

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 11, ENDING 20 MARCH 2021

Published 24 March 2021

Summary for the week ending 20 March 2021

- There was one locally acquired case of COVID-19 reported in the week ending 20 March. The case is an overseas returned traveller who likely acquired their infection while in hotel quarantine. This case was identified as part of the investigation into transmission of COVID-19 from another returned traveller to a security guard on the same floor of a quarantine hotel (reported in week ending 13 March).
- The number of cases reported in overseas returned travellers decreased this week (down 13%) compared to the previous week.
- There were four cases reported in the week ending 20 March found to have a SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VoCs). Three cases were reported in returned travellers who acquired their infection overseas and one was reported in the locally acquired case who acquired their infection in hotel quarantine (see above).
- Of all 469 returned travellers diagnosed with COVID-19 since 29 November 2020, 82 (17%) have been diagnosed with a VoC.
- Testing rates decreased across most Local Health Districts compared to the previous week (down 3%).
- The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program reported five detections – taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants, and the sewage network at Paddington (within the Bondi catchment), Homebush (within the Malabar catchment) and Botany (within the Malabar catchment). All detections were associated with known cases.

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Section 1: How is the outbreak tracking in NSW?

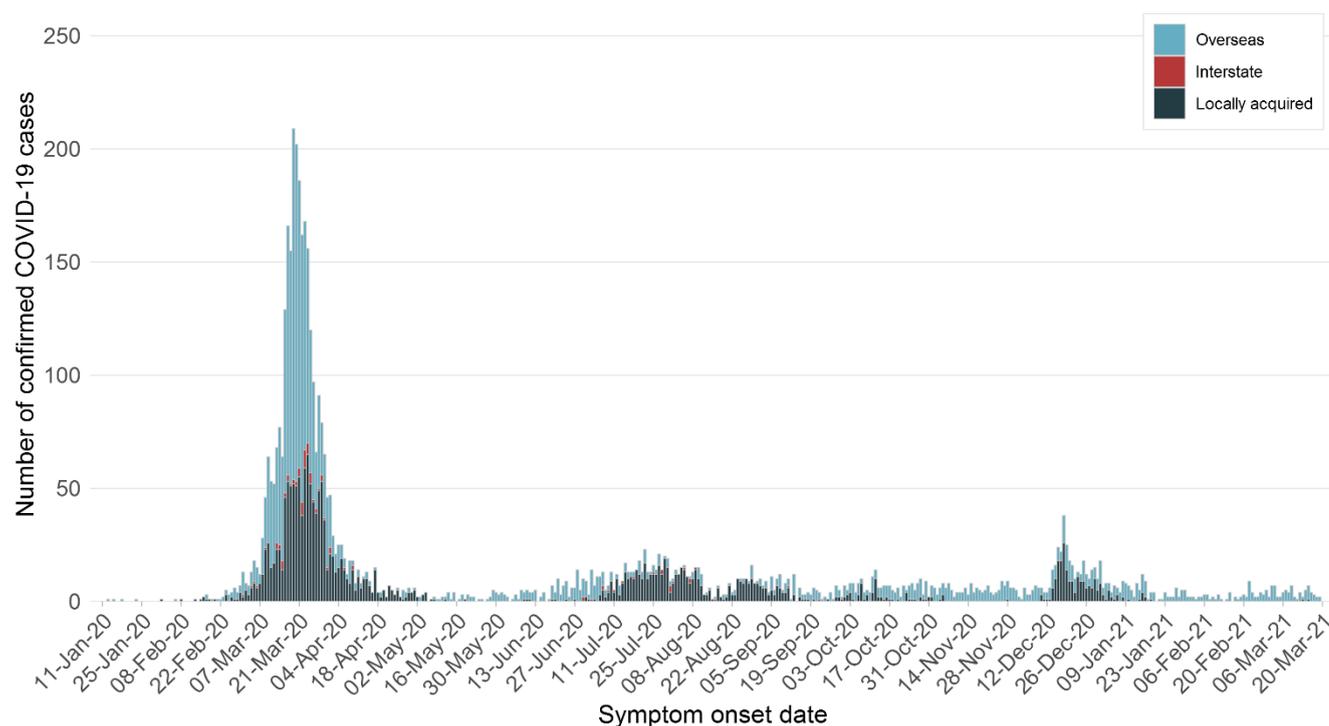
Table 1. COVID-19 cases and tests reported, NSW, from 25 January 2020 to 20 March 2021

| | Week ending 20 Mar | Week ending 13 Mar | % change | Pandemic total |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| Number of cases | 26 | 30 | ↓ 13% | 5,075 |
| Overseas acquired | 25 | 29 | ↓ 14% | 2,896 |
| Interstate acquired | 0 | 0 | - | 90 |
| Locally acquired | 1 | 1 | - | 2,089 |
| No epidemiological links to other cases or clusters | 0 | 0 | - | 447 |
| Number of deaths | 0 | 0 | - | 56 |
| Number of tests | 75,261 | 76,220 | ↓ 1% | 5,263,549 |

Note: The case numbers reported for previous weeks is based on the most up to date information from public health investigations.

To understand how the outbreak is tracking we look at how many new cases are reported each day and the number of people being tested. Each bar in the graph below represents the number of new cases based on the date of symptom onset.

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by likely infection source and illness onset, NSW, week ending 2 March



The date of the first positive test is used for cases who did not report symptoms.

Interpretation: All but two COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the last four weeks in NSW were overseas acquired (98%). The two locally-acquired cases were detected following transmission from an overseas returned traveller, while in hotel quarantine.

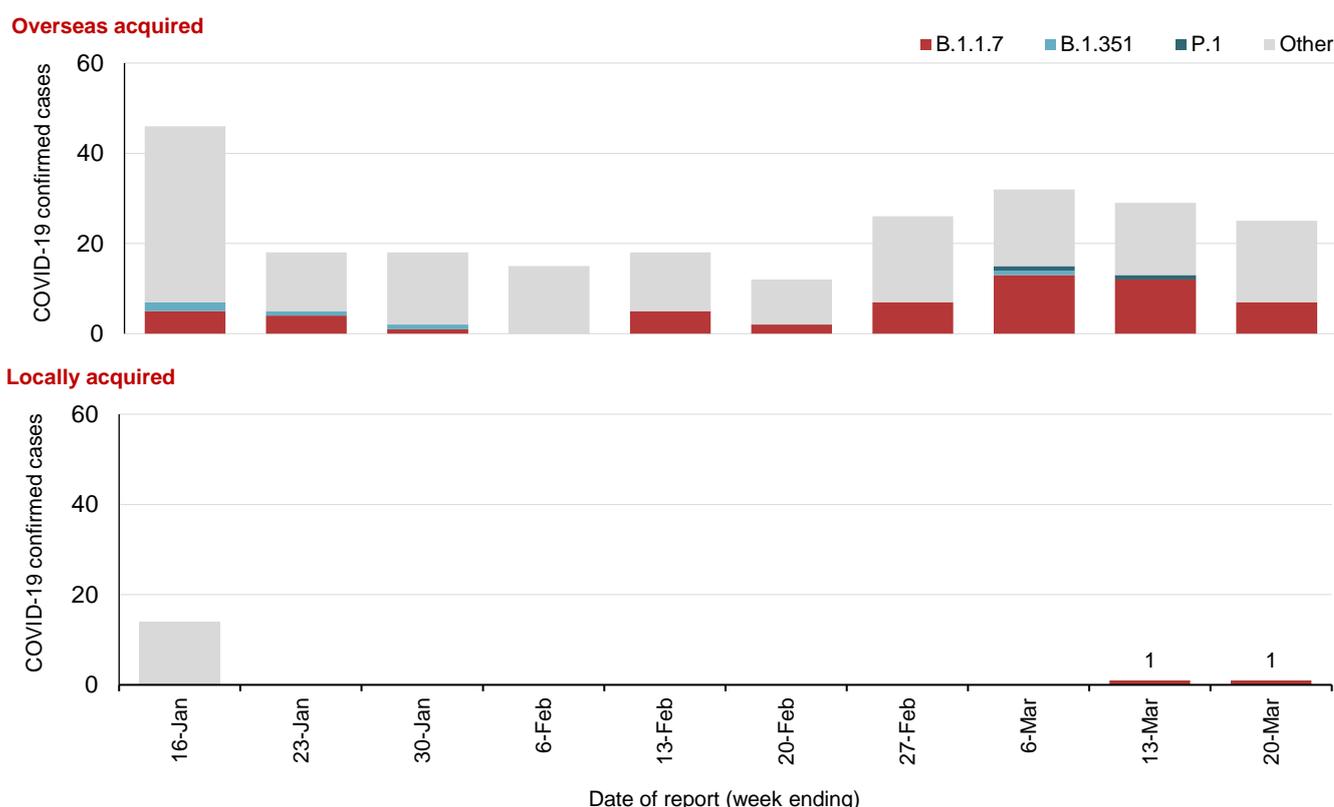
Section 2: Variants of concern (VoC)

Like other viruses, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 acquires mutations over time. Some of these mutations occur in regions that are critical to virus function, such as the spike protein. The spike protein allows the virus to enter human cells, which is why it is the target of many COVID-19 vaccines and part of our own immune response to the virus. Global surveillance is done to monitor the prevalence of mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with particular focus on those occurring in the spike protein that may reduce vaccine effectiveness or enable re-infection.

Currently, there are five internationally recognised variants of concern (VoCs), B.1.1.7, B.1.351, B.1.427, B.1.429 and P.1, that were first identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa, United States of America (B.1.427 and B.1.429) and Brazil, respectively. All five VoCs have since spread beyond their initial country of origin with B.1.1.7 the most widely distributed worldwide. NSW Health Pathology has identified three of the VoCs in NSW.

NSW Health has strict protocols in place for managing the health of those identified to have a VoC to address the additional risk associated with the new variants. Since 29 November 2020, 81 (17%) COVID-19 overseas acquired cases, and two locally acquired cases, have been diagnosed with a VoC. There has been no ongoing transmission from the locally acquired cases of VoCs in the community.

Figure 2. Confirmed COVID-19 cases reported date in the last 10 weeks, by place of acquisition and VoC, NSW, 7 January to 20 March 2021



Interpretation: In the week ending 20 March, eight returned travellers and one locally acquired case (which was transmitted from an overseas traveller in hotel quarantine) were reported as having a COVID-19 VoC, which is 31% (8/26) of all cases reported this week.

Since 29 November 2020, of the 81 returned travellers with a VoC, majority likely acquired their infection in Lebanon (25). The remaining cases likely acquired their infection in the United Kingdom (14), India (10), South Africa (7), the United Arab Emirates (5), USA (5), Germany (3), and one case each in Finland, France, Jordan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain and Zambia. There are four cases where the likely country of acquisition was unable to be determined.

Section 3: Locally acquired COVID-19 transmission in NSW in the last four weeks

Information from cases who were diagnosed in the last four weeks is used to understand where COVID-19 is spreading in the community. This takes into account the incubation period and the time it takes for people to seek testing and for the laboratory to perform the test. This section summarises cases based on the date the case was reported to NSW Health.

Table 2. Locally acquired COVID-19 cases by LHD of residence and week reported, NSW, 21 February to 20 March 2021

| Local Health District | Week ending | | | | Total | Days since last case reported |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | 20 March | 13 Mar | 6 Mar | 27 Feb | | |
| Central Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81 |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 77 |
| Nepean Blue Mountains | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 186 |
| Northern Sydney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| South Eastern Sydney | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| South Western Sydney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71 |
| Sydney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| Western Sydney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| Far West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 352 |
| Hunter New England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 226 |
| Mid North Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 333 |
| Murrumbidgee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 194 |
| Northern NSW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 238 |
| Southern NSW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 152 |
| Western NSW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 233 |
| NSW* | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 |

*Includes people with a usual place of residence outside of NSW

Interpretation: In the week ending 20 March, there was one locally acquired case in a returned traveller (with a usual residence outside of NSW). Whole genome sequencing results support the epidemiological investigation that indicates that there was transmission within the quarantine hotel. The cases had the identical B.1.1.7 lineage (also known as the UK variant) as the previously reported locally acquired case in a security guard who worked in the quarantine hotel.

Section 4: Current COVID-19 clusters in NSW

Public health staff interview all new cases at the time of diagnosis to identify the likely source of their infection. Cases are also asked to report all the locations visited and people with whom they have been in contact within their infectious period (generally two days prior to symptom onset until the time of isolation and three days in high risk settings). Close contacts are quarantined to limit the spread of infection to others and encouraged to seek testing.

Clusters are defined as a group of cases that are infected with the same virus (with the identical genetic sequence) that are linked epidemiologically to each other. This means that a direct source of infection can be identified for each case in the cluster, through contact with a known case where transmission likely occurred.

A case that shares the same virus (with an identical genetic sequence) is not counted as part of the cluster if an epidemiological link to another case in the cluster has not been found. Although the case must have been infected through contact with an infectious person in the cluster, that contact or that infectious person has not been found.

Cases in community settings

Hotel quarantine cluster

A non-negative saliva result was notified on 14 March 2021 through the quarantine worker screening program. The result was subsequently confirmed as a positive COVID-19 detection in a security guard working across two quarantine hotels. Whole genome sequencing results indicated a match to a previously reported returned traveller, who was in the same quarantine hotel and on the same floor where the case worked. The returned traveller and security guard both have the B.1.1.7 lineage (also known as the UK variant).

In the week ending 20 March, an additional case in a returned traveller on the same floor of the quarantine hotel was notified. This case was identified as part of the investigation into the previous transmission and had an identical B.1.1.7 lineage as both the security guard and the source case. This case was quarantining in their hotel room during the time transmission occurred from the source case to the security guard.

Section 5: COVID-19 in returned travellers

To limit the spread of COVID-19 into NSW, travel restrictions were introduced for all non-Australian citizens and permanent residents in mid-March 2020. In addition:

- From 29 March 2020 returned travellers have been quarantined in hotels for a 14-day period and travellers who develop symptoms are isolated until no longer infectious. Returned travellers are screened on entry and exit from quarantine and following release from quarantine.
- From 22 January 2021 (local time at departure point) all people travelling to Australia on flights must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result at the time of check-in.

The figure below shows the number of returned travellers screened at Sydney International Airport since 2021. Returned travellers include international flight crew who are required to be tested before leaving the airport.

Figure 3. Returned travellers screened at Sydney International Airport by week of arrival and percent positive, NSW, 27 December 2020 to 20 March 2021



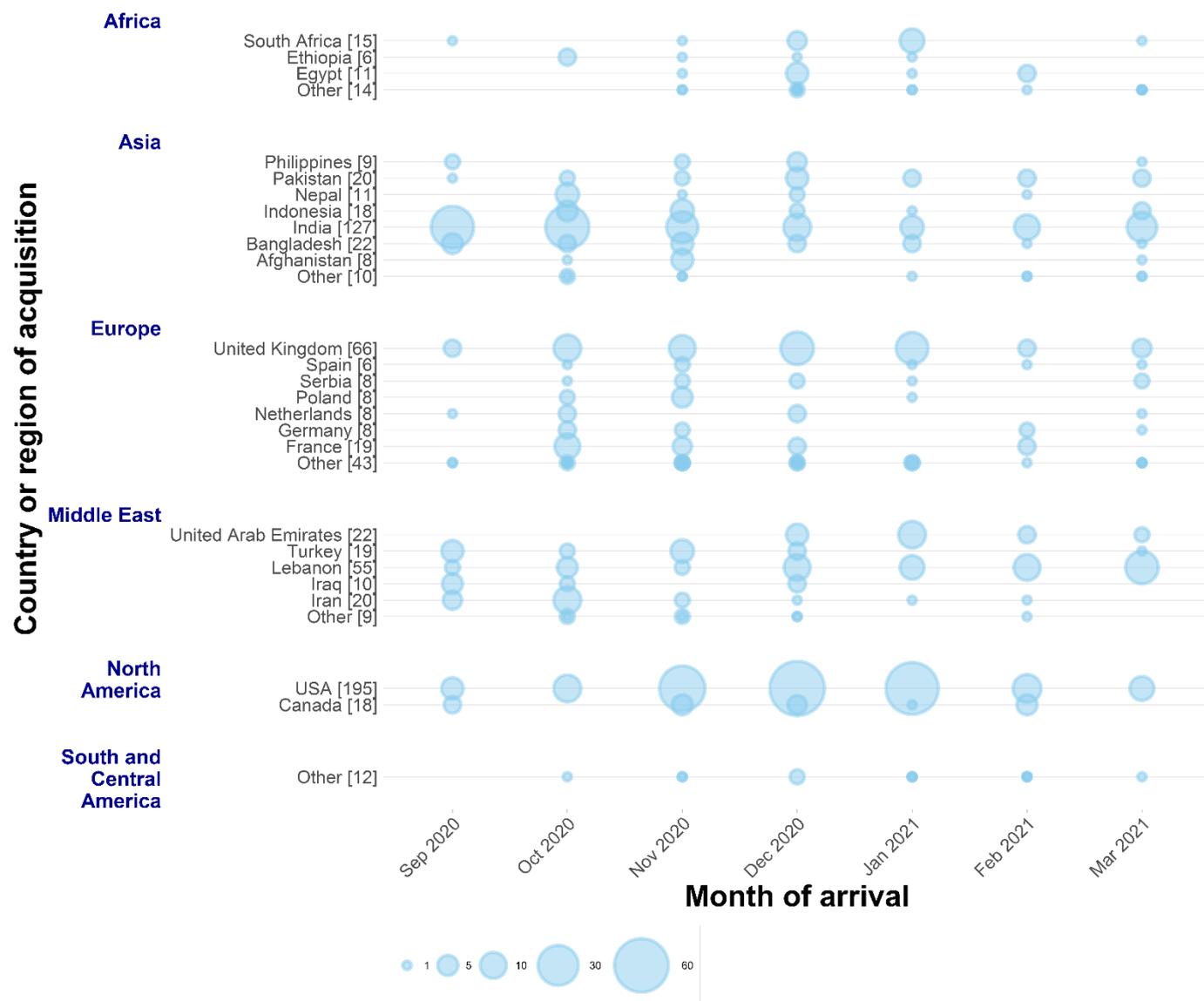
*Returned travellers entering Australia in the past 14 days are still in quarantine and may return a positive result prior to the end of their hotel quarantine period.

Interpretation: Since 27 December 2020, there has been on average 650 people screened on arrival through Sydney International Airport daily. In the last four weeks, 112 returned travellers have subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 while completing quarantine. The proportion of returned travellers who test positive for COVID-19 has remained very low, at less than 1%.

Country of acquisition of COVID-19 for overseas travellers

The following figure displays the countries and regions with the greatest numbers of international travellers diagnosed with COVID-19 in NSW.

Figure 4. Overseas acquired COVID-19 cases by country of acquisition and arrival month, NSW, 1 September 2020 to 20 March 2021



Interpretation: In February and March, there has been an increase in detections of COVID-19 in travellers from Lebanon and India. The pattern seen in COVID-positive travellers over time reflects the evolving nature of the pandemic in those areas and the country of origin of returned travellers. In the last four weeks, travellers returning from Lebanon accounted for the largest number of overseas acquired cases (24, 21%), followed by travellers returning from India (21, 19%) and the United States of America (14, 13%).

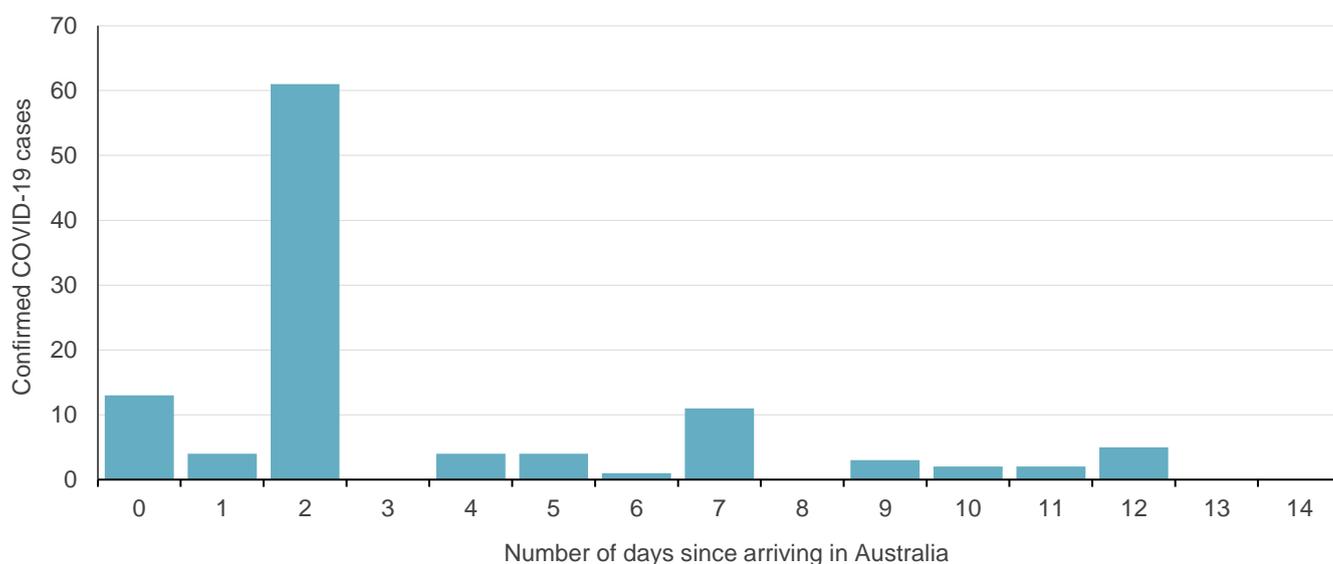
Hotel quarantine

The program of screening all overseas travellers after arrival in NSW commenced on 15 May 2020. From 30 June 2020, the program was extended to include screening of travellers on entry to quarantine, day 2 after arrival, and exit of quarantine. On 11 January 2021, exit screening of travellers was moved from day 10 to day 12 of quarantine. Testing is also carried out on individuals that became symptomatic in addition to these two tests, including those that are symptomatic on arrival.

Overseas returned travellers complete their quarantine in several facilities with majority of people in police-managed hotels or hotels managed by NSW Health (known as Special Health Accommodation). Since September 2020 international flight crew are also required to quarantine in police-managed hotels.

The figure below shows the number of overseas returned travellers within the quarantine program that have tested positive for COVID-19, by the number of days since they arrived in Australia.

Figure 5. Number of overseas-acquired cases in returned travellers who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 by days since arrival in NSW, 21 February to 20 March 2021



Interpretation: In the four weeks ending 20 March 2021, 70% of overseas acquired COVID-19 cases have tested positive within 2 days of arriving to Australia, with most people testing positive on day 2 screening.

Section 6: COVID-19 in specific populations

Healthcare workers

The following describes infections of COVID-19 in healthcare workers (HCWs). HCWs in this section includes roles such as doctor, nurse, orderly, paramedic, laboratory technician, pharmacist, administrative staff, cleaners, and other support staff. Public health units routinely undertake investigations of COVID-19 cases in healthcare workers to identify ongoing risks in healthcare settings.

There were no locally acquired cases of COVID-19 reported in HCWs in the week ending the 20 March.

In total, there have been 48 cases of COVID-19 in health care workers since 1 August 2020. Of these, 25 HCWs were potentially infected in healthcare settings. A further nine cases were social or household contacts of a known case, eight were exposed in community settings, and for six cases the source of infection is unknown. Prior to August 2020, there were 206 cases identified in HCWs who had worked in a health facility in the 14 days prior to symptom onset or date of testing (see [COVID-19 in healthcare workers in NSW](#)).

Aboriginal people

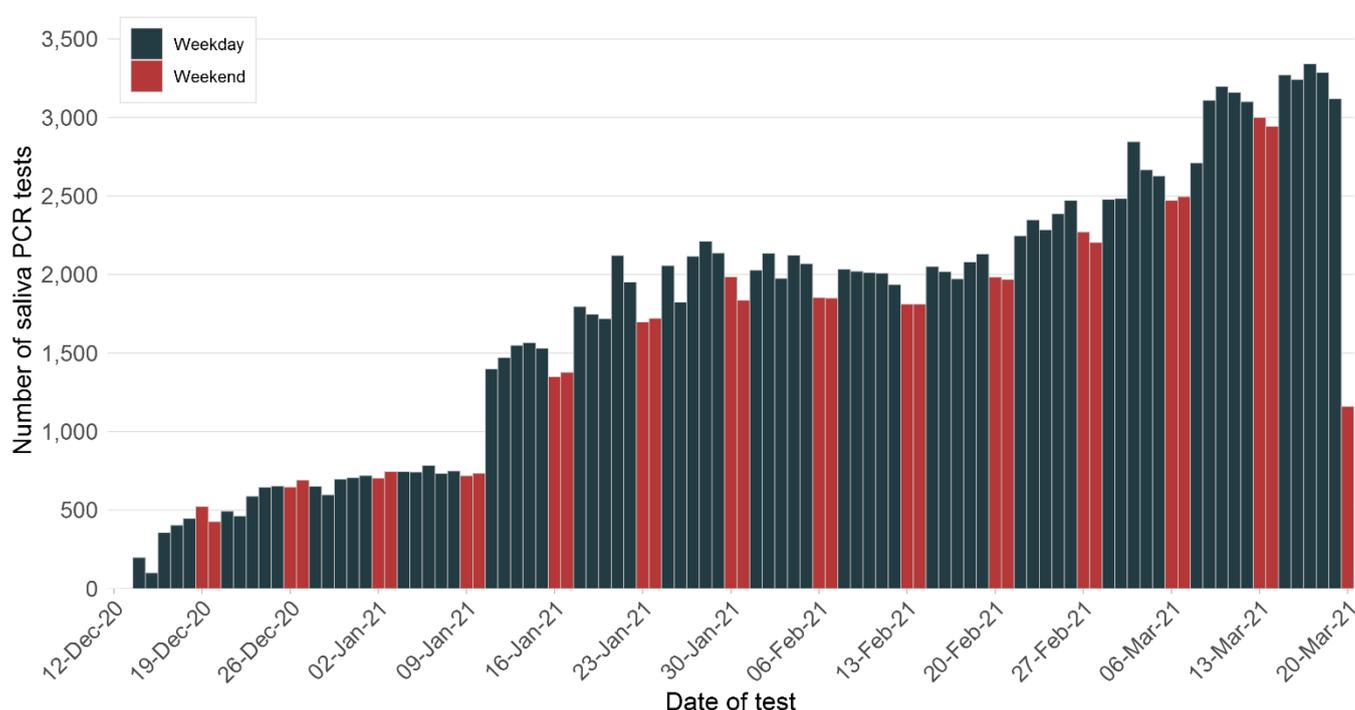
There were no cases of COVID-19 reported in Aboriginal people in the week 20 March.

In total, 47 Aboriginal people have been diagnosed with COVID-19, representing 1% of all cases in NSW. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are recognised as a priority group due to key drivers of increased risk of transmission and severity of COVID-19 which include mobility, remoteness, barriers to access including institutional racism and mistrust of mainstream health services, crowded and inadequate housing, and burden of disease.

Quarantine workers – Screening Program

As the number of COVID-19 cases rise across the world and more people return to Australia from overseas, increased numbers of COVID-19 cases are seen in returned overseas travellers in quarantine facilities. Routine screening of quarantine workers is implemented out of care and caution for staff members who work in NSW quarantine facilities. Screening involves a daily COVID-19 saliva PCR testing, which is painless and quick (see [NSW hotel quarantine worker surveillance and testing program](#)).

Figure 6. Daily numbers of saliva PCR test results reported for workers in quarantine facilities, NSW, 12 December 2020 to 20 March 2021



* The number of saliva PCR tests on 20 March 2021 is incomplete due to delays in reporting negative results.

Interpretation: Since screening of quarantine workers began in December 2020, a total of 167,460 saliva PCR tests have been conducted. The number of saliva PCR tests increased significantly on 11 January 2021, which corresponds to the expansion of the NSW quarantine hotel worker surveillance and testing program. One confirmed case of COVID-19 has been reported through saliva PCR testing, reported on 14 March 2021.

The daily number of saliva PCR tests is not included in the total PCR testing numbers reported.

Section 7: COVID-19 deaths

How many people have died as a result of COVID-19?

Since the start of the pandemic, 1.1% of cases (56 people) have died as a result of COVID-19, most of whom were 70 years of age or older, including 28 residents of aged care facilities with known COVID-19 outbreaks. Approximately 21% (12/56) of the deaths were in overseas acquired cases.

There were no deaths reported in the week ending 20 March.

Table 3. Deaths as a result of COVID-19, by age group, NSW, 2020 and 2021

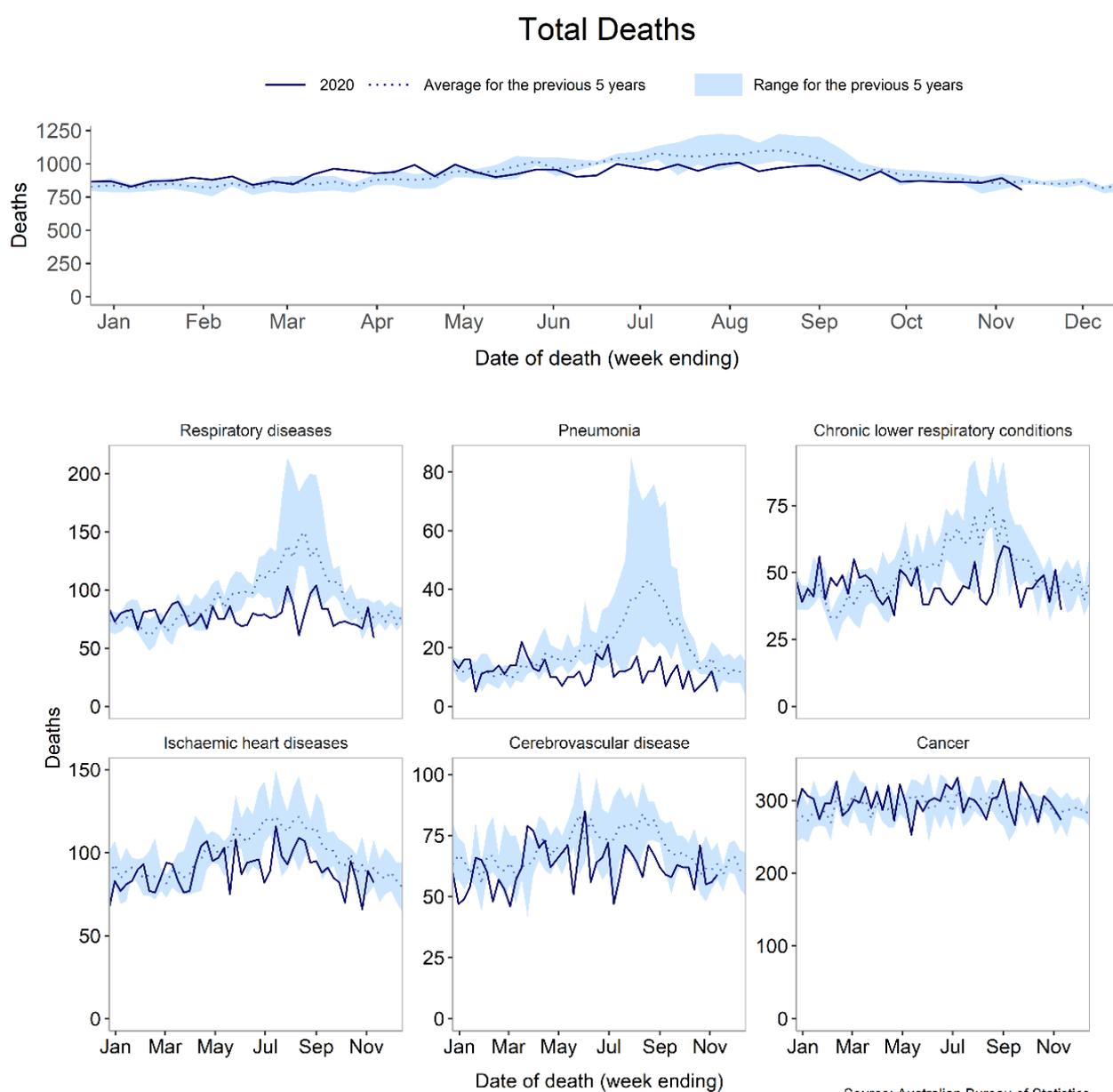
| Age group (years) | Number of deaths | Number of cases | Case fatality rate |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 0–4 | 0 | 118 | 0% |
| 5–11 | 0 | 120 | 0% |
| 12–17 | 0 | 163 | 0% |
| 18–29 | 0 | 1,141 | 0% |
| 30–49 | 0 | 1,651 | 0% |
| 50–59 | 1 | 692 | 0.1% |
| 60–69 | 4 | 639 | 0.6% |
| 70–79 | 15 | 387 | 3.9% |
| 80+ | 36 | 164 | 22.0% |
| Total | 56 | 5,075 | 1.1% |

Interpretation: Cases older than 80 years of age had both the highest number of deaths and the highest case fatality rate. No cases under 50 years of age have died as a result of COVID-19 in NSW.

How many people have died in NSW from any cause of death?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has published Provisional Mortality Statistics for all of Australia for January to November 2020 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/provisional-mortality-statistics/latest-release>) and provides monthly data for NSW-registered deaths to NSW Health around three months after the close of the month. The reported counts are doctor-certified deaths and excludes those referred to a coroner, such as suicides, accidents and assaults. In Australia, approximately 86–89% of deaths are certified by a doctor. Deaths from any cause are seasonal, increasing in winter and decreasing in summer.

Figure 7. Deaths from any cause in NSW from January to 24 November 2020



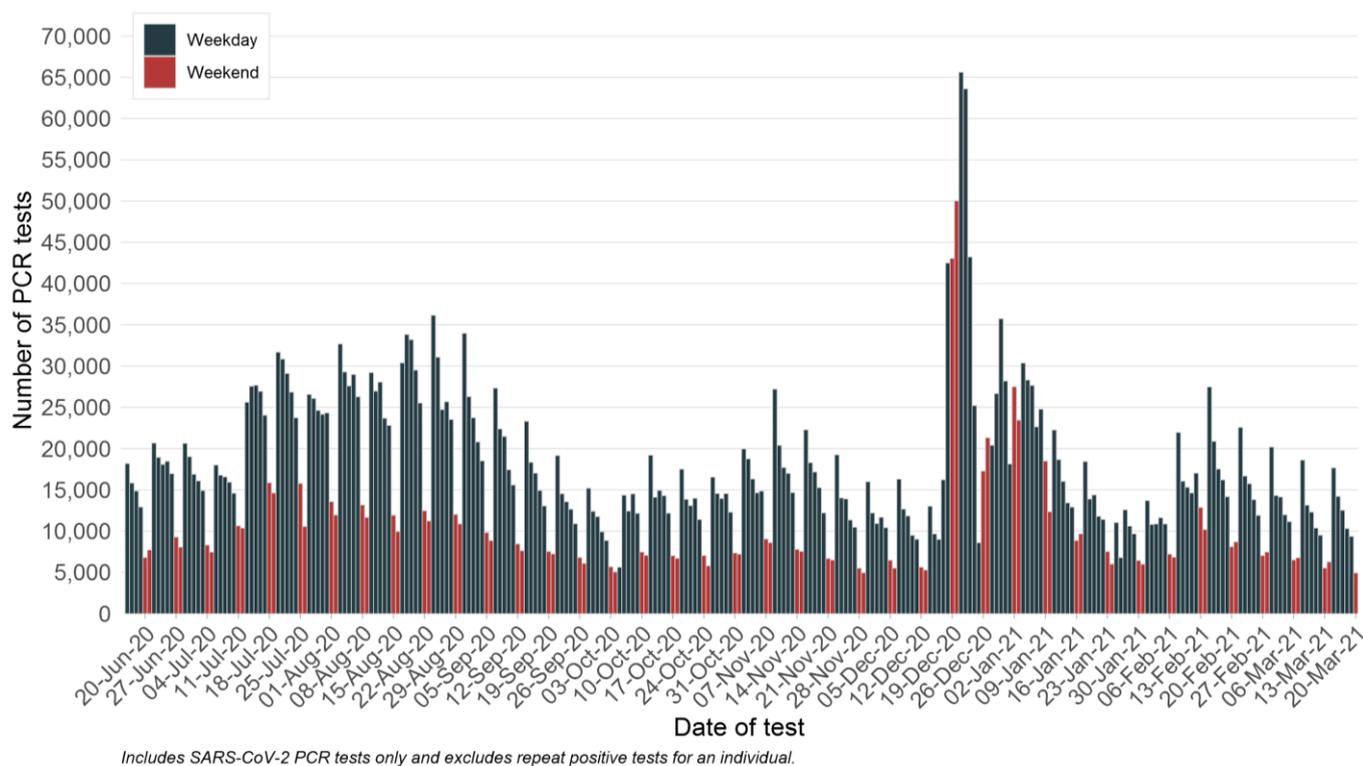
Interpretation: While the total number of deaths registered in NSW in 2020 have remained similar to previous years, there have been fewer deaths in the past year due to respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia. This is likely partly attributable to international travel restrictions, physical distancing, use of face masks, and hand hygiene measures that have been put in place to help control the pandemic. These measures have reduced transmission of many infectious diseases that are transmitted person-to-person. The patterns of deaths from heart attack and stroke are also below the usual range. Deaths from cancer, however, remain similar to previous years.

Section 8: COVID-19 testing in NSW

How much testing is happening?

The bars on the graph below show the number of tests by the date a person presented for the test.¹ While public health facilities are generally open seven days a week, there may be less demand and availability for testing through GPs and private collection centres on weekends and public holidays. This likely explains lower testing numbers on weekends.

Figure 8. Number of PCR tests per day, NSW, 20 June 2020 to 20 March 2021

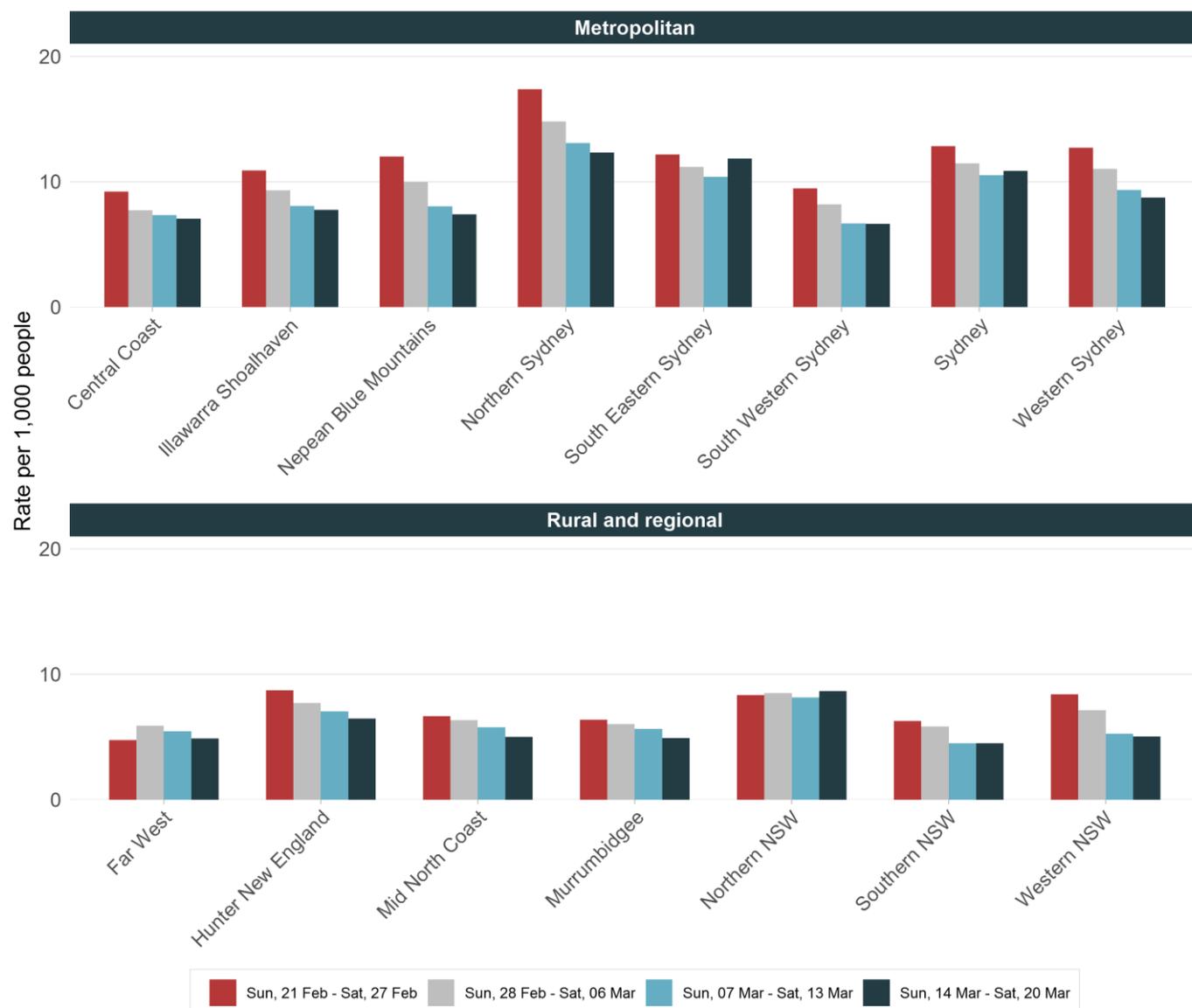


Interpretation: Testing numbers slightly decreased in the week ending 20 March (down 3%) compared to the previous week. The average daily testing rate of 1.3 per 1,000 people in NSW each day has decreased compared to the previous week of 1.4 per 1,000 people.

¹ The number of tests per day displayed below is different to the 24 hour increase in tests reported each day as there are delays in some laboratories providing negative results to NSW Health.

Testing by Local Health District

Figure 9. Rates of COVID-19 testing by LHD of residence, NSW, 14 February to 20 March 2021

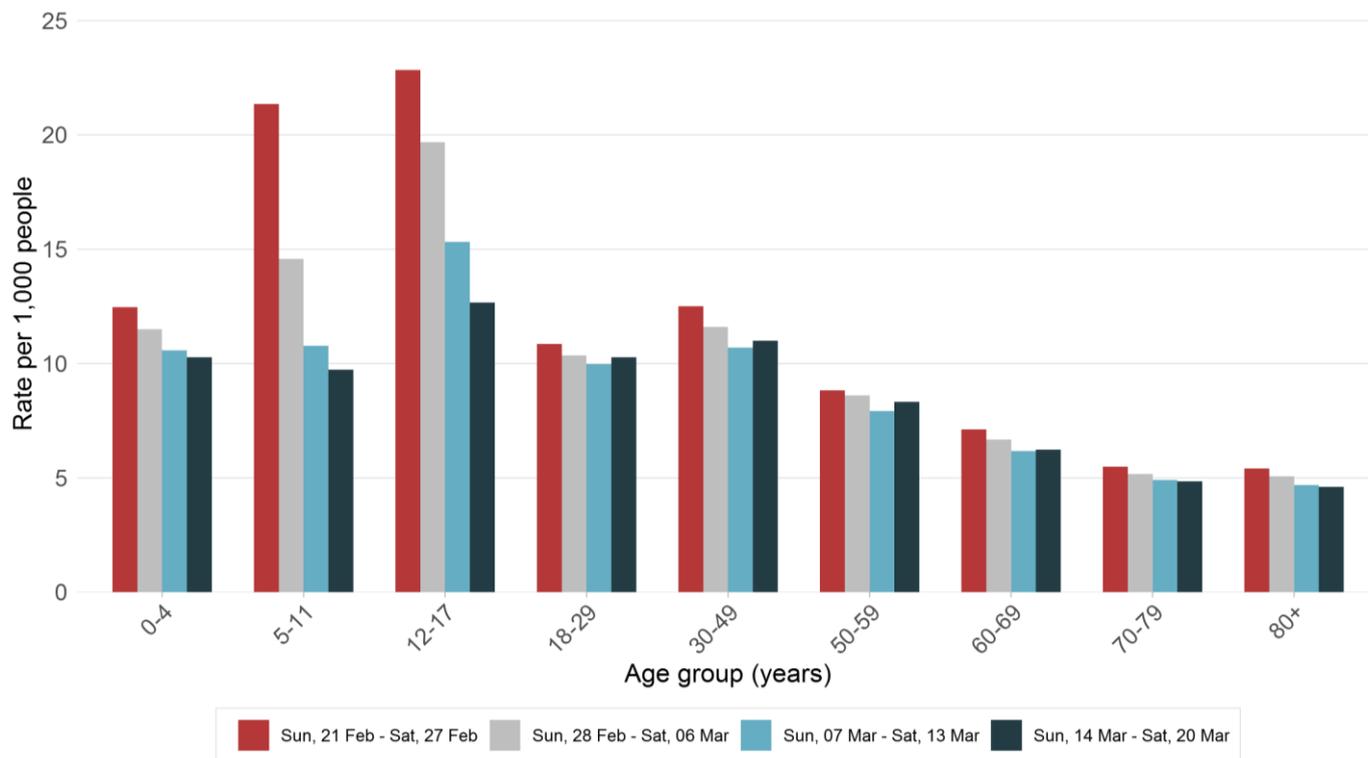


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with missing postcode of residence.

Interpretation: State-wide testing rates in the week ending 20 March were the same compared to the previous week (9 per 1,000 people). The decrease in testing rates was seen across most LHDs, except South Eastern Sydney which may have increased in response to the recent locally acquired case, and Northern and Southern NSW which remained similar.

Testing by age group

Figure 10. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group and week, NSW, 14 February to 20 March 2021



Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with age missing.

Interpretation: In the week ending 20 March, testing rates have decreased or remained similar in all age groups excluding those aged 18-29, 30-49 and 50-59 years. Testing rates decreased further in children aged 5–11 years, after increased testing in February.

Section 9: NSW Sewage Surveillance Program

The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program tests untreated sewage for fragments of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus at sewage treatment plant locations across NSW. Testing sewage can help track infections in the community and provide early warning of an increase in infections. These tests provide data to support NSW Health's response to COVID-19.

An infected person can shed virus in their faeces even if they do not have symptoms, and shedding can continue for several weeks after they are no longer infectious. The NSW sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is in the preliminary stages of analysis and work is progressing to assess the significance of the results. For example, it is not currently known the minimum number of cases that can be detected in a catchment. A small number of cases in a large sewage catchment may not be detected by sewage surveillance due to factors such as dilution, inhibition, reduction in shedding over the infection period or movement of cases.

The table below shows results for the last 10 weeks for sites that have had detections. Full result from all sites across NSW are available in Appendix D.

Table 4. Locations with SARS-CoV-2 detections in sewage samples in the last 10 weeks, NSW, 3 January 2021 to 20 March 2021

| | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pop. | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Sydney Sites | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 69,245 | Warriewood | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57,933 | West Hornsby | | | | | | | | | | |
| 318,810 | Bondi | | | | | | | n | n | n | n |
| 1,857,740 | Malabar 1 | | | | | | | n | n | n | n |
| | Malabar 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 181,005 | Liverpool | | | | n | | | | | | |
| 161,200 | Glenfield | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,341,986 | North Head | | | | | | n | n | | | |
| Sydney Network Sites | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bondi | Paddington Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Homebush SPS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Botany Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Camellia SPS - South | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Auburn Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glenfield | Minto Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | Ireland Park Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |

Sampling commenced week ending 18 July 2020

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| | not sampled or analysed |
| | SARS-CoV-2 not detected |
| | SARS-CoV-2 detected |
| SPS | Sewage Pumping Station |
| n | result from network sites |

Interpretation: In the week ending 20 March, 135 sewage samples were tested for fragments of SARS-CoV-2. Of these, there were five detections –taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants, and the sewage network at Paddington (within the Bondi catchment), Homebush (within the Malabar catchment) and Botany (within the Malabar catchment). These areas all receive sewage from quarantine hotels with known cases. There were no regional detections.

Section 10: Other respiratory infections in NSW

Influenza and other respiratory virus cases and tests reported in NSW, up to 14 March 2021

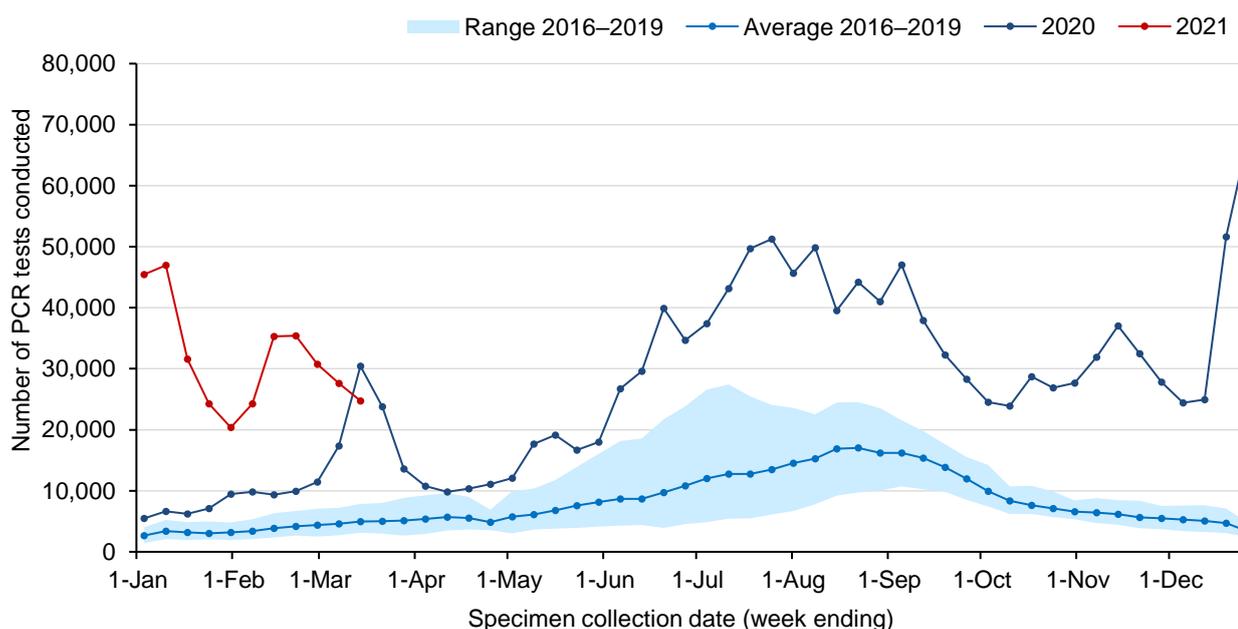
In NSW, routine surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses is conducted through sentinel laboratories. The number of all PCR tests (positive and negative) are provided to NSW Health by participating laboratories each week. Testing counts reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted; not all samples are tested for all respiratory viruses.

The most recent data available is for testing carried out to 14 March 2021. A total of 346,644 influenza tests have been performed at participating laboratories from 28 December 2020. Refer to Appendix B for PCR testing results for a range of respiratory viruses.

How much influenza testing is happening?

The red line in the figure below shows the number of PCR tests for influenza carried out each week in 2021, the dark blue line showing PCR tests for 2020. The light blue line shows the average number of PCR tests carried out for the same week in the previous four years (2016–2019) and the shaded area shows the range of tests reported in the same time period.

Figure 11. Testing for influenza by week, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 14 March 2021

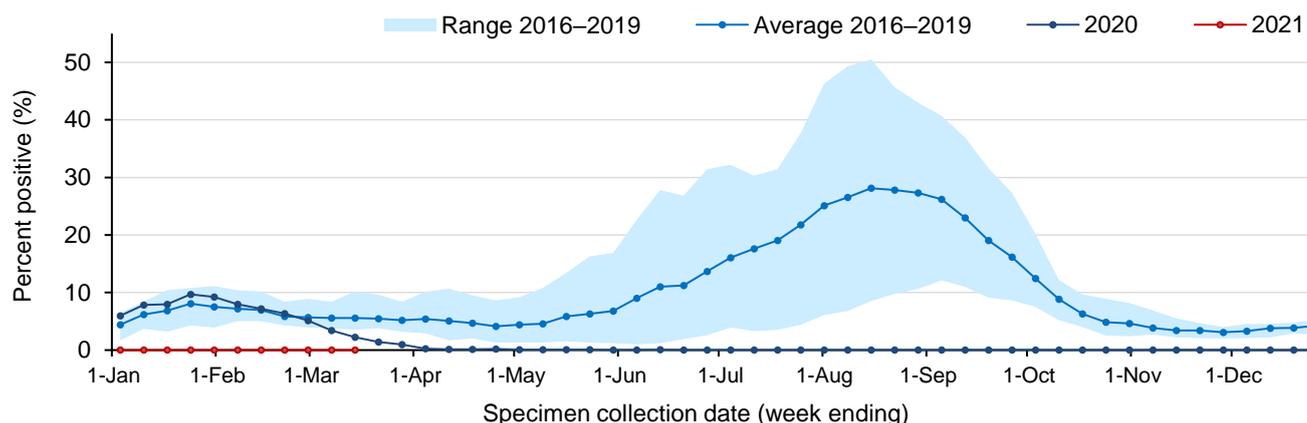


Interpretation: In the week ending 14 March, there were 24,718 influenza tests performed across the participating laboratories. Testing has decreased, following a similar pattern to COVID-19 testing. The testing numbers continue to exceed the four-year average for this time of year.

How much influenza is circulating?

The graph below shows the proportion of tests found to be positive for influenza with the red line showing weekly counts for 2021, the dark blue line showing counts for 2020, the light blue line showing the average for 2016 to 2019 and the shaded area showing the range recorded for 2016 to 2019.

Figure 12. Proportion of tests positive for influenza, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 14 March 2021

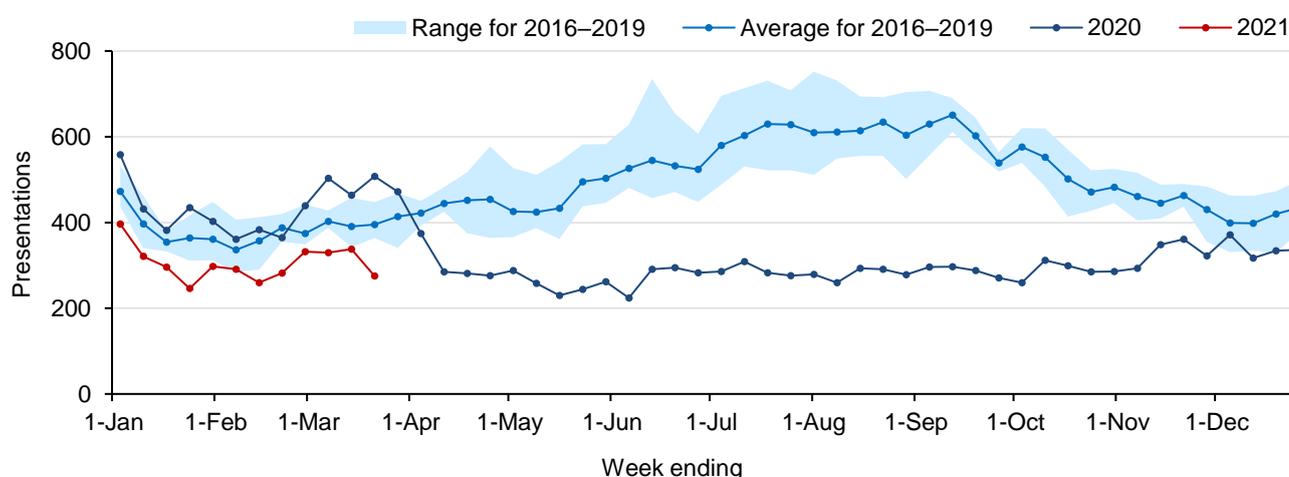


Interpretation: In the week ending 14 March, the percent of influenza tests that were positive continued to be very low (<0.01%), indicating limited influenza transmission in the community. Since early March 2020, this percentage has remained far lower than the usual range for the time of year.

How are emergency department presentations for respiratory infections tracking?

The figure below shows weekly pneumonia presentations to Emergency Departments in NSW, using PHREDSS². The red line shows the weekly counts for 2021, the dark blue line showing counts for 2020, the light blue line showing the average for 2016 to 2019 and the shaded area showing the range recorded for 2016 to 2019.

Figure 13. Emergency Department pneumonia presentations, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 21 March 2021



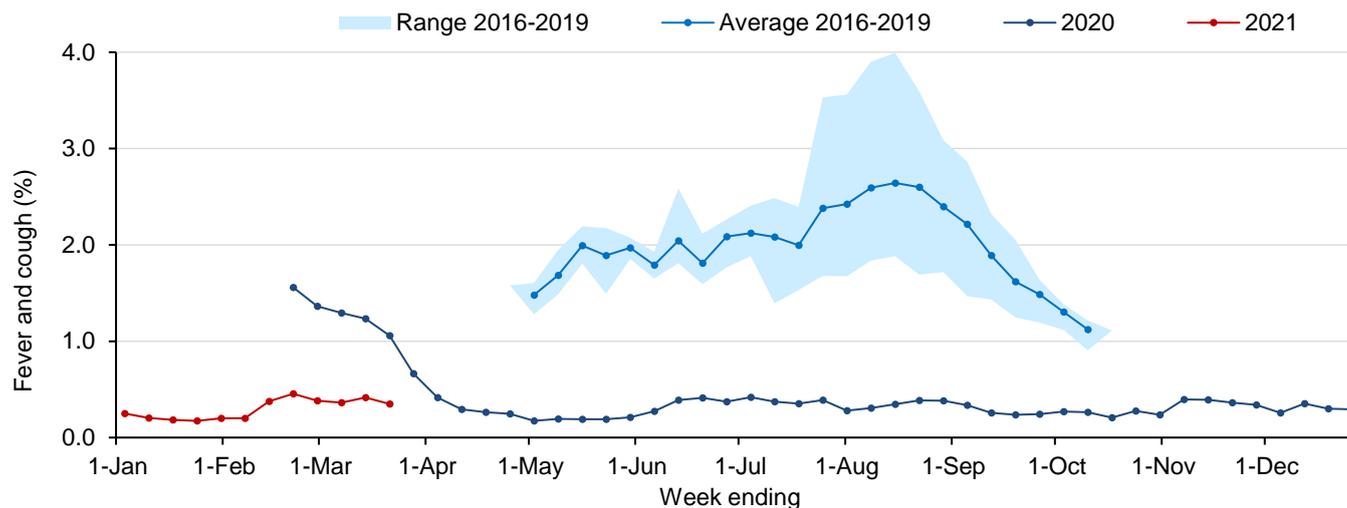
Interpretation: Pneumonia presentations include people with diagnoses of viral, bacterial, atypical or unspecified pneumonia, and Legionnaires' disease, but excludes 'pneumonia with influenza' and provides an indicator of more severe respiratory conditions. In the week ending 21 March, pneumonia presentations decreased well below the seasonal range for this time of year.

² NSW Health Public Health Rapid, Emergency Disease and Syndromic Surveillance (PHREDSS) system, CEE, NSW Ministry of Health. Comparisons are made with data for the preceding 5 years. Includes unplanned presentations to 67 NSW emergency departments (accounts for 87% of total public ED activity).

How many people have flu-like symptoms in the community?

FluTracking is an online survey that asks participants to report flu-like symptoms, such as fever or cough, in the last week. Across NSW approximately 25,000–30,000 people participate each week. The survey usually commences at the beginning of May in line with the flu season but commenced at the end of February this year given the COVID-19 outbreak.

Figure 14. Proportion of FluTracker participants reporting influenza-like illness, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 21 March 2021



Interpretation: In NSW in the week ending 21 March of the 15,701 people surveyed, 55 people (0.35%) reported flu-like symptoms. In the last four weeks, around two-thirds (163/271) of new cases of flu-like illness reported having a COVID-19 test.

Appendix A: COVID-19 PCR tests in NSW by Local Government Area

| Local Health District | Local Government Area | Week ending | | | | Total since January 2021 | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 20-March | | 13-March | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population |
| | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | | |
| Central Coast | Central Coast / LHD Total2 | 2487 | 7.05 | 2594 | 7.35 | 193109 | 547.26 |
| | Balranald | 4 | 1.71 | 6 | 2.57 | 654 | 279.73 |
| | Broken Hill | 112 | 6.41 | 123 | 7.04 | 8645 | 494.59 |
| Far West | Central Darling | 8 | 4.35 | 7 | 3.81 | 526 | 286.03 |
| | Wentworth | 23 | 3.26 | 28 | 3.97 | 3175 | 450.16 |
| | LHD Total2 | 147 | 4.88 | 164 | 5.44 | 13000 | 431.26 |
| | Armidale Regional | 193 | 6.27 | 198 | 6.43 | 13352 | 433.8 |
| | Cessnock | 206 | 3.43 | 221 | 3.68 | 20206 | 336.85 |
| | Dungog | 59 | 6.26 | 50 | 5.31 | 3292 | 349.36 |
| | Glen Innes Severn | 39 | 4.4 | 47 | 5.3 | 2405 | 271.11 |
| | Gunnedah | 39 | 3.08 | 64 | 5.05 | 4248 | 334.99 |
| | Gwydir | 8 | 1.49 | 2 | 0.37 | 883 | 164.95 |
| | Inverell | 70 | 4.14 | 67 | 3.97 | 5410 | 320.31 |
| | Lake Macquarie | 1648 | 8 | 1800 | 8.74 | 118496 | 575.5 |
| | Liverpool Plains | 36 | 4.56 | 35 | 4.43 | 2778 | 351.51 |
| | Maitland | 818 | 9.6 | 846 | 9.93 | 53490 | 628.07 |
| Hunter New England | Mid-Coast | 367 | 3.91 | 393 | 4.19 | 32349 | 344.74 |
| | Moree Plains | 41 | 3.09 | 54 | 4.07 | 3879 | 292.51 |
| | Muswellbrook | 72 | 4.4 | 63 | 3.85 | 5986 | 365.51 |
| | Narrabri | 34 | 2.59 | 36 | 2.74 | 3320 | 252.76 |
| | Newcastle | 1520 | 9.18 | 1663 | 10.04 | 115455 | 697.31 |
| | Port Stephens | 372 | 5.06 | 460 | 6.26 | 37468 | 509.9 |
| | Singleton | 122 | 5.2 | 165 | 7.03 | 12341 | 526.02 |
| | Tamworth Regional | 378 | 6.04 | 403 | 6.44 | 29410 | 470.25 |
| | Tenterfield | 34 | 5.16 | 22 | 3.34 | 1440 | 218.38 |
| | Upper Hunter Shire | 66 | 4.65 | 87 | 6.14 | 5454 | 384.63 |
| | Uralla | 27 | 4.49 | 26 | 4.32 | 1626 | 270.46 |
| | Walcha | 17 | 5.42 | 18 | 5.74 | 1185 | 378.11 |
| | LHD Total2 | 6159 | 6.47 | 6715 | 7.05 | 474106 | 497.81 |
| | Kiama | 185 | 7.91 | 215 | 9.19 | 13811 | 590.57 |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven | Shellharbour | 540 | 7.37 | 574 | 7.84 | 42041 | 574.07 |
| | Shoalhaven | 518 | 4.9 | 579 | 5.48 | 46477 | 439.92 |
| | Wollongong | 2012 | 9.22 | 2022 | 9.27 | 133401 | 611.61 |
| | LHD Total2 | 3255 | 7.76 | 3390 | 8.08 | 235730 | 561.78 |
| | Bellingen | 81 | 6.23 | 96 | 7.39 | 5165 | 397.43 |
| | Coffs Harbour | 376 | 4.87 | 352 | 4.56 | 27216 | 352.19 |
| Mid North Coast | Kempsey | 146 | 4.91 | 189 | 6.35 | 12052 | 405.18 |
| | Nambucca | 67 | 3.38 | 82 | 4.14 | 6526 | 329.51 |
| | Port Macquarie-Hastings | 461 | 5.45 | 581 | 6.87 | 35284 | 417.44 |
| | LHD Total2 | 1131 | 5.01 | 1300 | 5.76 | 86243 | 382.17 |

| Local Health District | Local Government Area | Week ending | | | | Total since January 2021 | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 20-March | | 13-March | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population |
| | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | | |
| Murrumbidgee | Albury | 360 | 6.62 | 433 | 7.97 | 23488 | 432.14 |
| | Berrigan | 27 | 3.09 | 38 | 4.34 | 2353 | 268.91 |
| | Bland | 27 | 4.52 | 26 | 4.35 | 1892 | 316.81 |
| | Carrathool | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1.43 | 426 | 152.2 |
| | Coolamon | 19 | 4.38 | 24 | 5.53 | 1682 | 387.47 |
| | Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional | 37 | 3.29 | 43 | 3.83 | 3819 | 339.92 |
| | Edward River | 30 | 3.3 | 49 | 5.39 | 3218 | 354.25 |
| | Federation | 63 | 5.07 | 44 | 3.54 | 3879 | 311.89 |
| | Greater Hume Shire | 58 | 5.39 | 57 | 5.3 | 4029 | 374.3 |
| | Griffith | 119 | 4.4 | 165 | 6.1 | 11675 | 431.94 |
| | Hay | 3 | 1.02 | 9 | 3.05 | 663 | 224.82 |
| | Hilltops | 106 | 5.67 | 99 | 5.29 | 6792 | 363.13 |
| | Junee | 13 | 1.95 | 24 | 3.59 | 1746 | 261.26 |
| | Lachlan1 | 9 | 1.48 | 10 | 1.65 | 1191 | 196.05 |
| | Leeton | 41 | 3.58 | 38 | 3.32 | 3451 | 301.53 |
| | Lockhart | 9 | 2.74 | 17 | 5.18 | 1004 | 305.63 |
| | Murray River | 16 | 1.32 | 14 | 1.16 | 1046 | 86.32 |
| | Murrumbidgee | 11 | 2.81 | 22 | 5.62 | 1032 | 263.47 |
| | Narrandera | 9 | 1.53 | 13 | 2.2 | 1381 | 234.11 |
| | Snowy Valleys | 65 | 4.49 | 76 | 5.25 | 5329 | 368.05 |
| Temora | 11 | 1.74 | 19 | 3.01 | 1627 | 257.97 | |
| Wagga Wagga | 441 | 6.76 | 464 | 7.11 | 33922 | 519.81 | |
| LHD Total2 | 1466 | 4.92 | 1682 | 5.64 | 114846 | 385.25 | |
| Nepean Blue Mountains | Blue Mountains | 744 | 9.4 | 819 | 10.35 | 58953 | 745.13 |
| | Hawkesbury | 478 | 7.1 | 498 | 7.4 | 40646 | 603.99 |
| | Lithgow | 82 | 3.8 | 105 | 4.86 | 8326 | 385.37 |
| | Penrith | 1611 | 7.56 | 1744 | 8.19 | 142233 | 667.83 |
| | LHD Total2 | 2897 | 7.41 | 3147 | 8.05 | 248193 | 634.78 |
| Northern NSW | Ballina | 895 | 20.05 | 687 | 15.39 | 20409 | 457.31 |
| | Byron | 398 | 11.35 | 415 | 11.83 | 18810 | 536.19 |
| | Clarence Valley | 222 | 4.3 | 191 | 3.7 | 15175 | 293.74 |
| | Kyogle | 32 | 3.64 | 52 | 5.91 | 2445 | 277.97 |
| | Lismore | 395 | 9.04 | 401 | 9.18 | 19989 | 457.5 |
| | Richmond Valley | 173 | 7.37 | 188 | 8.01 | 9174 | 390.97 |
| | Tenterfield | 34 | 5.16 | 22 | 3.34 | 1440 | 218.38 |
| | Tweed | 569 | 5.87 | 592 | 6.1 | 33555 | 345.92 |
| LHD Total2 | 2691 | 8.67 | 2530 | 8.15 | 119894 | 386.3 | |
| Northern Sydney | Hornsby | 1415 | 9.31 | 1570 | 10.32 | 93820 | 617 |
| | Hunters Hill | 319 | 21.3 | 304 | 20.29 | 21058 | 1405.74 |
| | Ku-ring-gai | 1921 | 15.11 | 2032 | 15.98 | 123492 | 971.21 |
| | Lane Cove | 864 | 21.52 | 884 | 22.01 | 59681 | 1486.27 |
| | Mosman | 341 | 11.01 | 372 | 12.01 | 25246 | 814.89 |
| | North Sydney | 689 | 9.18 | 772 | 10.29 | 45984 | 612.95 |

| Local Health District | Local Government Area | Week ending | | | | Total since January 2021 | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 20-March | | 13-March | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population |
| | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | | |
| | Northern Beaches | 3402 | 12.44 | 3533 | 12.92 | 321014 | 1173.73 |
| | Parramatta1 | 2240 | 8.71 | 2354 | 9.15 | 137042 | 532.83 |
| | Ryde | 1586 | 12.08 | 1622 | 12.36 | 86499 | 658.93 |
| | Willoughby | 757 | 9.32 | 902 | 11.11 | 47696 | 587.47 |
| | LHD Total2 | 11789 | 12.33 | 12524 | 13.1 | 852089 | 891.38 |
| South Eastern Sydney | Bayside | 1730 | 9.7 | 1397 | 7.83 | 90647 | 508.12 |
| | Georges River | 2054 | 12.88 | 1200 | 7.52 | 77457 | 485.71 |
| | Randwick | 1799 | 11.56 | 1766 | 11.35 | 123868 | 795.82 |
| | Sutherland Shire | 2463 | 10.68 | 2305 | 10 | 161566 | 700.6 |
| | Sydney1 | 3440 | 13.96 | 3373 | 13.69 | 200781 | 815.05 |
| | Waverley | 1022 | 13.76 | 1053 | 14.17 | 70960 | 955.11 |
| | Woollahra | 1054 | 17.75 | 968 | 16.3 | 60109 | 1012.16 |
| | LHD Total2 | 11388 | 11.87 | 9956 | 10.38 | 657348 | 685.38 |
| South Western Sydney | Camden | 1054 | 10.39 | 1055 | 10.4 | 85125 | 839.19 |
| | Campbelltown | 1279 | 7.48 | 1379 | 8.07 | 114493 | 669.77 |
| | Canterbury-Bankstown1 | 2786 | 7.37 | 2549 | 6.74 | 198679 | 525.72 |
| | Fairfield | 1024 | 4.84 | 984 | 4.65 | 88977 | 420.31 |
| | Liverpool | 1585 | 6.96 | 1506 | 6.62 | 139644 | 613.59 |
| | Wingecarribee | 447 | 8.74 | 505 | 9.88 | 36326 | 710.41 |
| | Wollondilly | 251 | 4.72 | 318 | 5.98 | 24447 | 459.97 |
| | LHD Total2 | 6897 | 6.64 | 6945 | 6.69 | 586581 | 564.82 |
| Southern NSW | Bega Valley | 143 | 4.15 | 150 | 4.35 | 12937 | 375.25 |
| | Eurobodalla | 224 | 5.82 | 190 | 4.94 | 19614 | 509.81 |
| | Goulburn Mulwaree | 179 | 5.75 | 168 | 5.4 | 13631 | 437.85 |
| | Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional | 220 | 3.6 | 254 | 4.16 | 18749 | 306.86 |
| | Snowy Monaro Regional | 99 | 4.76 | 110 | 5.29 | 8209 | 394.76 |
| | Upper Lachlan Shire | 44 | 5.46 | 41 | 5.09 | 3006 | 373 |
| | Yass Valley | 66 | 3.86 | 67 | 3.92 | 4527 | 264.94 |
| | LHD Total2 | 975 | 4.49 | 980 | 4.51 | 80703 | 371.78 |
| Sydney | Burwood | 292 | 7.19 | 262 | 6.45 | 18463 | 454.62 |
| | Canada Bay | 934 | 9.72 | 948 | 9.87 | 70758 | 736.49 |
| | Canterbury-Bankstown1 | 2786 | 7.37 | 2549 | 6.74 | 198679 | 525.72 |
| | Inner West | 2208 | 11 | 2260 | 11.25 | 164438 | 818.87 |
| | Strathfield | 471 | 10.04 | 452 | 9.63 | 32406 | 690.58 |
| | Sydney1 | 3440 | 13.96 | 3373 | 13.69 | 200781 | 815.05 |
| | LHD Total2 | 7565 | 10.86 | 7336 | 10.53 | 511348 | 733.88 |
| Western NSW | Bathurst Regional | 269 | 6.17 | 286 | 6.56 | 23017 | 527.69 |
| | Blayney | 41 | 5.56 | 38 | 5.15 | 3783 | 512.67 |
| | Bogan | 14 | 5.43 | 12 | 4.65 | 1006 | 389.92 |
| | Bourke | 9 | 3.47 | 7 | 2.7 | 608 | 234.75 |
| | Brewarrina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 357 | 221.6 |
| | Cabonne | 52 | 3.81 | 68 | 4.99 | 3881 | 284.66 |
| | Cobar | 5 | 1.07 | 19 | 4.08 | 1294 | 277.8 |

| Local Health District | Local Government Area | Week ending | | | | Total since January 2021 | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 20-March | | 13-March | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population |
| | | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | No. | Tests per 1,000 population | | |
| | Coonamble | 9 | 2.27 | 15 | 3.79 | 1090 | 275.39 |
| | Cowra | 65 | 5.1 | 67 | 5.26 | 4200 | 329.59 |
| | Dubbo Regional | 256 | 4.77 | 265 | 4.93 | 22164 | 412.59 |
| | Forbes | 32 | 3.23 | 26 | 2.62 | 2568 | 259.24 |
| | Gilgandra | 7 | 1.65 | 9 | 2.12 | 1095 | 258.32 |
| | Lachlan ¹ | 9 | 1.48 | 10 | 1.65 | 1191 | 196.05 |
| | Mid-Western Regional | 156 | 6.18 | 123 | 4.87 | 10161 | 402.4 |
| | Narromine | 16 | 2.46 | 33 | 5.06 | 2111 | 323.92 |
| | Oberon | 14 | 2.59 | 18 | 3.33 | 1960 | 362.23 |
| | Orange | 347 | 8.17 | 336 | 7.92 | 26116 | 615.2 |
| | Parkes | 48 | 3.24 | 74 | 4.99 | 4875 | 328.57 |
| | Walgett | 12 | 2.02 | 14 | 2.35 | 1805 | 303.21 |
| | Warren | 15 | 5.56 | 9 | 3.34 | 1530 | 567.3 |
| | Warrumbungle Shire | 45 | 4.85 | 56 | 6.04 | 3264 | 351.8 |
| | Weddin | 14 | 3.87 | 18 | 4.98 | 994 | 275.12 |
| | LHD Total ² | 1434 | 5.03 | 1499 | 5.26 | 118725 | 416.56 |
| Western Sydney | Blacktown | 3266 | 8.72 | 3406 | 9.1 | 232369 | 620.56 |
| | Cumberland | 1799 | 7.45 | 1955 | 8.09 | 148308 | 614.06 |
| | Parramatta ¹ | 2240 | 8.71 | 2354 | 9.15 | 137042 | 532.83 |
| | The Hills Shire | 2330 | 13.09 | 2587 | 14.54 | 150840 | 847.56 |
| | LHD Total ² | 9203 | 8.74 | 9834 | 9.34 | 646928 | 614.11 |
| NSW Total³ | | 75,261 | 9.3 | 76,220 | 9.42 | 1,099,940 | 135.97 |

Source - Notifiable condition information management System, accessed as at 8pm 22 March 2021.

¹Local Government Area (LGA) spans multiple Local Health Districts.

²Local Health District total counts and rates includes tests for LHD residents only. Murrumbidgee includes Albury LGA residents.

³NSW Total counts and rates since January 2021 include tests where residential information is incomplete.

See <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/counting-tests.aspx> for detail on how tests are counted.

Appendix B: Number of positive PCR test results for influenza and other respiratory viruses at sentinel NSW laboratories, January 2020 to 14 March 2021

The reported testing numbers reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted. Not all samples are tested for all of the other respiratory viruses. Therefore, data presented may tend to under-represent current respiratory virus activity in NSW.

Testing numbers in NSW from 28 December 2020–14 March 2021

| Specimen collection date | PCR tests conducted | Influenza A | | Influenza B | | Adeno-virus | Para-influenza | RSV | Rhino-virus | HMPV** | Entero-virus |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| | | No. | %Pos. | No. | %Pos. | | | | | | |
| Total | 346,644 | 5 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 1,083 | 291 | 6,683 | 16,968 | 53 | 2,063 |
| Month ending | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 January* | 168,596 | 2 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 416 | 88 | 3,275 | 3,541 | 23 | 560 |
| 28 February | 125,718 | 3 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 419 | 106 | 2,386 | 8,667 | 22 | 910 |
| Week ending | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 March | 25,988 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 110 | 43 | 468 | 2,511 | 5 | 267 |
| 14 March | 24,718 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 129 | 54 | 540 | 2,220 | 3 | 313 |

Testing numbers in NSW from January–27 December 2020

| Specimen collection date | PCR tests conducted | Influenza A | | Influenza B | | Adeno-virus | Para-influenza | RSV | Rhino-virus | HMPV** | Entero-virus |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| | | No. | %Pos. | No. | %Pos. | | | | | | |
| Total | 1,393,182 | 6,631 | 0.48% | 955 | 0.07% | 9,139 | 9,193 | 22,004 | 138,737 | 2,435 | 6,434 |
| Month ending | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 February * | 34,953 | 2,508 | 7.18% | 401 | 1.15% | 846 | 1,900 | 752 | 5,036 | 599 | 335 |
| 1 March | 40,575 | 2,363 | 5.82% | 315 | 0.78% | 798 | 2,435 | 1,118 | 8,245 | 437 | 1,007 |
| 29 March | 85,238 | 1,549 | 1.82% | 200 | 0.23% | 898 | 4,117 | 1,977 | 18,088 | 664 | 1,502 |
| 3 May * | 54,128 | 70 | 0.13% | 13 | 0.02% | 175 | 273 | 410 | 2,250 | 48 | 210 |
| 31 May | 71,525 | 35 | 0.05% | 6 | 0.01% | 237 | 62 | 115 | 3,511 | 27 | 112 |
| 28 June | 130,922 | 42 | 0.03% | 11 | 0.01% | 629 | 83 | 178 | 28,321 | 112 | 246 |
| 2 August * | 227,152 | 34 | 0.01% | 2 | 0.00% | 1,251 | 89 | 209 | 31,589 | 79 | 427 |
| 30 August | 174,594 | 9 | 0.01% | 2 | 0.00% | 1,137 | 37 | 299 | 13,926 | 14 | 235 |
| 27 September | 145,489 | 6 | 0.00% | 1 | 0.00% | 938 | 35 | 866 | 8,416 | 61 | 259 |
| 1 November * | 131,686 | 7 | 0.01% | 1 | 0.00% | 894 | 56 | 3,508 | 5,632 | 51 | 662 |
| 29 November | 129,164 | 6 | 0.00% | 3 | 0.00% | 752 | 42 | 6,255 | 8,252 | 192 | 884 |
| 27 December | 167,756 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 584 | 64 | 6,317 | 5,471 | 151 | 555 |

Notes: Preliminary laboratory data is provided by participating sentinel laboratories on a weekly basis and are subject to change.

Serological diagnoses are not included.

HMPV – Human metapneumovirus

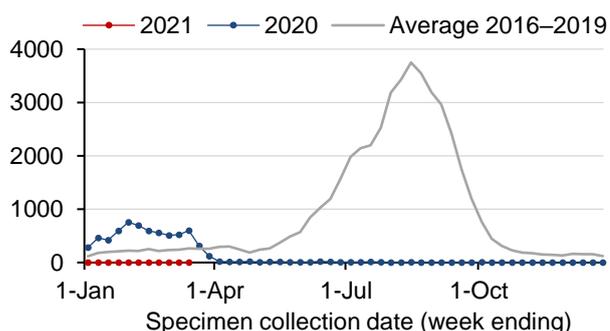
RSV - Respiratory syncytial virus

*Five-week period

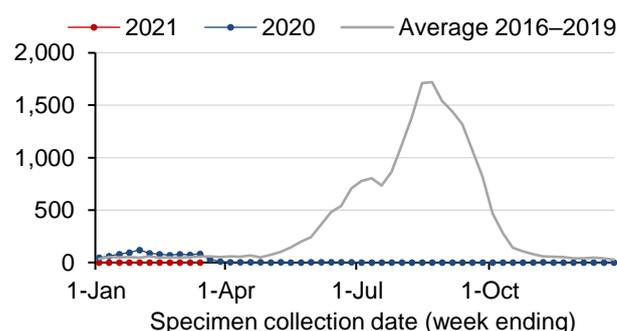
Appendix C: Number of positive PCR test results for influenza and other respiratory viruses at sentinel NSW laboratories, January 2020 to 14 March 2021

Not all samples are tested for all of the other respiratory viruses. Therefore, data presented may tend to under-represent current respiratory virus activity in NSW.

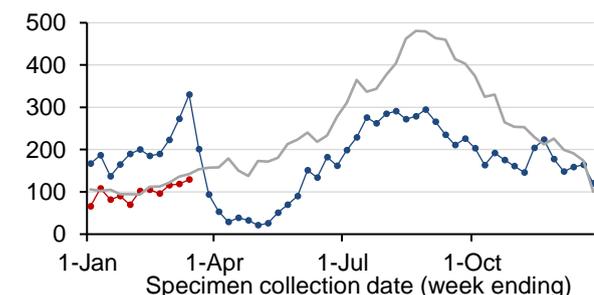
Influenza A



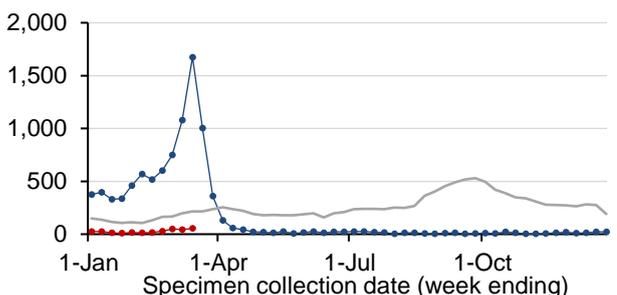
Influenza B



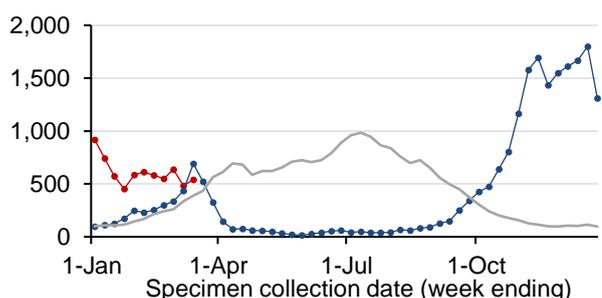
Adenovirus



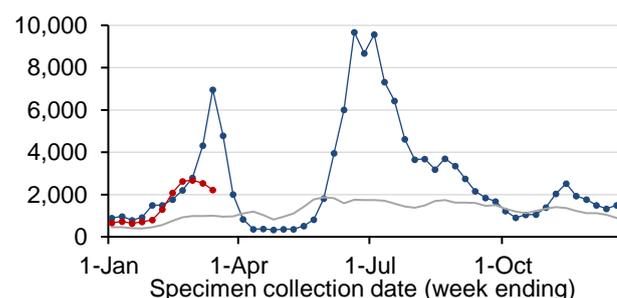
Parainfluenza



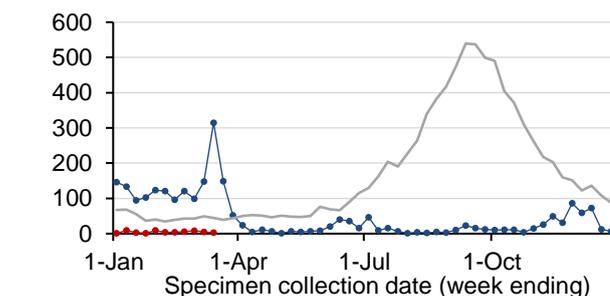
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



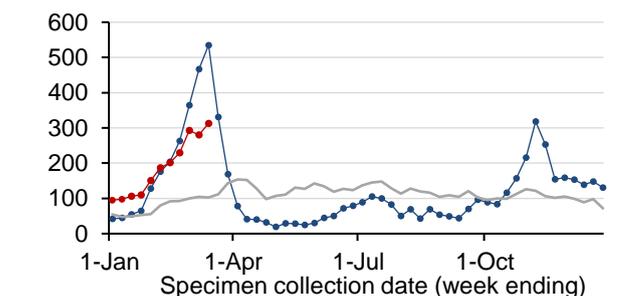
Rhinovirus



Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)



Enterovirus



Note: Preliminary laboratory data is provided by participating sentinel laboratories on a weekly basis and are subject to change. Serological diagnoses are not included.

Appendix D: SARS-CoV-2 testing in sewage samples collected in the previous 10 weeks, week ending 20 March 2021

The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program tests untreated sewage for fragments of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus at sewage treatment plant locations across NSW. The table below shows results for the last 10 weeks of samples collected across all sites in NSW.

| Sydney Sites | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pop. | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 60,514 | Blue Mountains (Winmalee) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,681 | North Richmond | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13,052 | Richmond | | | | | | | | | | |
| 110,114 | Penrith | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12,000 | Lithgow | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19,000 | South Windsor | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,000 | McGraths Hill | | | | | | | | | | |
| 69,245 | Warriewood | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,241 | Brooklyn | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31,924 | Hornsby Heights | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57,933 | West Hornsby | | | | | | | | | | |
| 318,810 | Bondi | | | | | | | n | n | n | n |
| 233,176 | Cronulla | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,857,740 | Malabar 1 | | | | | | | n | n | n | n |
| | Malabar 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 181,005 | Liverpool | | | | n | | | | | | |
| 98,743 | West Camden | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6,882 | Wallacia | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14,600 | Picton | | | | | | | | | | |
| 161,200 | Glenfield | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,341,986 | North Head | | | | | | n | n | | | |
| 26,997 | Castle Hill Cattai | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Castle Hill Glenhaven | | | | | | | | | | |
| 163,374 | Quakers Hill | | | | | | | | | | |
| 119,309 | Rouse Hill | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37,061 | Riverstone | | | | | | | | | | |
| 163,147 | St Marys | | | | | | | | | | |
| 73,686 | Shellharbour | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55,000 | Wollongong | | | | | | | | | | |
| 68,000 | Port Kembla | | | | | | | | | | |
| 93,000 | Bellambi | | | | | | | | | | |

| Sydney Network Sites | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|----------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Network | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Bondi | Paddington Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cronulla | Caringbah Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cronulla | Miranda Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Earlwood Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Marrickville Sewage Network 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Marrickville Sewage Network 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Bardwell Creek Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Arncliffe Sewage Network 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Arncliffe Sewage Network 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Blakehurst Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Padstow Sewage Network 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Padstow Sewage Network 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Fairfield Sewage Pumping Station 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Fairfield Sewage Pumping Station 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Homebush Sewage Pumping Station | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Croydon Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Dulwich Hill Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Canterbury Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Botany Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malabar | Maroubra Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Camellia Sewage Pumping Station - North | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Camellia Sewage Pumping Station - South | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Auburn Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Northmead Sewage Pumping Station | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Northmead Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Tunks Park Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Vineyard Creek Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Boronia Park Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | West Lindfield Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Lane Cove West Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Allambie Heights Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Head | Buffalo Creek Reserve Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glenfield | Minto Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | Ireland Park Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quakers Hill | Eastern Creek Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |
| St Mary's | Ropes Creek Sewage Network | | | | | | | | | | |

| Regional Sites | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pop. | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14,700 | Bowral | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14,000 | Mittagong | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9,000 | Moss Vale | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,000 | Berrima | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,000 | Bundanoon | | | | | | | | | | |
| 900 | Robertson | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16,068 | Bombo | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7,200 | Gerringong/Gerroa | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32,000 | Ulladulla | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18,000 | Bomaderry | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37,500 | Nowra | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16,000 | St Georges Basin | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11,000 | Cullburra Beach | | | | | | | | | | |
| 139,500 | Gosford-Kincumber | | | | | | | | | | |
| 59,060 | Charmhaven | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29,300 | Wyong-Toukley | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38,900 | Bateau Bay | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41,300 | Woy Woy | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5,000 | Perisher | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,400 | Thredbo | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3,000 | Jindabyne | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,000 | Cooma | | | | | | | | | | |
| 500 | Gunning | | | | | | | | | | |
| 500 | Charlottes Pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| 51,750 | Albury composite | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | | C |
| | Albury Kremer St | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Albury Waterview | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22,419 | Goulburn | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21,000 | Batemans Bay | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18,000 | Moruya | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17,000 | Narooma | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,000 | Eden | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15,500 | Merimbula | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5,000 | Bermagui | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7,800 | Deniliquin | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48,000 | Queanbeyan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50,000 | Wagga Wagga composite | | | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| | Wagga Wagga- inlet 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Wagga Wagga- inlet 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Wagga Wagga -Koorlingal STP | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,050 | Bourke | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Nyngan | | | | | | | | | | |

| Regional Sites (con't) | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pop. | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 40,000 | Orange | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12,000 | Mudgee | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36,603 | Bathurst | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19,000 | Broken Hill | | | | | | | | | | |
| 500 | Dareton | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11,600 | Parkes | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37,000 | Dubbo | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24,000 | Armidale | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45,000 | Tamworth | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Narrabri | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tenterfield | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Urbenville | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10,000 | Moree | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26,394 | Taree | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12,000 | Forster | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7,582 | Hallidays Point | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5,180 | Harrington | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10,715 | Hawks Nest | | | | | | | | | | |
| 225,834 | Hunter - Burwood Beach | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60,000 | Hunter - Shortland | | | | | | | | | | |
| 115,000 | Hunter - Belmont | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60,000 | Hunter - Morpeth | | | | | | | | | | |
| 58,300 | Hunter - Boulder Bay | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35,000 | Hunter - Raymond Terrace | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32,000 | Hunter - Dora Creek | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42,000 | Hunter - Toronto | | | | | | | | | | |
| 70,000 | Hunter - Edgeworth | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,500 | Hunter - Karuah | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32500 | Lismore composite | | | | | C | | C | C | C | |
| 17,000 | East Lismore | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15,500 | South Lismore | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18,958 | Byron Bay - Ocean Shores | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Byron Bay | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31,104 | Ballina | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16,000 | Tweed - Murwillumbah | | | | | | | | | | |
| 75,000 | Tweed - Banora Point | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25,000 | Tweed - Kingscliff | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18,000 | Tweed - Hastings Point | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18,550 | Grafton composite | | | | | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| 12,250 | North Grafton | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6,300 | South Grafton | | | | | | | | | | |

| Regional Sites (con't) | | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | 6-Feb | 13-Feb | 20-Feb | 27-Feb | 6-Mar | 13-Mar | 20-Mar |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pop. | Location | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 6,500 | Yamba | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,730 | Nambucca Heads | | | | | | | | | | |
| 54,370 | Port Macquarie | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7,010 | Bonny Hills | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8,540 | Dunbogan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12,105 | South West Rocks | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,052 | Crescent Head | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12,000 | Urunga | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50,000 | Coffs Harbour | | | | | | | | | | |

Sampling commenced week ending 18 July 2020

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | not sampled or analysed |
| | SARS-CoV-2 not detected |
| | SARS-CoV-2 detected |
| | site moved to composite or ceased |

- c composite of the separate influent samples
- n result from network sites

Glossary

| Term | Description |
|--------------------------|--|
| Case | <p>A person infected who has tested positive to a validated specific SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has had the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture. Blood tests (serology) is only used in special situations following a public health investigation and require other criteria to be met in addition to the positive serology result (related to timing of symptoms and contact with known COVID-19 cases).</p> <p>Case counts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSW residents diagnosed in NSW who were infected overseas or in Australia (in NSW or interstate), and - interstate or international visitors diagnosed in NSW who were under the care of NSW Health at the time of diagnosis |
| Health care workers | Individuals who work within a hospital or other healthcare settings, including staff in direct or indirect contact with patients or infectious materials. |
| Incubation period | The time in which the case was infected. The incubation period for COVID-19 is between 1 and 14 days prior to symptom onset. |
| Overseas acquired case | Case who travelled overseas during their incubation period. While testing rates in NSW are high and case counts are low, cases who have travelled overseas in their incubation period are considered to have acquired their infection overseas. |
| Interstate acquired case | Case who travelled interstate during their infection and the public health investigation concludes the infection was likely acquired interstate. |
| Cluster | Group of cases sharing a common source of infection or are linked to each other in some way. |

Dates used in COVID-19 reporting

| Event | Date name | Source |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Person first starts to feel unwell | Date of symptom onset | Public health staff interview all cases at the time of diagnosis. This is the date provided to NSW Health by the case. |
| Person has a swab taken | Date of test | This date is provided to NSW Health by the laboratory when the test result (positive or negative) is notified. |
| Laboratory notifies NSW Health of result | Date of notification | <p>This date is provided to NSW Health by the laboratory. Laboratories prioritise notification of positive results to allow prompt public health action.</p> <p>Positive cases: The date of notification is collected by NSW Health on the day of notification. Cases are informed of their diagnosis by their doctor or public health staff as soon as the result is available. The date of notification to NSW Health is usually the same day as the date the case finds out about the result.</p> <p>Negative cases: Some laboratories notify NSW Health of negative results in batches at regular intervals. For these laboratories the date of notification to NSW Health does not reflect the date the negative result was available at the laboratory. NSW Health does not collect information on the date the person was informed of the result.</p> |