

Acute Respiratory Infections Weekly Report
Week-ending 31 March 2024

Issued 2 April 2024

Key messages for local services

COVID-19

COVID-19 activity declined further last week and is now at low-moderate level. Laboratory notifications were similar to the week before and were predominantly from older age groups and children aged 0 to 9 years. The positivity rate of PCR tests decreased from 5.4% to 4.5%. ED presentations and admissions continued to slowly decline as did the number of aged care outbreaks.

Influenza

Influenza activity remains at low-moderate level. Case notifications decreased last week, but remain slightly above the usual inter-seasonal baseline. Case notifications are predominantly from children, and adults aged 40-49 years but the proportion of cases among people aged 70 and over has increased. Influenza A remains the predominant influenza strain detected. Influenza test positivity decreased slightly from 4.1% to 3.7%. ED presentations for influenza-like illness remain stable at the top of the expected range for this time of year. Pneumonia and ILI admissions increased last week and are above the expected range for this time of the year.

Respiratory syncytial virus

RSV PCR positivity decreased from 11.8% to 9.8 % last week. Bronchiolitis ED presentations also decreased but remain above the expected range for this time of year. Since last week, Beyfortus, a new highly effective monoclonal RSV antibody, has been 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	42	90	187	23.8
Georges River	21	45	94	13.7
Randwick	25	44	83	18.5
Sutherland Shire	41	72	166	17.7
Sydney	13	27	50	18.2
Waverley	15	41	68	21.6
Woollahra	14	22	41	26
SESLHD	171	341	689	19.2

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	21	50	104	11.9
Georges River	6	22	65	3.9
Randwick	14	42	82	10.4
Sutherland Shire	21	45	102	9.1
Sydney	6	16	43	8.4
Waverley	19	39	81	27.4
Woollahra	13	30	49	24.1
SESLHD	100	244	526	11.2

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

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

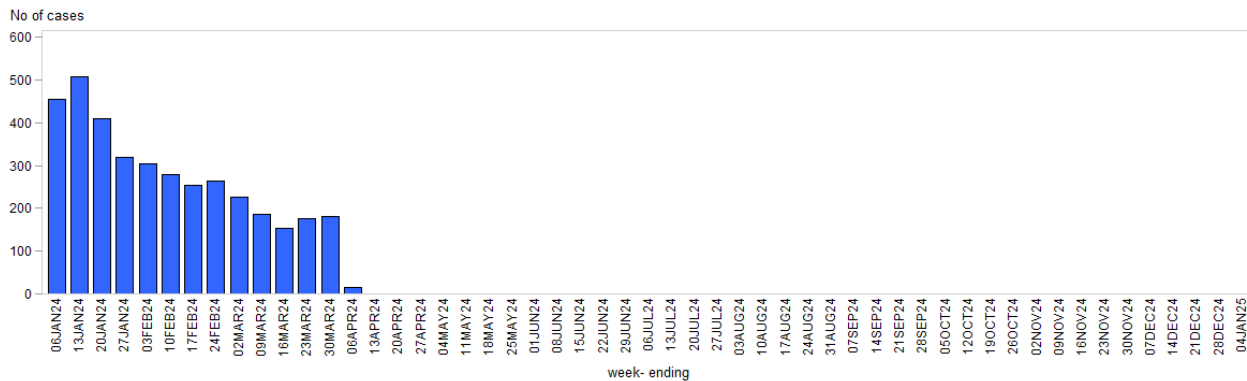


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases 2024 by subtype*

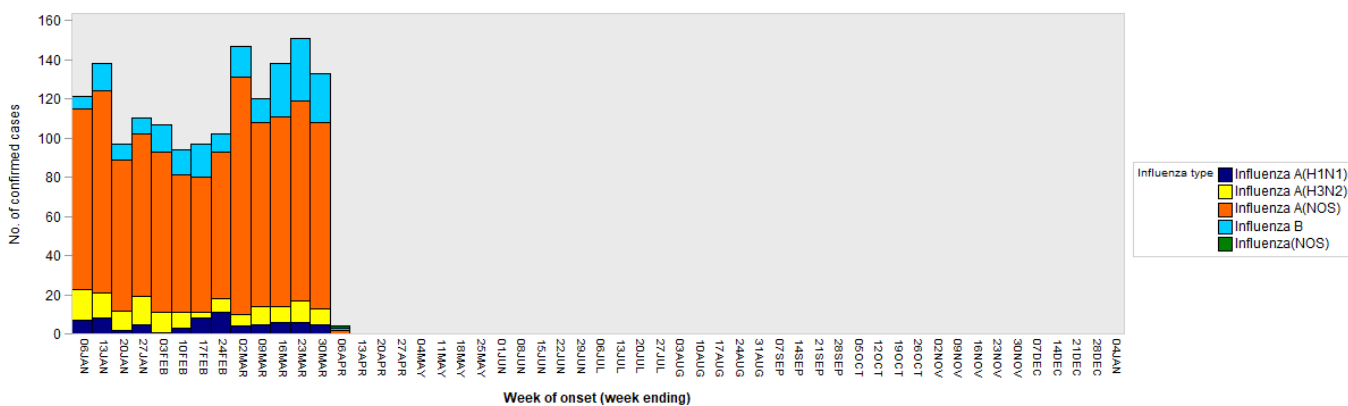
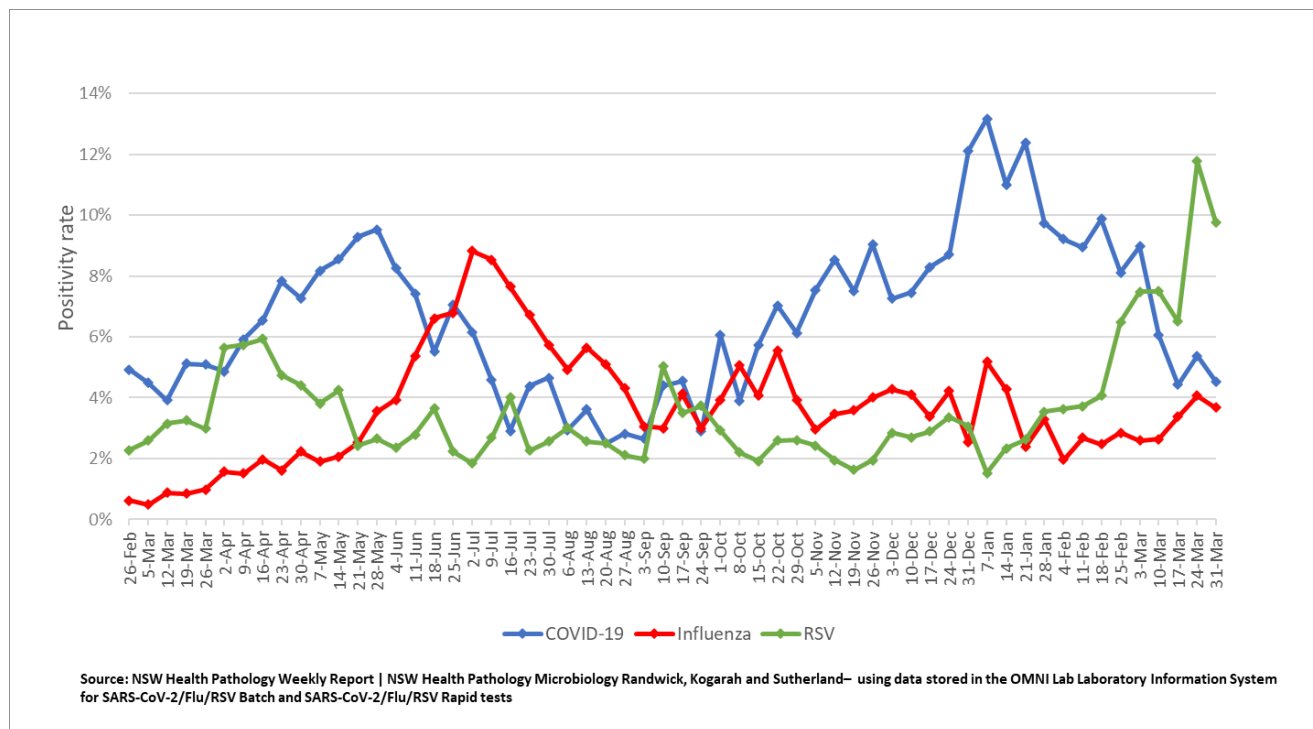


Figure 3: NSW Health Pathology respiratory PCR positivity rate by week, 26 February 2023 - 31 March 2024

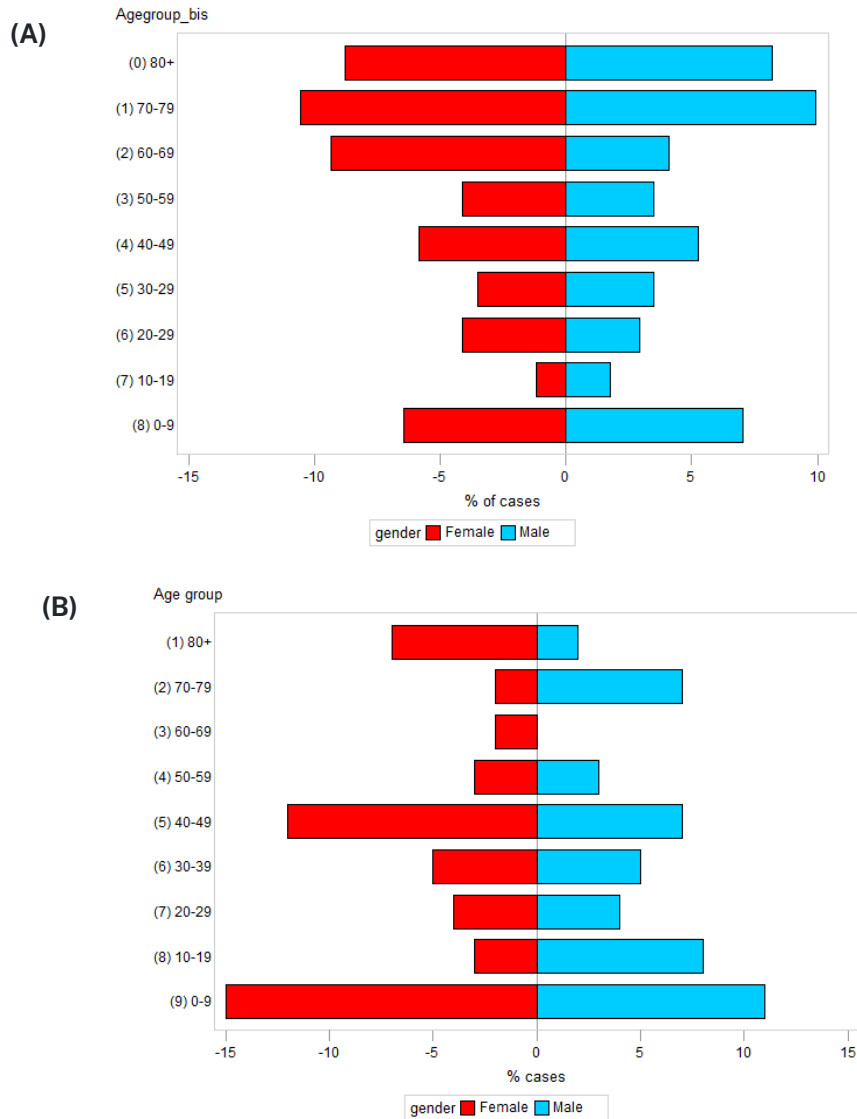


Source: NSW Health Pathology Weekly Report | NSW Health Pathology Microbiology Randwick, Kogarah and Sutherland— using data stored in the OMNI Lab Laboratory Information System for SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Batch and SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Rapid tests

* 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 31 March 2024

