



Key messages for local services

COVID-19

Overall indicators of COVID-19 activity during September were stable and low, although slightly higher than August. Twenty-six deaths in SESLHD residents were attributed to COVID-19. The positivity rate of PCR tests increased, however some of this is likely due to the 30% decrease in testing volume compared to August, probably related to the change in District COVID-19 surveillance testing policy.

As of 30 September, patients are no longer to register positive RATs in the Service NSW portal.

Influenza

Influenza activity was stable during September, and consistent with a slow decline of the annual epidemic. Indicators such as ED presentations and admissions remain at the top of the usual range, and may reflect activity of other viruses, such as HMPV, parainfluenza and rhinovirus. While influenza B detections have decreased, influenza A detections have not declined.

Respiratory syncytial virus

RSV continues at similar levels and is within the expected range for this time of year.

Data summary

1. Case numbers

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

LGA	September count	September rate per 100,000*	2023 count	2023 crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	191	108.5	5,604	3,183.0
Georges River	155	101.5	5,427	3,554.0
Randwick	200	147.8	4,982	3,682.9
Sutherland Shire	317	137.3	8,255	3,575.1
Sydney	85	118.7	2,134	2,979.7
Waverley	89	128.3	1,691	2,437.0
Woollahra	69	128.0	1,418	2,631.2
SESLHD	1,106	124.3	29,511	3,325.4

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

LGA	September count	September rate per 100,000*	2023 count	2023 crude rate per 100,000*
Bayside	118	67.0	1,421	807.1
Georges River	110	72.0	1,217	797.0
Randwick	90	66.6	1,153	852.3
Sutherland Shire	135	58.4	2,036	881.8
Sydney	56	78.2	452	631.1
Waverley	89	128.2	765	1102.5
Woollahra	76	141.0	629	1167.2
SESLHD	674	75.9	7,673	864.0

*based on estimated resident population 2021.

Figure 1: SESLHD COVID-19 cases by week of notification, 1 January to 30 September 2023

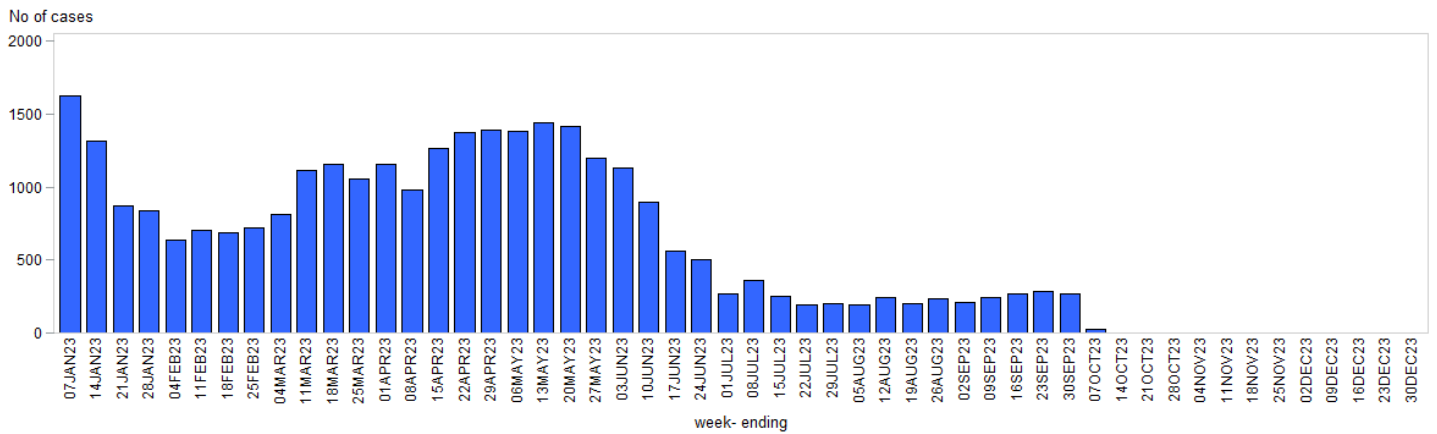


Figure 2: SESLHD influenza cases by type and week of notification, 1 January to 30 September 2023

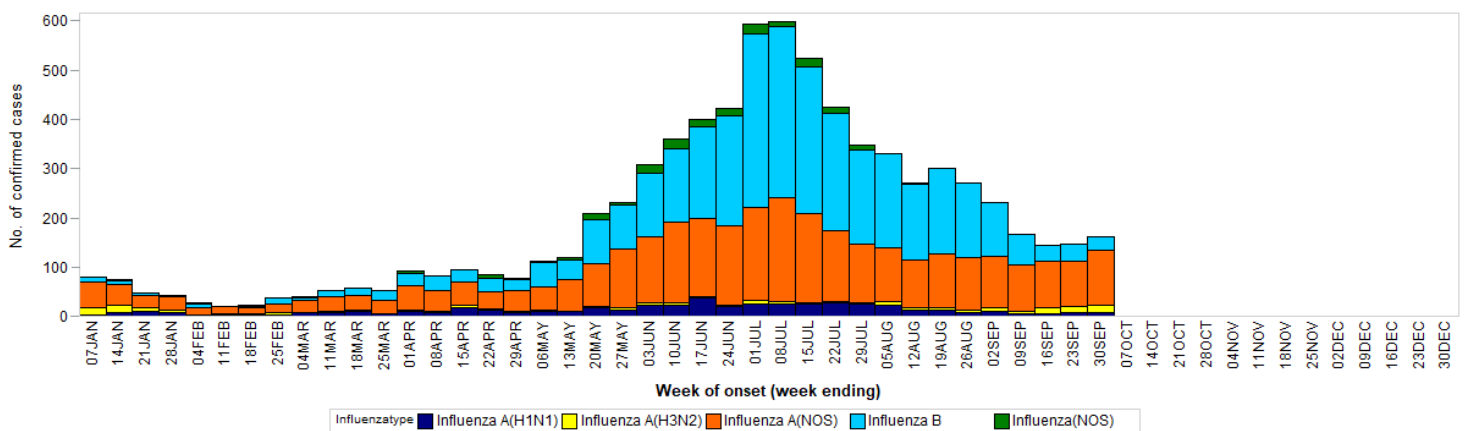
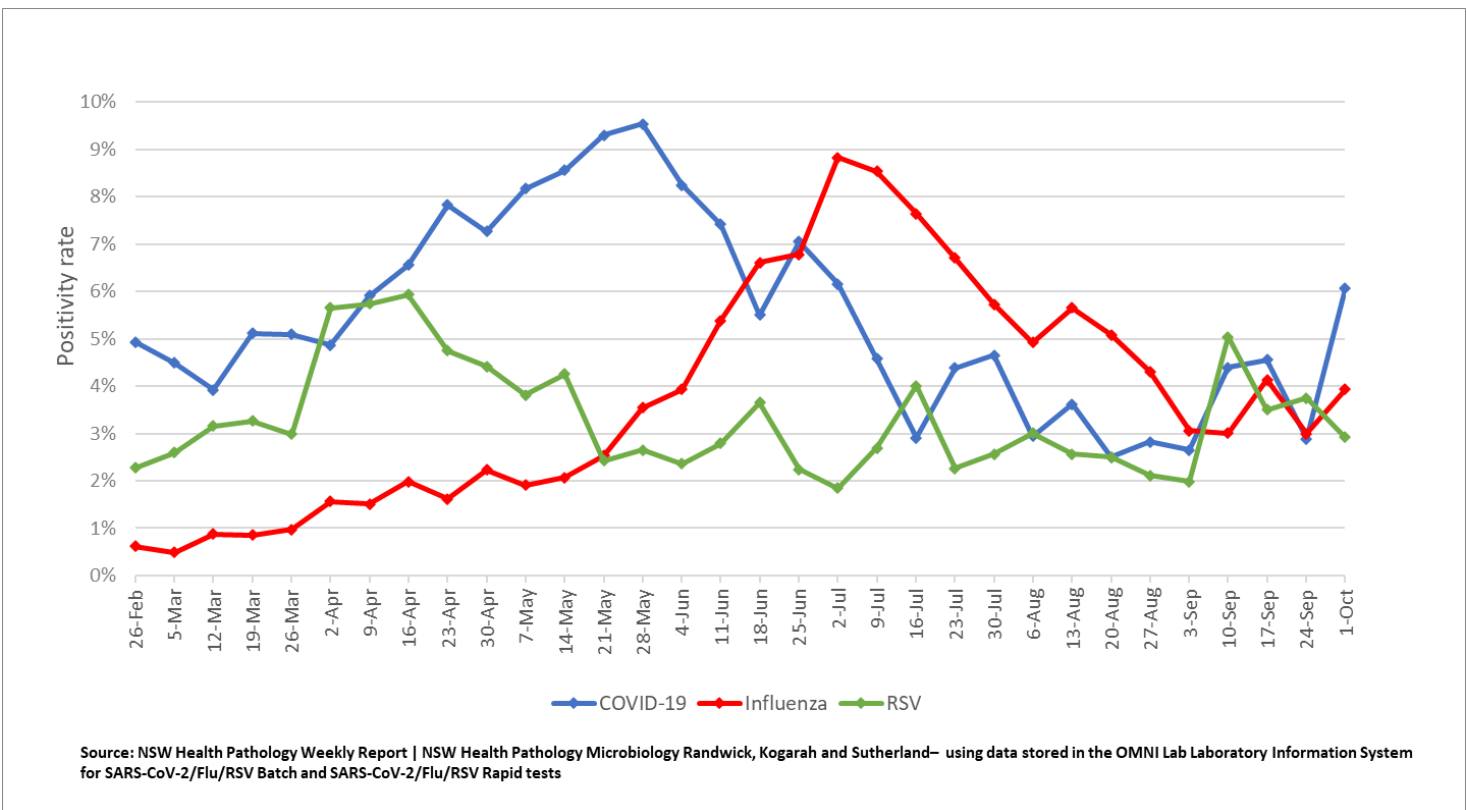


Figure 3: SEALS respiratory test positivity rate by week, week ending 1 October 2023

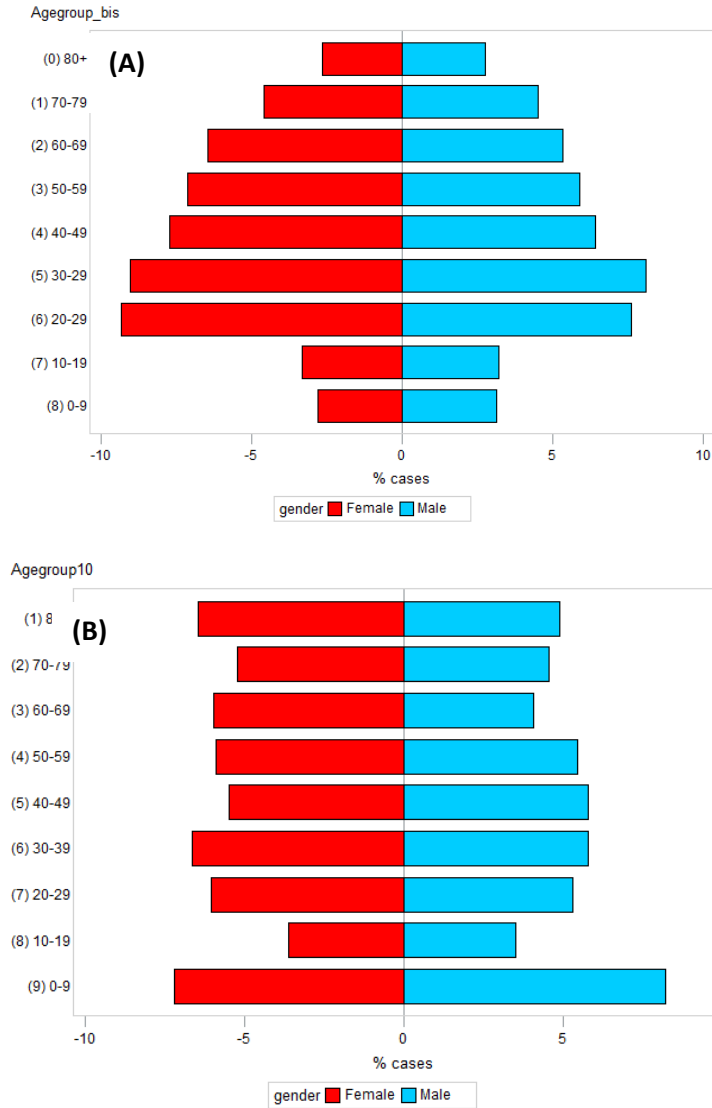


Source: NSW Health Pathology Weekly Report | NSW Health Pathology Microbiology Randwick, Kogarah and Sutherland– using data stored in the OMNI Lab Laboratory Information System for SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Batch and SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV Rapid tests

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

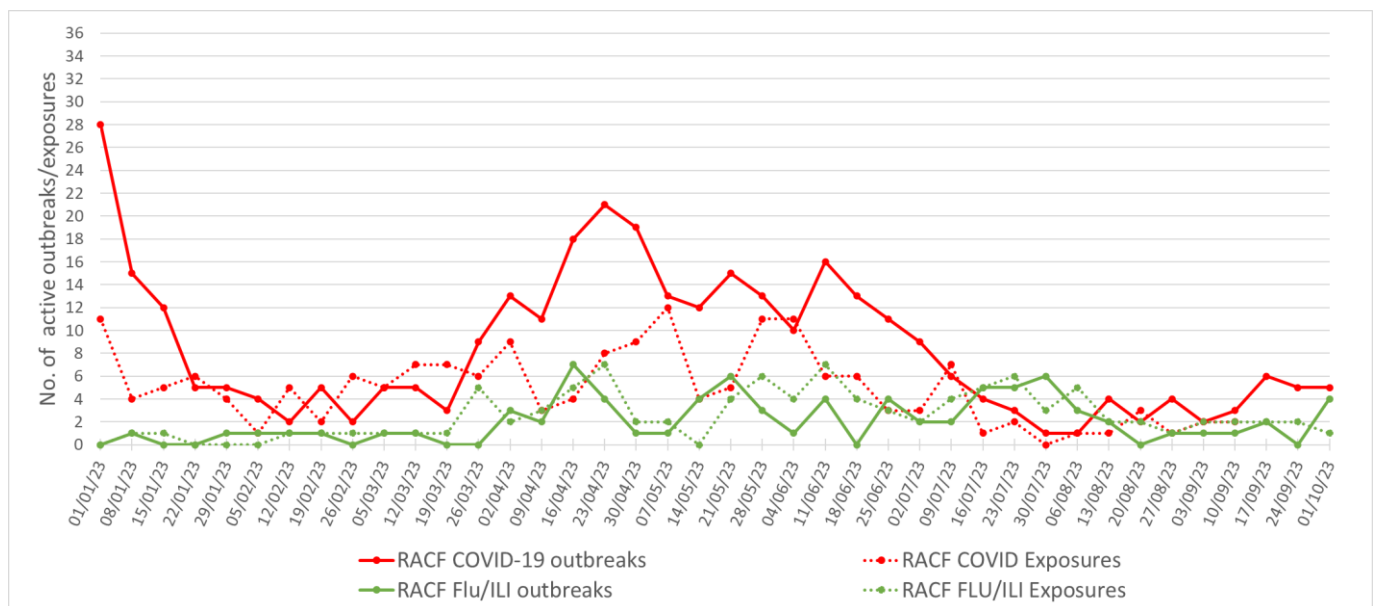
2. Demographic Data

Figure 4: Percentage of (A) COVID and (B) influenza cases in the last month by age group and gender, to 30 Sept. 2023



3. Residential facility outbreaks reported to the Public Health Unit

Figure 5: SESLHD aged care facility & disability COVID and Flu/ILI exposures and outbreaks, 01 Jan 2023 to 1 October 2023



NB. 'Flu/ILI' outbreaks include outbreaks caused by RSV and other respiratory viruses

4. Emergency department presentations and admissions

Figure 6: Presentations to ED due to influenza like illness

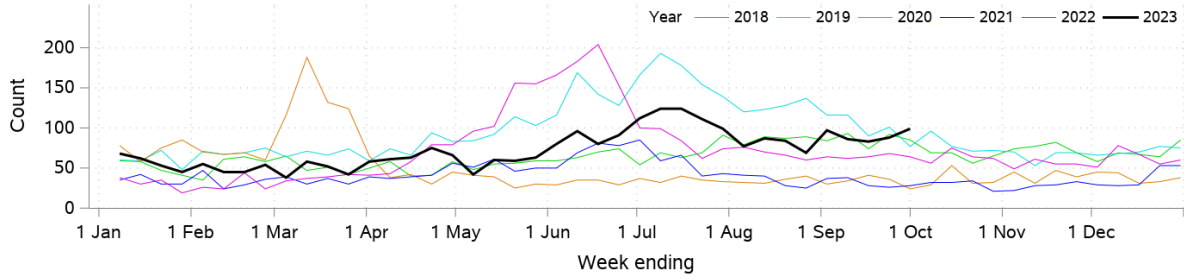


Figure 7: Presentations to ED due to COVID-19/coronaviruses

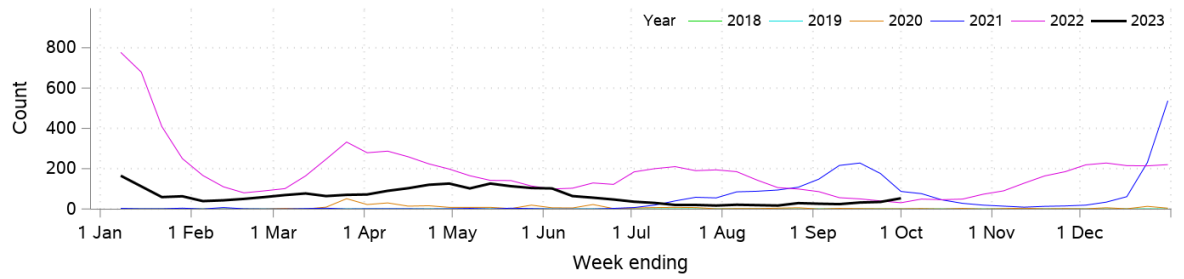


Figure 8: COVID-19/coronaviruses hospital admissions

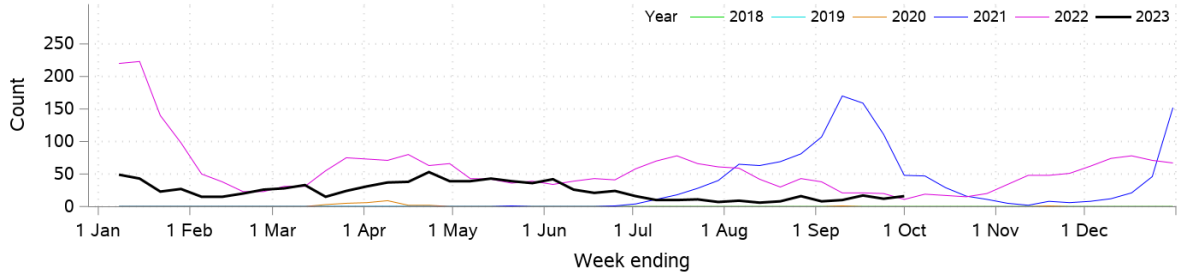


Figure 9: Pneumonia and ILI hospital admissions

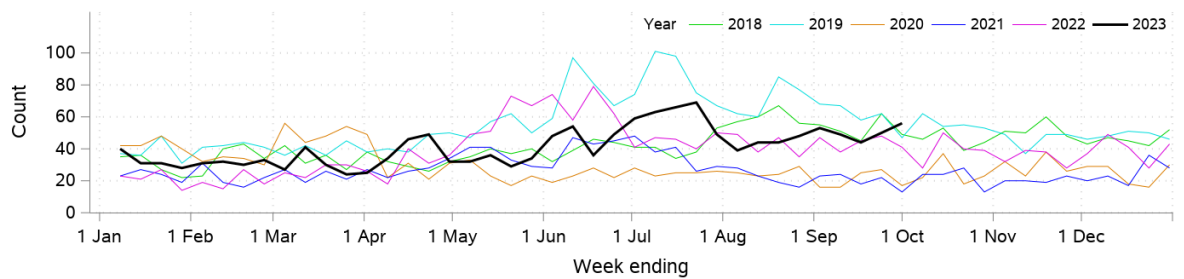


Figure 10: Presentations to ED due to respiratory, fever and unspecified infection

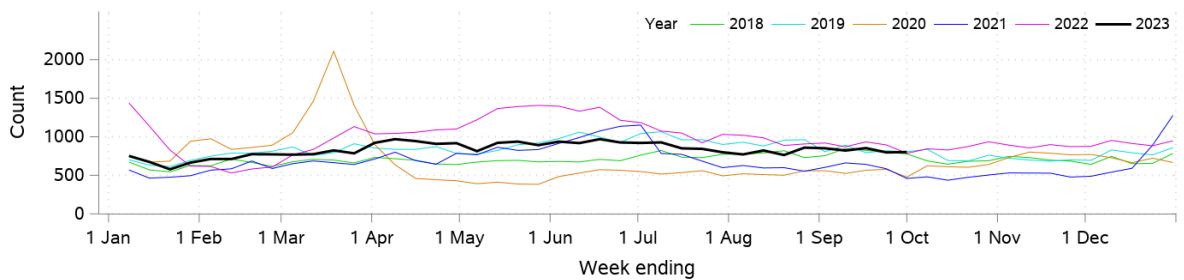
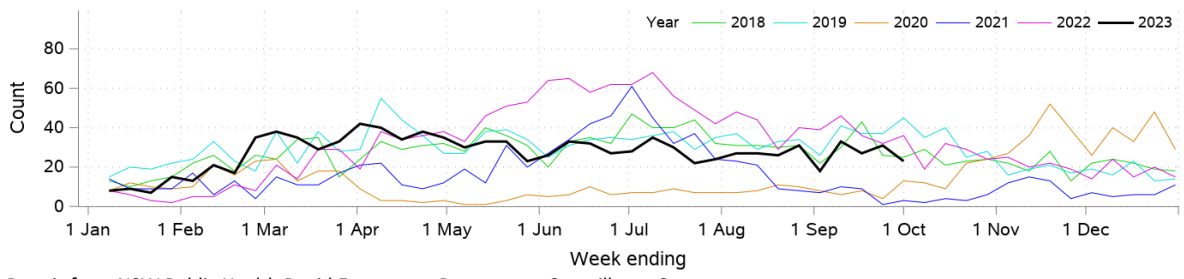


Figure 11: Presentations to ED due to bronchiolitis



Data is from NSW Public Health Rapid Emergency Department Surveillance System