### **WEEKLY RESPIRATORY** PATHOGENS SURVEILLANCE **REPORT**



SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 32 2021

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**HIGHLIGHTS: WEEK 32** 

- · RSV activity remains below seasonal threshold in both influenza-like illness (ILI) and pneumonia surveillance programmes.
- · Four new cases of influenza from Gauteng (n=2) and one each from North West and Western Cape were detected in week 32. To date, 66 influenza cases have been detected from Gauteng, Western Cape, North West, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal sentinel surveillance sites. The influenza season has not started.
- · From 2 March 2020 to 15 August 2021, a total of 2 499 COVID-19 cases were detected from all surveillance programmes. An increase in detection rate has been noted in ILI programme in this reporting week (week32), whereas in pneumonia surveillance there is a decline. Of the 1 504 hospitalised COVID-19 cases reported with available data on outcome, 245 (16%) died.

### **CUMULATIVE DATA FROM**

confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases





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### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTIONS

Programme	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	Viral Watch	National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia
Start year	2012	1984	2009
Provinces*	KZ NW WC** MP***	EC FS GP LP MP NC NW	GP KZ MP NW WC
Type of site	Primary health care clinics	General practitioners	Public hospitals
Case definition	<b>ILI:</b> An acute respiratory illness with a temperature (≥38°C) and cough, & onset ≤10 days	<b>ILI:</b> An acute respiratory illness with a temperature (≥38°C) and cough, & onset ≤10 days	SRI: Acute (symptom onset≤10 days) or chronic (symptom onset >10) lower respiratory tract infection
	Suspected pertussis Any person with an acute cough illness lasting ≥14 days (or cough illness of any duration for children <1 year), without a more likely diagnosis AND one or more of the following signs or symptoms:  • paroxysms of coughing, • or inspiratory "whoop", • or post-tussive vomiting • or apnoea in children <1 year; OR Any person in whom a clinician suspects pertussis		Suspected pertussis Any person with an acute cough illness lasting ≥14 days (or cough illness of any duration for children <1 year), without a more likely diagnosis AND one or more of the following signs or symptoms:  • paroxysms of coughing, • or inspiratory "whoop", • or post-tussive vomiting • or apnoea in children <1 year; OR Any person in whom a clinician suspects pertussis.
	Suspected SARS-CoV-2 Any person presenting with an acute (≤14 days) respiratory tract infection or other clinical illness compatible with COVID-19 <sup>β</sup>	Suspected SARS-CoV-2 Any person presenting with an acute (≤14 days) respiratory tract infection or other clinical illness compatible with COVID-19 <sup>β</sup>	Any person admitted with a physician-diagnosis of suspected COVID-19 and not meeting SRI case definition.
Specimens collected	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs	Throat and/or nasal swabs or Nasopharyngeal swabs	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs
Main pathogens tested****	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2

#### **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.

\$Symptoms include ANY of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, anosmia (loss of sense of smell) or dysgeusia (alteration of the sense of taste), with or without other symptoms (which may include fever, weakness, myalqia, or diarrhoea)

<sup>\*</sup> 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

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Started in November 2020

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>INF: influenza virus; RSV: respiratory syncytial virus; BP: Bordetella pertussis; SARS-CoV-2: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

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#### **COMMENTS**

#### Influenza

The influenza 2021 season has not started. Since the first influenza positive case of 2021 was detected in pneumonia surveillance in week 9 of 2021 (week ending on the 07 March 2021), sporadic cases have been reported from week 16 to date. Of the 66 influenza cases detected in surveillance sites in 2021, the majority (n=52, 79%) were influenza B/Victoria.

**ILI programme:** In 2021 to date, specimens from 1 140 patients meeting ILI case definition were received from 4 ILI sites. Influenza was detected in nine (1%) patients, of which six (67%) were influenza B(Victoria), two (22%) were influenza B (lineage inconclusive) and one (11%) was influenza B (pending lineage results) (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Viral Watch programme: In 2021 to date, specimens were received from 161 patients from Viral Watch sites in 5 of the 8 provinces participating in surveillance. Influenza was detected in nine (6%) patients, of which five (56%) were influenza B (Victoria), and four (44%) influenza B (lineage inconclusive) (Figure 5 and Table 4).

Pneumonia surveillance: Since the beginning of 2021, specimens from 3 846 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were received from the 6 sentinel sites. Influenza was detected in 35 (1%) patients, of which one (3%) was influenza A(H3N2), 30 (86%) influenza B (Victoria) and four (11%) were influenza B (pending lineage results). (Figure 9 and Table 7).

In addition, influenza was detected in 14 (2%) specimens, 11 (79%) were influenza B (Victoria) and 3 (21%) influenza B (pending lineage results) from 614 patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ILI surveillance case definitions.

#### Respiratory syncytial virus

In 2021 to date. RSV detection has been reported from all surveillance programmes, activity remains below seasonal threshold.

ILI programme: In 2021 to date, 1 140 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of 72 (6%) patients.

**Viral Watch programme:** In 2021 to date, 161 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of six (4%) patients.

Pneumonia surveillance: Since the beginning of 2021, 3 846 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of 388 (10%) patients.

In addition, RSV was detected in 21 of 614 (3%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ ILI surveillance case definitions.

#### SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2)

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 was initiated in all three surveillance programmes in week 10 of 2020 (week starting 2 March 2020).

ILI programme: From March 2020 to date, specimens from 2 451 patients were tested and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 495 (20%) patients.

Viral Watch programme: From March 2020 to date, specimens were tested from 440 patients and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 83 (19%) patients.

Pneumonia surveillance: From March 2020 to date, specimens from 7 862 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were tested and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 1762 (22%) patients.

In addition, SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 159 of 817 (19%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ILI surveillance case definitions.

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#### INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

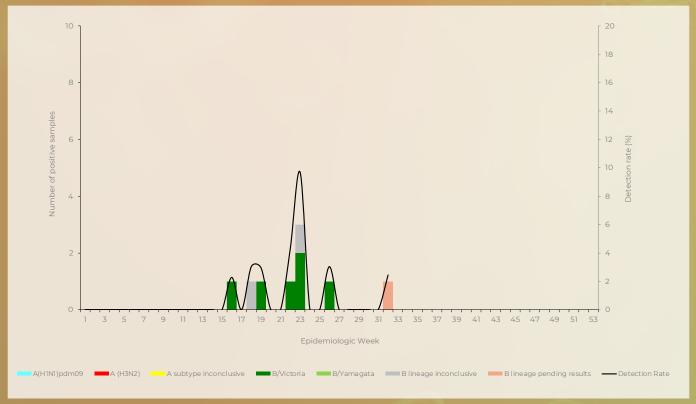


Figure 1. Number of positive samples\* by influenza subtype and lineage\*\* and detection rate\*\*\* by week

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	B lineage pending results***	Total samples
Agincourt (MP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	159
Eastridge (WC)	0	0	0	0	О	О	0	173
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	0	0	О	3	О	2	0	134
Jouberton (NW)	0	0	О	3	О	О		549
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0	0	О	0	О	О	0	125
Total:	0	0	0	6	0	2	1	1 140

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

\*\*Influenza was detected from 11 of 495 (2%). 10 (91%) were influenza B(Victoria) and one (9%) was influenza B (pending lineage results) from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet Influenza-like illness (ILI) case definition.
\*\*\*influenza B lineage results are pending

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#### INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

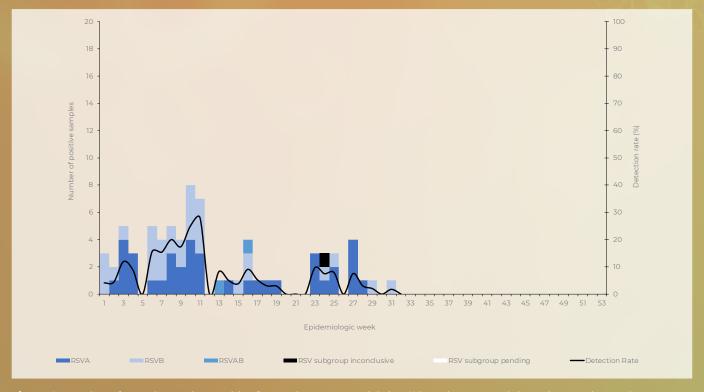


Figure 2. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus\*\* by subgroup and detection rate by week

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	RSV subgroup pending*	Total samples
Agincourt (MP)	11	7		0	0	159
Eastridge (WC)	22			0	0	173
Edendale Gateway (KZ)		6	0	0	0	134
Jouberton (NW)	2	17	0		0	549
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	2	0	0	0	0	125
Total	38	31	2	1	0	1140

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified \*RSV results for subgroups are pending

\*\*RSV was detected from 15 of 495 (3%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet influenza-like illness (ILI) case definition. These are not included in the table.

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#### INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

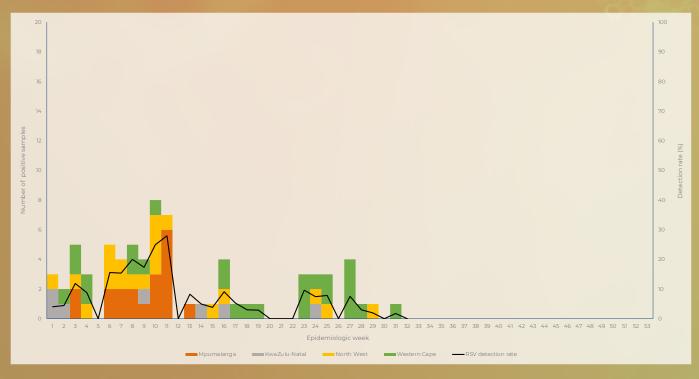


Figure 3. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus\* by province and detection rate by week

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#### INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

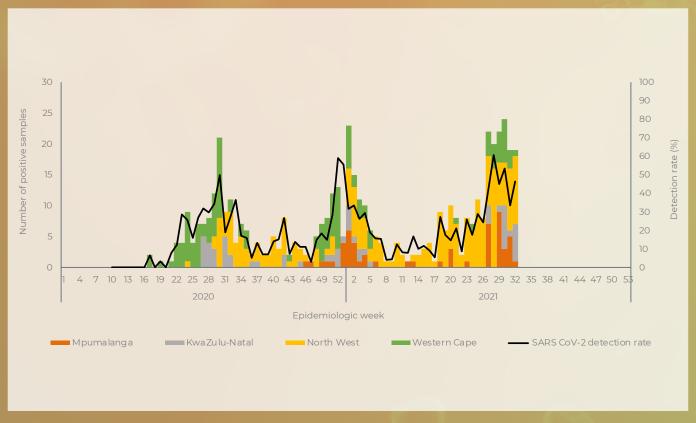


Figure 4. Number of samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2\*\$ by province and detection rate by week

Table 3. Cumulative number of SARS-CoV-2\*\* identified and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples tested
Agincourt (MP)	55	189
Eastridge (WC)	54	682
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	57	277
Jouberton (NW)	245	849
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	84	454
Total:	495	2 451

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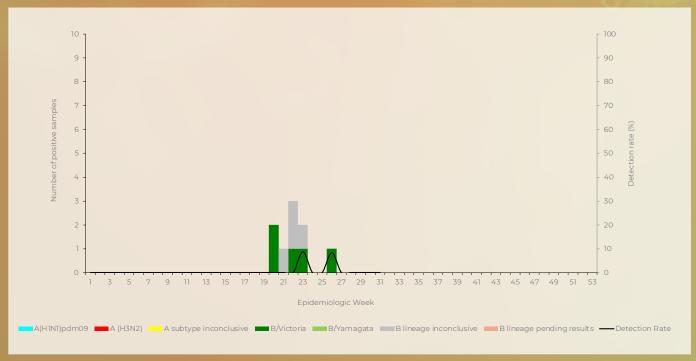


Figure 5. Number of positive samples\* by influenza subtype and lineage and detection rate\*\* by week

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	B lineage pending results*	Total samples
Eastern Cape	0	0	О		0	0	0	
Free State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gauteng	0	О	О	4	0	4	О	137
Limpopo	0	О	О	О	0	О	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	О	0	0	0	О	0	2
North West	0	О	0	О	0	О	0	2
Northern Cape	0	О	0	О	0	О	0	0
Western Cape	0	0	0	О	0	0	О	19
Total:	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	161

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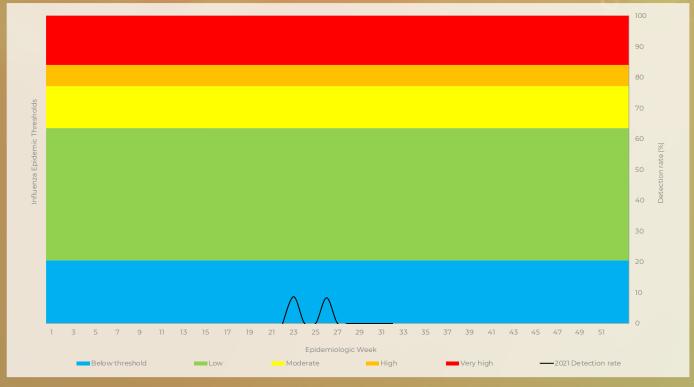


Figure 6. ILI surveillance (Viral Watch) percentage influenza detections and epidemic thresholds\*

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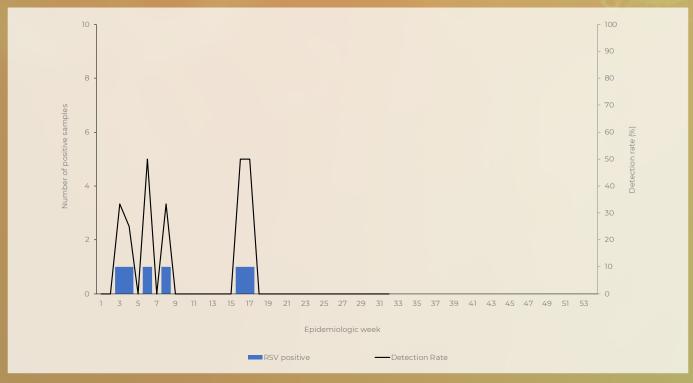


Figure 7. Number of samples testing positive for RSV\*, and detection rate by week

Table 5. Cumulative number of RSV positive cases identified and total number of samples tested by province

Province	RSV positive	Total samples tested
Eastern Cape	0	1
Free State	0	0
Gauteng	4	137
Limpopo	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	2
North West	0	2
Northern Cape	0	0
Western Cape	2	19
Total:	6	161

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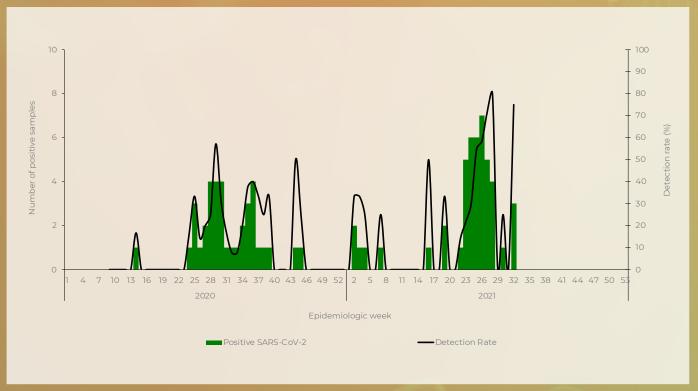


Figure 8. Number of samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2\*, and detection rate by week

Table 6. Cumulative number of SARS-CoV-2 identified and total number of samples tested by province

Hospital (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples
Eastern Cape		5
Free State		14
Gauteng	65	297
Limpopo	0	2
Mpumalanga		7
North West	0	2
Northern Cape	0	2
Western Cape	15	111
Total:	83	440

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#### NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

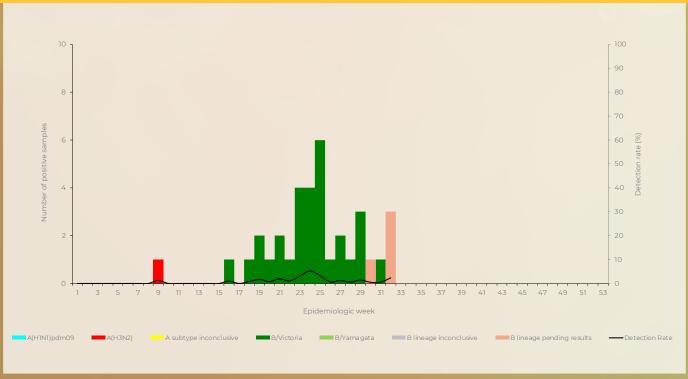


Figure 9. Number of positive samples\* by influenza subtype and lineage\*\* and detection rate\*\*\* by week

Table 7. Cumulative number of identified influenza subtype and lineage\*\* and total number of samples tested by hospital

Province	A(H1N1) pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/ Victoria	B/ Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	B lineage pending results***	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	573
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	0	0	О	13	0	0	2	1015
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	0	0	О	3	0	0		642
Mapulaneng- Matikwana (MP)	0	0	О		0	0	0	407
Red Cross (WC)	0	О	О	4	0	0		501
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0		0	0	0	0	0	550
Tintswalo (MP)	0	О	0	1	О	0	0	158
Total:	0	1	0	30	0	0	4	3 846

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga (Tintswalo started enrolling on the 10th Feb 2021); WC: Western Cape Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

\*\*Influenza was detected in three (3%) of 119 specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet pneumonia (SRI) case definition. One (33%) was influenza B (Victoria) and two (77%) were influenza B (pending lineage results). These are not included in the table.

\*\*\*influenza B lineage results are pending

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### NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

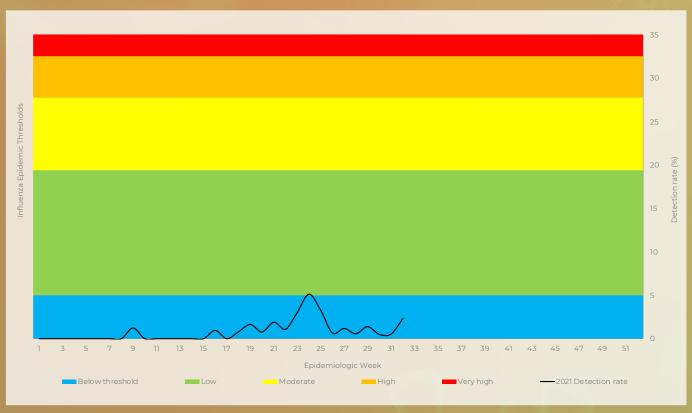


Figure 10. National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia percentage influenza detections and epidemic thresholds\*

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#### NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

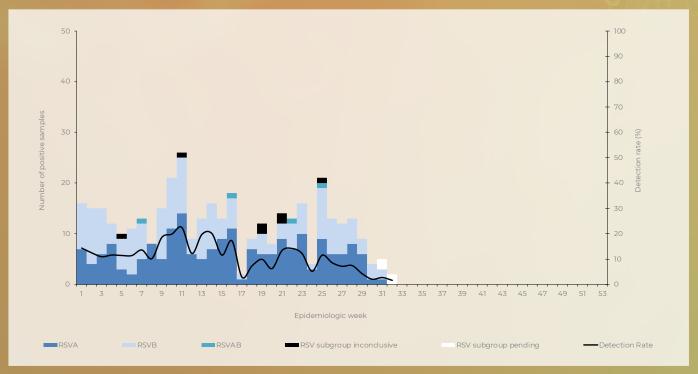


Figure 11. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus\* by subgroup and detection rate by week

Table 8: Cumulative number of respiratory syncytial virus\*\* subgroups identified and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	RSVA	RSVB	RSVAB	RSV subgroup inconclusive	RSV subgroup pending*	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	5	29	0	0	0	573
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	37	42	О	0	0	1015
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	8	44	0	2	О	642
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	20	7		0	0	407
Red Cross (WC)	81	41	2	4	4	501
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	36	10			О	550
Tintswalo (MP)	10	3	0	0	0	158
Total:	197	176	4	7	4	3 846

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga (Tintswalo started enrolling on the 10th Feb 2021); WC: Western Cape Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified \*RSV results for subgroups are pending

\*\*RSV was detected in six of 119 (5%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet pneumonia (SRI) case definition. These are not included in the table.

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#### NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

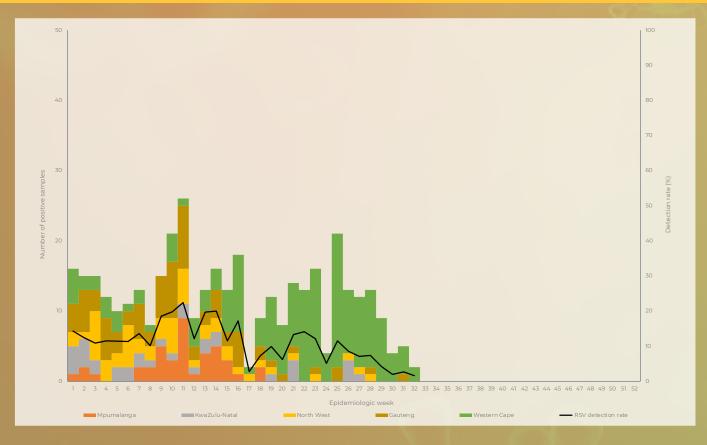


Figure 12. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus\* by province and detection rate by week

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#### NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

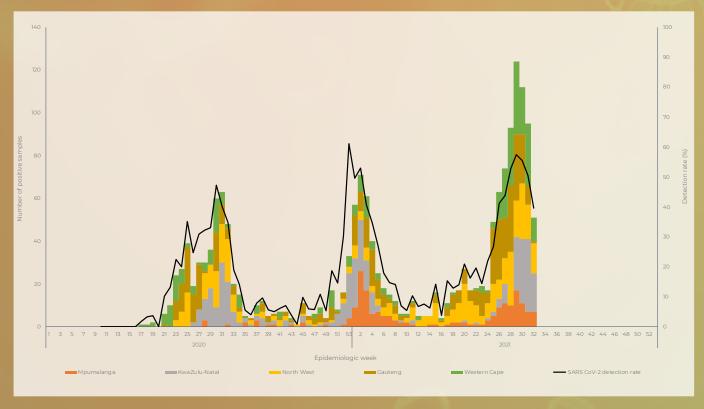


Figure 13. Number oof samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2\* by province and detection rate by week

Table 9. Cumulative number of identified SARS-CoV-2\*\* and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples tested		
Edendale (KZ)	369	1 398		
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	461	1860		
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	407	1 249		
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	152	709		
Red Cross (WC)	54	1 465		
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	276	1023		
Tintswalo (MP)	43	158		
Total:	1 762	7 862		

\*\*SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 28 of 190 (15%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet pneumonia (SRI) case definition. These are not included in the table.

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#### **SUMMARY OF LABORATORY CONFIRMED SARS-COV-2 CASES**

Table 10. Characteristics of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19, enrolled in influenza-like illness (ILI) and

Characteristic	Influenza-like illness (ILI), public-sector, n=626 (%)	Pneumonia, n=1 790 (%)	
Age group			
0-9	47/626 (8)	119/1790 (7)	
10-19	42/626 (7)	11/1790 (1)	
20-39	290/626 (46)	309/1790 (17)	
40-59	198/626 (32)	670/1790 (37)	
60-79	47/626 (7)	612/1790 (34)	
≥80	2/626 (<1)	69/1790 (4)	
Sex-female	378/626 (60)	1085/1790 (61)	
Province*			
Gauteng	N/A	462/1790 (26)	
KwaZulu-Natal	96/626 (15)	373/790 (21)	
Mpumalanga**	75/626 (12)	218/1790 (12)	
North West	313/626 (50)	407/1790 (23)	
Western Cape	142/626 (23)	330/1790 (18)	
Race			
Black	459/618 (74)	1396/1753 (80)	
Coloured	129/618 (21)	259/1753 (15)	
Asian/Indian	4/618 (1)	44/1753 (2)	
White	20/618 (3)	35/1753 (2)	
Other	6/618 (1)	19/1753 (1)	
Presentation			
Fever	491/618 (79)	844/1753 (48)	
Cough	600/618 (97)	1682/1753 (96)	
Shortness of breath	209/618 (34)	1382/1753 (79)	
Chest pain	254/618 (41)	706/1753 (40)	
Diarrhoea	48/618 (8)	106/1753 (6)	

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Characteristic	Influenza-like illness (ILI), public-sector, n=626 (%)	Pneumonia, n=1 790 (%)
Underlying conditions		
Hypertension	17/618 (3)	248/1753 (14)
Cardiac	2/618 (<1)	44/1753 (3)
Lung disease	0/618 (0)	2/1753 (<1)
Diabetes	14/618 (2)	353/1753 (20)
Cancer	1/618 (<1)	10/1753 (1)
Tuberculosis	8/618 (1)	41/1753 (2)
HIV-infection	109/618 (18)	371/1753 (21)
Other ***	12/618 (2)	90/1753 (5)
Management		
Oxygen therapy	8/618 (1)	1 215/1753 (69)
ICU admission	N/A	36/1753 (2)
Ventilation	N/A	43/1753 (2)
Outcome***		
Died	0/601 (0)	245/1504 (16)

