

Acute Respiratory Infections Weekly Report
 Week-ending 24 March 2024

Issued 25 March 2024

Key messages for local services

COVID-19

COVID-19 activity was similar last week and remains at moderate levels. Laboratory notifications were 16% higher than the week before and were predominantly from older age groups. The positivity rate of PCR tests increased from 4.4% to 5.4%, however ED presentations and admissions continued to slowly decline as did the number of aged care outbreaks.

Influenza

Influenza case notifications were stable last week, and remain at low-moderate levels overall, slightly above the usual inter-seasonal baseline. Case notifications are predominantly from children, teens and adults aged 40-49 years. Influenza A remains the predominant influenza strain detected. Influenza test positivity increased slightly from 3.4% to 4.1%. 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 above the expected range for this time of the year.

Respiratory syncytial virus

RSV PCR positivity increased steeply from 6.5% to 11.8 % last week. Bronchiolitis ED presentations also increased sharply and are well above the expected range for this time of year. From today, Beyfortus, a new highly effective monoclonal RSV antibody, is available in public hospitals to infants at highest risk of RSV.

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	58	97	207	32.9
Georges River	24	43	95	15.7
Randwick	14	34	103	10.4
Sutherland Shire	28	70	179	12.1
Sydney	14	25	49	19.6
Waverley	28	41	69	40.3
Woollahra	8	15	41	14.8
SESLHD	174	325	743	19.5

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	28	55	111	15.9
Georges River	17	38	77	11.1
Randwick	23	48	83	17
Sutherland Shire	25	50	105	10.8
Sydney	9	21	54	12.6
Waverley	21	43	73	30.3
Woollahra	9	19	38	16.7
SESLHD	132	274	541	15.1

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

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

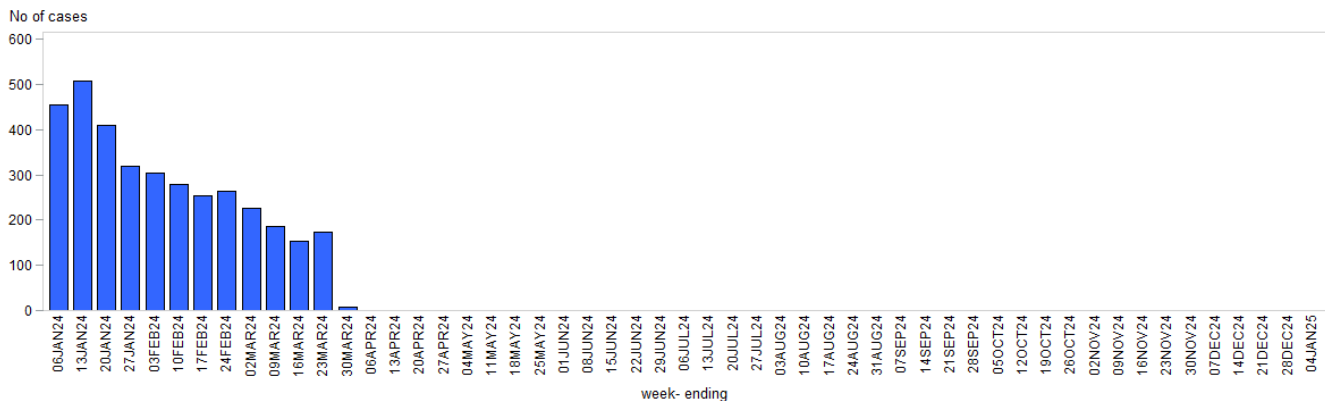


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases 2024 by subtype*

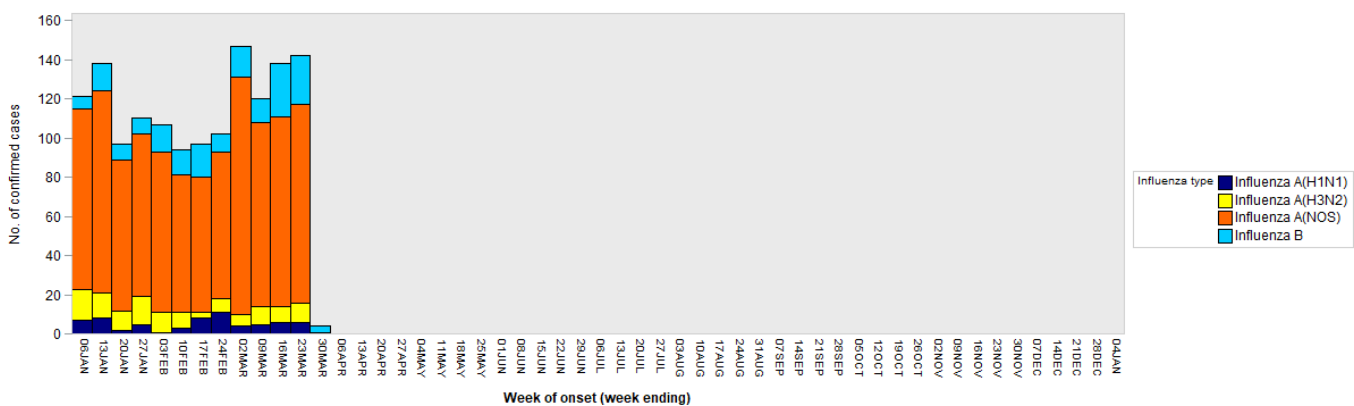
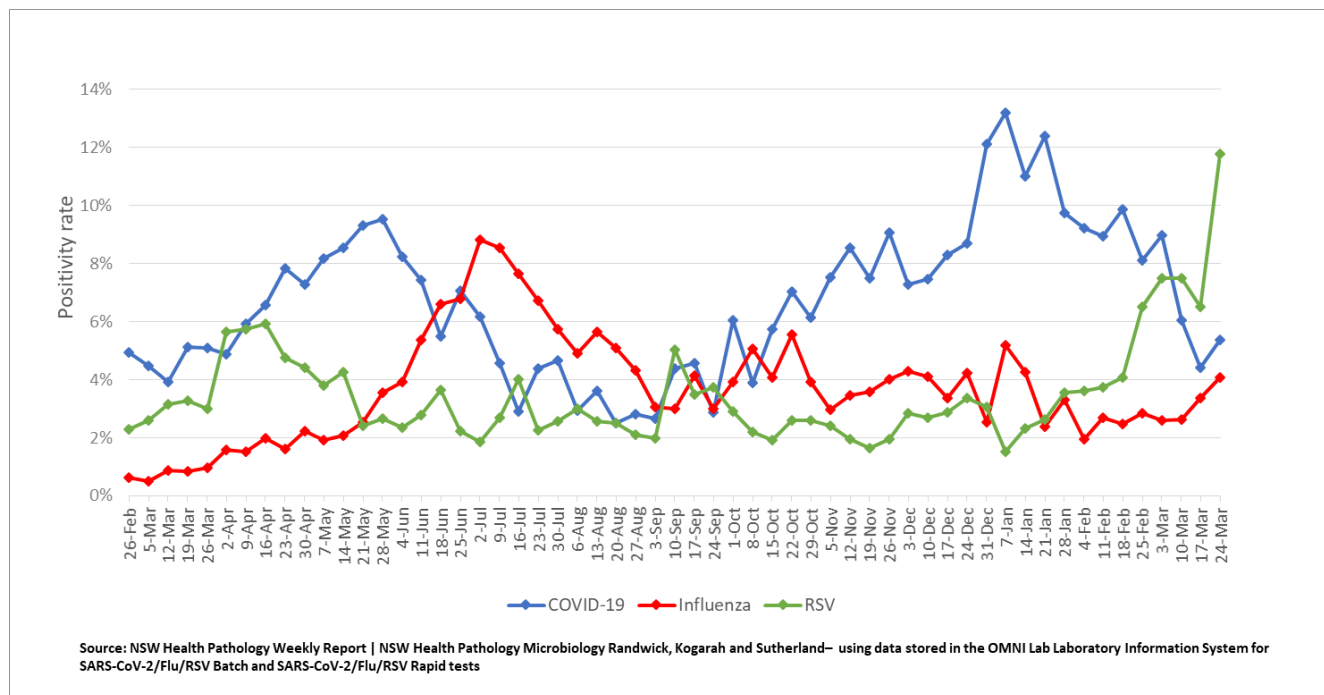


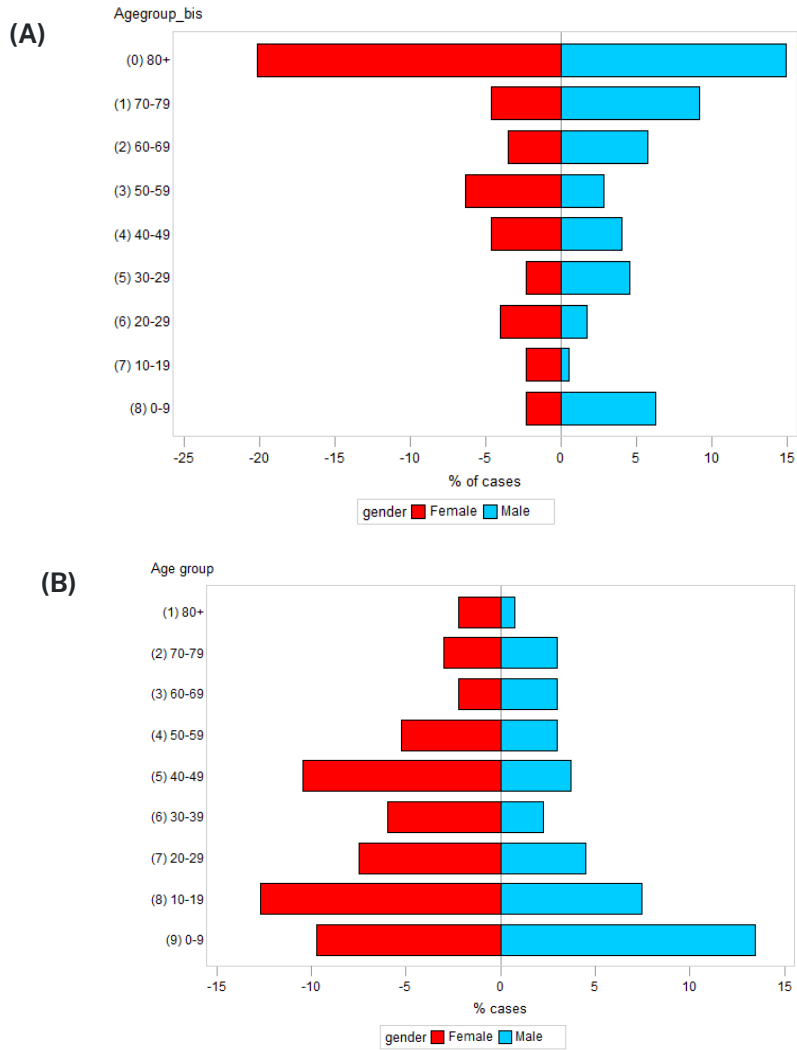
Figure 3: NSW Health Pathology respiratory PCR positivity rate by week, 26 February 2023 - 24 March 2024



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

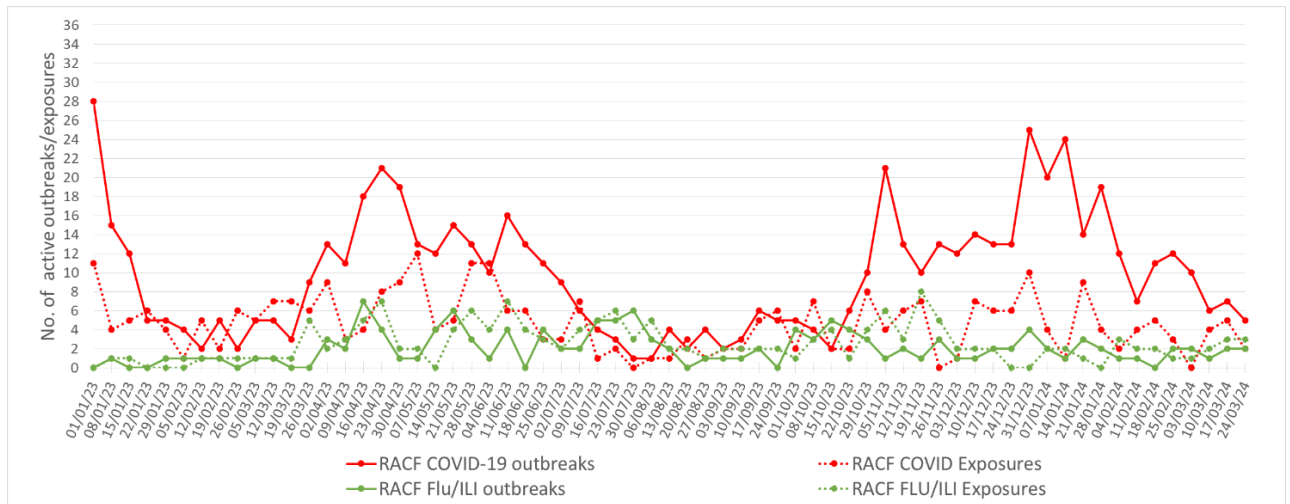
2. Demographic data

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 24 March 2024



4. SESLHD emergency department presentations and admissions

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

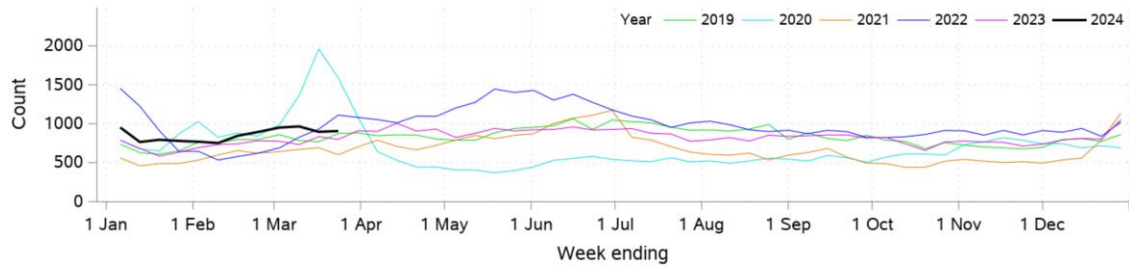


Figure 7: Presentations to ED due to influenza like illness

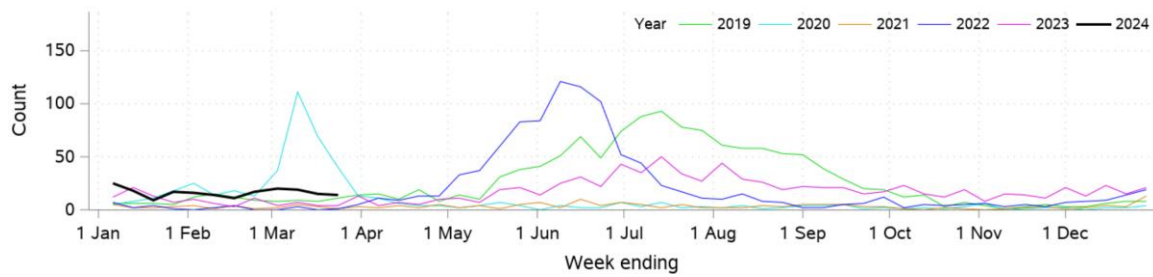


Figure 8: Pneumonia and ILI hospital admissions

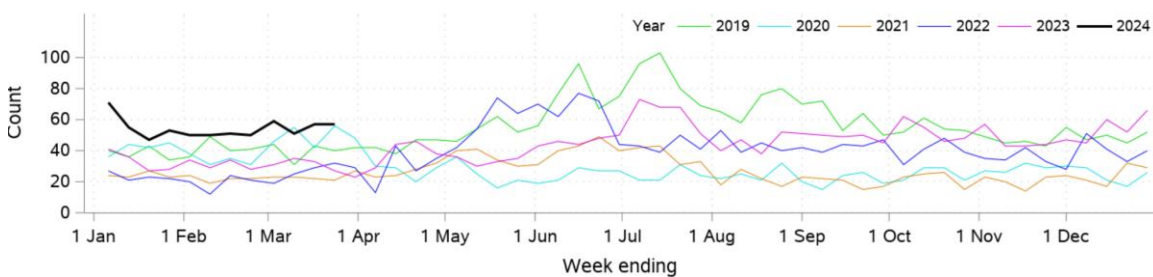


Figure 9: Presentations to ED due to COVID-19/coronaviruses

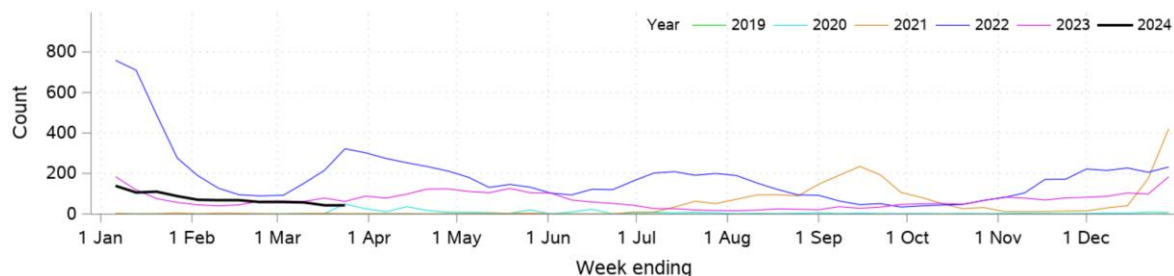


Figure 10: COVID-19/coronaviruses hospital admissions

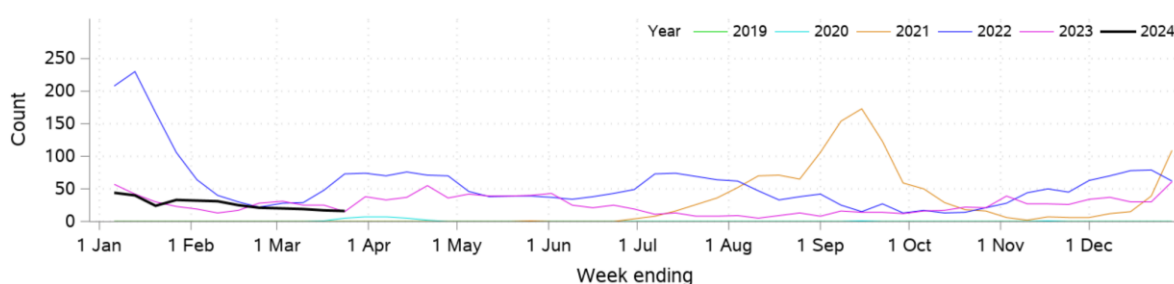


Figure 11: Presentations to ED due to bronchiolitis

