

4 SEASONAL DISEASES

a Influenza

The influenza season which started in week 21 (week ending 25 May) continues, though the number of specimens received and number testing positive for influenza has declined. The influenza season peaked at 80.4% in week 27 (week ending 6 July). Over the past 30 years, the mean duration of the influenza season has been 12 weeks (range 7 to 25 weeks).

The majority of the influenza detections made to date from specimens submitted to the viral watch programme (influenza-like illness) have been influenza A(H3N2) i.e. 349/487 (72%). In addition influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 has been detected in 61 patients, the majority 42 (69%) from the Eastern and Western Cape provinces, one patient was dual positive A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2), and influenza B virus was detected in 76 patients. Influenza B has been the predominant detection since the second

half of August i.e. 25/37 (68%) detections.

In addition 43 specimens have been received from patients at a point of entry into South Africa. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was detected in two patients, influenza A(H3N2) in seven, and influenza B in 11 of these patients.

As at 06 July 2014, 1 261 patients hospitalised with severe acute respiratory illness were tested for respiratory viruses at five sentinel sites. Of these, 48 patients tested positive for influenza. The majority, 41 (70%), of the influenza detections were influenza A(H3N2) followed by influenza B (14/58, 24%) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (3/58, 5%). In addition, 43% (322/746), 27% (199/746) and 14% (108/746) were positive for rhinovirus, RSV and adenovirus, respectively.

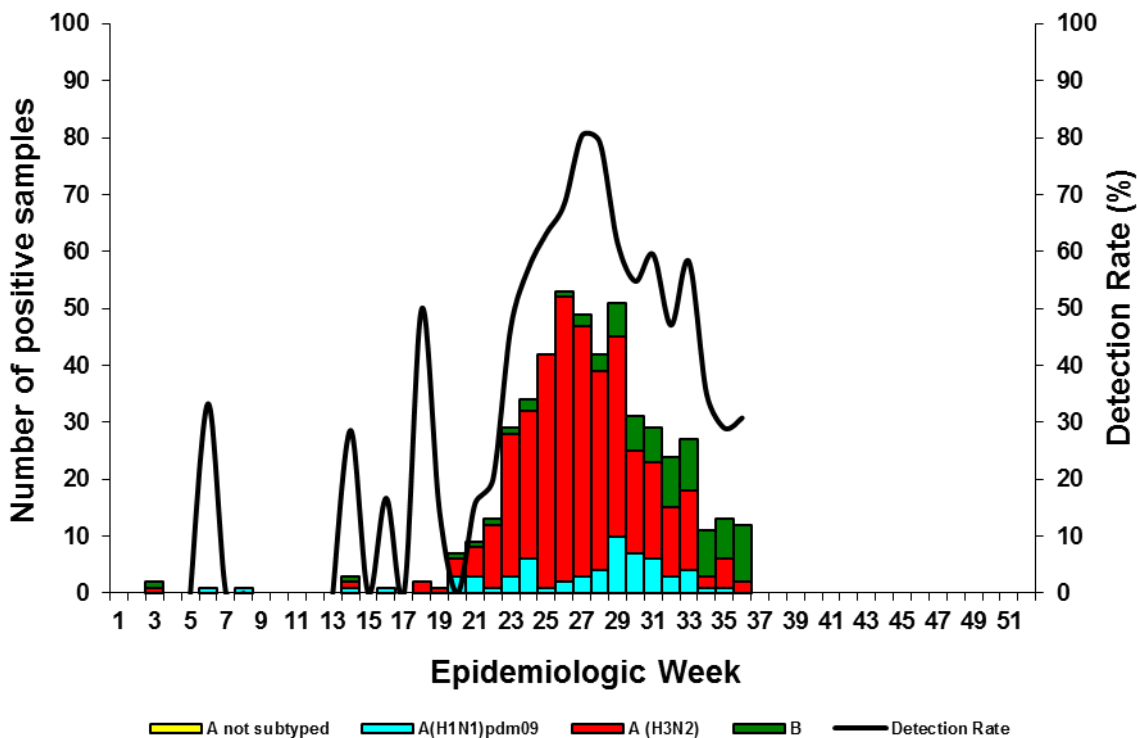


Figure 2. Influenza detections by type and subtype: Viral Watch surveillance programme 2014

Table 2. Cumulative number of identified influenza types and subtypes and total number

Hospital	A not subtyped	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	B	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	0	0	13	0	379
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	0	2	1	3	101
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	0	0	15	10	585
Mapulaneng (MP)	0	0	11	1	132
Matikwane (MP)	0	1	1	0	64
Total:	0	3	41	14	1 261

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West;
MP: Mpumalanga

Source: Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis,
NICD-NHLS