



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service



Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Surveillance Report

Week 24, 2018

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Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Surveillance Report

Programme Descriptions

Programme	ILI	Viral Watch	National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia	Private hospital consultations
Start year	2012	1984	2009	2002
Provinces*	KZ NW MP	EC FS GP LP MP NC NW WC	GP KZ MP NW WC	EC FS GP LP MP NW WC
Type of site	Primary health care clinics	General practitioners	Public hospitals	Private hospitals
Case definition	An acute respiratory illness with a temperature ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and cough, & onset ≤ 10 days	An acute respiratory illness with a temperature ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and cough, & onset ≤ 10 days	Acute or chronic lower respiratory tract infection	ICD codes J10-J18
Specimens collected	≥ 5 years of age: oropharyngeal/nasopharyngeal swabs <5 years of age: nasopharyngeal aspirates	Throat and/or nasal swabs or Nasopharyngeal swabs	≥ 5 years of age: oropharyngeal/nasopharyngeal swabs <5 years of age: nasopharyngeal aspirates Induced/expectorated sputum	Not applicable
Main pathogens tested**	INF RSV BP	INF RSV BP	INF RSV SP BP	Not applicable

Epidemic Threshold

Thresholds are calculated using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM), a sequential analysis using the R Language, available from: <http://CRAN.R-project.org/web/package=mem>) designed to calculate the duration, start and end of the annual influenza epidemic. MEM uses the 40th, 90th and 97.5th percentiles established from available years of historical data to calculate thresholds of activity. Thresholds of activity for influenza and RSV are defined as follows: Below seasonal threshold, Low activity, Moderate activity, High activity, Very high activity. For influenza, thresholds from outpatient influenza like illness (Viral Watch Programme) are used as an indicator of disease transmission in the community and thresholds from pneumonia surveillance are used as an indicator of impact of disease.

* EC: Eastern Cape; FS: Free State; GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; LP: Limpopo; MP: Mpumalanga; NC: Northern Cape; NW: North West; WC: Western Cape

**INF: Influenza; RSV: respiratory syncytial virus; BP: Bordetella pertussis; SP: Streptococcus pneumoniae

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Results until end of epidemiologic week 24(2018)

Comments:

Influenza

The 2018 influenza season continues. The season started in week 18 (first week of May), when influenza detections in the Viral Watch programme rose above the seasonal threshold, as determined by the Moving Epidemic Method. Influenza transmission and severity are currently moderate.

ILI programme: In 2018 to date, specimens from 533 patients were received from 3 ILI sites. Influenza was detected in 54 specimens, all identified as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

Viral Watch programme: During the same period, specimens from 540 patients were received from Viral Watch sites. Since April, when the number of specimens received started to increase, influenza has been detected in 232 specimens, 227 of which were identified as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, one influenza A(H3N2), three as influenza B and one influenza A not typed.

In addition, before the start of this year's influenza season: influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was detected in four, A(H3N2) in three, and influenza B in 14 patients, most of whom had a history of travel or contact with tourists.

Pneumonia surveillance: In this time period, specimens from 2359 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were received from the 6 sentinel sites. Influenza was detected in 102 specimens, all identified as A(H1N1)pdm09.

Respiratory syncytial virus

The 2018 RSV season started in week 9 (week starting 26 February) when RSV detections in pneumonia surveillance rose above the seasonal threshold as determined by the Moving Epidemic Method, and is ongoing. However, the RSV detection rate is going down.

In 2018 to date, RSV has been detected in the specimens of 87 patients in the ILI programme, and 725 from patients in the pneumonia surveillance programme.

During the same period, 29 specimens from viral watch surveillance programme sites tested positive for RSV.

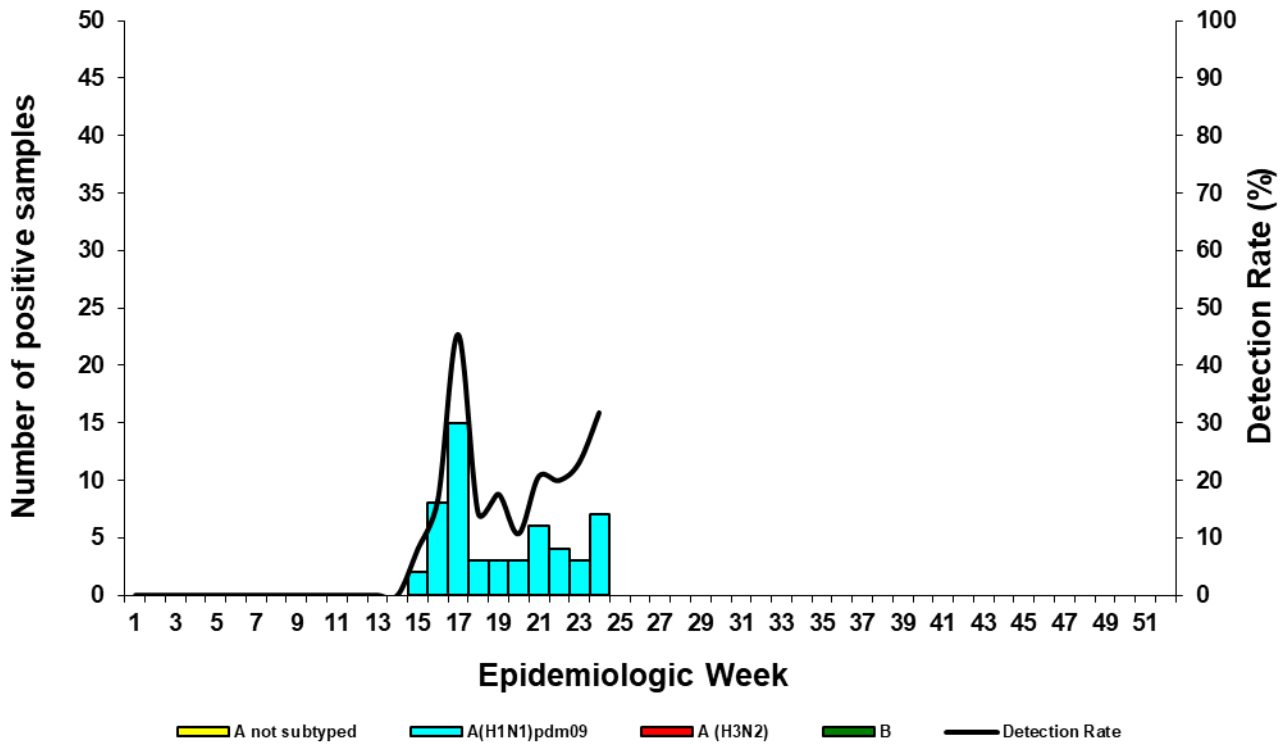
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Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance primary health care clinics

Figure 1. Number of positive samples* by influenza types and subtypes and detection rate** by week



*Specimens from patients with influenza-like illnesses at 3 sentinel sites in 3 provinces

**Only reported for weeks with >10 specimens submitted

Table 1. Cumulative number of influenza type and subtype and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	A not typed as yet	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	B	Total samples
Agincourt Clinic (MP)		3			141
Edendale Gateway Clinic (KZ)		40			241
Jouberton Clinic (NW)		11			151
Total:		54			533

KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West, MP: Mpumalanga

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Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance primary health care clinics

Figure 2. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus and detection rate by week

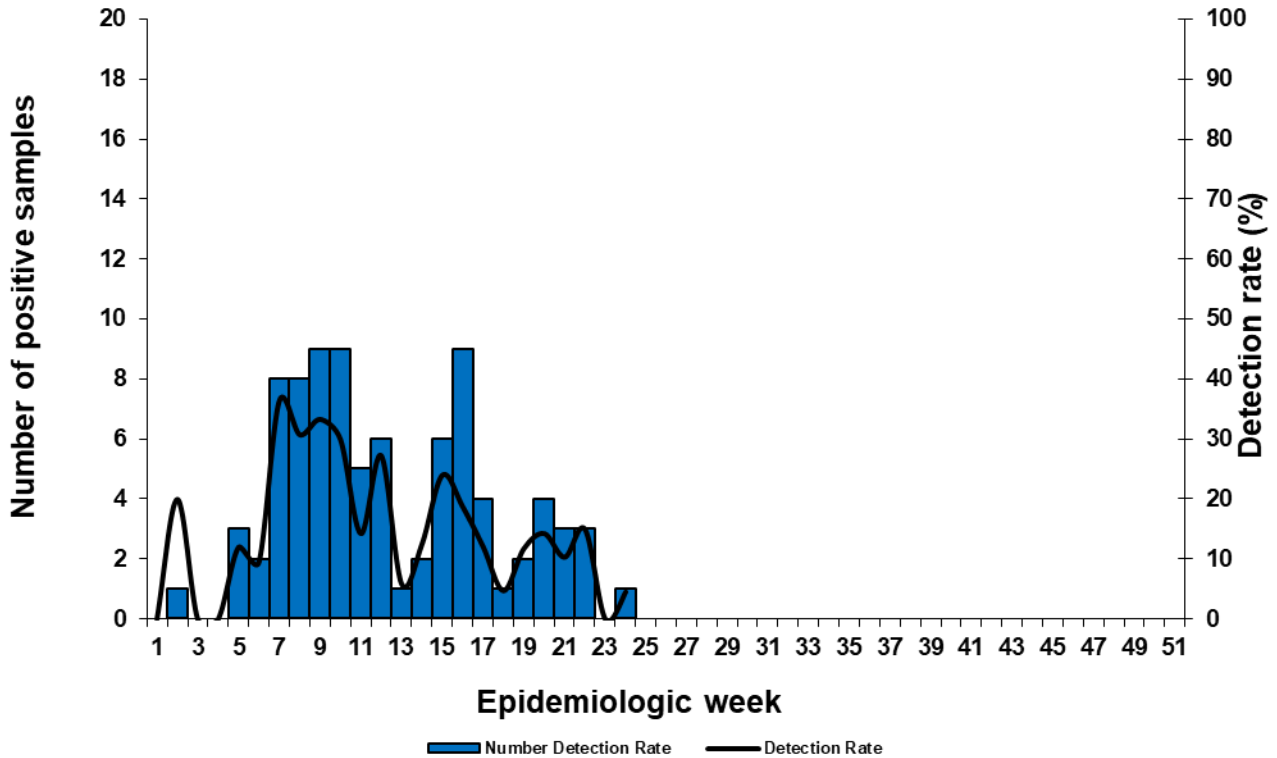


Table 2. Cumulative number of respiratory syncytial virus identified and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	RSV Positive	Total samples
Agincourt Clinic (MP)	38	141
Edendale Gateway Clinic (KZ)	27	241
Jouberton Clinic (NWP)	22	151
Total:	87	533

KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West, MP: Mpumalanga

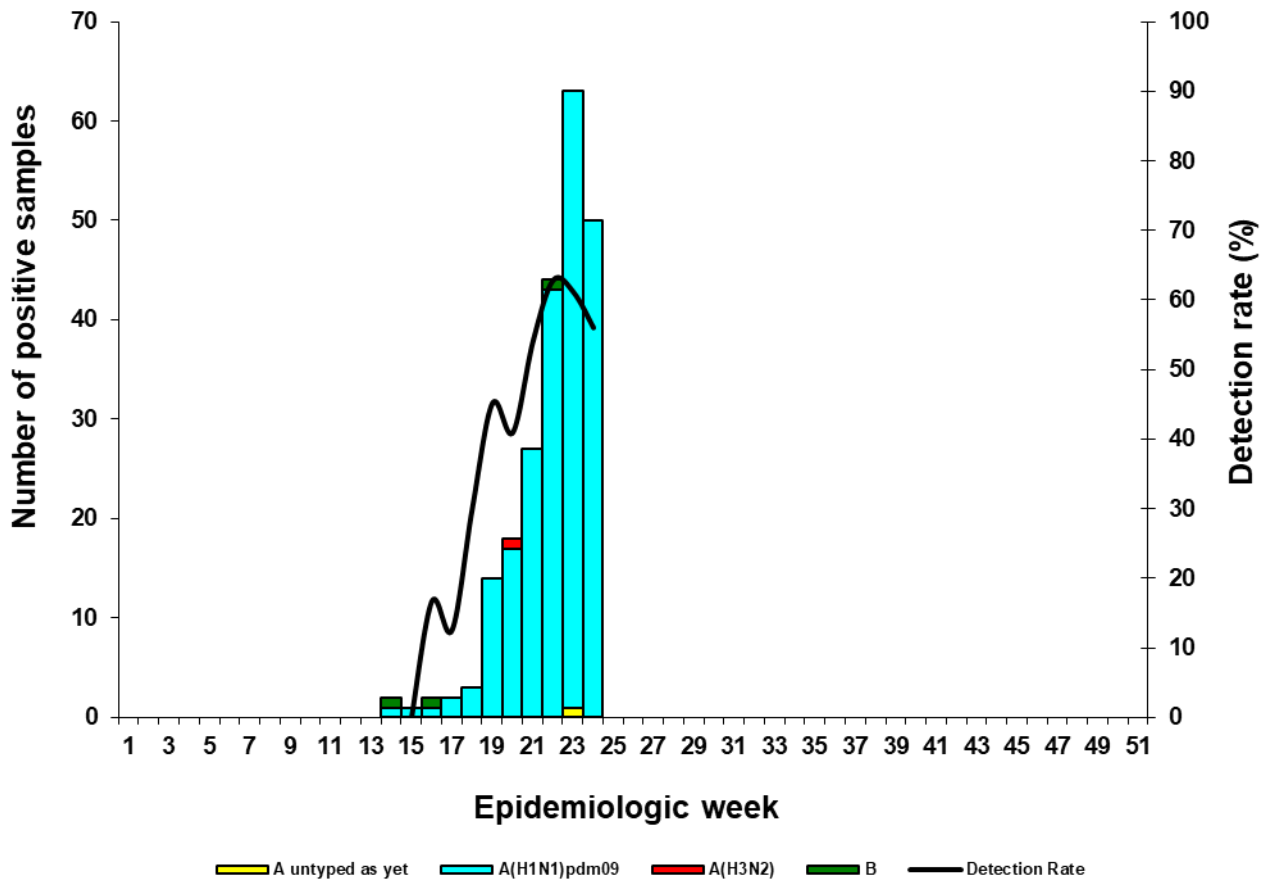
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Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance Viral Watch

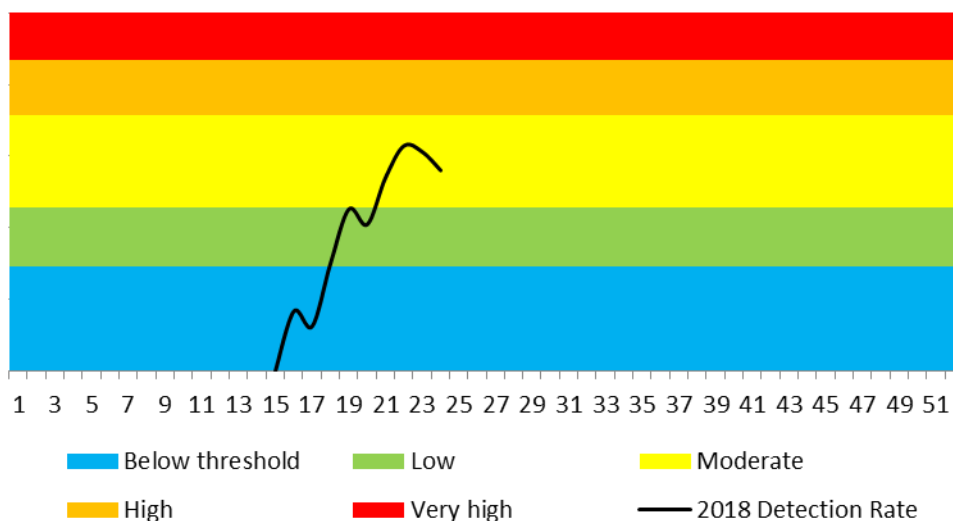
Figure 4. Number of positive samples* by influenza types and A not typed as yet and detection rate by week**



*Specimens from patients with Influenza-like illnesses at 90 sentinel sites in 8 provinces

** Only reported for weeks with >10 specimens submitted.

Figure 5. ILI surveillance Viral Watch percentage influenza detections and epidemic thresholds*



*Thresholds based on 2007-2017 data (Excluding 2009)

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Table 4. Cumulative number of influenza type and subtype and total number of samples tested by province

Province	A not typed as yet	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	B	Total samples
Eastern Cape		31			45
Free State					3
Gauteng		134	1	2	296
Limpopo		12			15
Mpumalanga	1	13			49
North West		1			2
Northern Cape		1			9
Western Cape		35		1	121
Total:	1	227	1	3	540

To date in 2018, 68 patients have been tested for influenza at the time of entry into South Africa following travel abroad and 22 have tested influenza positive.

Patients known to have acquired influenza abroad are not included in the table or epidemiological curve.

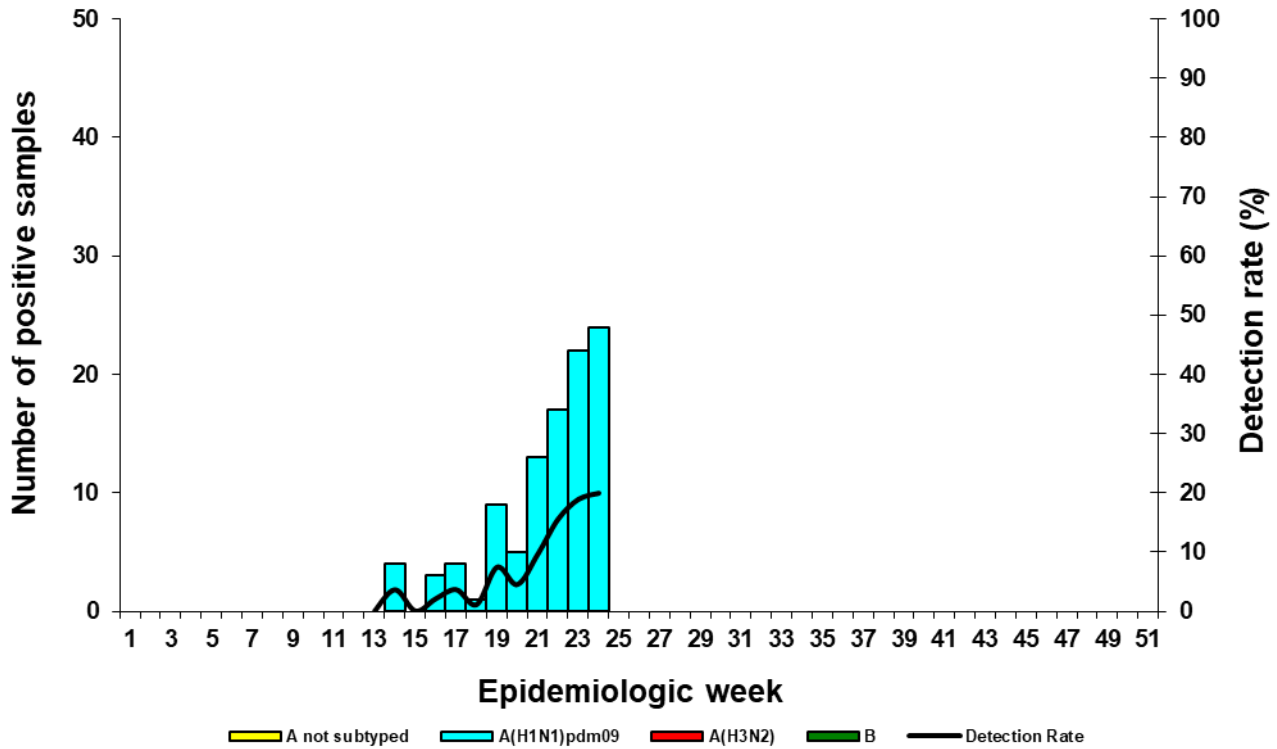
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Surveillance Report

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National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia

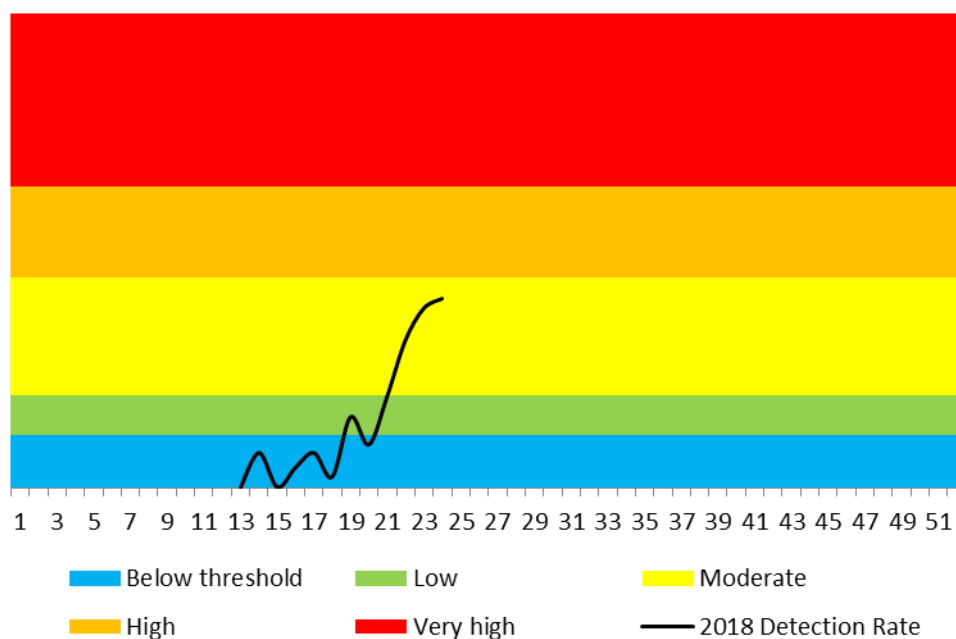
Figure 6. Number of positive samples* by influenza types and A not typed as yet and detection rate** by week



*Specimens from patients hospitalised with pneumonia at 6 sentinel sites in 5 provinces

**Only reported for weeks with >10 specimens submitted

Figure 7. National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia percentage influenza detections and epidemic thresholds*



*Thresholds based on 2010-2017 data

Data are provisional as reported to date. Number of consultations/specimens are reported/analysed by date of consultation/specimen collection.

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Table 5. Cumulative number of identified influenza types and subtypes and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	A not typed as yet	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	B	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)		28			396
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)		28			545
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)		3			332
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)		14			124
Red Cross (WC)		18			625
Mitchell's Plain (WC)		11			337
Total:		102			2359

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga; WC: Western Cape

In addition 34 specimens have been tested from pregnant women in Groote Schuur Hospital and Mowbray Maternity Hospital, two of whom were positive for Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

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National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia

Figure 8. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus and detection rate by week

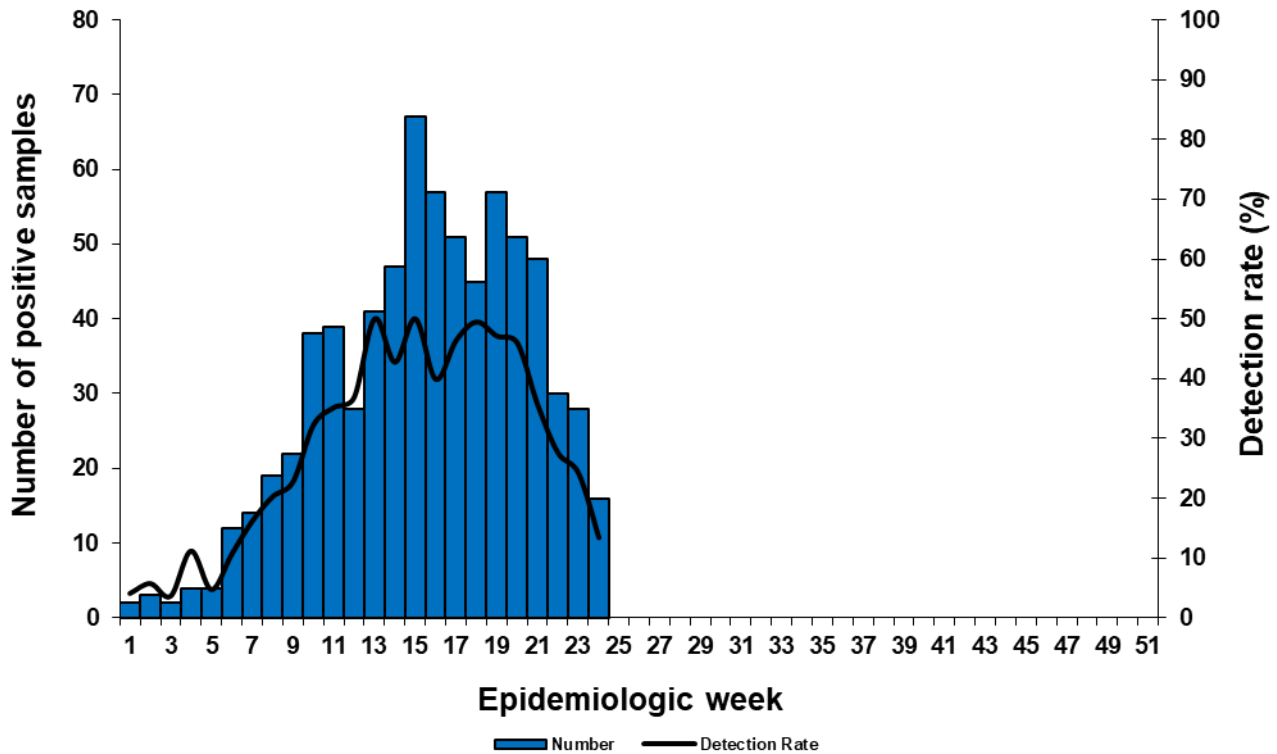


Table 6: Cumulative number of respiratory syncytial virus identified and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	RSV Positive	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	76	396
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	154	545
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	39	332
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	45	124
Red Cross (WC)	284	625
Mitchel's Plain (WC)	127	337
Total:	725	2359

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga; WC: Western Cape

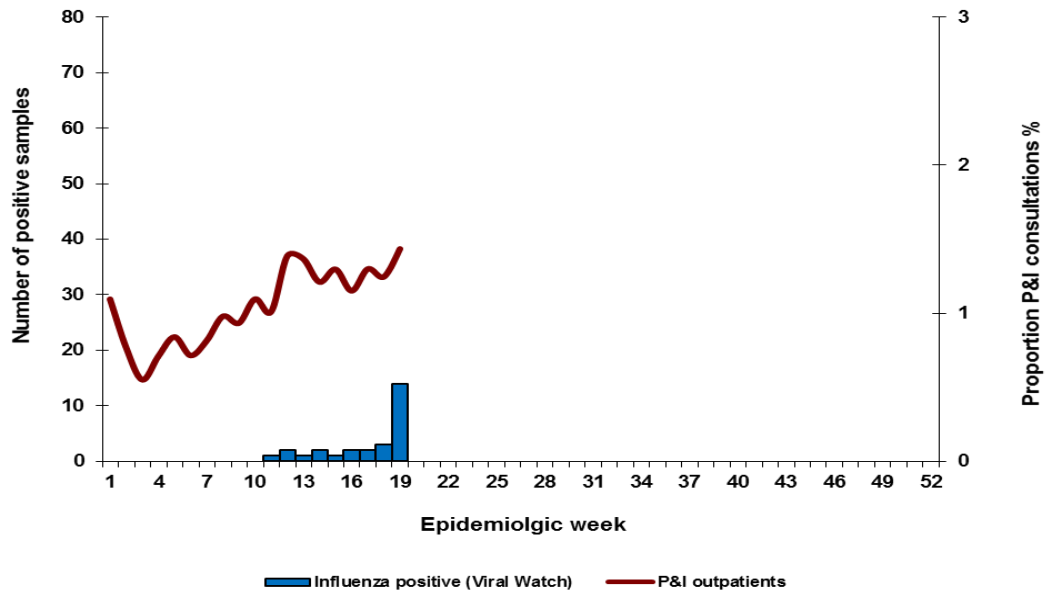
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2018 to 13/05/2018

Results until end of epidemiologic week 19(2018)

Private hospital consultations

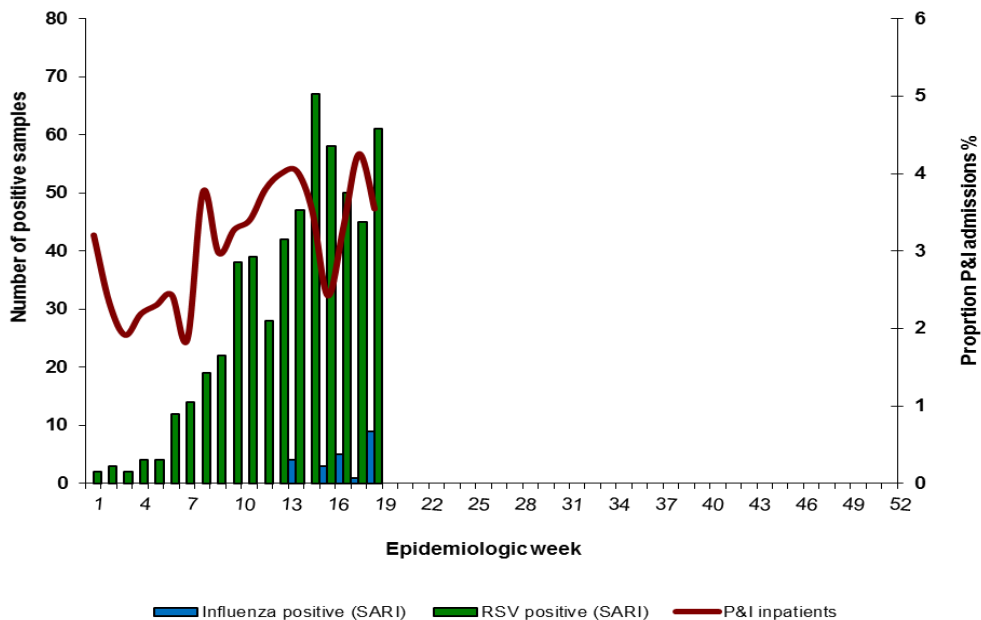
Figure 9. Number of private hospital outpatient consultations* with a diagnosis of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) and viral isolates**



* Hospital outpatient data from weekly reports of consultations to the Netcare hospital group. Discharge diagnosis is according to International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems coding by clinicians and does not represent laboratory confirmation of aetiology

** Influenza positive specimens from the Viral Watch surveillance programme

Figure 10. Number of private hospital admissions* with a discharge diagnosis of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) and viral isolates**



*Hospitalisation admission data from weekly reports of consultations to the Netcare hospital group. Discharge diagnosis is according to International Statistical Classification of diseases and Related Health Problems/ ICD by clinicians and does not represent laboratory confirmation of aetiology ** Influenza positive specimens from the national syndromic surveillance for pneumonia.