



Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report



Key messages

This report presents a national epidemiological update for acute respiratory infections, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), with a focus on the current reporting period (14 July to 27 July 2025) and earlier severity reporting periods (up to 13 July 2025).

In the community: Influenza-like-illness among national helpline callers decreased but remains higher than at the same time last year. Conversely, new fever and cough symptoms self-reported in community surveys remain lower than the trends observed at the same time last year and the five-year average. The number of people who reported new fever and cough symptoms decreased in the last fortnight with fewer people reportedly taking time off work due to respiratory illness compared to the previous fortnight. Additionally, fewer national helpline callers with influenza-like-illness were referred to seek urgent medical care than in the previous fortnight. COVID-19 cases continued decreasing in the last fortnight and remain lower than at the same time in previous years. Influenza cases decreased in the last fortnight, and the year to date total remains below that of the same time period last year. RSV cases decreased slightly but remain higher than those reported at the same time last year.

In general practice: There were slightly less influenza-like-illness (new fever and cough symptoms) consultations at sentinel surveillance sites in the last fortnight, compared with the previous fortnight. Influenza-like-illness rates in the last fortnight were lower than the rates observed at the same time last year but higher than the five-year average.

In hospitals: Sentinel hospital-based surveillance indicates admissions with severe acute respiratory infections increased from late March to late June 2025; but have since declined during the most recent severity reporting period. The proportion of those patients who were admitted directly to intensive care at a sentinel hospital site remains low. At sentinel hospitals, more children (those aged 16 years and younger) were admitted with RSV than with influenza or COVID-19, while more adults were admitted with COVID-19 compared to influenza or RSV. Sentinel intensive care surveillance shows the number of admissions with severe acute respiratory infections each week generally increased since late May 2025. In 2025 to date, most patients were admitted to sentinel intensive care with rhinovirus / enterovirus, followed by influenza. A higher proportion of intensive care admissions with influenza and parainfluenza required invasive mechanical ventilation; however, the duration of intensive care stay continues to slightly vary between illnesses. In the last fortnight, both the average number of COVID-19 cases occupying intensive care beds and the average number of intensive care staff unavailable due to COVID-19 illness or exposure have decreased.

Deaths: COVID-19 has been the leading cause of acute respiratory infection mortality across 2023–2025. All three of these acute respiratory infections are more likely to cause death in older age groups than younger age groups.

In laboratories: Test positivity for SARS-CoV-2 decreased in the last fortnight, while test positivity for influenza and RSV increased. The SARS-CoV-2 variant under monitoring, NB.1.8.1, is the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant in the last 28 days (16 June to 13 July 2025) accounting for 70.5% of sequences in Australia. Small numbers of sequences of other variants under monitoring, including XFG, LP.8.1, LB.1, KP.3.1.1 and XEC continue to be observed in Australia. Several jurisdictions have been experiencing increasing numbers of influenza B cases in the year to date.

Vaccine coverage, effectiveness and match: Nationally, fewer adults have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 12 months compared to the 12 months prior. Influenza vaccine coverage this year to date is consistent with coverage at the same time last year; however, remains lower than at the same time in 2023 and 2022. Since the commencement of the National RSV Mother and Infant Protection Program, 94,214 Abrysvo doses have been administered and nirsevimab uptake is increasing. Of influenza isolates characterised in 2025 thus far, over 98% have been a good match to the corresponding 2025 vaccine components.

Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report

This report was prepared by Ash Donovan, Lauren Kutzner, Algreg Gomez, and Caitlin Trenorden on behalf of the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control. We thank the staff and participants from the surveillance systems who contribute data for acute respiratory illness surveillance across Australia.

The report presents a national overview of acute respiratory infections in Australia, drawing information from several different surveillance systems. These surveillance systems help us to understand the distribution of acute respiratory illnesses in the community, the severity of infections including which populations might be at risk, and the impact of acute respiratory illnesses on the community and health system in Australia.

Surveillance indicators presented in this report are based on the <u>Australian National Surveillance Plan for COVID-19</u>, Influenza, and RSV. Please refer to the <u>Technical Supplement – Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report</u> for information on our surveillance sources and data considerations, including the considerable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on acute respiratory infection surveillance in Australia. A summary of data considerations for this report are provided below:

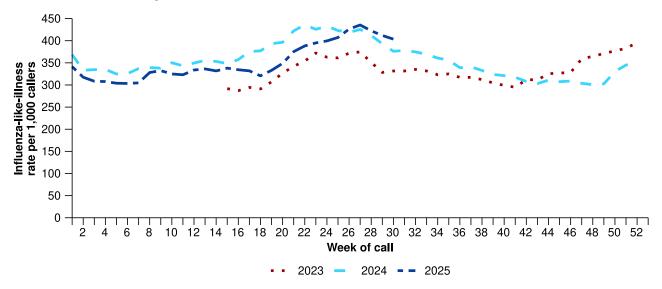
- Due to the dynamic nature of the surveillance systems used in this report, surveillance data are
 considered preliminary and subject to change as updates are received, with the most recent weeks
 considered particularly incomplete. Data in this report may vary from data reported in other national
 reports and reports by states and territories.
- Data in this report are presented by date of event (diagnosis, admission or death) or by the
 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) week date system, with weeks defined as sevenday periods which begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday. The ISO week date system is used to
 support trends comparisons over time more effectively. The current reporting period includes 14 July
 to 27 July 2025 and where comparisons to the previous fortnight are made this includes 30 June to 13
 July 2025.
- In Australia, states and territories (the Australian Capital Territory [ACT], New South Wales [NSW], the Northern Territory [NT], Queensland [Qld], South Australia [SA], Tasmania [Tas], Victoria [Vic], and Western Australia [WA]) report notified cases to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) based on the Australian national surveillance case definitions. NNDSS data are analysed and reported based on diagnosis date, which is the true onset date of a case if known, otherwise it is the earliest of the specimen date, the notification date, or the notification received date. The NNDSS data for this report were extracted on 30 July 2025.
- To account for the lag in collection and provision of severity data from some surveillance systems, and for the time delay between illness onset and the development of severe disease outcomes, cases with an admission date or a diagnosis date in the last two weeks are excluded from severity analyses for hospitalisations and intensive care admissions. As such, the severity reporting periods are two weeks behind the end of the current reporting period. For this report, severity reporting includes data from 30 June to 13 July 2025 unless specified otherwise. Where comparisons to the previous severity fortnight are made this includes 16 June to 29 June 2025.
- Death registrations from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Provisional Mortality Statistics are
 now used as the primary data source for measuring acute respiratory infection associated deaths. The
 ABS mortality data is sourced from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is separate from
 the NNDSS. Registration-based mortality data needs time to be received and processed. For this
 reason, mortality statistics in this report may lag by at least two months.
- Analysis and reporting outputs were produced using R Statistical Software v4.3.1. While every care
 has been taken in preparing this report, the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability
 and Ageing does not accept liability for any injury or loss or damage arising from the use of, or
 reliance upon, the content of the report or Technical Supplement. For further information about this
 report refer to the <u>Technical Supplement Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report</u> or contact
 respiratory.surveillance@health.gov.au.

Community surveillance

Community surveillance monitors respiratory illnesses in the community, providing information on the number of people reporting respiratory symptoms, testing practices and the impact of respiratory illnesses. Community surveillance includes notification data obtained from laboratory tests for infections. Infections that are diagnosed and notified are only a subset of the total number of infections occurring in the community.

- In the last fortnight (14 July to 27 July 2025), there were less Healthdirect helpline callers with influenza-like-illness (408 per 1,000 callers per fortnight) than in the previous fortnight (429 per 1,000 callers per fortnight) (Figure 1).
- In the last fortnight, the rate of influenza-like-illness among helpline callers has been higher than the rate of influenza-like-illness at the same time in 2024 and 2023 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Rate of influenza-like-illness per 1,000 helpline callers by year and week of call*, Australia[†], 22 March 2023 to 27 July 2025



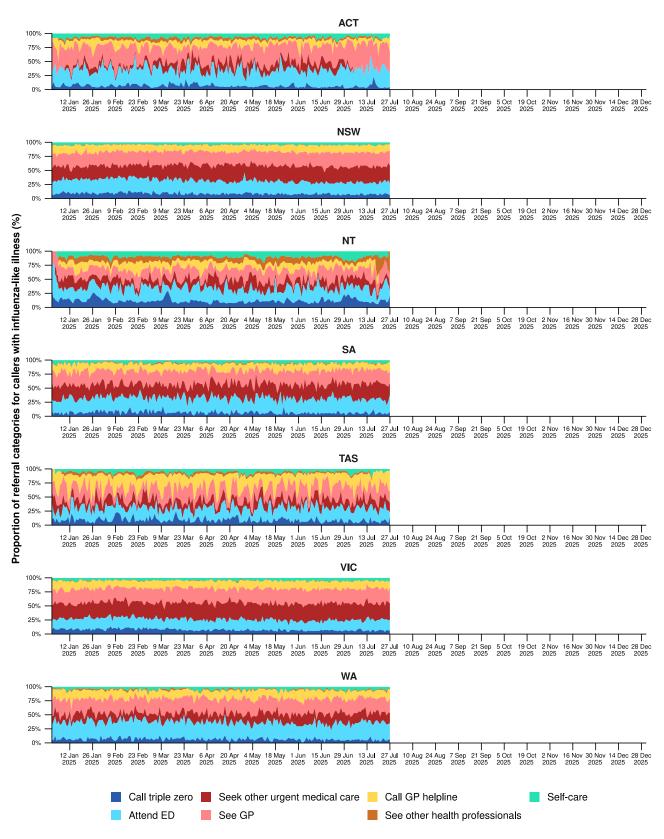
Source: Healthdirect Australia

- In the last fortnight, there were less Healthdirect helpline callers with influenza-like-illness referred to seek urgent medical care (202 per 1,000 calls per fortnight) than in the previous fortnight (213 per 1,000 calls per fortnight) (Figure 2).
 - Callers referred to seek urgent medical care include those referred to call triple zero, attend a hospital emergency department, contact a virtual emergency department, urgent care clinic or see a general practitioner within two hours.
- In the last fortnight, referral pathways varied between jurisdictions with the ACT, the NT, Tas and WA having the highest proportion of people recommended to attend a hospital emergency department (Figure 2). In comparison, SA and Vic had the highest proportion of people referred to seek other urgent care including virtual emergency departments (Figure 2). This trend should be interpreted with care as virtual emergency care options vary between jurisdictions.
- Since June 2025, most jurisdictions have experienced an increase in influenza-like-illness referrals to urgent medical care, with the exception of referrals to call triple zero which have remained relatively stable in all jurisdictions except the NT (Figure 2).

Healthdirect data prior to 22 March 2023 are unavailable as prior to this date a different data collection method was used.

[†] The Healthdirect helpline operates in all states and territories except Qld; therefore influenza-like-illness trends will not be representative of Qld and may be underrepresented. See the Technical Supplement for more information.

Figure 2: Proportion of referral categories* for helpline callers with influenza-like-illness by jurisdiction[†] and call date, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



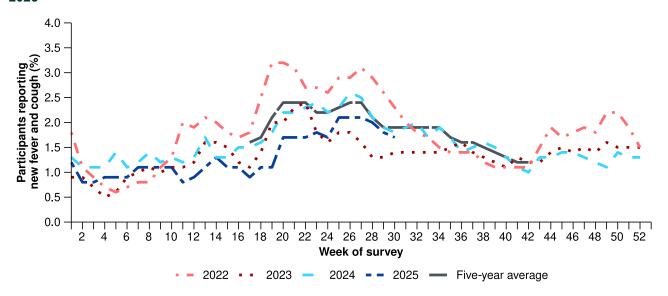
Source: Healthdirect Australia

^{*} See other health professionals category includes pharmacist, dentist, mental health provider, primary maternity care, poison information centre or other.

[†] The Healthdirect helpline operates in all states and territories except Qld; therefore influenza-like-illness referral trends are not provided for Qld. See the <u>Technical Supplement</u> for more information.

- In the last fortnight, slightly less FluTracking survey participants reported new fever and cough symptoms (1.8%), than in the previous fortnight (2.0%) (Figure 3).
- In the last fortnight, more survey participants with new fever and cough symptoms used a rapid antigen test (RAT) (55.2%; 667/1,209) than a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test (11.2%; 135/1,209) to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
- Self-reported SARS-CoV-2 RAT positivity was lower in the last fortnight (18.7%; 125/667) than in the previous fortnight (22.6%; 192/849). Self-reported SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity was slightly higher in the last fortnight (11.9%; 16/135) than in the previous fortnight (11.4%; 16/140).
- In the last fortnight, 10.7% (129/1,209) of survey participants with new fever and cough symptoms used a PCR test to test for influenza. Self-reported influenza PCR positivity was higher this fortnight (31.0%; 40/129), than in the previous fortnight (29.4%; 40/136).
- In the last fortnight, less survey participants reported taking three or more days off work or normal duties due to fever and cough symptoms (47.3%; 572/1,209), than in the previous fortnight (52.3%; 738/1,412).
- From mid-March to late June 2025, the weekly proportion of FluTracking survey participants with new fever and cough symptoms was lower than observed at the same time in 2022, 2024, and the five-year average; however, since early July the weekly proportion has been relatively similar to the trends observed at the same time last year and the five-year average (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Age standardised proportion of survey participants reporting new fever and cough symptoms compared with the five-year average* by year and week of survey, Australia, 2022 to 27 July 2025



Source: FluTracking

* From 2020, FluTracking expanded their data capture period to year-round. Data before May and after October for any year before 2020 are not available for historical comparisons. The years 2020 and 2021 are excluded when comparing the current season to historical periods when influenza virus has circulated without public health restrictions. As such, the five-year average includes the years 2018 to 2019 and 2022 to 2024. Please refer to the <u>Technical Supplement</u> for interpretation of the five-year average.

In the last fortnight (14 July to 27 July 2025), there was a 23.3% decrease in COVID-19 cases, a 10.8% decrease in influenza cases, and a 9.0% decrease in RSV cases.

Table 1: Notified cases and notification rate per 100,000 population by disease, five-year age group, and jurisdiction*†, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025

	С	OVID-19		lr	nfluenza			RSV		
	Reporting period (n)	Year to date (n)	Year to date (rate)	Reporting period (n)	Year to date (n)	Year to date (rate)	Reporting period (n)	Year to date (n)	Year to date (rate)	
Age grou	up (years)									
0–4	1,028	12,228	810	5,083	28,153	1,866	5,897	56,391	3,737	
5–9	240	3,227	200	4,069	32,858	2,040	696	8,185	508	
10–14	188	3,556	212	2,272	21,507	1,284	288	3,320	198	
15–19	282	4,179	251	1,865	13,033	784	240	2,226	134	
20–24	365	4,362	244	1,487	7,691	430	215	1,859	104	
25–29	445	5,492	275	1,438	7,549	378	262	2,311	116	
30–34	565	6,645	326	2,171	11,186	549	361	2,978	146	
35–39	616	7,583	382	2,778	15,125	762	370	3,045	153	
40–44	631	7,352	397	2,742	15,515	838	326	2,582	139	
45–49	514	6,319	388	2,120	12,009	738	287	2,357	145	
50–54	501	6,391	378	1,921	10,950	648	361	2,910	172	
55–59	464	6,217	405	1,749	10,043	655	392	3,144	205	
60–64	482	6,649	433	1,754	9,893	645	472	3,563	232	
65–69	522	6,861	505	1,524	8,618	634	511	3,778	278	
70+	3,285	42,997	1,287	5,112	28,174	843	1,922	15,193	455	
Jurisdict	ion									
ACT	143	2,087	440	721	4,692	990	276	1,924	406	
NSW	4,562	59,683	703	16,520	89,213	1,051	3,680	53,892	635	
NT	54	915	359	378	2,612	1,024	34	596	234	
Qld	2,397	26,278	470	7,794	44,014	788	1,887	20,924	375	
SA	502	8,005	426	2,767	17,285	920	1,308	5,348	285	
Tas	174	1,844	320	560	3,397	590	184	1,161	202	
Vic	1,697	22,043	316	7,115	55,828	800	3,799	24,419	350	
WA	622	9,289	313	2,369	15,441	521	1,432	5,589	188	
Total	10,151	130,144	478	38,224	232,482	855	12,600	113,853	419	

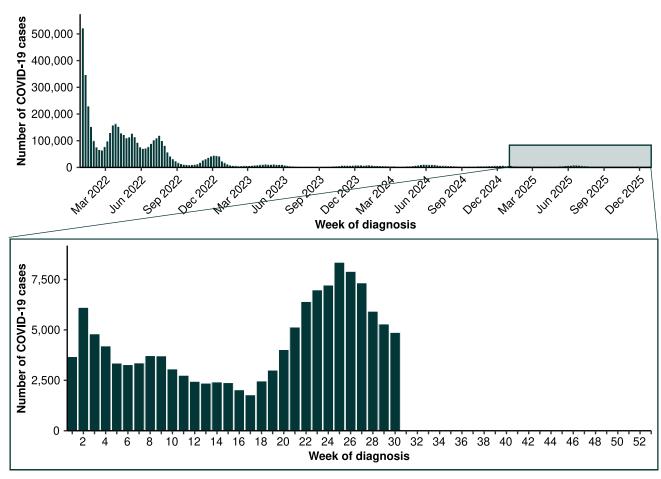
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

* Rate per 100,000 population for the given time period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for the reference period June 2024, released 12 December 2024.

[†] Total includes cases with missing age.

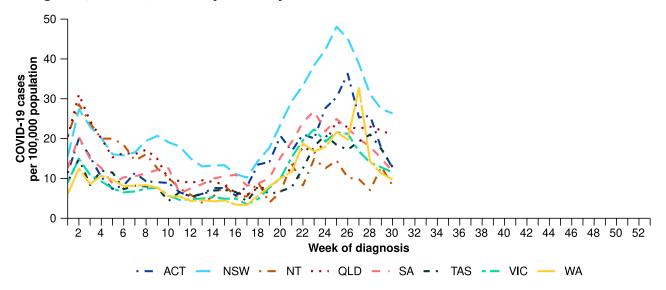
- In the last fortnight, the number of COVID-19 cases continued to decrease following a peak in late June (Figure 4). Despite an increasing trend from late April to a peak in late June 2025, the total number of COVID-19 cases this year to date (n=130,144) is 33.0% less than the number of cases observed in the same time period last year (n=194,199) (Figure 4).
- In the last fortnight, COVID-19 notification rates continued to decrease across most jurisdictions; however, remained stable in Qld and increased slightly in the NT (Figure 5).
- In the year to date, COVID-19 notification rates remain highest in people aged 70 years or over, likely due to higher case ascertainment from targeted testing strategies for populations at-risk of severe disease or who live in a high-risk setting such as a residential aged care home (Table 1).
- In the year to date, COVID-19 notification rates are highest in NSW and lowest in WA (Table 1).

Figure 4: Notified COVID-19 cases (laboratory-confirmed only) by year and week of diagnosis, Australia, 2022 to 27 July 2025



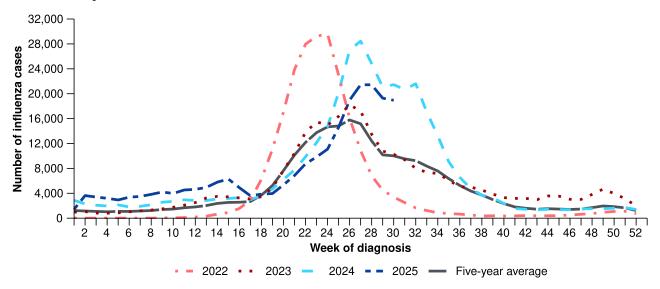
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

Figure 5: Notification rates* per 100,000 population for COVID-19 cases by state or territory and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

Figure 6: Notified influenza cases and five-year average* by year and week of diagnosis, Australia, 2022 to 27 July 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

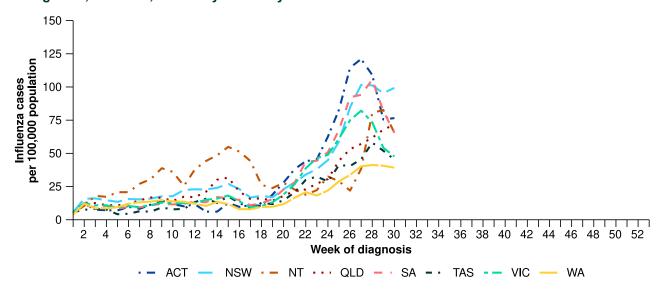
- Since early May, influenza cases have followed expected seasonal trends, showing a steady increase. However, in the last fortnight, the number of influenza cases nationally decreased compared to the previous fortnight (Figure 6).
- The number of influenza cases this year to date (n=232,482) is 4.6% less than the number of cases observed in the same time period last year (n=243,748) (Figure 6). Weekly influenza case numbers in 2025 have not yet surpassed the number of cases seen at the peak of the influenza season in either 2022 (n=29,621 per week) or 2024 (n=28,453 per week); however, case numbers remain above the five-year average.

^{*} Rate per 100,000 population for the given time period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) <u>Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for the reference period June 2024, released 12 December 2024</u>

^{*} The years 2020 and 2021 are excluded when comparing the current season to historical periods when influenza virus has circulated without public health restrictions. As such, the five-year average includes the years 2018 to 2019 and 2022 to 2024. Please refer to the <u>Technical Supplement</u> for interpretation of the five-year average.

- In the last fortnight, influenza notification rates have varied across all jurisdictions, with a steady increase in notification rates in the NT and Qld (Figure 7). Influenza notification rates remained stable in NSW and WA; however, decreased in the ACT, SA, Tas and Vic (Figure 7).
- In the year to date, influenza notification rates remain highest in children aged 5-9 years and children aged 0-4 years (Table 1).
- In the year to date, influenza notification rates are highest NSW and lowest in WA (Table 1).

Figure 7: Notification rates* per 100,000 population for influenza cases by state or territory and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025

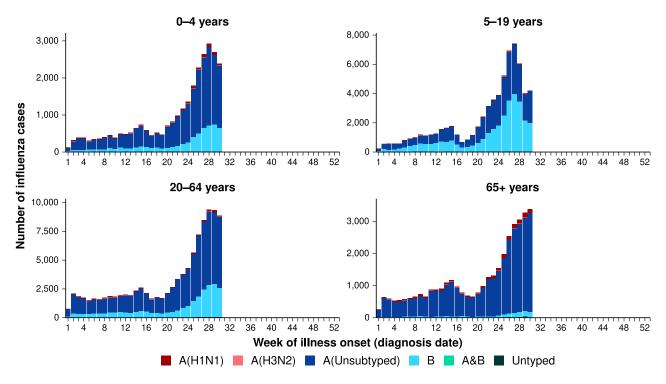


Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

* Rate per 100,000 population for the given time period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) <u>Estimated Resident</u> Population (ERP) for the reference period June 2024, released 12 December 2024.

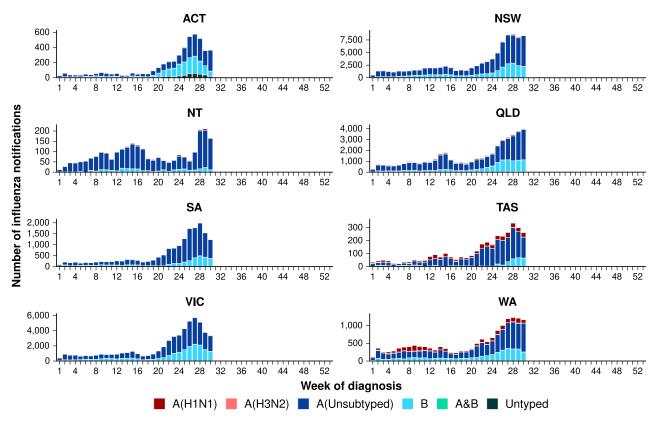
- In the last fortnight, most influenza notifications were influenza A(Unsubtyped) (68.1%; 26,015/38,224), followed by influenza B (29.4%; 11,221/38,224), then influenza A(H1N1) (2.0%; 768/38,224), and influenza untyped (0.4%; 146/38,224). In the last fortnight, there have been 38 influenza A&B co-detections (Figure 8).
- In the year to date, influenza A(Unsubtyped) has accounted for most cases across all age groups, followed by influenza B. The proportion of influenza B cases is the highest in the 5-19 years age group. There has been a small number of influenza A(H1N1) and influenza A(H3N2) cases across all age groups (Figure 8).
 - There is a comparatively higher proportion of influenza B cases this season than observed in 2024. While influenza B is often a good match with the seasonal influenza vaccine strain, influenza B can result in more severe infections in children.
- In the year to date, influenza A(Unsubtyped) has accounted for the majority of influenza cases across all jurisdictions. Several jurisdictions have been experiencing increasing numbers of influenza B cases in the year to date; however, the proportion of influenza B and influenza A varies week-on-week (Figure 9).
- Influenza A(H1N1) and influenza A(H3N2) cases were most commonly observed in the NT, Qld, Tas and WA (Figure 9); however, trends in influenza subtypes should be interpreted with care as there are jurisdictional differences in the number and selection of influenza samples that undergo typing.

Figure 8: Notified influenza cases by influenza subtype, age group*, and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

Figure 9: Notified influenza cases by influenza subtype, jurisdiction*, and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



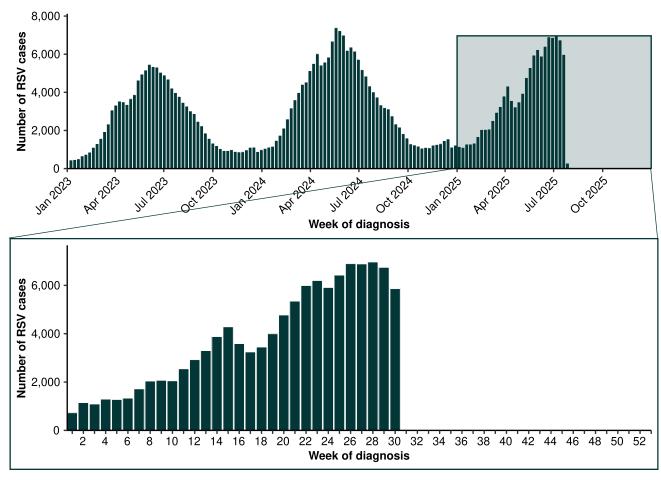
Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

^{*} Axis varies between age groups.

^{*} Axis varies between jurisdictions.

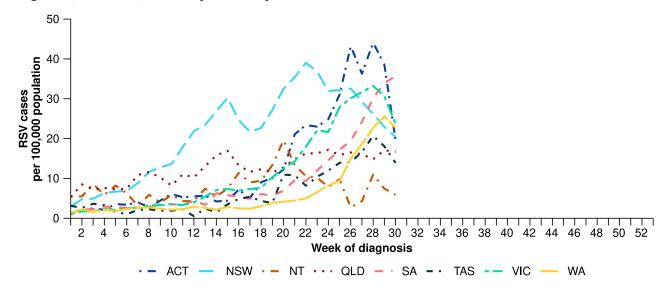
- In the last fortnight, the number of RSV cases decreased slightly; however, remain higher than the number of cases reported at the same time last year (12,600 cases in the last fortnight, compared to 8,347 cases in the fortnight ending 28 July 2024) (Figure 10).
- The number of RSV cases had been steadily increasing since the start of 2025, with slight week-on-week decreases observed from mid to late April, however; a decreasing trend has been observed in the last fortnight. The number of cases this year to date (n=113,853) is 14.0% less than the number of cases observed in the same time period last year (n=132,398) (Figure 10).
- In the last fortnight, RSV notification rates varied across jurisdictions (Figure 11). RSV notification rates continued to increase in Qld, SA and WA, but decreased in all other jurisdictions (Figure 11).
- In the year to date, RSV notification rates remain considerably higher in children aged 0–4 years than in other age groups (Table 1).
- In the year to date, RSV notification rates are highest in NSW and lowest in WA (Table 1).

Figure 10: Notified RSV cases by year and week of diagnosis*, Australia, 2023 to 27 July 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). * RSV became notifiable in all states and territories on 1 September 2022 and comprehensive national notification data became available after this point. For this reason, RSV notification trends are only presented from 1 January 2023.

Figure 11: Notification rates* per 100,000 population for RSV cases by state or territory and week of diagnosis, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

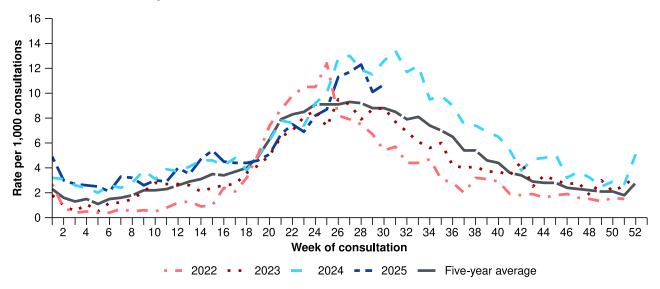
* Rate per 100,000 population for the given time period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for the reference period June 2024, released 12 December 2024.

Primary care surveillance

Primary care surveillance monitors the number and characteristics of people who have presented to their general practitioner with influenza-like-illness and provides insight on the different respiratory pathogens that are causing illness in the community.

- In the last fortnight (14 July to 27 July 2025), there were less general practice consultations for influenza-like illness (10.4 notifications per 1,000 consultations per fortnight) than in the previous fortnight (12.0 notifications per 1,000 consultations per fortnight) (Figure 12).
- From mid-January to May 2025, influenza-like-illness notification rates remained relatively consistent with rates observed in 2024 but were slightly higher than observed rates in the same period in previous years and the five-year average. Since early June 2025, influenza-like-illness consultation rates have steadily increased and now exceed the five-year average; however, remain lower than the same time period last year (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Rate of influenza-like-illness notifications per 1,000 consultations per week with sentinel general practice sites compared with the five-year average by year and week of consultation*†, Australia, 2022 to 27 July 2025



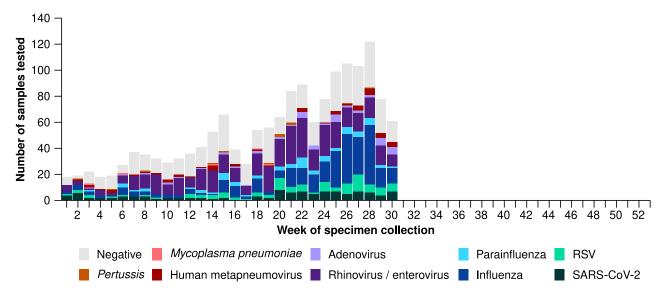
Source: Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN)

^{*} The years 2020 and 2021 are excluded when comparing the current season to historical periods when influenza virus has circulated without public health restrictions. As such, the five-year average includes the years 2018 to 2019 and 2022 to 2024. Please refer to the <u>Technical Supplement</u> for interpretation of the five-year average.

[†] Please refer to the Technical Supplement for notes on impact of COVID-19 on ASPREN data.

- In the last fortnight, 69.8% (97/139) of people attending general practice with influenza-like-illness who were tested have then tested positive for a respiratory pathogen.
- In the last fortnight, influenza (27.8%; 27/97) was the most commonly detected pathogen, followed by rhinovirus (24.7%; 24/97) and RSV (12.4%; 12/97) (Figure 13).
- In the year to date, 67.8% (1,087/1,604) of people attending general practice with influenza-like-illness who were tested have then tested positive for a respiratory pathogen.
- In the year to date, rhinovirus (36.5%; 397/1,087) has been the most commonly detected pathogen, followed by influenza (28.2%; 306/1,087), SARS-CoV-2 (10.2%; 111/1,087), RSV (8.9%; 97/1,087), and adenovirus (4.5%; 49/1,087) (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Number of samples tested for respiratory pathogens among people with influenza-likeillness attending sentinel general practice sites by respiratory pathogen and week of specimen collection, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



Source: Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN)

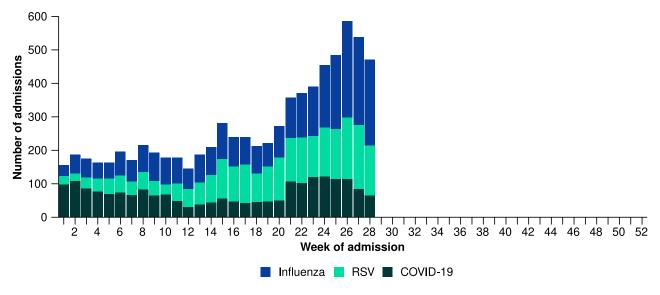
Note: All ASPREN swab samples are transported to the SA Pathology laboratory in Adelaide to be tested for viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens via a multiplex real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay using in-house primers.

Hospital-based surveillance

Hospital-based surveillance monitors persons with more severe illness who have been admitted to hospital for their respiratory illness (severe acute respiratory infections). Hospital-based surveillance also measures the ability of the health system to cope with the number of severe acute respiratory infection admissions to ensure delivery of safe, timely and quality health care.

- In the last severity reporting period (30 June to 13 July 2025), less patients were admitted to a sentinel hospital with a severe acute respiratory infection (n=1,009), than in the previous severity reporting period (n=1,071).
 - In the last severity reporting period, at sentinel hospitals there was a 34.9% decrease in admissions with COVID-19 (from 229 to 149), a 2.0% increase in admissions with influenza (from 511 to 521), and a 2.4% increase in admissions with RSV (from 331 to 339), compared to the previous severity reporting period.
- In the year to date for severity reporting (1 January to 13 July 2025), there have been 7,641 admissions with severe acute respiratory infections at sentinel hospitals. Most patients with a severe acute respiratory infection have been admitted with influenza (n=3,081) followed by RSV (n=2,477) (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Total number of patients (children and adults) admitted with a severe acute respiratory infection to sentinel hospitals by disease and week of admission, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025

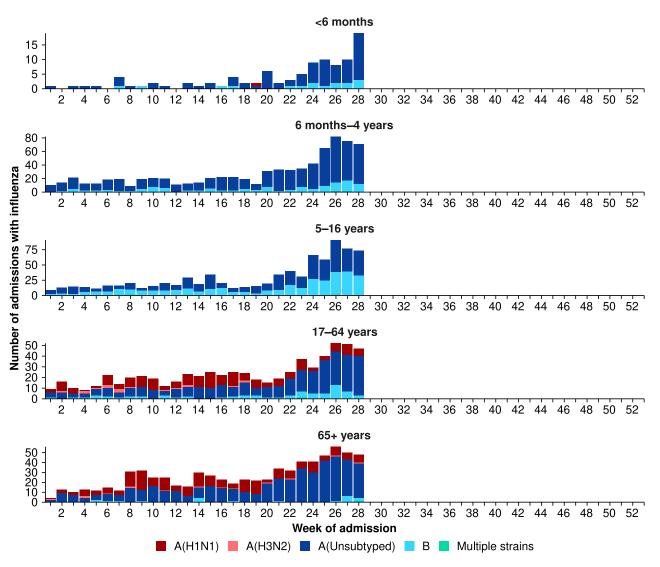


Source: Influenza Complications Alert Network (FluCAN)

- Patients admitted to sentinel hospitals with influenza have mostly been admitted with influenza A (81.5%; 2,510/3,081), while 18.3% (565/3,081) were admitted with influenza B.
 - Most hospital admissions with influenza A have been with influenza A(Unsubtyped) (81.1%;
 2,035/2,510), followed by influenza A(H1N1) (17.6%; 443/2,510), and then influenza A(H3N2) (1.3%; 32/2,510).
- In the year to date for severity reporting, influenza A was the most commonly detected influenza subtype in all age groups. Influenza A(H1N1) and influenza A(H3N2) were more commonly observed in adults than children, while influenza B was more commonly observed in children. Of note, school aged children (5–16 years) had the highest proportion of influenza B compared with influenza A (Figure 15).
 - In the previous fortnight, a notable increase was observed in the number of patients admitted with influenza with children aged less than six months (Figure 15).

- Trends in influenza subtypes should be interpreted with care as there may be differences in the number and selection of influenza samples that undergo typing.
- While influenza B is often a good match with the seasonal influenza vaccine strain, influenza
 B can result in more severe infections in children.

Figure 15: Number of patients admitted with influenza to sentinel hospitals by influenza subtype, age group*, and week of admission, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025



Source: Influenza Complications Alert Network (FluCAN)

- In the year to date for severity reporting, more children (those aged 16 years and younger) have been admitted to sentinel hospitals with RSV than with influenza or COVID-19 (Table 2a).
- Children admitted to sentinel hospitals with influenza tended to be older than children admitted with COVID-19 or RSV (Table 2a).
- Children admitted to sentinel hospitals with RSV had a slightly longer length of hospital stay compared to children with influenza or COVID-19; however, the difference in the length of stay was minor. The proportion of children admitted directly to intensive care was slightly higher for COVID-19 than influenza and RSV (Table 2a).
- Sadly, there have been a small number of children admitted with a severe acute respiratory infection who have died in hospital (Table 2a).

^{*} Axis varies between age groups. The age distribution of admissions with influenza may not reflect the age distribution of all patients.

Table 2a: Demographic characteristics and outcomes for children admitted with a severe acute respiratory infection to a sentinel hospital by disease*†‡, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025

	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
	Year to date for severity reporting (n=652)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=1,687)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=2,106)
Age (years)			
Median [IQR]	1 [0-4]	4 [1–8]	1 [0–2]
Age group (years)			
< 6 months	210 (32.2%)	99 (5.9%)	504 (23.9%)
6 months – 4 years	295 (45.2%)	777 (46.1%)	1457 (69.2%)
5–16 years	147 (22.5%)	811 (48.1%)	145 (6.9%)
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	60 (9.2%)	111 (6.6%)	135 (6.4%)
Length of hospital stay (days)†			
Median [IQR]	1 [1–2]	1 [1–2]	2 [1–3]
Patient admission location‡			
Admitted to hospital ward	609 (93.4%)	1600 (94.8%)	1993 (94.6%)
Admitted to intensive care directly	43 (6.6%)	87 (5.2%)	113 (5.4%)
Discharge status†			
Alive	474 (72.7%)	1233 (73.1%)	1434 (68.1%)
Died	-	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)
Incomplete/missing	178 (27.3%)	452 (26.8%)	671 (31.9%)

Source: Influenza Complications Alert Network (FluCAN)

The Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS) network carries out enhanced sentinel hospital surveillance for some acute respiratory infections or conditions in children. PAEDS data for acute respiratory infections in children are presented in the Australian Respiratory Surveillance Reports in the sentinel hospital data from FluCAN. For additional information on COVID-19 in children, Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome (PIMS-TS) following COVID-19, influenza in children, or RSV in children please visit the PAEDS webpages and dashboards.

^{*} Does not include patients with missing age; therefore, the sum of age-specific totals above may not equal the total number of patients.

[†] For patients who are still in hospital data may not be complete; therefore, these data are not included in the length of stay or discharge status. In addition, length of stay data excludes patients that acquired their infection in hospital.

[‡] Admission location reflects the initial admission ward. Some patients may be initially admitted to general ward then later admitted to an intensive care and this is not reflected here. Does not include patients with missing admission location; therefore, the sum of admission location specific totals above may not equal the total number of patients.

- In the year to date for severity reporting, slightly more adults (those aged 17 years and over) have been admitted to sentinel hospitals with COVID-19 than with influenza (Table 2b).
- RSV remains the least common severe acute respiratory infection for adults admitted to a sentinel hospital (Table 2b).
- Adults admitted to sentinel hospitals with COVID-19 or RSV were predominately 65 years and over, whereas the proportion of admissions with influenza was only slightly higher in the 65 years and over age group compared to the 17–64 years age group (Table 2b).
- Adults admitted to sentinel hospitals with COVID-19 had a slightly longer length of hospital stay compared to adults with influenza or RSV. A higher proportion of adults with influenza were admitted directly to intensive care, compared to adults admitted with COVID-19 or RSV (Table 2b).
- Sadly, there have been a number of adults admitted with a severe acute respiratory infections who have died in sentinel hospitals (Table 2b).

Table 2b: Demographic characteristics and outcomes for adults admitted with a severe acute respiratory infection to a sentinel hospital by disease*†‡, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025

	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
	Year to date for severity reporting (n=1,431)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=1,393)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=371)
Age (years)			
Median [IQR]	75 [62–84]	66 [52–77]	74 [60–82]
Age group (years)			
17–64 years	409 (28.6%)	652 (46.8%)	110 (29.6%)
65 years and over	1022 (71.4%)	741 (53.2%)	261 (70.4%)
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	84 (5.9%)	90 (6.5%)	23 (6.2%)
Length of hospital stay (days)†			
Median [IQR]	5 [2–9]	4 [2–7]	4 [2–8]
Patient admission location‡			
Admitted to hospital ward	1352 (94.5%)	1267 (91.0%)	348 (93.8%)
Admitted to intensive care directly	79 (5.5%)	126 (9.0%)	23 (6.2%)
Discharge status†			
Alive	1038 (72.5%)	1008 (72.4%)	234 (63.1%)
Died	51 (3.6%)	38 (2.7%)	16 (4.3%)
Incomplete/missing	342 (23.9%)	347 (24.9%)	121 (32.6%)

Source: Influenza Complications Alert Network (FluCAN)

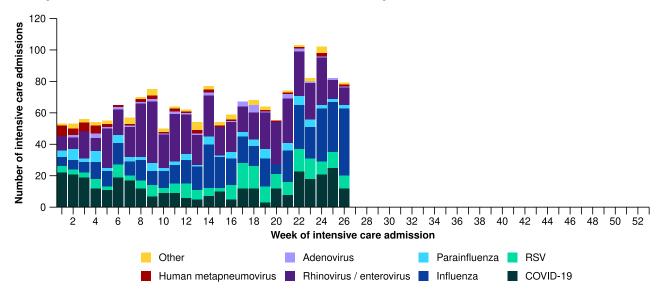
^{*} Does not include patients with missing age; therefore, the sum of age-specific totals above may not equal the total number of patients.
† For patients who are still in hospital data may not be complete; therefore, these data are not included in the length of stay or discharge status. In addition,

[†] For patients who are still in hospital data may not be complete; therefore, these data are not included in the length of stay or discharge status. In addition length of stay data excludes patients that acquired their infection in hospital.

[‡] Admission location reflects the initial admission ward. Some patients may be initially admitted to general ward then later admitted to an intensive care and this is not reflected here. Does not include patients with missing admission location; therefore, the sum of admission location specific totals above may not equal the total number of patients.

- Please note, sentinel intensive care data are updated each month, as such the sentinel intensive care surveillance data presented here have not been updated since the previous report.
- In the last severity reporting period for sentinel intensive care (2 June to 29 June 2025), more patients have been admitted to a sentinel intensive care with a severe acute respiratory infection (n=334), than in the previous severity reporting period (n=278). The increase in overall admissions was largely driven by a 79.2% increase in admissions with influenza in the last severity reporting period (n=129), compared with the previous period (n=72 from 5 May to 1 June 2025) (Figure 16).
- In the year to date for severity reporting (1 January to 29 June 2025), most patients were admitted to sentinel intensive care with rhinovirus / enterovirus, followed by influenza (Figure 16; Table 3).

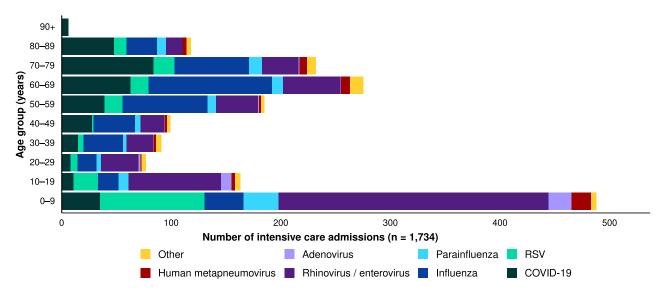
Figure 16: Number of patients admitted with severe acute respiratory infections to a sentinel intensive care by disease and week of admission, Australia, 1 January to 29 June 2025



Source: Short Period Incidence Study of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SPRINT-SARI) Australia

Note: A range of diagnostic testing procedures are utilised across hospitals in Australia. SPRINT-SARI does not specify which diagnostic testing method should be utilised as this is the domain of the hospital and treating clinicians. Therefore, virological data from SPRINT-SARI should be interpreted with care.

Figure 17: Number of patients admitted with severe acute respiratory infections to a sentinel intensive care by disease and age group*, Australia, 1 January to 29 June 2025



Source: Short Period Incidence Study of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SPRINT-SARI) Australia
Note: 4.4% (73/1,656) of patients had co-infections of respiratory pathogens; therefore, the sum of pathogen-specific totals above may not equal the total
number of severe acute respiratory infection patients.

^{*} The age distribution of severe acute respiratory infection intensive care admissions may not reflect the age distribution of all patients.

- In the year to date for severity reporting, admissions to a sentinel intensive care with COVID-19 or influenza have generally been among older people. In contrast, admissions with rhinovirus or RSV have been among younger people, primarily those aged 0-9 years old (Figure 17; Table 3).
- A higher proportion of admissions with influenza and parainfluenza required invasive mechanical ventilation, and the length of ventilation was highest among those with influenza. The length of intensive care stay was relatively similar across diseases (Table 3).
- Most patients admitted to a sentinel intensive care with a severe acute respiratory infection have been discharged home. Sadly, a number of patients have died in hospital, predominately among those with COVID-19 (Table 3).

Table 3: Demographic characteristics and outcomes of patients admitted with a severe acute respiratory infection to a sentinel intensive care by disease*†, Australia, 1 January to 29 June 2025

	COVID-19	hMPV	Influenza	Parainfluenza	Rhinovirus	RSV	Other
	Year to date for severity reporting (n=337)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=47)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=434)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=91)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=547)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=191)	Year to date for severity reporting (n=87)
Age (years)							
Median [IQR]	66 [46–76]	37 [4–68]	59 [39–68]	30 [6–68]	12 [4–50]	10 [2–59]	22 [8–64]
Indigenous status							
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	34 (10.1%)	3 (6.4%)	48 (11.1%)	6 (6.6%)	55 (10.1%)	24 (12.6%)	7 (8.0%)
Non-Indigenous	303 (89.9%)	44 (93.6%)	386 (88.9%)	85 (93.4%)	492 (89.9%)	167 (87.4%)	80 (92.0%)
Received invasive	mechanical venti	lation					
Number (%)	97 (28.8%)	13 (27.7%)	140 (32.3%)	35 (38.5%)	143 (26.1%)	33 (17.3%)	30 (34.5%)
Length of invasive	mechanical venti	lation (days)*					
Median [IQR]	3 [1–6]	3 [2–8]	5 [2–10]	2 [0–11]	2 [1–6]	3 [1–5]	2 [1–5]
Length of intensive	e care stay (days)	*					
Median [IQR]	3 [2–5]	3 [1–6]	3 [2–6]	2 [1–6]	2 [1–5]	3 [2–4]	3 [2–7]
Length of hospital	stay (days)*						
Median [IQR]	7 [4–14]	9 [6–19]	8 [4–15]	7 [3–14]	6 [3–11]	5 [3–9]	8 [4–15]
Patient outcome†							
Ongoing care in intensive care	14 (4.2%)	1 (2.1%)	30 (6.9%)	2 (2.2%)	13 (2.4%)	2 (1.0%)	3 (3.4%)
Ongoing care in hospital ward	19 (5.6%)	-	21 (4.8%)	2 (2.2%)	26 (4.8%)	11 (5.8%)	5 (5.7%)
Transfer to other hospital / facility	50 (14.8%)	7 (14.9%)	61 (14.1%)	15 (16.5%)	54 (9.9%)	22 (11.5%)	7 (8.0%)
Discharged home	197 (58.5%)	35 (74.5%)	279 (64.3%)	66 (72.5%)	417 (76.2%)	146 (76.4%)	62 (71.3%)
Died in hospital	56 (16.6%)	4 (8.5%)	41 (9.4%)	5 (5.5%)	33 (6.0%)	10 (5.2%)	10 (11.5%)

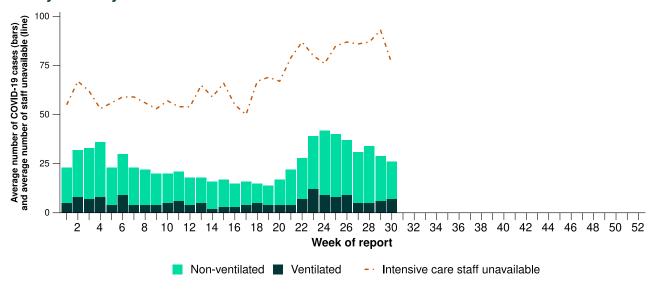
Source: Short Period Incidence Study of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SPRINT-SARI) Australia

Note: 4.4% (73/1,656) of patients had co-infections of respiratory pathogens; therefore, the sum of pathogen-specific totals above may not equal the total number of severe acute respiratory infection patients.

^{*} For patients receiving ongoing care in intensive care data may not be complete; therefore, data are not included in the length of ventilation or stay.
† Patients who have been admitted with no discharge information for less than 90 days have been assumed to have ongoing care in the hospital. Patients who have no outcome entered or have been admitted for more than 90 days with no discharge information have been treated as missing.

- In the last fortnight (14 July to 27 July 2025), there were less COVID-19 cases occupying intensive care beds across Australia than in the previous fortnight (Figure 18).
- In the last fortnight, there were less intensive care staff unavailable to work due to COVID-19 exposure or illness across Australia than in the previous fortnight (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Average number of COVID-19 cases in intensive care and the average number of intensive care staff unavailable to work due to COVID-19 exposure or illness by week of report*†, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



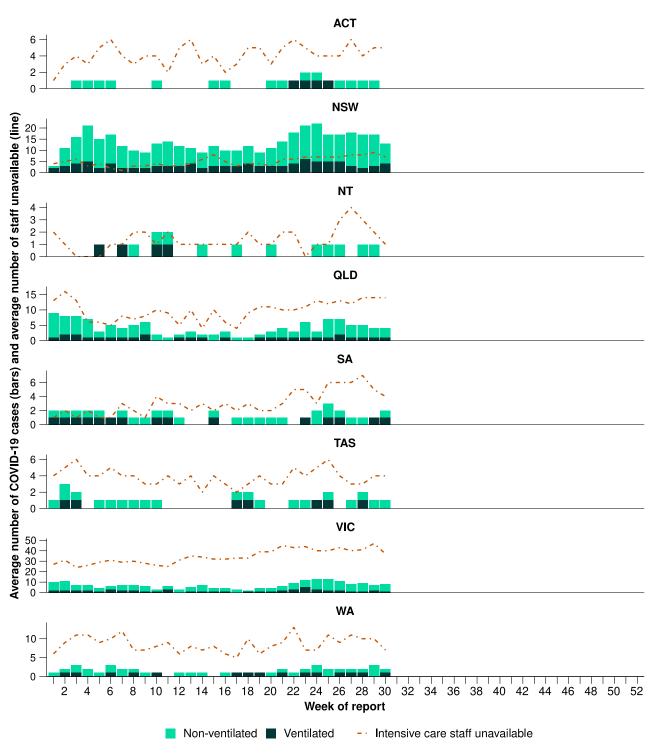
Source: Critical Health Resource Information System (CHRIS)

- In the last fortnight, the number of COVID-19 cases occupying intensive care beds decreased in NSW, Qld and Vic, however, increased in WA compared with the previous fortnight. The number of COVID-19 cases occupying intensive care beds remained stable in all other jurisdictions (Figure 19).
- In the last fortnight, the number of intensive care staff unavailable to work due to COVID-19 exposure or illness increased or remained stable in NSW, Qld, Tas and Vic; however, decreased in the other jurisdictions compared with the previous fortnight (Figure 19).

^{*} Average number of ventilated and non-ventilated COVID-19 cases in intensive care includes only active COVID-19 cases (those in isolation) and does not include cleared COVID-19 cases.

[†] Intensive care staff include both medical and nursing staff. Staff unavailability will be underestimated in NSW as most public hospitals in NSW do not report staff unavailability.

Figure 19: Average number of COVID-19 cases in intensive care and the average number of intensive care staff unavailable to work due to COVID-19 exposure or illness by jurisdiction and week of report*†‡, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025



Source: Critical Health Resource Information System (CHRIS)

^{*} Axis varies between jurisdictions.

[†] Average number of ventilated and non-ventilated COVID-19 cases in intensive care includes only active COVID-19 cases (those in isolation) and does not include cleared COVID-19 cases.

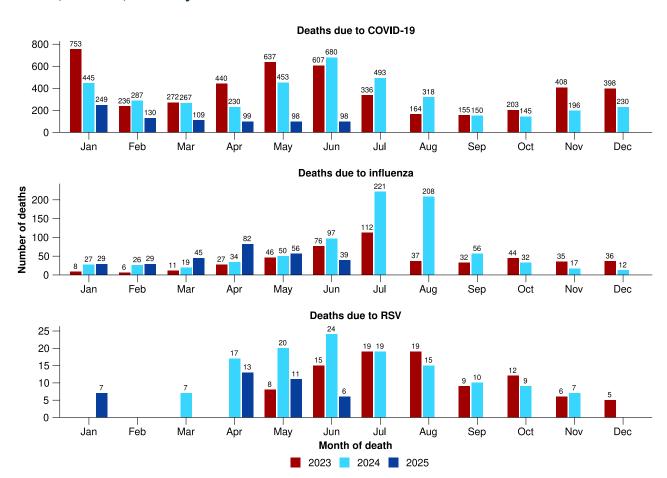
[‡] Intensive care staff include both medical and nursing staff. Staff unavailability will be underestimated in NSW as most public hospitals in NSW do not report staff unavailability.

Mortality surveillance

Death registrations can provide information on the scale and severity of disease associated with acute respiratory infections. For more information on death registrations including completeness, timeliness, and definitions of deaths involving (both *due to* and *with*), *due to* and *with* acute respiratory infections, refer to the Technical Supplement.

- COVID-19 has been the leading cause of acute respiratory infection mortality across 2023–2025.
- Since the end of 2021, a pattern has been observed for COVID-19 where there are two peaks of
 mortality during the year one occurring between November and January and the other occurring
 between May and August. Following an increased number of deaths occurring between November
 2024 and January 2025 (which was much lower than in previous years), deaths *due to* COVID-19
 between February and May 2025 were substantially lower (Figure 20a).
- There were 783 deaths *due to* COVID-19 in the first six months of 2025, this is considerably lower than the deaths *due to* COVID-19 between January to June in both 2024 and 2023 (Figure 20a).

Figure 20a: Provisional numbers of deaths *due to* an acute respiratory infection*† by month, year, and disease, Australia, 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2025



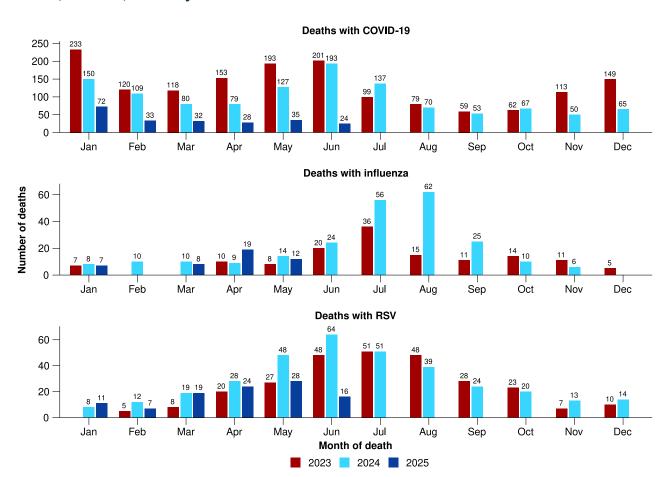
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Provisional Mortality Statistics, released 29 July 2025.

^{*} Axis varies between acute respiratory infections.

[†] Data is provisional and subject to change. It can take several weeks for death registrations to be reported, processed, coded, validated, and tabulated. Therefore, the data shown here may be incomplete. Data for some months were not published by the ABS due to small counts, and therefore not reported here. Data includes all deaths (both doctor and coroner certified) that occurred and were registered by 30 June 2025.

- There were 280 deaths *due to* influenza in the first six months of 2025. This is 10.7% more deaths *due to* influenza than the 253 deaths *due to* influenza that occurred in the first six months of 2024. Deaths *due to* influenza decreased in May 2025 and are at comparable levels for the same period in 2023 and 2024 (Figure 20a). The mortality trends observed in March to April 2025 align with the elevated case numbers during the initial period of the influenza season this year.
- There were 43 deaths due to RSV in the first six months of 2025; however, for privacy reasons 6 deaths due to RSV are not published in Figure 20a.
- The mortality rate for deaths *due to* COVID-19 or influenza for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was higher than for non-Indigenous people across each year in 2022–2024.
- Deaths *with* COVID-19 between February and May 2025 have been relatively stable and remain at lower levels than previous years (Figure 20b).
- Deaths *with* influenza mentioned as a contributory cause increased in April 2025 and declined in May (Figure 20b).
- Deaths *with* RSV mentioned as a contributory cause in May 2025 are at a similar level to May 2023 but below the level in May 2024 (Figure 20b).
- All three of these acute respiratory infections are more likely to cause death in older age groups than younger age groups.

Figure 20b: Provisional numbers of deaths *with* an acute respiratory infection*† by month, year, and disease, Australia, 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2025



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Provisional Mortality Statistics, released 29 July 2025.

^{*} Axis varies between acute respiratory infections.

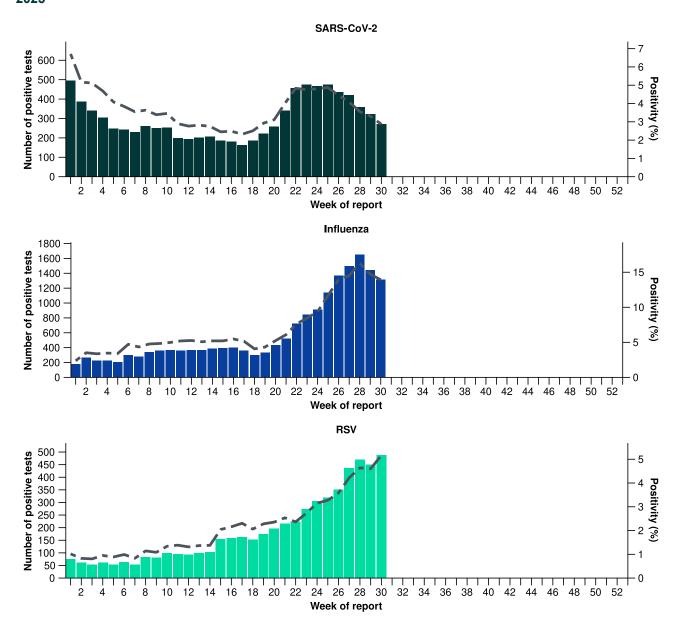
[†] Data is provisional and subject to change. It can take several weeks for death registrations to be reported, processed, coded, validated, and tabulated. Therefore, the data shown here may be incomplete. Data for some months were not published by the ABS due to small counts, and therefore not reported here. Data includes all deaths (both doctor and coroner certified) that occurred and were registered by 30 June 2025.

Laboratory surveillance

Sentinel laboratory surveillance monitors and characterises respiratory pathogens to provide information on what pathogens are circulating, potential changes in the pathogens that might affect their infectiousness, severity, ability to evade vaccine and/or infection-acquired immunity, or resistance to antivirals.

• In the last fortnight (14 July to 27 July 2025), SARS-CoV-2 test positivity decreased to 2.9% (474/16,159), influenza test positivity decreased slightly to 14.3% (2,754/19,209), and RSV test positivity increased to 4.5% (733/16,159) (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Number of tests positive (bars) and test positivity (line) for SARS-CoV-2, influenza or RSV of those specimens tested by sentinel laboratories by week of report*†, Australia, 1 January to 27 July 2025

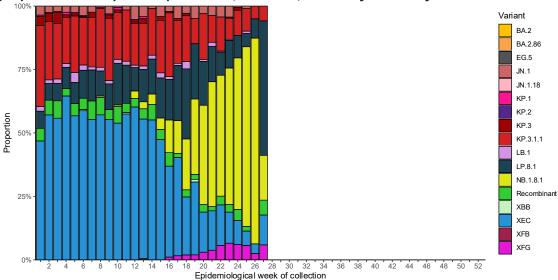


Source: Sentinel laboratories, including National Influenza Centres

^{*} Number of specimens tested excludes data from WA as testing denominator data are different for the three pathogens in Western Australia.
† A small minority of total samples from Victoria are tested only by respiratory panel (influenza, parainfluenza, adenovirus, human metapneumovirus, seasonal coronaviruses, RSV, and some picornaviruses) but not for SARS-CoV-2. These minority samples include only forensic materials; all other samples are tested by respiratory panel and SARS-CoV-2 assay.

- Please note, AusTrakka SARS-CoV-2 sequencing data are updated each month, as such SARS-CoV-2 sequence data presented here have not been updated since the previous report.
- There were 308 SARS-CoV-2 sequences uploaded to AusTrakka with dates of collection in the last 28 days (16 June to 13 July 2025). These sequences were from NSW, Qld, SA, Tas and WA, with the most recent collection date 2 July 2025.
- All sequences were assigned to the BA.2.86 sub-lineage within B.1.1.529 (Omicron), or recombinants consisting of one or more Omicron sub-lineages (Figure 22a/b). In the last 28 days:
 - 17.5% (54/308) of sequences were from the sub-sub-lineages JN.1 (BA.2.86.1.1)
 - 82.5% (254/284) of sequences were recombinant or recombinant sub-lineages, including NB.1.8.1
 - there were no BA.1, BA.3, BA.4, BA.5 or other BA.2 sub-sub-lineage sequences.
- NB.1.8.1 is the dominant sub-lineage in the last 28 days, accounting for 70.5% (217/308) of sequences (Figure 22a).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) have identified certain sub-sub-lineages and recombinants as
 variants under monitoring (VUM) or variants of interest (VOI) because of their epidemiological,
 pathological, or immunological features of concern. A select number are highlighted below due to their
 relevance in the Australian context. There are:
 - 75 XFG sequences in AusTrakka, with 15 collected in the last 28 days. XFG was designated a VUM by the WHO on 25 June 2025 and the overall <u>risk evaluation by the WHO</u> is considered low.
 - 851 NB.1.8.1 sequences in AusTrakka, with 217 collected in the last 28 days.
 - 700 LP.8.1 sequences in AusTrakka, with 26 collected in the last 28 days.
 - 368 LB.1 sequences in AusTrakka, with four sequences collected in the last 28 days.
 - 3,036 KP.3.1.1 sequences in AusTrakka, with 24 sequences collected in the last 28 days.
 - 3,432 XEC sequences in AusTrakka, with 17 sequences collected in last 28 days.

Figure 22a: SARS-CoV-2 Omicron sub-lineage* sequences by sample collection date, showing the proportions of sequences per week^{†‡}, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025

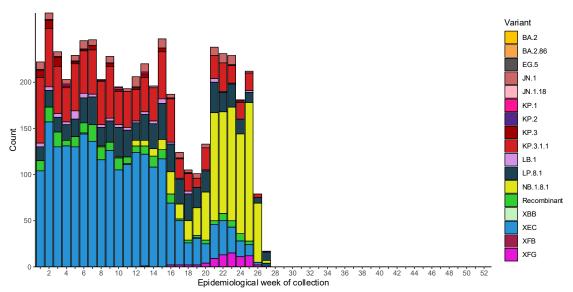


Source: AusTrakka

^{*} Some sub-sublineages are shown alongside their parent lineage, but not included in the parent lineage totals. For instance, KP.2 and KP.3 are sub-sub lineages of JN.1, so the total of JN.1 sequences will be higher than shown in the corresponding colour alone, and should include the KP.2 and KP.3 totals. † Sequences in AusTrakka aggregated by week and reported based on date of sample collection, not date of sequencing.

[‡] Proportions in Figure 22a may not be representative when sequence numbers are small; refer to Figure 22b. Data for earlier weeks may change between reporting periods as sequences with older collection dates are uploaded. These numbers are not equivalent to number of cases, as there are many cases which may not be sequenced. Non-VOI and non-VUM Omicron sub-lineages have been collapsed into parent lineages BA.1, BA.2, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5.

Figure 22b: SARS-CoV-2 Omicron sub-lineage* sequences by sample collection date, showing the count of sequences per week^{†‡}, Australia, 1 January to 13 July 2025



Source: AusTrakka

- In the year to date, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza has antigenically characterised 2,777 influenza viruses from Australia (Table 4), of which:
 - 71.8% (1,993/2,777) have been influenza A(H1N1)
 - 10.1% (280/2,777) have been influenza A(H3N2)
 - 18.1% (504/2,777) have been influenza B/Victoria.
- In the year to date, there have been no influenza B/Yamagata viruses characterised (Table 4). The last influenza B/Yamagata virus characterised in Australia was in a sample from 2020.
- Of the influenza A(H1N1) samples tested for neuraminidase inhibitor resistance, 0.7% (6/857)
 demonstrated highly reduced inhibition to Oseltamivir. Of the influenza A(H3N2) samples tested for
 neuraminidase inhibitor resistance, 0.0% (0/99) demonstrated highly reduced inhibition to Oseltamivir.
- None of the samples tested demonstrated highly reduced inhibition to Zanamivir.

Table 4: Australian influenza viruses typed by haemagglutination inhibition assay and jurisdiction*[†], 1 January to 27 July 2025

Strain	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
A(H1N1)	233	205	496	94	50	340	545	30	1,993
A(H3N2)	14	22	117	20	4	25	73	5	280
B/Victoria lineage	90	84	65	22	19	36	173	15	504
B/Yamagata lineage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	337	311	678	136	73	401	791	50	2,777

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

^{*} Some sub-sublineages are shown alongside their parent lineage, but not included in the parent lineage totals. For instance, KP.2 and KP.3 are sub-sub lineages of JN.1, so the total of JN.1 sequences will be higher than shown in the corresponding colour alone, and should include the KP.2 and KP.3 totals † Sequences in AusTrakka aggregated by week and reported based on date of sample collection, not date of sequencing.

[‡] Data for earlier weeks may change between reporting periods as sequences with older collection dates are uploaded. These numbers are not equivalent to number of cases, as there are many cases which may not be sequenced. Non-VOI and non-VUM Omicron sub-lineages have been collapsed into parent lineages BA.1, BA.2, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5.

^{*}Viruses tested by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza are not necessarily a random sample of all those in the community and early-year data may be based on limited samples received. There may be up to a month delay on reporting of samples.

† Jurisdiction indicates the residential location for the individual tested, not the submitting laboratory.

Vaccine coverage, effectiveness and match

Vaccine coverage, effectiveness and match for acute respiratory infections are monitored from several data sources in Australia. Refer to the Technical Supplement for more information.

Vaccine coverage

- In Australia, regular COVID-19 vaccinations are the best way to maintain protection against severe
 illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19. Most adults should get vaccinated annually and
 adults aged 75 years and over should get vaccinated every six months.
 - More information on COVID-19 vaccines in Australia is available via the <u>department's COVID-19 webpages</u> or from the <u>National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS)</u>.
- Nationally, 9.1% of adults (aged 18 years and over) have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last six months (Table 5).
- Nationally, less adults have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 12 months (11.3%; Table 5), compared to the 12 months prior (14.3% from 24 July 2023 to 21 July 2024).
- In the last 12 months, vaccine coverage decreased in all age groups, with the largest decrease seen in 65–74 years age group (from 34.7% in the 12 months prior to 27.3% in the last 12 months).
- There is substantial variation in COVID-19 vaccine coverage across age groups, ranging from 4.8% in adults aged 18–64 years to 43.1% in adults aged 75 years and over. Vaccine coverage increases with increasing age (Table 5).
- There is some variation in vaccine coverage across jurisdictions, ranging from 4.3% in the NT to 19.3% in Tas (Table 5).

Table 5: COVID-19 vaccine coverage*†‡ by age group and jurisdiction, Australia, 22 July 2024 to 27 July 2025

Age group	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total		
Last 12 months (22 July 2024 to 27 July 2025)											
18–64 years	10.6	4.1	2.2	4.6	4.7	8.7	5.3	4.8	4.8		
65–74 years	48.4	25.3	15.1	26.2	28.0	40.4	27.8	27.8	27.3		
≥ 75 years	67.2	40.8	27.7	42.1	42.7	58.1	42.3	44.9	43.1		
All ages (18 years and over)	18.7	10.4	4.3	10.9	12.3	19.3	11.4	11.1	11.3		
Last 6 months (27 January 2025 to 27	July 2025)										
18–64 years	8.2	3.1	1.5	3.5	3.6	6.8	4.0	3.9	3.7		
65–74 years	40.5	20.9	11.7	21.3	23.4	33.9	23.2	23.5	22.6		
≥ 75 years	57.3	33.8	22.3	34.2	35.4	48.4	34.9	37.9	35.6		
All ages (18 years and over)	15.1	8.4	3.2	8.6	10.0	15.7	9.2	9.3	9.1		

Source: Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as at 27 July 2025

^{*} COVID-19 vaccine coverage among the general population uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2023 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as denominator for population data. Age in years is calculated as at the reporting week.

[†] COVID-19 vaccine coverage is influenced by changes in COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and eligibility criteria. For this reason, caution should be used when comparing coverage rates in the current 12 month period to previous 12 month periods. Coverage data in these tables may differ slightly from coverage estimates in other reports due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or different data download dates.

[‡] Jurisdiction is based on the state or territory in which a vaccine was administered and may differ from a person's residential address. Population denominator data used to calculate COVID-19 vaccine coverage are based on an individual's residential address. Total rows will include individuals where jurisdiction was missing.

- Nationally, 3.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (aged 18 years or over) have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last six months (Table 6).
- Nationally, less Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 12 months (4.7%; Table 6), compared to the 12 months prior (6.8% from 24 July 2023 to 21 July 2024).
- In the last 12 months, vaccine coverage decreased in all age groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the largest decrease seen in ≥ 75 years age group (from 34.2% in the 12 months prior to 27.1% in the last 12 months).
- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people there is substantial variation in COVID-19 vaccine coverage across age groups, ranging from 2.7% in adults aged 18–64 years to 27.1% in adults aged 75 years and over. Vaccine coverage increases with increasing age (Table 6).
- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, there is slight variation in vaccine coverage across jurisdictions, ranging from 2.6% in the NT to 9.6% in Tas (Table 6).

Table 6: COVID-19 vaccine coverage*†‡ among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations by age group and jurisdiction, Australia, 22 July 2024 to 27 July 2025

Age group	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Last 12 months (22 July 2024 to 27 July 2024)	uly 2025)								
18-64 years	6.4	2.7	1.9	2.5	2.7	5.5	4.0	2.3	2.7
65–74 years	34.6	18.8	8.6	17.5	17.6	31.6	20.9	16.0	17.8
≥ 75 years	47.5	29.2	13.1	25.6	29.1	42.7	32.2	26.0	27.1
All ages (18 years and over)	9.5	5.1	2.6	4.3	4.8	9.6	6.7	3.8	4.7
Last 6 months (27 January 2025 to 27	July 2025)								
18-64 years	5.0	2.1	1.2	2.0	2.0	4.2	3.0	1.8	2.1
65–74 years	26.7	15.5	6.0	14.2	14.4	26.4	17.2	13.5	14.6
≥ 75 years	38.1	24.1	10.8	21.0	24.0	34.3	26.6	21.5	22.3
All ages (18 years and over)	7.4	4.1	1.8	3.5	3.7	7.6	5.2	3.0	3.7

Source: Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as at 27 July 2025

^{*} COVID-19 vaccine coverage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations is based on the AIR population as known at the reporting week. Age in years is calculated as at the reporting week.

[†] COVID-19 vaccine coverage is influenced by changes in COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and eligibility criteria. For this reason, caution should be used when comparing coverage rates in the 12 month period to previous 12 month periods. Coverage data in these tables may differ slightly from coverage estimates in other reports due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or different data download dates.

[‡] Jurisdiction is based on the state or territory in which a vaccine was administered and may differ from a person's residential address. Population denominator data used to calculate COVID-19 vaccine coverage are based on an individual's residential address. Total rows will include individuals where jurisdiction was missing.

- Influenza virus strains change year to year, so annual vaccination before the peak of the influenza season provides Australians with the best protection against influenza and its complications. The seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone aged six months and over.
 - More information on influenza vaccines in Australia is available via the <u>department's influenza</u> vaccine webpages or from <u>NCIRS</u>.
- Nationally, influenza vaccine coverage is 29.5% for 2025 so far (Table 7); however, remains lower than coverage at the same time in 2023 and 2022.
- There is substantial variation in influenza vaccine coverage across age groups, ranging from 14.2% in children aged 5–14 years to 60.1% in adults aged 65 years and over (Table 7). The current trend should be interpreted with care as people aged 5–64 years are generally not eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine under the National Immunisation Program.
- There is some variation in influenza vaccine coverage across jurisdictions, ranging from 22.4% in the NT to 39.1% in the ACT (Table 7).
- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, there is substantial variation in influenza vaccine coverage across age groups, ranging from 11% in children aged 5–14 years to 59% in adults aged 65 years and over (Table 7).
- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, there is some variation in influenza vaccine coverage across jurisdictions, ranging from 17.8% in WA to 28.7% in the ACT (Table 7).

Table 7: Influenza vaccine coverage*†‡ by age group and jurisdiction, Australia, 1 March to 27 July 2025

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Age groups									
6 months to <5 years	48.9	26.0	32.4	20.4	28.9	30.4	31.7	23.9	26.8
5–14 years	23.8	13.1	11.4	12.6	15.0	14.5	15.8	14.9	14.2
15–49 years	31.8	18.9	20.0	17.5	22.9	22.7	23.0	18.1	20.1
50–64 years	43.5	29.4	24.3	30.4	35.2	38.2	33.4	30.2	31.4
≥ 65 years	64.4	57.7	35.6	59.9	66.1	67.3	61.4	59.6	60.1
All ages (6 months and over)	39.1	28.3	22.4	27.3	34.0	35.4	31.6	27.6	29.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	oopulations								
6 months to <5 years	30.1	17.0	30.8	13.1	16.5	21.0	20.8	16.0	17.0
5–14 years	16.3	10.6	17.7	9.7	11.4	12.2	11.8	10.5	11.0
15–49 years	24.8	16.0	25.9	14.5	18.0	18.4	18.3	14.2	16.6
50–64 years	44.1	35.2	39.3	32.9	36.4	43.6	35.4	30.5	34.8
≥ 65 years	67.7	61.4	43.8	58.8	62.3	68.6	62.5	52.4	59.0
All ages (6 months and over)	28.7	20.8	27.8	18.4	22.0	25.1	23.3	17.8	20.8

Source: Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as at 27 July 2025

^{*} Influenza vaccine coverage uses the AIR population as the denominator. Coverage data in these tables may differ slightly from coverage estimates in other reports due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or different data download dates.

[†] Age is calculated based on the person's age as at 1 July of the reporting year.

[‡] From the report ending 13 July 2025, jurisdiction is based on the person's address on the AIR rather than an individual's residential address as recorded on Medicare. Total rows will include individuals where jurisdiction was missing. In addition, to align with departmental reporting methodologies, both the numerator (number of persons vaccinated) and denominator (AIR population) for influenza vaccine coverage only consider person records with a Personal Identification Number that was able to be matched to Medicare. Person records with a Synthetic Identification Number are now excluded from both numerator and denominator. For these reasons, influenza vaccine coverage metrics in previous Australian Respiratory Surveillance Reports and coverage metrics from the report ending 13 July 2025 moving forward should be interpreted with care.

- Infants can be protected against severe illness from RSV through the vaccination of pregnant people
 or the direct administration of monoclonal antibodies like nirsevimab. These are part of the National
 RSV Maternal and Infant Protection Program which launched on 3 February 2025 and includes both
 the National Immunisation Program funded Abrysvo vaccine and state and territory nirsevimab
 programs.
 - More information on RSV immunisation in Australia is available via the <u>department's RSV</u> vaccine webpages or from <u>NCIRS</u>.
- Since the commencement of the National RSV Mother and Infant Protection Program, 94,214 Abrysvo doses have been administered to pregnant people nationally (Table 8).
- While high maternal vaccine uptake is a positive indicator of maternal program success, it may result
 in lower nirsevimab uptake rates in infants. This is because maternal antibodies passed to the infant
 can provide protection against RSV, potentially reducing the need for infant immunisation.

Table 8: Number of doses of Abrysvo administered to pregnant people by jurisdiction*, Australia, 3 February to 27 July 2025

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Age group									
15–24 years	160	2,397	169	2,031	513	250	1,338	912	7,770
25–39 years	2,320	25,870	760	14,421	5,649	1,721	22,238	8,325	81,304
40–54 years	152	1,710	39	759	328	77	1,556	519	5,140
Total (15–54 years)	2,632	29,977	968	17,211	6,490	2,048	25,132	9,756	94,214

Source: Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as at 27 July 2025

- Nationally, 21.1% of infants (aged < 8 months) have received nirsevimab (Table 9).
- There is substantial variation in nirsevimab uptake in infants across jurisdictions, ranging from 12.6% in NSW to 38.2% in WA (Table 9).
- The current trend is likely due to variation in the seasonality and eligibility criteria between state and territory programs, as well as the presence of previous nirsevimab programs. Some state and territory programs are seasonal (from 1 April to 30 September), whereas others are year-round. In states with seasonal programs (SA, Tas, Vic, and parts of WA), uptake may appear disproportionately lower at this time of the year. In addition, Qld and WA had nirsevimab programs in 2024, which may contribute to higher nirsevimab uptake in 2025 in these states.

Table 9: Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) uptake*†‡ by age group and jurisdiction, Australia, 27 January 2025 to 27 July 2025

Age group	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Infants (aged < 8 months)	16.0	12.6	27.4	24.1	29.9	33.0	19.0	38.2	21.1
Young children (aged ≥ 8 to 24 months)	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.6

Source: Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as at 27 July 2025

^{*} Jurisdiction is based on the state or territory in which a vaccine was administered and may differ from a person's residential address. Total rows will include individuals where jurisdiction was missing.

^{*} Reporting of RSV monoclonal antibodies to the AIR is not compulsory; therefore, uptake is likely to be underestimated. Uptake data in these tables may differ slightly from estimates in other reports due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or different data download dates.

[†] For infants and young children vaccinated, age in months is calculate as months between the immunisation encounter and date of birth rounded down as at the reporting date. For the infant and young children population, age in months is calculated as months between the AIR data extract date and date of birth rounded down as at the reporting date.

[‡] Jurisdiction is based on the state or territory in which a vaccine was administered and may differ from a person's residential. Total rows will include individuals where jurisdiction was missing. Population denominator data used to calculate nirsevimab uptake are based on an individual's residential address as recorded on Medicare.

Vaccine effectiveness

• It is too early to assess vaccine effectiveness for the 2025 influenza season.

Vaccine match

- Refer to the <u>Technical Supplement</u> for information on the 2025 southern hemisphere influenza vaccines composition.
- In the year to date, 99.3% (1,979/1,993) of influenza A(H1N1) isolates, 100% (280/280) of influenza A(H3N2) isolates and 98.8% (498/504) of influenza B/Victoria lineage isolates characterised have been antigenically similar to the corresponding 2025 vaccine components.