

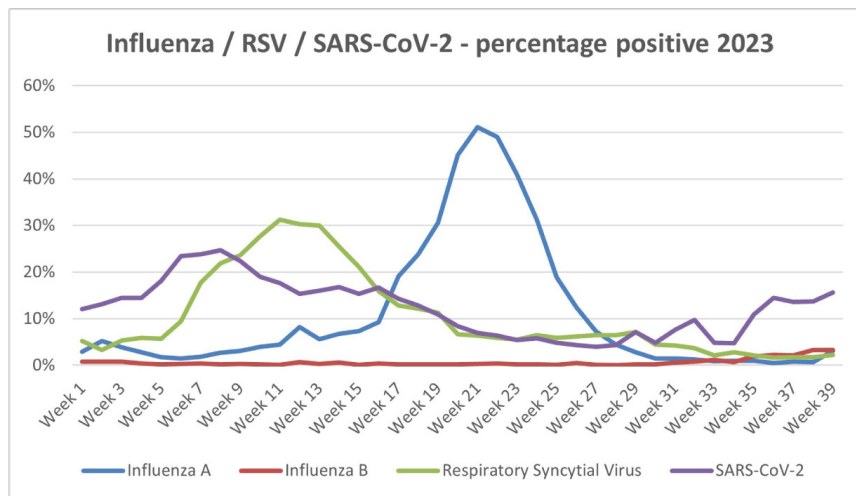
THE PATHCARE NEWS

RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN STATISTICS: SEPTEMBER 2023



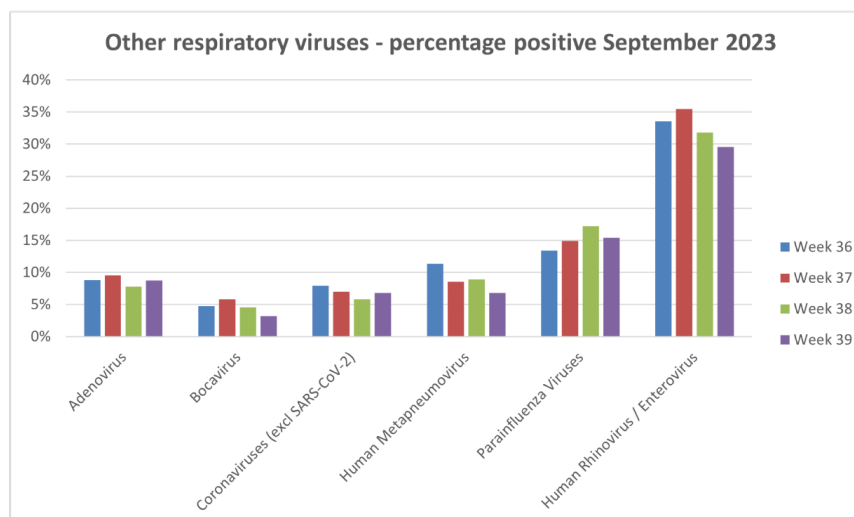
Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus and SARS-CoV-2

- Influenza A, influenza B and RSV detection rates were below 5% throughout September.
- SARS-CoV-2 percentage positivity ranged from 13.6-15.6% nationally in the reporting period, having increased from 10.9% in the last week of August (week 35). Testing rates were comparable to previous months in 2023.



Other respiratory viruses

- Human rhinovirus/enterovirus detection rates ranged from 29.6-35.5%, thus showing a slight decrease in comparison to August.
- Percentage positivity of adenovirus, endemic coronaviruses (excluding SARS-CoV-2) and human metapneumovirus ranged from 3.2-11.4% during September, with no marked changes in detection rates noted.
- Amongst the endemic coronaviruses (excluding SARS-CoV-2), OC43 accounted for 87.2% of coronavirus isolates for which molecular typing was available.
- Parainfluenza virus percentage positivity ranged from 13.4-17.2%, showing an increase from August (7.5-11.6%). Parainfluenza virus type 3 accounted for 68.1% of parainfluenza virus isolates for which molecular typing was available, followed by type 1 (25.8%). Parainfluenza types 2 and 4 accounted for only 4.0% and 2.1% of typed isolates respectively.



Atypical bacteria

- There were minimal changes in the detection rates of atypical respiratory bacteria in September.
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* rates remained high, around 6% -8% during September.
- *Bordetella pertussis* detection rates were below 2%, however, a clusters of cases was detected in the Free State and Northern Cape during September.
- Another single case of *Legionella pneumophila* was detected during September, this time in Gauteng as opposed to the case in August from the Eastern Cape. Please note that the inconsistent increases in detection rates are related to the relatively small number of samples submitted for testing with the Biofire Pneumonia panel which is the only panel that includes Legionella. Legionella urinary antigen can also be requested for suspected cases.
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae* rates continued to be very low (< 0.5%).

