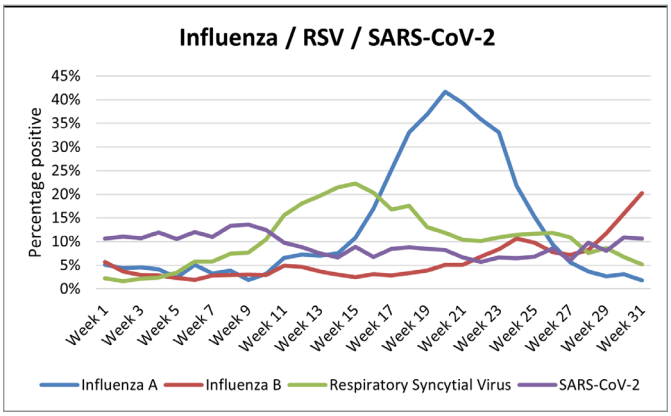
THE PATHCARE NEWS

RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN STATISTICS: JULY 2024

This report is a summary of the results obtained from various molecular respiratory panels performed across PathCare laboratories during July 2024 (epidemiological weeks 27-31). The data is dependent on submission of samples by clinicians and therefore may not be representative of the general population but is intended to identify trends in the circulation of these viruses which may be of clinical relevance.

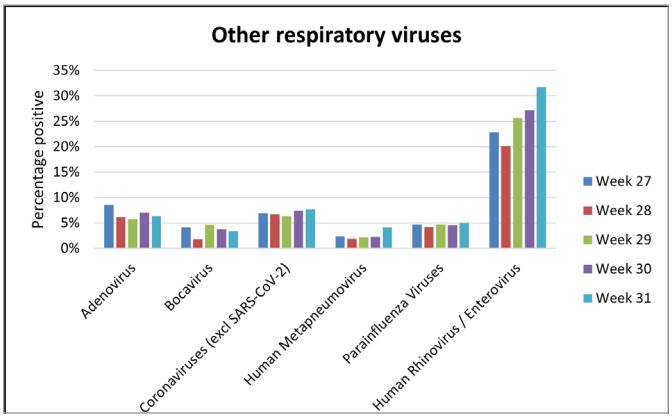
Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2

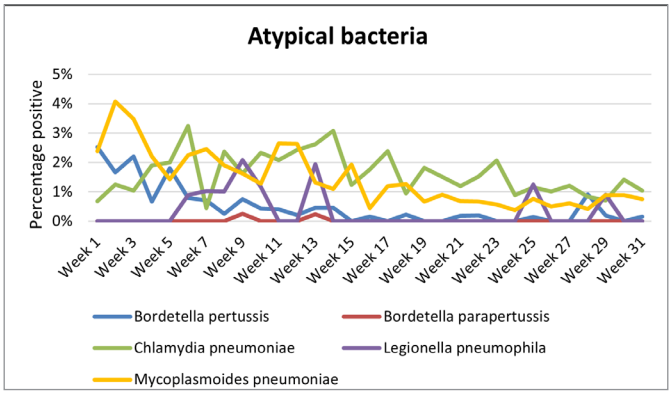
- Influenza A detection rates continued to decline during July, with national rates dropping to <2% in week 31. However, influenza B detection rates increased from 7% in week 27 to 20% in week 31. Notable provincial variation in influenza B prevalence was seen, with the percentage of positive samples increasing to 33% in Gauteng in week 31, as compared to the Western Cape where the percentage positive remained ≤5% throughout July.
- Overall RSV detection rates decreased from 11% in week 27 to 5% in week 31. Detection rates decreased in all ages groups during July including children <5 years of age, dropping to 19% in 0-6 month olds, 11% in 6-12 months olds, and 6% in 1-5 year olds.
- SARS-CoV-2 detection rates ranged from 6% in week 27 to 11% in weeks 30 and 31.



Other respiratory viruses

- Detection rates remained stable during July for bocavirus (2-5%) and parainfluenza viruses (4-5%), with very slight increases for human metapneumovirus (2-4%) and adenovirus (6-9%)
- Human rhinovirus/enterovirus detection rates showed an increasing trend, reaching 32% in week 31.
- The percentage of positive samples for endemic coronaviruses (excluding SARS-CoV-2) ranged from 6-8%, with OC43 and HKU1 predominating amongst isolates for which molecular typing was available.



Atypical bacteria

- *Mycoplasmoides pneumoniae* (formerly *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*) detection rates remained ≤1% throughout July, having remained stable at this rate since week 16 (week starting 15 April).
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae* detection rates were also ≤1% during July
- Six cases of *Bordetella pertussis* were detected during the reporting period, including two in the Western Cape and one each in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and North West provinces.
- No *Bordetella parapertussis* cases were detected during July.
- One *Legionella pneumophila* case was detected in the Northern Cape during week 29 (week starting 15 July). It should be noted that these statistics represent only molecular testing for Legionella pneumophila, as legionella urinary antigen results are not included in this report.