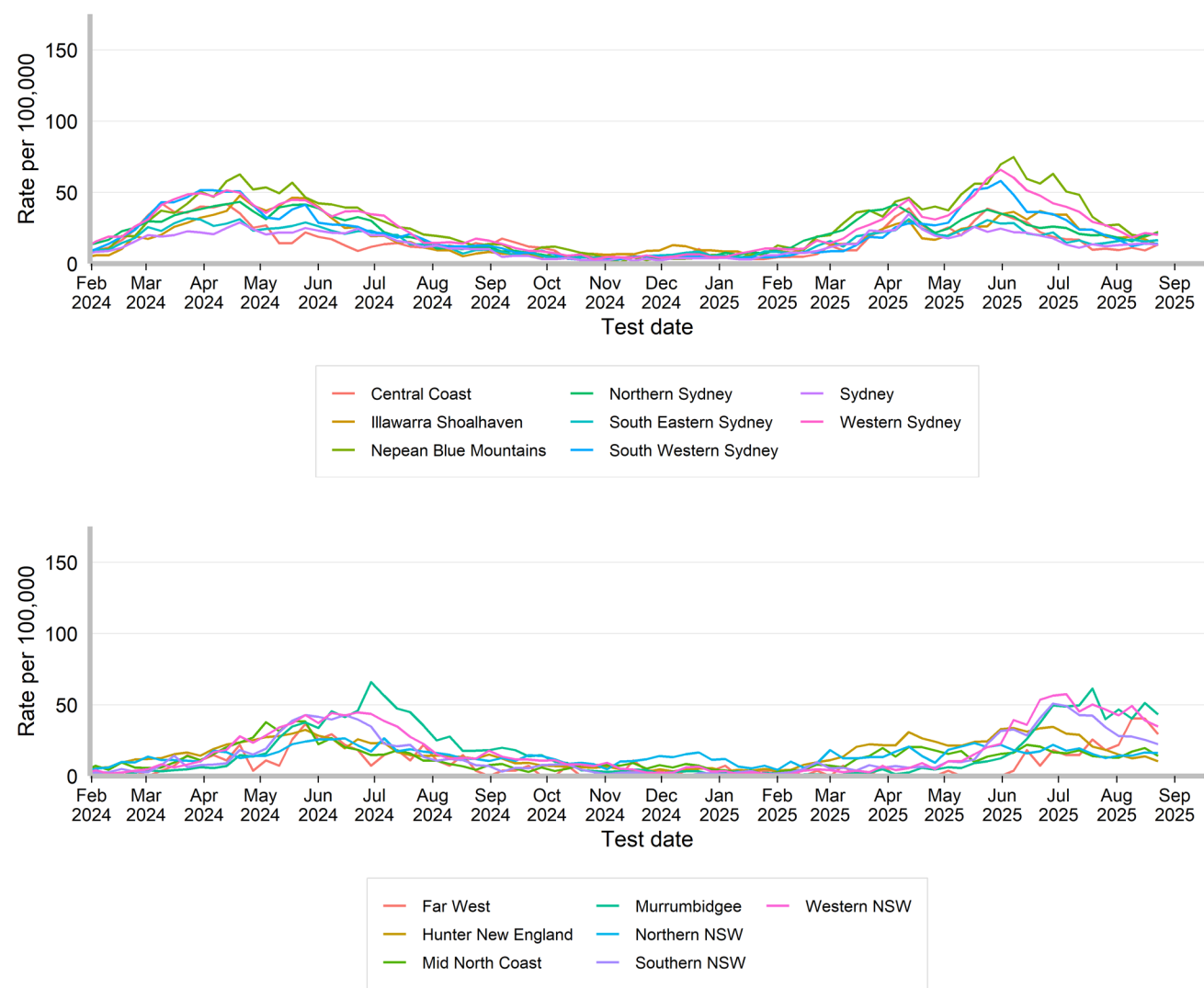


Figure 9. Weekly rate of respiratory syncytial virus notifications per 100,000 population, by Local Health District and test date, NSW, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025



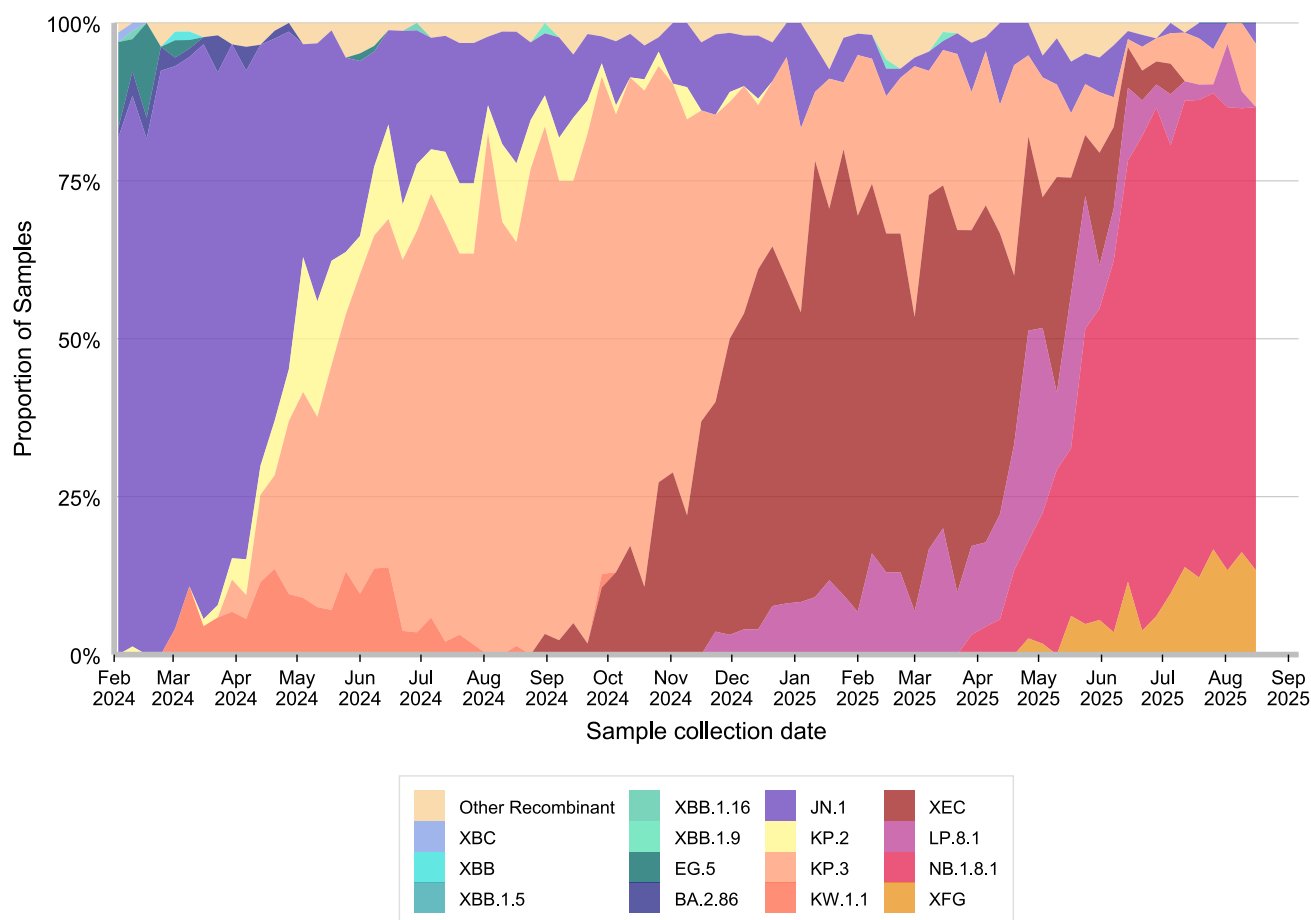
Other surveillance indicators

COVID-19 Whole Genome Sequencing

A subset of specimens from people who test positive with COVID-19 via PCR at NSW Health Pathology services undergo whole genome sequencing each week to identify and understand the behaviour of circulating variants. This sample may not necessarily reflect the distribution of all cases across NSW. NSW continues to monitor the sub-lineages in samples from ICU to monitor for increased disease severity.

Interpretation: NSW continues to monitor sub-lineages emerging globally and locally and consider their impact in the context of the local immunity profile. We continue to report COVID-19 sub-lineage XFG whose prevalence has been increasing globally.

Figure 10. Estimated weekly distribution of COVID-19 sub-lineages in the community, 1 February 2024 to 16 August 2025

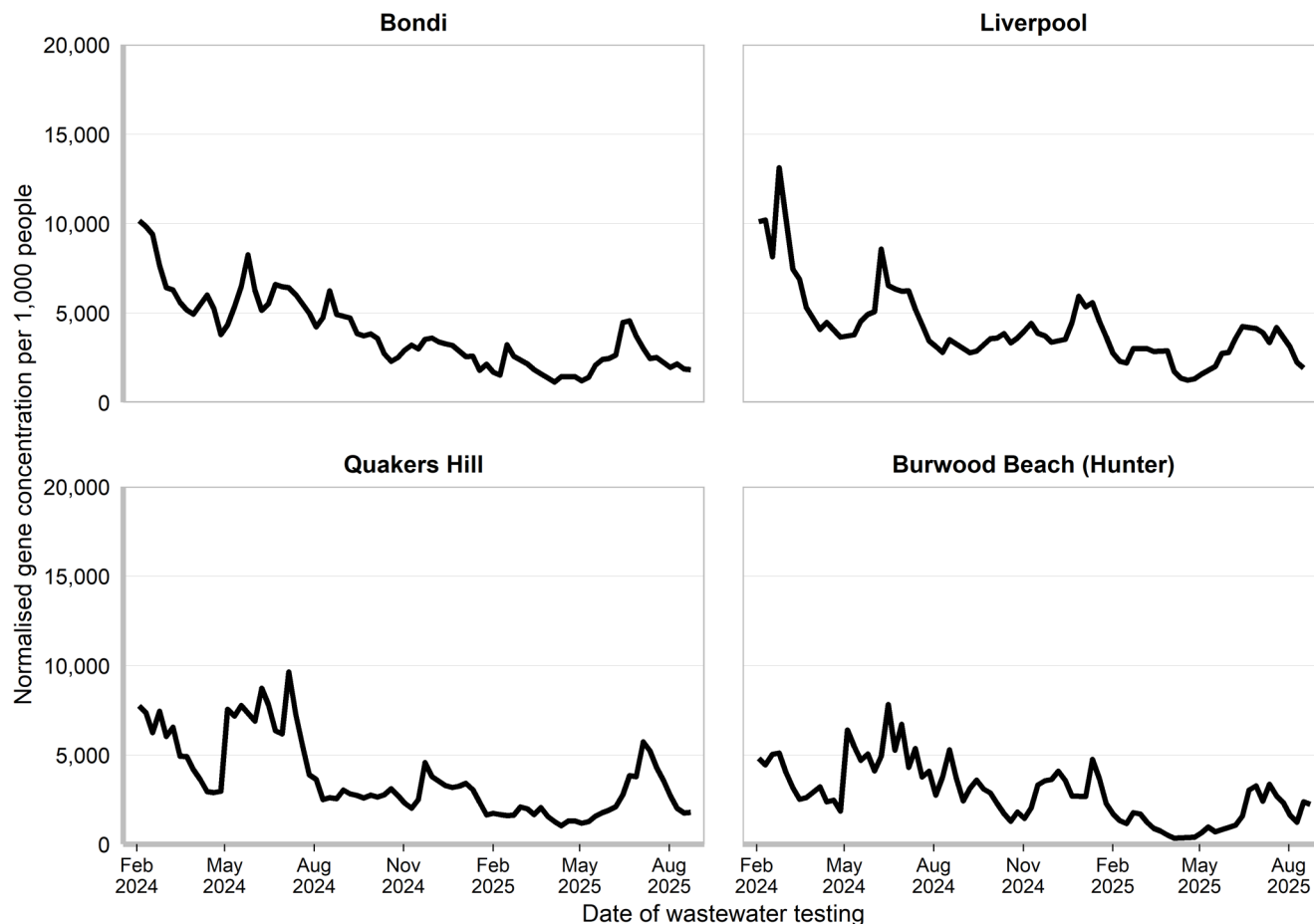


COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program

Trends are presented for Bondi, Liverpool, Quakers Hill, and Burwood Beach (Hunter) wastewater catchments from 23 February 2024 to the week ending 23 August 2025. For more information, please see the COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/sewage-surveillance.aspx>.

Interpretation: Gene concentrations per 1,000 people have decreased in the three Sydney catchments (Bondi, Liverpool and Quakers Hill).

Figure 11. Gene concentration, per 1,000 people in each wastewater catchment, 1 February 2024 to 23 August 2025



NSW Sentinel Laboratory Network

The NSW Sentinel Laboratory Network comprises of 12 public and private laboratories throughout NSW who provide additional data on positive and negative test results. This data helps us understand which respiratory viruses are circulating and their level of activity. Note that the number of laboratories providing data differs between viruses and changes between weeks (Tables 2 and 3).

Interpretation: In the last week, test positivity for COVID-19 slightly increased to 3.9%. Influenza test positivity decreased to 17.3%. RSV test positivity slightly decreased to 3.1%.

Figure 12. Number and proportion of tests positive for COVID-19 at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 February 2024 to 24 August 2025

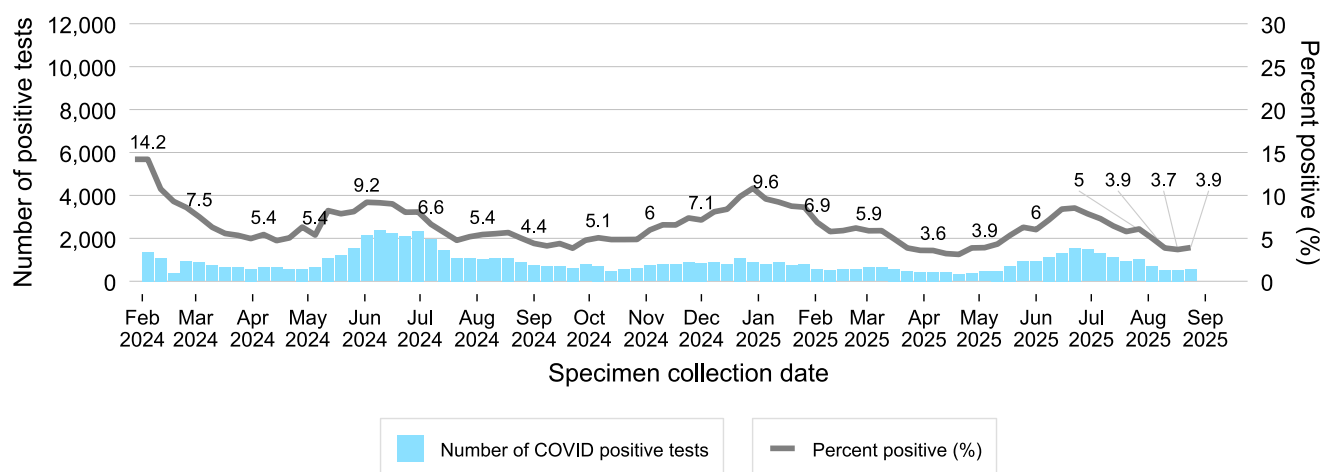


Figure 13. Number and proportion of tests positive for influenza at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 February 2024 to 24 August 2025

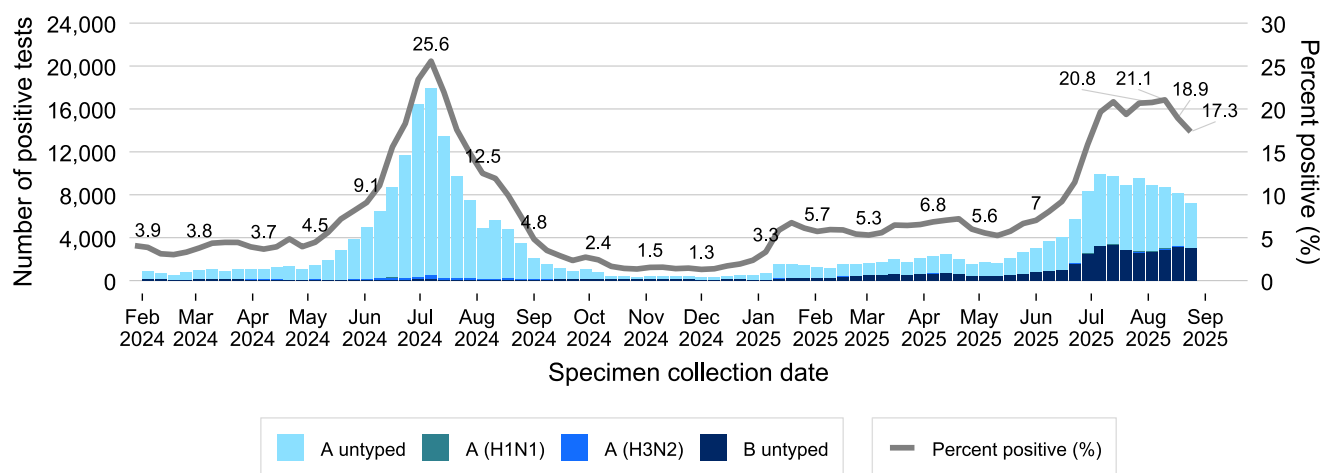


Figure 14. Number and proportion of tests positive for RSV at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 February 2024 to 24 August 2025

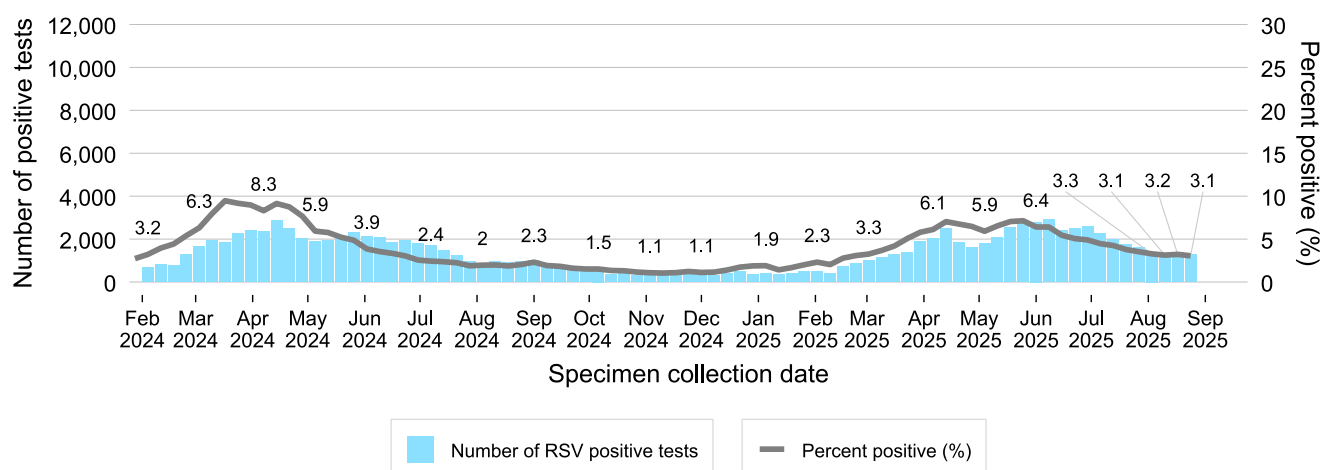


Figure 15. Number of positive PCR test results and proportion of tests positive for other respiratory viruses at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 February 2024 to 24 August 2025

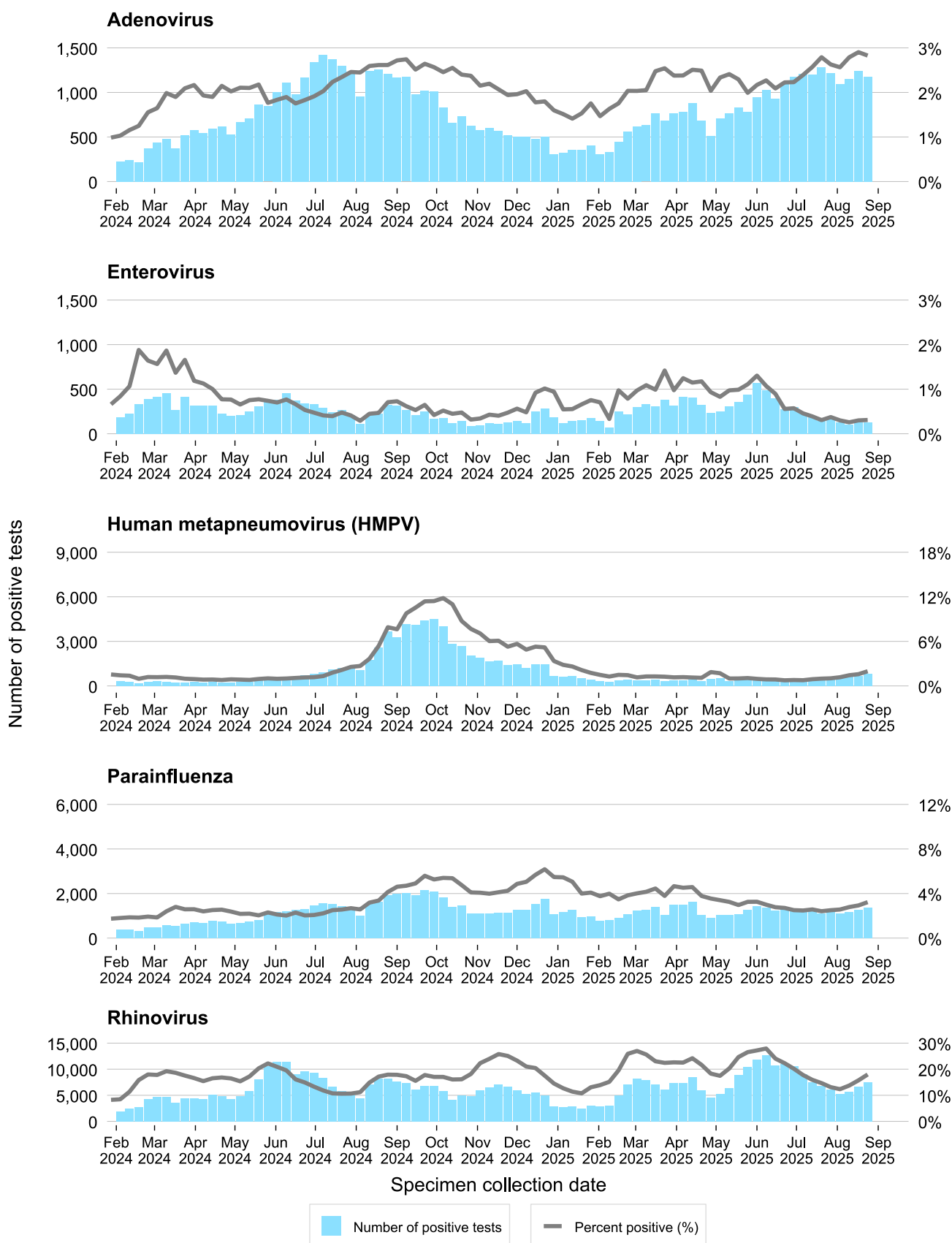


Table 2. Total number of COVID-19 notifications from NSW sentinel laboratories, in the four weeks to 24 August 2025

	Week ending							
	03 August		10 August		17 August		24 August	
	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos
SARS-CoV-2	705	5.0%	515	3.9%	517	3.7%	540	3.9%
Number of COVID PCR tests conducted	14,048		13,300		13,996		13,783	
Number of laboratories reporting COVID	3		3		3		3	

Recent data is subject to change.

Table 3. Total number of other respiratory disease notifications from NSW sentinel laboratories, in the four weeks to 24 August 2025

	Week ending							
	03 August		10 August		17 August		24 August	
	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos
Influenza	8,852	20.8%	8,678	21.1%	8,082	18.9%	7,237	17.3%
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	1,399	3.3%	1,292	3.1%	1,374	3.2%	1,274	3.1%
Adenovirus	1,094	2.6%	1,149	2.8%	1,239	2.9%	1,180	2.8%
Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)	498	1.2%	593	1.4%	675	1.6%	823	2.0%
Rhinovirus	5,261	12.3%	5,662	13.7%	6,709	15.7%	7,502	18.0%
Enterovirus	128	0.3%	106	0.3%	128	0.3%	129	0.3%
Parainfluenza	1,094	2.6%	1,148	2.8%	1,251	2.9%	1,346	3.2%
Number of PCR tests conducted	42,649		41,208		42,669		41,729	
Number of laboratories reporting	11		11		11		11	

Recent data is subject to change.

FluTracking

FluTracking is an online health surveillance system used to detect epidemics of influenza across Australia and New Zealand. Participants complete an online survey each week to provide community level influenza-like illness surveillance, consistent surveillance of influenza activity across all jurisdictions over time, and year to year comparisons of the timing, attack rates and seriousness of influenza in the community. More information about FluTracking and ways to be involved are available here: <https://info.flutracking.net/about/>

Interpretation: The proportion of people reporting fever and cough has remained above 1% since June.

Figure 16. Proportion of FluTracking participants reporting influenza-like illness, NSW, 1 January to 24 August 2025

