

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

OVERVIEW OF REPORT

This report summarises national laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, in South Africa. This report is based on data for specimens reported up to 5 December 2020 (Week 49 of 2020).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the period 1 March 2020 through 5 December 2020, 4,710,539 laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2 were conducted nationally
- Weekly testing volumes have decreased since a peak in week 28. The number of tests performed in week 49 was higher than the weekly number of tests performed since week 32 (beginning 2 August)
- Western Cape (468 per 100,000 persons) and Eastern Cape (322 per 100,000 persons) provinces had the highest testing rates in week 49
- Percentage testing positive decreased from a peak of 30.5% in week 29 to 9.5% in week 43. In week 49 the percentage testing positive was 16.6%, higher than has been observed since week 34 (beginning 16 August)
- Percentage testing positive was highest in the Eastern Cape (33.4%), Western Cape (25.0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14.8%), and was <10% in Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.
- In week 49, compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive increased in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo, and did not change in the Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga.
- Mean laboratory turnaround time in week 49 was 1.5 days; 2.4 days in the public sector and <1 day in the private sector.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Methods

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 began on 28 January 2020 at the NICD and after the first case was confirmed on 5th March 2020, testing was expanded to a larger network of private and NHLS laboratories. Laboratory testing was conducted for people meeting the case definition for persons under investigation (PUI). This definition was updated several times over the reporting period but at different times included (i) symptomatic individuals seeking testing, (ii) hospitalized individuals for whom testing was done, (iii) individuals in high-risk occupations, (iv) individuals in outbreak settings, and (v) individuals identified through community screening and testing (CST) programmes which were implemented in April 2020 and was discontinued from the week beginning 17th May. CST was implemented differently in different provinces, and ranged from mass screening approaches (including asymptomatic individuals) to screening of individuals in contact with a confirmed case to targeted testing of clusters of cases. Respiratory specimens were submitted to testing laboratories. Testing was performed using reverse transcriptase real-time PCR, which detects SARS-CoV-2 viral genetic material. Laboratories used any one of several in-house and commercial PCR assays to test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 using rapid antigen-based tests was implemented during November 2020.

Test results were automatically fed into a data warehouse after result authorisation. We excluded specimens collected outside South Africa and duplicate test results for an individual. From week 48 onwards, test data was reported from the Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System (NMCCS). Date of specimen receipt in the laboratory was used when date of specimen collection was missing. Proportion testing positive (PTP) was calculated as the number of positive tests/total number of tests and presented as percentage by multiplying with 100. We used 2020 mid-year population estimates from Statistics South Africa to calculate the testing rate, expressed as tests per 100 000 persons. Patient admission status was determined for public

sector tests based on the reported patient facility. Laboratory turnaround times were calculated as the mean number of days between specimen collection and reporting of the result. Categorical variables were compared using the chi-squared test, and continuous variables with the students t-test, with a P-value<0.05 considered statistically significant.

Health district and sub-district level results included only public sector data, and were mapped based on the testing facility. Estimates of overall prevalence were derived using regression techniques. Estimates were adjusted to produce district-specific positive test prevalence based on the average age profile, the average sex composition, and the average balance between clinical and CST tests across the entire public testing data for the week. This adjustment allows more accurate comparison of the proportion testing positive across districts.

The report includes tests conducted between 1 March 2020 (week 10), the week when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed, and 5 December 2020 (week 49).

Testing volumes and proportion testing positive

From 1 March through 5 December 2020, 4,710,539 laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2 were performed. The number of tests performed increased to week 28, with the highest number of tests performed in week 28 (n=268,904), and subsequently decreased. In week 49, 138,646 tests were performed, higher than the weekly number of tests performed since week 32. All tests for samples collected in the previous week may not yet be reflected. Reduced testing volumes were observed over weekends and public holidays (Figure 1).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

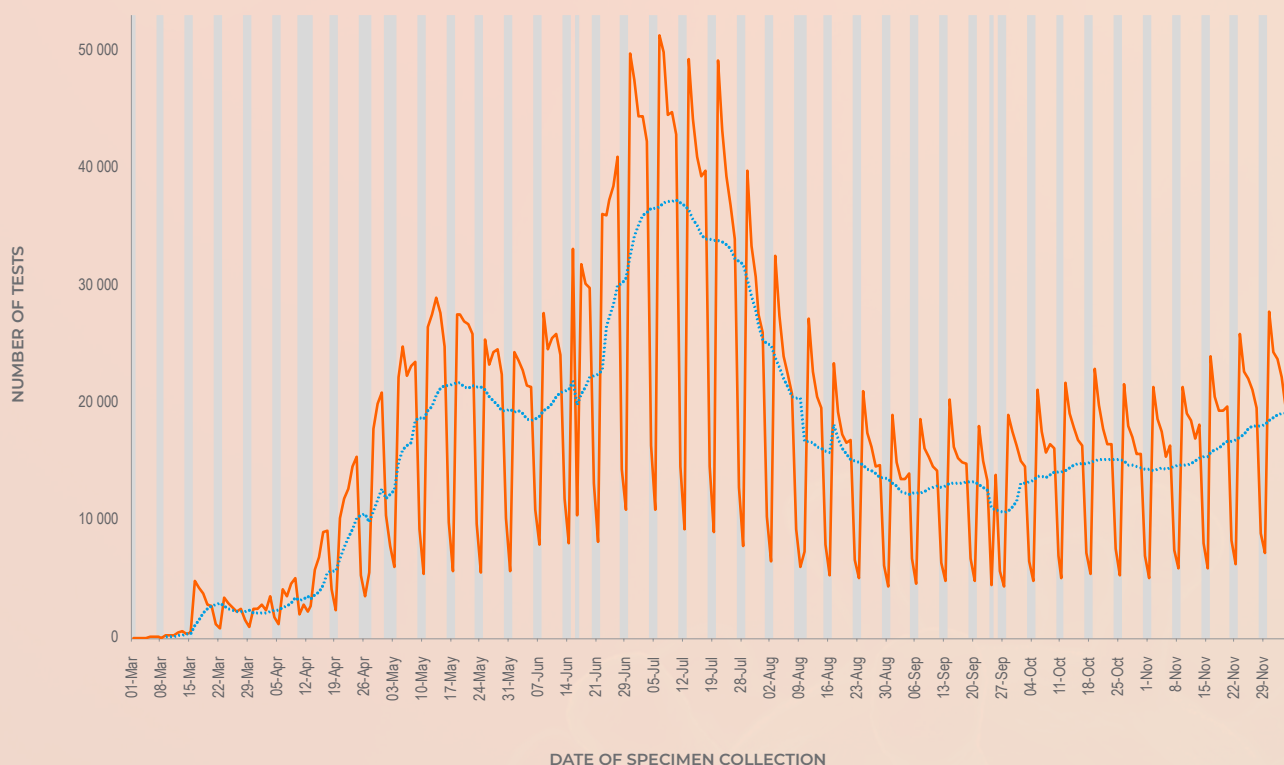


Figure 1. Number of laboratory tests conducted by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March – 5 December 2020. Blue dotted line shows the 7-day moving average of the number of tests conducted. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays.

The overall percentage testing positive from week 10 through 49 was 16.0% (Table 1). The percentage testing positive increased week on week from week 18 to a peak of 30.5% in week 29, and subsequently decreased to 9.5% in week 43. The percentage testing positive in week 49 was 16.6%, higher than has been observed since week 34 (beginning 16 August) (Figure 2).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Table 1. Weekly number of tests conducted and positive tests, South Africa, 1 March – 5 December 2020

| Week number | Week beginning | No. of tests n (%) | No. of positive tests | Percentage testing positive (%) |
|--------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10 | 01-Mar | 409 (0.0) | 8 | 2.0 |
| 11 | 08-Mar | 2275 (0.0) | 71 | 3.1 |
| 12 | 15-Mar | 20902 (0.4) | 657 | 3.1 |
| 13 | 22-Mar | 16814 (0.4) | 409 | 2.4 |
| 14 | 29-Mar | 17184 (0.4) | 374 | 2.2 |
| 15 | 05-Apr | 24479 (0.5) | 522 | 2.1 |
| 16 | 12-Apr | 41623 (0.9) | 981 | 2.4 |
| 17 | 19-Apr | 75597 (1.6) | 1851 | 2.4 |
| 18 | 26-Apr | 89233 (1.9) | 2781 | 3.1 |
| 19 | 03-May | 136363 (2.9) | 5286 | 3.9 |
| 20 | 10-May | 156615 (3.3) | 7129 | 4.6 |
| 21 | 17-May | 155817 (3.3) | 10046 | 6.4 |
| 22 | 24-May | 141111 (3.0) | 11037 | 7.8 |
| 23 | 31-May | 135420 (2.9) | 12755 | 9.4 |
| 24 | 07-Jun | 153157 (3.3) | 18784 | 12.3 |
| 25 | 14-Jun | 162584 (3.5) | 27996 | 17.2 |
| 26 | 21-Jun | 219510 (4.7) | 48153 | 21.9 |
| 27 | 28-Jun | 265417 (5.6) | 66459 | 25.0 |
| 28 | 05-Jul | 268904 (5.7) | 76551 | 28.5 |
| 29 | 12-Jul | 246654 (5.2) | 75161 | 30.5 |
| 30 | 19-Jul | 232915 (4.9) | 69687 | 29.9 |
| 31 | 26-Jul | 182374 (3.9) | 51382 | 28.2 |
| 32 | 02-Aug | 148614 (3.2) | 35379 | 23.8 |
| 33 | 09-Aug | 115854 (2.5) | 22400 | 19.3 |
| 34 | 16-Aug | 109356 (2.3) | 18268 | 16.7 |
| 35 | 23-Aug | 99154 (2.1) | 14036 | 14.2 |
| 36 | 30-Aug | 89674 (1.9) | 10872 | 12.1 |
| 37 | 06-Sep | 93439 (2.0) | 10365 | 11.1 |
| 38 | 13-Sep | 96943 (2.1) | 10504 | 10.8 |
| 39 | 20-Sep | 78655 (1.7) | 8800 | 11.2 |
| 40 | 27-Sep | 97038 (2.1) | 9602 | 9.9 |
| 41 | 04-Oct | 102969 (2.2) | 10295 | 10.0 |
| 42 | 11-Oct | 108306 (2.3) | 10464 | 9.7 |
| 43 | 18-Oct | 110749 (2.4) | 10495 | 9.5 |
| 44 | 25-Oct | 104392 (2.2) | 9970 | 9.6 |
| 45 | 01-Nov | 105983 (2.2) | 10531 | 9.9 |
| 46 | 08-Nov | 112187 (2.4) | 12963 | 11.6 |
| 47 | 15-Nov | 121792 (2.6) | 16536 | 13.6 |
| 48 | 22-Nov | 131431 (2.8) | 19166 | 14.6 |
| 49 | 29-Nov | 138646 (2.9) | 23074 | 16.6 |
| Total | | 4710539 (100.0) | 751800 | 16.0 |

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

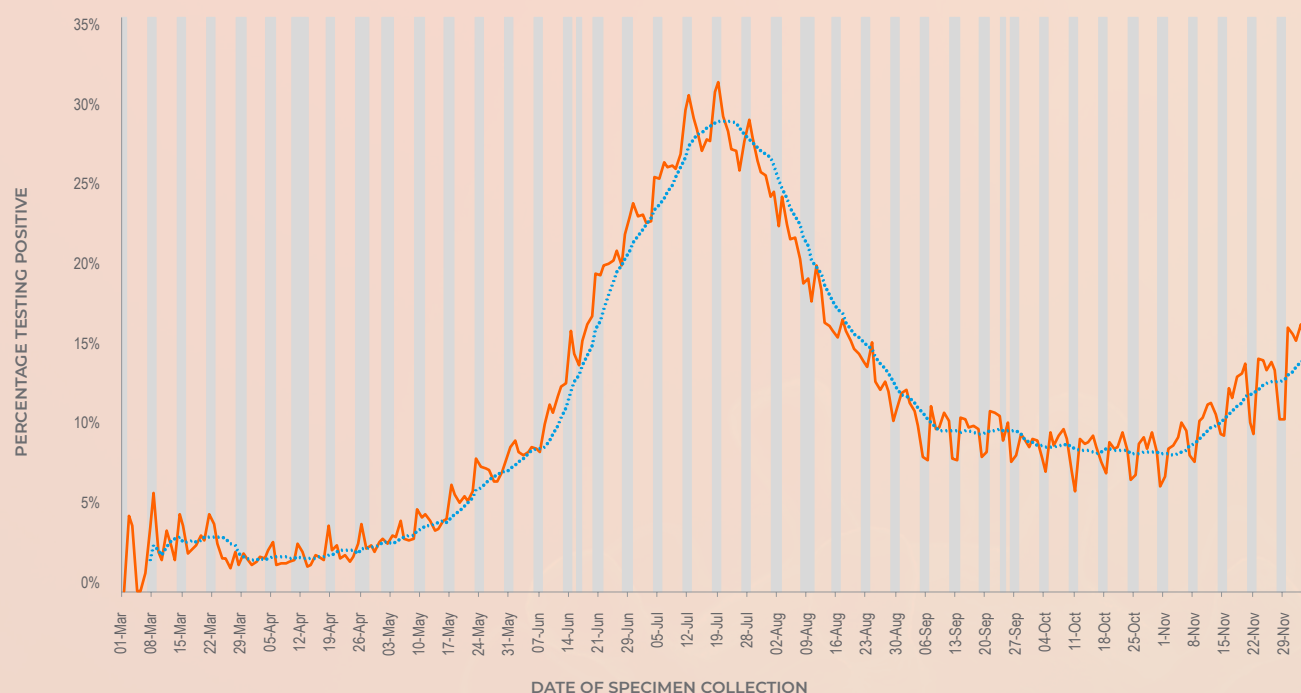


Figure 2. Percentage of laboratory tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March – 5 December 2020. Blue dotted line shows the 7-day moving average of the percentage testing positive. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays.

Testing in private and public sectors

From 1 March through 5 December, 2,176,460 laboratory tests were conducted in public sector laboratories, with 15.7% testing positive. Over this same period, private sector laboratories conducted 2,534,079 tests, with 16.2% testing positive (Table 2). Overall the public sector has conducted 46.2% of tests and accounted for 45.4% of positive tests. The peak percentage testing positive was observed in week 30 in the public sector (29.5%), and in week 29 in the private sector (31.5%). From week 48 to week 49, the percentage testing positive increased by 2.0% in the public sector (17.1% in week 48 to 19.1% in week 49, $P < 0.001$), and increased by 2.8% in the private sector (12.1% to 14.9%, $P < 0.001$). In week 49 the

percentage testing positive continued to be higher in the public sector (19.1%) compared to the private sector (14.9%) ($P < 0.001$).

The mean turnaround time for tests conducted in week 49 was 1.5 days. Turnaround time increased in the public sector (2.4 days) and decreased in the private sector (0.8 days) (Figure 3). Turnaround times for public sector tests were >2 days in Eastern Cape (3.8 days) and Mpumalanga (3.3 days) (Figure 4). Turnaround times in the past week increased in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. Thirteen of the 28 (46.4%) NHLS laboratories performing testing for SARS-CoV-2 had turnaround times ≤ 2 days (Figure 5).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Table 2. Weekly number of tests conducted and positive tests, by healthcare sector, South Africa, 1 March – 5 December 2020

| Week number | Week beginning | Public sector | | Private sector | | Public sector percentage of | | Ratio of PTP ^a |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Tests | Cases n (%) | Tests | Positive tests n (%) | Tests (%) | Positive tests (%) | |
| 10 | 01-Mar | 251 | 5 (2.0) | 158 | 3 (1.9) | 61.4 | 62.5 | 1.049 |
| 11 | 08-Mar | 352 | 12 (3.4) | 1923 | 59 (3.1) | 15.5 | 16.9 | 1.111 |
| 12 | 15-Mar | 1345 | 51 (3.8) | 19557 | 606 (3.1) | 6.4 | 7.8 | 1.224 |
| 13 | 22-Mar | 3358 | 127 (3.8) | 13456 | 282 (2.1) | 20.0 | 31.1 | 1.805 |
| 14 | 29-Mar | 5632 | 174 (3.1) | 11552 | 200 (1.7) | 32.8 | 46.5 | 1.784 |
| 15 | 05-Apr | 11335 | 331 (2.9) | 13144 | 191 (1.5) | 46.3 | 63.4 | 2.010 |
| 16 | 12-Apr | 23758 | 612 (2.6) | 17865 | 369 (2.1) | 57.1 | 62.4 | 1.247 |
| 17 | 19-Apr | 54140 | 1475 (2.7) | 21457 | 376 (1.8) | 71.6 | 79.7 | 1.555 |
| 18 | 26-Apr | 66239 | 2291 (3.5) | 22994 | 490 (2.1) | 74.2 | 82.4 | 1.623 |
| 19 | 03-May | 92292 | 4220 (4.6) | 44071 | 1066 (2.4) | 67.7 | 79.8 | 1.890 |
| 20 | 10-May | 104950 | 5072 (4.8) | 51665 | 2057 (4.0) | 67.0 | 71.1 | 1.214 |
| 21 | 17-May | 95404 | 6590 (6.9) | 60413 | 3456 (5.7) | 61.2 | 65.6 | 1.207 |
| 22 | 24-May | 74225 | 5933 (8.0) | 66886 | 5104 (7.6) | 52.6 | 53.8 | 1.047 |
| 23 | 31-May | 60213 | 6080 (10.1) | 75207 | 6675 (8.9) | 44.5 | 47.7 | 1.138 |
| 24 | 07-Jun | 59926 | 7301 (12.2) | 93231 | 11483 (12.3) | 39.1 | 38.9 | 0.989 |
| 25 | 14-Jun | 55929 | 11006 (19.7) | 106655 | 16990 (15.9) | 34.4 | 39.3 | 1.235 |
| 26 | 21-Jun | 82472 | 18743 (22.7) | 137038 | 29410 (21.5) | 37.6 | 38.9 | 1.059 |
| 27 | 28-Jun | 97308 | 25084 (25.8) | 168109 | 41375 (24.6) | 36.7 | 37.7 | 1.047 |
| 28 | 05-Jul | 107953 | 30201 (28.0) | 160951 | 46350 (28.8) | 40.1 | 39.5 | 0.971 |
| 29 | 12-Jul | 101290 | 29350 (29.0) | 145364 | 45811 (31.5) | 41.1 | 39.0 | 0.919 |
| 30 | 19-Jul | 96201 | 28427 (29.5) | 136714 | 41260 (30.2) | 41.3 | 40.8 | 0.979 |
| 31 | 26-Jul | 73894 | 21388 (28.9) | 108480 | 29994 (27.6) | 40.5 | 41.6 | 1.047 |
| 32 | 02-Aug | 64136 | 15793 (24.6) | 84478 | 19586 (23.2) | 43.2 | 44.6 | 1.062 |
| 33 | 09-Aug | 53686 | 10430 (19.4) | 62168 | 11970 (19.3) | 46.3 | 46.6 | 1.009 |
| 34 | 16-Aug | 50907 | 8943 (17.6) | 58449 | 9325 (16.0) | 46.6 | 49.0 | 1.101 |
| 35 | 23-Aug | 45499 | 7243 (15.9) | 53655 | 6793 (12.7) | 45.9 | 51.6 | 1.257 |
| 36 | 30-Aug | 41070 | 5628 (13.7) | 48604 | 5244 (10.8) | 45.8 | 51.8 | 1.270 |
| 37 | 06-Sep | 46391 | 5991 (12.9) | 47048 | 4374 (9.3) | 49.6 | 57.8 | 1.389 |
| 38 | 13-Sep | 49091 | 6119 (12.5) | 47852 | 4385 (9.2) | 50.6 | 58.3 | 1.360 |
| 39 | 20-Sep | 40920 | 5134 (12.5) | 37735 | 3666 (9.7) | 52.0 | 58.3 | 1.291 |
| 40 | 27-Sep | 44227 | 5212 (11.8) | 52811 | 4390 (8.3) | 45.6 | 54.3 | 1.418 |
| 41 | 04-Oct | 45566 | 5271 (11.6) | 57403 | 5024 (8.8) | 44.3 | 51.2 | 1.322 |
| 42 | 11-Oct | 48216 | 5305 (11.0) | 60090 | 5159 (8.6) | 44.5 | 50.7 | 1.282 |
| 43 | 18-Oct | 50200 | 5603 (11.2) | 60549 | 4892 (8.1) | 45.3 | 53.4 | 1.381 |
| 44 | 25-Oct | 45604 | 5313 (11.7) | 58788 | 4657 (7.9) | 43.7 | 53.3 | 1.471 |
| 45 | 01-Nov | 47092 | 5582 (11.9) | 58891 | 4949 (8.4) | 44.4 | 53.0 | 1.411 |
| 46 | 08-Nov | 52597 | 7475 (14.2) | 59590 | 5488 (9.2) | 46.9 | 57.7 | 1.543 |
| 47 | 15-Nov | 59423 | 9740 (16.4) | 62369 | 6796 (10.9) | 48.8 | 58.9 | 1.504 |
| 48 | 22-Nov | 64661 | 11086 (17.1) | 66770 | 8080 (12.1) | 49.2 | 57.8 | 1.417 |
| 49 | 29-Nov | 58707 | 11186 (19.1) | 79939 | 11888 (14.9) | 42.3 | 48.5 | 1.281 |
| Total | | 2176460 | 341527 (15.7) | 2534079 | 410273 (16.2) | 46.2 | 45.4 | 0.969 |

^aRatio of percentage testing positive (PTP) in the public sector to the private sector calculated as (no. of cases/total tests in public sector)/ (no. of cases/total tests in private sector)

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

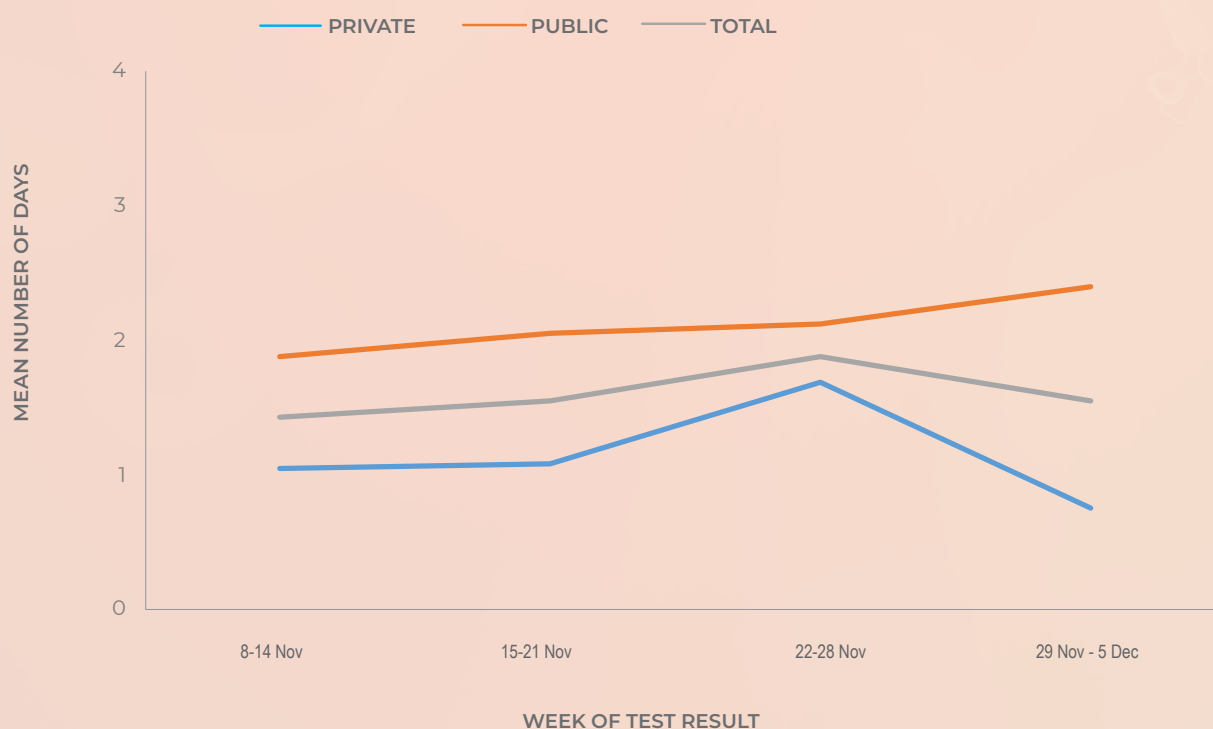


Figure 3. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result, by week of test result, South Africa, 8 November – 5 December 2020

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

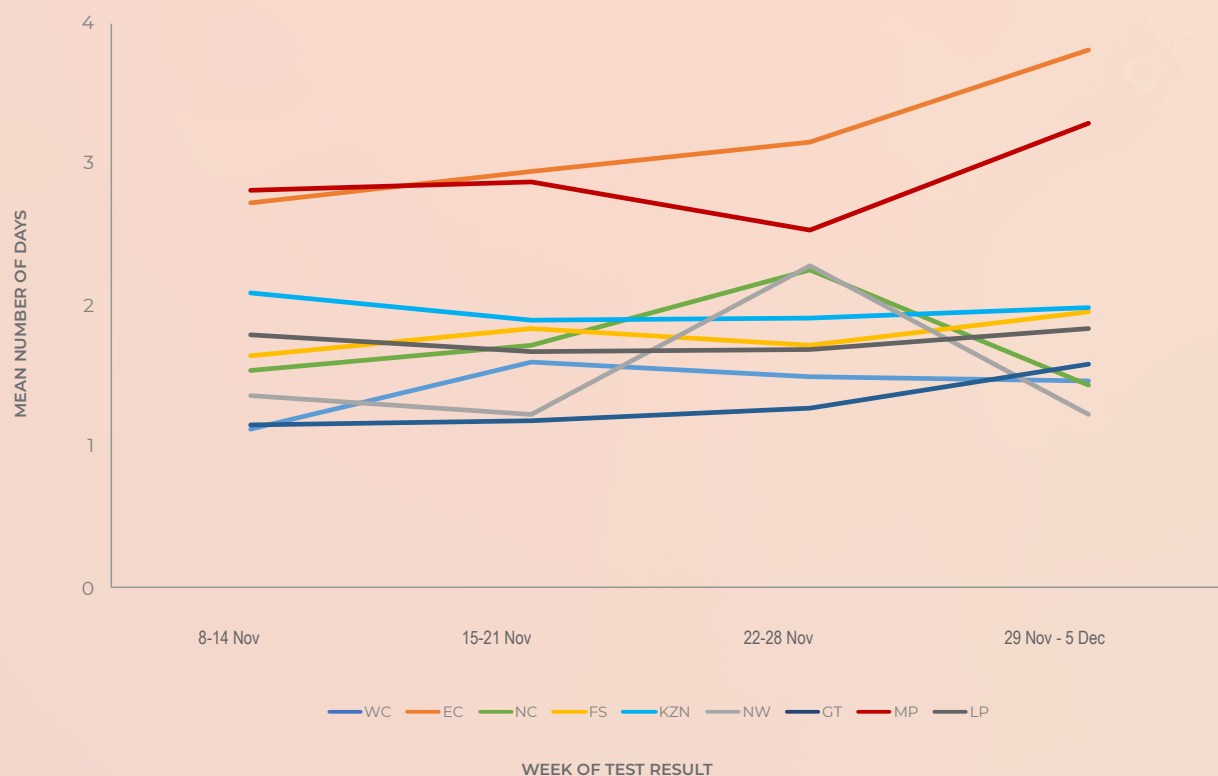


Figure 4. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result, by week of test result and province, public sector, South Africa, 8 November – 5 December 2020. WC, Western Cape; EC, Eastern Cape; FS, Free State; KZN, KwaZulu-Natal; GT, Gauteng; NC, Northern Cape; NW, North West; MP, Mpumalanga; LP, Limpopo

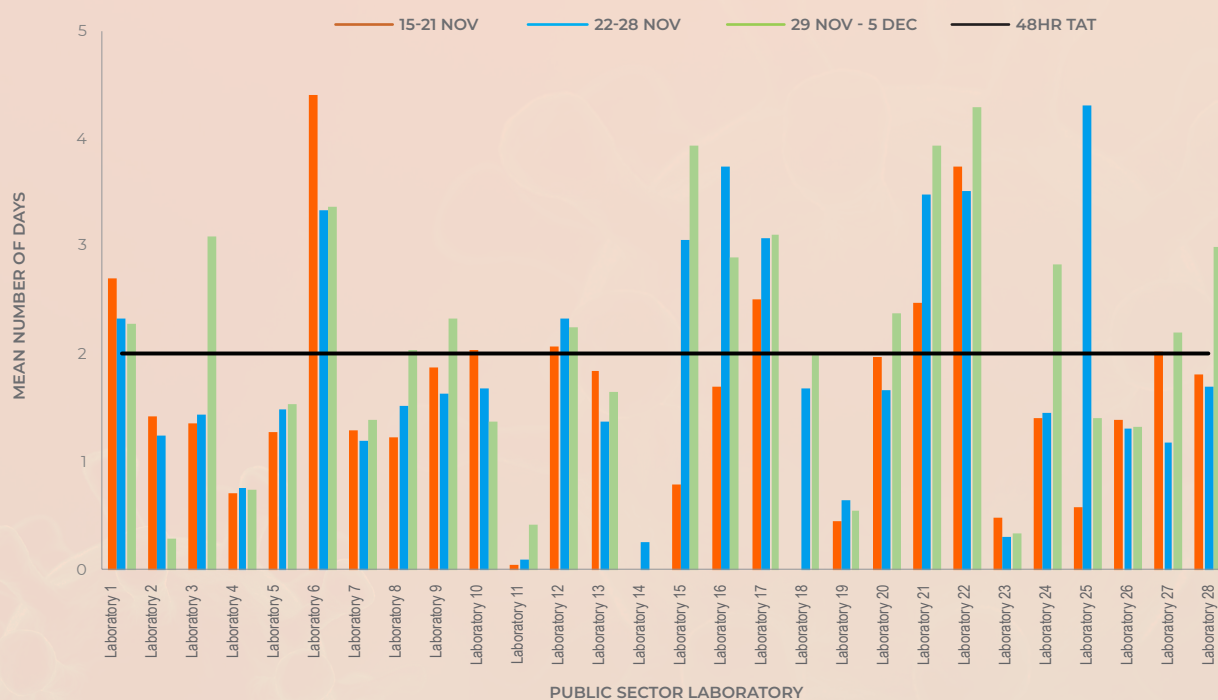


Figure 5. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result, by public sector laboratory, 15 November – 5 December 2020. The horizontal black line indicates 48-hour turnaround time (TAT).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

Testing by province

Gauteng (30.1%) performed the largest number of tests in week 49, followed by Western Cape (23.6%), KwaZulu-Natal (16.9%) and Eastern Cape (15.7%) provinces (Table 3). Western Cape (468 per 100,000 persons) and Eastern Cape (322 per 100,000 persons) provinces had the highest testing rates in week 49 (Figure 6). Testing rates increased in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in the past week, and decreased in the Eastern Cape.

The percentage testing positive in week 49 was highest in the Eastern Cape (33.4%), Western Cape (25.0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14.8%). Percentages testing positive were <10% in Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo in week 49

(Figure 7). Compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive in week 49 increased in six of the nine provinces: Western Cape ($P<0.001$), Eastern Cape ($P<0.001$), Free State ($P<0.001$), KwaZulu-Natal ($P<0.001$), Gauteng ($P<0.001$) and Limpopo ($P=0.011$). The percentage testing positive in week 49 compared to week 48 did not change in Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga. The percentage testing positive was higher than the national average, not weighted for population size, in the Eastern Cape, and Western Cape provinces (Figure 7).

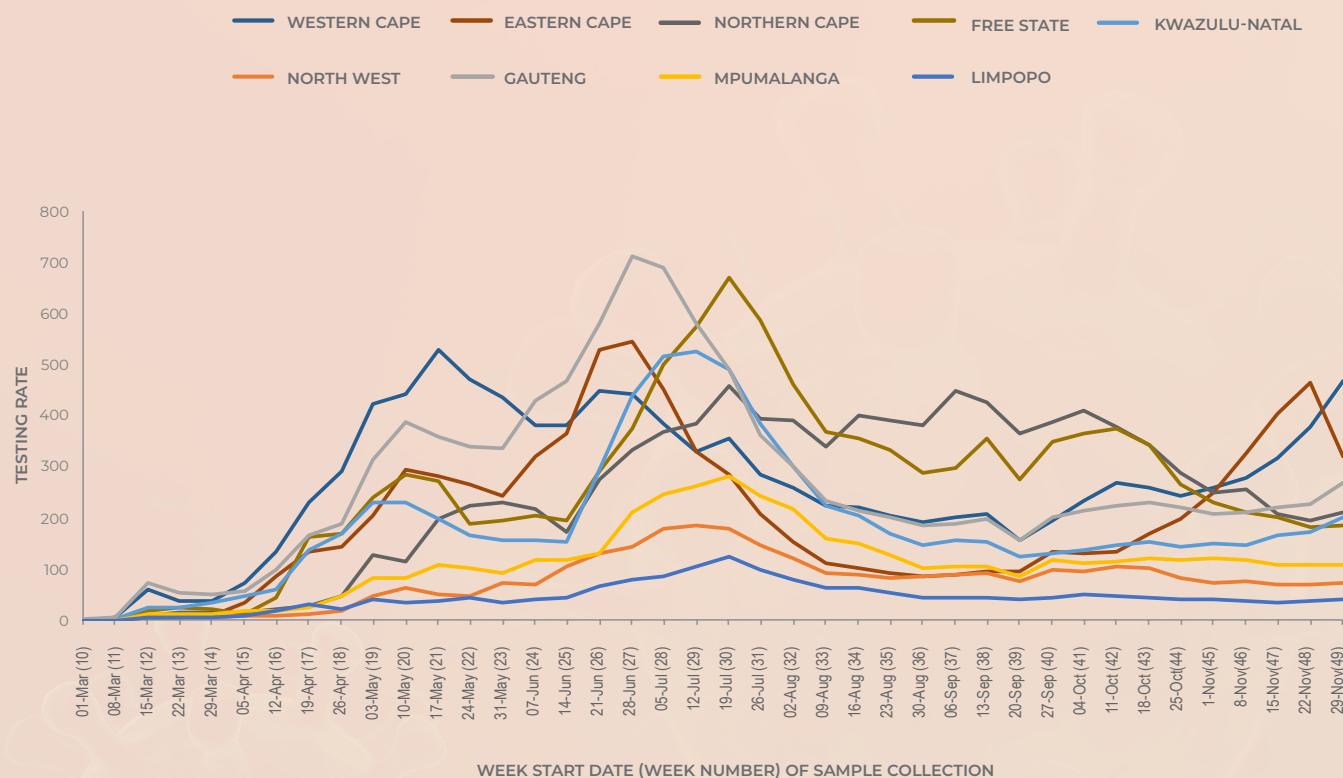


Figure 6. Testing rate per 100,000 persons by province and week of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March – 5 December 2020

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

Table 3. Weekly number of tests performed and positive tests, by province, South Africa, 15 November – 5 December 2020

| Province | Population ^a | 15-21 Nov | | 22-28 Nov | | 29 Nov – 5 Dec | | Tests per 100,000 persons | Change in percentage positive ^b |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) | | |
| Western Cape | 7005741 | 22330 | 3708 (16.6) | 26587 | 5488 (20.6) | 32771 | 8189 (25.0) | 468 | 4.3% |
| Eastern Cape | 6734001 | 27332 | 9109 (33.3) | 31289 | 9301 (29.7) | 21702 | 7240 (33.4) | 322 | 3.6% |
| Northern Cape | 1292786 | 2707 | 201 (7.4) | 2542 | 192 (7.6) | 2734 | 210 (7.7) | 211 | 0.1% |
| Free State | 2928903 | 5931 | 295 (5.0) | 5338 | 231 (4.3) | 5426 | 349 (6.4) | 185 | 2.1% |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 11531628 | 19340 | 1164 (6.0) | 20002 | 1625 (8.1) | 23411 | 3457 (14.8) | 203 | 6.6% |
| North West | 4108816 | 2840 | 189 (6.7) | 2960 | 165 (5.6) | 3025 | 191 (6.3) | 74 | 0.7% |
| Gauteng | 15488137 | 34166 | 1400 (4.1) | 35430 | 1701 (4.8) | 41778 | 2885 (6.9) | 270 | 2.1% |
| Mpumalanga | 4679786 | 5061 | 335 (6.6) | 5116 | 309 (6.0) | 5176 | 328 (6.3) | 111 | 0.3% |
| Limpopo | 5852553 | 2079 | 134 (6.4) | 2166 | 154 (7.1) | 2352 | 216 (9.2) | 40 | 2.1% |
| Unknown | | 6 | 1 (16.7) | 1 | 0 (0.0) | 271 | 9 (3.3) | | 3.3% |
| Total | 59622350 | 121792 | 16536 (13.6) | 131431 | 19166 (14.6) | 138646 | 23074 (16.6) | 233 | 2.1% |

^a 2020 Mid-year population Statistics SA

^b Current week compared to previous week

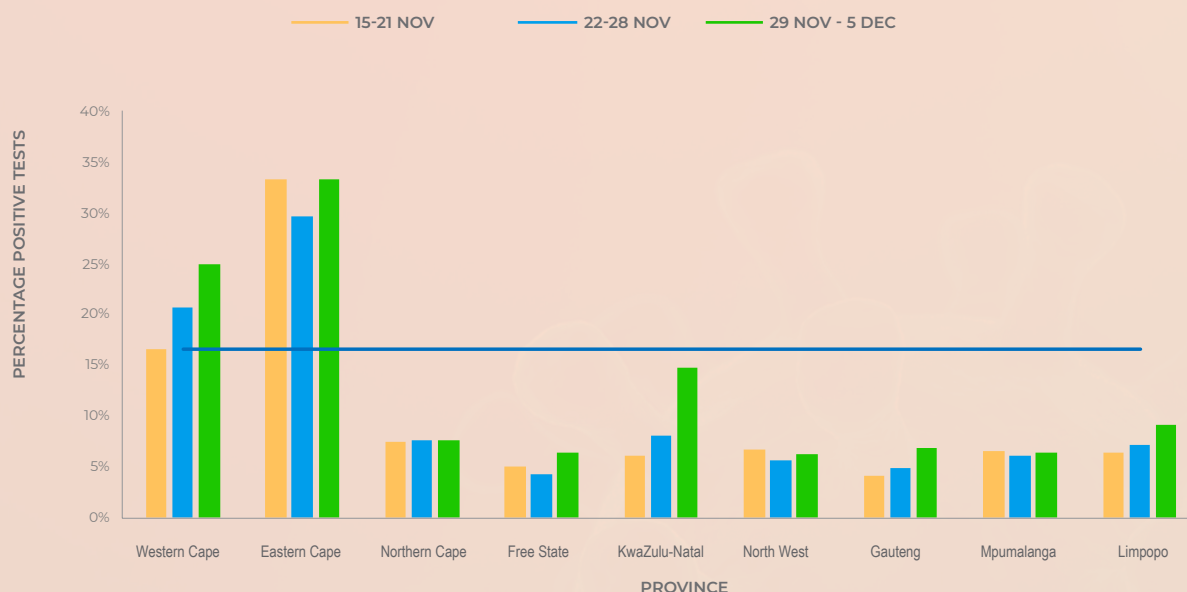


Figure 7. Weekly percentage testing positive, by province, South Africa, 15 November – 5 December 2020. The horizontal blue line shows the national mean for week 49, beginning 29 November 2020.

Testing in the public sector

In the public sector, the percentage testing positive increased in the past week (17.1% in week 48 to 19.1% in week 49, $P < 0.001$) (Table 4). The percentage testing positive in week 49 was highest in the Western Cape

(31.0%) and Eastern Cape (30.3%). The percentage testing positive in the public sector remains higher than the national average, not weighted for population size, in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces (Figure 8).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

Table 4. Weekly number of tests conducted and positive tests in the public sector, by province, South Africa, 15 November – 5 December 2020

| Province | 15-21 Nov | | 22-28 Nov | | 29 Nov – 5 Dec | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) | No. of tests | No. positive tests (%) |
| Western Cape | 9556 | 2080 (21.8) | 11748 | 3107 (26.4) | 14033 | 4351 (31.0) |
| Eastern Cape | 18881 | 5866 (31.1) | 22566 | 6038 (26.8) | 13512 | 4090 (30.3) |
| Northern Cape | 1751 | 132 (7.5) | 1490 | 136 (9.1) | 1667 | 160 (9.6) |
| Free State | 3202 | 168 (5.2) | 2770 | 127 (4.6) | 2573 | 165 (6.4) |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 10660 | 585 (5.5) | 11003 | 753 (6.8) | 11359 | 1334 (11.7) |
| North West | 1193 | 118 (9.9) | 1052 | 94 (8.9) | 937 | 102 (10.9) |
| Gauteng | 11242 | 529 (4.7) | 11005 | 582 (5.3) | 11816 | 761 (6.4) |
| Mpumalanga | 2163 | 199 (9.2) | 2178 | 175 (8.0) | 1910 | 148 (7.7) |
| Limpopo | 775 | 63 (8.1) | 849 | 74 (8.7) | 633 | 67 (10.6) |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 (0.0) | 0 | 0 (0.0) | 267 | 8 (3.0) |
| Total | 59423 | 9740 (16.4) | 64661 | 11086 (17.1) | 58707 | 11186 (19.1) |

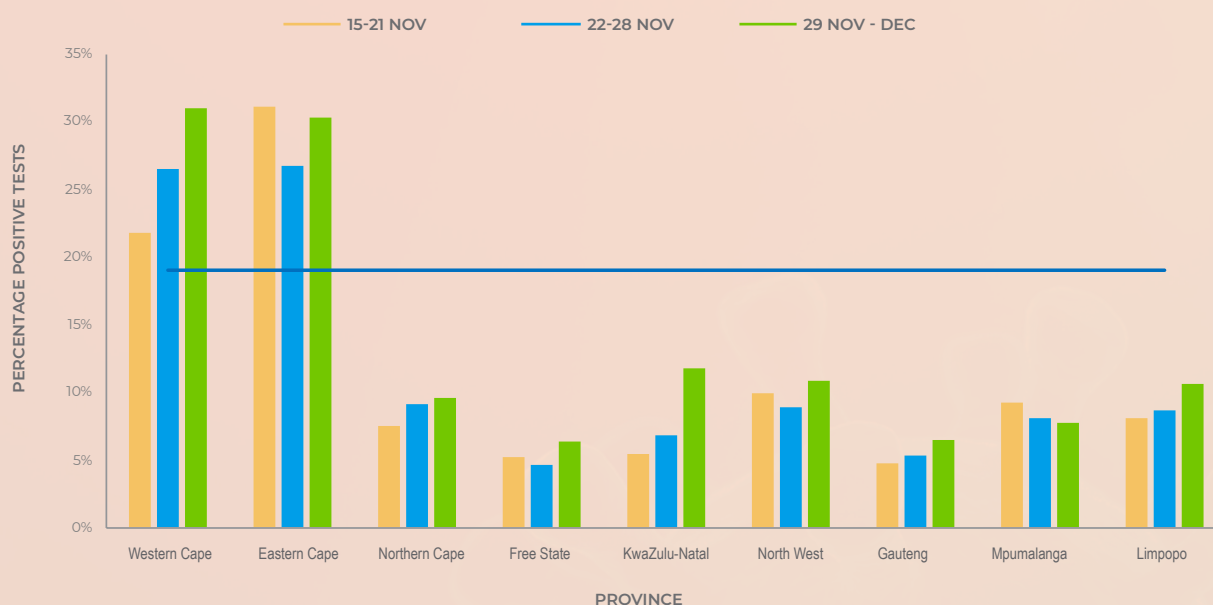


Figure 8. Weekly percentage testing positive in the public sector, by province, South Africa, 15 November – 5 December 2020. The horizontal blue line shows the national mean for week 49, beginning 29 November 2020.

Public facilities with high proportions testing positive

Table 5 shows the 25 public clinics, hospitals and testing laboratories (where specimens were not tied to a particular facility), that had 25 or more specimens

tested and at least five positive results in the week of 29 November – 5 December, with the highest proportion testing positive nationally. This week's list is again dominated by facilities in the Western Cape (13) and Eastern Cape (12).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Table 5. Public healthcare facilities with a high proportion testing positive, 29 November - 5 December 2020

| Facility Name | Province | Tests | PTP (95% CI) |
|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------------|
| Facility 1 | Eastern Cape | 28 | 0.750 (0.590;0.910) |
| Facility 2 | Eastern Cape | 28 | 0.714 (0.547;0.882) |
| Facility 3 | Eastern Cape | 28 | 0.679 (0.506;0.852) |
| Facility 4 | Eastern Cape | 34 | 0.676 (0.519;0.834) |
| Facility 5 | Western Cape | 48 | 0.563 (0.422;0.703) |
| Facility 6 | Eastern Cape | 59 | 0.559 (0.433;0.686) |
| Facility 7 | Eastern Cape | 29 | 0.552 (0.371;0.733) |
| Facility 8 | Eastern Cape | 26 | 0.538 (0.347;0.730) |
| Facility 9 | Western Cape | 34 | 0.529 (0.362;0.697) |
| Facility 10 | Western Cape | 52 | 0.519 (0.383;0.655) |
| Facility 11 | Western Cape | 79 | 0.519 (0.409;0.629) |
| Facility 12 | Eastern Cape | 27 | 0.519 (0.330;0.707) |
| Facility 13 | Western Cape | 32 | 0.500 (0.327;0.673) |
| Facility 14 | Western Cape | 110 | 0.500 (0.407;0.593) |
| Facility 15 | Eastern Cape | 126 | 0.492 (0.405;0.579) |
| Facility 16 | Western Cape | 72 | 0.486 (0.371;0.602) |
| Facility 17 | Eastern Cape | 91 | 0.484 (0.381;0.586) |
| Facility 18 | Western Cape | 57 | 0.474 (0.344;0.603) |
| Facility 19 | Western Cape | 136 | 0.471 (0.387;0.554) |
| Facility 20 | Eastern Cape | 32 | 0.469 (0.296;0.642) |
| Facility 21 | Western Cape | 41 | 0.463 (0.311;0.616) |
| Facility 22 | Western Cape | 29 | 0.448 (0.267;0.629) |
| Facility 23 | Eastern Cape | 65 | 0.446 (0.325;0.567) |
| Facility 24 | Western Cape | 27 | 0.444 (0.257;0.632) |
| Facility 25 | Western Cape | 34 | 0.441 (0.274;0.608) |

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: positive test proportion

Public sector testing: Health district-level results

The results for the 25 municipalities and metropolitan health sub-districts showing the greatest proportions testing positive in the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020 are shown in Table 6. Districts showing the greatest proportions testing positive are concentrated in the Eastern Cape (14 districts) and the Western Cape (10 districts).

Seven districts showed a proportion testing positive greater than 40%, and all 25 were greater than 30%. A significant increase over the week was observed in seven of the 25 districts – Kouga, Great Kei, Buffalo City, and Mnquma in the Eastern Cape, and Beaufort West, Cape Agulhas, and Overstrand in the Western Cape. A significant decrease in proportions testing positive was observed in George (Western Cape).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Table 6. Health sub-districts with the highest proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020

| Health district or sub-district | Province | PTP (95% CI) | Previous week |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Kouga | Eastern Cape | 0.484 (0.368-0.599) | 0.330 (0.297-0.363) |
| Great Kei | Eastern Cape | 0.481 (0.339-0.623) | 0.117 (0.008-0.227) |
| Knysna | Western Cape | 0.464 (0.415-0.512) | 0.519 (0.479-0.560) |
| Amahlathi | Eastern Cape | 0.440 (0.360-0.519) | 0.332 (0.288-0.376) |
| Bitou | Western Cape | 0.417 (0.357-0.476) | 0.484 (0.426-0.543) |
| Beaufort West | Western Cape | 0.412 (0.332-0.492) | 0.213 (0.113-0.314) |
| Cape Agulhas | Western Cape | 0.401 (0.285-0.516) | 0.081 (0.000-0.189) |
| Mossel Bay | Western Cape | 0.396 (0.355-0.438) | 0.338 (0.300-0.376) |
| Intsika Yethu | Eastern Cape | 0.395 (0.279-0.512) | 0.277 (0.184-0.370) |
| Makana | Eastern Cape | 0.389 (0.311-0.466) | 0.325 (0.293-0.358) |
| George | Western Cape | 0.379 (0.343-0.416) | 0.467 (0.436-0.498) |
| Engcobo | Eastern Cape | 0.358 (0.220-0.495) | 0.310 (0.177-0.443) |
| Oudtshoorn | Western Cape | 0.353 (0.287-0.419) | 0.286 (0.219-0.354) |
| Greater Kokstad | KwaZulu-Natal | 0.352 (0.249-0.455) | 0.173 (0.075-0.272) |
| Overstrand | Western Cape | 0.351 (0.240-0.462) | 0.023 (0.003-0.042) |
| Blue Crane Route | Eastern Cape | 0.346 (0.282-0.410) | 0.254 (0.212-0.296) |
| Buffalo City | Eastern Cape | 0.340 (0.315-0.365) | 0.271 (0.251-0.290) |
| Mnquma | Eastern Cape | 0.339 (0.254-0.425) | 0.212 (0.173-0.250) |
| Sundays River Valley | Eastern Cape | 0.338 (0.211-0.465) | 0.258 (0.203-0.314) |
| Mbhashe | Eastern Cape | 0.334 (0.257-0.410) | 0.318 (0.231-0.406) |
| Camdeboo | Eastern Cape | 0.328 (0.247-0.410) | 0.337 (0.310-0.364) |
| Nelson Mandela Bay B | Eastern Cape | 0.328 (0.285-0.372) | 0.352 (0.334-0.370) |
| Lukanji | Eastern Cape | 0.327 (0.242-0.412) | 0.198 (0.146-0.250) |
| Theewaterskloof | Western Cape | 0.321 (0.245-0.398) | 0.236 (0.152-0.319) |
| Stellenbosch | Western Cape | 0.317 (0.213-0.422) | 0.263 (0.177-0.349) |

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: adjusted positive test proportion; PTP marked in red or blue have current week proportions testing positive that are significantly higher or lower than the previous week, respectively.

The data for every district with a non-zero proportion testing positive or where the range of confidence interval is not more than 30% (15% either side of the point estimate) for the current week is presented graphically below.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

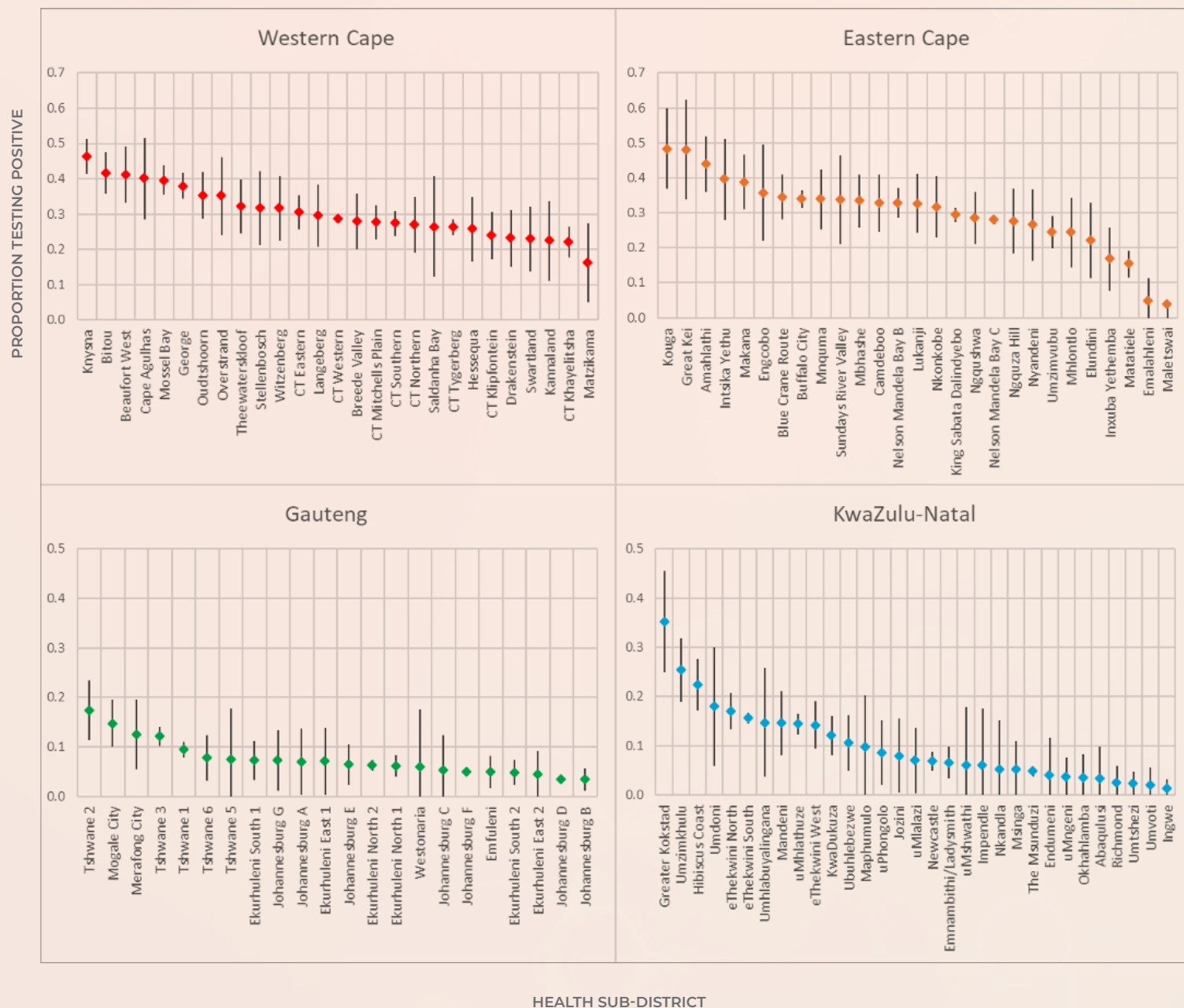


Figure 9. Proportions testing positive by health sub-districts in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

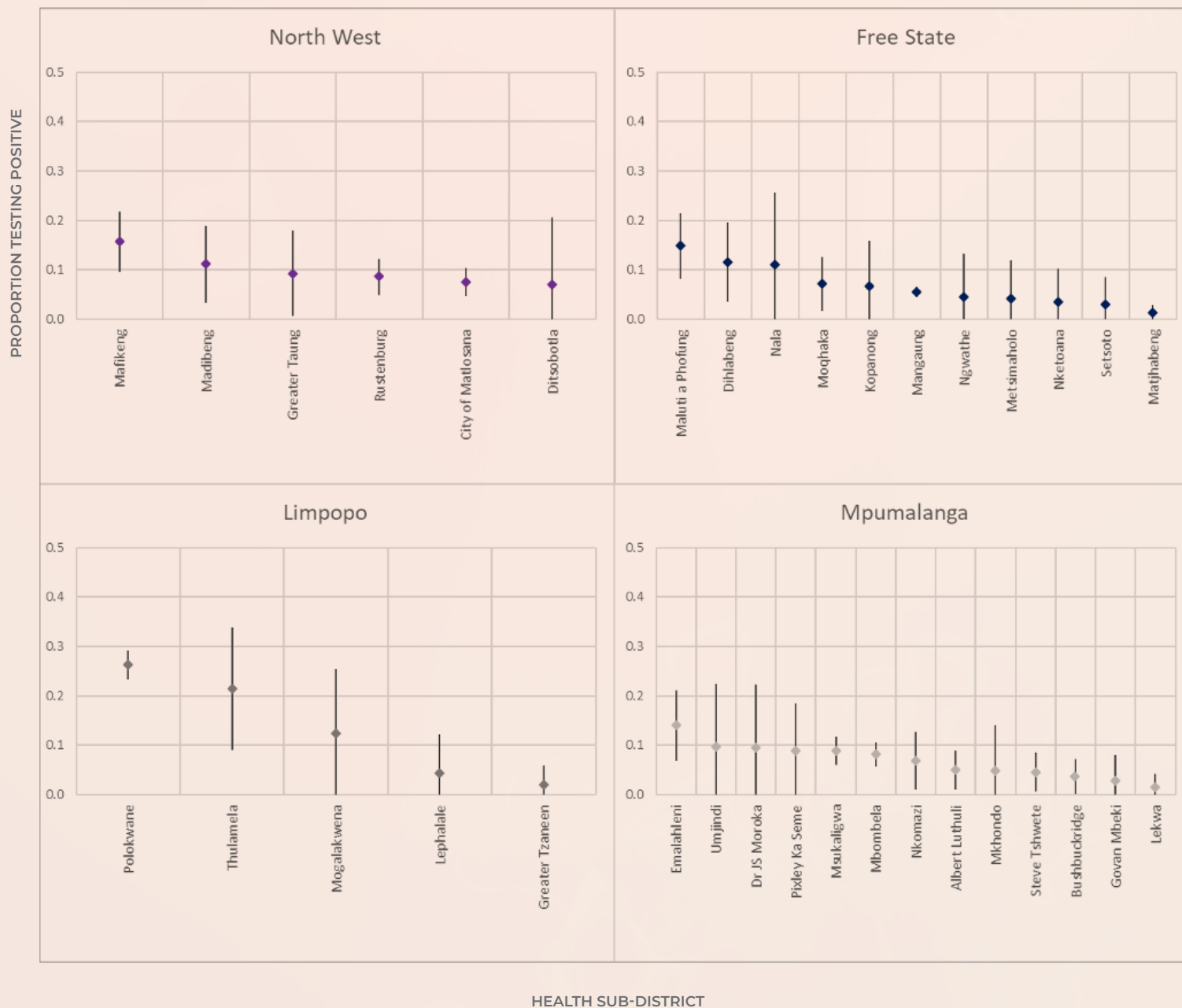


Figure 9. Proportions testing positive by health sub-districts in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

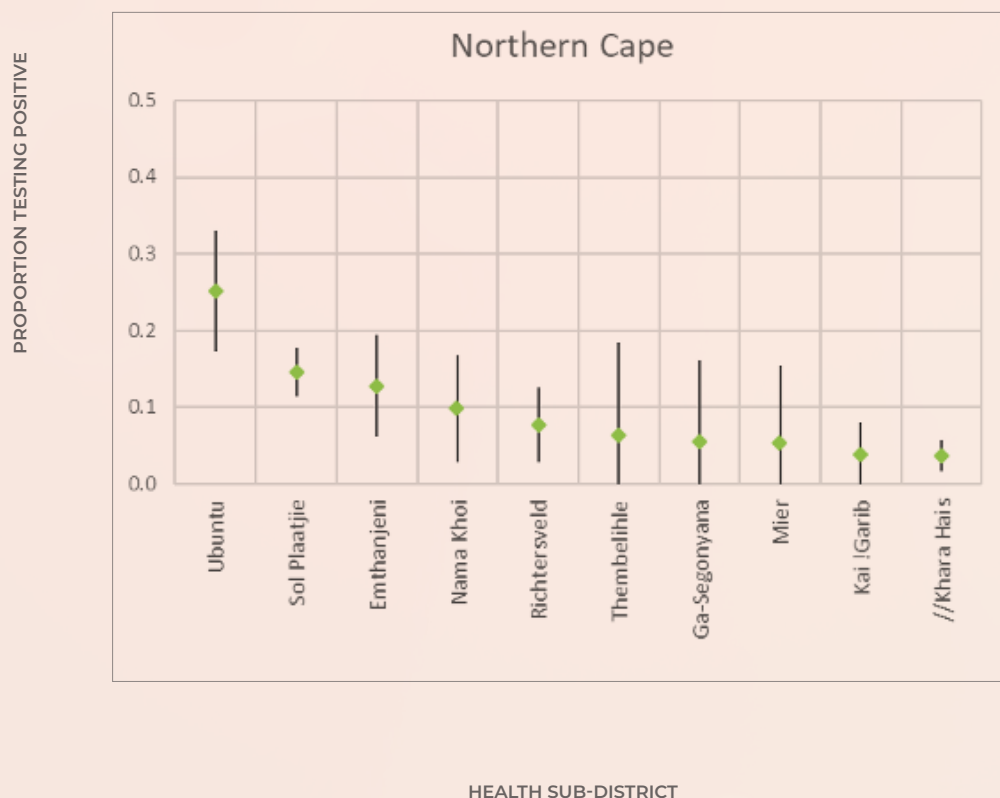


Figure 9. Proportions testing positive by health sub-districts in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020.

The spatial pattern of adjusted proportions testing positive in public facilities by health district and sub-district are shown for South Africa (Figure 10), Western Cape (Figure 11), Eastern Cape (Figure 12), Northern Cape (Figure 13), Free State (Figure 14), KwaZulu-Natal (Figure 15), North West (Figure 16), Gauteng (Figure 17), Mpumalanga (Figure 18) and Limpopo (Figure 19).

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

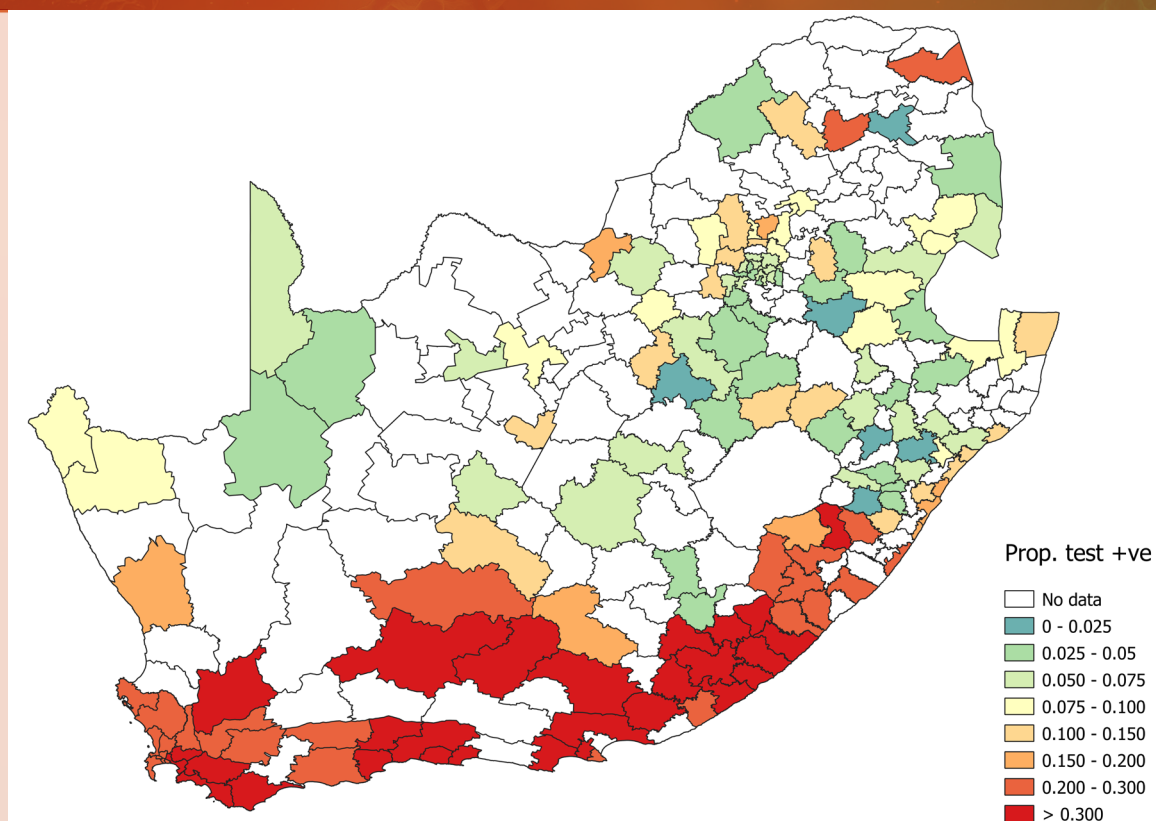


Figure 10. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020, South Africa. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

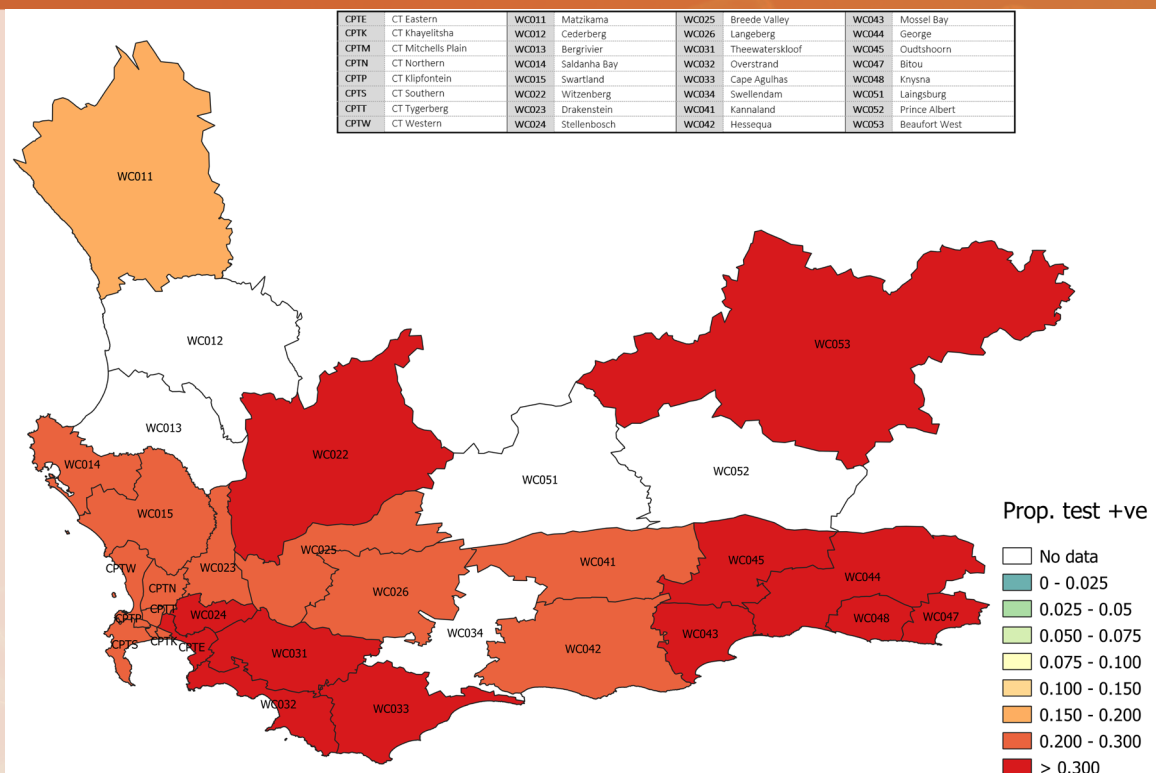


Figure 11. Health sub-districts in the Western Cape province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------|
| BUF | Buffalo City | EC122 | Mnquma | EC135 | Intsika Yethu | EC155 | Nyandeni |
| EC101 | Camdeboo | EC123 | Great Kei | EC136 | Emalahleni | EC156 | Mhlontlo |
| EC102 | Blue Crane Route | EC124 | Amahlathi | EC137 | Engobo | EC157 | King Sabata Dalindyebo |
| EC103 | Ilwezi | EC126 | Ngqushwa | EC138 | Sakhisizwe | EC441 | Matatiele |
| EC104 | Makana | EC127 | Nkonkobe | EC141 | Elundini | EC442 | Umtzimvubu |
| EC105 | Ndlambe | EC128 | Nxuba | EC142 | Senqu | EC443 | Mbizana |
| EC106 | Sundays River Valley | EC131 | Inxuba Yethemba | EC143 | Maletswai | EC444 | Ntabankulu |
| EC107 | Baviaans | EC132 | Tsolwana | EC144 | Gariep | NMAA | Nelson Mandela Bay A |
| EC108 | Kouga | EC133 | Inkwanca | EC153 | Ngqiza Hill | NMAB | Nelson Mandela Bay B |
| EC109 | Kou-Kamma | EC134 | Lukanji | EC154 | Port St Johns | NMAC | Nelson Mandela Bay C |
| EC121 | Mbhashe | | | | | | |

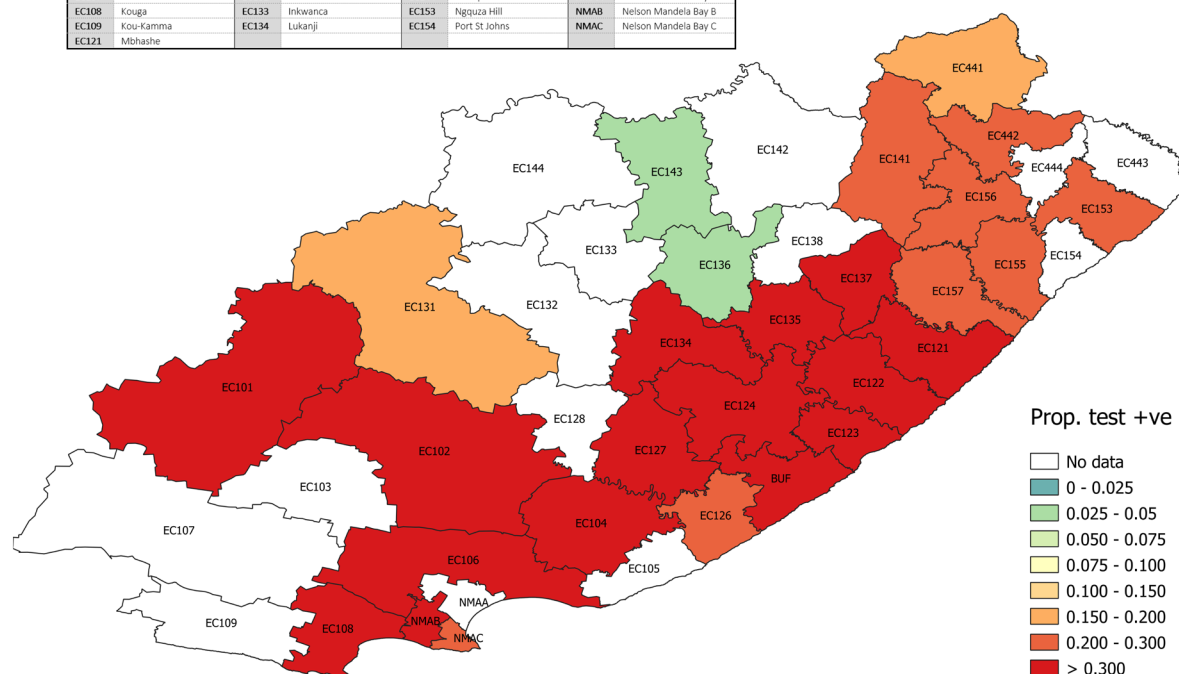


Figure 12. Health sub-districts in the Eastern Cape province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| NC061 | Richtersveld | NC074 | Kareeberg | NC085 | Tsantsabane |
| NC062 | Nama Khoi | NC075 | Renosterberg | NC086 | Kgatelopele |
| NC064 | Kamiesberg | NC076 | Thembelhe | NC091 | Sol Plaatje |
| NC065 | Hartam | NC077 | Siyathemba | NC092 | Digalong |
| NC066 | Karoo Hoogland | NC078 | Siyancuma | NC093 | Magareng |
| NC067 | Khâi-Ma | NC081 | Mier | NC094 | Phokwane |
| NC071 | Uburu | NC082 | Kai Igarib | NC451 | Joe Morolong |
| NC072 | Umsosomva | NC083 | /Kharu Halls | NC452 | Ga-Segonyana |
| NC073 | Emthanjeni | NC084 | Khetha | NC453 | Gamagara |

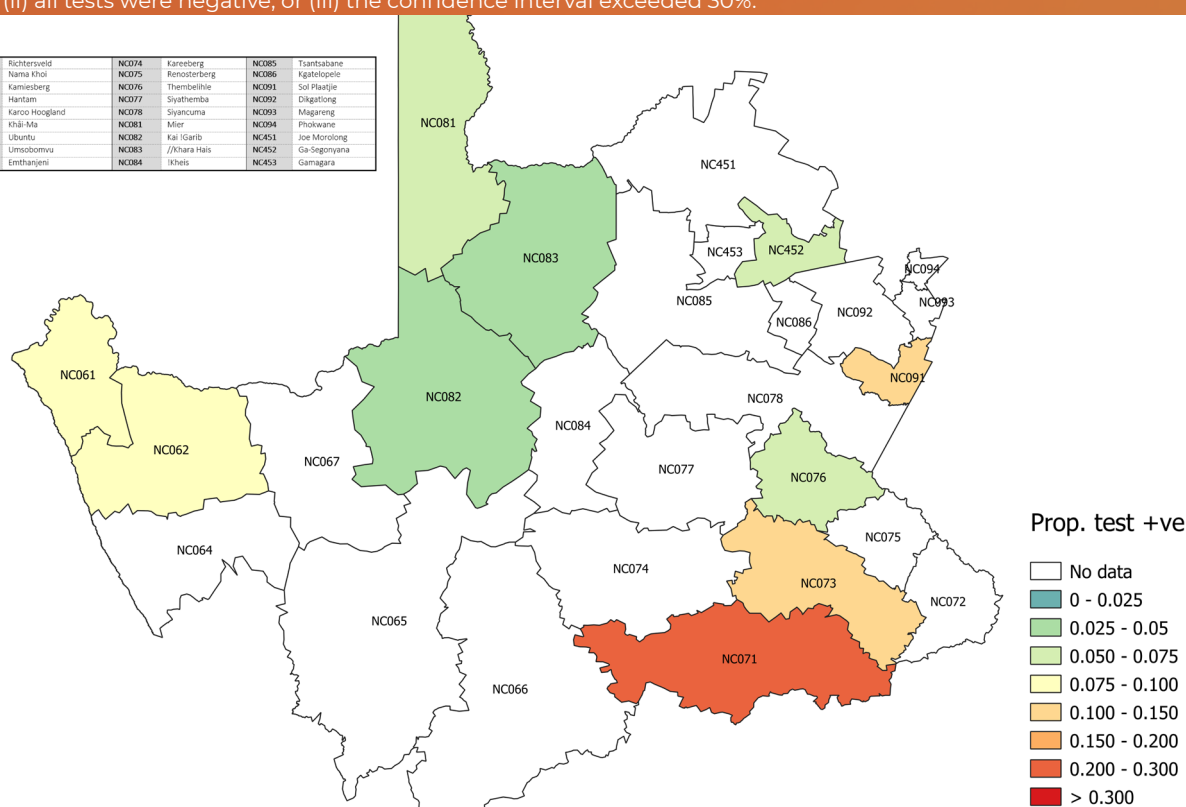


Figure 13. Health sub-districts in Northern Cape Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------|
| MAN | Mangaung | FS181 | Masilonyana | FS191 | Setso | FS196 | Mantsopa |
| FS161 | Letsameeng | FS182 | Tokologo | FS192 | Dihlabeng | FS201 | Moghaka |
| FS162 | Kopanong | FS183 | Tswelopele | FS193 | Nketoana | FS203 | Ngwathe |
| FS163 | Mohokare | FS184 | Matjhabeng | FS194 | Maluti a Phofung | FS204 | Metsimaholo |
| FS164 | Naledi | FS185 | Nala | FS195 | Phumelela | FS205 | Mafube |

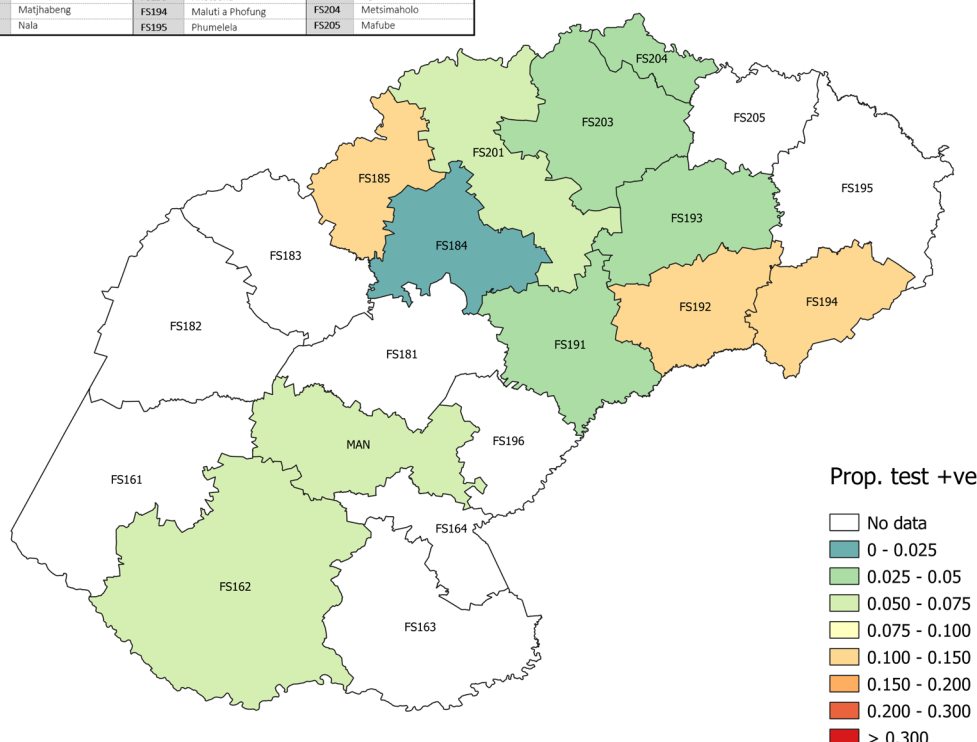


Figure 14. Health sub-districts in Free State Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|
| ETHN | eThekweni North | KZN233 | Indaka | KZN273 | The Big 5 False Bay |
| ETHS | eThekweni South | KZN234 | Umtshezi | KZN274 | Hlabisa |
| ETHS | eThekweni South | KZN235 | Okhahlamba | KZN275 | Mtubatuba |
| ETHW | eThekweni West | KZN236 | Imbabazane | KZN281 | Mlolozi |
| KZN211 | Vulamehlo | KZN241 | Endumeni | KZN282 | uMhlathuze |
| KZN212 | Umdoni | KZN242 | Nqutu | KZN283 | Ntambanana |
| KZN213 | Umsombe | KZN244 | Misinga | KZN284 | uMlalazi |
| KZN214 | uMuzwabantu | KZN245 | Umvoti | KZN285 | Mthonjaneni |
| KZN215 | Ezingoleni | KZN252 | Newcastle | KZN286 | Nkandla |
| KZN216 | Hibiscus Coast | KZN253 | Emadlangeni | KZN291 | Mandeni |
| KZN221 | uMshwathi | KZN254 | Danrhauwer | KZN292 | KwaDukuza |
| KZN222 | uMngeni | KZN261 | eDumbe | KZN293 | Ndowdwe |
| KZN223 | Mpotlana | KZN262 | uPhongolo | KZN294 | Maphumulo |
| KZN224 | Impendle | KZN263 | Abaqulusi | KZN431 | Ingwe |
| KZN225 | The Msunduzi | KZN265 | Nongoma | KZN432 | Kwa Sani |
| KZN226 | Mkhambathini | KZN266 | Ulundi | KZN433 | Greater Kokstad |
| KZN227 | Richmond | KZN271 | Umhlabyalingana | KZN434 | Ubuhlebezwe |
| KZN232 | Emnambithi/Ladysmith | KZN272 | Jozini | KZN435 | Umkhulu |

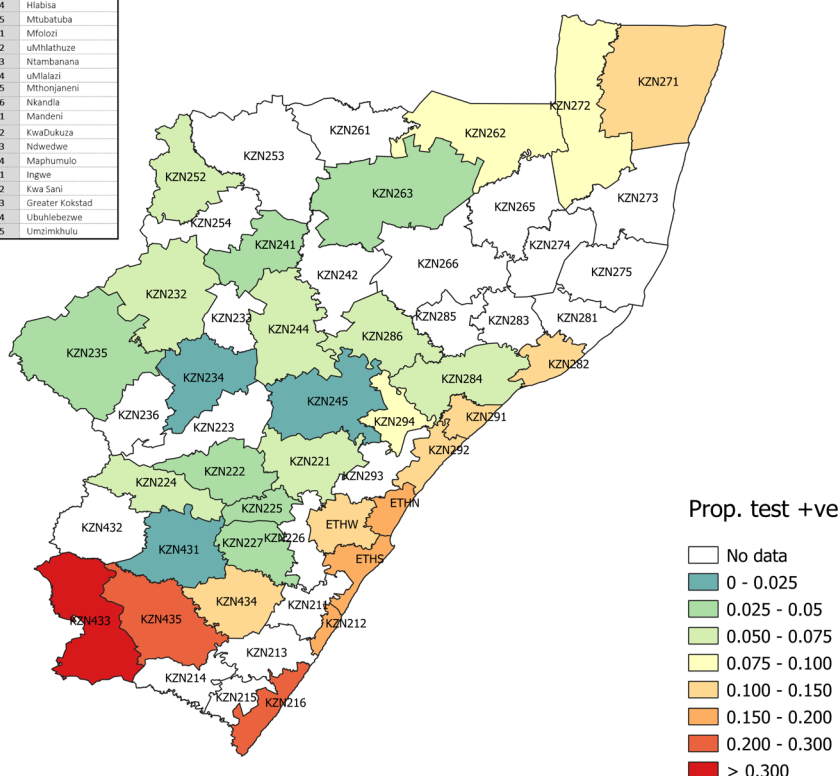


Figure 15. Health sub-districts in KwaZulu-Natal Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

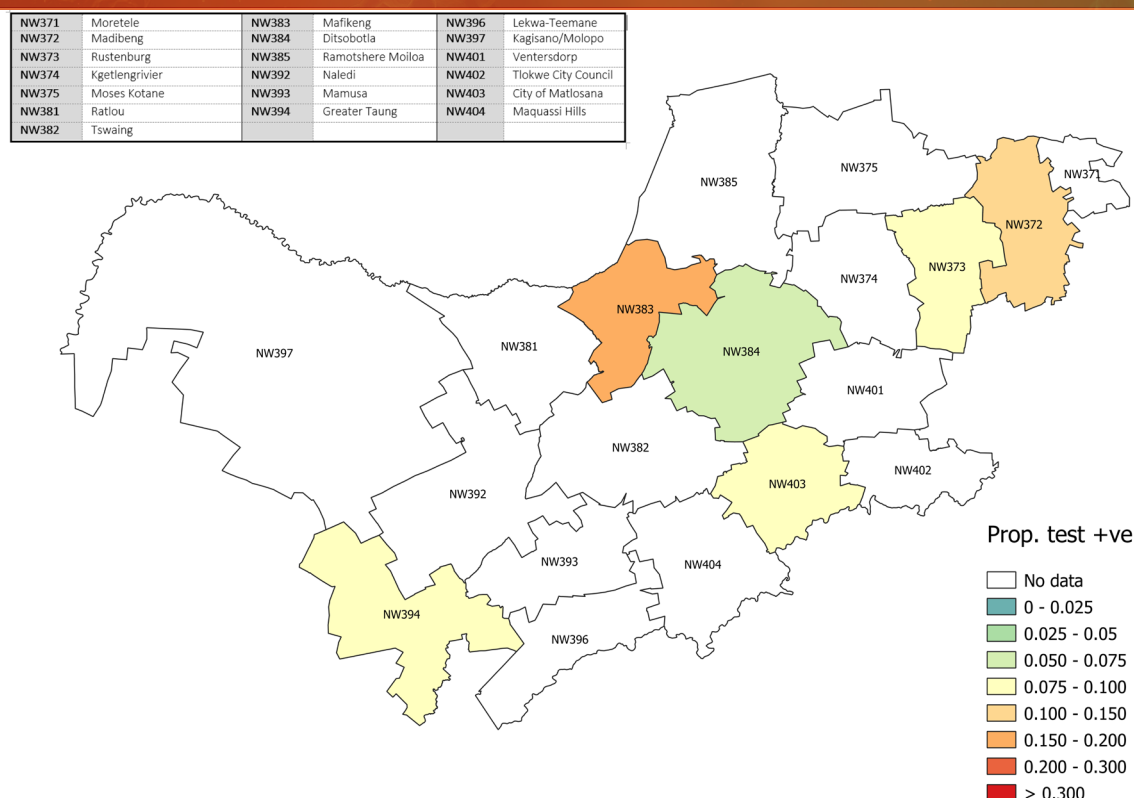


Figure 16. Health sub-districts in North West Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

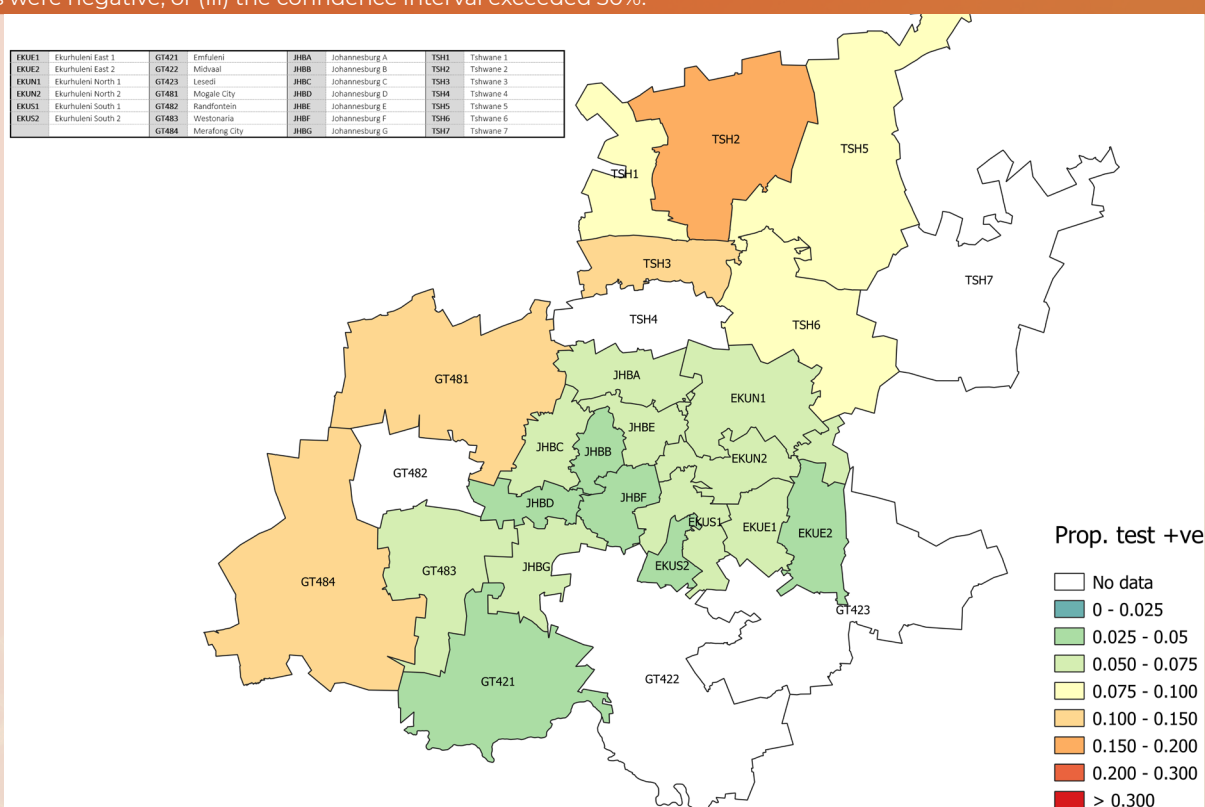


Figure 17. Health sub-districts in Gauteng Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 49 2020

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| MP301 | Albert Luthuli | MP307 | Govan Mbeki | MP316 | Dr JS Moroka |
| MP302 | Mskungwa | MP311 | Victor Khanye | MP321 | Thaba Chweu |
| MP303 | Mkhondo | MP312 | Emalahleni | MP322 | Mbombela |
| MP304 | Pixley Ka Seme | MP313 | Steve Tshwete | MP323 | Umgindi |
| MP305 | Lekwa | MP314 | Emakhazeni | MP324 | Nkomazi |
| MP306 | Dipaleseng | MP315 | Thembisile | MP325 | Bushbuckridge |

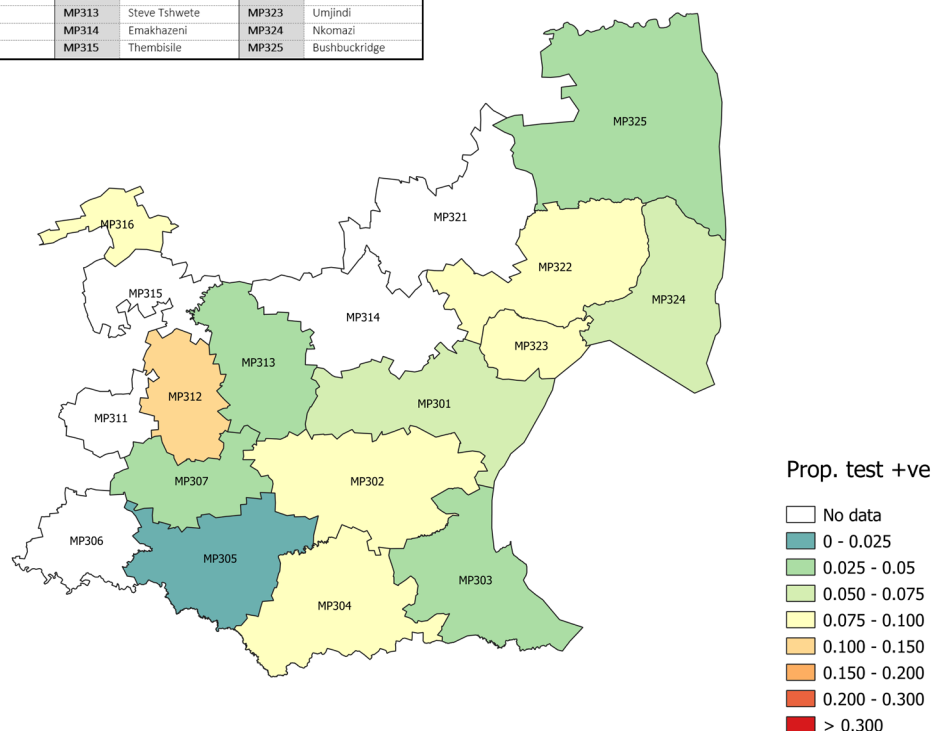


Figure 18. Health sub-districts in Mpumalanga Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------|------------------|
| LIM331 | Greater Giyani | LIM351 | Bloubaerg | LIM365 | Modimolle |
| LIM332 | Greater Letaba | LIM352 | Aganang | LIM366 | Bela-Bela |
| LIM333 | Greater Tzaneen | LIM353 | Molemole | LIM367 | Mogalakwena |
| LIM334 | Ba-Phealaborwa | LIM354 | Polokwane | LIM471 | Ephraim Mogale |
| LIM335 | Maruleng | LIM355 | Lepelle-Nkumpi | LIM472 | Elias Motosaledi |
| LIM341 | Musina | LIM361 | Thabazimbi | LIM473 | Makhuduthamaga |
| LIM342 | Mutale | LIM362 | Lephalale | LIM474 | Fetakgomo |
| LIM343 | Thulamela | LIM364 | Mookgopong | LIM475 | Greater Tubatse |
| LIM344 | Makhado | | | | |

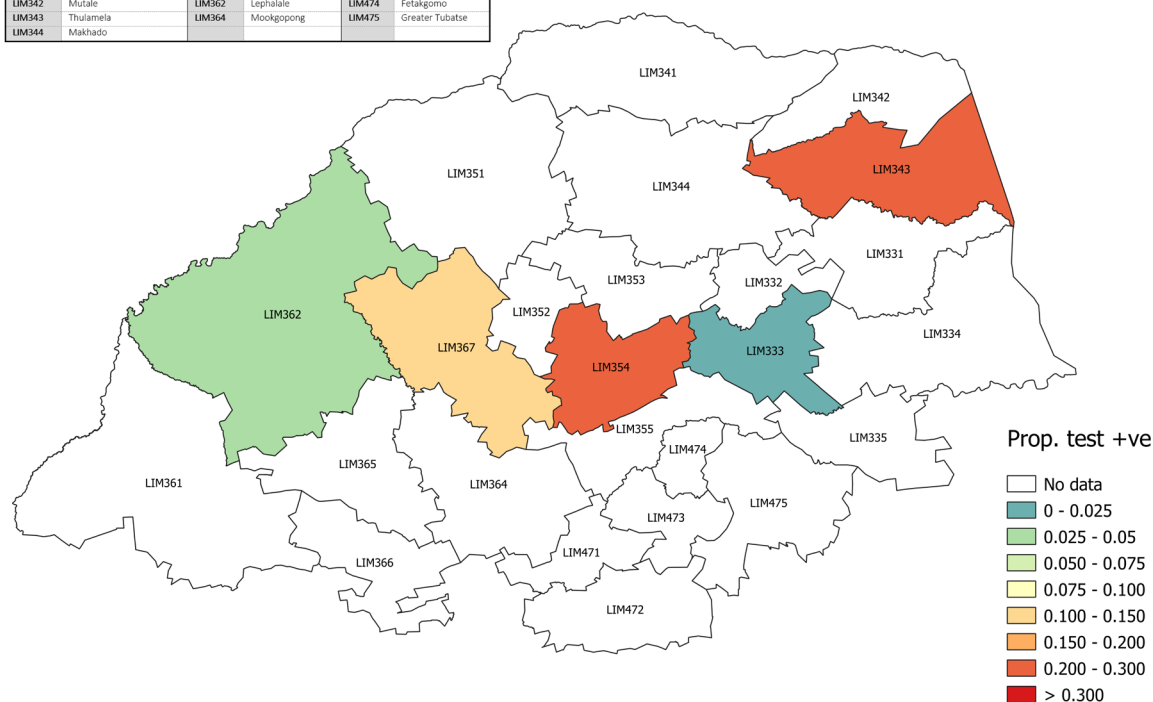


Figure 19. Health sub-districts in Limpopo Province with a high proportion testing positive based on public sector data for the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were conducted, (ii) all tests were negative, or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

Testing by patient admission status

In week 49, 59.1% of tests in the public sector were performed for hospitalised patients (Figure 20). The proportion of inpatient tests was highest in the Free State (72.6%), KwaZulu-Natal (71.1%) and North West (70.6%) provinces. Comparing week 49 to the previous week, the proportion of inpatient tests increased in seven provinces: Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free

State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. The percentage testing positive in week 49 remained lower among inpatients (15.5%) compared to outpatients (21.3%) (Figure 21). In the public sector in week 49 the mean laboratory turnaround time continued to be lower for inpatients (1.8 days) compared to outpatients (3.2 days), with an increased turnaround time observed among outpatients (Figure 22).

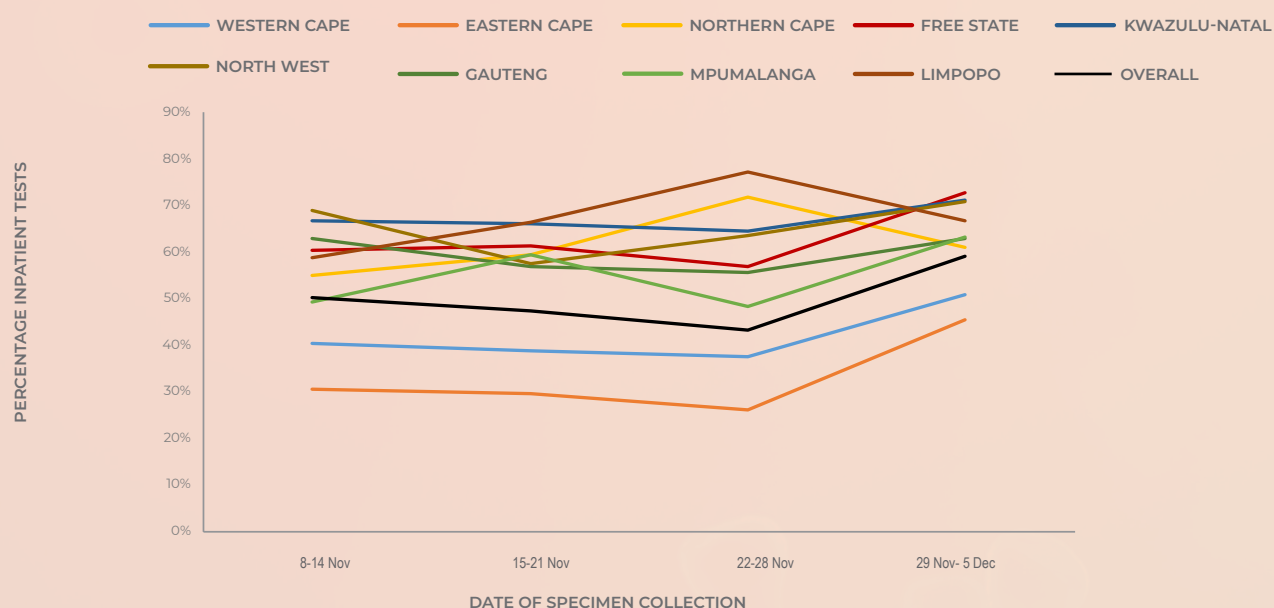


Figure 20. Percentage of inpatient tests performed in the public sector by province, 8 November – 5 December 2020

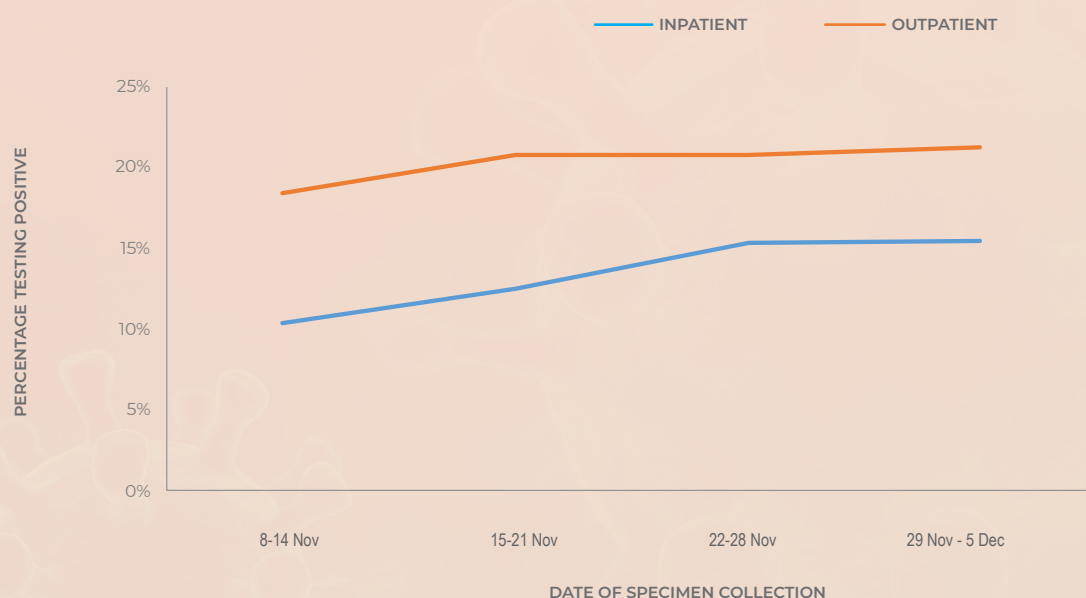


Figure 21. Percentage testing positive by patient admission status in the public sector, 8 November – 5 December 2020

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

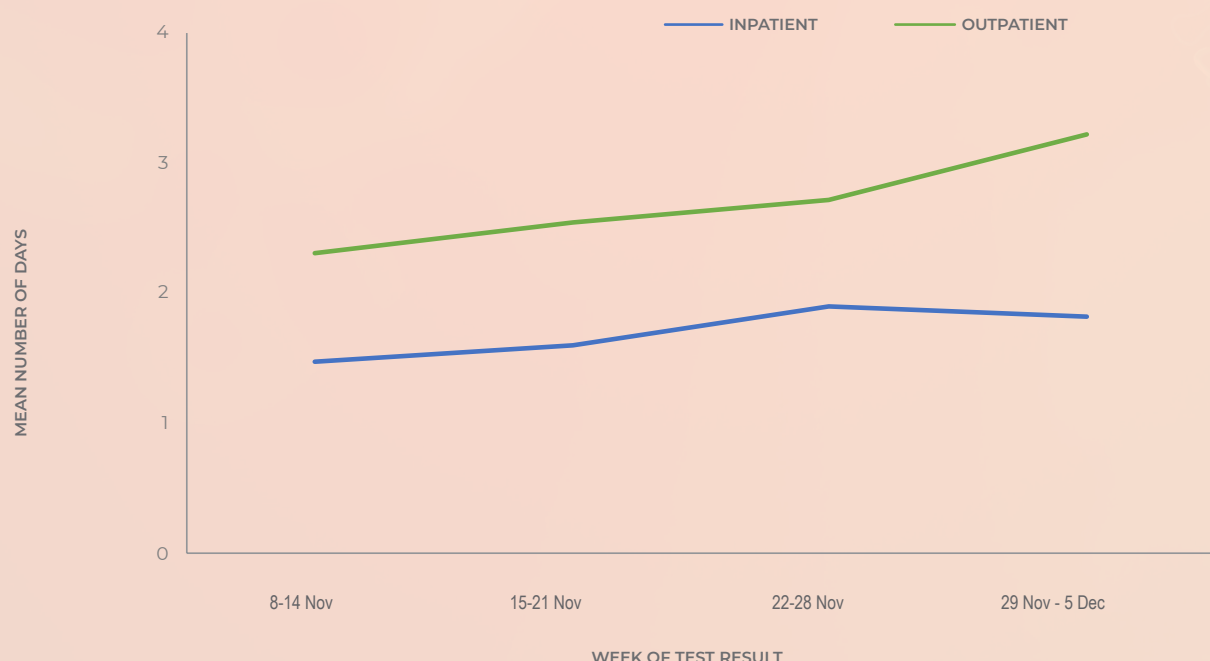


Figure 22. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result, by patient admission status and date of test result in the public sector, South Africa, 8 November – 5 December 2020

Testing by age and sex

The mean age of individuals tested in week 49 was 38.7 years, similar to the previous weeks. The mean age of individuals with a positive test in week 49 was 41.3 years, also similar to previous weeks. The mean age of individuals with a positive test in week 49 was slightly higher in females (41.6 years) compared to males (41.0

years) (Table 7). The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) of individuals with a positive test in week 49 was 75.9. In both sexes the proportion testing positive in week 49 was higher than the previous two weeks in age groups ≥ 20 years (Figure 23).

Table 7. Mean age and sex ratio of individuals tested, South Africa, 8 November – 5 December 2020

| Week number | Week beginning | Mean age of tested (years) | | Mean age of positive tests (years) | | Sex ratios (males / 100 females) | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | | Males | Females | Males | Females | Tested | Positive tests |
| 46 | 8 November | 38.8 | 39.3 | 41.4 | 41.5 | 87.4 | 73.7 |
| 47 | 15 November | 38.8 | 39.4 | 41.2 | 41.3 | 88.2 | 71.6 |
| 48 | 22 November | 38.5 | 39.3 | 41.5 | 41.7 | 87.2 | 73.2 |
| 49 | 29 November | 38.3 | 39.1 | 41.0 | 41.6 | 87.9 | 75.9 |

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 49 2020

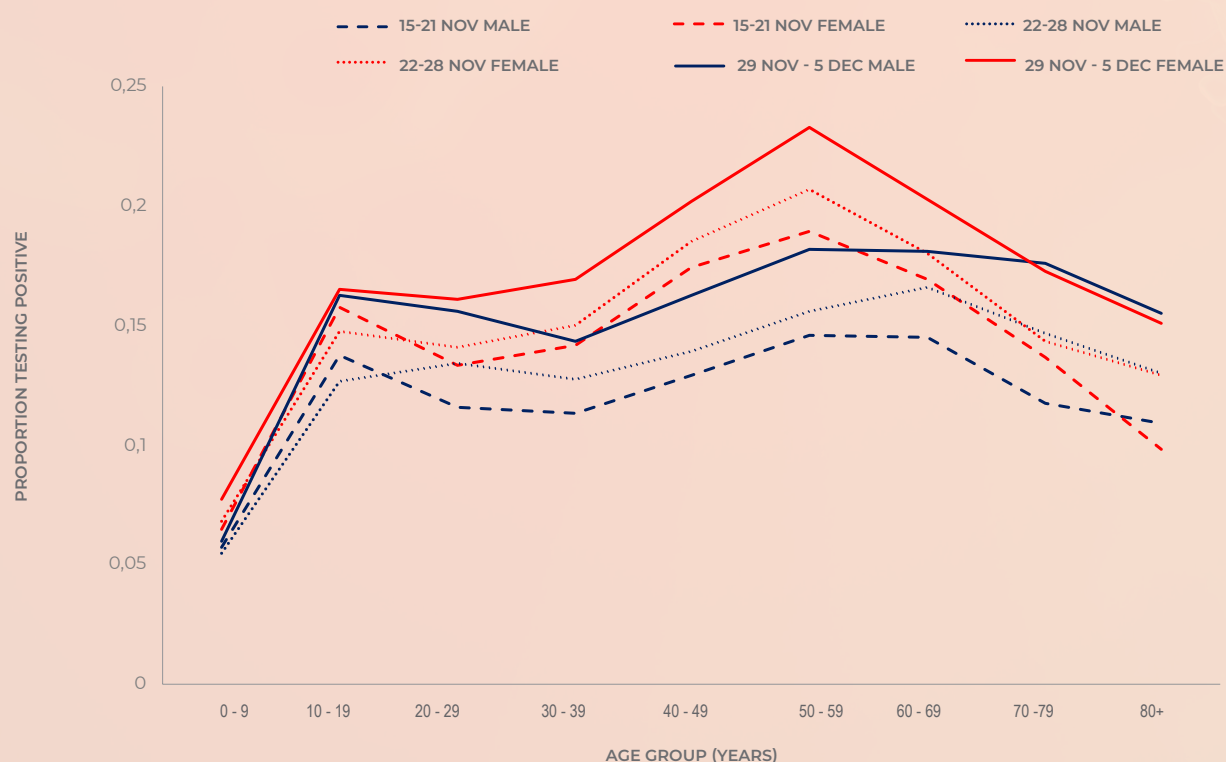


Figure 23. Weekly proportion testing positive by age group and sex, South Africa, 15 November – 5 December 2020

From week 46 to week 49, the percentage testing positive increased by 4.8% in males (from 10.6% to 15.4%) and increased by 5.3% in females (from 12.6% to 17.9%) (Table 8). In week 49 the percentage testing positive was higher in females compared to males

in the 0-19 years ($P=0.001$), 20-39 years ($P<0.001$), 40-59 years ($P<0.001$) and 60-69 years ($P=0.003$) age groups, and did not differ in individuals aged ≥ 70 years.

Table 8. Percentage testing positive by sex and week, South Africa, 8 November – 5 December 2020

| Age (years) | 8-14 Nov | | 15-21 Nov | | 22-28 Nov | | 29 Nov-5 Dec | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0-19 | 7.3% | 8.4% | 9.5% | 11.6% | 9.0% | 11.4% | 11.4% | 12.9% |
| 20-39 | 10.5% | 12.1% | 11.5% | 13.8% | 13.0% | 14.6% | 14.9% | 16.5% |
| 40-59 | 11.8% | 15.2% | 13.6% | 18.1% | 14.7% | 19.5% | 17.1% | 21.5% |
| 60-69 | 11.7% | 14.7% | 14.5% | 16.9% | 16.5% | 18.0% | 18.1% | 20.2% |
| 70+ | 11.2% | 10.1% | 11.5% | 12.4% | 14.2% | 13.8% | 17.0% | 16.5% |
| Total | 10.6% | 12.6% | 12.1% | 14.9% | 13.3% | 15.8% | 15.4% | 17.9% |

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 49 2020

Limitations

- A backlog in testing of samples by laboratories affects the reported numbers of tests performed. As a result, numbers tested during this period may change in subsequent reports.
- If higher-priority specimens were tested preferentially, this would likely result in an inflated proportion testing positive.
- Different and changing testing strategies (targeted vs. mass testing) used by different provinces makes percentage testing positive difficult to interpret and compare.
- Health district and sub-district level results included public-sector data only and were mapped based on the testing facility and not place of residence.
- Patient admission status was categorised based on the reported patient facility, which was only available for public sector data and may not reflect whether the patient was actually admitted to hospital.

CONCLUSIONS

Weekly testing volumes peaked in week 29, and subsequently decreased. The number of tests performed in week 49 was higher than the weekly number of tests performed since week 32. Gauteng (30.1%) performed the largest number of tests in week 49, followed by Western Cape (23.6%), KwaZulu-Natal (16.9%) and Eastern Cape (15.7%) provinces. Western Cape (468 per 100,000 persons) and Eastern Cape (322 per 100,000 persons) provinces continued to have the highest testing rates in week 49. The overall laboratory turnaround time in week 49 was 1.5 days; 2.4 days in the public sector and <1 day in the private sector.

The percentage testing positive decreased from a peak of 30.5% in week 29 to 9.5% in week 43. In week 49 the percentage testing positive was 16.6%, higher than has been observed since week 34 (beginning 16 August). The percentage testing positive was highest in the Eastern Cape (33.4%), Western Cape (25.0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14.8%). Percentages testing positive were <10% in Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. In week 49, compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive increased in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo, and did not change in Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga. Of the 25 districts with the highest proportions testing positive in week 49, 14 were in the Eastern Cape and 10 in the Western Cape.