



Key messages for local services

COVID-19

Overall indicators of COVID-19 activity during January were higher than in December. Laboratory notifications were 37% higher than in December and were predominantly from older age groups. The positivity rate of PCR tests peaked early January and averaged 11.1% compared to 8.8% in December. ED presentations and admissions declined during January, and were at a similar level to the same time in 2023. Numbers of aged care outbreaks were high in January.

Influenza

Influenza case notifications slightly increased at the start of January before decreasing, and overall remained at low-moderate levels, slightly above the usual inter-seasonal baseline. Case notifications are predominantly from children and young adults. Influenza A remains the predominant influenza strain detected. Influenza test positivity increased at the start of January but the average was similar to December at 3.8%. ED presentations for influenza-like illness remain stable at the top of the expected range for this time of year. Pneumonia and ILI admissions have declined during January, but remain above the expected range for this time of the year.

Respiratory syncytial virus

RSV PCR positivity increased during January, as did bronchiolitis ED presentations, to be near the top of the expected range for this time of year.

Data summary

1. Case numbers

Table 1: SESLHD COVID PCR and RAT positive cases by LGA of residence, Jan 2024

LGA	January count	January rate per 100,000*	2024 YTD count	2024 crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	431	244.6	454	257.6
Georges River	322	210.7	343	224.5
Randwick	268	198.2	292	215.9
Sutherland Shire	445	192.6	477	206.5
Sydney	147	205.4	151	211
Waverley	127	183	138	198.9
Woollahra	126	233.7	140	259.7
SESLHD	1,866	210.3	1,995	224.8

Table 2: SESLHD influenza positive cases by LGA of residence and notification week, Jan 2024

LGA	January count	January rate per 100,000*	2024 YTD count	2024 crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	62	35.2	72	40.9
Georges River	68	44.5	72	47.1
Randwick	89	65.8	94	69.5
Sutherland Shire	109	47.2	113	48.9
Sydney	58	81	65	90.8
Waverley	82	118.2	90	129.7
Woollahra	57	105.7	61	113.2
SESLHD	525	59.0	567	63.7

*based on estimated resident population 2021.

Figure 1: SESLHD COVID-19 cases by week of notification, 2023 to 4 February 2024

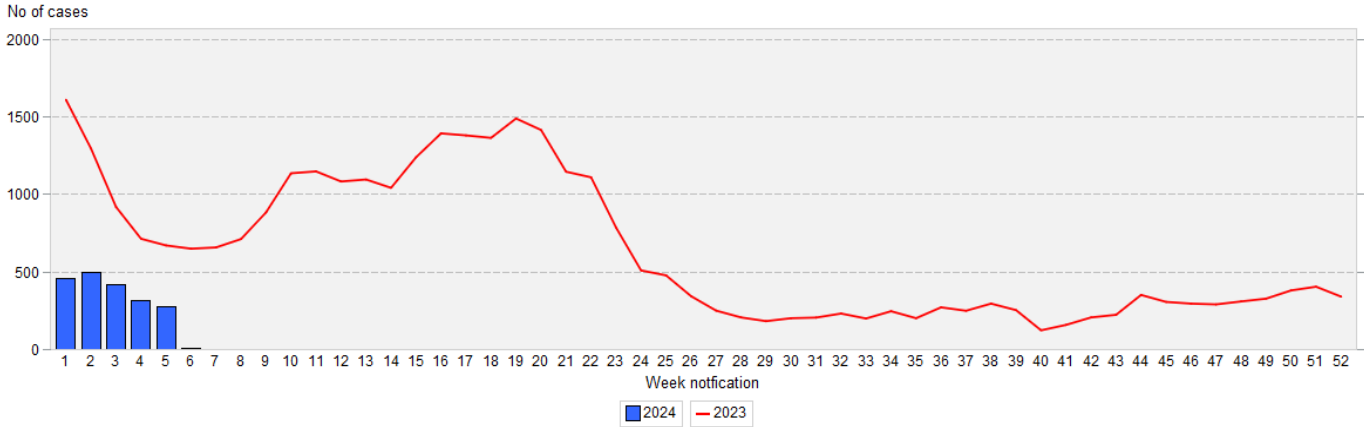
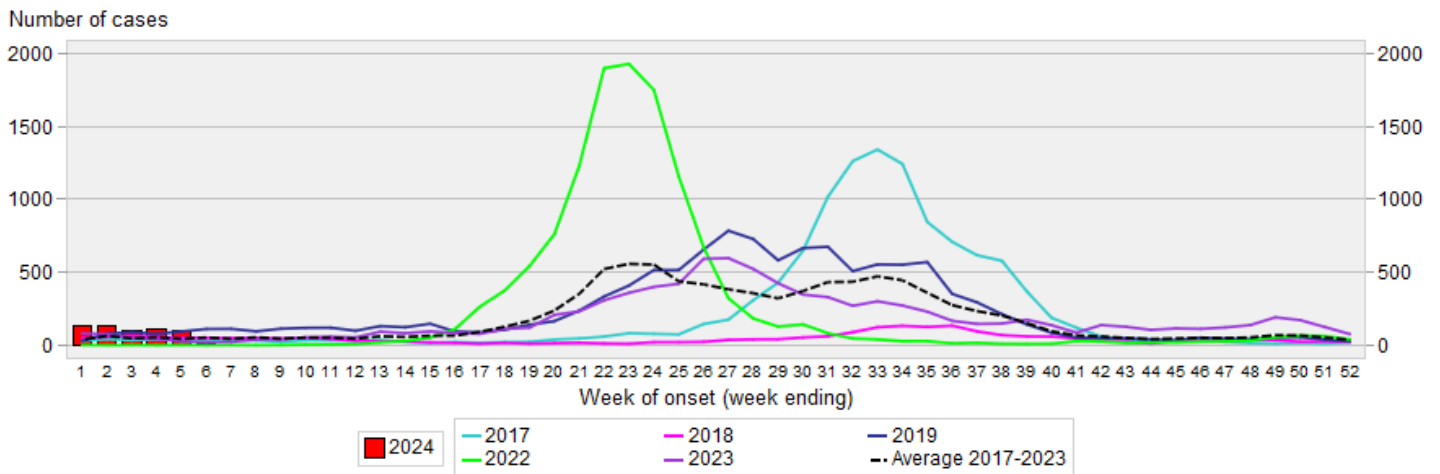
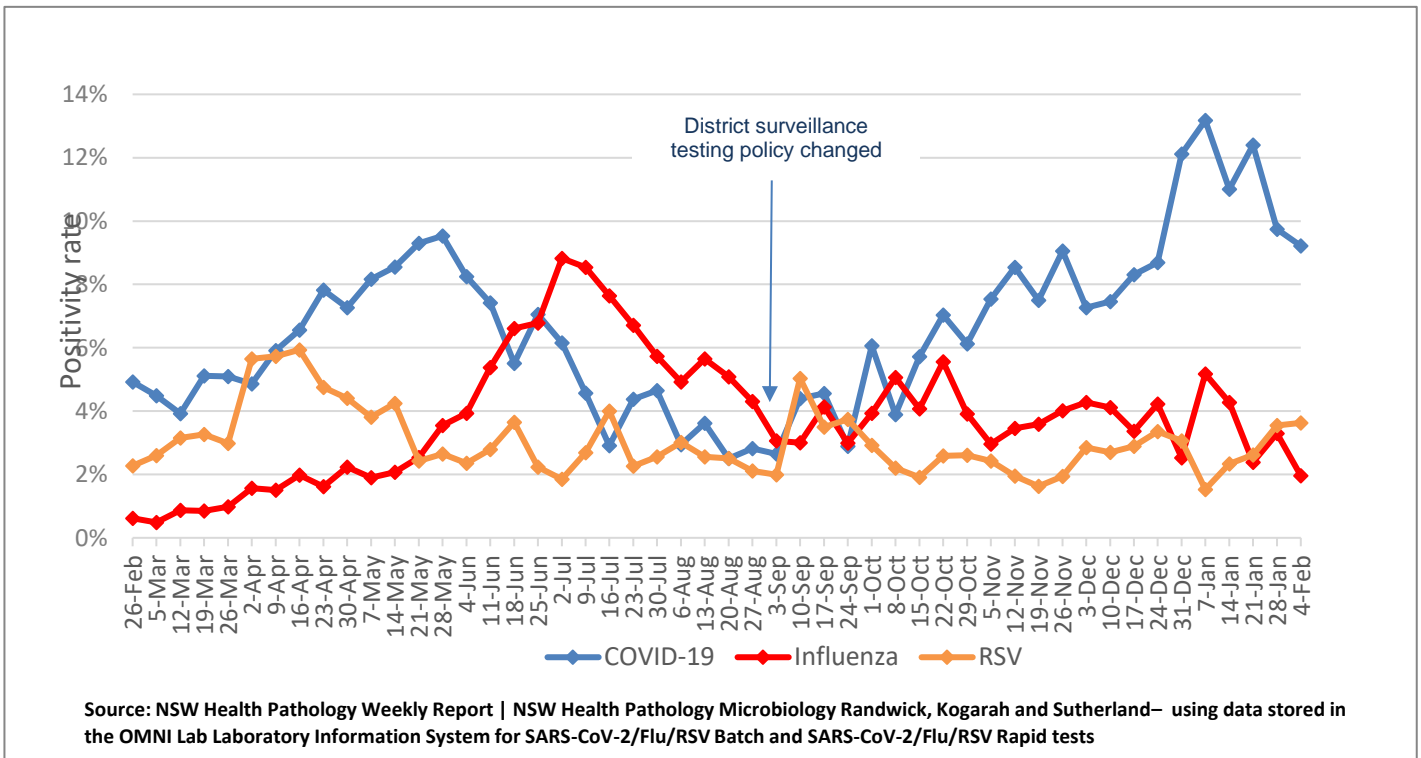


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases 2024 compared to previous 5 years*



*average 2017-2023 excludes 2020 and 2021

Figure 3: SEALS respiratory test positivity rate by week, week ending 4 February 2024

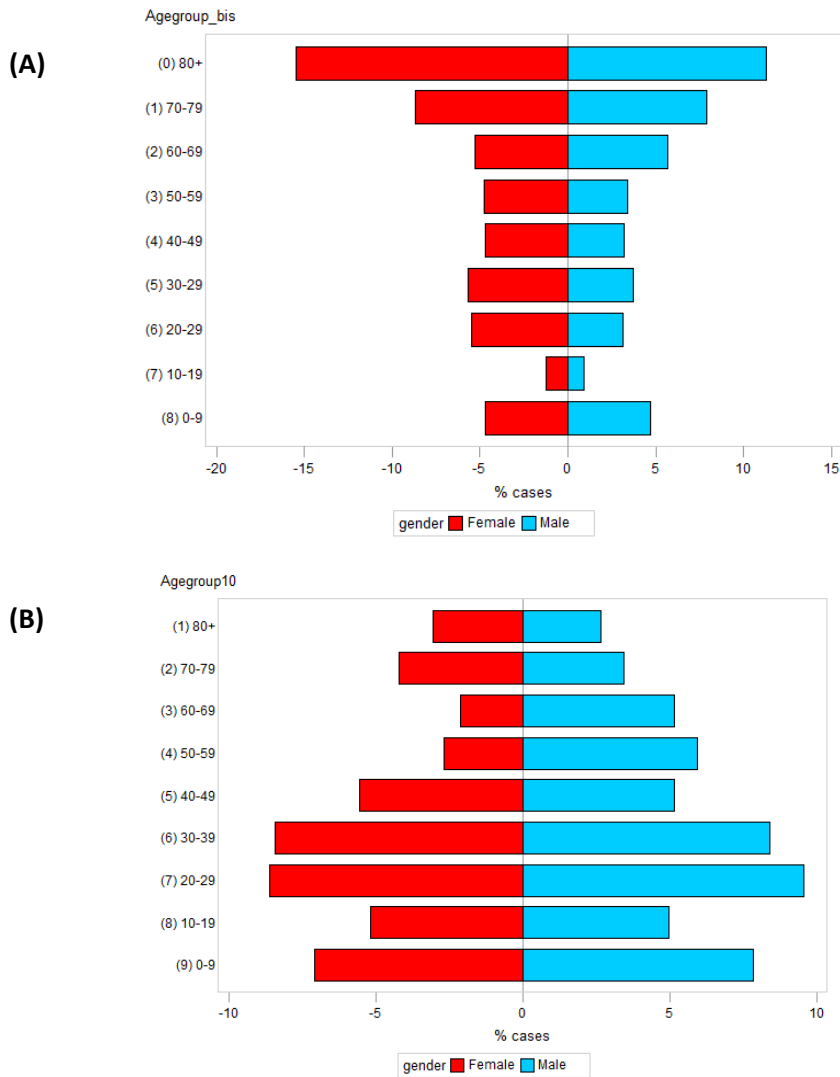


Source: NSW Health Pathology Weekly Report | NSW Health Pathology Microbiology Randwick, Kogarah and Sutherland– using data stored in the OMNI Lab Laboratory Information System for SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Batch and SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Rapid tests

* SESLHD SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity is based on SEALS testing data that mainly reflects patients presenting to District hospitals, including SCH.

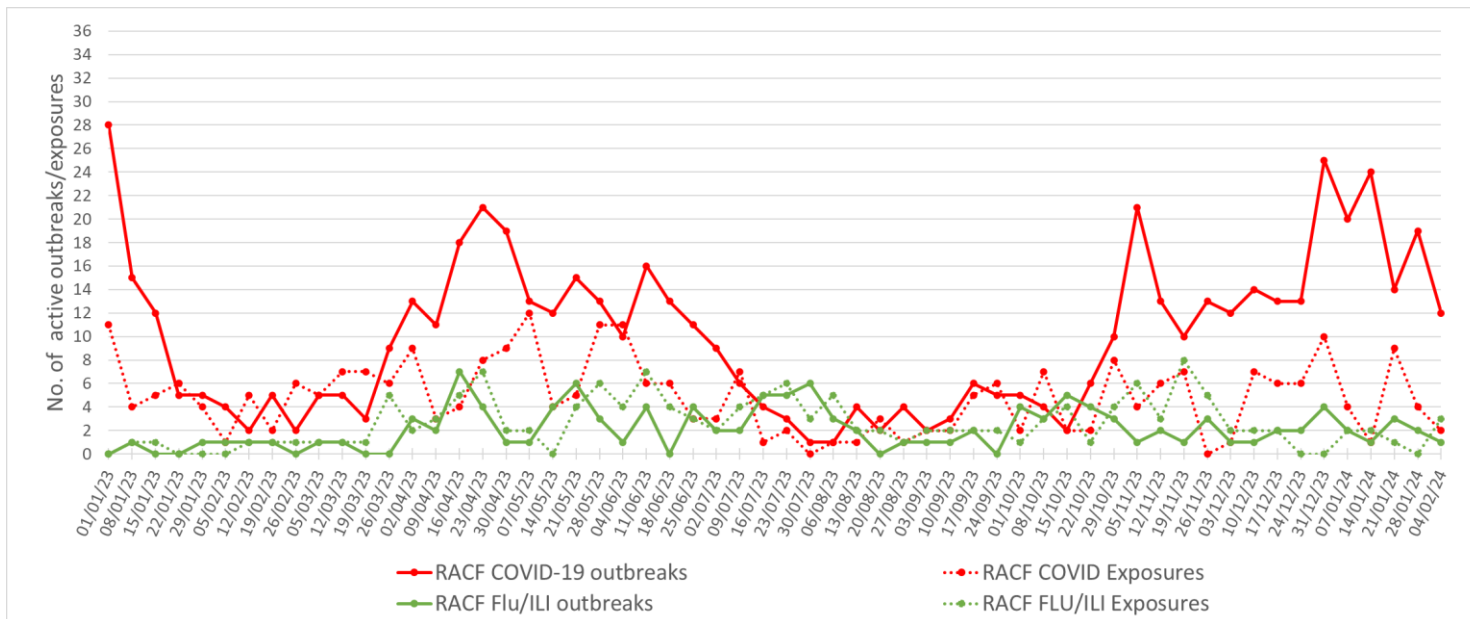
2. Demographic Data

Figure 4: Percentage of (A) COVID and (B) influenza cases in the last month by age group and gender, to 31 Jan 2024



3. Residential facility outbreaks reported to the SESLHD Public Health Unit

Figure 5: SESLHD aged care facility & disability COVID and Flu/ILI exposures and outbreaks, 01 Jan 2023 to 4 Feb 2024



NB. 'Flu/ILI' outbreaks include outbreaks caused by RSV and other respiratory viruses

4. SESLHD emergency department presentations and admissions

Figure 6: Presentations to ED due to respiratory, fever and unspecified infection

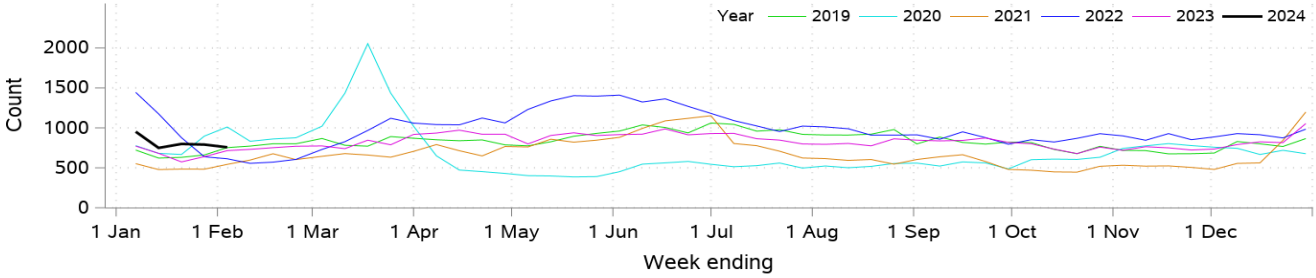


Figure 7: Presentations to ED due to influenza like illness

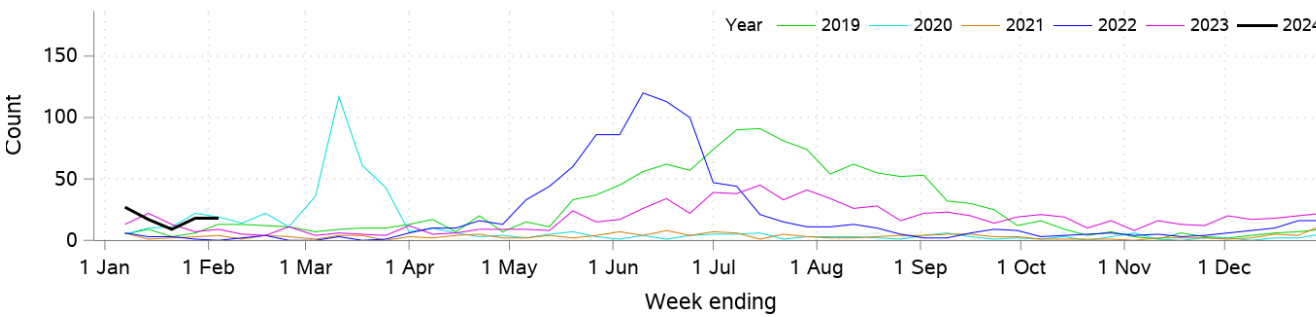


Figure 8: Pneumonia and ILI hospital admissions

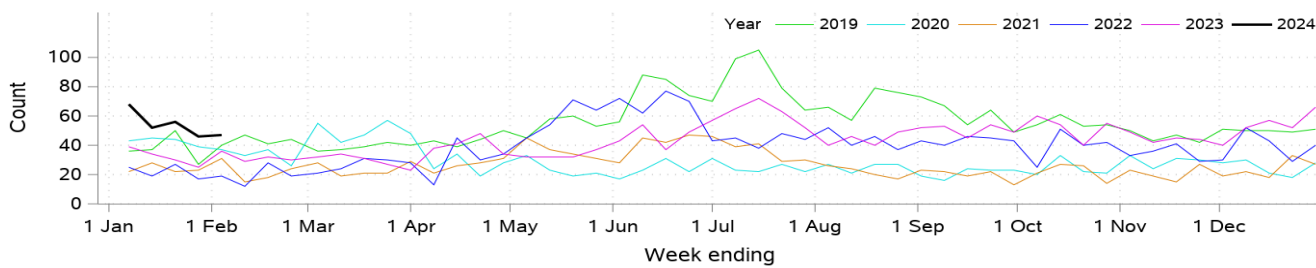


Figure 9: Presentations to ED due to COVID-19/coronaviruses

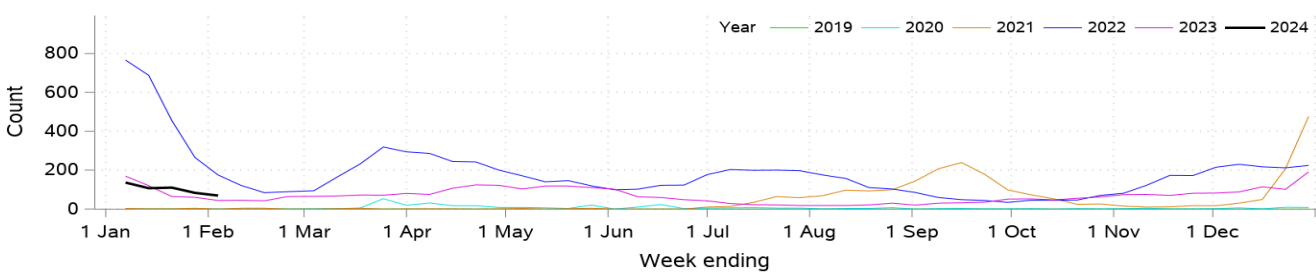


Figure 10: COVID-19/coronaviruses hospital admissions

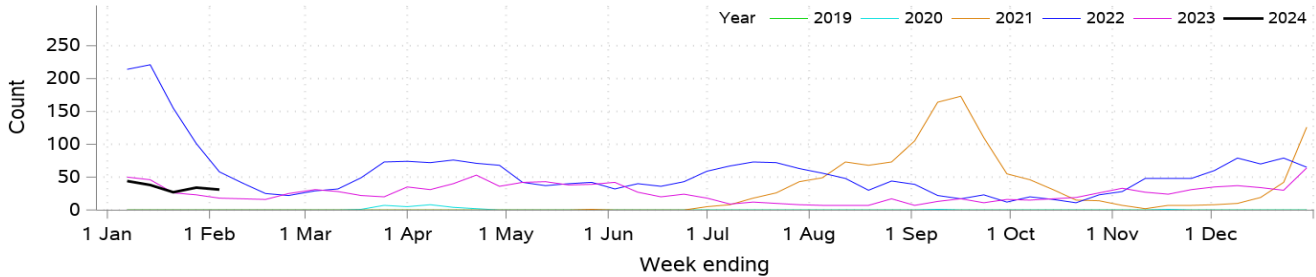
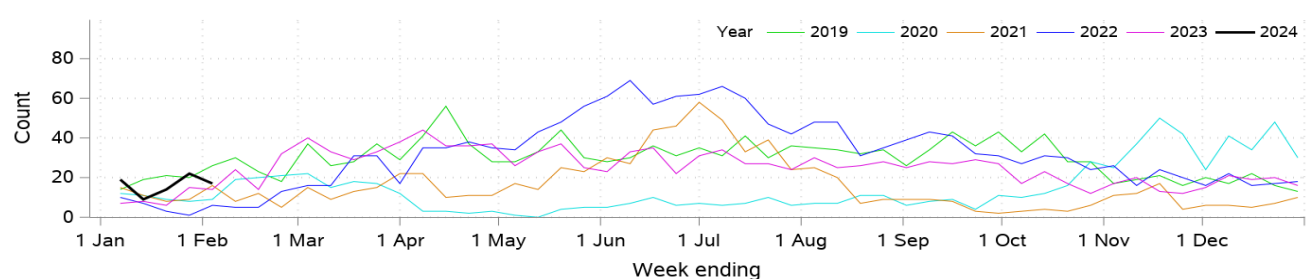


Figure 11: Presentations to ED due to bronchiolitis



Data is from NSW Public Health Rapid Emergency Department Surveillance System