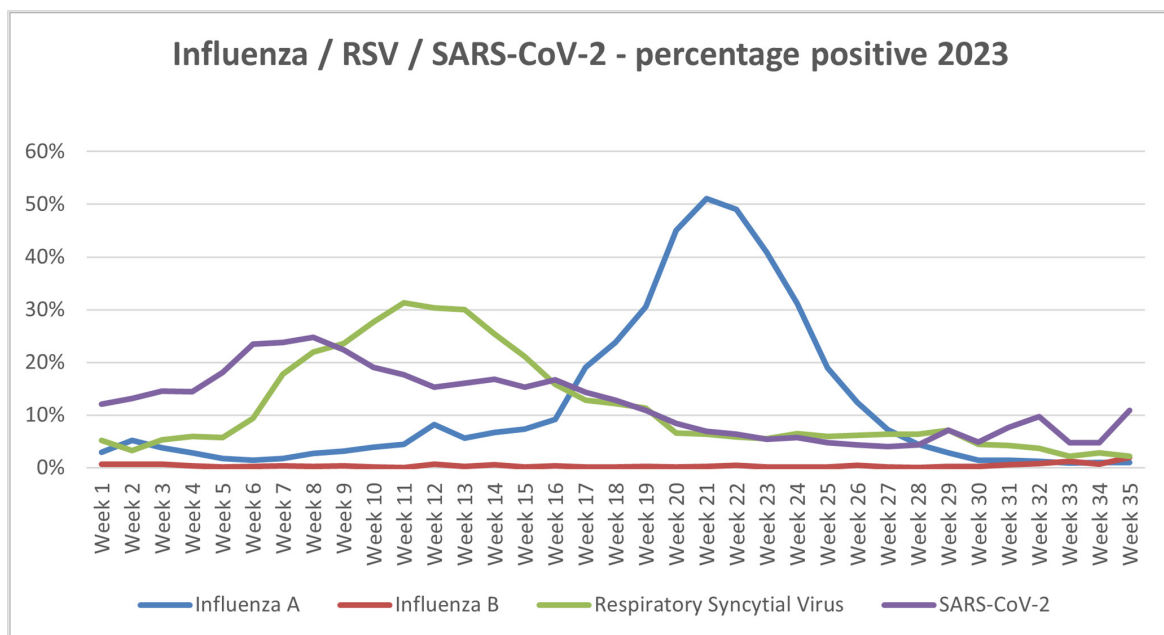


# THE PATHCARE NEWS

## RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN STATISTICS: AUGUST 2023

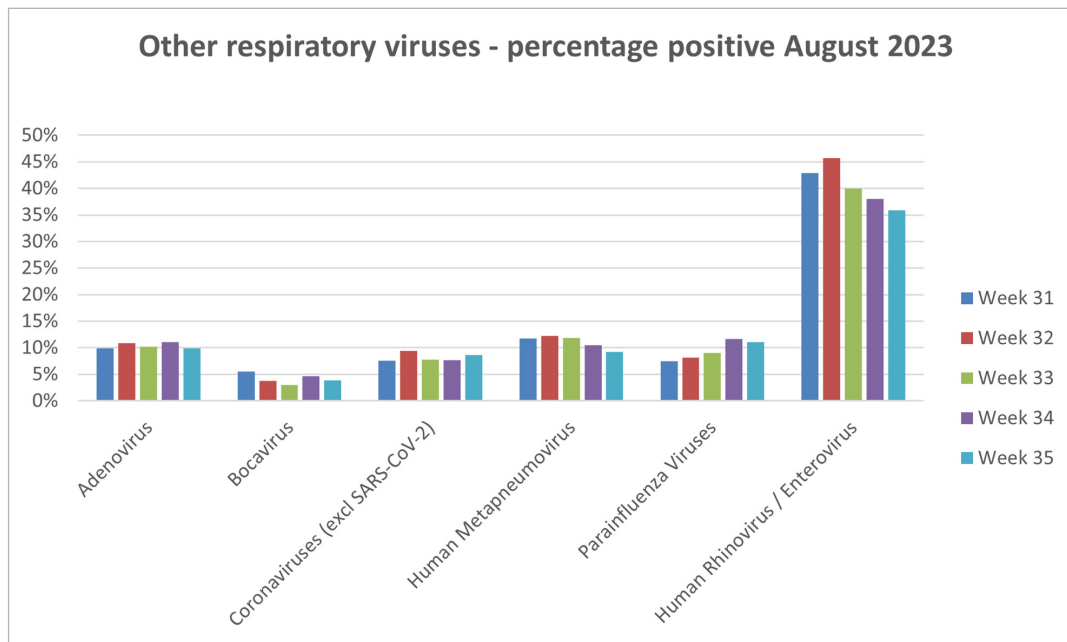
### Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus and SARS-CoV-2

- Influenza A and B detection rates remained below 2% during August, with the influenza season officially having ended in July (NICD Weekly Respiratory Pathogens Surveillance Report, week 34 of 2023). Surveillance is ongoing to determine whether a second influenza peak will occur, as has been seen in previous years.
- RSV percentage positivity fell below 3% overall during weeks 33 - 35. As is expected, the highest detection rates were noted in the 0 - 5 year age group, however, the percentage positivity was below 10% in all age groups in weeks 34 and 35.
- SARS-CoV-2 detection rates fluctuated during August but ended at 10.9% in week 35 (week ending 3 September). Although there have been additional detections of BA.2.86 in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West provinces, there have been no reports of an increase in hospitalizations to date.



### Other respiratory viruses

- Human rhinovirus/enterovirus detection rates ranged from 35.9 - 45.7% during August.
- Percentage positivity of adenovirus, coronaviruses (excluding SARS-CoV-2), human metapneumovirus and parainfluenzaviruses 1 - 4 ranged from 7.5 - 11.9% during the reporting period, with no marked changes in detection rates noted.
- Amongst the endemic coronaviruses (excluding SARS-CoV-2), OC43 continued to predominate and accounted for 92.5% of coronavirus isolates for which typing was available.
- Similarly, parainfluenza virus detections were predominately type 3 (56.1%) and type 1 (35.5%) as was seen during July.



## Atypical bacteria

- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* rates remained high, ranging from 4.8 – 7.0% during August.
- *Bordetella pertussis* detection rates were below 2% throughout the reporting period, with one case of *Bordetella parapertussis* detected in week 32 (week ending 13 August).
- A single case of *Legionella pneumophila* was detected during August. *Legionella pneumophila* is included in the newly available Biofire Pneumonia panel. It is not however included in the Biofire Respiratory panel. Legionella urinary antigen can be requested for suspected cases.
- Occasional cases of *Chlamydia pneumoniae* continued to be seen (0.0 - 0.5%).

