

Acute Respiratory Infections Weekly Report
 Week-ending 19 May 2024

Issued 20 May 2024

Key messages for local services

Influenza and COVID-19 waves are expected to coincide this year with high activity of both viruses forecast from June (NSW Health modelling).

COVID-19

COVID-19 activity is at moderate levels, however there is evidence of increasing activity. Laboratory notifications increased last week, though the positivity rate of PCR tests decreased from 8.3% to 6.5%, ED presentations and admissions remained low and the number of aged care outbreaks decreased.

Influenza

Influenza activity is at a moderate level, and increasing. NSW Health has declared the start of the 2024 influenza season.

In SESLHD, influenza test positivity increased from 4.9% to 7.8%. Laboratory notifications increased last week, and are predominantly in children. ED presentations for influenza-like illness increased, within the usual range seen at this time of year. Pneumonia and ILI admissions increased this week and are above the range seen at this time of the year but are likely contributed to by non-influenza infections.

Respiratory syncytial virus

RSV activity remains at a high level, however is decreasing. RSV PCR positivity decreased last week from 7.4% to 4.1%. Bronchiolitis ED presentations decreased this week and are within the usual range experienced at this time of year.

Data Summary

1. Case numbers

Table 1: SESLHD COVID-19 confirmed cases by LGA of residence

LGA	Last 7 days	Last 14 days	Last 28 days	Last 7 days crude rate*
Bayside	72	111	162	40.9
Georges River	74	139	191	48.4
Randwick	51	85	142	37.7
Sutherland Shire	84	162	256	36.4
Sydney	27	58	91	37.7
Waverley	30	75	119	43.2
Woollahra	31	50	98	57.5
SESLHD	369	680	1,059	41.5

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	69	129	176	39.2
Georges River	80	120	164	52.4
Randwick	37	74	100	27.4
Sutherland Shire	77	142	252	33.3
Sydney	18	39	60	25.2
Waverley	31	50	76	44.7
Woollahra	11	22	36	20.4
SESLHD	323	576	864	36.3

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

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

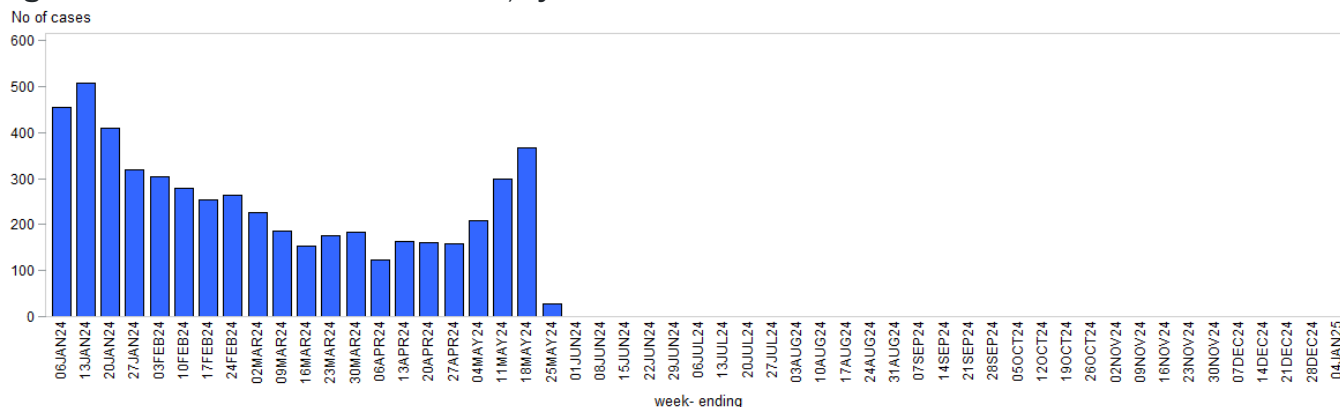


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases 2024 by subtype

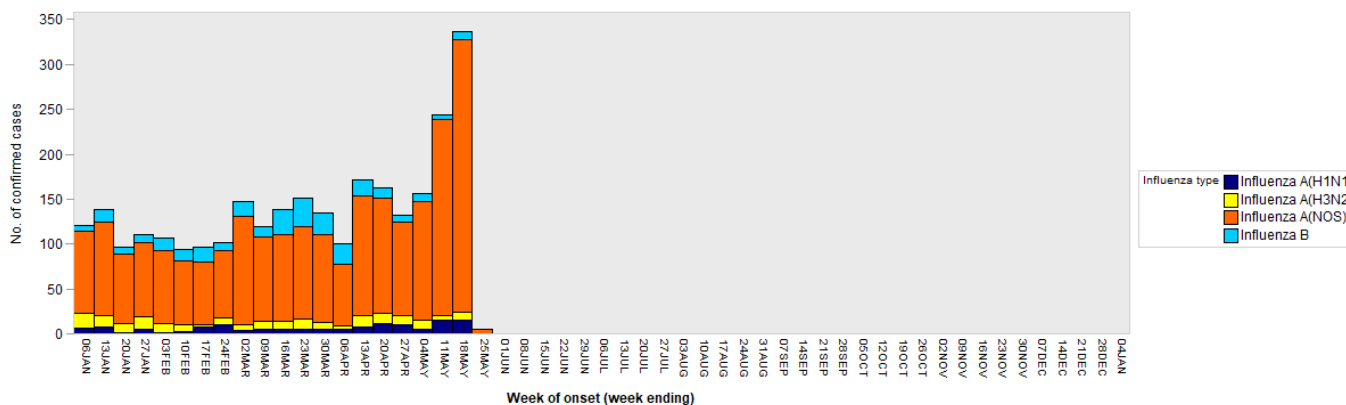
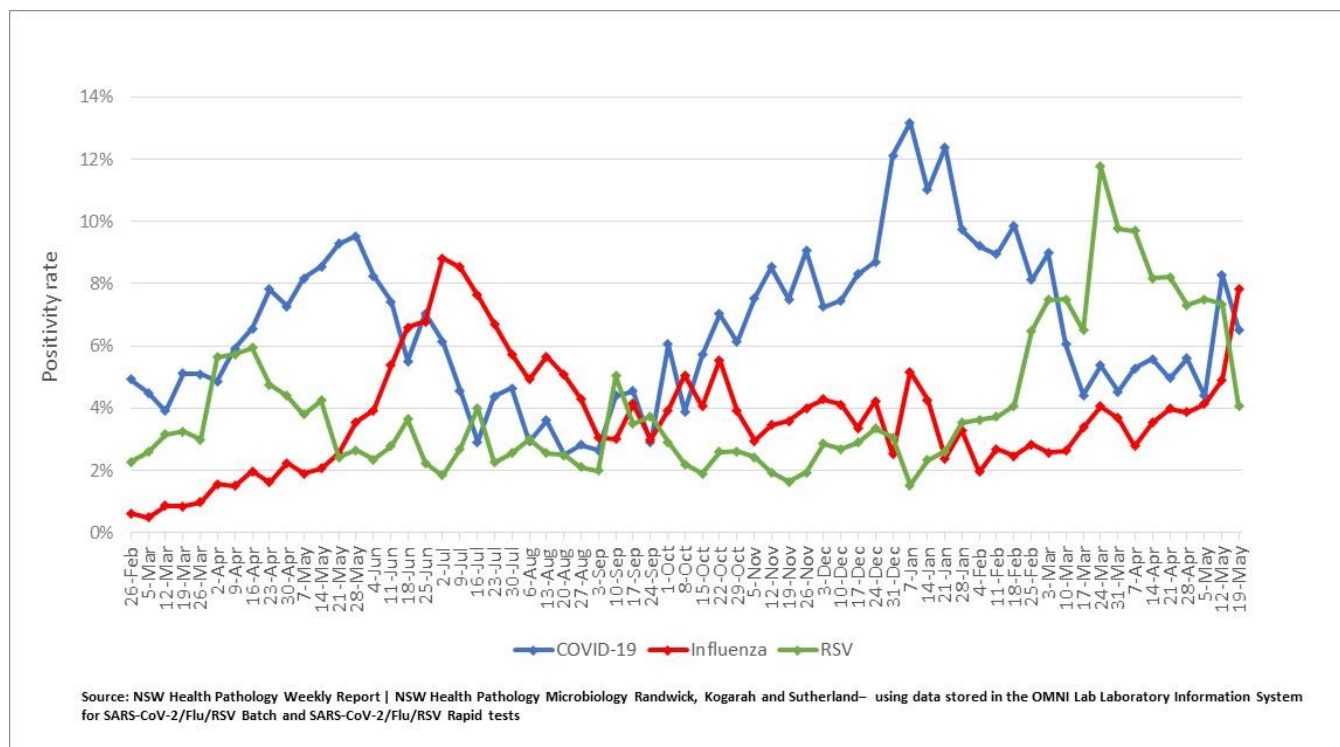


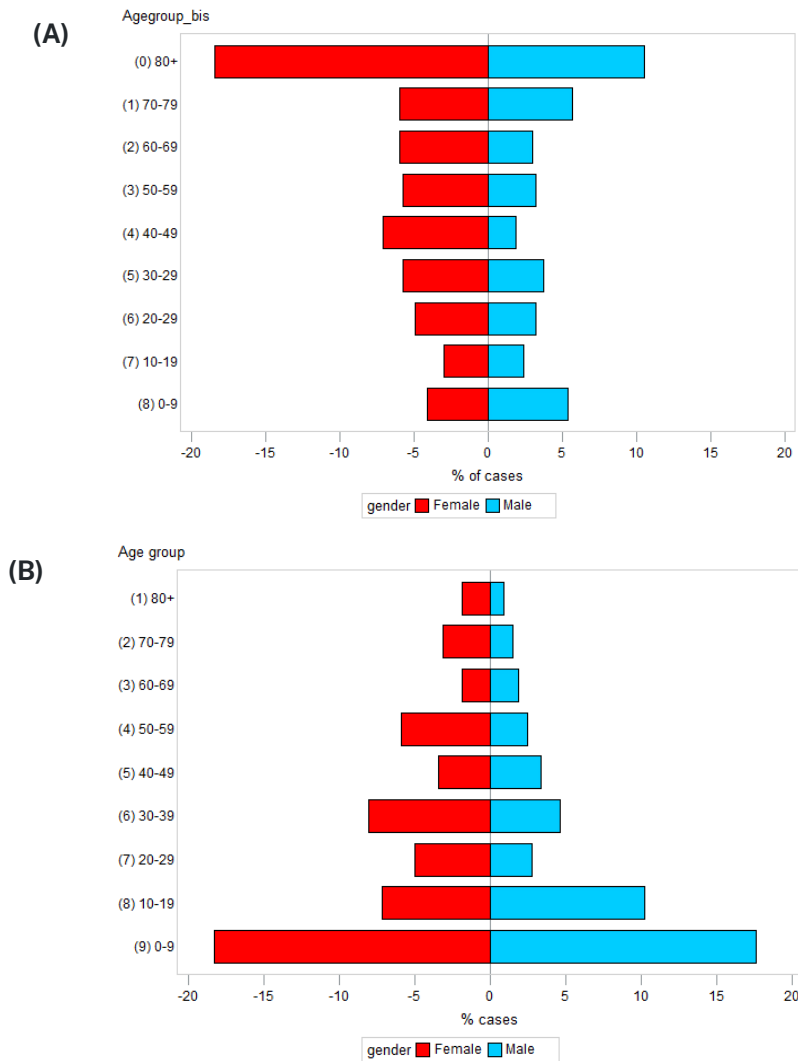
Figure 3: NSW Health Pathology respiratory PCR positivity rate* by week, 26 February 2023 – 19 May 2024



* SESLHD 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 COVID-19 and flu/ILI exposures and outbreaks, 1 Jan 2023 to 19 May 2024

