

## SEASONAL DISEASES

## Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) 2021

In 2021 to date, RSV has been circulating since the first week of the year. Of the 4 003 cases hospitalised for severe respiratory illness who were tested for RSV at sentinel sites, 397 (10%) tested positive. The majority of RSV positive cases were subgroup A (203/397, 51%), followed by subgroup B (176/397, 44%) and RSVAB subgroup (4/397, 1%). The RSV subgroup was inconclusive for seven (2%) and pending for seven (2%). The highest detection rate in 2021 to date was reported in week 11 (26/116, 22%), and the detection rate has been decreasing

in the past few weeks, weekly detection rates below 10% since week 26 (Figure 3). Since week 7 of 2021, the detection rate of RSV in 2021 has been below the mean detection rate reported for 2010-2019. The non-pharmaceutical measures put in place to prevent COVID-19 have also resulted in reducing the number of influenza and RSV cases. It is not clear what the effects of reduced transmission of these two pathogens since 2020 will be if controls to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2 are relaxed in future.

