



RESPIRATORY VIRUS STATISTICS

national · pathology · group

Incorporated as National Association of Pathologists

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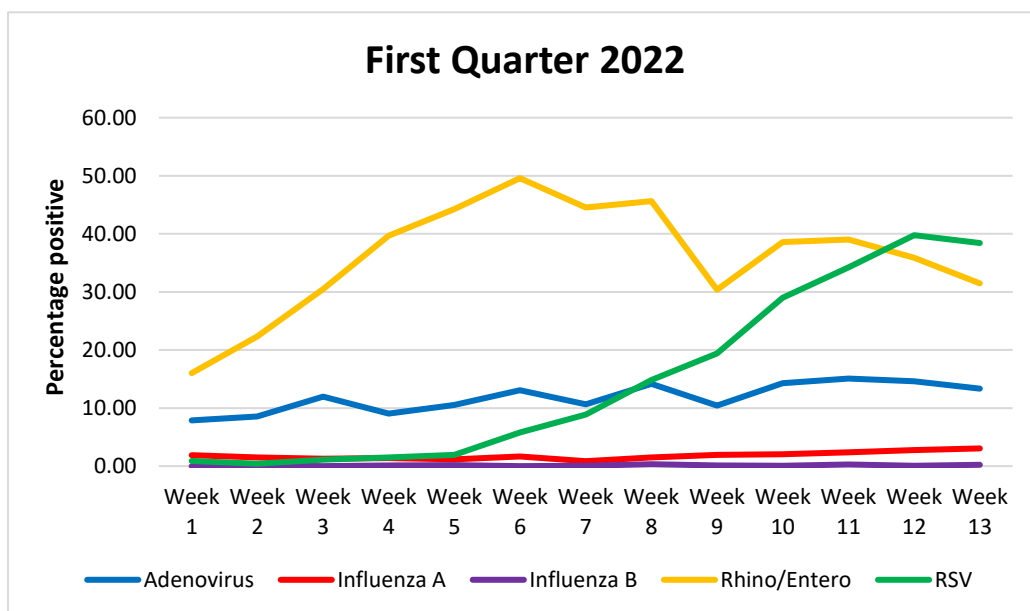
This report summarises respiratory virus PCR panel results for specimens submitted for testing to the private pathology practices that form part of the NPG from January to March 2022.

Highlights:

- Rhino/Enterovirus was the most prevalent virus during the first quarter of 2022.
- The RSV season started and peaked at different times in various South African provinces. An increase in the prevalence of RSV was first noticed in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces.

Respiratory virus PCR panel:

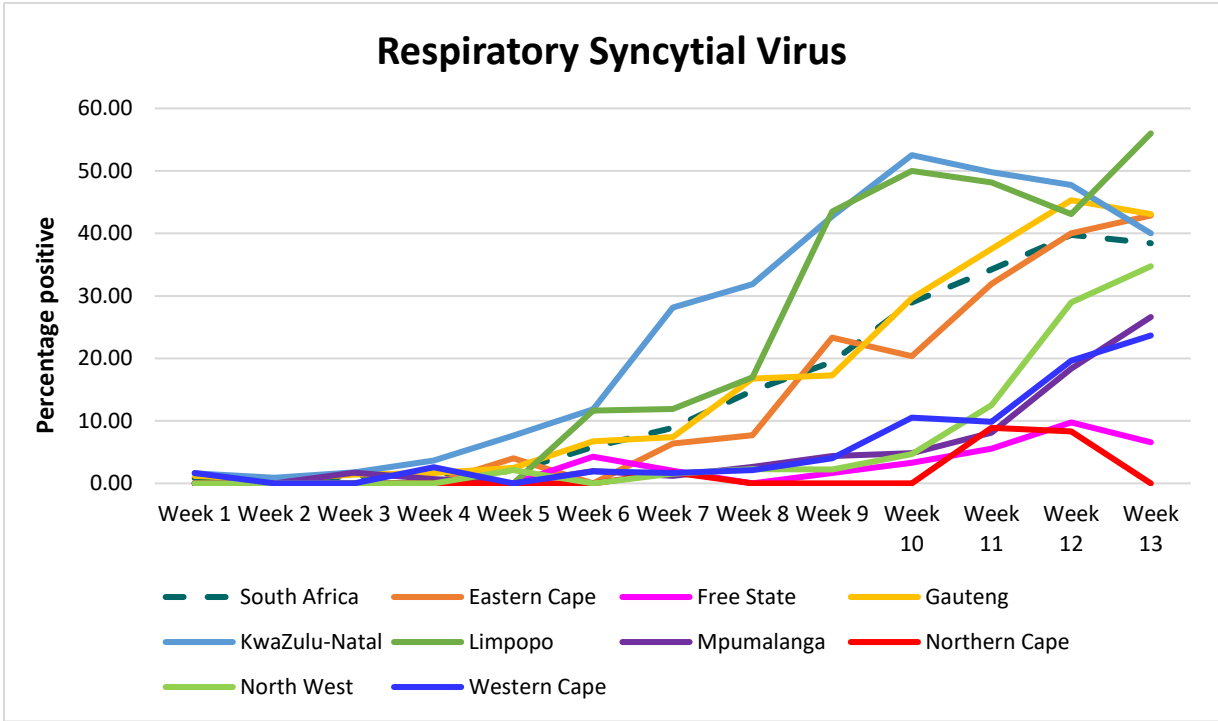
A variety of multiplex PCR panels are used across NPG-associated practices. For data analysis, all Parainfluenza virus types (PIV 1 – 4), all seasonal human Coronaviruses (hCoV-OC43, hCoV-HKU1, hCoV-229E, and hCoV-NL63), and Rhinovirus, Parechovirus and Enterovirus were combined. The graphs below represent the viruses detected as the percentage positive per epidemiological week.



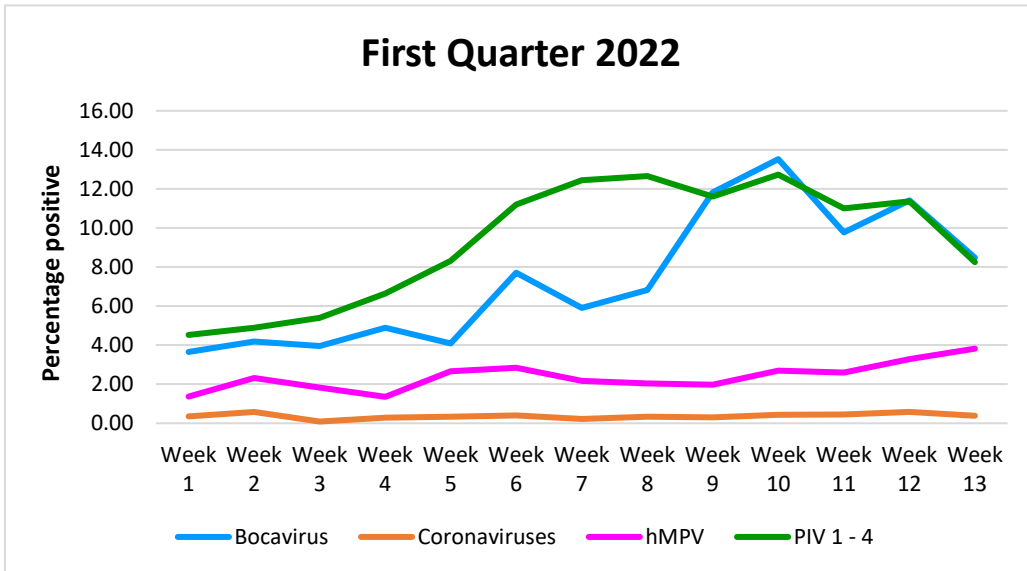
- Rhino/Enterovirus (36.0%) was the most prevalent virus detected during the first 11 weeks of 2022.
- Neither influenza A virus (1.8%) nor influenza B virus (0.1%) were detected in more than 5% of samples submitted for testing during the first quarter of 2022.
- No specific seasonality was observed with regards to Adenovirus.
- The prevalence of RSV more than doubled in week 6 when compared to the previous week. According to the NICD, the 2022 RSV season officially started during epidemiological week 7. RSV was the most prevalent virus during epidemiological weeks 12 and 13 according to NPG-affiliated private pathology laboratory data. The prevalence of

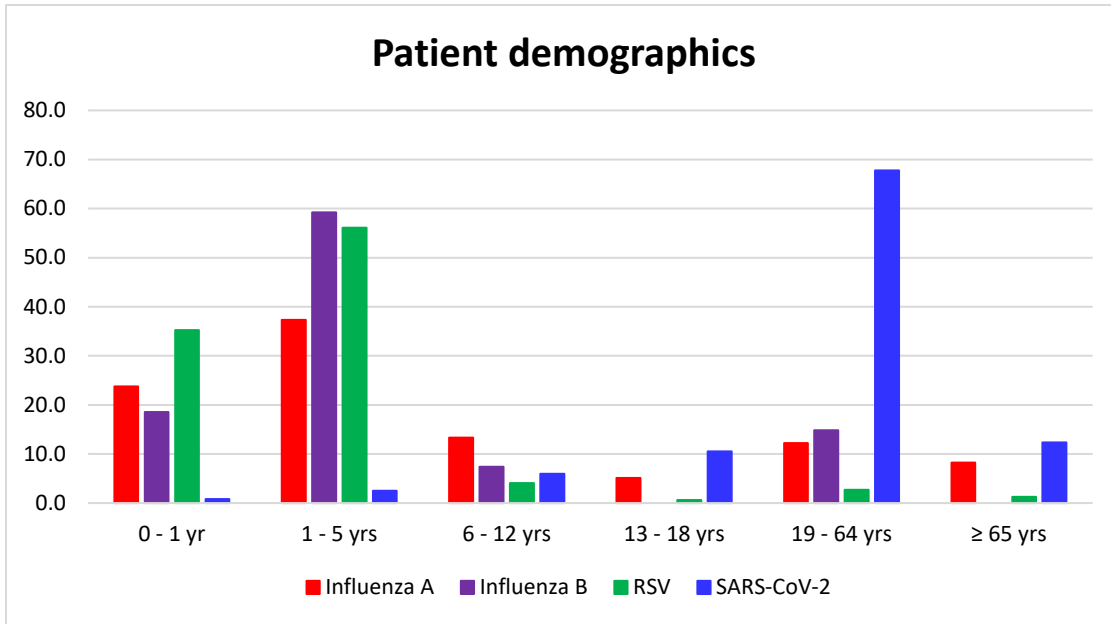


RSV started to increase in epidemiological week 6 and peaked in epidemiological week 10 in both KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces. Prevalence in Gauteng province increased significantly in epidemiological week 8 and peaked four weeks later. RSV prevalence only started to increase in North West province in epidemiological week 11, and a week later in Mpumalanga and the Western Cape. No specific peak was observed in either Free State or Northern Cape provinces.



- Bocavirus (7.4%), the seasonal Coronaviruses (0.37%), hMPV (2.4%), and PIV 1 – 4 (9.3%) were all detected in less than 10% of specimens submitted for testing.





- The majority of patients who tested positive for RSV, influenza A virus or influenza B virus were less than 5 years of age. In contrast, most of the patient who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 were adults.

SARS-CoV-2:

- There was a gradual decline in the number of samples that tested positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) at the NPG-affiliated private pathology laboratories during the first weeks of 2022. This is consistent with the national data reported by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), which includes results from both the public and private healthcare sectors.

