RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN STATISTICS

national · pathology · group

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

2nd Quarter 2025

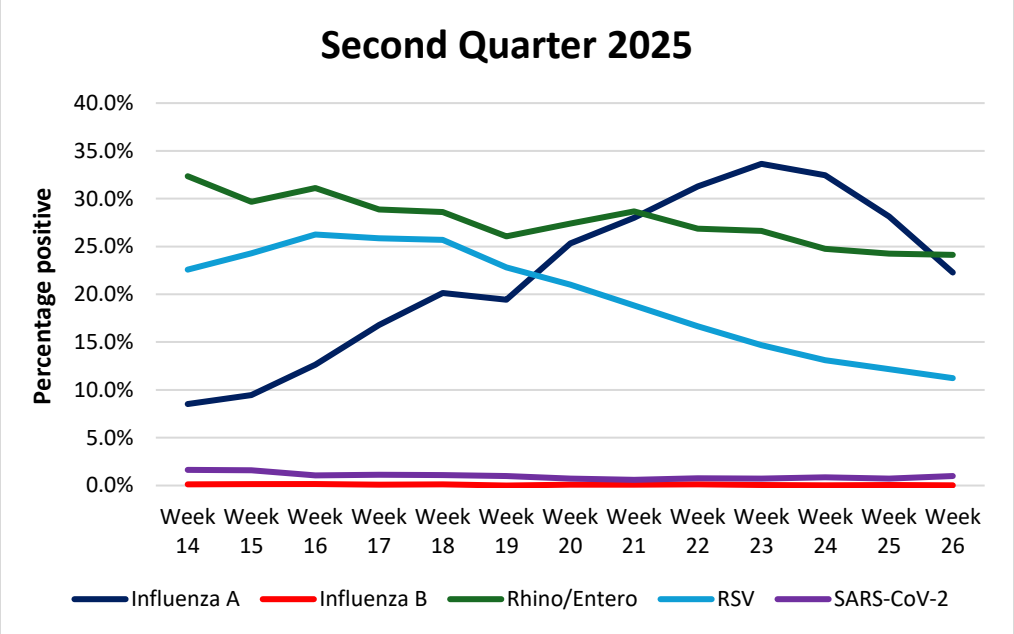
This report summarises respiratory pathogen PCR panel results for specimens submitted for testing to the private pathology practices that are members of the NPG from April to June 2025.

Highlights

- Rhino/Enterovirus (27.4%) was the most prevalent virus during the second quarter.
- Influenza A virus was the most prevalent virus from week 22 to week 25, and 98.6% of influenza A virus positive samples that were typed were influenza A/H3.
- The RSV season peaked in week 16 at 26.3% and prevalence remained above 10% for the entire quarter.
- More cases of *Chlamydophila pneumoniae* were detected in the second quarter than cases of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

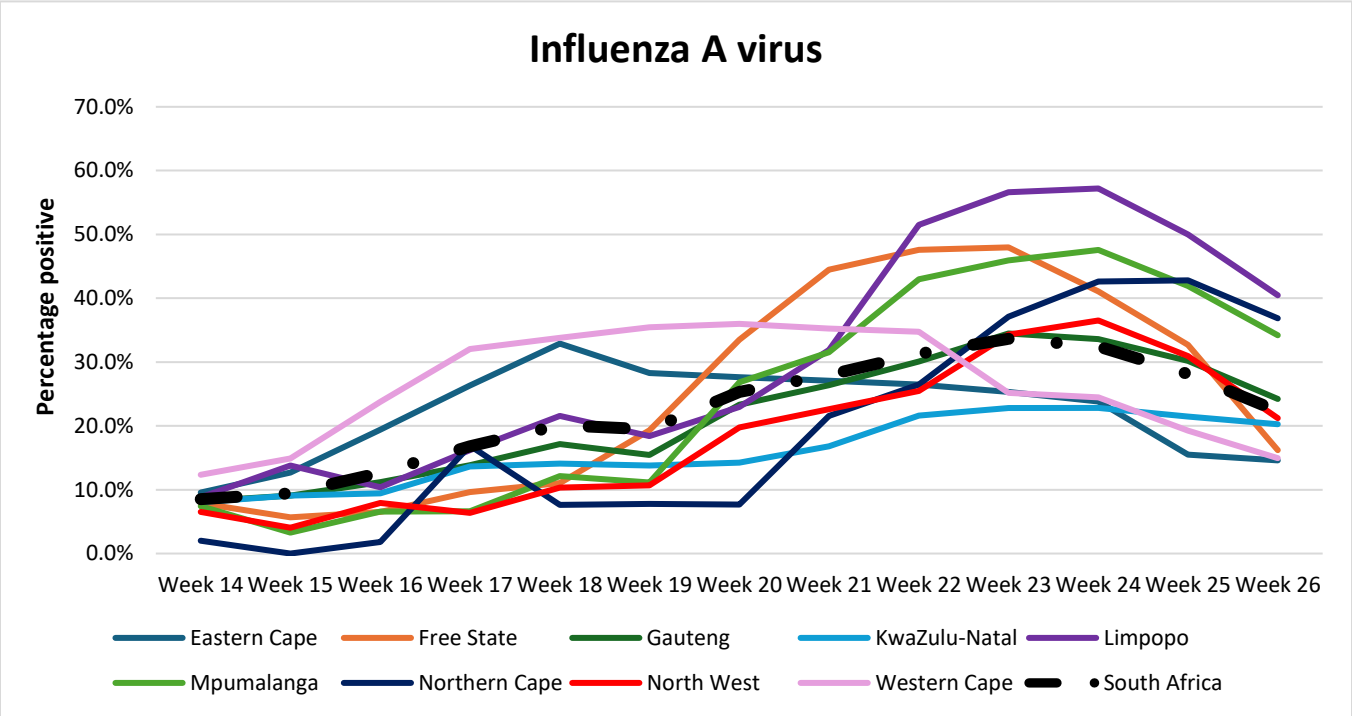
Respiratory virus PCR panel

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.



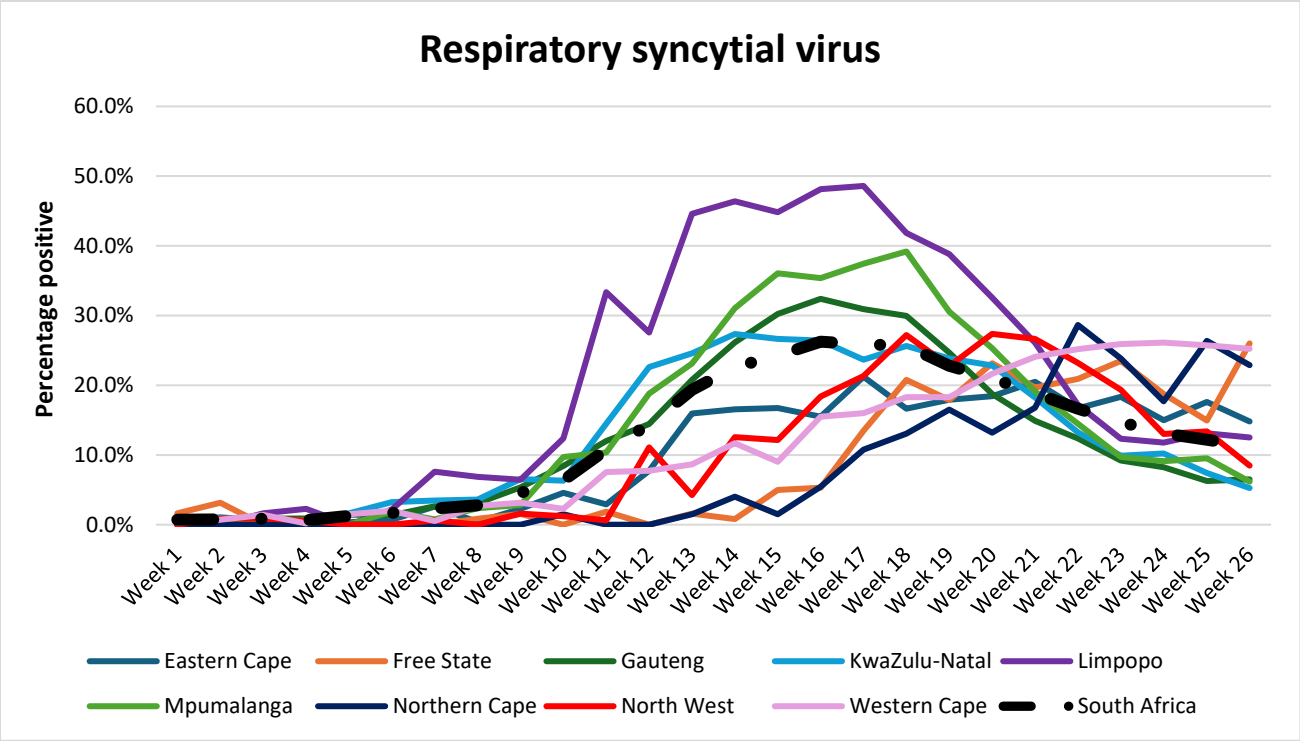
- Rhino/Enterovirus was the most prevalent virus (27.4%) detected in the second quarter of 2025, followed by influenza A virus (24.0%) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV; 18.7%).
- Influenza A virus was the most prevalent virus from epidemiological week 22 (31.3%) to week 25 (28.1%), peaking in week 23 at 33.6%. The majority of influenza A virus positive samples that were typed were influenza A/H3 (98.6%).
- Both influenza B virus (0.1%) and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; 0.9%) were detected in less than 1% of samples submitted for testing during the second quarter.

- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) prevalence peaked in week 16 at 26.3% and remained above 10% for the entire quarter.
- Rhino/Enterovirus prevalence never fell below 20% during any week in the second quarter of 2025.

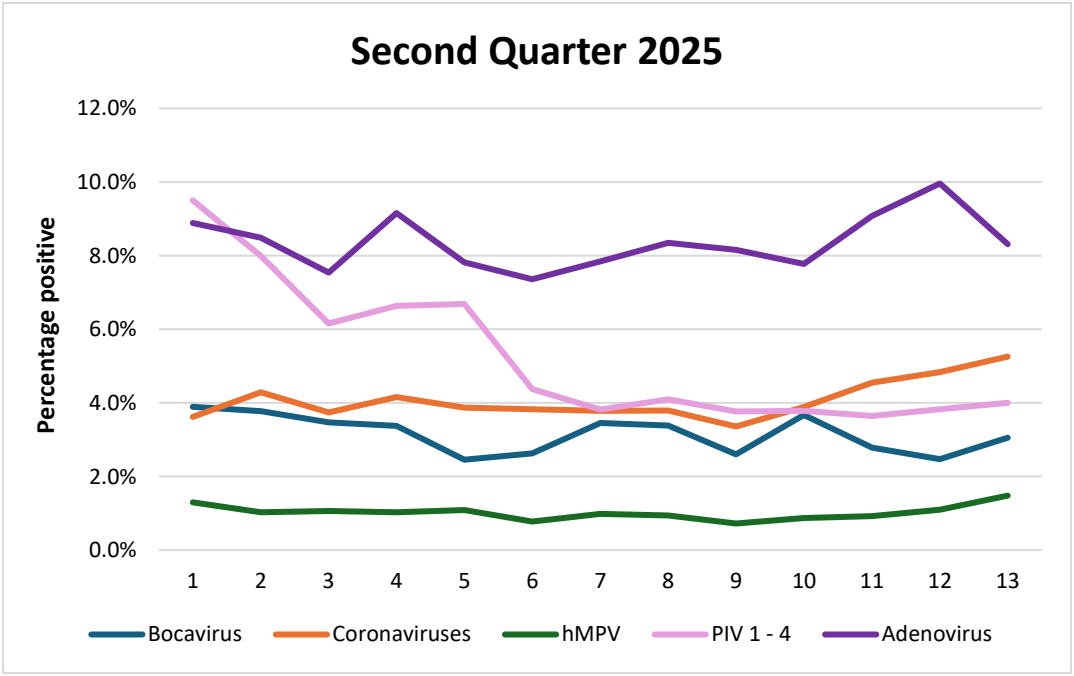


- In the second quarter of 2025, influenza A virus prevalence never fell below 10% in the Western Cape, peaking in week 20 at 36.0%.
- For both the Eastern Cape and Limpopo provinces, influenza A virus prevalence was below 10% in the first week of the quarter only. Prevalence peaked in the Eastern Cape at 32.9% in week 18, but only in week 24 in Limpopo at 57.2%.
- The influenza A virus season started in epidemiological week 16 in Gauteng, a week later in KwaZulu-Natal, and the following week in the Free State. The season peak in week 23 in all three provinces – at 34.5% in Gauteng; 22.8% in KwaZulu-Natal; and 48.0% in the Free State.
- In addition to Limpopo province mentioned previously, influenza A virus prevalence also peaked in week 24 in Mpumalanga (47.6%) and North West (36.5%), and a week later in the Northern Cape (42.8%).

- RSV prevalence first increased to above 10% in epidemiological week 10 in Limpopo (12.4%), peaked in week 17 at 48.6%, and remained above 10% for the rest of the second quarter.
- The RSV season started the following week in Gauteng (12.0%), KwaZulu-Natal (14.5%) and Mpumalanga (10.4%) provinces. RSV prevalence peaked first in KwaZulu-Natal (27.4%) in week 14, two week later in Gauteng (32.4%), and only in week 18 in Mpumalanga (39.2%).
- RSV prevalence crossed the 10% threshold in week 12 in North West province (11.1%), and again from week 14 (12.6%) to week 25 (13.4%), peaking in week 20 (27.4%).
- In the Eastern Cape, RSV prevalence was above 10% for the entire second quarter of 2025, peaking in week 21 at 20.5%.
- The RSV season only started in week 17 in the Free State and Northern Cape, remaining above 10% prevalence for the remainder of the quarter in both provinces.

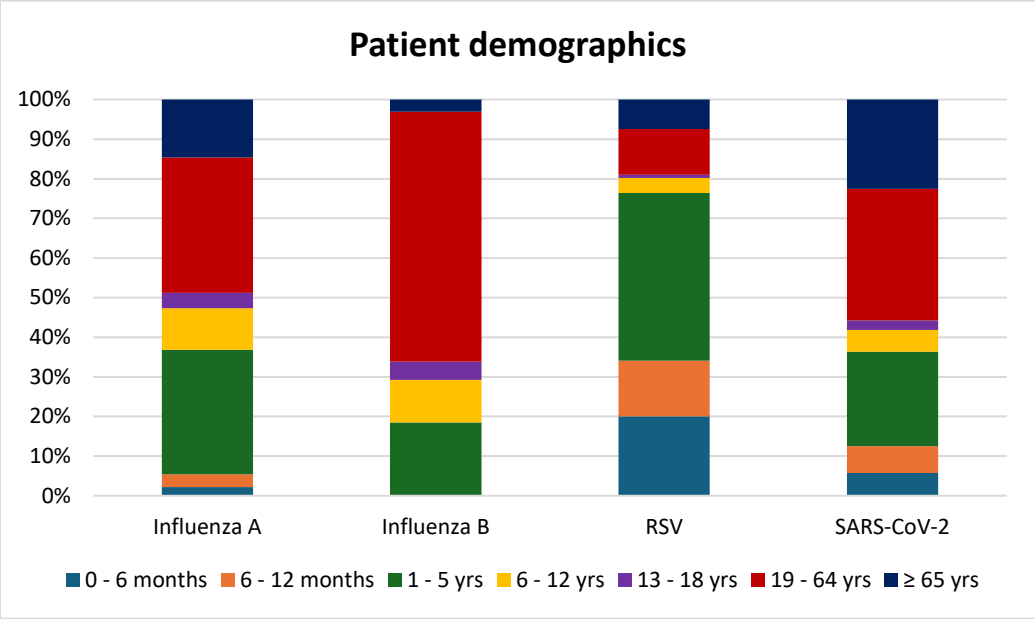


- The seasonal coronaviruses were detected in 4.1% of samples, and bocavirus in 3.1% of samples submitted for testing during the second quarter of 2025.
- During this period, adenovirus was detected in between 7.4% (week 19) and 10.0% (week 25) of samples submitted for testing.
- The parainfluenza viruses were detected in 9.5% of submitted samples at the start of the quarter in week 14, but prevalence fell below 5% from week 19 until the end of the quarter.
- Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) was detected in only 1.0% of samples submitted for testing during the second quarter of 2025.

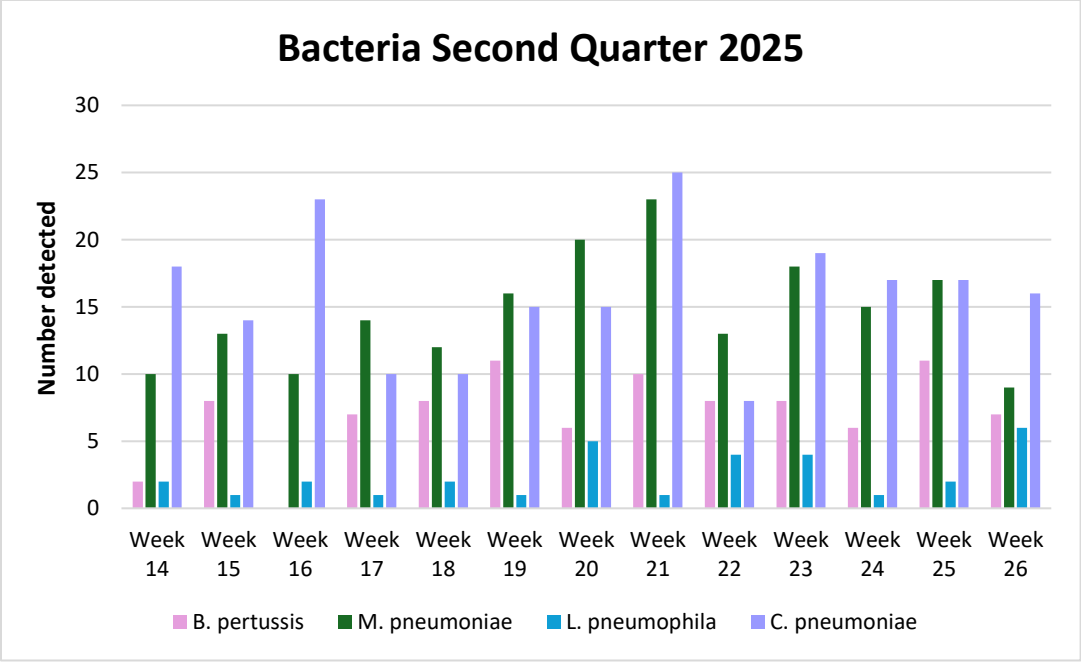


Patient demographics

- An almost equal proportion of samples that tested positive for influenza A virus were collected from children less than 12 years of age (47.3%) and adults older than 18 years of age (48.8%).
- Two-thirds of patients who tested positive for influenza B virus were adults older than 18 years of age (66.2%).
- Most patients who tested positive for RSV were less than 6 years of age (76.4%).
- In contrast, the majority of patients who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 were adults older than 18 years of age (55.7%).



Bacteria



- Similar to what was observed in the first quarter, more cases of *Chlamydophila pneumoniae* (207 cases) were detected in the second quarter of 2025 than cases of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (190 cases).
- Ninety-two samples tested positive for *Bordetella pertussis* and thirty-two for *Legionella pneumophila*.
- Only ten cases of *B. parapetussis* were reported during the entire quarter (not represented graphically).