

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

Summary

Influenza has decreased from a high to a moderate level of activity. COVID-19 is at a low level of activity. Bronchiolitis, which can be caused by a variety of viruses, remains at a moderate level. RSV has decreased from a moderate to a low 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. ED presentations and admissions for influenza-like-illness decreased in the last week to a moderate level. ED presentations and admissions for bronchiolitis in young children are at a moderate level. For children under 5 years of age with bronchiolitis, 77.9% of presentations and 81.1% 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 March 2024 - 21 September 2025, persons of all ages

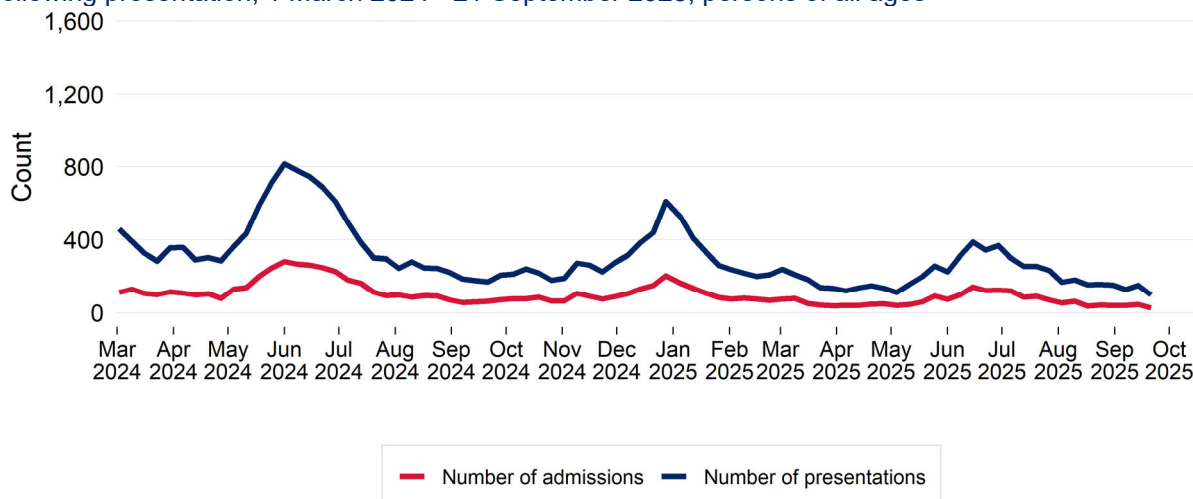


Figure 2. 'Influenza-like illness' weekly counts of unplanned emergency department (ED) presentations and admission following presentation, 1 March 2024 - 21 September 2025, persons of all ages

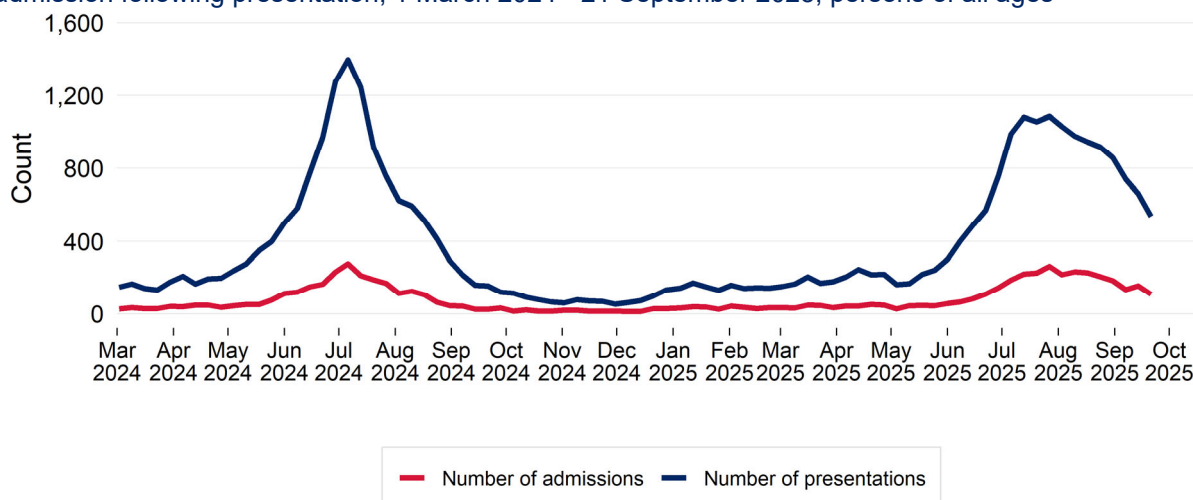
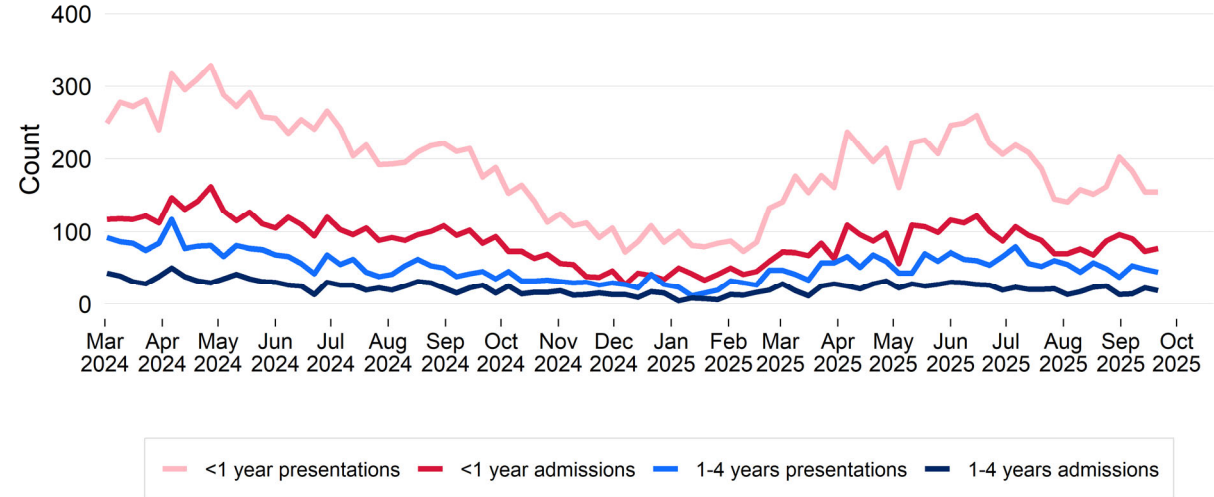


Figure 3. Bronchiolitis weekly counts of unplanned emergency department (ED) presentations and admission following presentation, 1 March 2024 - 21 September 2025, children aged 0-4 years



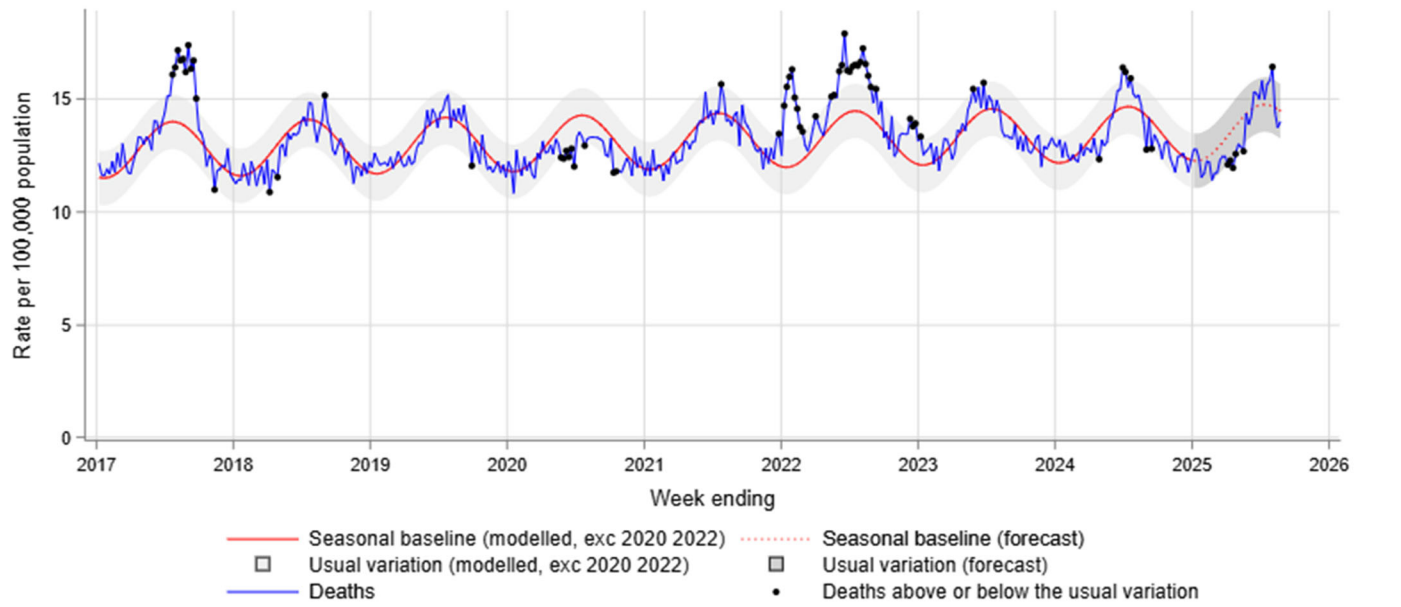
Death surveillance

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 below the seasonal baseline (red line) and 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 24 August 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 20 July 2025 to 24 August 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.

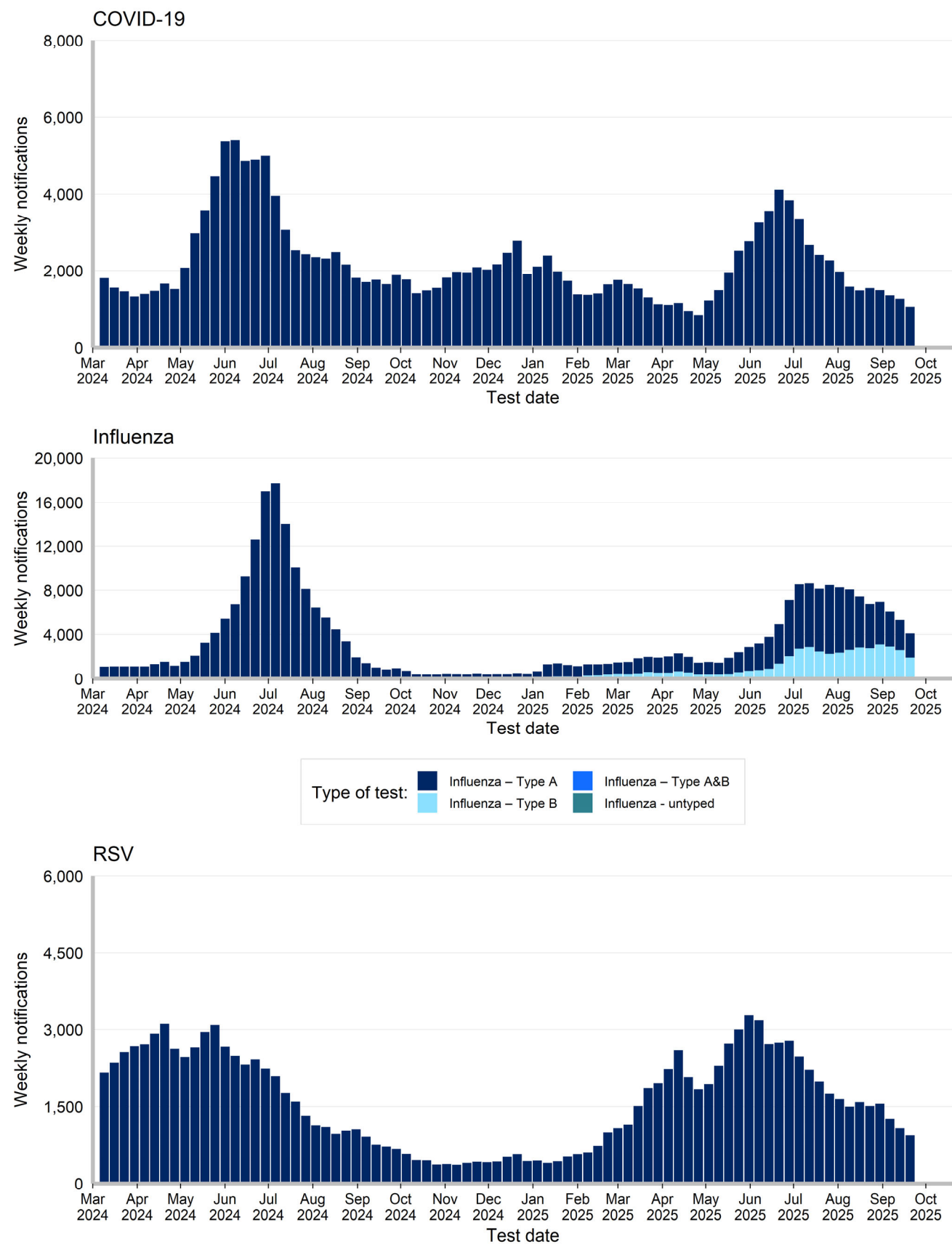
Interpretation: In the past week there was a decrease of 14.9% in COVID-19 notifications, a decrease of 22% in influenza notifications, and a decrease of 13.4% in RSV notifications. Influenza B accounted for 47% of all influenza notifications.

Table 1: Notifications of COVID-19, influenza and RSV, NSW, tested in the week ending 20 September 2025

	COVID		Influenza		RSV	
	Week ending 20 September 2025	Year to Date	Week ending 20 September 2025	Year to Date	Week ending 20 September 2025	Year to Date
Gender						
Female	641	41,844 (58%)	2,115	73,881 (52%)	489	34,509 (53%)
Male	414	30,544 (42%)	1,977	68,039 (48%)	437	30,541 (47%)
Age group (years)						
0-4	129	7,397 (10%)	469	18,585 (13%)	308	31,306 (48%)
5-9	73	2,297 (3%)	643	22,421 (16%)	107	5,259 (8%)
10-19	101	5,134 (7%)	926	23,402 (16%)	97	3,776 (6%)
20-29	86	5,681 (8%)	291	9,078 (6%)	36	2,343 (4%)
30-39	118	8,338 (12%)	431	15,552 (11%)	41	3,314 (5%)
40-49	107	8,079 (11%)	451	16,333 (12%)	46	2,862 (4%)
50-59	67	6,889 (10%)	280	11,654 (8%)	63	3,447 (5%)
60-69	80	7,107 (10%)	220	9,782 (7%)	76	4,030 (6%)
70-79	117	8,667 (12%)	202	8,239 (6%)	71	4,139 (6%)
80-89	115	8,437 (12%)	138	5,336 (4%)	61	3,300 (5%)
90+	71	4,388 (6%)	44	1,588 (1%)	20	1,296 (2%)
Local Health District of residence						
Central Coast	49	2,438 (3%)	102	3,751 (3%)	20	2,207 (3%)
Far West	2	143 (0%)	7	159 (0%)	14	136 (0%)
Hunter New England	110	5,470 (8%)	393	10,628 (7%)	73	6,711 (10%)
Illawarra Shoalhaven	65	3,130 (4%)	268	6,793 (5%)	88	3,437 (5%)
Mid North Coast	19	1,042 (1%)	53	2,302 (2%)	25	1,122 (2%)
Murrumbidgee	22	2,055 (3%)	128	4,822 (3%)	45	2,110 (3%)
Nepean Blue Mountains	92	4,358 (6%)	225	9,394 (7%)	41	4,784 (7%)
Northern NSW	29	1,978 (3%)	97	4,356 (3%)	32	1,735 (3%)
Northern Sydney	123	9,459 (13%)	500	18,629 (13%)	122	8,447 (13%)
South Eastern Sydney	105	7,095 (10%)	362	12,812 (9%)	82	6,004 (9%)
South Western Sydney	169	10,959 (15%)	529	21,508 (15%)	104	8,768 (13%)
Southern NSW	14	1,202 (2%)	76	3,116 (2%)	19	1,480 (2%)
Sydney	66	5,650 (8%)	265	8,851 (6%)	41	4,020 (6%)
Western NSW	8	1,681 (2%)	149	4,518 (3%)	52	2,261 (3%)
Western Sydney	193	15,384 (21%)	933	29,988 (21%)	167	11,743 (18%)
Aboriginal status						
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	26	1,542 (2%)	117	4,009 (3%)	31	2,062 (3%)
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	541	38,239 (53%)	2,070	75,434 (53%)	471	30,284 (47%)
Not Stated / Unknown	489	32,657 (45%)	1,908	62,571 (44%)	424	32,736 (50%)
Total	1,056	72,438 (100%)	4,095	142,014 (100%)	926	65,082 (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 March 2024 to 20 September 2025



Rates of COVID-19 notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of COVID-19 notifications decreased in most age groups and regions.

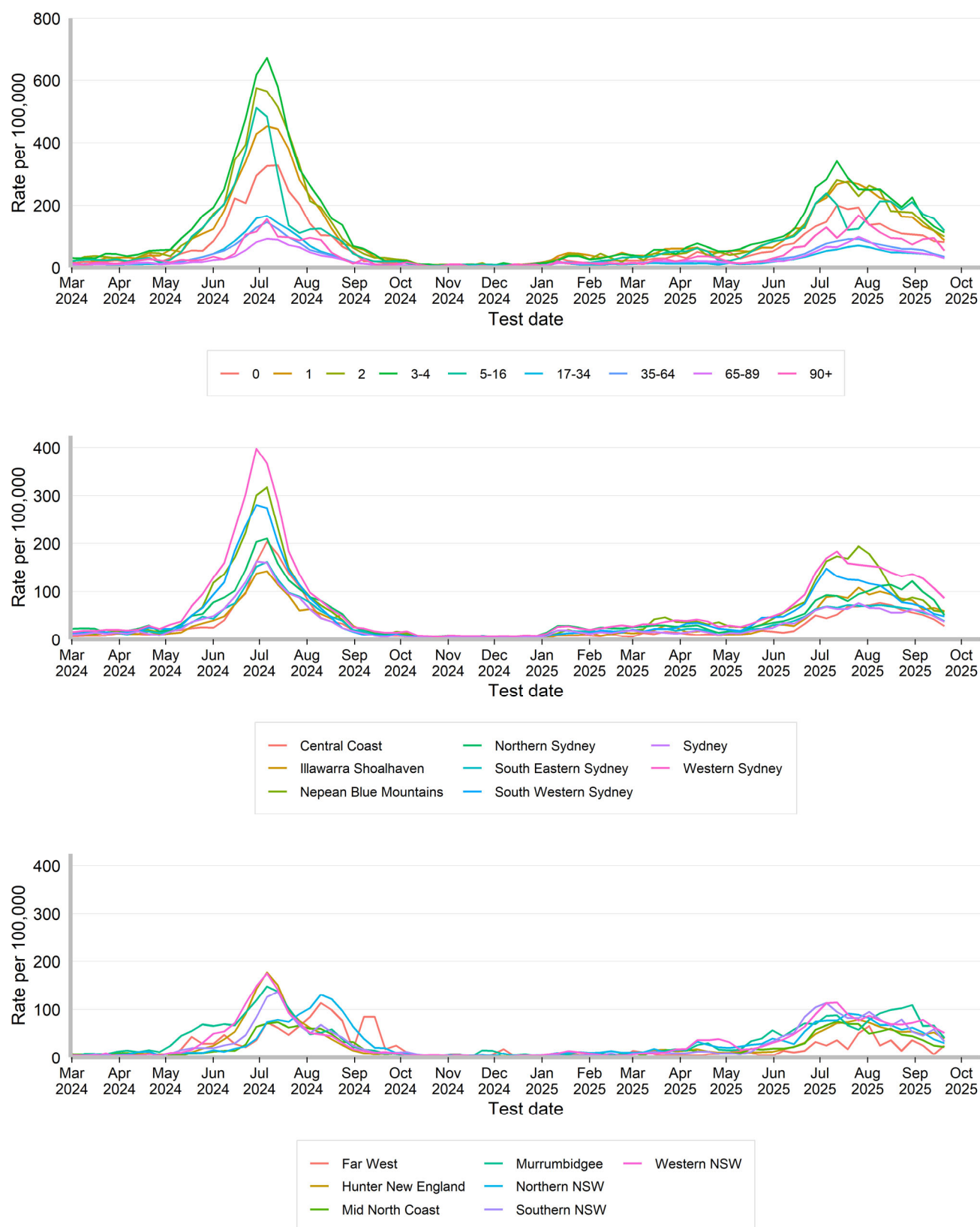
Figure 6. Weekly rate of COVID-19* notifications per 100,000 population, by age group, Local Health District and test date, NSW, 1 March 2024 to 20 September 2025



Rates of influenza notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of influenza notifications decreased 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 March 2024 to 20 September 2025



Rates of RSV notifications per 100,000 population

Interpretation: Rates of RSV notifications decreased in most age groups and regions.

Figure 8. Weekly rate of respiratory syncytial virus notifications per 100,000 population, by age group and test date, NSW, 1 March 2024 to 20 September 2025

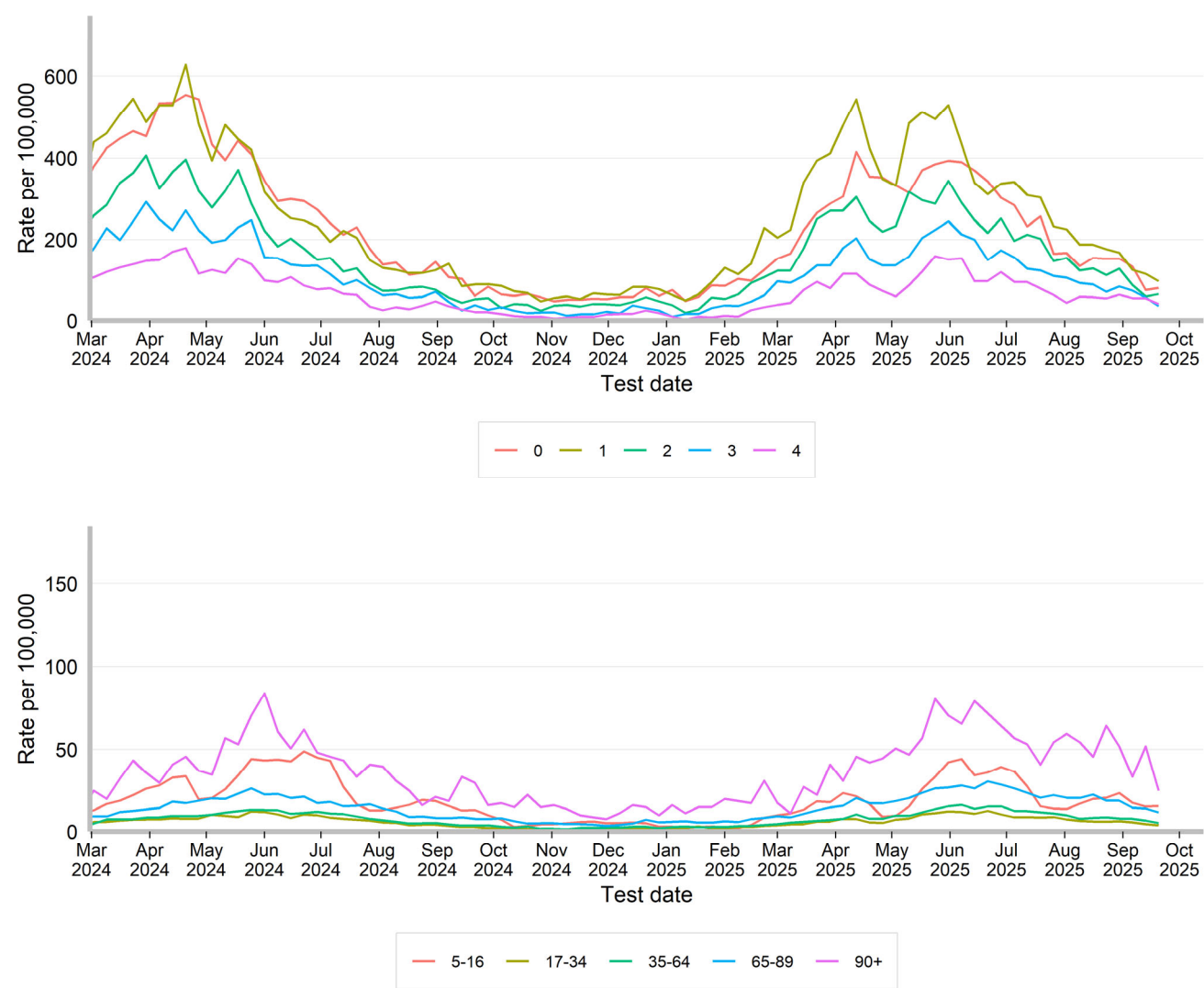
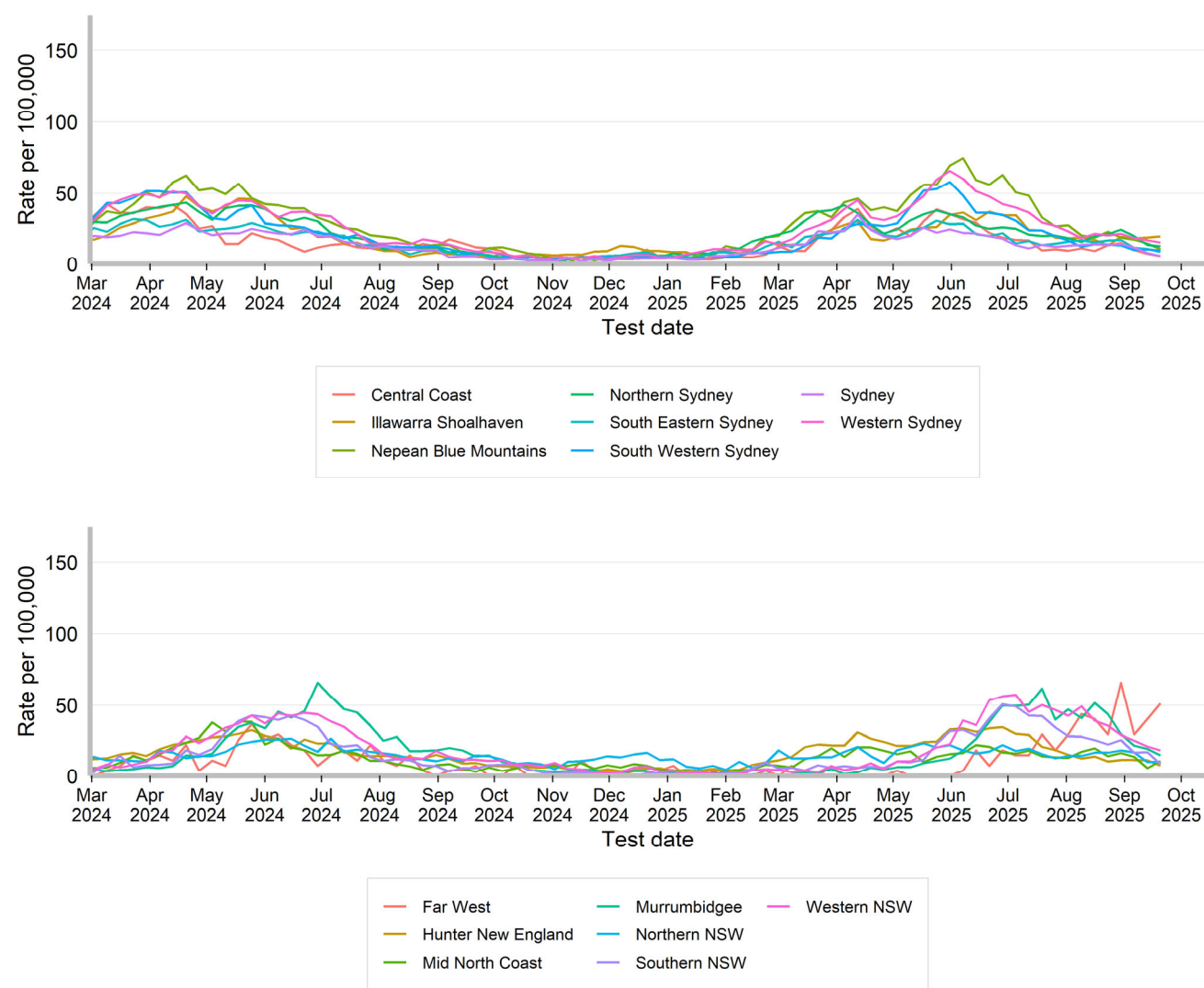


Figure 9. Weekly rate of respiratory syncytial virus notifications per 100,000 population, by Local Health District and test date, NSW, 1 March 2024 to 20 September 2025



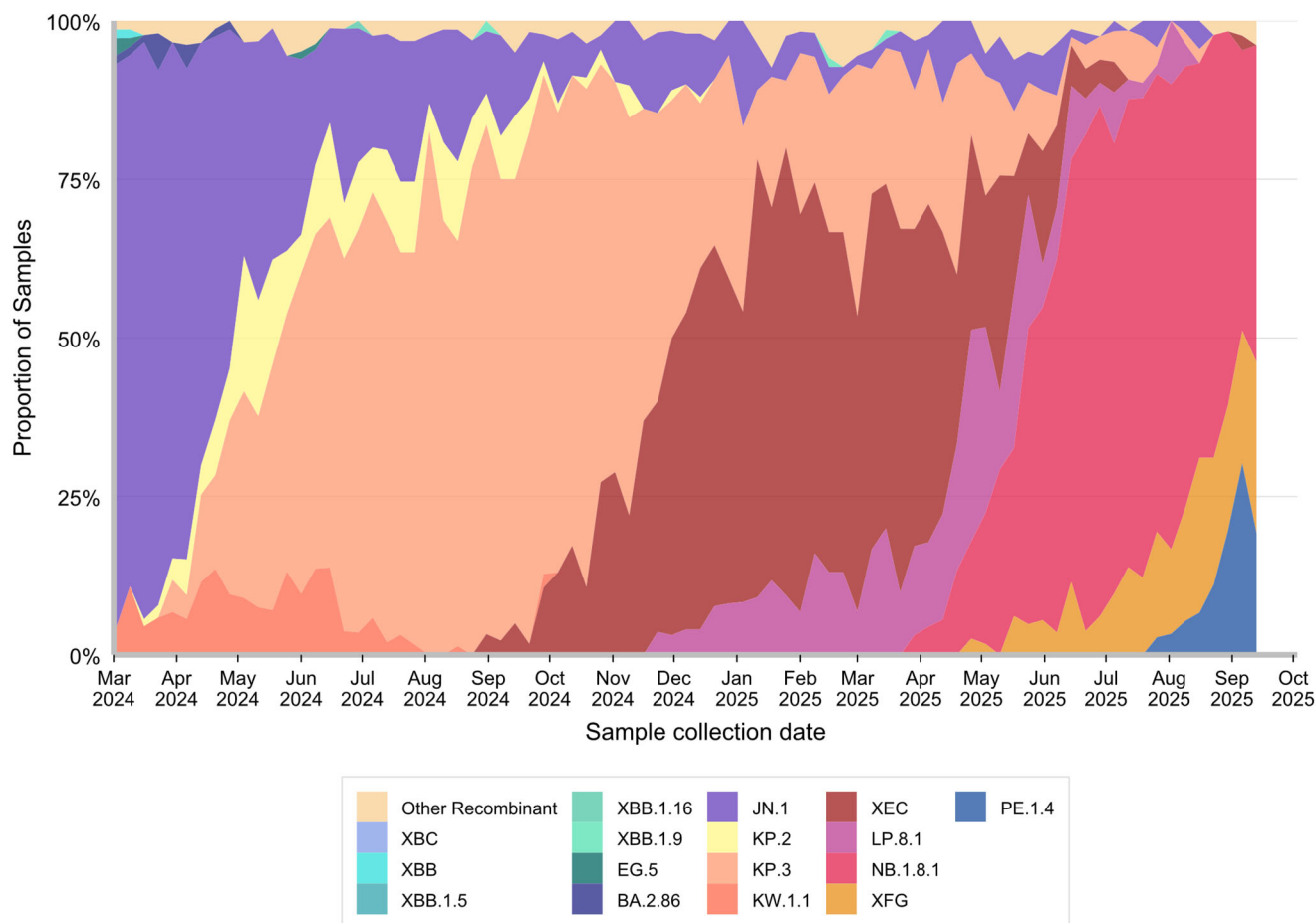
Other surveillance indicators

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 now report COVID-19 sub-lineage PE.1.4 whose prevalence has been increasing in Australia.

Figure 10. Estimated weekly distribution of COVID-19 sub-lineages in the community, 1 March 2024 to 13 September 2025

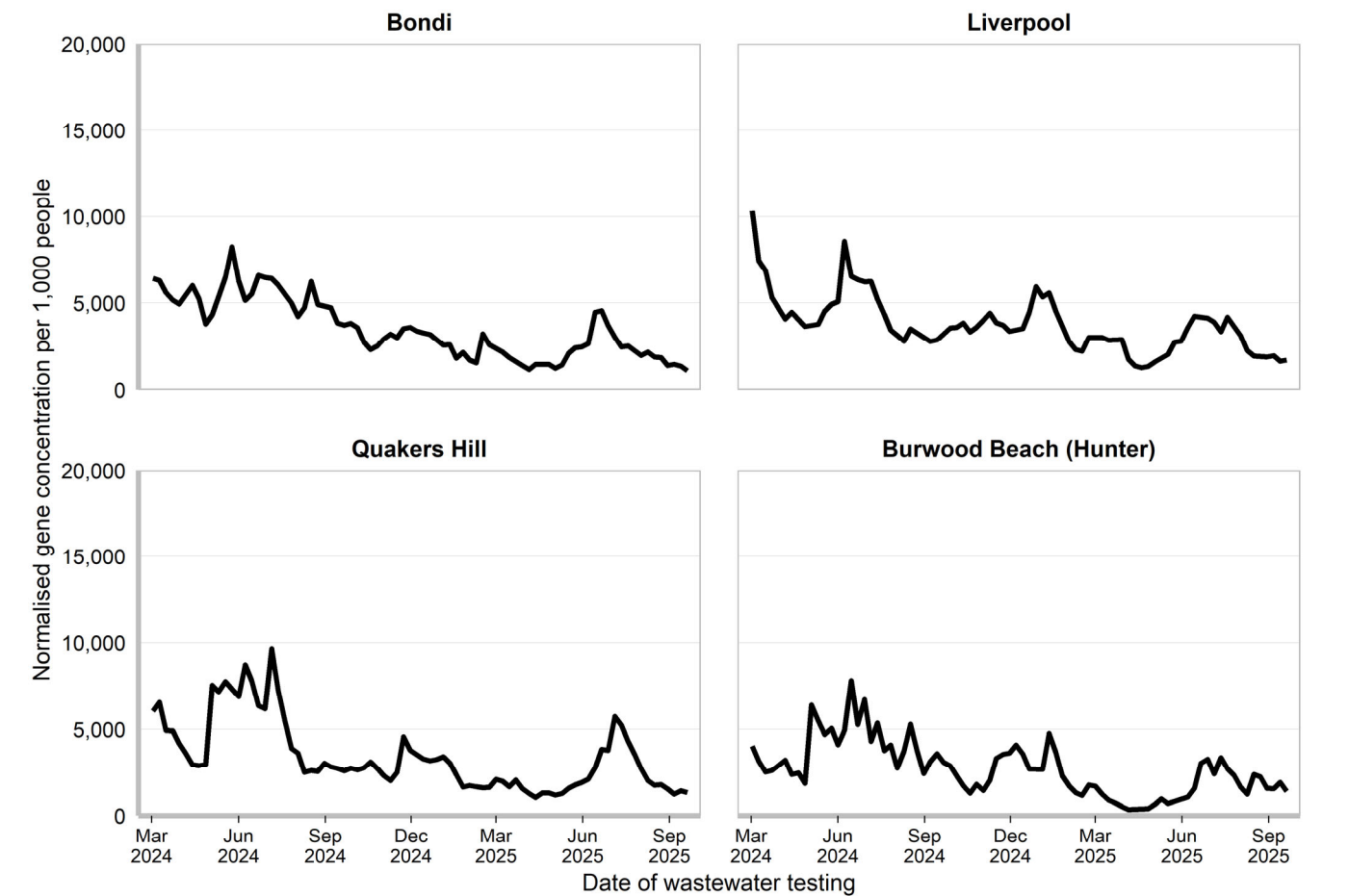


COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program

Trends are presented for Bondi, Liverpool, Quakers Hill, and Burwood Beach (Hunter) wastewater catchments from 20 March 2024 to the week ending 20 September 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 are low in all catchments.

Figure 11. Gene concentration, per 1,000 people in each wastewater catchment, 1 March 2024 to 20 September 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 COVID-19 test positivity remained stable at 3.2%. Influenza test positivity decreased to 11.8%. RSV test positivity decreased to 2%.

Figure 12. Number and proportion of tests positive for COVID-19 at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 March 2024 to 21 September 2025

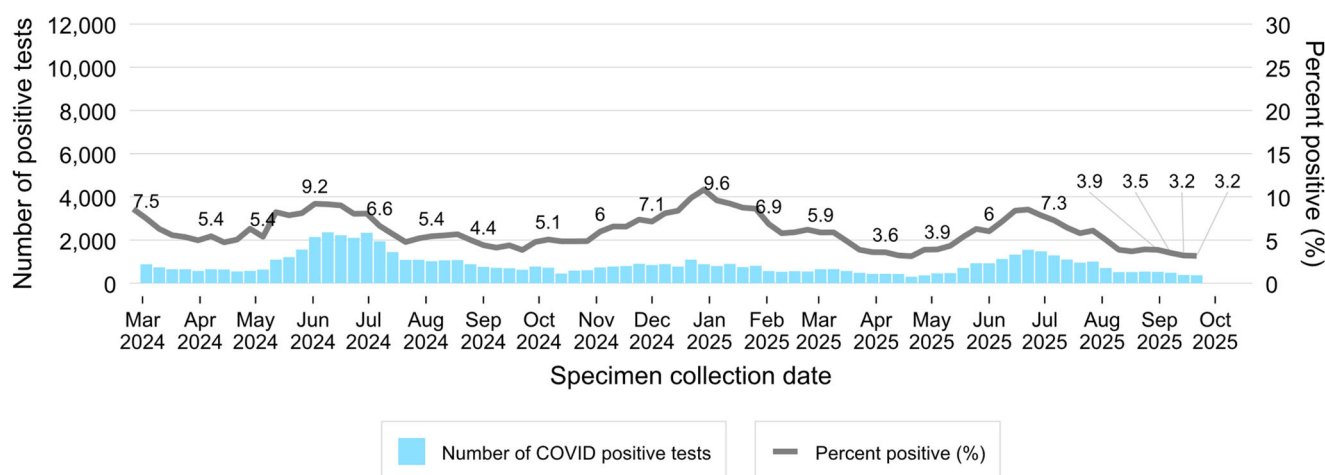


Figure 13. Number and proportion of tests positive for influenza at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 March 2024 to 21 September 2025

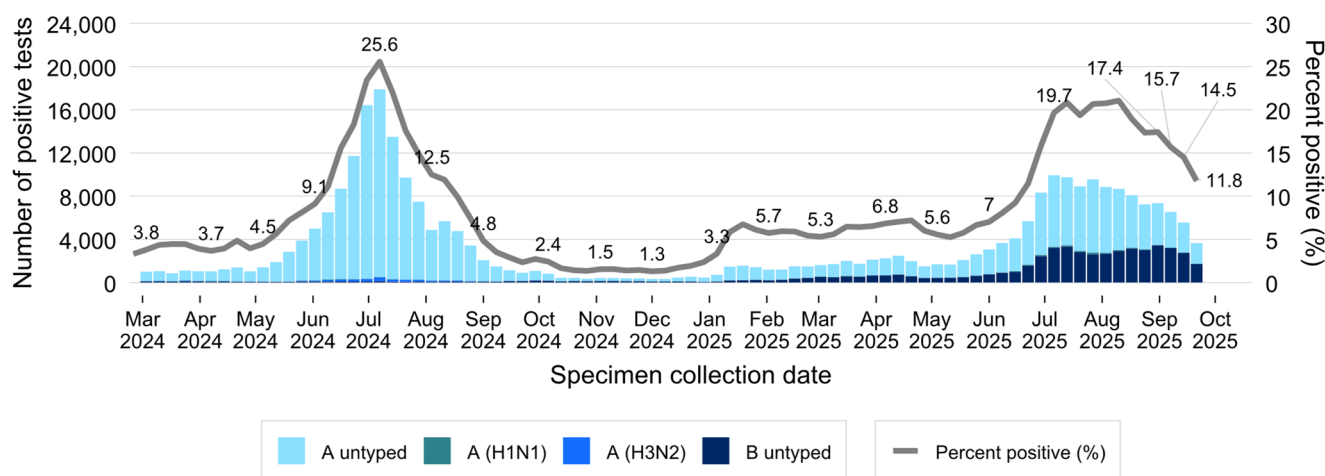


Figure 14. Number and proportion of tests positive for RSV at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 March 2024 to 21 September 2025

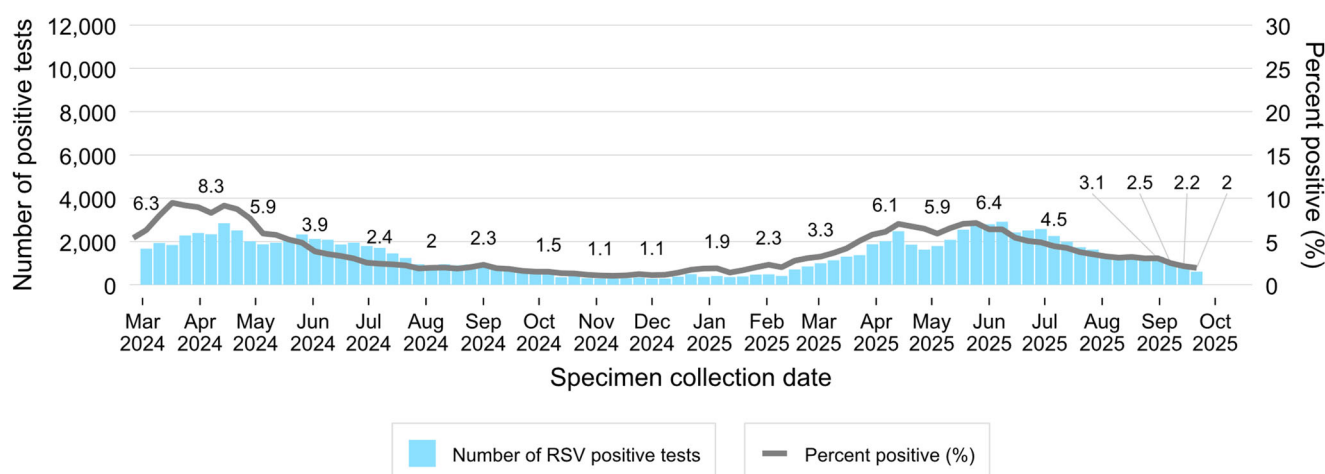


Figure 15. Number of positive PCR test results and proportion of tests positive for other respiratory viruses at NSW sentinel laboratories by week, 1 March 2024 to 21 September 2025

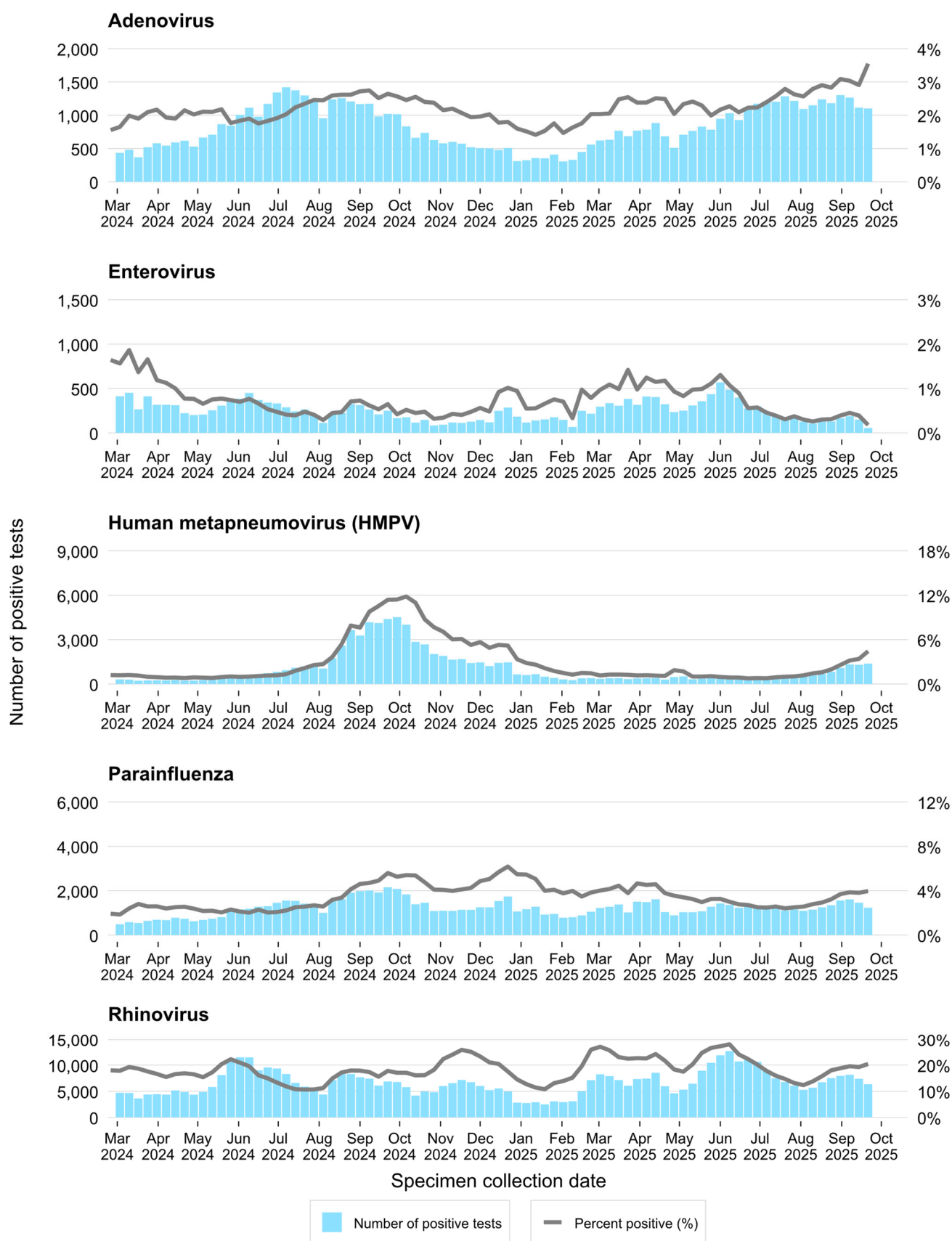


Table 2. Total number of COVID-19 notifications from NSW sentinel laboratories, in the four weeks to 21 September 2025

	Week ending							
	31 August		07 September		14 September		21 September	
	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos
SARS-CoV-2	527	3.9%	487	3.5%	384	3.2%	373	3.2%
Number of COVID PCR tests conducted	13,622		13,871		11,964		11,786	
Number of laboratories reporting COVID	3		3		2		2	

Recent data is subject to change.

Table 3. Total number of other respiratory disease notifications from NSW sentinel laboratories, in the four weeks to 21 September 2025

	Week ending							
	31 August		07 September		14 September		21 September	
	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos	n	% pos
Influenza	7,351	17.4%	6,540	15.7%	5,557	14.5%	3,654	11.8%
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	1,295	3.1%	1,043	2.5%	824	2.2%	607	2.0%
Adenovirus	1,303	3.1%	1,265	3.0%	1,114	2.9%	1,102	3.5%
Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)	1,086	2.6%	1,323	3.2%	1,298	3.4%	1,376	4.4%
Rhinovirus	7,933	18.8%	8,149	19.6%	7,374	19.3%	6,334	20.4%
Enterovirus	165	0.4%	188	0.5%	150	0.4%	55	0.2%
Parainfluenza	1,559	3.7%	1,608	3.9%	1,459	3.8%	1,232	4.0%
Number of PCR tests conducted	42,200		41,681		38,305		31,048	
Number of laboratories reporting	10		11		10		9	

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 decreased to below 1%.

Figure 16. Proportion of FluTracking participants reporting influenza-like illness, NSW, 1 January to 21 September 2025

