

Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

Week 52 2021

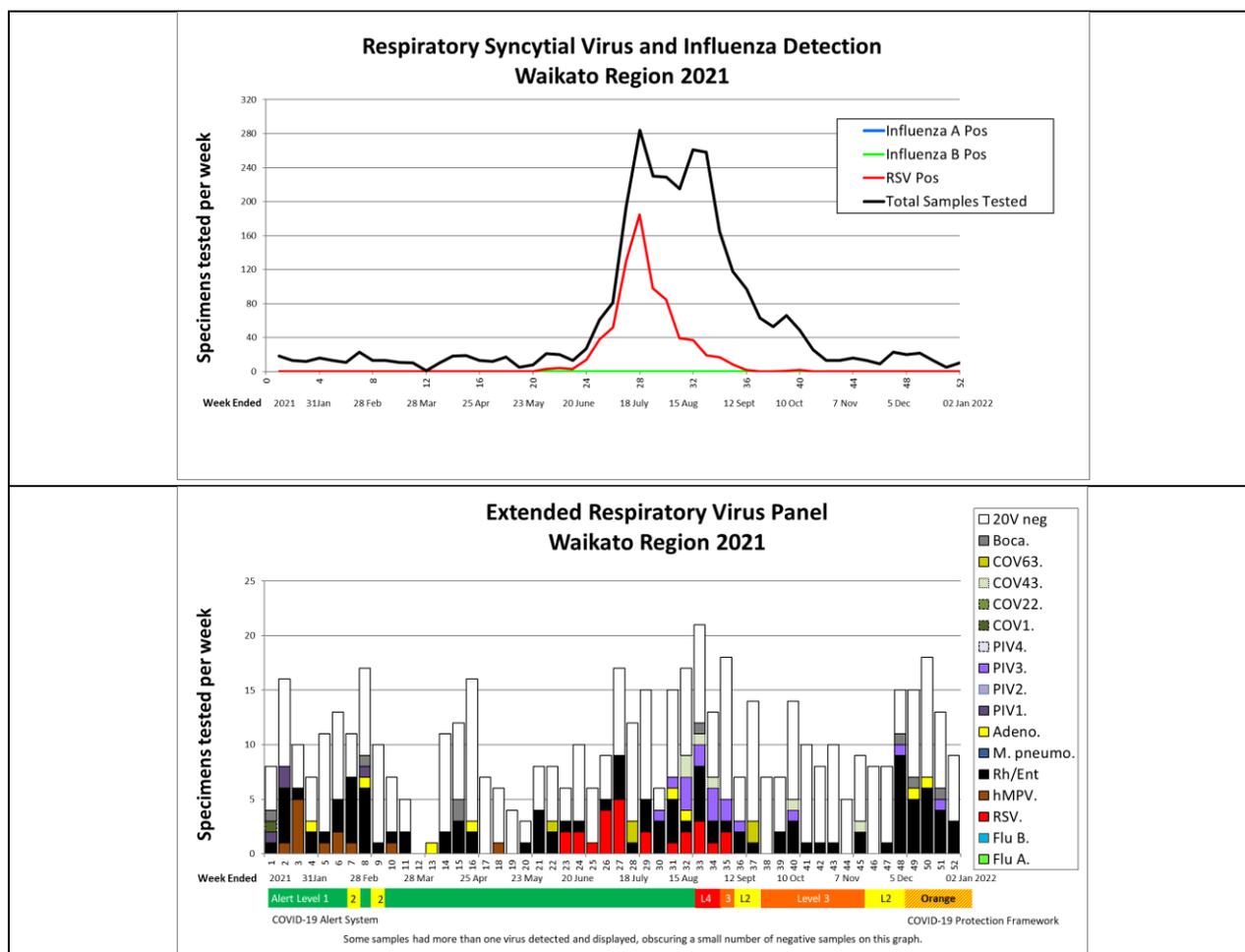
Year 4 Jan 2021 to 2 Jan 2022

This report covers respiratory viruses other than SARS-CoV-2 for the Epidemiological Year of 2021, weeks 1 to 52. Tests for Influenza A, B and RSV: 2943. Extended respiratory panel PCR tests: 500. SARS-CoV-2 tests: 297961

No cases of Influenza virus A or B were detected in the Waikato in 2021.

RSV had been absent from New Zealand during 2020. In 2021, we had a double sized epidemic, with our first Waikato case being detected on 25 May. Quarantine free travel from Australia had commenced on 19 April, was gradually restricted state by state and closed on 24 July.

Human Metapneumovirus and Rhinoviruses circulated in January and February. Although our current assay doesn't distinguish between Rhino- and Entero-viruses, which are closely related, in previous years 90% of these have been Rhinovirus. Numbers of respiratory viruses detected were low over the Autumn, then Rhinoviruses and RSV reappeared in May, with RSV peaking in July as it normally does, and Parainfluenzavirus 4 was common in August. Occasional cases of Coronavirus OC43 were also seen. COVID targeted restrictions in the Waikato in September, October and November coincided with lower rates of detection of all respiratory viruses. The COVID-19 Protection Framework was introduced from 2 December and there was an abrupt reappearance of Rhinoviruses from the start of that month.



Waikato laboratory web site and virus report archive: <https://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/news/>
 Global Influenza surveillance: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>