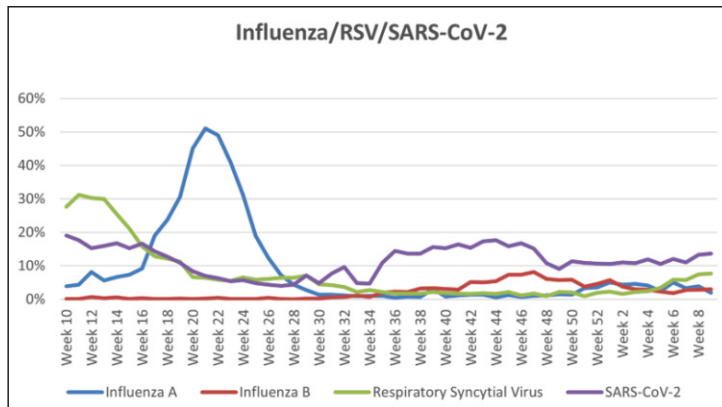


THE PATHCARE NEWS

Respiratory pathogen statistics: February 2024

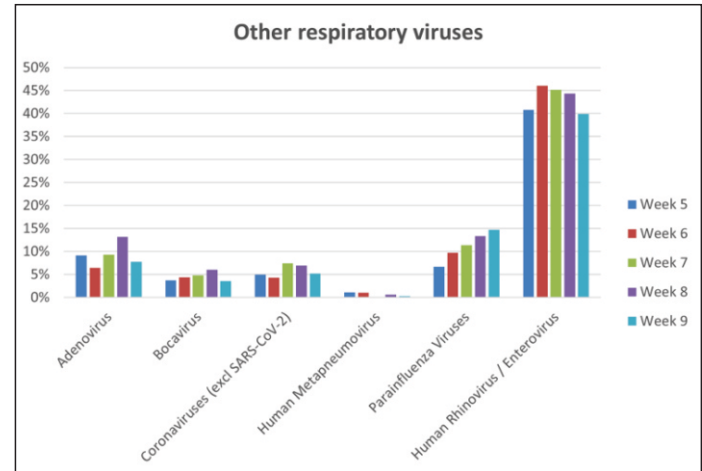
Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2

- Influenza A and B continued to be detected at low rates during February ($\leq 5\%$).
- RSV detection rates increased from 4% to 8% during the reporting period but did not reach the threshold for the start of RSV season. Higher detection rates were noted in KwaZulu-Natal (18-40%), however, this was based on a relatively small number of samples tested.
- SARS-CoV-2 percentage positivity ranged from 11-14% nationally, thus showing no notable change from the previous month overall. However, there was some variation in provincial rates, with the highest detection rates noted in the Western Cape at 16-23% as compared to 11-14% in January.



Other respiratory viruses

- Human rhinovirus/enterovirus predominated during February, with the detection rates increasing further and peaking at 46% in week 6 (week starting 5 February).
- Percentage positivity of adenovirus, bocavirus, endemic coronaviruses and human metapneumovirus remained similar to the previous reporting period.
- The increase in coronavirus NL63 detections initially noted in January continued in February, accounting for 80% of endemic coronavirus detections for which typing was available. OC43 and 229E made up 9% of isolates.
- A slight increase was noted for the parainfluenza viruses, ranging from 7-15%. Amongst the parainfluenza viruses for which typing was available, type 2 and type 4 were most common and accounted for 39% and 36% of parainfluenza isolates respectively. This is a shift from the second half of 2023, where parainfluenza type 3 predominated.



Atypical bacteria

- *Mycoplasmoides pneumoniae* (formerly *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*) detection rates remained at approximately 2% during February.
- *Bordetella pertussis* and *Bordetella parapertussis* detection rates were low (0-2%). A single case of *Bordetella parapertussis* was detected in week 6 (week starting 5 February).
- Five cases of *Legionella pneumophila* were detected during February, three from Gauteng and two 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.
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae* rates were variable at 2-3.2% overall. A slight increase was noticed over the last 12 weeks, from the <1% observed during the preceding months. The majority of cases were from Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Western Cape with detection rates as high as 8.5% and 4.8% respectively during February.

