

Acute Respiratory Infections Weekly Report  
Week-ending 17 March 2024

Issued 18 March 2024

**Key messages for local services**

**COVID-19**

COVID-19 activity decreased last week. Laboratory notifications were 14% lower than the week before and were predominantly from older age groups and young children. The positivity rate of PCR tests decreased from 6.1% to 4.4%. ED presentations and admissions continued to slowly decline. Number of aged care outbreaks were steady.

**Influenza**

Influenza case notifications increased by 8% last week, but remain at low-moderate levels overall, slightly above the usual inter-seasonal baseline. Case notifications are predominantly from children, teens and adults aged 30-39 years. Influenza A remains the predominant influenza strain detected. Influenza test positivity increased slightly from 2.6% to 3.4%. ED presentations for influenza-like illness remain stable at the top of the expected range for this time of year. Pneumonia and ILI admissions remained steady last week and remain above the expected range for this time of the year.

**Respiratory syncytial virus**

RSV PCR positivity decreased last week but remains high at 6.5%. Bronchiolitis ED presentations decreased but remain at the top of the expected range for this time of year.

**Data Summary**

**1. Case numbers**

**Table 1: SESLHD COVID confirmed cases by LGA of residence**

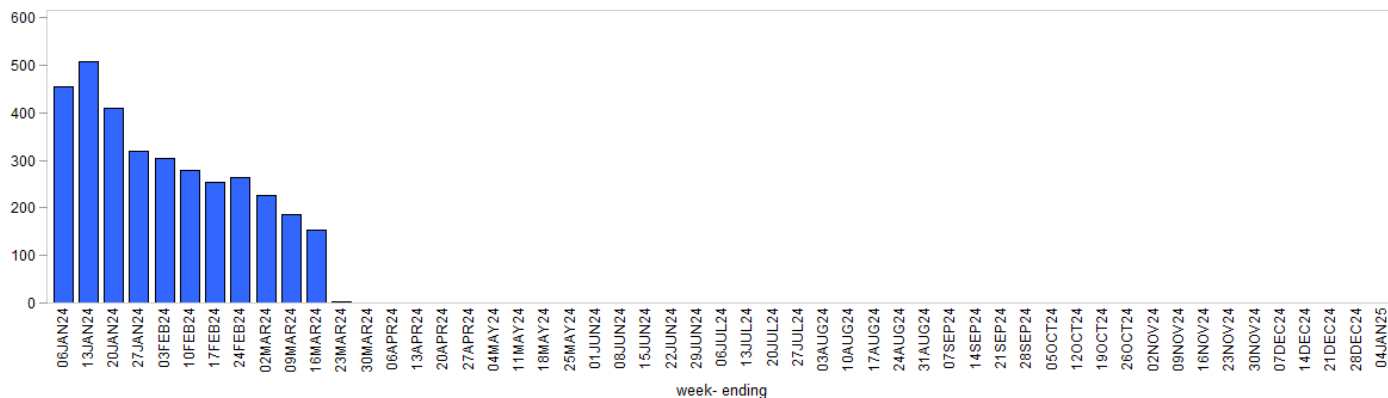
LGA	Last 7 days	Last 14 days	Last 28 days	Last 7 days crude rate*
Bayside	39	85	198	22.1
Georges River	19	43	120	12.4
Randwick	20	38	140	14.8
Sutherland Shire	41	90	223	17.7
Sydney	11	22	42	15.4
Waverley	12	24	62	17.3
Woollahra	7	19	45	13.0
<b>SESLHD</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>16.7</b>

**Table 2: SESLHD influenza confirmed cases by LGA of residence**

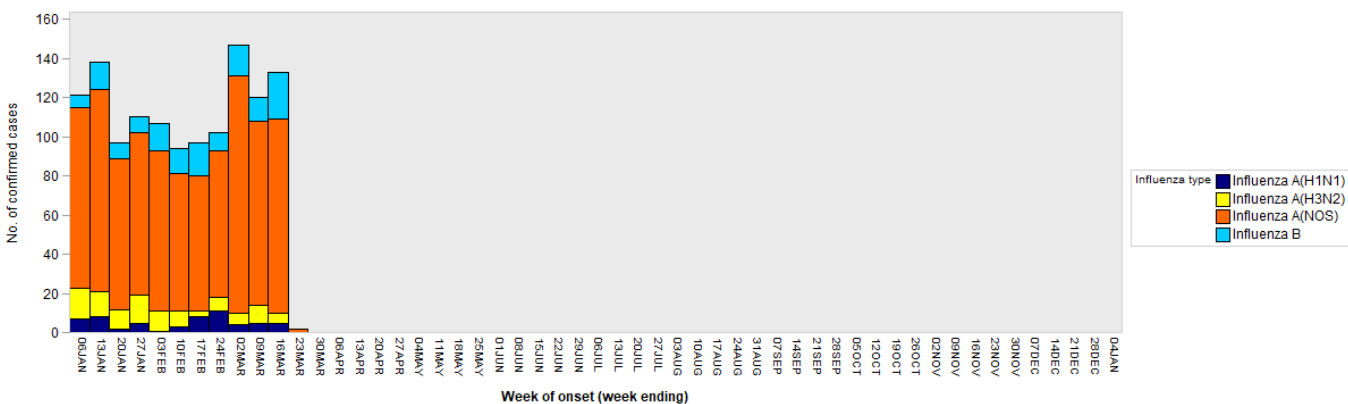
LGA	Last 7 days	Last 14 days	Last 28 days	Last 7 days crude rate*
Bayside	25	51	91	14.2
Georges River	18	35	70	11.8
Randwick	23	38	79	17
Sutherland Shire	22	53	96	9.5
Sydney	11	27	52	15.4
Waverley	20	33	61	28.8
Woollahra	8	14	40	14.8
<b>SESLHD</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>14.3</b>

\* Per 100,000 population based on estimated resident population 2021.

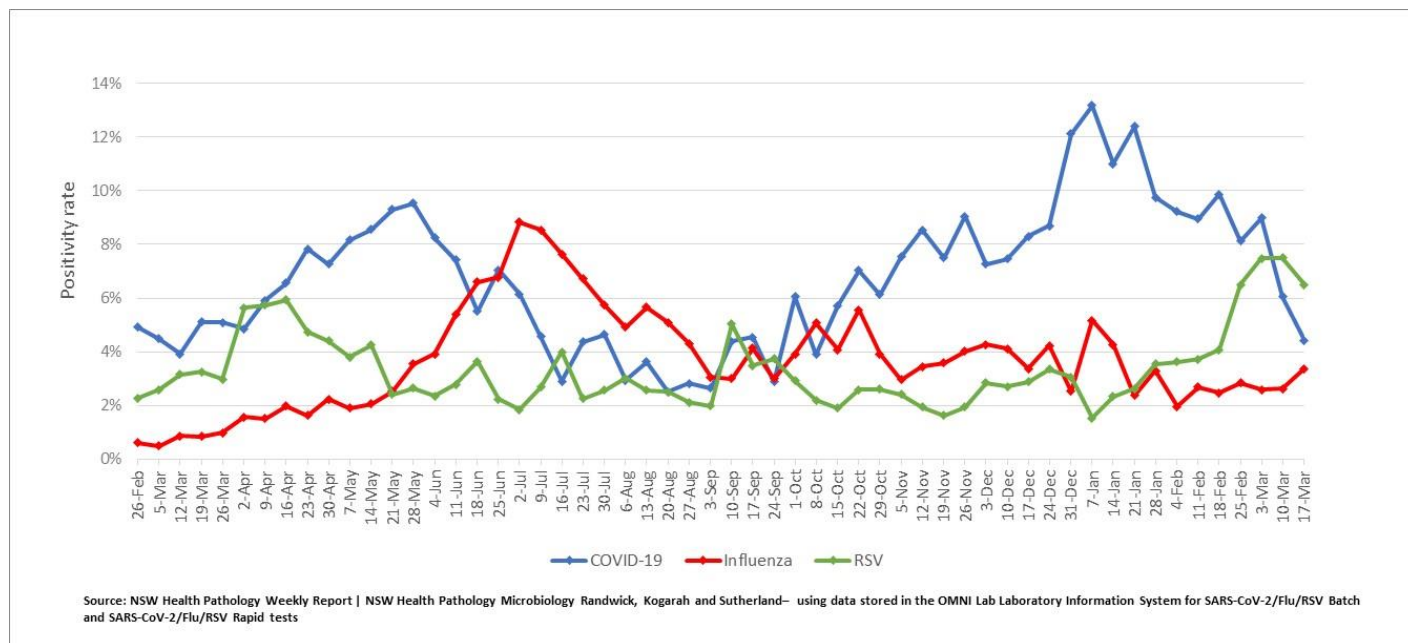
**Figure 1: SESLHD COVID-19 cases 2024, by week of notification**



**Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases 2024 by subtype\***



**Figure 3: NSW Health Pathology respiratory PCR positivity rate by week, 26 February 2023 - 17 March 2024**

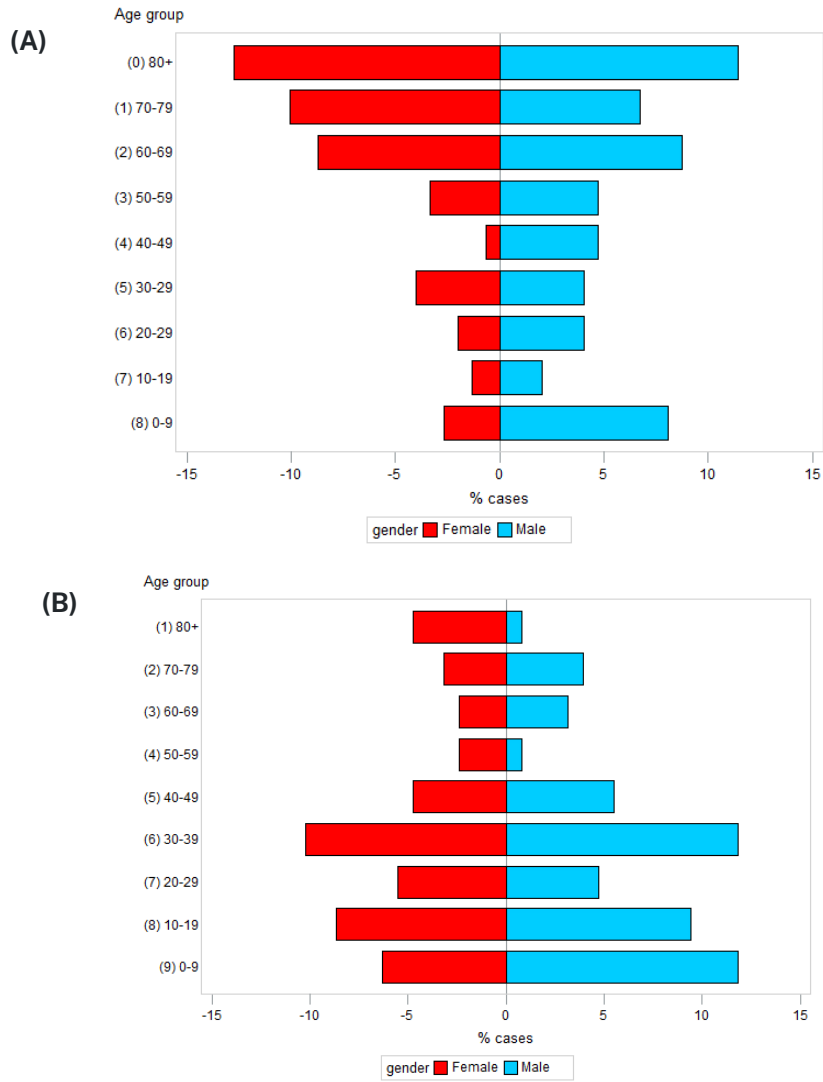


Source: NSW Health Pathology Weekly Report | NSW Health Pathology Microbiology Randwick, Kogarah and Sutherland— using data stored in the OMNI Lab Laboratory Information System for SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Batch and SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Rapid tests

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

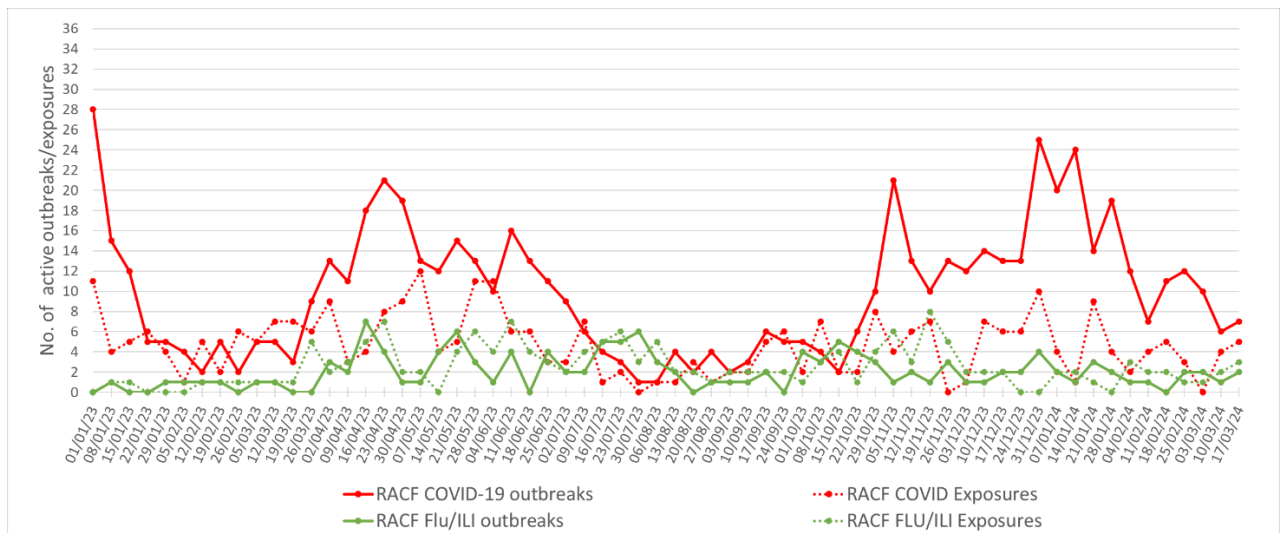
## 2. Demographic data

Figure 4: Percentage of (A) COVID and (B) influenza cases in the last 7 day by age group and gender



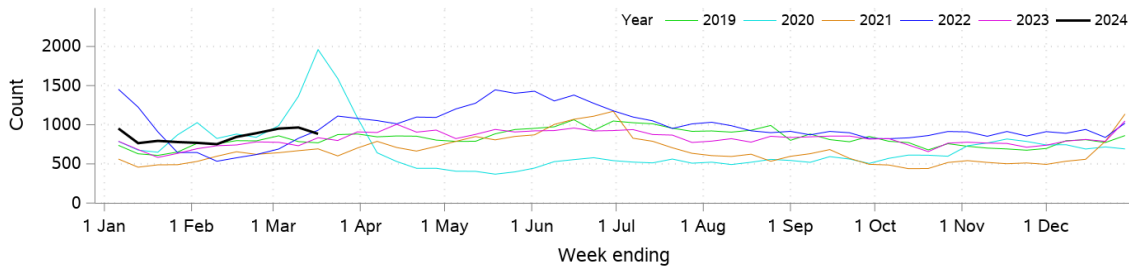
## 3. Residential facility outbreaks reported to SESLHD Public Health Unit

Figure 5: SESLHD aged care facility & disability COVID and Flu/ILI exposures and outbreaks, 01 Jan 2023 to 17 March 2024

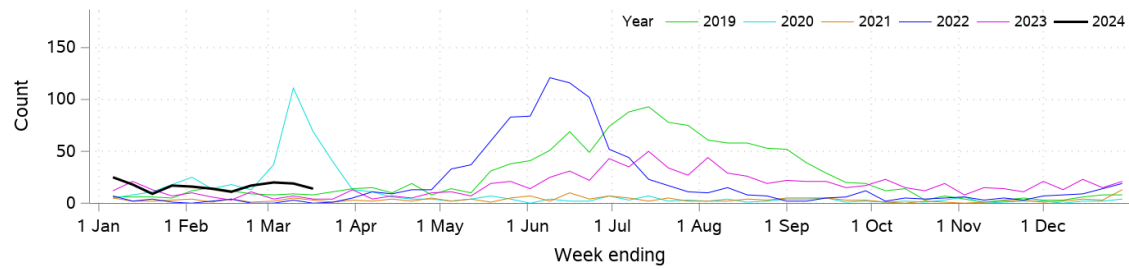


## 4. SESLHD emergency department presentations and admissions

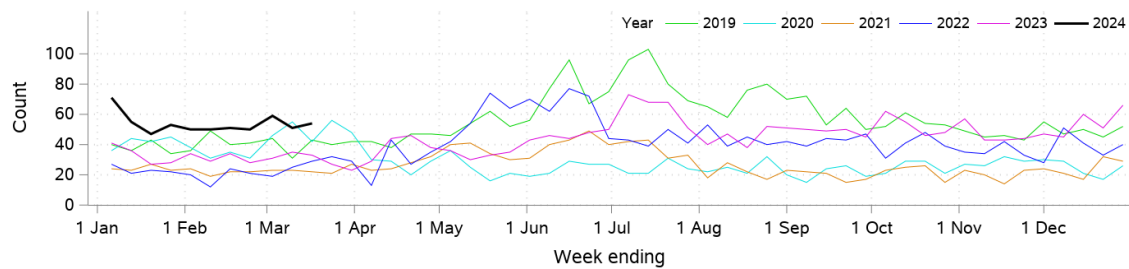
**Figure 6: Presentations to ED due to respiratory, fever and unspecified infection**



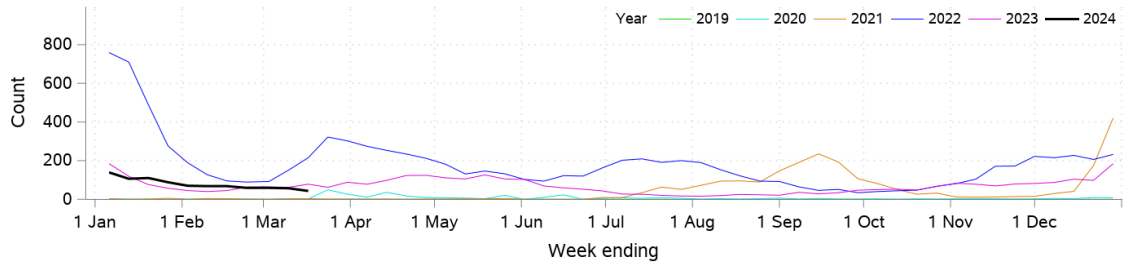
**Figure 7: Presentations to ED due to influenza like illness**



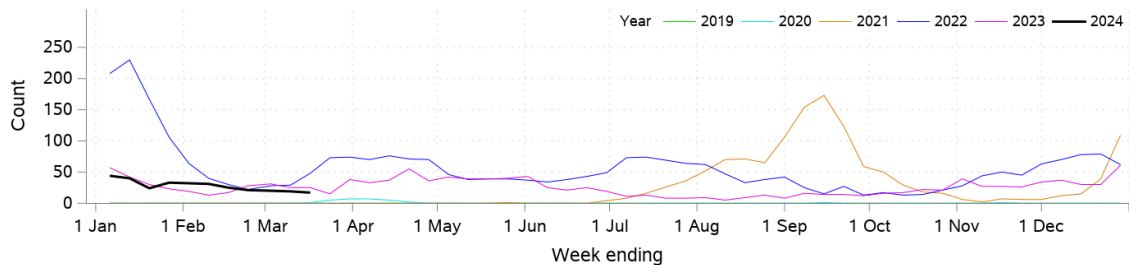
**Figure 8: Pneumonia and ILI hospital admissions**



**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**

