

Laboratory-based Virology Weekly Report

Week 29 ending 25 July, 2021

The laboratory-based surveillance for influenza and common respiratory viruses is carried out all-year-around by the NZ virus laboratory network consisting of the WHO National Influenza Centre (NIC) at ESR 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 NZ population). In addition, this laboratory network also conducts testing for public health surveillance, including SARI, ILI and WellKiwis (i.e. SHIVERS) cohort surveillance.

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.

The below Tables and Figure show the weekly influenza and common non-influenza viruses reported from the laboratory network in 2021.

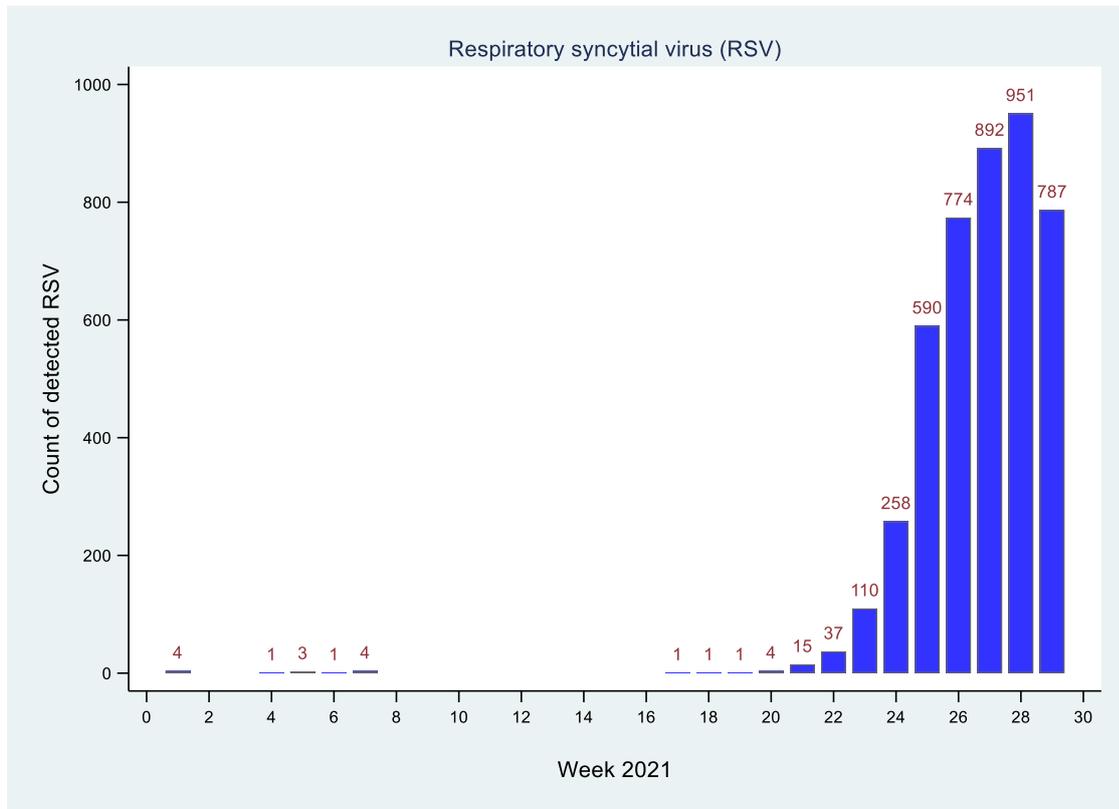
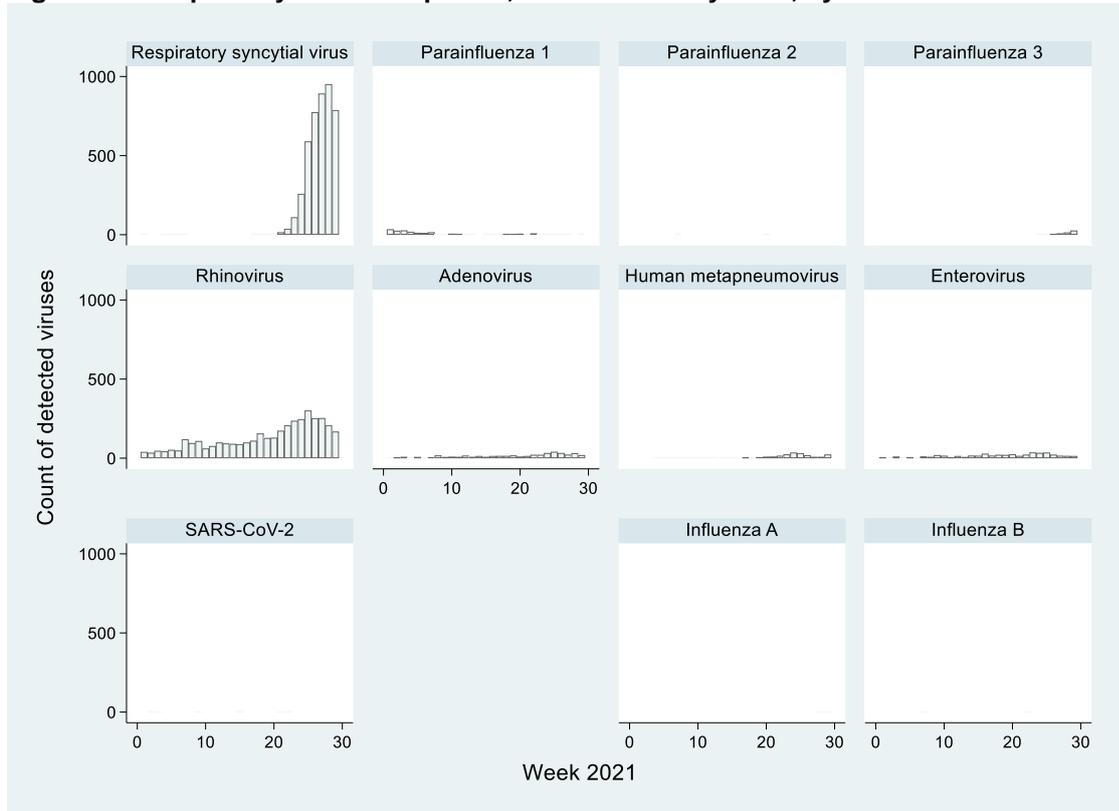
Table 1. Non-influenza respiratory viruses reported, since 1 January 2021

<i>Non-influenza respiratory viruses</i>	Week 29	Total
No. of positive specimens	1038	9559
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	787	4434
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	2	206
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	0	2
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	26	56
Rhinovirus (RV)	168	3756
Adenovirus (AdV)	19	422
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	23	225
Enterovirus	13	450
SARS-CoV-2	0	8

Table 2. Influenza respiratory viruses reported, since 1 January 2021

<i>Influenza viruses</i>	Week 29	Total
No. of positive specimens	1	3
Influenza A	0	1
A (not subtyped)	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	0	0
A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09 - like	0	0
A(H3N2)	1	1
A(H3N2) by PCR	1	1
A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like	0	0
Influenza B	0	2
B (lineage not determined)	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	0	0
B/Phuket/3073/2013 - like	0	0
B/Victoria lineage	0	2
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	0	2
B/Washington/02/2019-like	0	0

Figure 1. Respiratory viruses reported, since 1 January 2021, by week.



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

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