

Acute Respiratory Infections Weekly Report

Public Health Unit

Data as of: 1 September 2023

Key messages for local services

New cases: In the 7 days to September 1, there were **227** new COVID-19 cases notified in SESLHD residents which is 11% lower than the previous week. Notifications were predominantly in adults, with the highest proportion in those aged 30-49 years. COVID-19 hospital presentations and admissions decreased this week and remain low.

Influenza notifications decreased by 17% this week with **231** notifications, the highest numbers being amongst children and teenagers aged 10-19 years. Presentations to ED for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased and are higher than usual for this time of year. Admissions for pneumonia and ILI increased this week. Presentations for bronchiolitis decreased this week and remain within the usual range for this time of year.

Deaths: There were 2 deaths among people with COVID-19 reported in the past week. The total number of deaths among people with COVID-19 in SESLHD is 899.

Aged & Disabled Care Facilities: The number of aged care facilities under surveillance for COVID-19 decreased this week, with 2 facilities experiencing an outbreak. There is 1 outbreak due to RSV this week. There are no disability services with a recent COVID-19 exposure.

Testing: Just under half of notifications this week were via PCR (44.6%). The estimated COVID-19 positivity rate* for the week ending 3 September is 2.6% (-0.2%).

Influenza positivity was 3.1% (-1.2%). This week, Influenza A became the predominant strain detected (60%).

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

Data summary

1. Case numbers

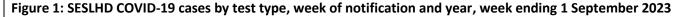
Table 1: SESLHD COVID PCR and RAT positive cases by LGA of residence and notification week

LGA	7 days	14 days	28 days	Total (Since 03/2020)	7-day crude rate per 100,000*	Total crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	26	57	105	80,452	13.1	40,439.7
Georges River	29	66	133	75,342	18.0	46,645.6
Randwick	42	76	164	78,125	27.3	50,739.4
Sutherland Shire	88	175	320	121,738	36.8	50,889.1
Sydney	13	24	62	36,667	16.5	46,435.9
Waverley	10	17	49	35,050	13.6	47,814.6
Woollahra	19	39	65	25,417	33.1	44,309.8
SESLHD	227	454	898	452,791	23.4	46,661.7

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

LGA	7 days	14 days	28 days	Total for 2023 YTD	7-day crude rate per 100,000*	2023 total crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	26	73	154	1,302	13.1	654.5
Georges River	41	76	173	1,118	25.4	692.2
Randwick	24	54	139	1,062	15.6	689.7
Sutherland Shire	69	162	332	1,912	28.8	799.3
Sydney	15	31	51	393	19.0	497.7
Waverley	32	61	131	680	43.7	927.6
Woollahra	24	46	91	558	41.8	972.8
SESLHD	231	503	1071	7,025	23.8	724.3

^{*}based on DPIE LGA projection data 2021.



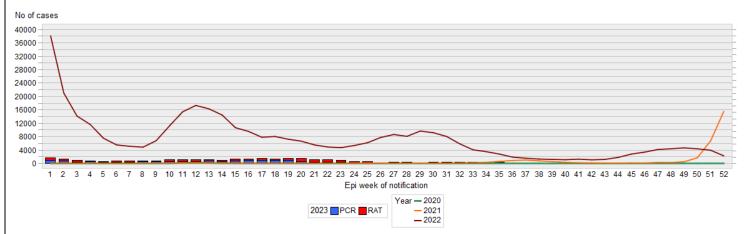


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases by week of notification and year, week ending 1 September 2023

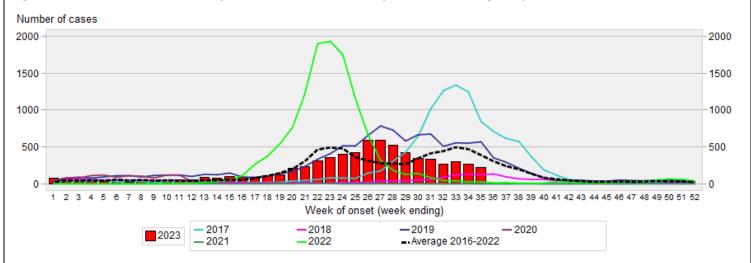
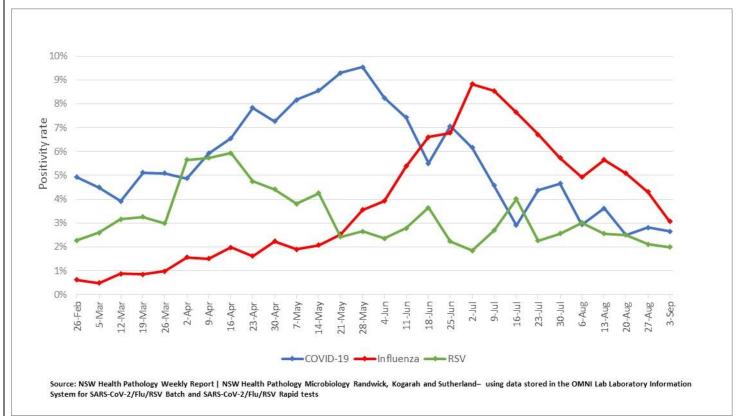
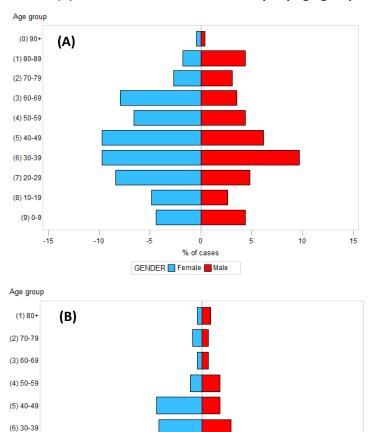


Figure 3: SEALS respiratory test positivity rate by week, week ending 3 September 2023



2. Demographic Data

Figure 4: Percentage of (A) COVID and (B) influenza cases in the last 7 days by age group and gender, to 1 Sept. 2023



3. Residential facility outbreaks reported to the Public Health Unit

(7) 20-29 (8) 10-19 (9) 0-9

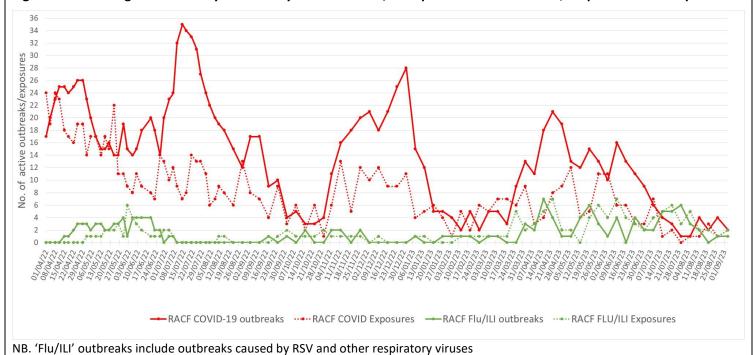
Figure 5: SESLHD aged care facility & disability COVID and Flu/ILI exposures and outbreaks, 1 April 2022 to 3 Sept. 2023

gender 🔲 Female 📕 Male

25

-15

-20



4. Emergency department presentations and admissions

Table 3: Emergency Department presentations within SESLHD week ending 3 September 2023

Diagnosis / Category	Trend since last week	Compared to average for time of year (2018-2022)	Comment
Respiratory, fever and unspecified infection presentations	Steady	Similar	
Influenza like illness (ILI) presentations	Increased	Above	2.2x higher than last week 1.9x higher than usual
COVID-19/coronaviruses presentations	Steady	N/A	
Bronchiolitis presentations	Decreased	Similar	0.6x lower than last week

Data is from NSW Public Health Rapid Emergency Department Surveillance System. Increase or decrease indicates change >20% compared to the previous week.

Figure 6: Presentations to ED due to influenza like illness

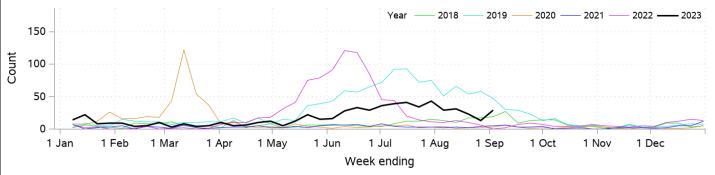


Figure 7: Presentations to ED due to COVID-19/coronaviruses

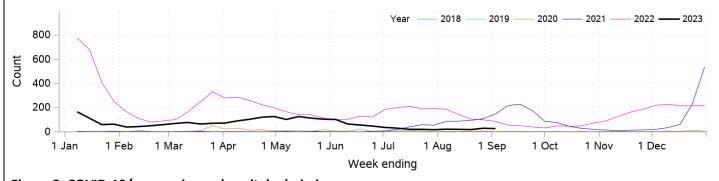


Figure 8: COVID-19/coronaviruses hospital admissions

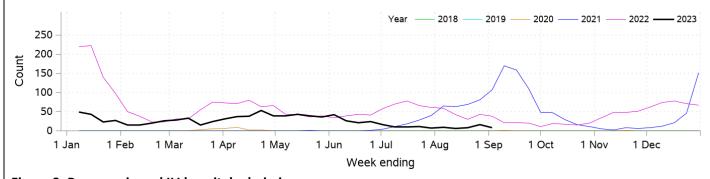


Figure 9: Pneumonia and ILI hospital admissions

