



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

4th Quarter 2025

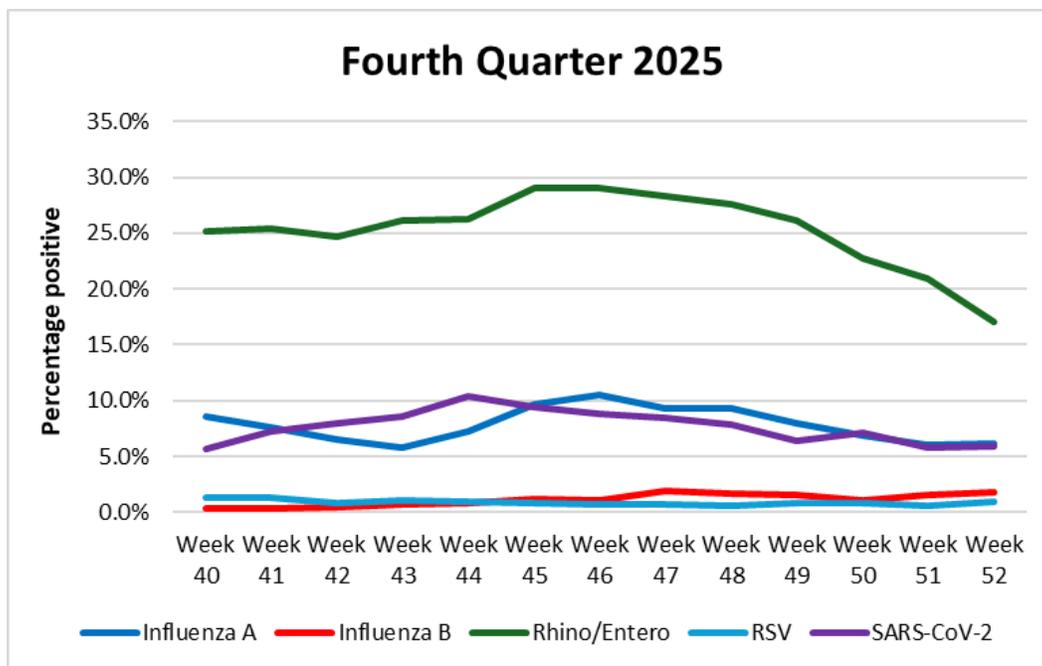
This report summarises respiratory pathogen PCR panel results for specimens submitted for testing to the private pathology practices that are members of the NPG from October to December 2025.

Highlights

- Rhino/Enterovirus (25.8%) was the most prevalent virus during the fourth quarter.
- Influenza A virus prevalence varied between 5.8% (week 43) and 10.5% (week 46).
- The hMPV season lasted 5 weeks, from week 37 to week 41.
- Once again, the number of *Bordetella pertussis* cases in the fourth quarter increased in comparison to the previous quarter.

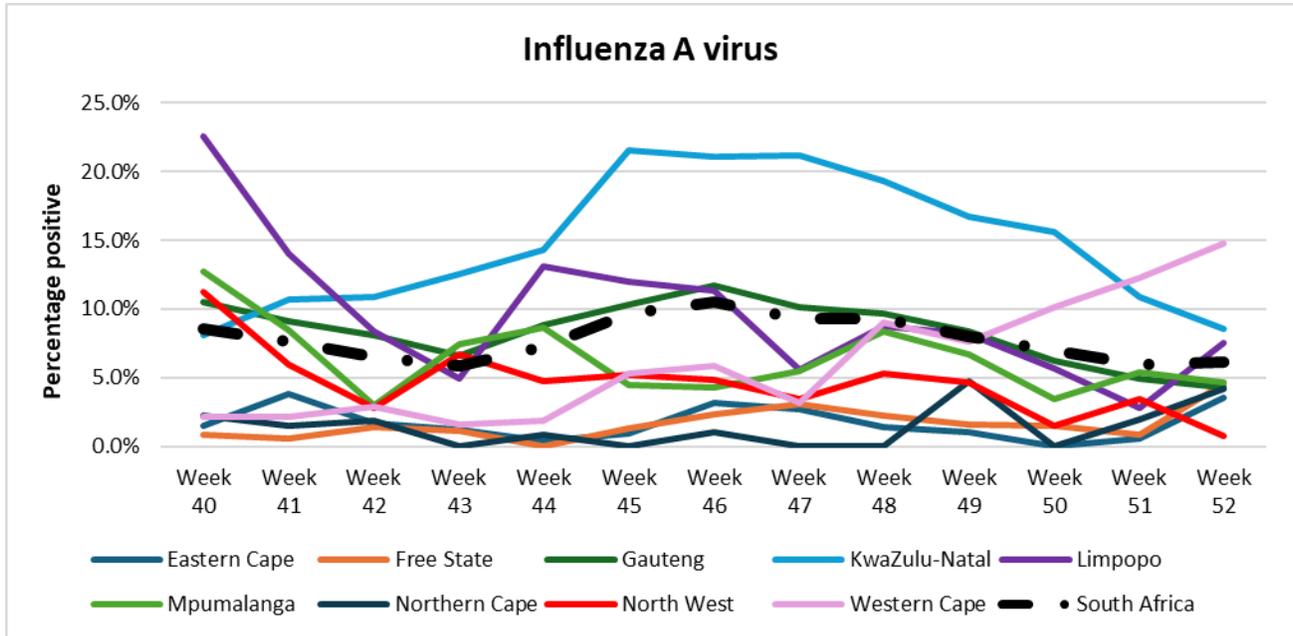
Respiratory virus PCR panel

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.

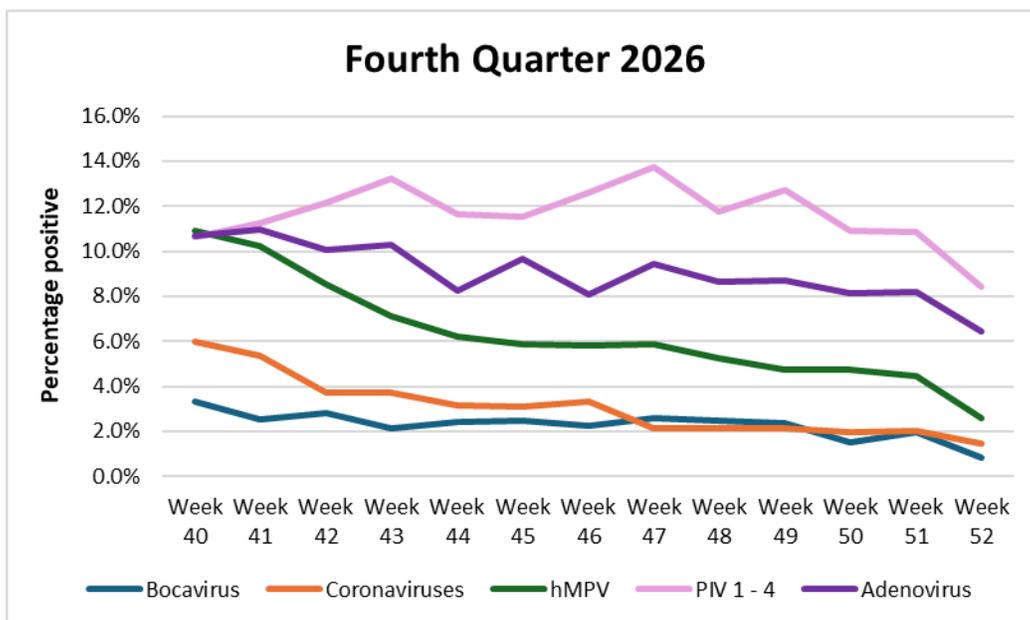


- Rhino/Enterovirus was the most prevalent virus (25.8%) detected in the fourth quarter of 2025, followed by parainfluenza virus type 1 – 4 (11.8%) and adenovirus (9.2%).
- Influenza A virus was detected in 8.0% and influenza B virus in 1.1% of samples. Most influenza A virus positive samples that were typed were influenza A/H3 (59.2%).

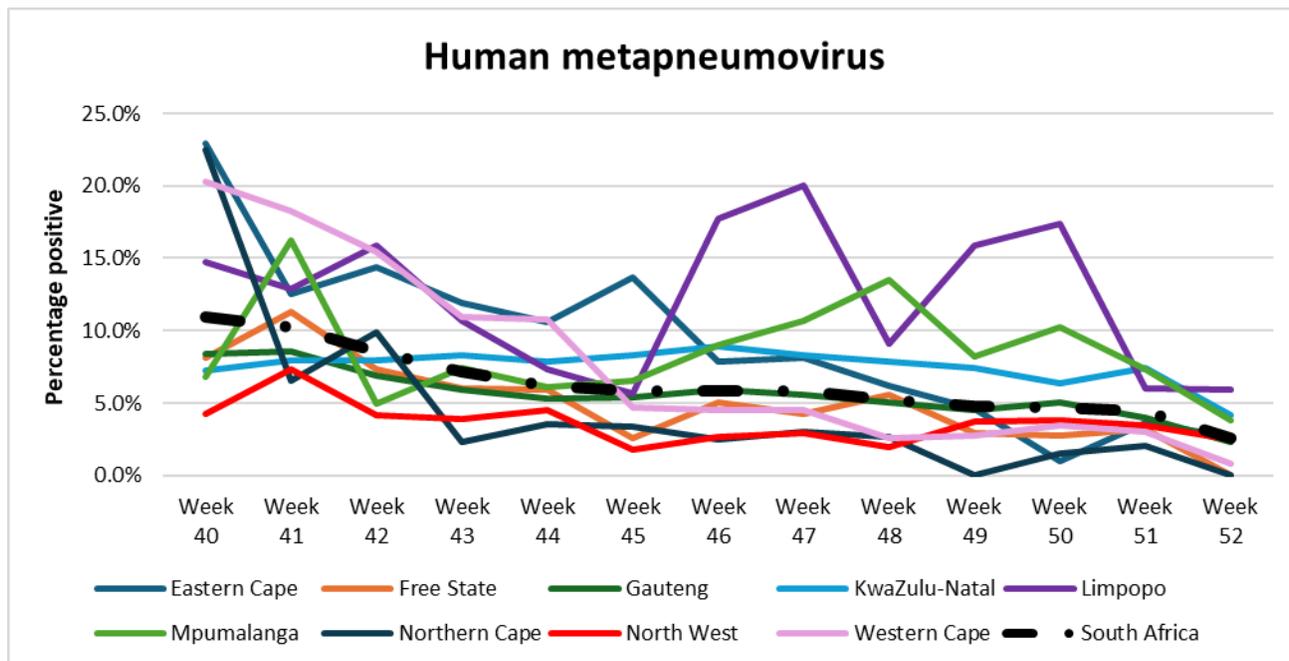
- Influenza A virus prevalence increased to above 10% in epidemiological week 46 (10.5%) only, but never decreased below 5% in any week in the final quarter of 2025.
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detected in 7.8% of samples submitted for testing during the fourth quarter, peaking in week 44 at 10.4%.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was detected in 0.9% of samples.
- Rhino/Enterovirus prevalence only fell below 20% during the last week (17.1%) of 2025.



- The prevalence of influenza A virus peaked in week 40 at the start of the quarter in Limpopo (22.5%), Mpumalanga (12.8%) and the North-West (11.2%).
- Prevalence peaked in week 45 in KwaZulu-Natal at 21.5% and a week later in Gauteng (11.7%).
- In the Western Cape, influenza A virus prevalence increased above 10% from week 50 (10.1%) to week 52 (14.8%).
- Influenza A virus prevalence never crossed the 10% threshold in the Eastern Cape, Free State and Northern Cape provinces.



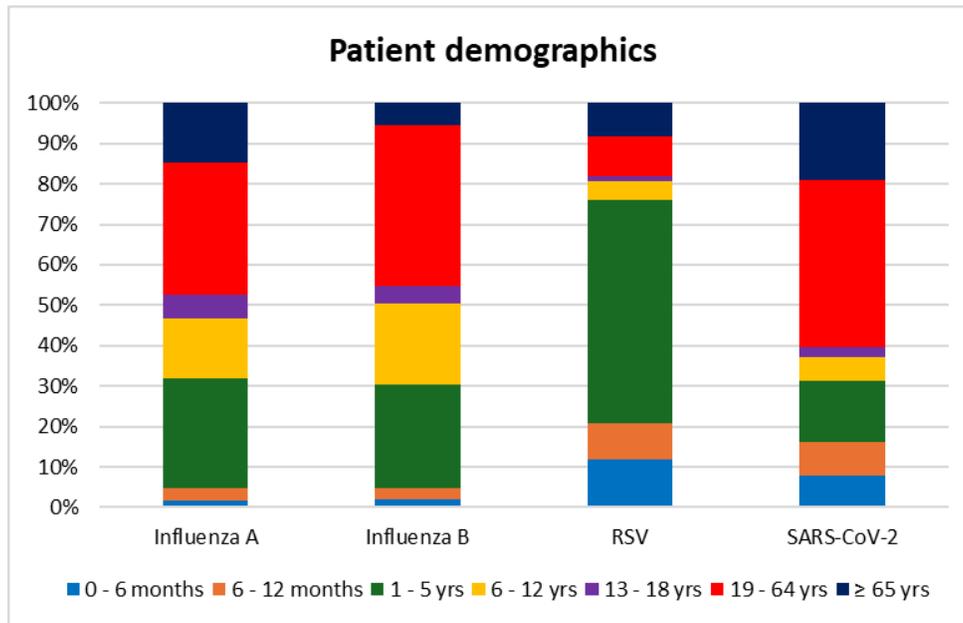
- The seasonal coronaviruses were detected in between 1.5% (week 52) and 6.0% (week 40) of samples submitted for testing during the fourth quarter of 2025.
- During this period, adenovirus was detected in between 6.4% (week 52) and 11.0% (week 41) of samples submitted for testing.
- Similar to what was observed in the previous quarter, bocavirus prevalence never increased above 3.5% in the entire quarter.
- The prevalence of the parainfluenza viruses peaked in week 47 (13.7%) and only fell below 10% in the last week of 2025.
- Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) prevalence only crossed the 10% threshold during the first two weeks of the quarter.



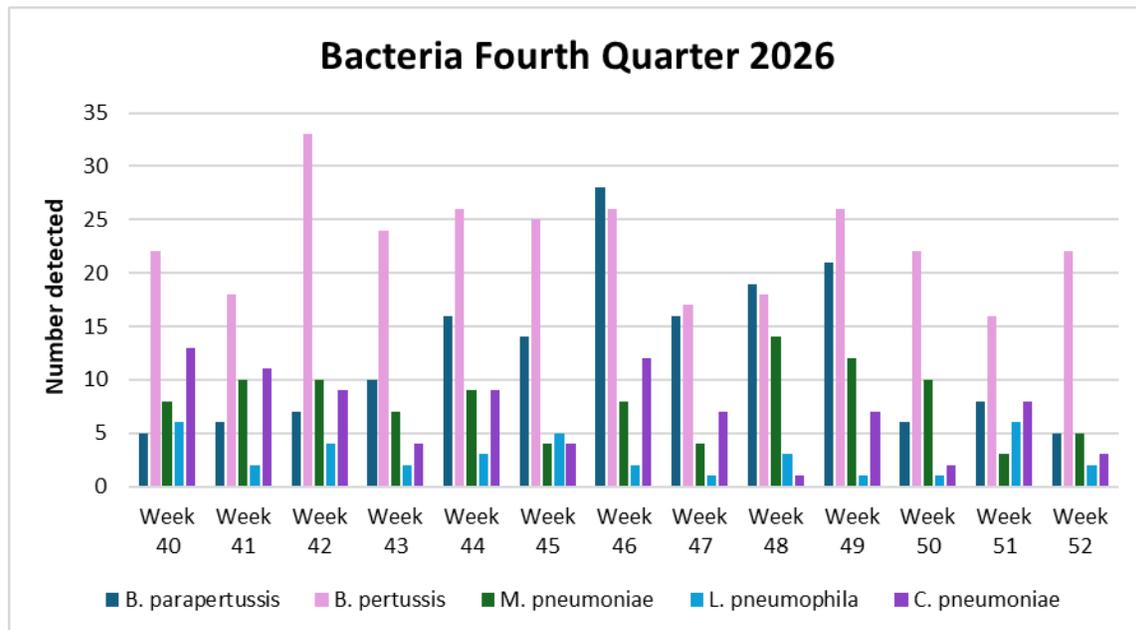
- hMPV prevalence peaked in the first week of the quarter in the Eastern Cape (22.9%), Northern Cape (22.5%) and Western Cape (20.3%).
- Prevalence peaked the following week in the Free State (11.3%), Gauteng (8.5%), Mpumalanga (16.3%) and the North West (7.4%).
- hMPV prevalence peaked in week 46 in KwaZulu-Natal (8.9%) and a week later in Limpopo (20.0%).

Patient demographics

- An almost equal proportion of samples that tested positive for influenza A virus were collected from children less than 13 years of age (46.6%) and adults older than 18 years of age (47.5%).
- Similar proportions were observed for influenza B virus-positive samples – 50.5% were children less than 13 years and 45.2% were adults.
- The majority of samples that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (60.4%) were collected from adults older than 18 years of age.
- In contrast, just over three-quarters of patients who tested positive for RSV were less than 6 years of age (75.9%).



Bacteria



- The number of *Bordetella pertussis* cases in the fourth quarter (295 cases) increased again in comparison to the previous quarter (183 cases). Most of the cases were detected in Gauteng province.
- Significantly more cases of *B. parapertussis* were identified in the final quarter of 2025 (161 cases) than the previous three quarters combined (66 cases).
- The last quarter of 2025 was the only quarter where more cases of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (104 cases) were detected than cases of *Chlamydia pneumoniae* (90 cases). In all the other quarters of 2025, more cases of *C. pneumoniae* were detected than *M. pneumoniae*.
- Only thirty-eight samples tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* during the fourth quarter.