

## SEASONAL DISEASES

## Influenza, 2021

As of week 32 (week ending 15 August 2021) to date, a total of 70 influenza positive cases has been reported from the syndromic sentinel surveillance programmes conducted by NICD. Following the first case detected in March 2021, sporadic cases of influenza have been reported. The highest number of influenza positive cases in 2021 to date was reported in week 23 (n=12, 17%), (week ending 13 June 2021).

The majority of cases (68/70, 97%) were influenza B, of which 59 (87%) were influenza B/Victoria, six (9%) influenza B lineage inconclusive and three (4%) influenza B lineage result pending. Two of the influenza cases detected in 2021 were influenza A (H3N2). Influenza has been detected from all the provinces (Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng,

Mpumalanga and the Western Cape) which have participated in surveillance in 2021. Influenza transmission has remained below seasonal threshold [using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM), a sequential analysis using the R Language, to calculate the duration, start and end of the annual epidemic] (Figure 2). During the period of COVID-19 and influenza transmission, it is still important to consider influenza as one of the differential diagnosis depending on clinical presentation. Recommendations on influenza diagnosis, target groups, dosages and contraindications for the 2021 influenza vaccine, and influenza antiviral treatment are available in the Influenza NICD recommendations, 2021.

