

Laboratory-based Virology Weekly Report

Week 32 ending 9 August 2026



The laboratory-based surveillance for influenza and common respiratory viruses is carried out all-year-around by the New Zealand virus laboratory network consisting of the WHO National Influenza Centre (NIC) at PHF Science and six hospital laboratories in Auckland (2), Waikato, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. This laboratory network tests specimens ordered by clinicians for hospital inpatients and outpatients during normal clinical practice (serving ~70% of the New Zealand population). In addition, this laboratory network also conducts testing for public health surveillance, including SARI, ILI and WellKiwis (i.e. SHIVERS) cohort surveillance. Furthermore, some of untyped enteroviruses, adenoviruses and respiratory syncytial viruses are referred to PHF Science for further typing.

Caution is needed in the interpretation:

- 1) Sample collection is ordered by clinicians based on clinical judgement for patient management, rather than a systematic sampling approach for surveillance;
- 2) The number of laboratory tests can be influenced by testing priorities and demands, reagent and resource availability;
- 3) Testing technology and instruments evolve over the years which may have contributed to improved sensitivity for detection in recent years.

Tables and Figures below show the weekly influenza and common non-influenza viruses reported from the laboratory network in 2026. The latest information on COVID-19 cases is available on the Ministry of Health website [here](#)

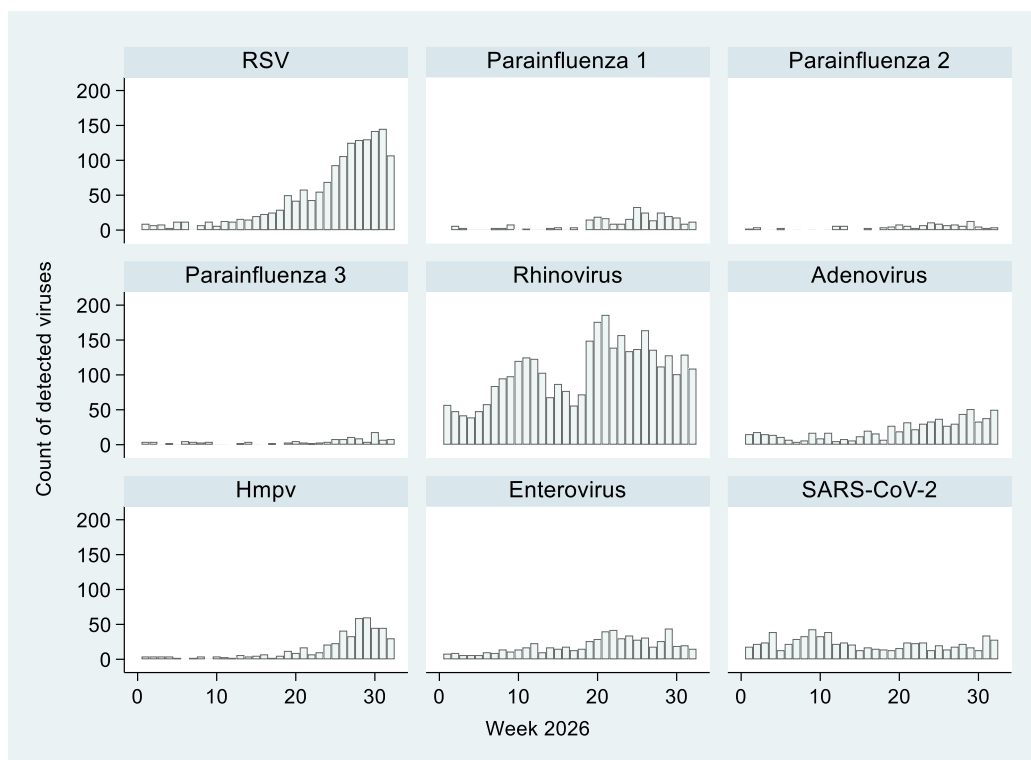
Table 1. Influenza respiratory viruses reported since 1 January 2026

<i>Influenza viruses</i>	Total
No. of positive specimens	1678
Influenza A	1382
A (not subtyped)	1044
A Quadrivalent-Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)	25
A(H1N1)pdm09	155
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	144
A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like	11
A(H3N2)	183
A(H3N2) by PCR	169
A/Sydney/ 1359/2024 (H3N2)-like	14
Influenza B	296
B (lineage not determined)	289
B Quadrivalent-Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)	1
B/Yamagata lineage	0
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	0
B/Phuket/3073/2013-like	0
B/Victoria lineage	7
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	4
B/Austria/1359417/2021-like	3

Table 2. Non-influenza respiratory viruses reported since 1 January 2026

<i>Non-influenza respiratory viruses</i>	Total
No. of positive viruses	7922
SARS-CoV-2	720
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	1524
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	284
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	127
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	132
Rhinovirus (RV)	3357
Adenovirus (AdV)	680
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	475
Enterovirus	623

Figure 1. Non-influenza respiratory viruses reported since 1 January 2026, by week



Numbers for recent weeks are updated due to time lag in receiving laboratory test results.

Figure 2. Influenza viruses reported since 1 January 2026, by week

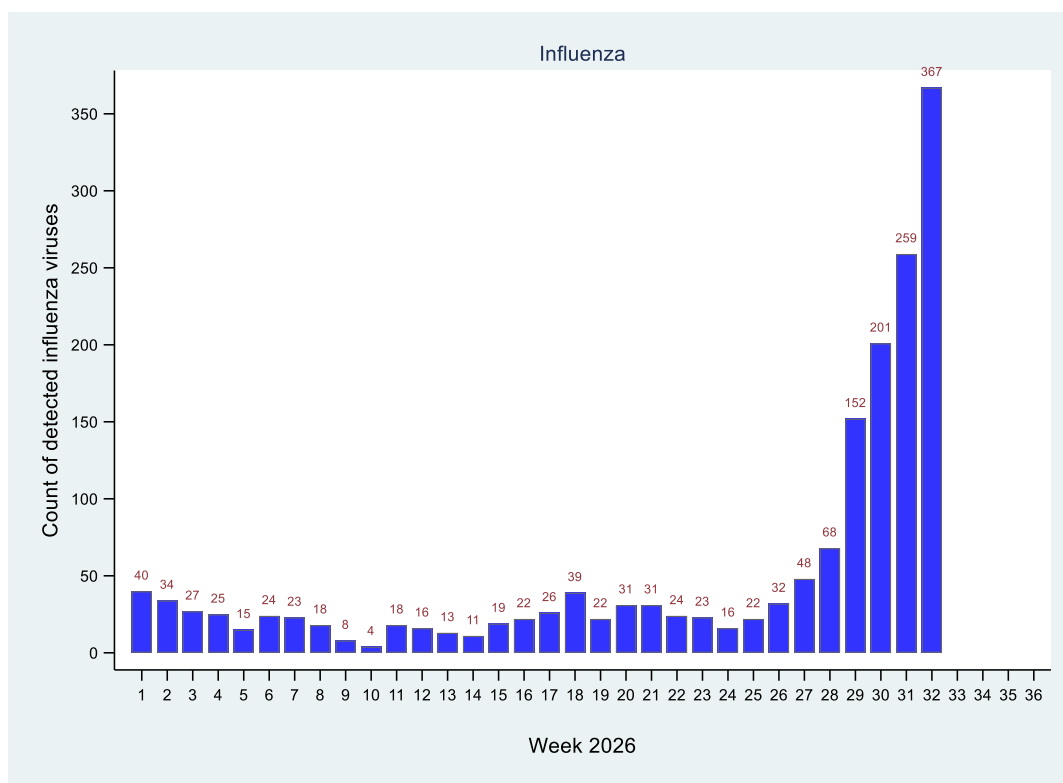
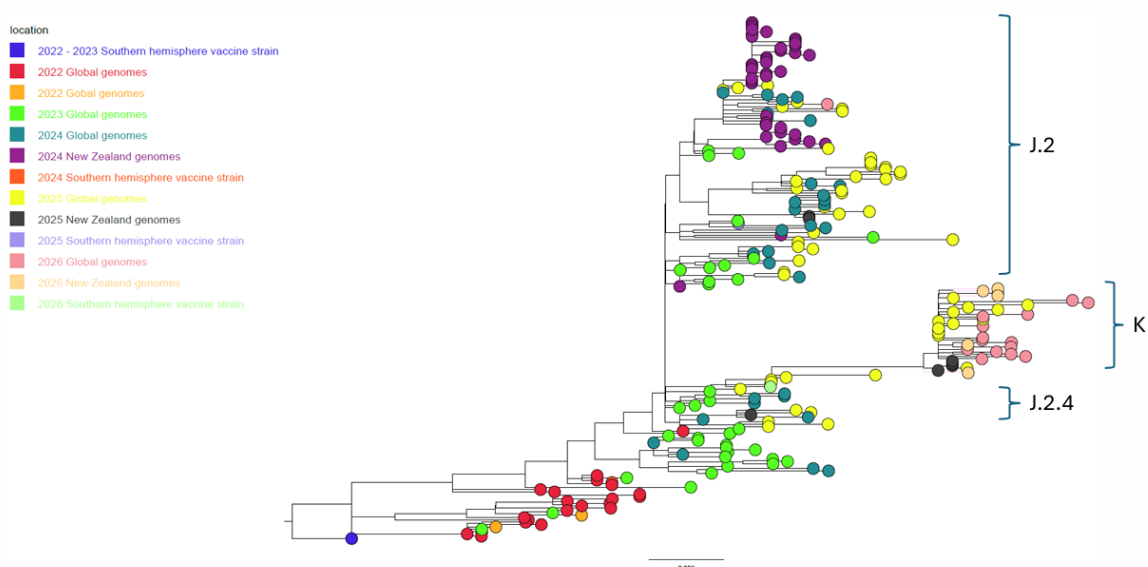


Figure 3. Phylogenetic relationships among influenza A(H3N2) virus haemagglutinin gene*



*Note: This diagram shows how influenza A(H3N2) viruses are related to each other, based on their genetic sequences. Each tip (circle) represents a virus sample, and branches that are closer together indicate viruses that are more similar ("closely related"), like members of the same family.

The New Zealand (NZ) samples are highlighted on the tree. These New Zealand viruses cluster within specific groups (such as A(H3N2) K subclade and related subclades), showing that the viruses currently circulating in New Zealand are closely related to each other and to viruses seen in other countries.

Importantly, many of the New Zealand viruses are also closely related to the strain recommended for the **2026 Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine**. This means the vaccine is expected to provide a good match to the viruses circulating in New Zealand, which is important for helping protect the community.

Overall, the figure shows that while influenza viruses continue to evolve over time, the viruses detected in New Zealand remain part of the main globally circulating groups and are genetically similar to the current vaccine strain.

This figure was provided by Dr. Lauren Jelley, Technical Lead of Clinical Virology Laboratory at PHF Science.

Table 3. Number of adenovirus types since 1 January 2026

<i>Adenovirus type</i>	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adenovirus C						1						
Adenovirus type 1				1								
Adenovirus type 2			2	1								
Adenovirus type 3							3					
Adenovirus type 4		1		1			1					
Adenovirus type 7			2	2	4	2						
Adenovirus type 37						1	2					
Adenovirus type 40												
Adenovirus type 41	3	2	2	1		1						
Adenovirus type 57						1						

Table 4. Number of enterovirus types since 1 January 2026

<i>Enterovirus type</i>	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coxsackie A virus type 4		1										
Coxsackie A virus type 5					1							
Coxsackie A virus type 6		3	11	7	5	8	2					
Coxsackie A virus type 8												
Coxsackie A virus type 9												
Coxsackie A virus type 10	1		1			3						
Coxsackie A virus type 16	3	1	1	1	2	1						
Coxsackie A virus type 21		1										
Coxsackie B virus type 4			2									
Coxsackie B virus type 5					1							
Echovirus type 11												
Echovirus type 16												
Echovirus type 18												
Echovirus type 21						1						
Echovirus type 30												
Enterovirus type 68				1	1	3						
Enterovirus type 71												
Enterovirus type C105												
Human Rhinovirus		1										

Table 5. Number of respiratory syncytial virus types reported since 1 January 2026

<i>RSV type</i>	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSV A	2	1	6	2	7	25	34	1				
RSV B	1	1	13	10	16	24	55	4				

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