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Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Programme Descriptions

Programme	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	Viral Watch	National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia	Private hospital consultations
Start year	2012	1984	2009	2002
Provinces*	KZ NW WC**	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	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs	Throat and/or nasal swabs or Nasopharyngeal swabs	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs	Not applicable
Main pathogens tested***	INF RSV BP	INF RSV BP	INF RSV 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

**Started in 2019

***INF: influenza virus; RSV: respiratory syncytial virus; BP: *Bordetella pertussis*;

Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

Comments:

Influenza

The 2019 season started in week 16 (week ending 21 April) when influenza detection in the Viral Watch programme rose above the seasonal threshold, as determined by the Moving Epidemic Method. Influenza transmission is currently high and impact moderate.

ILI programme: In 2019 to date, specimens from 732 patients were received from 3 ILI sites. Influenza was detected in 48 specimens, 12 were identified as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 36 as influenza A(H3N2).

Viral Watch programme: During the same period, specimens were received from 342 patients from Viral Watch sites in 6 provinces. Influenza was detected in 186 patients, of which 16 were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 167 influenza A(H3N2) and three A subtype inconclusive. Of these, 5 gave a history of travel to the Northern Hemisphere.

Pneumonia surveillance: In this time period, specimens from 1812 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were received from the 6 sentinel sites. Influenza was detected in 43 patients, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in three, influenza A(H3N2) in 37, A subtype inconclusive in two and influenza B(Yamagata) in one.

Respiratory syncytial virus

The 2019 RSV season started in week 8 (week starting 18 February) when RSV detections in pneumonia surveillance rose above the seasonal threshold, as determined by the Moving Epidemic Method.

In 2019 to date, RSV has been detected in the specimens of 101 patients in the ILI programme, 557 patients in the pneumonia surveillance programme and in 13 patients in the Viral Watch programme. The detection rate for RSV is going down in pneumonia surveillance programme following a peak in week 17 (week starting 29 April).

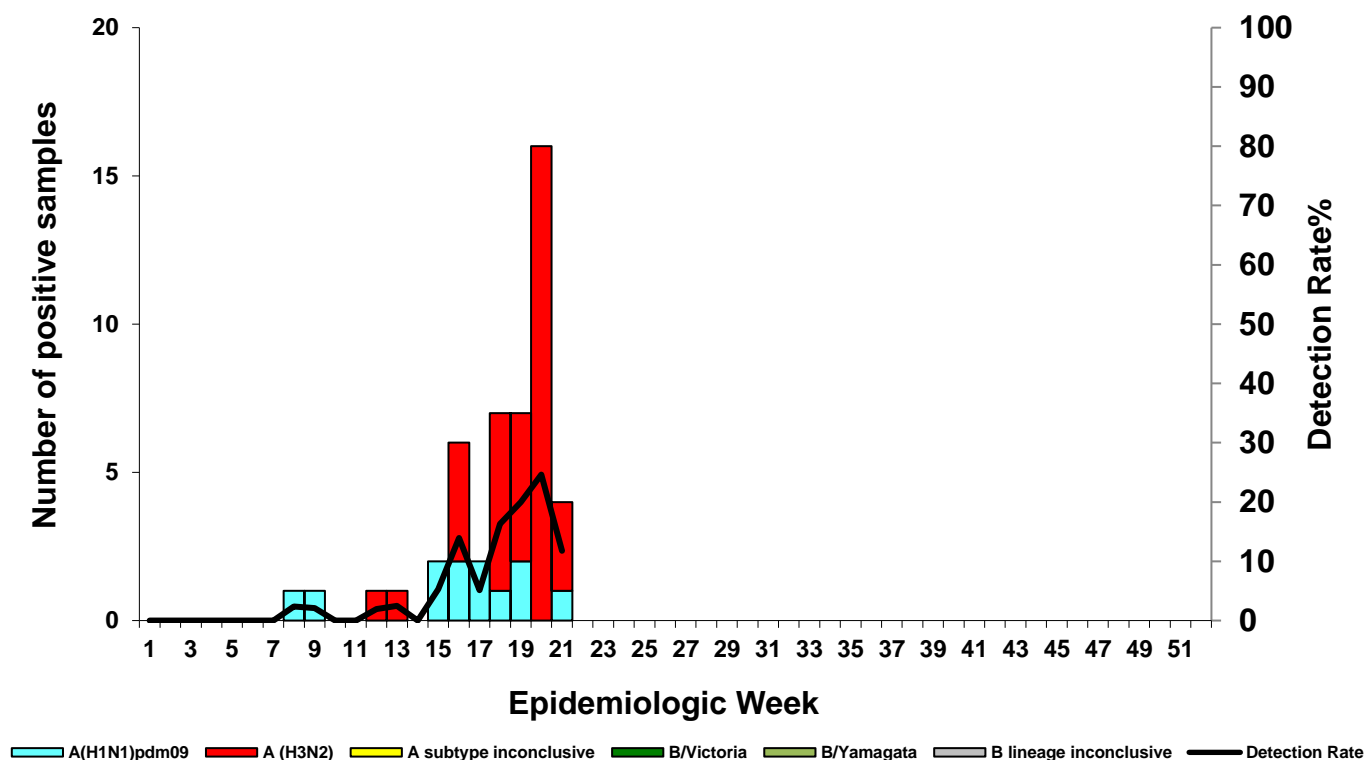
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

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

Figure 1. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage 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

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

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

Clinic (Province)	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/Victoria	B/Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	Total samples
Eastridge (WC)	11	36					460
Edendale Gateway (KZ)							36
Jouberton (NW)	1						236
Total:	12	36					732

KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; WCP: Western Cape

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

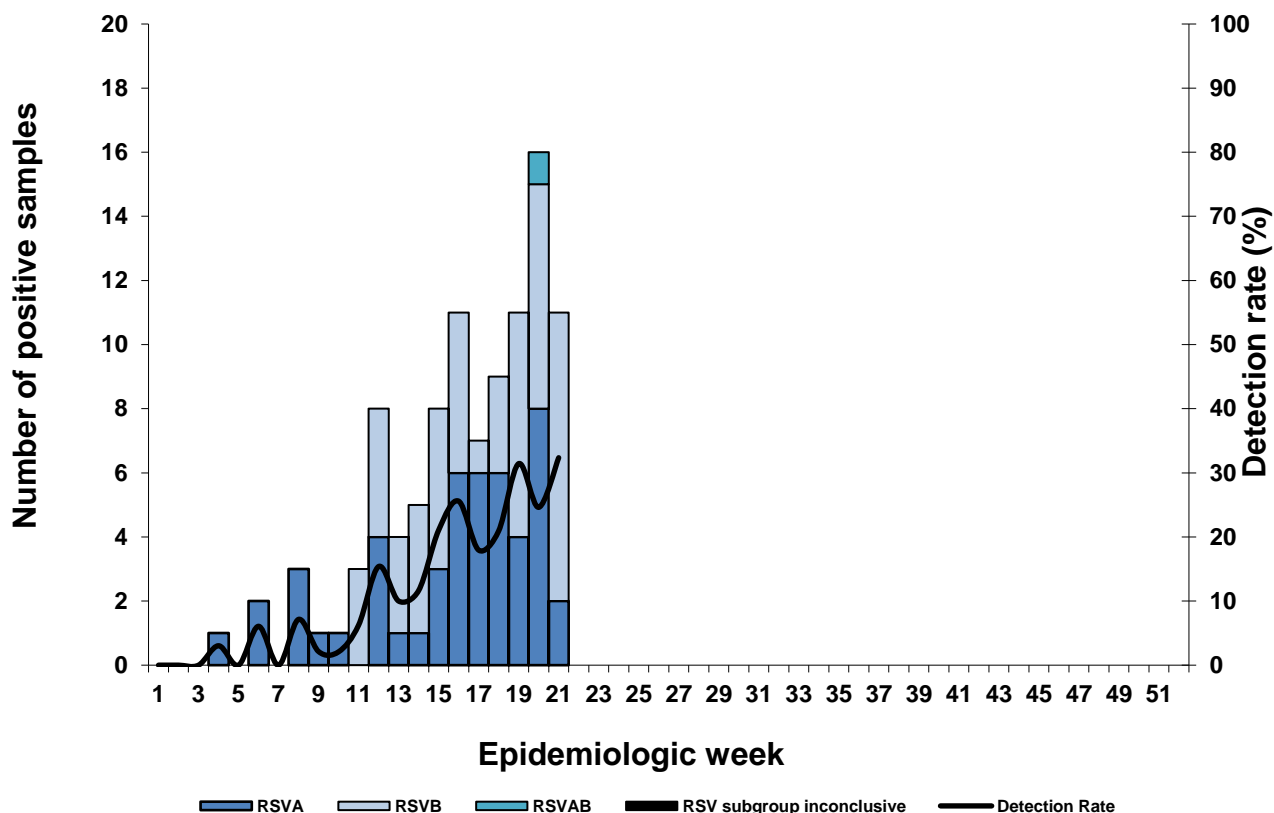
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Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

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

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



Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further
 RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified

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

Clinic (Province)	RSVA	RSVB	RSVAB	RSV subgroup inconclusive	Total samples
Eastridge (WC)	18	51	1		460
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	5				36
Jouberton (NW)	26				236
Total	49	51	1		732

KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; WC: Western Cape
 Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further
 RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified

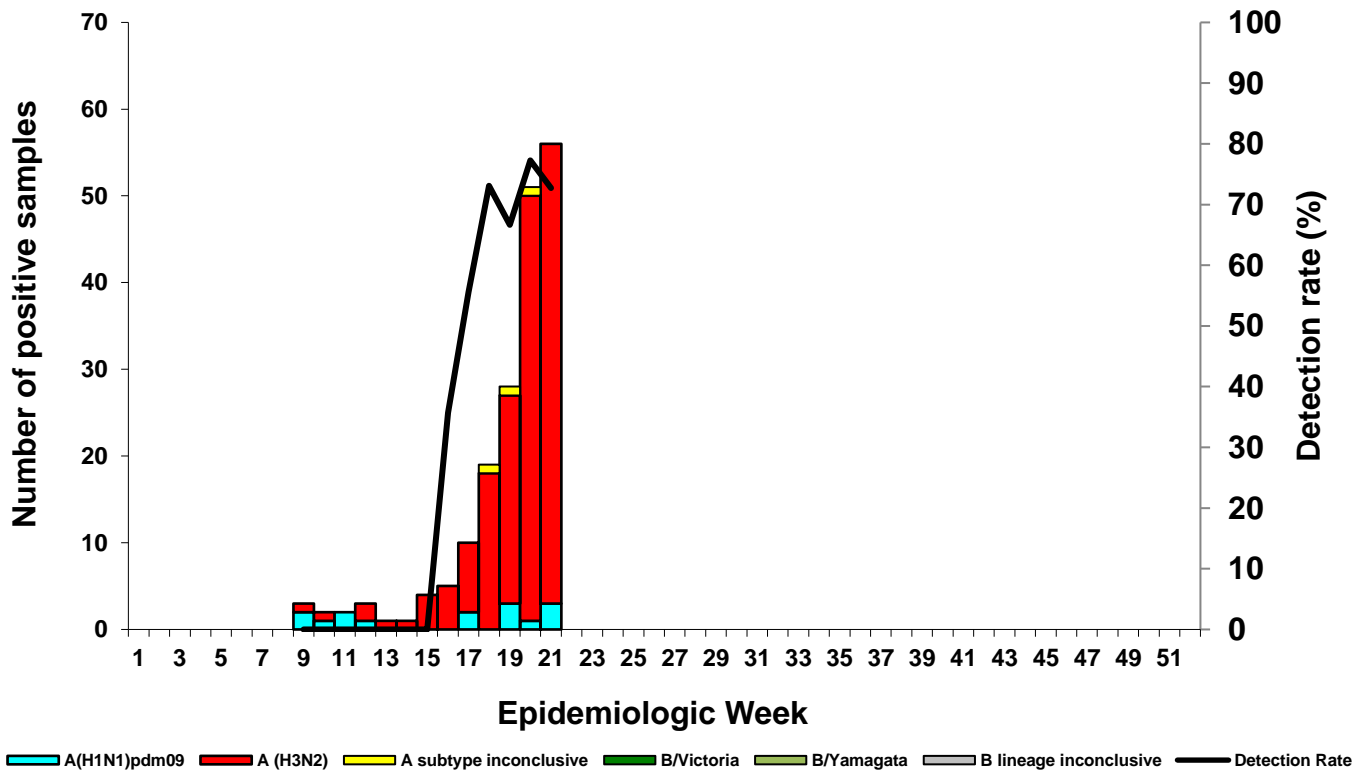
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Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance Viral Watch

Figure 4. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage and detection rate** by week

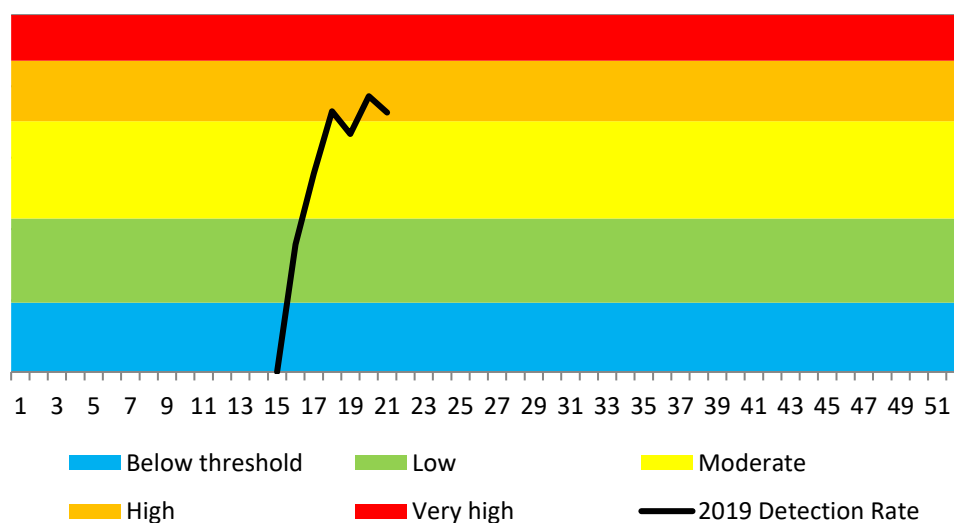


*Specimens from patients with Influenza-like illnesses at 90 sentinel sites in 8 provinces

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

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

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



*Thresholds based on 2008-2018 data (Excluding 2009)

Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

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Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

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

Province	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/Victoria	B/Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	Total samples
Eastern Cape	1	13	1				22
Free State		17					19
Gauteng	3	35					121
Limpopo							3
Mpumalanga	1	6					15
North West							0
Northern Cape							0
Western Cape	11	96	2				162
Total:	16	167	3				342

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

From 01 January 2019 to date, 24 patients were tested for influenza at the time of entry into South Africa following travel abroad and influenza was detected in two patients, of which one were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and one influenza A(H3N2).

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

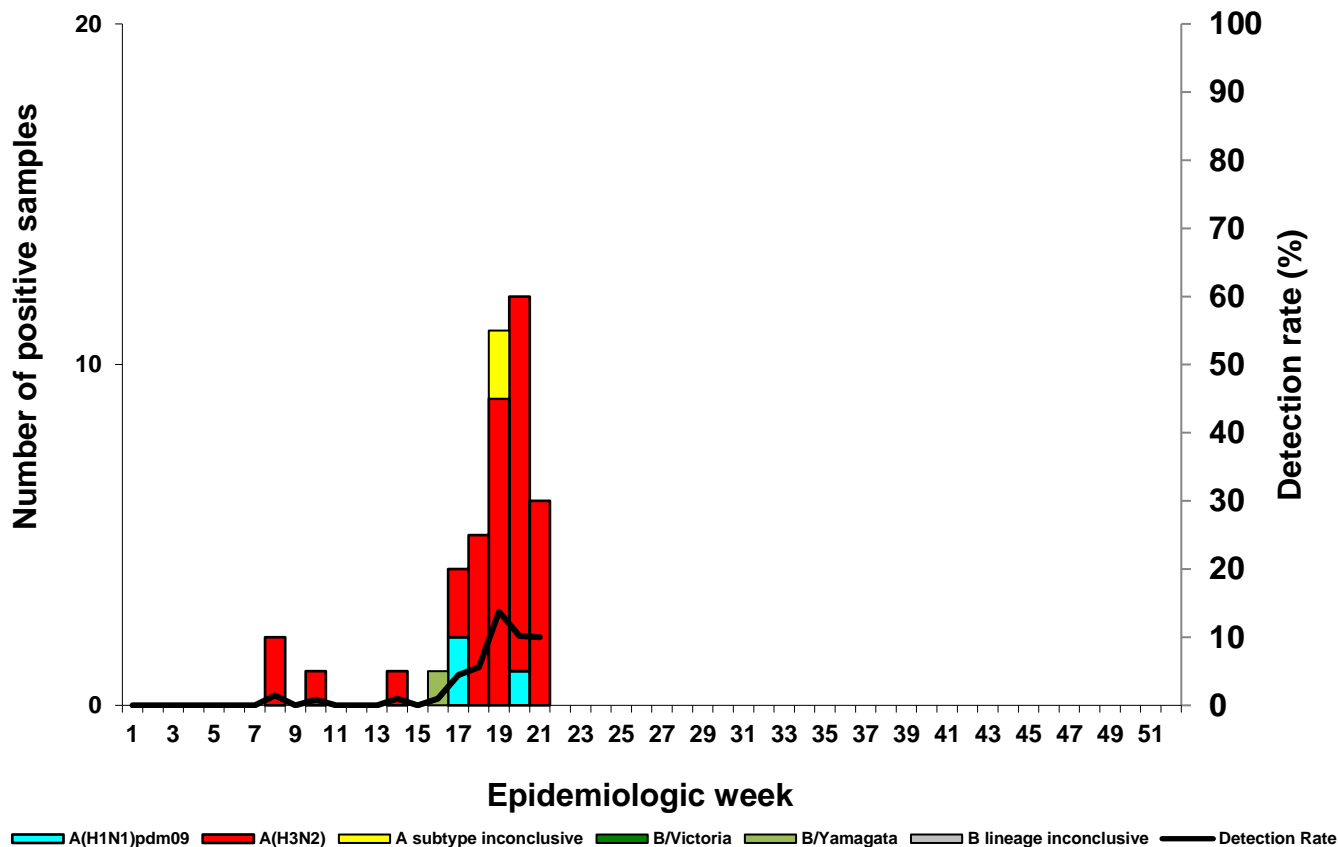
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia

Figure 6. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage and detection rate** by week

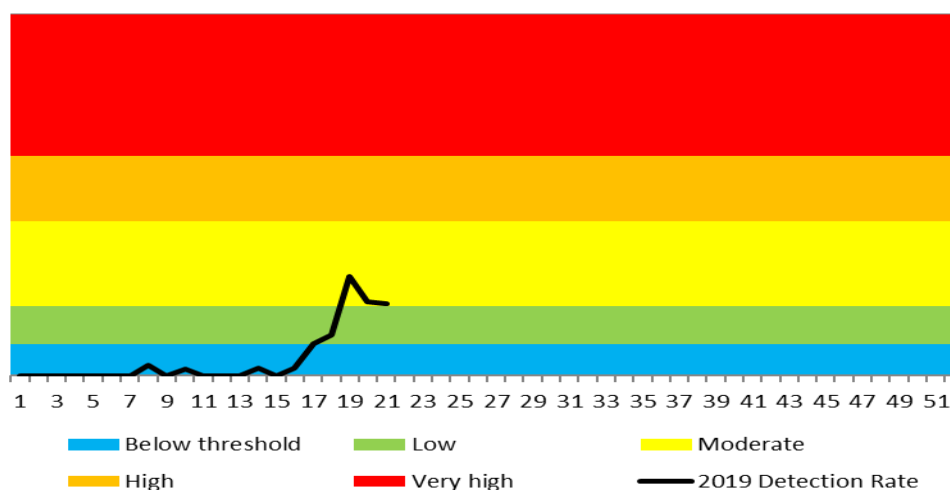


*Specimens from patients hospitalised with pneumonia at 6 sentinel sites in 5 provinces

**Only reported for weeks with >10 specimens submitted

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

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



*Thresholds based on 2010-2018 data

Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

Table 5. Cumulative number of identified influenza subtype and lineage and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/Victoria	B/Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)							363
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)		5	1				458
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)							238
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)		2	1		1		200
Red Cross (WC)	1	22					411
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	2	8					142
Total:	3	37	2		1		1812

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga; WC: Western Cape
 Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

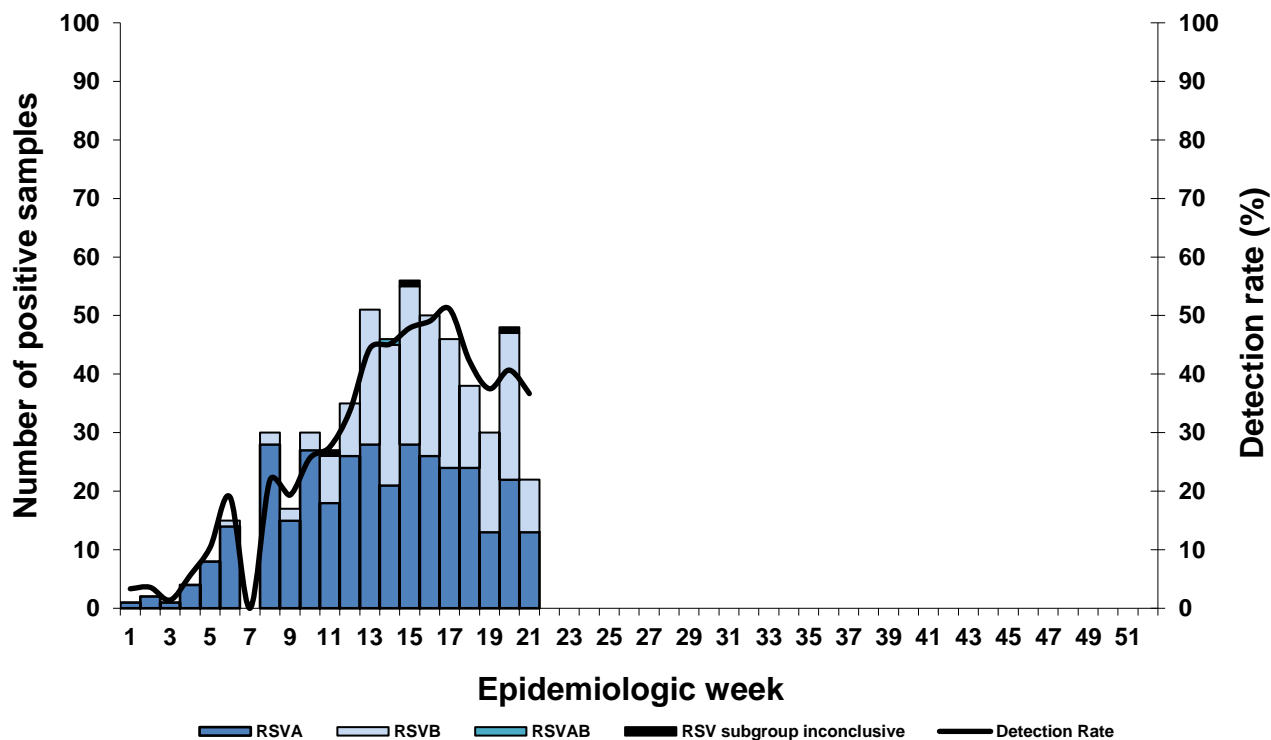
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 26/05/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 21(2019)

National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia

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



Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further
 RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified

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

Hospital (Province)	RSVA	RSVB	RSVAB	RSV subgroup inconclusive	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	121	6			363
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	93	45	1		458
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	23	5		1	238
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	45	1			200
Red Cross (WC)	44	119		2	411
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	17	35			142
Total:	343	211	1	3	1812

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga; WC: Western Cape
 Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further
 RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified

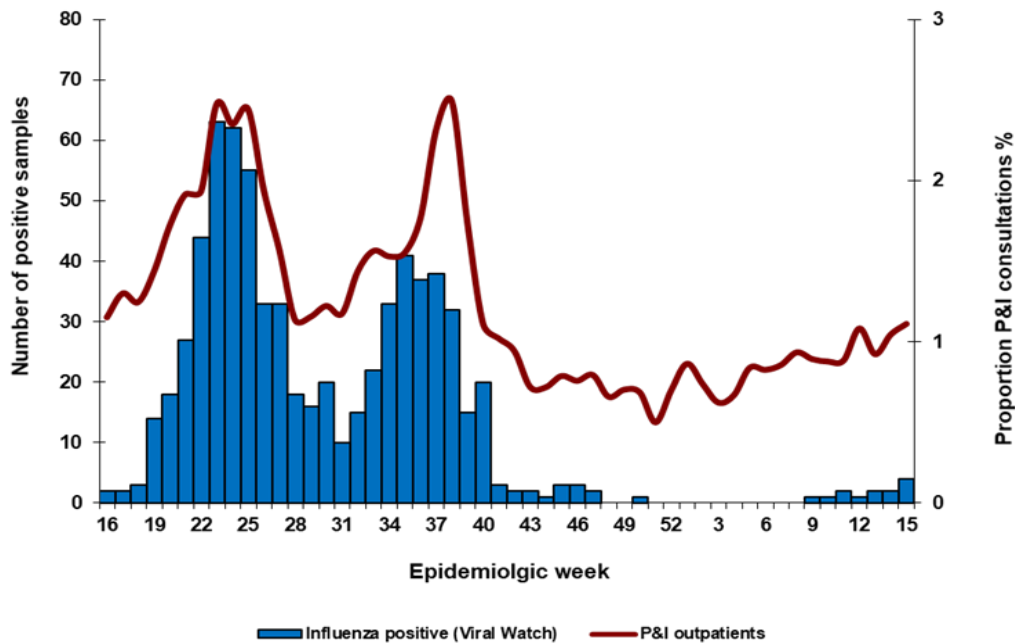
Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Report

Reporting period 16/04/2018 to 14/04/2019

Results until end of epidemiologic week 15(2019)

Private hospital consultations

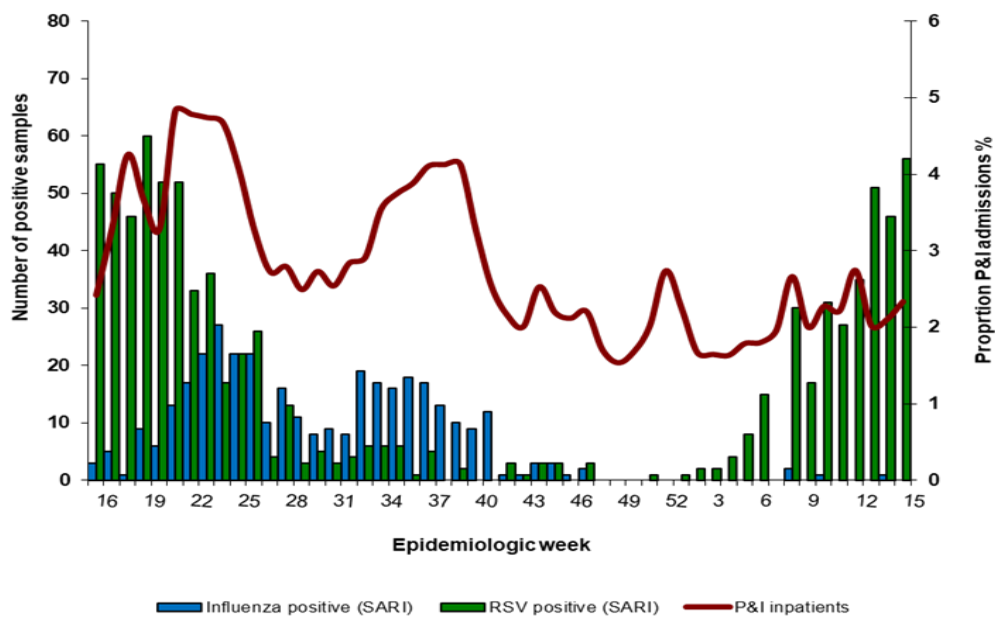
Figure 9. Number of private hospital outpatient consultations* with a diagnosis of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) and viral isolates**



* 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.