



RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN STATISTICS

n a t i o n a l · p a t h o l o g y · g r o u p

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

3rd Quarter 2025

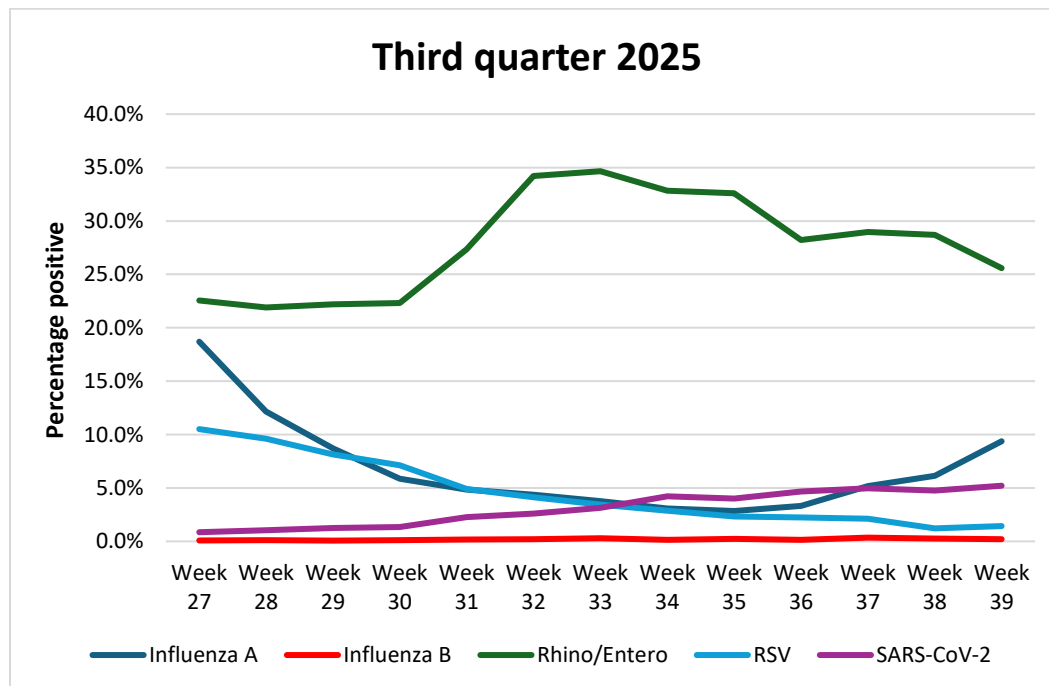
This report summarises respiratory pathogen PCR panel results for specimens submitted for testing to the private pathology practices that are members of the NPG from July to September 2025.

Highlights

- Rhino/Enterovirus (28.0%) was the most prevalent virus during the third quarter.
- Influenza A virus prevalence decreased each week until epidemiological week 35, whereafter it started to increase again.
- The prevalence of hMPV rose above 10% from week 37 onwards.
- The number of *Bordetella pertussis* cases in the third quarter almost doubled in comparison to the previous quarter.

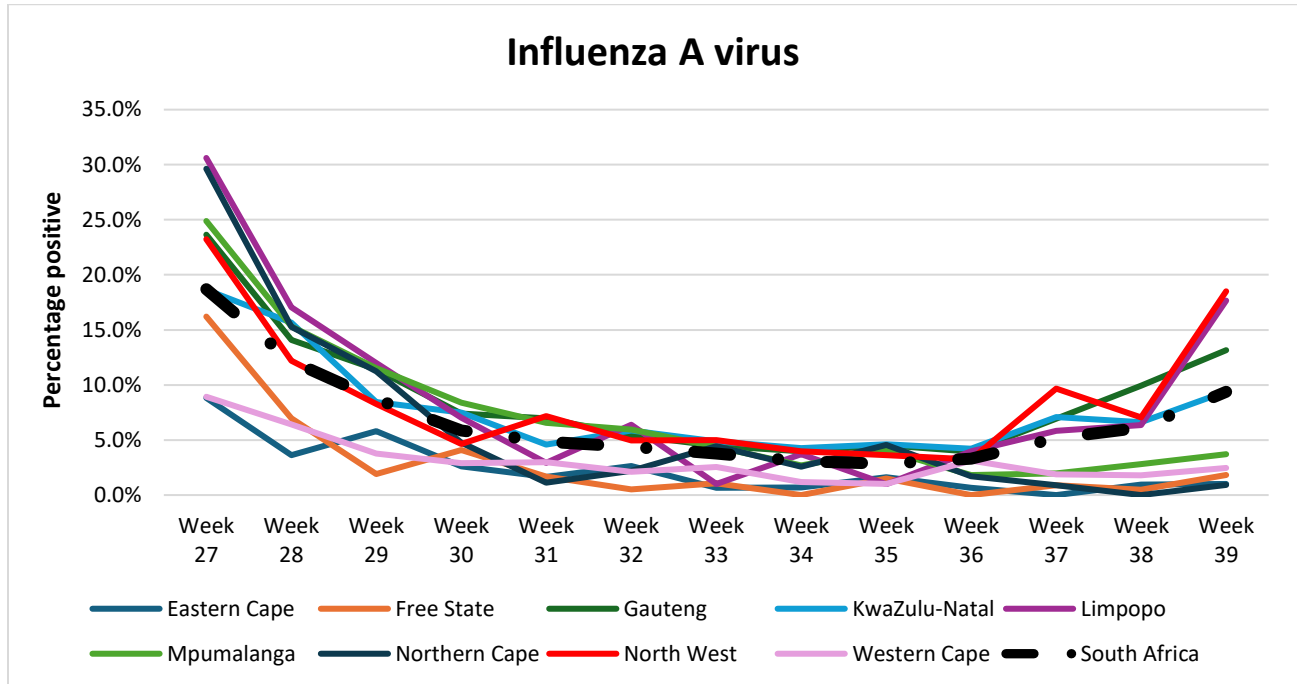
Respiratory virus PCR panel

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, while bacteria are visually represented as the number detected per epidemiological week.

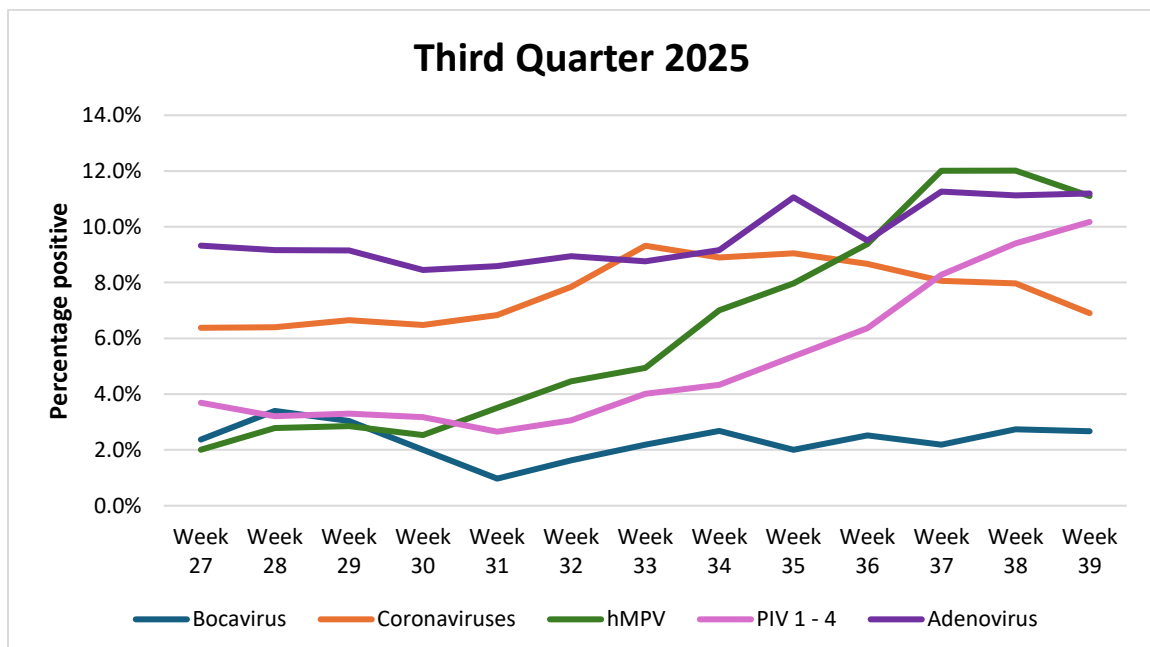


- Rhino/Enterovirus was the most prevalent virus (28.0%) detected in the third quarter of 2025, followed by adenovirus (9.7%) and the seasonal coronaviruses (7.7%).
- Influenza A virus was detected in 7.0% and influenza B virus in 0.2% of samples. The majority of influenza A virus positive samples that were typed were influenza A/H3 (87.0%).

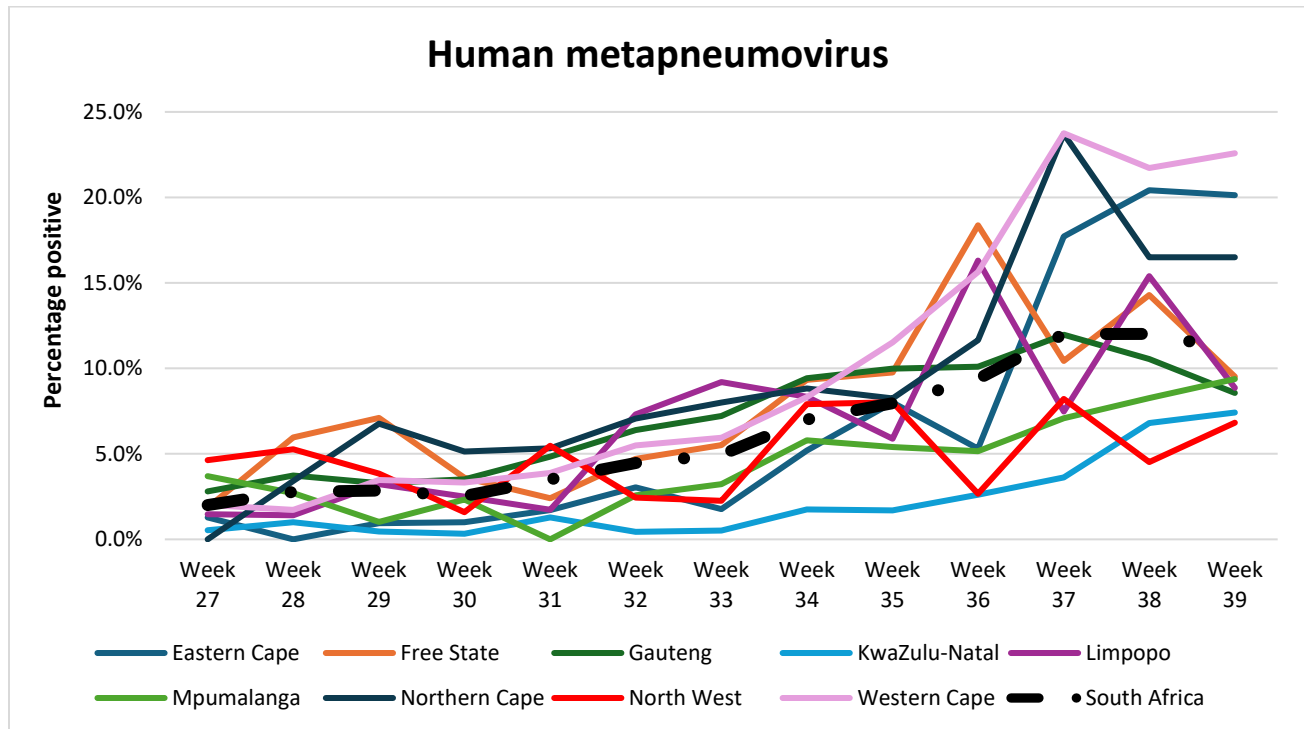
- Influenza A virus prevalence decreased each week until epidemiological week 35 (2.8%), whereafter it started to increase again.
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detected in 3.1% and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in 4.7% of samples submitted for testing during the third quarter.
- RSV prevalence decreased each week in comparison to the previous week.
- Rhino/Enterovirus prevalence never fell below 20% during any week in the third quarter of 2025.



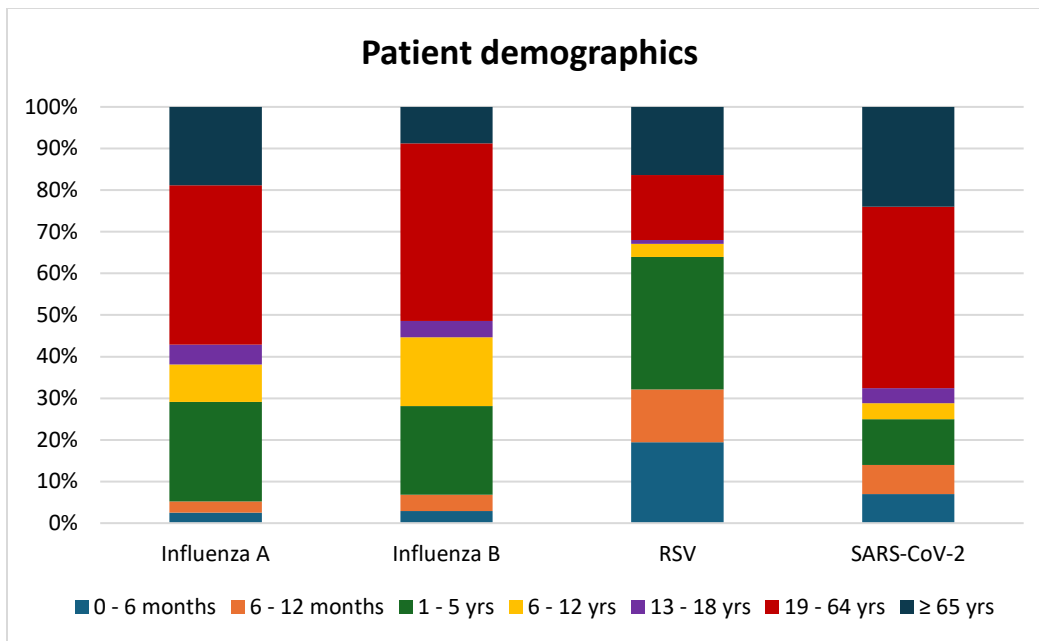
- The prevalence of influenza A virus started to increase again in epidemiological week 36 in Limpopo, and the following week in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the North West.
- Influenza A virus only increased to above 10% again in epidemiological week 39 in Gauteng (13.2%), Limpopo (17.6%) and North West (18.5%) provinces.
- Influenza A virus prevalence never crossed the 10% threshold a second time in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Western Cape provinces.



- The seasonal coronaviruses were detected in between 6.4% (week 27 & week 28) and 9.3% (week 33) of samples submitted for testing during the third quarter of 2025.
- During this period, adenovirus was detected in between 8.5% (week 30) and 11.3% (week 37) of samples submitted for testing.
- Bocavirus prevalence never increased above 3.5% the entire quarter.
- The prevalence of the parainfluenza viruses increased to above 10% in week 39 only (10.2%).
- Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) prevalence cross the 10% threshold from week 37 until the end of the quarter.



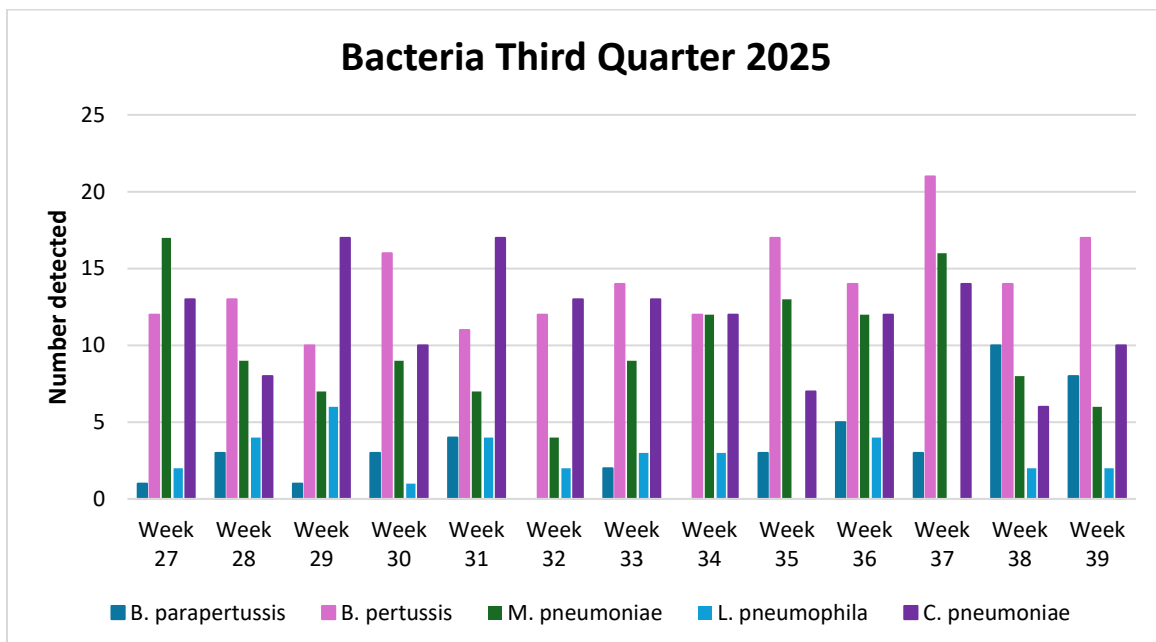
- hMPV prevalence first increased to 10% or above in epidemiological week 35 in Gauteng (10.0%) and the Western Cape (11.5%).
- Prevalence in Gauteng peaked in week 37 at 12.0% and fell below 10% in week 39.
- In the Western Cape, hMPV prevalence peaked in week 37 at 23.8% and remained above 20% for the remainder of the quarter.
- The hMPV season started and peaked in week 36 in both Limpopo (16.3%) and Free State (18.4%) provinces.
- It started the same week in the Northern Cape (11.7%) and peaked the following week at 23.7%.
- In the Eastern Cape, RSV prevalence was above 10% from week 37 (17.7%) until the end of the quarter.
- hMPV prevalence never increased to above 10% in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga and the North West.
- Prevalence peaked in week 37 in the North West (8.2%) and in week 39 in both Kwa-Zulu Natal (7.4%) and Mpumalanga (9.4%).



Patient demographics

- The majority of samples that tested positive for influenza A virus (57.1%), influenza B virus (51.5%) and SARS-CoV-2 (67.6%) were collected from adults older than 18 years of age.
- In contrast, almost two-thirds of patients who tested positive for RSV were less than 6 years of age (64.0%).

Bacteria



- The number of *Bordetella pertussis* cases in the third quarter (183 cases) almost doubled in comparison to the previous quarter (92 cases).
- Similar to what was observed in the first half of the year, more cases of *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae* (152 cases) were detected in the third quarter of 2025 than cases of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (129 cases).
- Forty-three samples tested positive for *B. parapertussis* and thirty-three samples for *Legionella pneumophila*.