Laboratory-based Virology Weekly Report

Week 42 ending 18 October 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

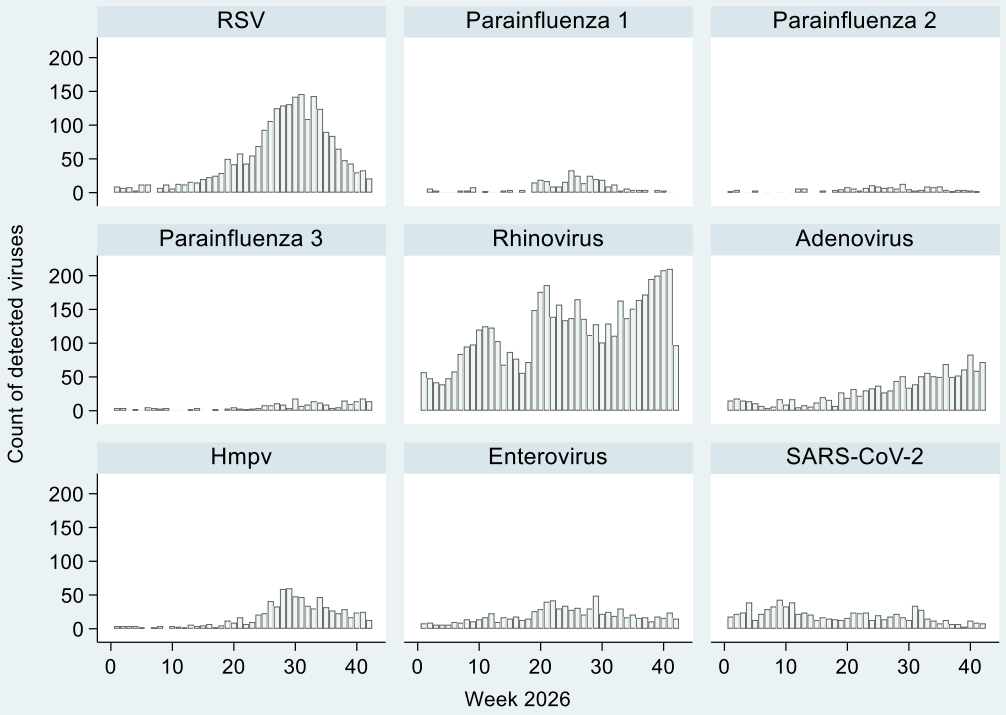
Table 1. Influenza respiratory viruses reported since 1 January 2026

Influenza viruses	Total
No. of positive specimens	5718
Influenza A	5305
A (not subtyped)	3541
A Quadrivalent-Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)	94
A(H1N1)pdm09	897
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	848
A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like	49
A(H3N2)	867
A(H3N2) by PCR	729
A/Sydney/ 1359/2024 (H3N2)-like	138
Influenza B	413
B (lineage not determined)	395
B Quadrivalent-Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)	2
B/Yamagata lineage	0
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	0
B/Phuket/3073/2013-like	0
B/Victoria lineage	18
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	14
B/Austria/1359417/2021-like	4

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

Non-influenza respiratory viruses	Total
No. of positive viruses	11684
SARS-CoV-2	814
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	2209
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	315
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	172
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	248
Rhinovirus (RV)	5057
Adenovirus (AdV)	1286
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	751
Enterovirus	832

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

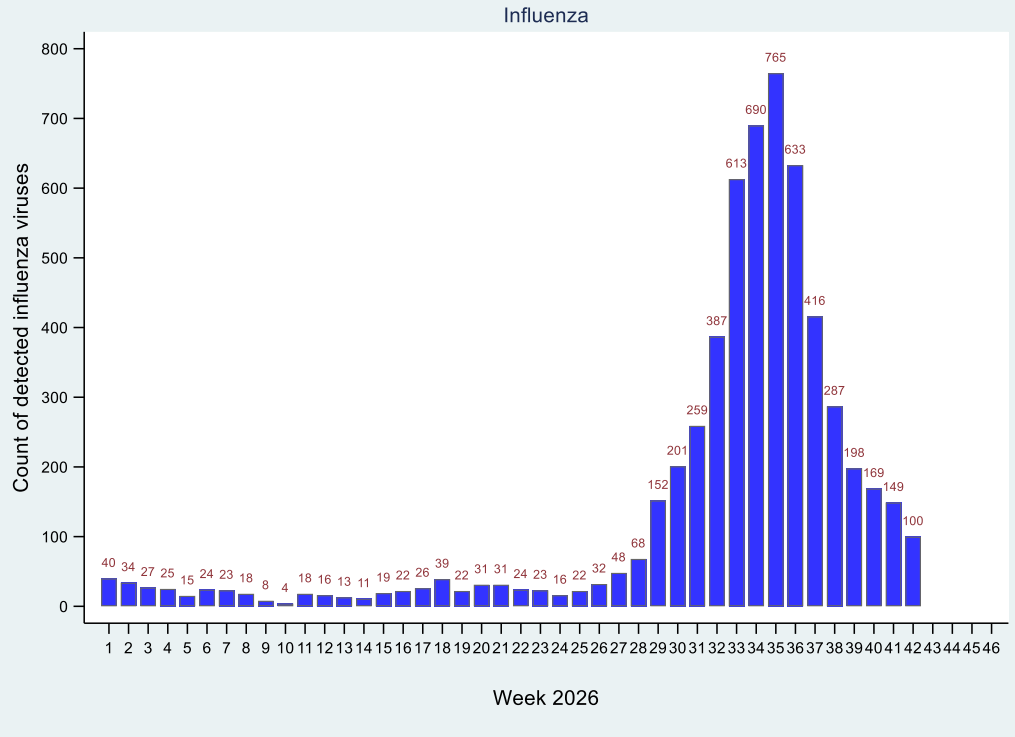


Table 3. Number of adenovirus types since 1 January 2026

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

Table 4. Number of enterovirus types since 1 January 2026

Enterovirus type	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	19	15	9			
Coxsackie A virus type 8												
Coxsackie A virus type 9												
Coxsackie A virus type 10	1		1			3	2	2				
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								1				
Echovirus type 16												
Echovirus type 18								2				
Echovirus type 21						1						
Echovirus type 30												
Enterovirus type 68				1	1	3	1					
Enterovirus type 71							1					
Enterovirus type C105												
Human Rhinovirus		1						1				

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

RSV type	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSV A	2	1	6	2	7	25	34	25	19	10		
RSV B	1	1	13	10	16	24	55	29	15	2		

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