

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 48, ENDING 28 NOVEMBER 2020

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SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 28 NOVEMBER

- As at 28 November, it has been 23 days since the last locally-acquired case recorded onset of symptoms, and 35 days since the last unlinked locally-acquired case recorded onset of symptoms in NSW.
- Testing numbers have decreased compared to the previous week (down 19%).
- The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program reported two detections of SARS-CoV-2 fragments. These samples were taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants associated with recently diagnosed cases from overseas in hotel quarantine.
- Emergency Department visits for bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children aged 0–4 years have increased since October and remain above average for this time of year. RSV detections remain high and have been above seasonal average since early October.
- While there has been no recent community transmission of COVID-19 it is important to remain vigilant and get tested as soon as symptoms develop (even mild symptoms).

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SECTION 1: HOW IS THE OUTBREAK TRACKING IN NSW?

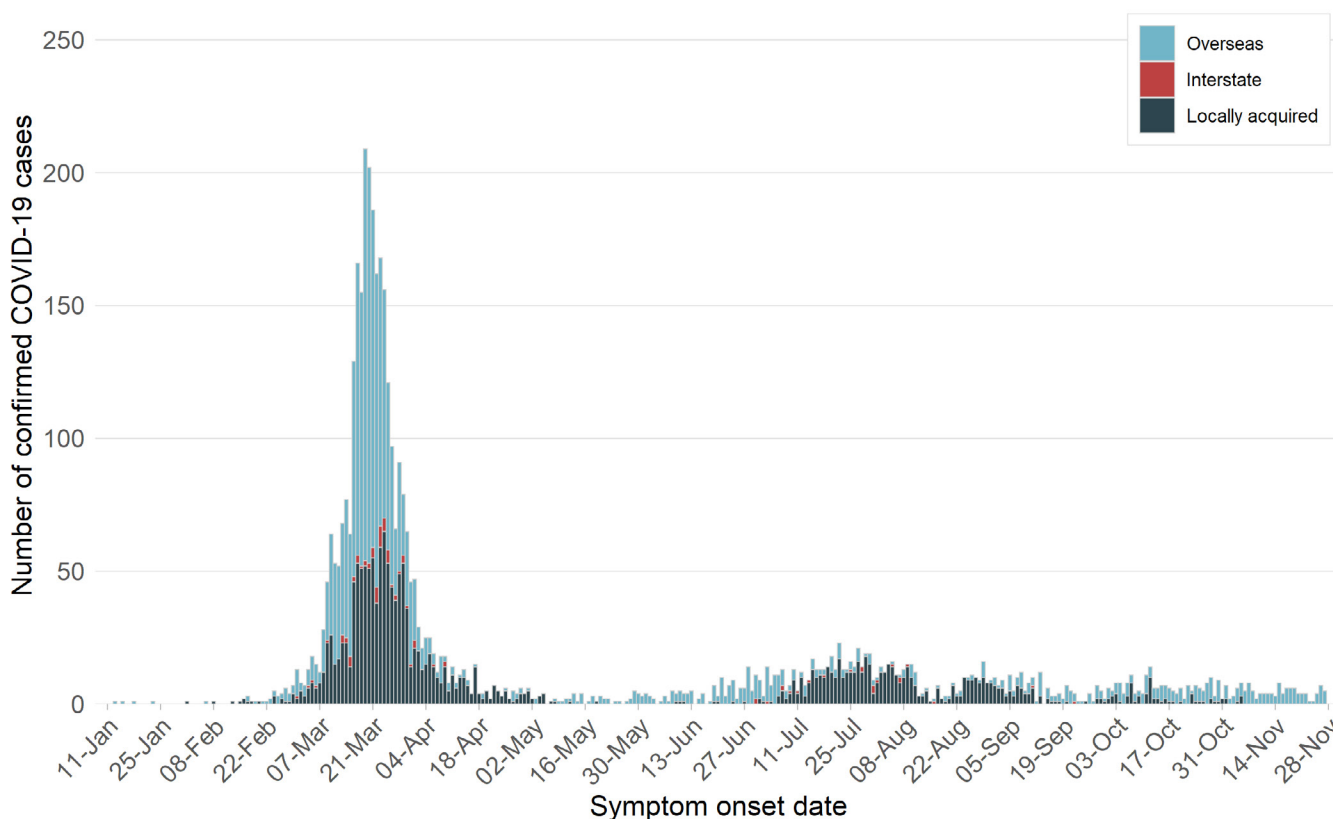
Table 1. COVID-19 cases and tests reported in NSW, up to 28 November 2020

	Week ending 28 Nov	Week ending 21 Nov	% change	Total to 28 Nov
Number of cases	32	41	↓ 22%	4,381
Overseas acquired	32	41	↓ 22%	2,421
Interstate acquired	0	0	-	90
Locally acquired	0	0	-	1,870
No links to other cases or clusters	0	0	-	433
Number of deaths	0	0	-	55
Number of tests	80,906	99,312	↓ 19%	3,475,776

Note: The case numbers reported for previous weeks is based on the most up to date information from public health investigations.

To understand how the outbreak is tracking we look at how many new cases are reported each day and the number of people being tested. Each bar in the graph below represents the number of new cases based on the **date of symptom onset**.

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by likely infection source and illness onset, NSW, 2020



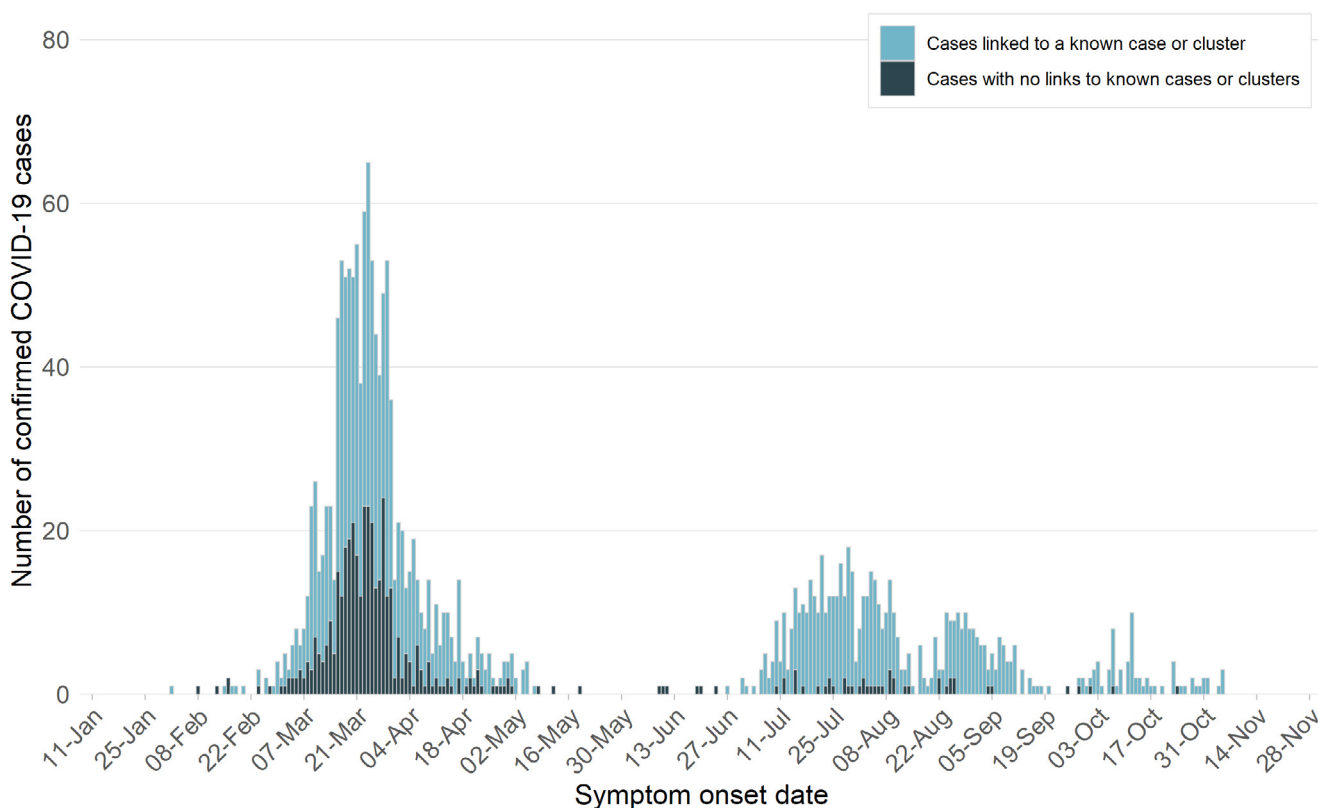
The date of the first positive test is used for cases who did not report symptoms.

Interpretation: All recent COVID-19 cases in NSW with an **onset of symptoms** in the last two weeks have been overseas acquired.

How much local transmission is occurring in NSW?

Public health efforts are focused on contact tracing to limit further spread in the community, and identifying the source of infection for every case. To understand the extent of community transmission, locally-acquired cases who have had contact with a case or who are part of a known cluster are considered separately to those with an unidentified source of infection. Cases with no links to other cases or clusters suggest that there are people infected with COVID-19 in the community who have not been diagnosed.

Figure 2. Locally acquired COVID-19 cases by likely infection source and illness onset, NSW, 2020



The date of the first positive test is used for cases who did not report symptoms.

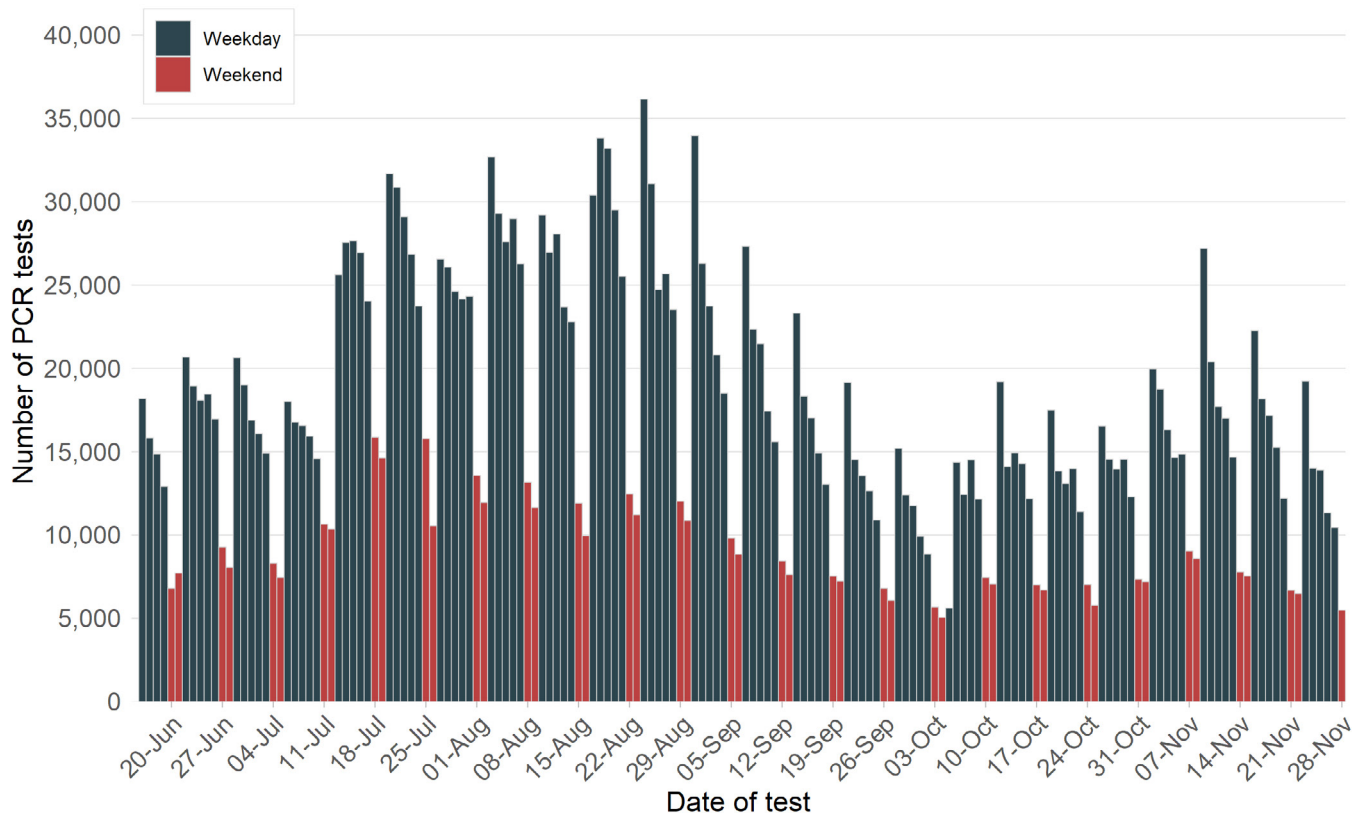
Interpretation: All locally-acquired cases with an **onset of symptoms** in the last four weeks were linked to known cases or clusters. As at 28 November, it has been 23 days since the last locally-acquired case recorded onset of symptoms in NSW, and 35 days since the last unlinked locally-acquired case recorded onset of symptoms in NSW.

SECTION 2: COVID-19 TESTING IN NSW

How much testing is happening?

The bars on the graph below show the number of tests by the date a person presented for the test.¹ While public health facilities are open seven days a week, less testing occurs through GPs and private collection centres on weekends and public holidays. This explains the lower number of tests on weekends.

Figure 3. Number of PCR tests per day, NSW, 2020



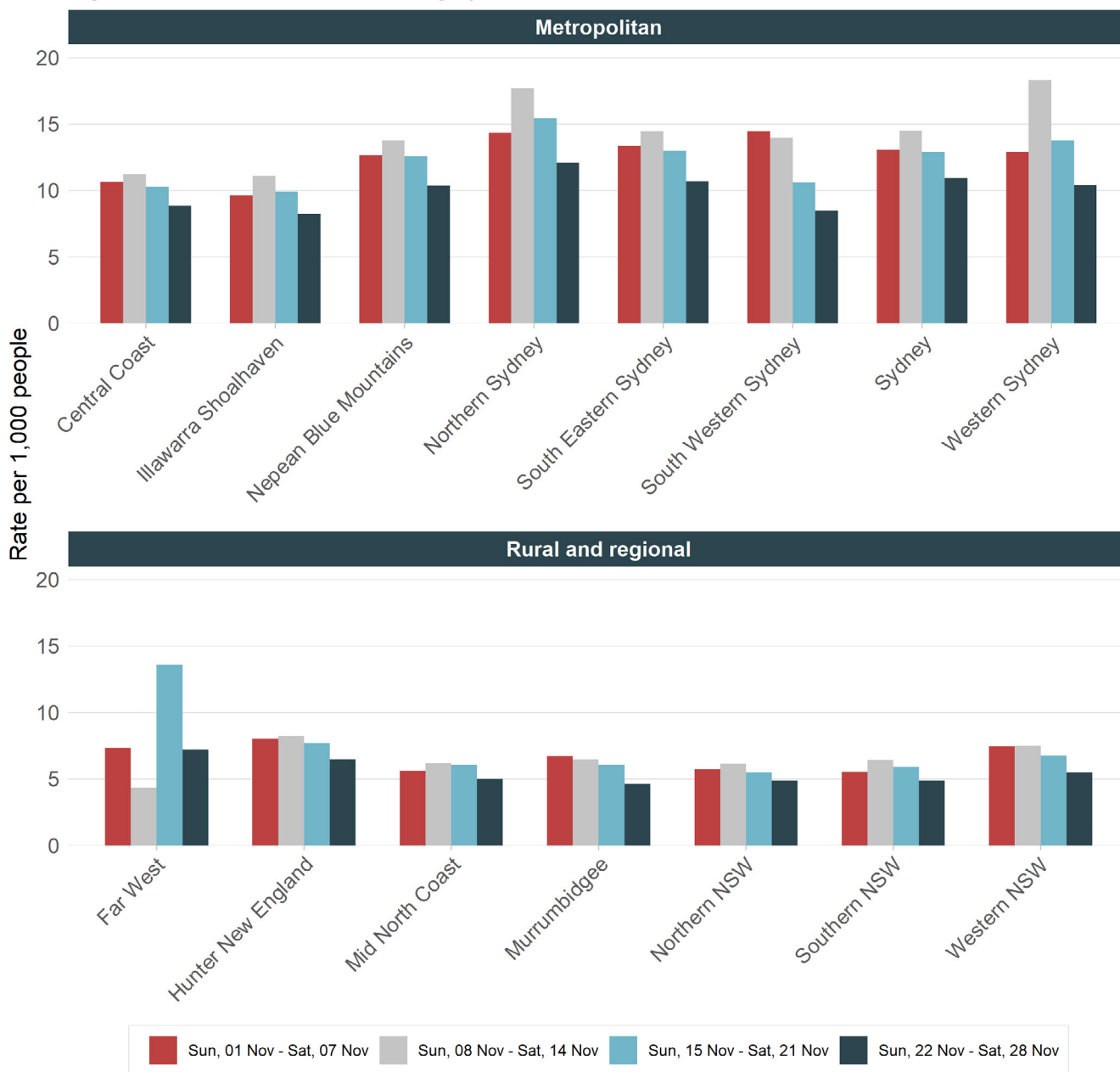
Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes repeat positive tests for an individual.

Interpretation: Testing is recommended for anyone with even mild respiratory symptoms or unexplained fever. Testing numbers in the week ending 28 November were lower compared with the previous week. An average of 1.4 tests were conducted per 1,000 people in NSW each day in the week ending 28 November, compared to a daily average of 1.8 per 1,000 people in the previous week.

¹ The number of tests per day displayed below is different to the 24 hour increase in tests reported each day as there are delays in some laboratories providing negative results to NSW Health.

Testing by Local Health District

Figure 4. Rates of COVID-19 testing by LHD of residence and week

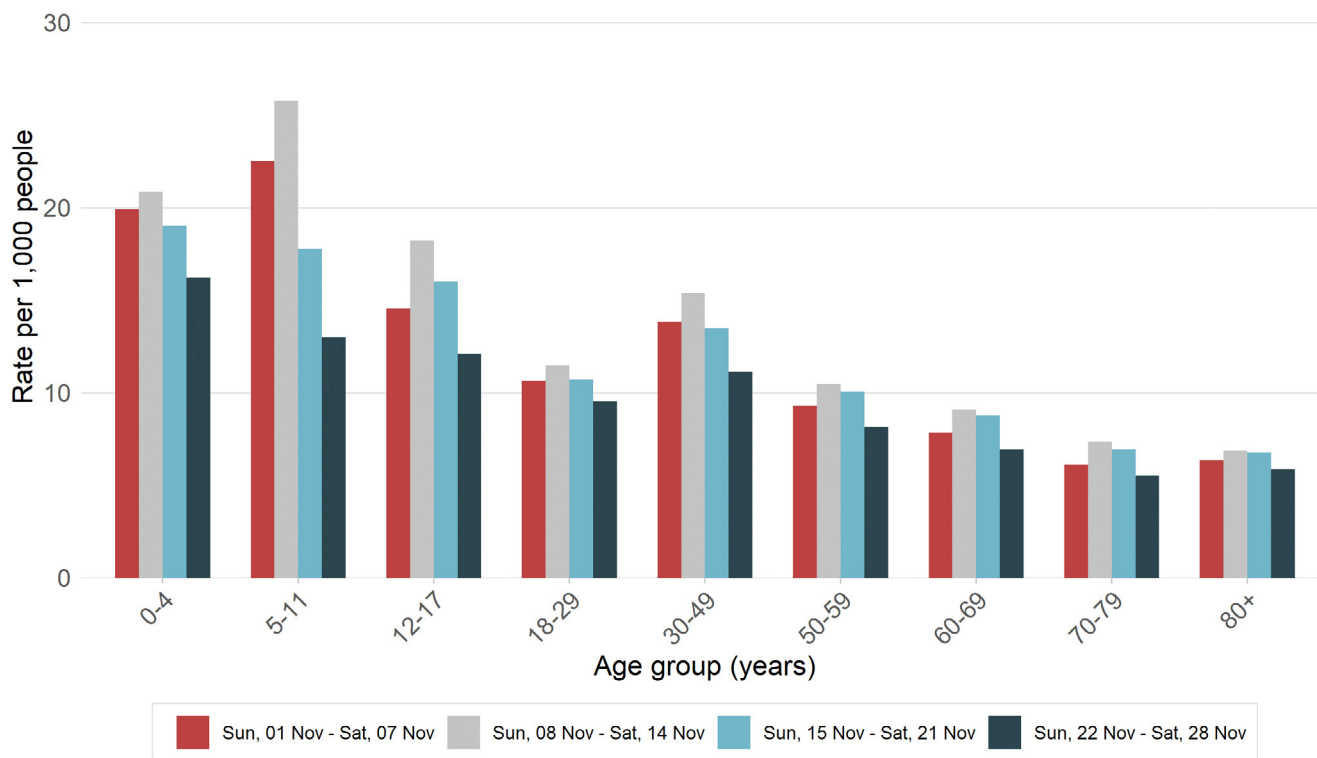


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with missing postcode of residence.

Interpretation: Statewide testing rates in the week ending 28 November were lower compared to the previous week (10 per 1,000 vs 12 per 1,000). Testing decreased across all LHDs with the greatest drop occurring in Far West LHD following a major surge in testing for the previous week in response to an outbreak of COVID-19 in South Australia.

Testing by age group

Figure 5. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group and week

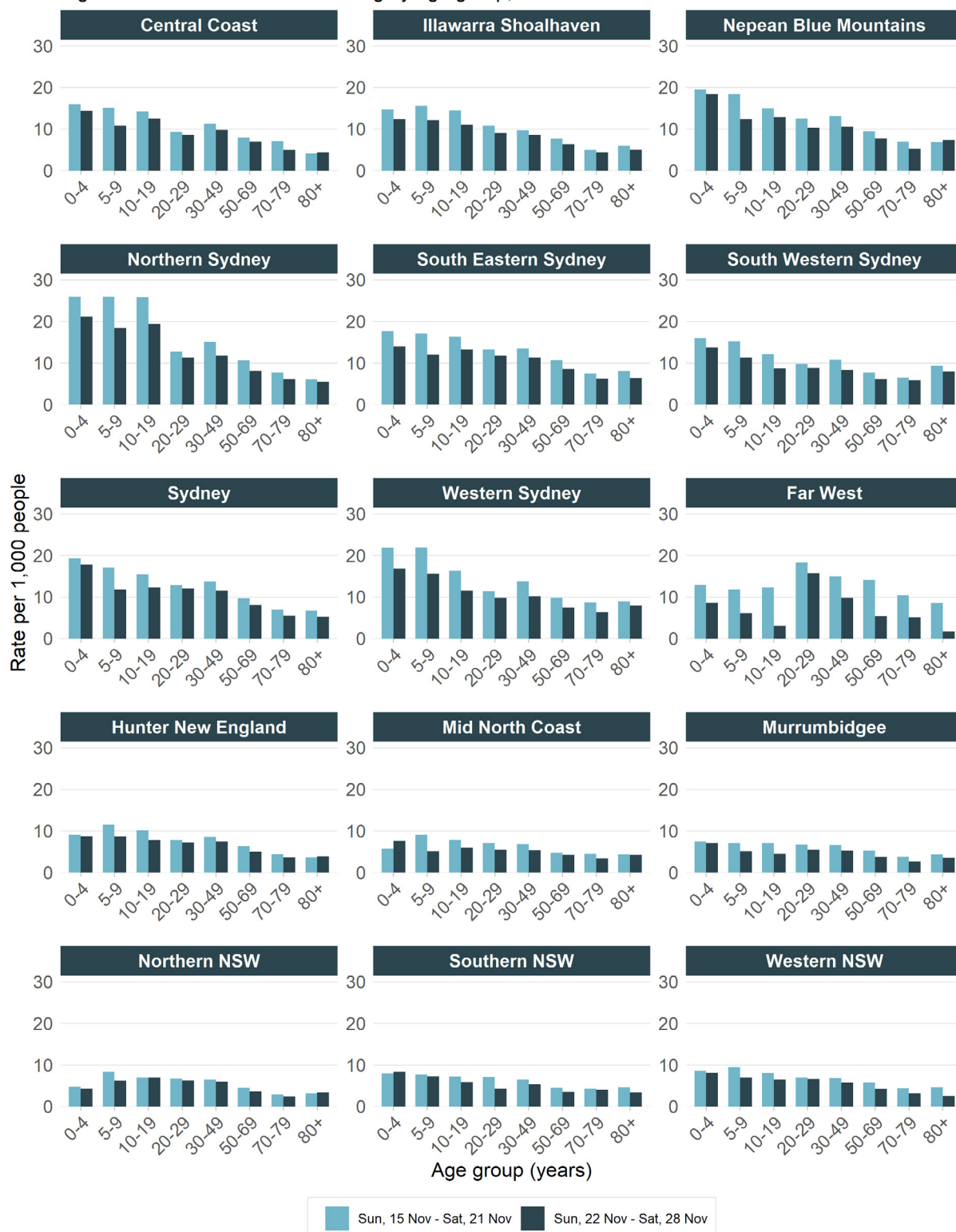


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with age missing.

Interpretation: For the week ending 28 November, testing rates decreased across all age groups compared to the previous week. Testing rates remain high in young children compared to older age groups. This may relate to elevated emergency presentations for bronchiolitis seen in children under 5 years old since early November. The largest decrease in testing compared to previous weeks was seen in young people aged 0–17 years. This decrease in COVID-19 testing corresponds with a decrease in respiratory virus activity in NSW within these age groups.

Testing by LHD and age group

Figure 6. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group, LHD of residence and week



Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with missing postcode of residence.

Interpretation: Testing rates decreased or remained stable for all age groups across all LHDs for the week ending 28 November. In recent weeks, high testing rates in children have been mainly driven by testing in metropolitan areas, particularly Northern Sydney and Western Sydney LHDs.

SECTION 3: COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN NSW IN THE LAST FOUR WEEKS

Information from locally-acquired cases who were diagnosed in the last four weeks is used to understand where COVID-19 is spreading in the community. This takes into account the **incubation period** and the time it takes for people to seek testing and for the laboratory to perform the test.

This section summarises cases based on the date the case was reported to NSW Health.

Table 2. Locally-acquired COVID-19 cases in NSW, by notification week and source of infection, 1 November to 28 November 2020

Locally-acquired cases	Week ending				Total
	28 Nov	21 Nov	14 Nov	7 Nov	
Cases who are linked to a known case or cluster	0	0	1*	10	11
Cases with no links to other cases or clusters	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1*	10	11

*Includes a past infection – a PCR negative IgG positive case, likely infected in October.

Interpretation: All cases reported in the four weeks ending 28 November were linked to known cases or clusters. There were no locally-acquired cases notified in the week ending 28 November. The last reported case linked to a known case was reported on 13 November in a person with a past infection, likely acquired earlier in October.

Table 3. Locally-acquired COVID-19 cases by LHD of residence and week reported, 1 November to 28 November 2020

Local Health District	Week ending				Total	Days since last case reported
	28 Nov	21 Nov	14 Nov	7 Nov		
Central Coast	0	0	0	0	0	89
Illawarra Shoalhaven	0	0	0	0	0	85
Nepean Blue Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	74
Northern Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	46
South Eastern Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	45
South Western Sydney	0	0	0	10	10	22
Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	45
Western Sydney	0	0	1*	0	1*	15
Far West	0	0	0	0	0	240
Hunter New England	0	0	0	0	0	114
Mid North Coast	0	0	0	0	0	221
Murrumbidgee	0	0	0	0	0	82
Northern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	126
Southern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	40
Western NSW	0	0	0	0	0	88
Total	0	0	1*	10	11	15*

*Includes a past infection – a PCR negative IgG positive case, likely infected in October.

Interpretation: There were no locally-acquired cases reported in the week ending 28 November. The majority of locally-acquired cases reported in the four weeks up to 28 November were residents of South Western Sydney LHD (91%; 10/11).

SECTION 4: CURRENT COVID-19 CLUSTERS IN NSW

Public health staff interview all new cases at the time of diagnosis to identify the likely source of their infection. Cases are also asked to report all the locations visited and people with whom they have been in contact within their infectious period (two days prior to symptom onset until the time of isolation). Close contacts are quarantined to limit the spread of infection to others and encouraged to seek testing.

Cases in community settings

There were no cases reported in the last week who were linked to recent clusters.

Previously reported active clusters with no new cases identified this week

Hoxton Park cluster

The last cases associated with this cluster were notified on 3 November, including one case in a patron of a trampoline park, one case in a household contact, and one case in a child that attended a kindergarten in South Western Sydney. Excluding the source, who is not linked to any known case or cluster, there are nine cases associated with this cluster. Six of the nine cases are linked to public exposure locations and three cases are linked to the source case and part of an extended family network.

Private health clinic cluster - Bella Vista & Liverpool

This cluster was associated with a private health clinic across two locations. The last case associated with this cluster was notified on 6 November in a household contact of four closely linked cases in the Moss Vale area. Excluding the source, a healthcare worker that worked at both clinics, there are 17 cases linked to this cluster.

Table 4. Previously reported clusters with no new cases identified in the week ending 28 November 2020

Date cluster first identified	Cluster	Cases linked in the week ending 28 Nov	Date of last case
28 Oct	Hoxton Park cluster	0	3 Nov
7 Oct	Private health clinic cluster	0	6 Nov

Clusters with no ongoing public health risk

There have been no new cases associated with the Oran Park community and Lakemba clusters for more than four weeks. At least two incubation periods have passed since the last notified case in each cluster and there is no ongoing public health risk. These clusters are now closed.

SECTION 5: COVID-19 IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

COVID-19 in healthcare workers

There have been no new COVID-19 cases in healthcare workers (HCWs) reported for the last four weeks. The last case of COVID-19 reported in a HCW was notified on 13 October.

Healthcare workers in this section includes roles such as doctor, nurse, orderly, paramedic, laboratory technician, pharmacist, administrative staff, cleaners, and other support staff. Public health units routinely undertake investigations of cases of COVID-19 infections in HCWs to identify ongoing risks in healthcare settings.

In total, there have been 37 cases of COVID-19 in HCWs since 1 August. Of these, 23 HCWs were potentially infected in healthcare settings. A further seven cases were household contacts of a known case, four were exposed in community settings, and for three cases the source of infection is unknown.

Clusters associated with healthcare-acquired infections in HCWs

Of the 23 potentially healthcare-acquired infections in HCWs reported since 1 August, 20 were associated with five clusters in healthcare settings: two from Hornsby Hospital, seven from Liverpool Hospital, seven from Concord Hospital, three from two related private health clinics in Bella Vista and Liverpool, and one case from a GP clinic in Lakemba.

Aboriginal people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are recognised as a priority group due to key drivers of increased risk of transmission and severity of COVID-19 which include mobility, remoteness, barriers to access including institutional racism and mistrust of mainstream health services, crowded and inadequate housing, and burden of disease.

No cases in Aboriginal people were reported in the week ending 28 November. In total, 45 Aboriginal people have been diagnosed with COVID-19, representing 1% of all cases in NSW. The last case of COVID-19 in an Aboriginal person was reported on 6 September.

Pregnant women

There was one overseas-acquired case in a pregnant woman reported in the week ending 28 November. In total, 34 pregnant women have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in NSW. As those who test negative are not interviewed, testing rates among pregnant women are not available.

SECTION 6: DEATHS

How many people have died as a result of COVID-19?

In total, 1.3% of cases (55 people) have died as a result of COVID-19 infection, most of whom were 70 years of age or older, including 28 residents of aged care facilities with known COVID-19 outbreaks. Approximately 22% (12/55) of the deaths were in overseas-acquired cases.

Table 5. Deaths as a result of COVID-19, by age group, NSW, 2020

Age group	Number of deaths	Number of cases	Case fatality rate
0-4 years	0	88	0%
5-11 years	0	83	0%
12-17 years	0	127	0%
18-29 years	0	991	0%
30-49 years	0	1369	0%
50-59 years	1	616	0.2%
60-69 years	4	584	0.7%
70-79 years	14	364	3.8%
80+ years	36	159	22.6%
Total	55	4381	1.3%

Interpretation: Cases older than 80 years of age had both the highest number of deaths and the highest case fatality rate. No cases below the 50–59 age group have died as a result of COVID-19 in NSW.

SECTION 7: NSW SEWAGE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program tests untreated sewage for fragments of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus at sewage treatment plant locations across NSW. Testing sewage can help track infections in the community and provide early warning of an increase in infections. These tests provide data to support NSW Health’s response to COVID-19.

An infected person can shed virus in their faeces even if they do not have any symptoms, and shedding can continue for several weeks after they are no longer infectious. The NSW sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is in the preliminary stages of analysis and work is progressing to assess the significance of the results. For example, it is not currently known how many cases can be detected per population. A small number of cases in a large sewage catchment may not be detected by sewage surveillance due to factors such as dilution, inhibition, reduction in shedding over the infection period or movement of cases.

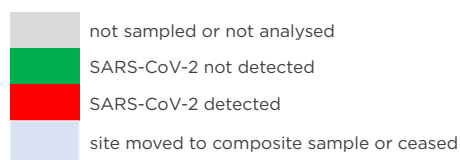
In the week ending 28 November, 79 sewage samples were tested for fragments of SARS-CoV-2. Of these, there were two detections – these samples were taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants. The table below shows results for previous weeks from various sites across NSW.

Table 6. Locations with positive SARS-CoV-2 detections in sewage samples since September for the week ending 28 November 2020

Pop.	Sewage treatment plant	LHD	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
			Sep	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov
			Week									
			39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
60,514	Blue Mountains (Winmalee)	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4,681	North Richmond	NBMLHD	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
13,052	Richmond	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
110,114	Penrith	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12,000	Lithgow	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
19,000	South Windsor	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8,000	McGraths Hill	NBMLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
69,245	Warriewood	NSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,241	Brooklyn	NSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
31,924	Hornsby Heights	NSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
57,933	West Hornsby	NSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
318,810	Bondi	S&SESLHD	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red
233,176	Cronulla	SESLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,857,740	Malabar 1	S&SES&SWSLHD	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red
	Malabar 2	S&SES&SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
181,005	Liverpool	SWSLHD	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	n
98,743	West Camden	SWSLHD	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
6,882	Wallacia	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
14,600	Picton	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
161,200	Glenfield	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,341,986	North Head	NS&SWSLHD	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
26,997	Castle Hill Cattai	WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Castle Hill Glenhaven	WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
163,374	Quakers Hill	WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green

			26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
			Sep	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov
			Week									
Pop.	Sewage treatment plant	LHD	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
119,309	Rouse Hill	WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green
37,061	Riverstone	WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
163,147	St Marys	NBM&WSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
73,686	Shellharbour	ISHLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
196,488	Wollongong	ISHLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Regional sites												
14,700	Bowral	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
14,000	Mittagong	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9,000	Moss Vale	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green
1,000	Berrima	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2,000	Bundanoon	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
900	Robertson	SWSLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
16,068	Bombo	ISHLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
32,000	Ulladulla	ISHLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
11,000	Culburra Beach	ISHLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
147,500	Gosford-Kincumber	CCLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
-	Wyong-Toukley	CCLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Bateau Bay	CCLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Woy Woy	CCLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
5,000	Perisher	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8,400	Thredbo	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3,000	Jindabyne	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8,000	Cooma	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
500	Charlottes Pass	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
51,750	Albury composite	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Albury Kremer St	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Albury Waterview	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
22,419	Goulburn	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
21,000	Batemans Bay	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
18,000	Moruya	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
17,000	Narooma	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8,000	Eden	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
15,500	Merimbula	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
5,000	Bermagui	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
7,800	Deniliquin	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
48,000	Queanbeyan	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
50,000	Wagga Wagga composite	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Wagga Wagga - inlet 1	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Wagga Wagga - inlet 2	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Wagga Wagga - Koorinal STP	M&SLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2,050	Bourke	W&FWLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
36,603	Bathurst	W&FWLHD	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

			26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
			Sep	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov
			Week									
Pop.	Sewage treatment plant	LHD	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
19,000	Broken Hill	W&FWLHD										
500	Dareton	W&FWLHD										
11,600	Parkes	W&FWLHD										
37,000	Dubbo	W&FWLHD										
24,000	Armidale	HNELHD										
45,000	Tamworth	HNELHD										
10,000	Moree	HNELHD										
12,000	Forster	HNELHD										
225,834	Hunter - Burwood Beach	HNELHD										
60,000	Hunter - Shortland	HNELHD										
115,000	Hunter - Belmont	HNELHD										
60,000	Hunter - Morpeth	HNELHD										
58,300	Hunter - Boulder Bay	HNELHD										
35,000	Hunter - Raymond Terrace	HNELHD										
2,500	Hunter - Karuah	HNELHD										
18,958 (both plants total)	Byron Bay - Ocean Shores	N&MNCLHD										
	Byron Bay	N&MNCLHD										
31,104	Ballina	N&MNCLHD										
72,000 (Tweed District)	Tweed - Kingscliff	N&MNCLHD										
	Tweed - Hastings Point	N&MNCLHD										
12,250	North Grafton	N&MNCLHD										
6,300	South Grafton	N&MNCLHD										
6,500	Yamba	N&MNCLHD										
54,370	Port Macquarie	N&MNCLHD										
50,000	Coffs Harbour	N&MNCLHD										



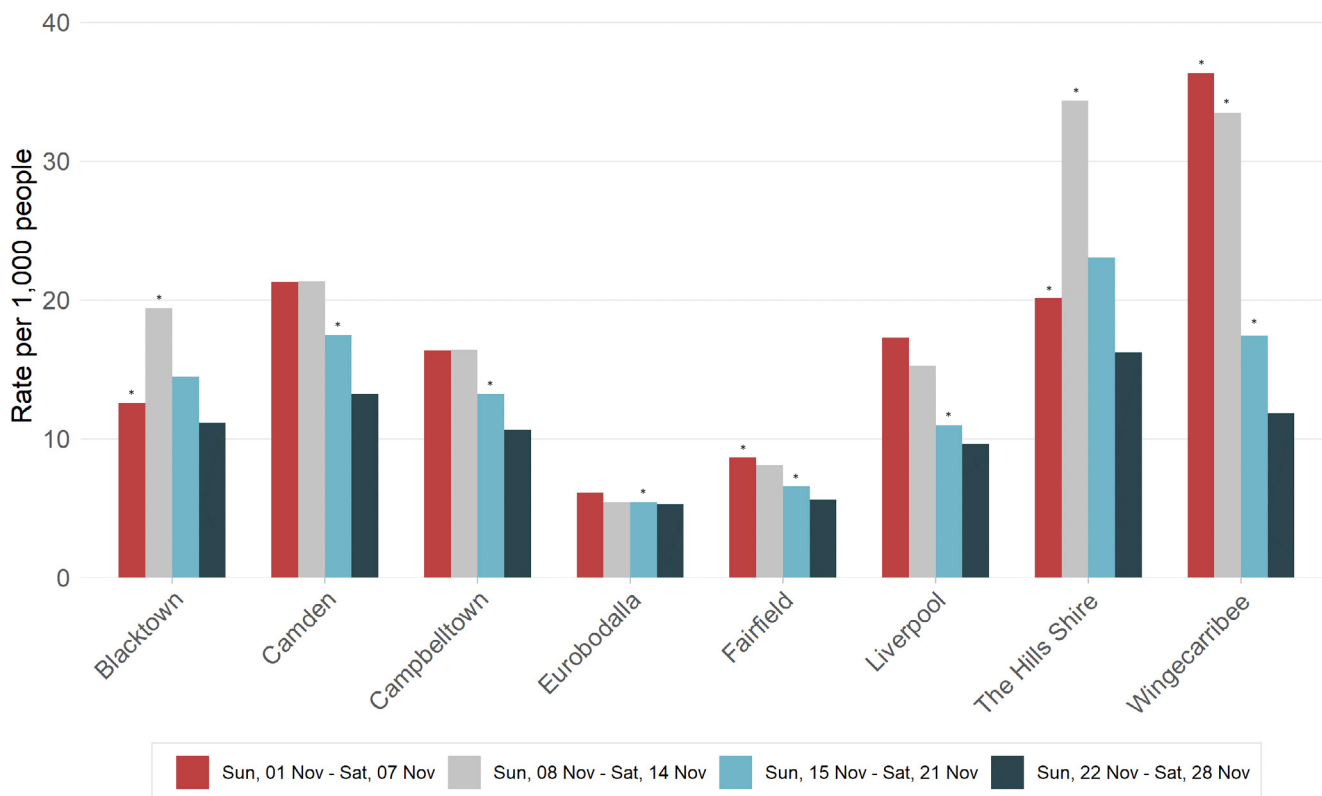
- c composite of the separate influent samples
- l result from another laboratory
- n results from network sites

Interpretation: In the last week there were two detections of SARS-CoV-2 from the Bondi and Malabar plants which serve over 2 million people, including Sydney city and quarantine hotels. Following detections around Batemans Bay in the previous week, sewage samples were taken from Moruya and Narooma, however there were no detections. In addition, follow up samples from Moss Vale and surrounding areas including Bowral, Mittagong, Berrima, Bundanoon and Robertson did not detect SARS-CoV-2 fragments.

Testing rates in areas associated with new cases or sewage detections

Public health alerts are routinely issued in relation to reported cases in the community and detections of SARS-CoV-2 in sewage. The following figure demonstrates the impact of messages on testing rates in areas with recent cases or detections of virus fragments in sewage.

Figure 7. COVID-19 testing by LGA with recent SARS-CoV-2 sewage detections or cases



Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with missing postcode of residence.

*Case reported or sewage detection.

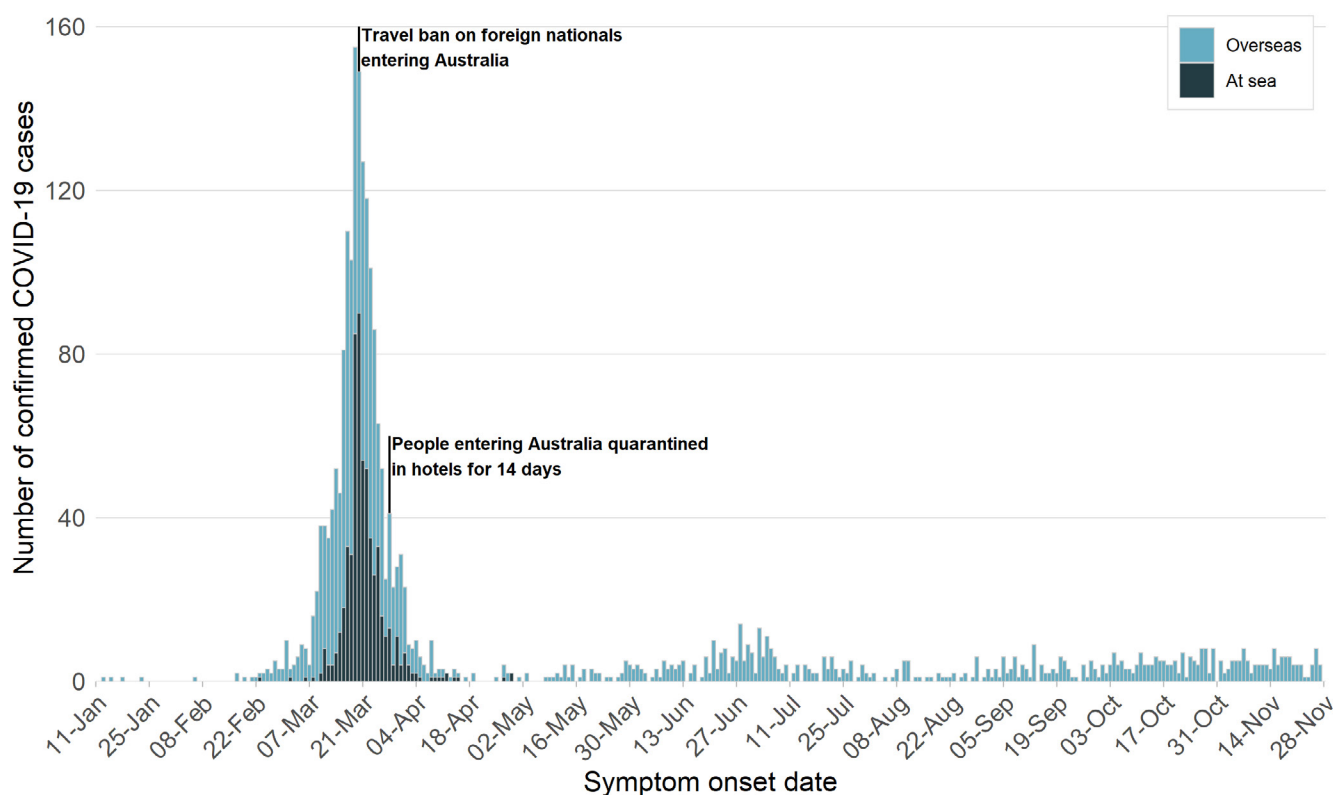
Interpretation: There were no public health alerts related to cases or sewage detections in the last week. Testing has decreased in Local Government Areas that had a previous case or sewage detection in the last four weeks in parallel with the decrease in testing rates across NSW.

SECTION 8: COVID-19 IN RETURNED TRAVELLERS

To limit the spread of COVID-19 into NSW, travel restrictions were introduced for all non-Australian citizens and permanent residents. In addition, since 28 March returned travellers have been quarantined in hotels for a 14-day period and travellers who develop symptoms are isolated until no longer infectious.

The graph below shows the number of cases in returned travellers by the date of symptom onset. Cases acquired at sea refers to those cruise ship passengers who acquired their infection prior to disembarking in NSW.

Figure 8. Overseas acquired COVID-19 cases by infection source and illness onset, NSW, 2020



The date of the first positive test is used for cases who did not report symptoms.

Interpretation: The number of new cases in returned travellers has decreased markedly since March in line with travel restrictions and declined further again since mid-July. There were 32 overseas-acquired cases reported in the week ending 28 November, 22% less than the previous week.

Country of acquisition of COVID-19 for overseas travellers

In the last four weeks there have been 135 COVID-positive travellers who have arrived in NSW. The table below lists the top 10 countries of origin for travellers diagnosed in NSW.

Table 7. Top 10 countries of acquisition for overseas travellers that have tested positive in the last four weeks

Country of acquisition of COVID-19	Number (%) of cases in the last four weeks
United States	33 (24%)
India	15 (11%)
United Kingdom	9 (7%)
Indonesia	7 (5%)
Turkey	7 (5%)
Afghanistan	6 (4%)
Bangladesh	5 (4%)
Poland	5 (4%)
Canada	4 (3%)
France	4 (3%)
Other	40 (30%)
Total	135 (100%)

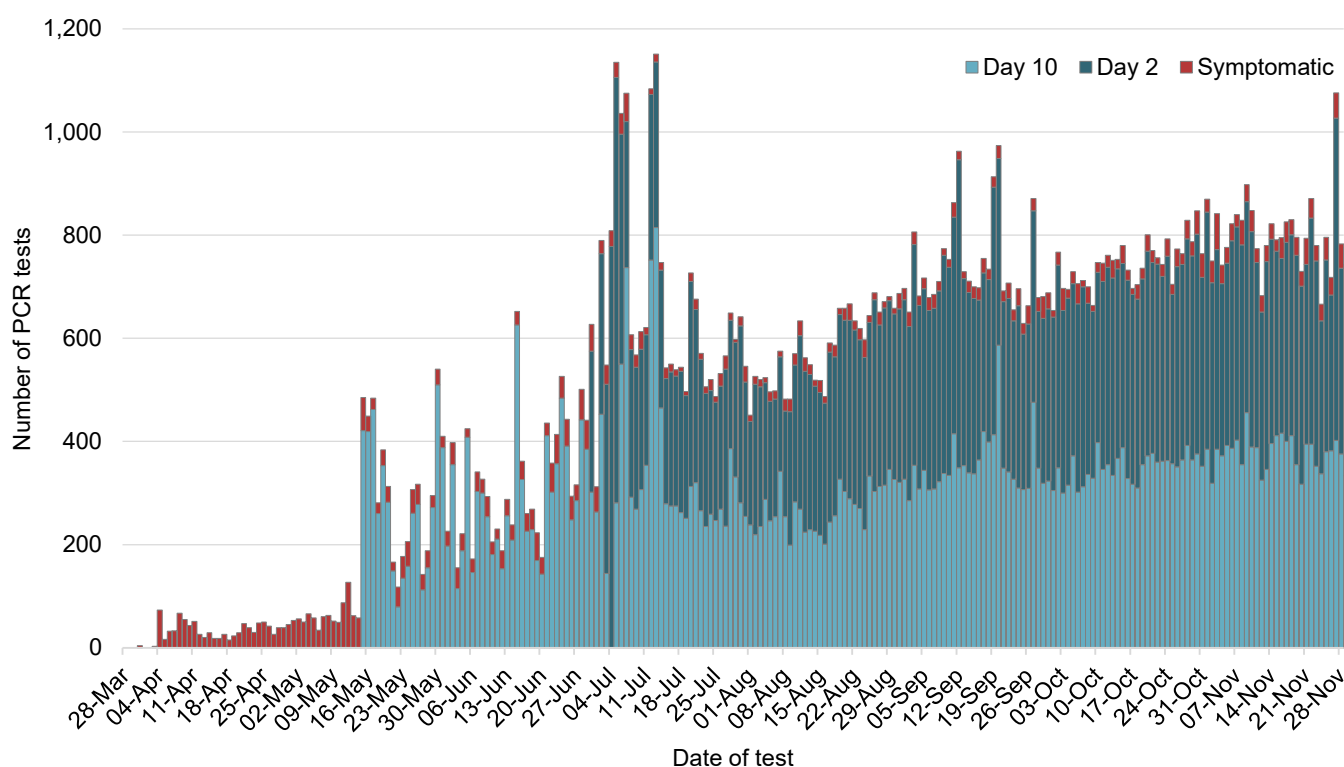
Interpretation: In the last four weeks, travellers returning from the United States accounted for the largest number of overseas-acquired infections (33, 24%), followed by travellers from India (15, 11%), and the United Kingdom (9, 7%).

Hotel quarantine

The program of screening all overseas travellers after arrival in NSW commenced on 15 May 2020. From 30 June 2020, the program was extended to include screening on both day two and day 10 after arrival.

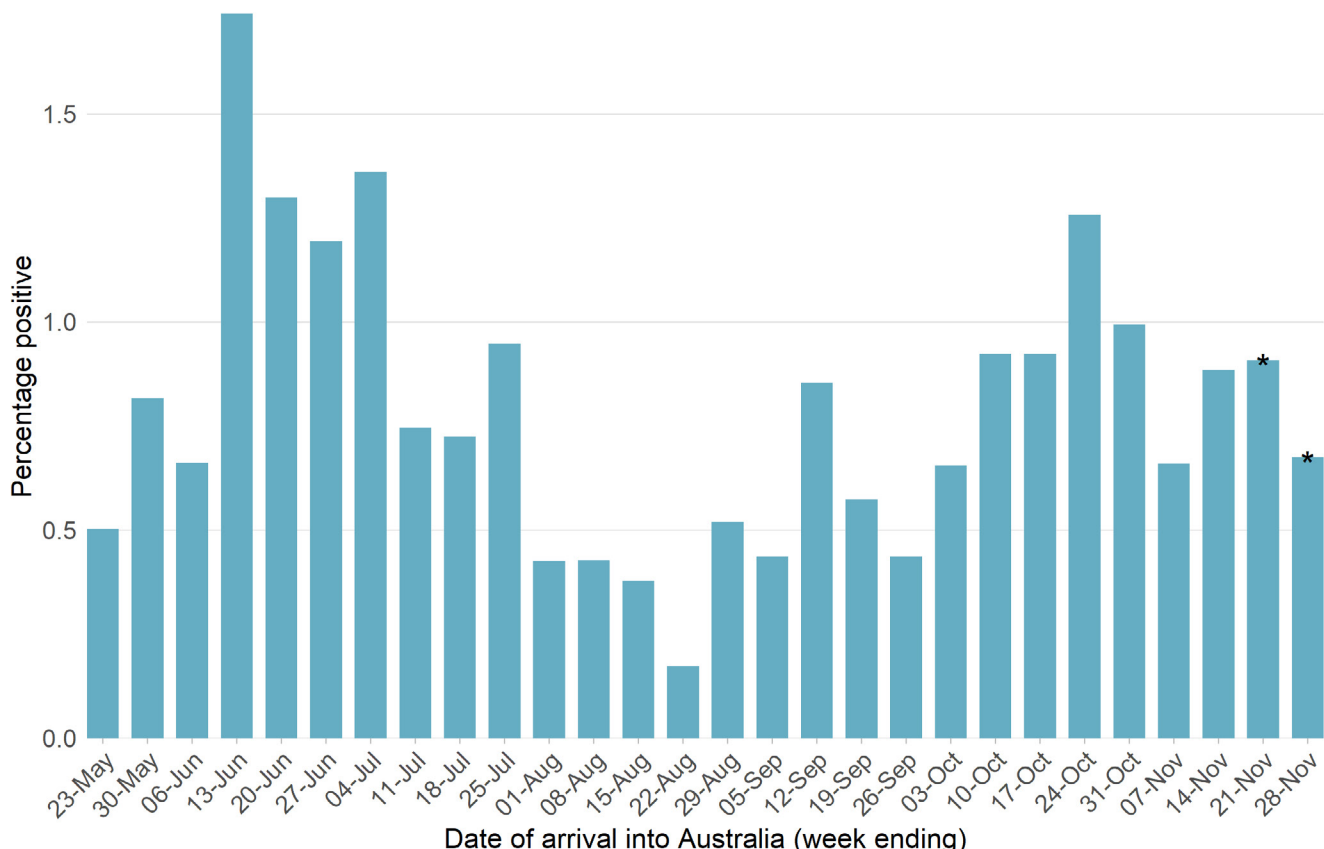
Since hotel quarantine began on 29 March, a total of 123,776 PCR tests have been conducted with 604 overseas-acquired cases and four interstate-acquired COVID-19 cases detected while in hotel quarantine.

Figure 9. COVID-19 testing in returned travellers in hotel quarantine, reported from 29 March to 28 November, NSW, 2020



Interpretation: In the week ending 28 November, there were 5,690 tests conducted through the hotel quarantine screening programs. There were very few tests conducted for domestic travellers this week due to the reopening of the NSW-Victoria border on 23 November.

Figure 10. COVID-19 percentage positive in returned travellers in hotel quarantine by week of arrival in Australia, reported from week ending 23 May to week ending 28 November, NSW, 2020



*Returned travellers in the past 14 days are still in hotel quarantine and may return a positive result

Interpretation: Percentages are calculated by week of arrival in Australia. Data is likely incomplete for returned travellers who have arrived within the last two weeks as they are still in hotel quarantine. In the last four weeks the percentage positivity rate for overseas travellers in hotel quarantine was 0.8%.

SECTION 9: OTHER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN NSW

Influenza and other respiratory virus cases and tests reported in NSW, up to 22 November 2020

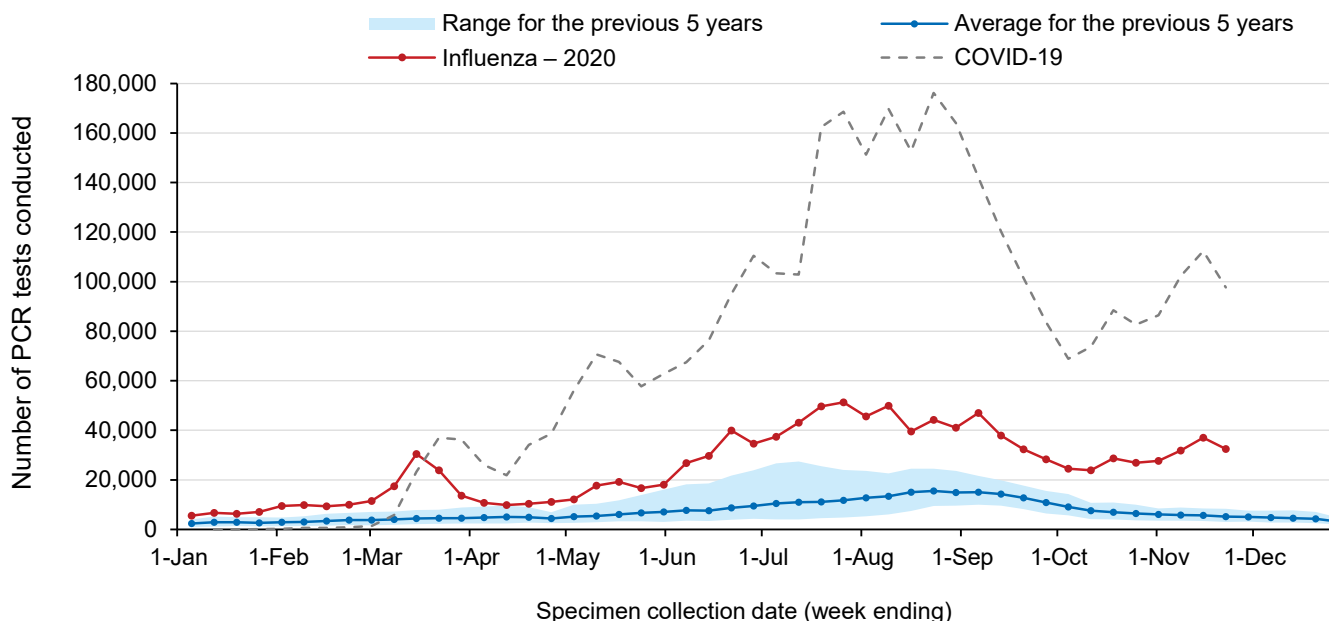
In NSW, routine surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses is conducted through sentinel laboratories. The number of all PCR tests (positive and negative) are provided to NSW Health by participating laboratories each week. Testing counts reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted; not all samples are tested for all respiratory viruses.

The most recent data available is for testing carried out to 22 November. A total of 1,197,622 influenza tests have been performed at participating laboratories to 22 November, with 32,467 tests conducted in the most recent week. Refer to Appendix B for PCR testing results for a range of respiratory viruses.

How much influenza testing is happening?

The red line in the figure below shows the number of PCR tests for influenza carried out each week. The blue line shows the average number of tests carried out for the same week in the last five years and the shaded area shows the range of counts reported in the previous five years. The grey line shows the number of COVID-19 tests.

Figure 11. Testing for influenza and COVID-19 by week, to 22 November 2020

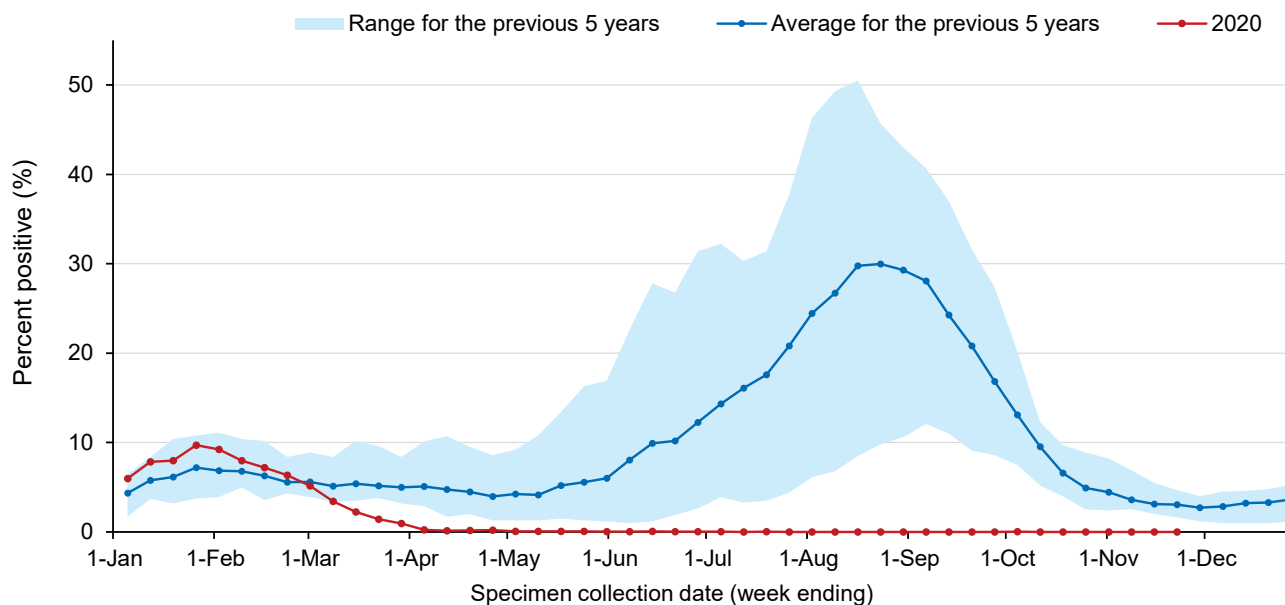


Interpretation: In every week this year, the number of influenza tests performed has exceeded the previous five-year average.

How much influenza is circulating?

The graph below shows the proportion of tests found to be positive for influenza with the red line showing weekly counts for 2020, the blue line showing the average for the past five years and the shaded area showing the range recorded in the previous five years.

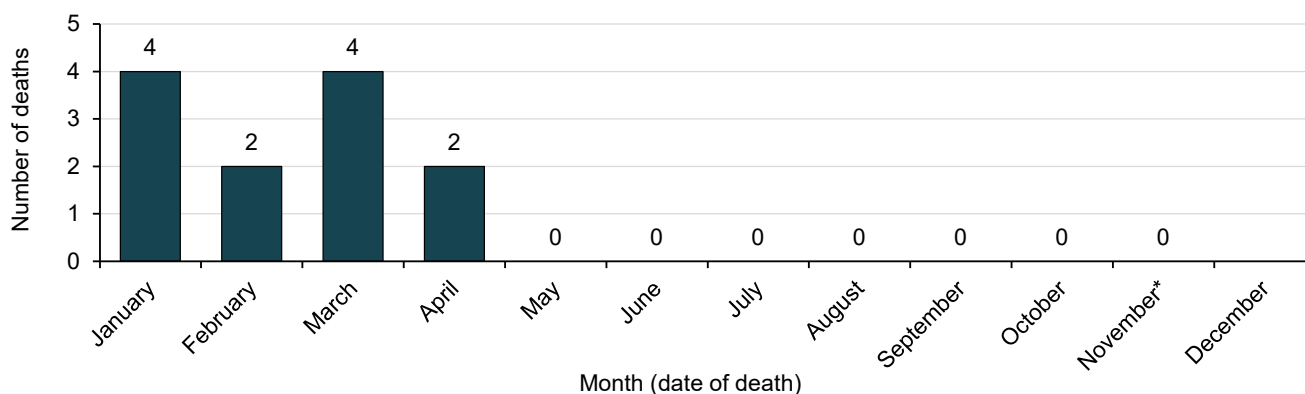
Figure 12. Proportion of tests positive for influenza, to 22 November 2020



Interpretation: In the week ending 22 November, the percent of influenza tests that were positive continued to be very low (<0.01%), indicating limited influenza transmission in the community. Since early March, this percentage has remained far lower than the usual range for the time of year.

How many people have died as a result of influenza?

Figure 13. Laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths by month of death, to 22 November 2020



Note: *month to date.

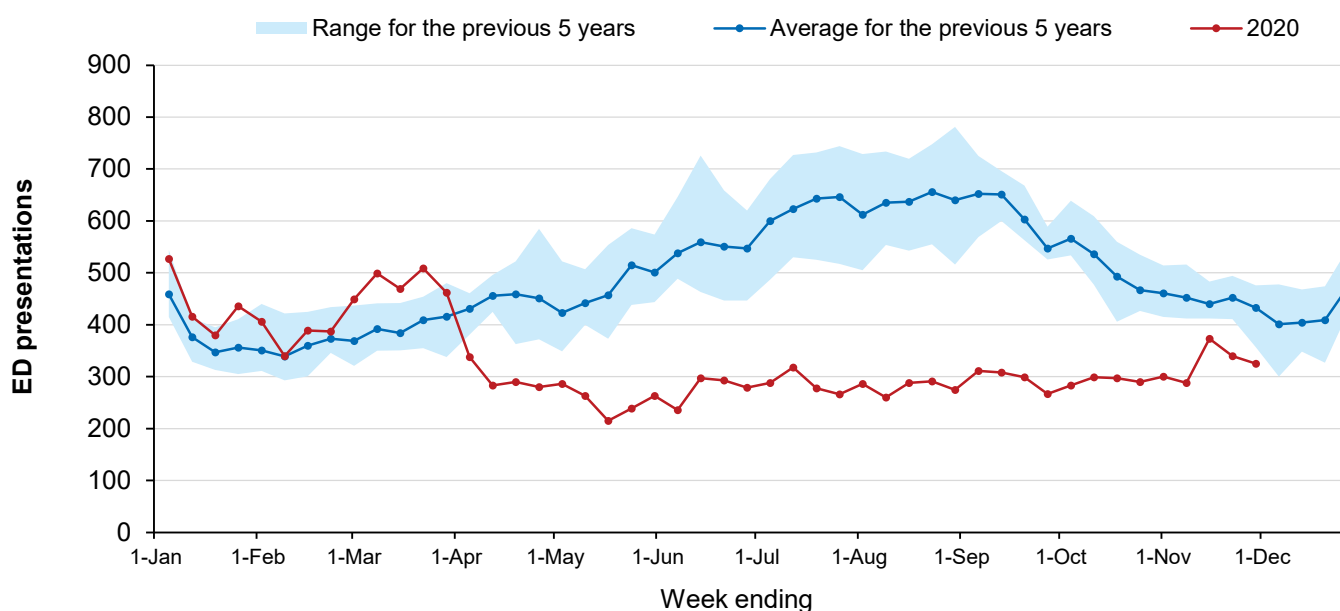
Interpretation: No influenza deaths have been reported in NSW since April 2020. The number of influenza-related deaths identified via coroner’s reports and death registrations from 1 January to 22 November 2020 is lower than the same period last year (12 deaths in 2020 compared with 328 in 2019).² Two-thirds of the deaths were in people aged 65 years and over.

² Includes deaths in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

How are emergency department presentations for respiratory infections tracking?

The two figures below show weekly pneumonia and bronchiolitis presentations to Emergency Departments in NSW, using PHREDSS.³ The red line shows the weekly counts for 2020, the blue line shows the average for the same week for the past five years, and the shaded area shows the range recorded in the previous five years.

Figure 14. Emergency Department pneumonia presentations in NSW by week, to 29 November 2020

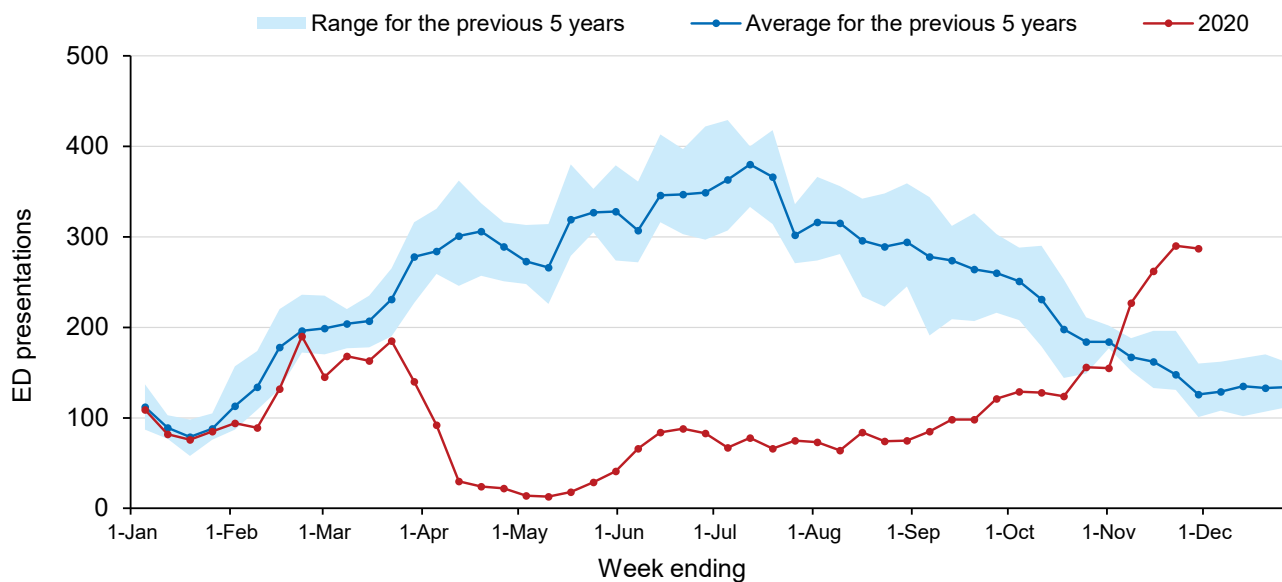


Interpretation: Pneumonia presentations include people with diagnoses of viral, bacterial, atypical or unspecified pneumonia, and Legionnaires’ disease, but excludes ‘pneumonia with influenza’ and provides an indicator of more severe respiratory conditions.

In the week ending 29 November, pneumonia presentations decreased for the second week in a row and remain below the usual range for this time of year.

³ NSW Health Public Health Rapid, Emergency Disease and Syndromic Surveillance (PHREDSS) system, CEE, NSW Ministry of Health. Comparisons are made with data for the preceding five years. Includes unplanned presentations to 67 NSW emergency departments (accounts for 87% of total public ED activity).

Figure 15. Emergency Department bronchiolitis presentations in NSW by week, to 29 November 2020



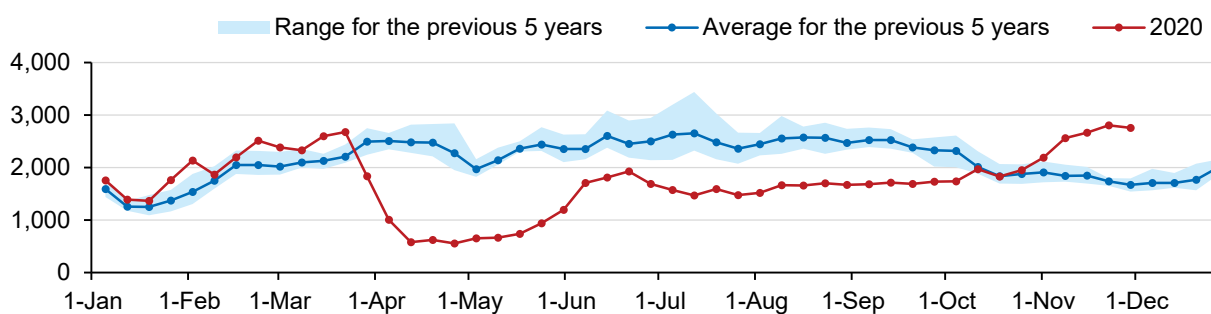
Interpretation: Bronchiolitis is a common disease of infants often caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). In the week ending 29 November, bronchiolitis presentations decreased slightly and remain above the usual five-year average range for November. This increase corresponds to an increase in RSV detections (see Appendix C).

Respiratory infections in children aged 0–4 years

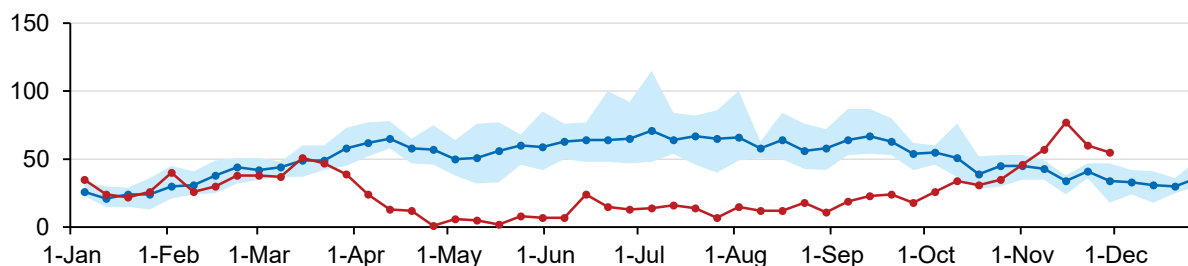
The figures below show weekly respiratory, pneumonia and bronchiolitis presentations to Emergency Departments in NSW for children under 5, using PHREDSS data. Also shown are weekly laboratory notifications for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) from laboratory sentinel surveillance.

Figure 16. Emergency Department presentations in children 0–4 years, for all respiratory problems/fever and unspecified infection, pneumonia and bronchiolitis in NSW by week to 29 November 2020

All respiratory problems/fever and unspecified infection - total



Pneumonia



Bronchiolitis

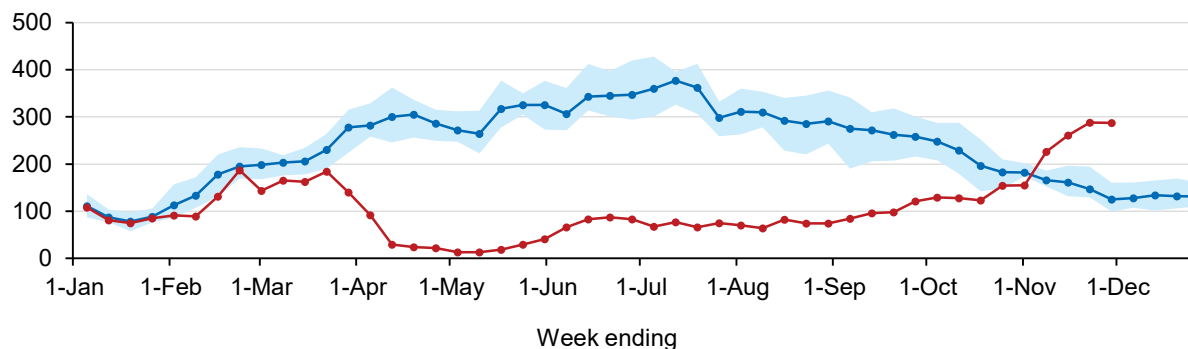
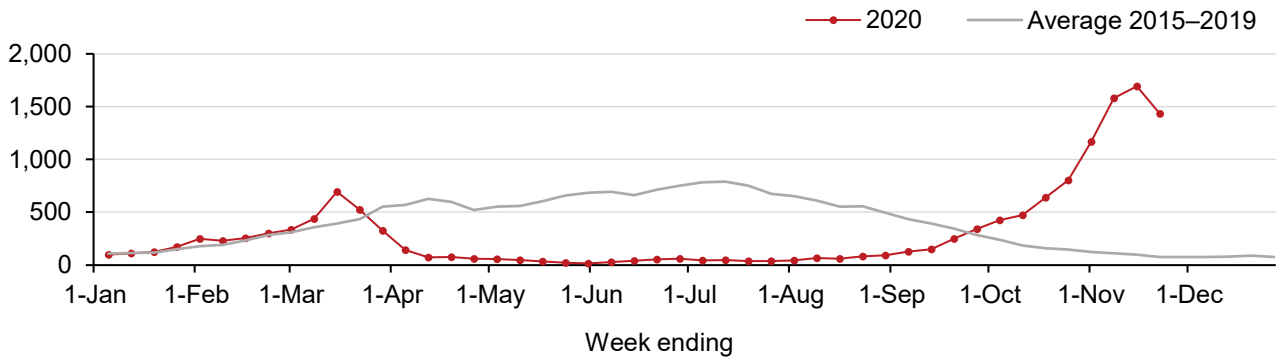


Figure 17. Number of positive PCR test results for all ages, for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) at sentinel NSW laboratories, 1 January to 22 November 2020



Interpretation:

- Emergency presentations for any respiratory illness among those aged 0–4 years decreased slightly this week and have been above the five-year mean since early November.
- Pneumonia presentations have decreased for the second week in a row in children aged 0–4 years. For all age groups, pneumonia presentations remain below the usual range for this time of year.
- RSV detections significantly decreased this week for the first time since detections began to increase in September. The age breakdown of RSV detections was available from one sentinel NSW laboratory, which showed that three-quarters were in children under 5, and 9 out of 10 were in children under 10. The steep increase in reported cases in recent weeks corresponds to a sharp increase in emergency presentations for bronchiolitis, which has been above the usual seasonal range since early November.

APPENDIX A: COVID-19 PCR TESTS IN NSW

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		28 November		21 November		No.	Tests per 1,000 population
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population		
Central Coast	Central Coast / LHD Total ²	3134	8.9	3631	10.3	128276	363.5
Far West	Balranald	8	3.4	11	4.7	498	213.0
	Broken Hill	101	5.8	312	17.9	5139	294.0
	Central Darling	9	4.9	18	9.8	391	212.6
	Wentworth	100	14.2	70	9.9	2301	326.2
	LHD Total ²	218	7.2	411	13.6	8329	276.3
Hunter New England	Armidale Regional	148	4.8	200	6.5	9626	312.8
	Cessnock	247	4.1	339	5.7	15676	261.3
	Dungog	42	4.5	36	3.8	2427	257.6
	Glen Innes Severn	30	3.4	28	3.2	1800	202.9
	Gunnedah	36	2.8	62	4.9	3209	253.1
	Gwydir	8	1.5	17	3.2	695	129.8
	Inverell	67	4.0	68	4.0	4128	244.4
	Lake Macquarie	1732	8.4	2111	10.3	85020	412.9
	Liverpool Plains	31	3.9	41	5.2	2075	262.6
	Maitland	693	8.1	871	10.2	38811	455.7
	Mid-Coast	304	3.2	377	4.0	22270	237.3
	Moree Plains	51	3.9	44	3.3	2991	225.6
	Muswellbrook	75	4.6	77	4.7	4494	274.4
	Narrabri	25	1.9	39	3.0	2666	203.0
	Newcastle	1648	10.0	1818	11.0	83954	507.1
	Port Stephens	471	6.4	499	6.8	28160	383.2
	Singleton	157	6.7	180	7.7	9321	397.3
	Tamworth Regional	323	5.2	400	6.4	21775	348.2
	Tenterfield	12	1.8	15	2.3	1068	162.0
	Upper Hunter Shire	71	5.0	89	6.3	4019	283.4
Uralla	27	4.5	34	5.7	1237	205.8	
Walcha	9	2.9	13	4.2	896	285.9	
	LHD Total ²	6204	6.5	7355	7.7	346037	363.3
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Kiama	215	9.2	267	11.4	9455	404.3
	Shellharbour	681	9.3	776	10.6	29373	401.1
	Shoalhaven	680	6.4	772	7.3	33006	312.4
	Wollongong	1888	8.7	2345	10.8	79176	363.0
	LHD Total ²	3464	8.3	4160	9.9	151010	359.9
Mid North Coast	Bellingen	76	5.9	92	7.1	3553	273.4
	Coffs Harbour	327	4.2	421	5.5	19425	251.4
	Kempsey	160	5.4	167	5.6	8726	293.4
	Nambucca	100	5.1	118	6.0	4733	239.0
	Port Macquarie-Hastings	470	5.6	575	6.8	24823	293.7
	LHD Total ²	1133	5.0	1373	6.1	61260	271.5

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		28 November		21 November		No.	Tests per 1,000 population
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population		
Murrumbidgee	Albury	279	5.1	433	8.0	16738	308.0
	Berrigan	18	2.1	30	3.4	1944	222.2
	Bland	14	2.3	24	4.0	1481	248.0
	Carrathool	5	1.8	12	4.3	332	118.6
	Coolamon	13	3.0	22	5.1	1190	274.1
	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	55	4.9	69	6.1	2818	250.8
	Edward River	32	3.5	37	4.1	2546	280.3
	Federation	36	2.9	61	4.9	2767	222.5
	Greater Hume Shire	31	2.9	54	5.0	3061	284.4
	Griffith	144	5.3	193	7.1	8201	303.4
	Hay	8	2.7	13	4.4	517	175.3
	Hilltops	88	4.7	113	6.0	5022	268.5
	Junee	33	4.9	18	2.7	1201	179.7
	Lachlan ¹	8	1.3	10	1.7	908	149.5
	Leeton	57	5.0	66	5.8	2524	220.5
	Lockhart	11	3.4	15	4.6	757	230.4
	Murray River	13	1.1	14	1.2	791	65.3
	Murrumbidgee	14	3.6	13	3.3	760	194.0
	Narrandera	20	3.4	17	2.9	1071	181.6
	Snowy Valleys	62	4.3	77	5.3	4120	284.6
	Temora	20	3.2	14	2.2	1241	196.8
	Wagga Wagga	421	6.5	510	7.8	23926	366.6
LHD Total ²	1377	4.6	1810	6.1	83314	279.5	
Nepean Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains	1018	12.9	1201	15.2	41784	528.1
	Hawkesbury	719	10.7	850	12.6	29944	445.0
	Lithgow	142	6.6	164	7.6	6314	292.3
	Penrith	2206	10.4	2739	12.9	104373	490.1
	LHD Total ²	4057	10.4	4923	12.6	180955	462.8
Northern NSW	Ballina	210	4.7	231	5.2	13518	302.9
	Byron	296	8.4	313	8.9	12840	366.0
	Clarence Valley	189	3.7	226	4.4	10819	209.4
	Kyogle	35	4.0	40	4.6	1730	196.7
	Lismore	226	5.2	297	6.8	14166	324.2
	Richmond Valley	103	4.4	109	4.7	6515	277.7
	Tenterfield	12	1.8	15	2.3	1068	162.0
	Tweed	450	4.6	480	5.0	23457	241.8
LHD Total ²	1510	4.9	1699	5.5	83310	268.4	

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		28 November		21 November			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
Northern Sydney	Hornsby	1554	10.2	2030	13.4	58284	383.3
	Hunters Hill	327	21.8	406	27.1	13510	901.9
	Ku-ring-gai	2004	15.8	2500	19.7	72304	568.6
	Lane Cove	972	24.2	1212	30.2	37265	928.0
	Mosman	356	11.5	475	15.3	14477	467.3
	North Sydney	644	8.6	830	11.1	27216	362.8
	Northern Beaches	3107	11.4	3814	14.0	116894	427.4
	Parramatta ¹	2310	9.0	3065	11.9	89876	349.4
	Ryde	1393	10.6	1849	14.1	52885	402.9
	Willoughby	746	9.2	991	12.2	28404	349.9
	LHD Total ²	11579	12.1	14765	15.5	438451	458.7
South Eastern Sydney	Bayside	1469	8.2	1758	9.9	60241	337.7
	Georges River	1277	8.0	1468	9.2	52207	327.4
	Randwick	1788	11.5	2267	14.6	82286	528.7
	Sutherland Shire	2492	10.8	3280	14.2	111096	481.8
	Sydney ¹	3375	13.7	3752	15.2	127155	516.2
	Waverley	949	12.8	1214	16.3	46542	626.5
	Woollahra	852	14.4	980	16.5	38455	647.5
	LHD Total ²	10266	10.7	12465	13.0	437486	456.1
South Western Sydney	Camden	1345	13.3	1775	17.5	64342	634.3
	Campbelltown	1827	10.7	2264	13.2	85373	499.4
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	2756	7.3	3465	9.2	135416	358.3
	Fairfield	1187	5.6	1394	6.6	68693	324.5
	Liverpool	2192	9.6	2505	11.0	105695	464.4
	Wingecarribee	606	11.9	892	17.4	26205	512.5
	Wollondilly	377	7.1	489	9.2	18504	348.2
	LHD Total ²	8807	8.5	11014	10.6	436379	420.2
Southern NSW	Bega Valley	164	4.8	202	5.9	9038	262.2
	Eurobodalla	203	5.3	209	5.4	14625	380.1
	Goulburn Mulwaree	214	6.9	290	9.3	9852	316.5
	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	275	4.5	353	5.8	13471	220.5
	Snowy Monaro Regional	103	5.0	114	5.5	5793	278.6
	Upper Lachlan Shire	47	5.8	52	6.5	2088	259.1
	Yass Valley	55	3.2	67	3.9	3218	188.3
	LHD Total ²	1061	4.9	1288	5.9	58113	267.7
Sydney	Burwood	271	6.7	331	8.2	11161	274.8
	Canada Bay	1018	10.6	1304	13.6	45541	474.0
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	2756	7.3	3465	9.2	135416	358.3
	Inner West	2471	12.3	2802	14.0	108444	540.0
	Strathfield	455	9.7	579	12.3	20816	443.6
	Sydney ¹	3375	13.7	3752	15.2	127155	516.2
	LHD Total ²	7610	10.9	8987	12.9	332811	477.7

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		28 November		21 November		No.	Tests per 1,000 population
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population		
Western NSW	Bathurst Regional	328	7.5	439	10.1	16946	388.5
	Blayney	47	6.4	58	7.9	2730	370.0
	Bogan	9	3.5	15	5.8	578	224.0
	Bourke	7	2.7	14	5.4	449	173.4
	Brewarrina	4	2.5	6	3.7	291	180.6
	Cabonne	43	3.2	63	4.6	2721	199.6
	Cobar	15	3.2	24	5.2	887	190.4
	Coonamble	12	3.0	6	1.5	820	207.2
	Cowra	69	5.4	67	5.3	3005	235.8
	Dubbo Regional	271	5.0	331	6.2	16081	299.4
	Forbes	35	3.5	29	2.9	1921	193.9
	Gilgandra	9	2.1	13	3.1	846	199.6
	Lachlan ¹	8	1.3	10	1.7	908	149.5
	Mid-Western Regional	161	6.4	178	7.1	7271	288.0
	Narromine	30	4.6	28	4.3	1519	233.1
	Oberon	33	6.1	56	10.4	1557	287.8
	Orange	363	8.6	420	9.9	17627	415.2
	Parkes	45	3.0	73	4.9	3693	248.9
	Walgett	11	1.9	16	2.7	1475	247.8
	Warren	15	5.6	19	7.0	1147	425.3
	Warrumbungle Shire	31	3.3	54	5.8	2421	260.9
Weddin	13	3.6	10	2.8	732	202.6	
LHD Total ²		1558	5.5	1928	6.8	85357	299.5
Western Sydney	Blacktown	4187	11.2	5423	14.5	159653	426.4
	Cumberland	2031	8.4	2528	10.5	92168	381.6
	Parramatta ¹	2310	9.0	3065	11.9	89876	349.4
	The Hills Shire	2888	16.2	4108	23.1	100734	566.0
	LHD Total ²	10993	10.4	14551	13.8	428231	406.5
NSW Total³		80,906	10.0	99,312	12.3	3,475,776	429.7

¹Local Government Area (LGA) spans multiple Local Health Districts.

²Local Health District total counts and rates includes tests for LHD residents only. Murrumbidgee includes Albury LGA residents.

³NSW Total counts and rates include tests where residential information is incomplete.

See <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/counting-tests.aspx> for detail on how tests are counted.

APPENDIX B: NUMBER OF POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULTS FOR INFLUENZA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY VIRUSES AT SENTINEL NSW LABORATORIES, 1 JANUARY TO 22 NOVEMBER 2020

The reported testing numbers reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted. Not all samples are tested for all of the other respiratory viruses. Therefore, data presented may tend to under-represent current respiratory virus activity in NSW.

Specimen collection date	Total PCR tests conducted	Influenza A		Influenza B		Adeno-virus	Para-influenza	RSV	Rhinovirus	HMPV	Enterovirus
		No.	%Pos.	No.	%Pos.						
1 Jan—22 Nov 2020											
Total	1,197,622	6,629	0.55%	954	0.08%	8,377	9,109	14,138	131,498	2,198	5,720
Month ending											
3 February*	34,953	2,508	7.18%	401	1.15%	846	1,900	752	5,036	599	335
1 March	40,575	2,363	5.82%	315	0.78%	798	2,435	1,118	8,245	437	1,007
29 March	85,238	1,549	1.82%	200	0.23%	898	4,117	1,977	18,088	664	1,502
3 May*	54,128	70	0.13%	13	0.02%	175	273	410	2,250	48	210
31 May	71,525	35	0.05%	6	0.01%	237	62	115	3,511	27	112
28 June	130,922	42	0.03%	11	0.01%	629	83	178	28,321	112	246
2 August*	227,152	34	0.01%	2	0.00%	1,251	89	209	31,589	79	427
30 August	174,594	9	0.01%	2	0.00%	1,137	37	299	13,926	14	235
27 September	145,489	6	0.00%	1	0.00%	938	35	866	8,416	61	259
1 November*	131,686	7	0.01%	1	0.00%	894	56	3,508	5,632	51	662
Week ending											
8 November	31,883	1	0.00%	2	0.01%	146	3	1,580	2,034	26	318
15 November	37,010	3	0.01%	0	0.00%	204	7	1,693	2,523	49	253
22 November	32,467	2	0.01%	0	0.00%	224	12	1,433	1,927	31	154

Notes: Preliminary laboratory data is provided by participating sentinel laboratories on a weekly basis and are subject to change. Serological diagnoses are not included.

HMPV - Human metapneumovirus

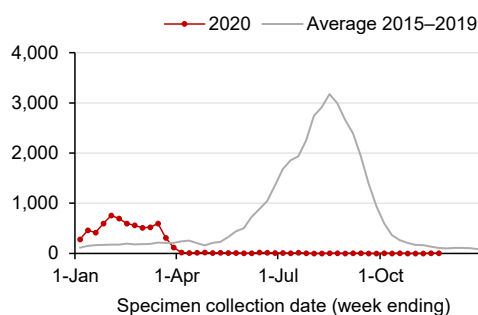
RSV - Respiratory syncytial virus

*Five-week period

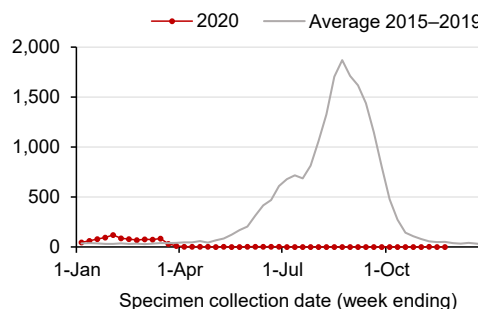
APPENDIX C: NUMBER OF POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULTS FOR INFLUENZA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY VIRUSES AT SENTINEL NSW LABORATORIES, 1 JANUARY TO 22 NOVEMBER 2020

Not all samples are tested for all of the other respiratory viruses. Therefore, data presented may tend to under-represent current respiratory virus activity in NSW.

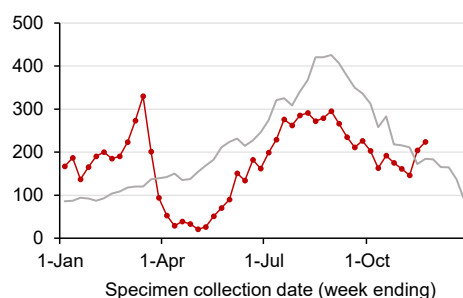
Influenza A



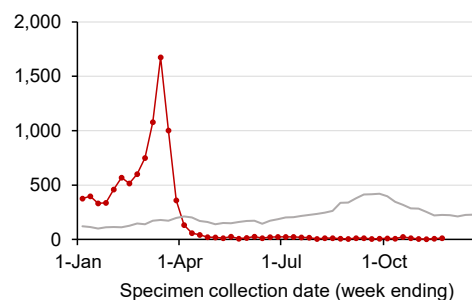
Influenza B



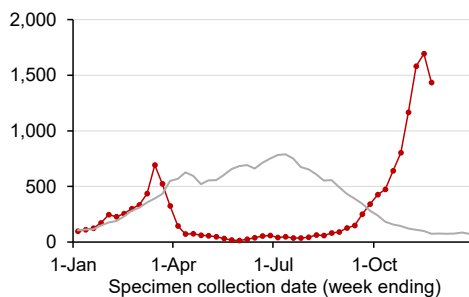
Adenovirus



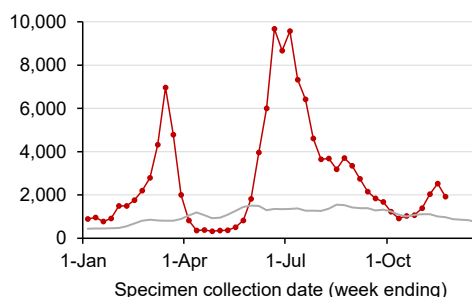
Parainfluenza



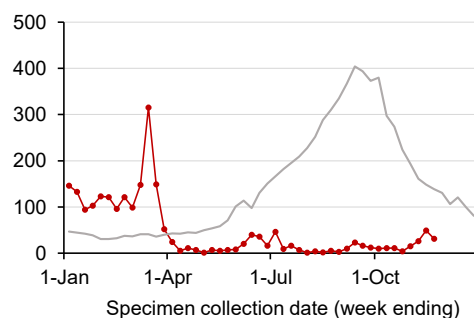
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



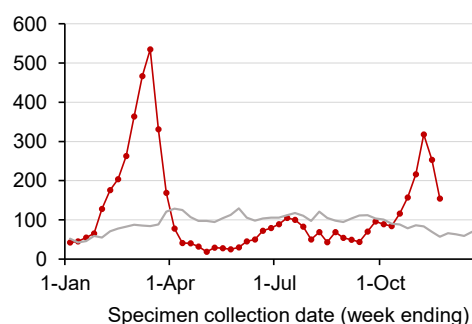
Rhinovirus



Human metapneumovirus (HPMV)



Enterovirus



Notes: Preliminary laboratory data is provided by participating sentinel laboratories on a weekly basis and are subject to change. Serological diagnoses are not included.

GLOSSARY

Term	Description
Case	<p>A person infected who has tested positive to a validated specific SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has had the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture. Blood tests (serology) is only used in special situations following a public health investigation and require other criteria to be met in addition to the positive serology result (related to timing of symptoms and contact with known COVID-19 cases).</p> <p>Case counts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSW residents diagnosed in NSW who were infected overseas or in Australia (in NSW or interstate), and - interstate or international visitors diagnosed in NSW who were under the care of NSW Health at the time of diagnosis.
Healthcare workers	Individuals who work within a hospital or other healthcare settings, including staff in direct or indirect contact with patients or infectious materials.
Incubation period	The time in which the case was infected. The incubation period for COVID-19 is between 1 and 14 days prior to symptom onset.
Overseas-acquired case	Case who travelled overseas during their incubation period. While testing rates in NSW are high and case counts are low, cases who have travelled overseas in their incubation period are considered to have acquired their infection overseas.
Interstate-acquired case	Case who travelled interstate during their infection and the public health investigation concludes the infection was likely acquired interstate.
Cluster	Group of cases sharing a common source of infection or linked to each other in some way.

Dates used in COVID-19 reporting

Event	Date name	Source
Person first starts to feel unwell	Date of symptom onset	Public health staff interview all cases at the time of diagnosis. This is the date provided to NSW Health by the case.
Person has a swab taken	Date of test	This date is provided to NSW Health by the laboratory when the test result (positive or negative) is notified.
Laboratory notifies NSW Health of result	Date of notification	<p>This date is provided to NSW Health by the laboratory. Laboratories prioritise notification of positive results to allow prompt public health action.</p> <p>Positive cases: The date of notification is collected by NSW Health on the day of notification. Cases are informed of their diagnosis by their doctor or public health staff as soon as the result is available. The date of notification to NSW Health is usually the same day as the date the case finds out about the result.</p> <p>Negative cases: Some laboratories notify NSW Health of negative results in batches at regular intervals. For these laboratories the date of notification to NSW Health does not reflect the date the negative result was available at the laboratory. NSW Health does not collect information on the date the person was informed of the result.</p>