

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 53, ENDING 02 JANUARY 2021

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SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 2 January 2021

- There were 52 locally acquired cases reported in NSW this week and two new clusters in Western Sydney and Sydney Local Health District.
- Of the 52 locally-acquired cases:
 - 23 were linked to the Avalon cluster
 - 13 were linked to the Berala cluster
 - 8 were linked to the Inner West cluster
 - 2 were linked to a previously reported case in a Patient Transport worker
 - 2 were linked to a family cluster in Wollongong.
 - 4 cases with no links to a known case or cluster.
- Twenty-seven percent of locally-acquired cases reporting symptoms were in isolation for at least 48 hours before onset of their symptoms and prior to being infectious.
- The majority of locally-acquired cases are residents of Northern Sydney LHD (15, 29%) followed by Western Sydney (11, 21%).
- Testing numbers decreased this week (down 37%) after unprecedented testing rates in the last fortnight in Northern Sydney residents in response to the Avalon cluster.
- The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program reported 10 detections of SARS-CoV-2 from eight locations. These samples were taken from the Liverpool, Glenfield, Wollongong, Warriewood, Hornsby Heights, Bondi, North Head and Malabar treatment plants. Detections from these catchment areas are associated with reported cases from known locally-acquired cases and returned travellers in hotel quarantine.
- All people are reminded of the need to isolate and seek testing as soon as any symptoms develop, to limit spread of COVID-19 to other people.

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Indicators of effective prevention measure for COVID-19 in NSW per day for the week ending 2 January 2021

	Week of reporting	
	Week ending 2-Jan	Week ending 26-Dec
Cases with symptoms at diagnosis	71% (37/52)	84% (53/63)
Cases in isolation at least 48 hours before symptoms	27% (10/37)	34% (18/53)
Asymptomatic cases in isolation at least 48 hours before test	60% (9/15)	30% (3/10)
Number of tests conducted	173,607	273,366
Proportion notified to NSW Health by the laboratory within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day of swab collection 2 days of swab collection 3 days of swab collection 	88% (46/52) 100% (52/52) 100% (52/52)	84% (53/63) 100% (63/63) 100% (63/63)
Notified more than 3 days after swab collection	0% (0/52)	0% (0/63)
locally-acquired cases interviewed by public health staff within 1 day of notification to NSW Health	100% (52/52)	98% (62/63)
close contacts (identified by the case) contacted by public health within 48 hours of case notification	100%	100%

Interpretation: In the week ending 2 January 2021, 15 cases (29%) did not report symptoms at the time of diagnosis and had sought testing because they were either close contacts or had been in a venue that had been visited by confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of the 37 cases who were symptomatic, 10 (27%) were in isolation at least 48 hours before symptoms and seven cases (22%) entered isolation more than three days after symptom onset. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 it is essential that people seek testing immediately if symptoms develop, however mild.

SECTION 1: HOW IS THE OUTBREAK TRACKING IN NSW?

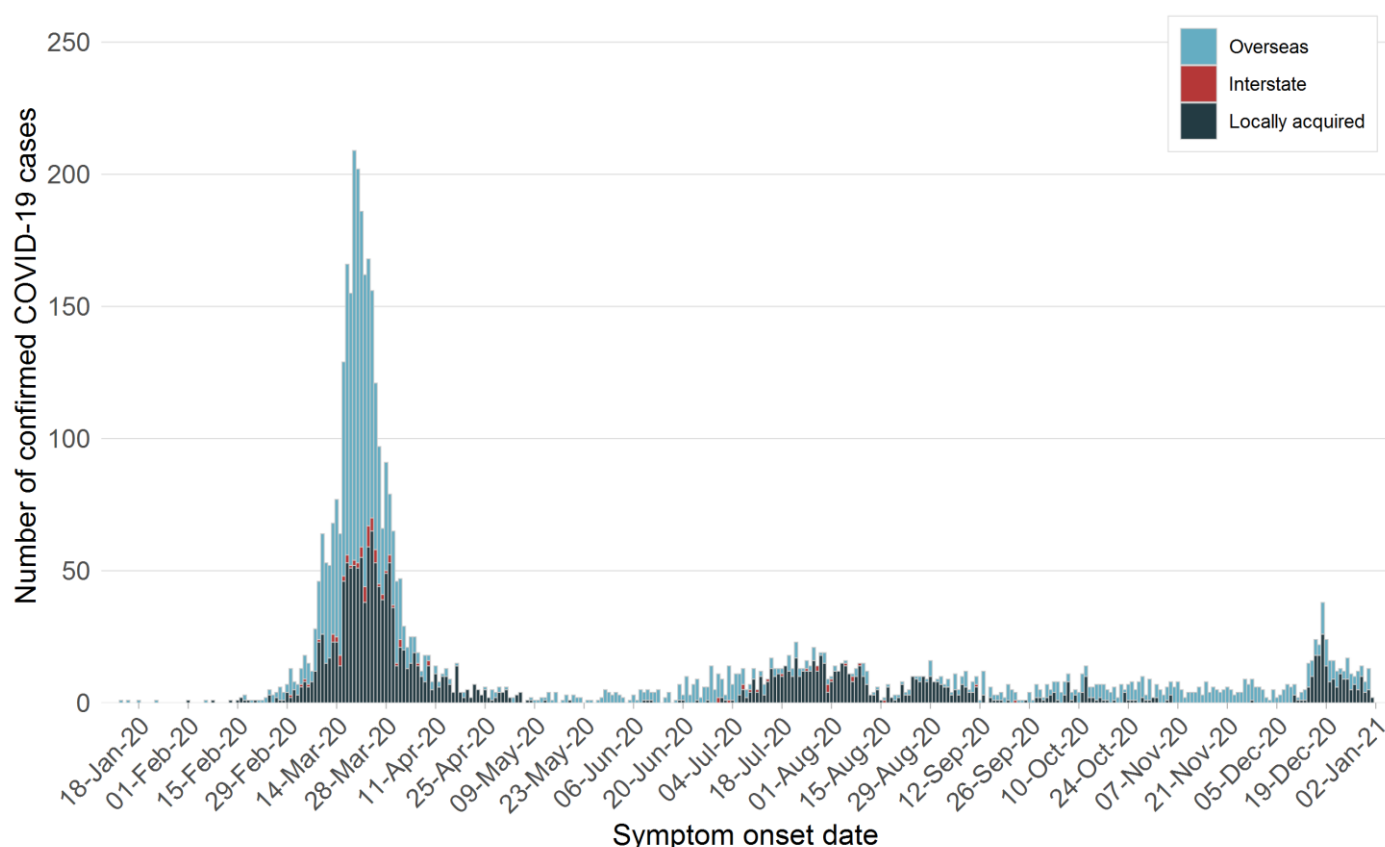
Table 1. COVID-19 cases and tests reported in NSW, up to 2 January 2021

	Week ending 2 Jan	Week ending 26 Dec	% change	Pandemic total
Number of cases	96	112	↓14%	4,770
Overseas acquired	44	49	↓10%	2,622
Interstate acquired	0	0	-	90
Locally acquired	52	63	↓17%	2,058
No links to other cases or clusters	4	6	↓33%	444
Number of deaths	0	1	↓100%	56
Number of tests	173,607	273,740	↓37%	4,205,083

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 02 January



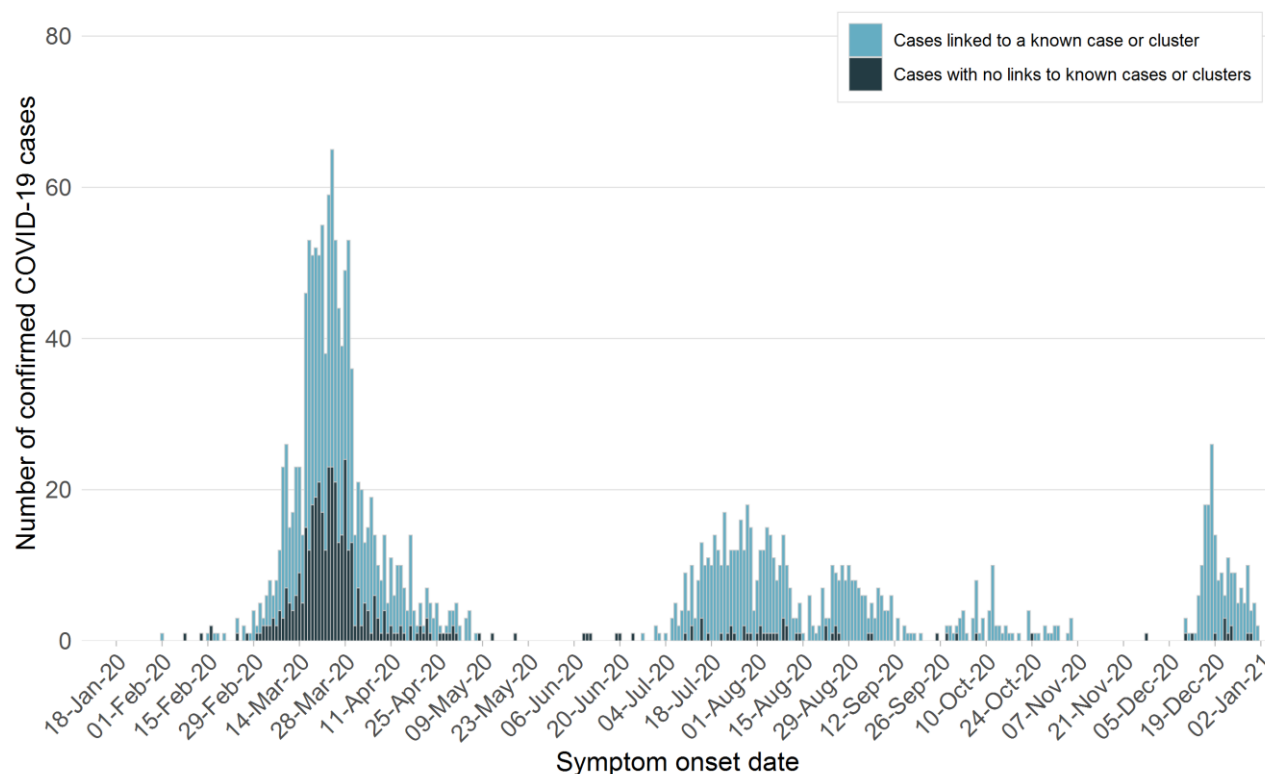
The date of the first positive test is used for cases who did not report symptoms.

Interpretation: More than half (56%) of COVID-19 infections diagnosed in the last two weeks in NSW have been locally- acquired.

How much local transmission is occurring in NSW?

Public health efforts are focused on contact tracing to limit further spread in the community and identifying the source of infection for every case. To understand the extent of community transmission, locally-acquired cases who have had contact with a case or who are part of a known cluster are considered separately to those with an unidentified source of infection. Cases with no links to other cases or clusters suggest that there are people infected with COVID-19 in the community who have not been diagnosed.

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by likely infection source and illness onset, NSW, week ending 02 January



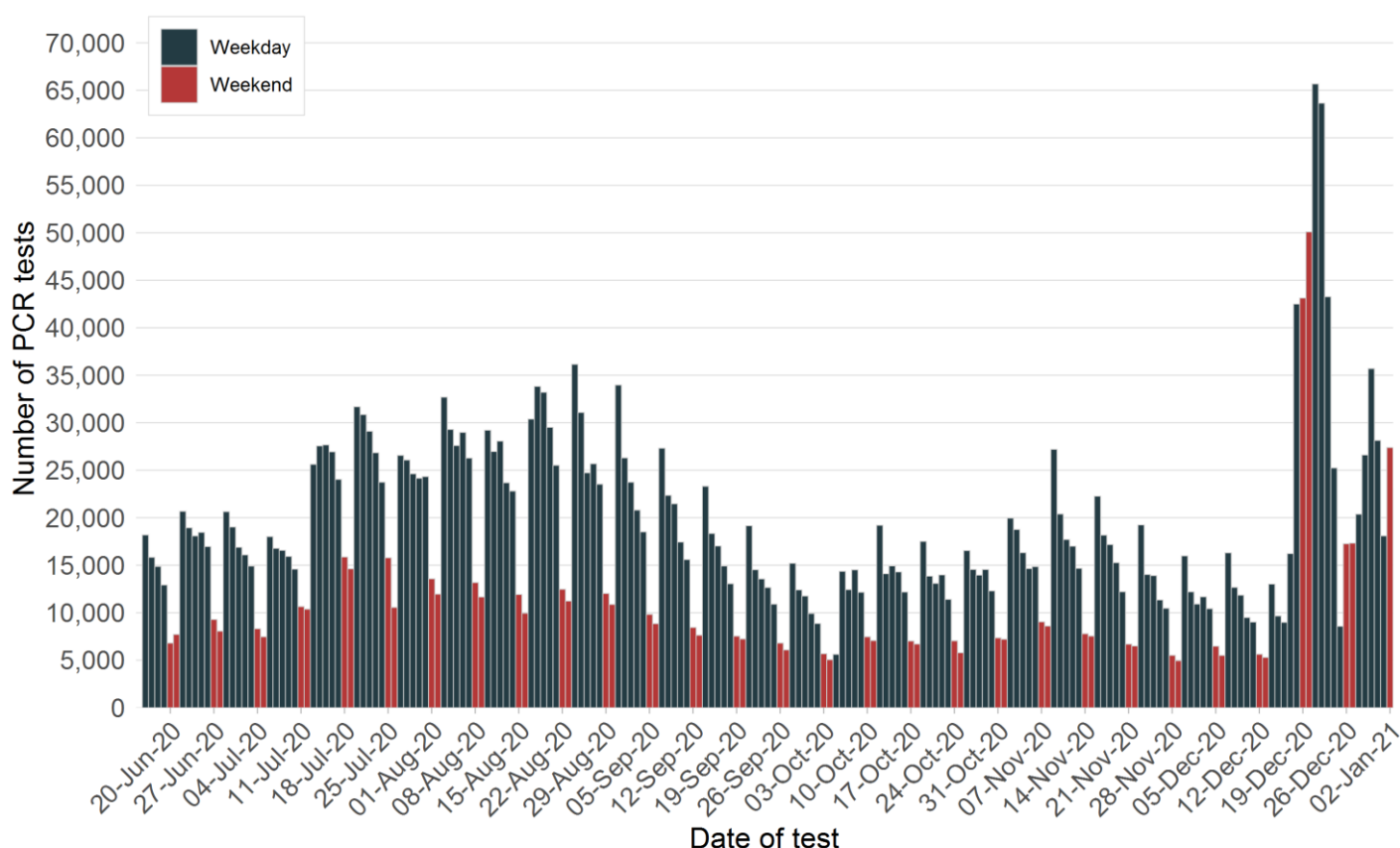
Interpretation: The majority of locally acquired cases with an onset of symptoms in the last two weeks were linked to a previously reported case or part of a known cluster.

SECTION 2: 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 open seven days a week, less testing occurs through GPs and private collection centres on weekends and public holidays. This explains the lower number of tests on weekends.

Figure 3. Number of PCR tests per day, NSW, 02 January



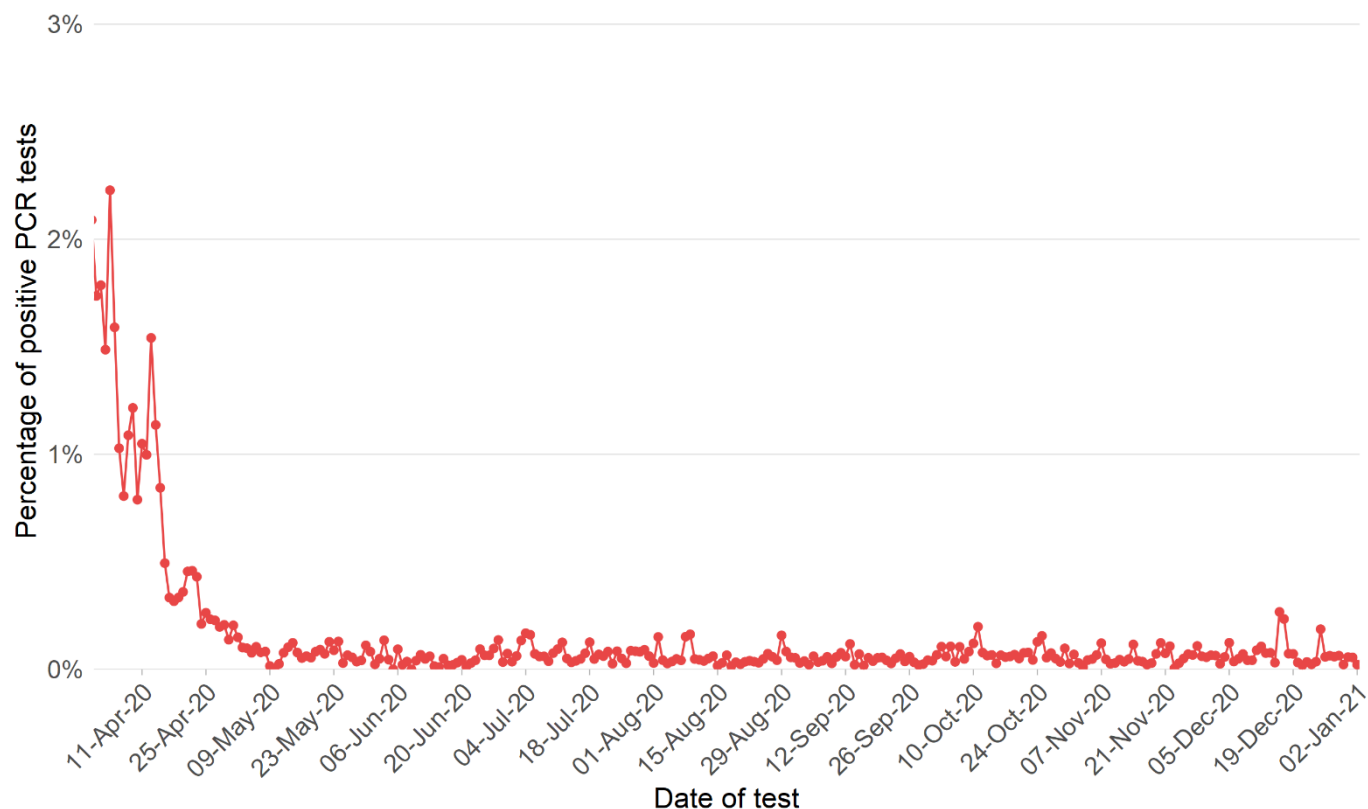
Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes repeat positive tests for an individual.

Interpretation: Testing rates remain at high levels in NSW but have decreased significantly following a surge of testing in the last fortnight in response to a cluster in the Northern Beaches. An average of 3.0 tests were conducted per 1,000 people in NSW each day in the week ending 2 January. This compares to a daily average of 4.8 per 1,000 people in the previous week and approximately 1.4 tests per 1,000 people in October.

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.

What proportion of tests are positive?

Figure 4. Number of PCR tests per day, NSW, 02 January

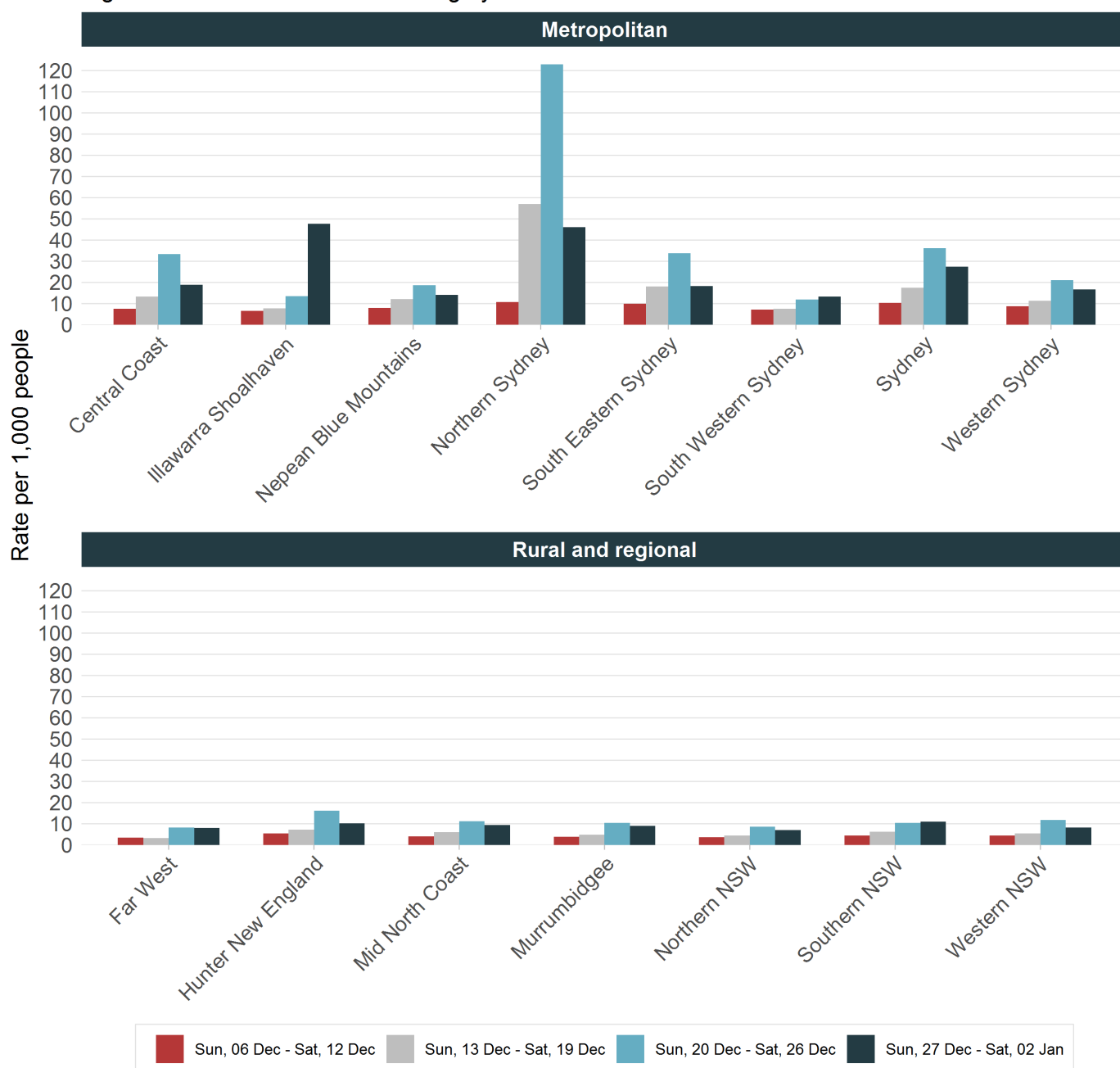


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes repeat positive tests for an individual.

Interpretation: The proportion of tests positive for COVID-19 in NSW declined in mid-March to early May, and then stabilised at very low levels. Despite high rates of testing, the overall proportion of tests found to be positive indicate low levels of transmission in the community.

Testing by Local Health District

Figure 5. Rates of COVID-19 testing by LHD of residence and week

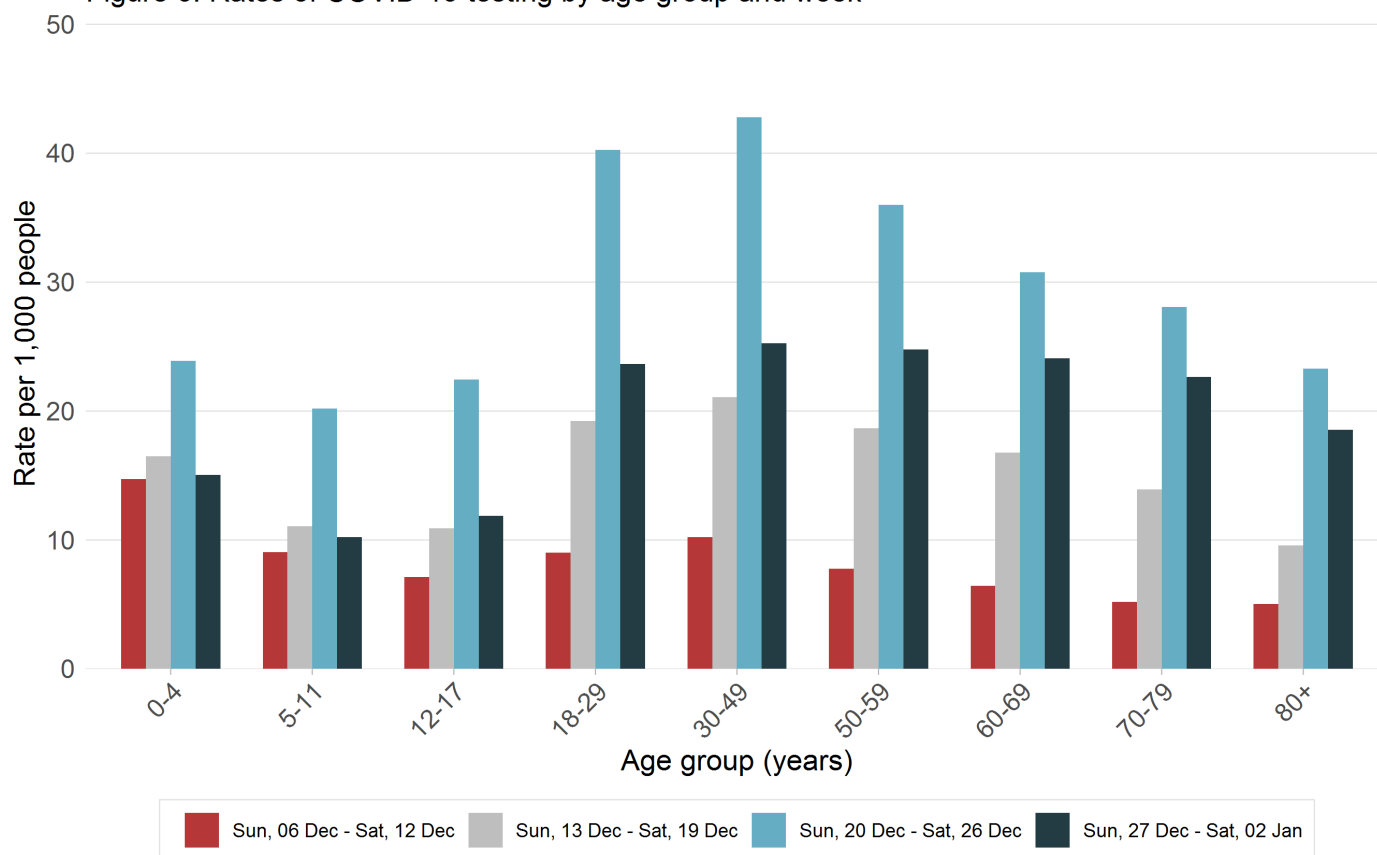


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with missing postcode of residence.

Interpretation: State-wide testing rates in the week ending 2 January were lower across most LHDs compared to the previous week (21 per 1,000 vs 34 per 1,000). There was a surge in testing in Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD following reports of three cases in the area during the reporting week. As part of a source investigation, multiple public health alerts were issued advising people that attended affected venues across Wollongong to monitor for symptoms and seek testing should symptoms develop.

Testing by age group

Figure 6. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group and week

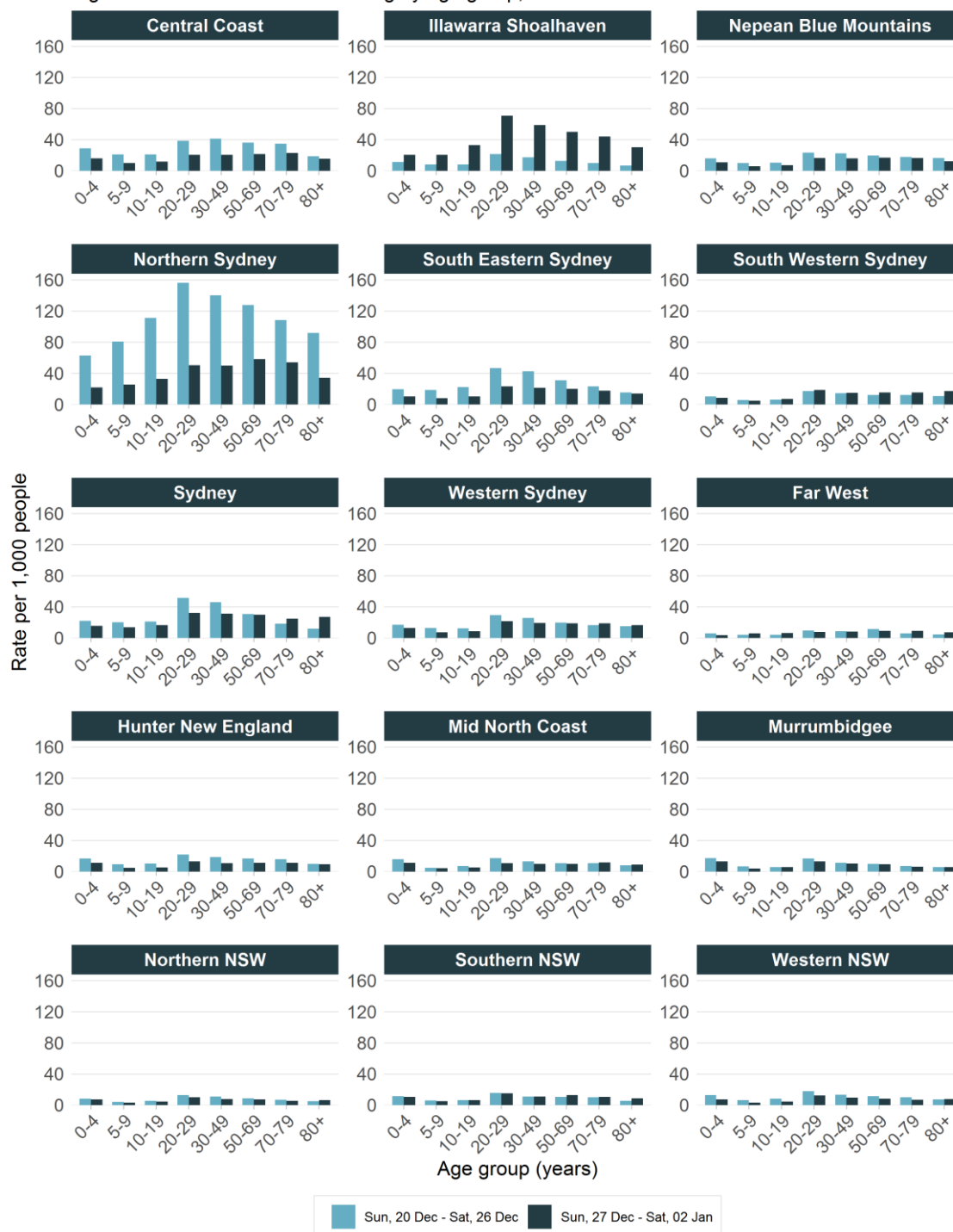


Includes SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests only and excludes notifications with age missing.

Interpretation: In the week ending 2 January, testing rates decreased across all ages groups compared to the previous week but remains elevated in adults compared with rates in early December.

Testing by LHD and age group

Figure 7. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group, LHD of residence and week



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

Interpretation: In the week ending 2 January, there was a significant increase in testing in Illawarra Shoalhaven across all age groups. Testing rates have decreased significantly across most age groups in Northern Sydney, Central Coast and South Eastern Sydney LHDs after a surge in testing last week. Testing rates in all other LHDs have decreased or remained steady.

SECTION 3: 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 in NSW, by notification week and source of infection, 6 December to 2 January 2021

Locally-acquired cases	Week ending				Total
	02 Jan	26 Dec	19 Dec	12 Dec	
Cases who are linked to a known case or cluster	48	57	72	0	177
Cases with no links to other cases or clusters	4	6	1	0	11
Total	52	63	73	0	188

Interpretation: There were 48 cases that were linked to a known case or cluster and four cases with no links to a case or cluster in the week ending 2 January.

Table 3. Locally-acquired COVID-19 cases by LHD of residence and week reported, 6 December to 2 January 2021

Local Health District	Week ending				Total	Days since last case reported
	02 Jan	26 Dec	19 Dec	12 Dec		
Central Coast	2	0	2	0	4	4
Illawarra Shoalhaven	3	0	0	0	3	0
Nepean Blue Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	109
Northern Sydney	15	38	67	0	120	0
South Eastern Sydney	4	10	3	0	17	0
South Western Sydney	9	3	0	0	12	1
Sydney	8	4	1	0	13	1
Western Sydney	11	8	0	0	19	0
Far West	0	0	0	0	0	275
Hunter New England	0	0	0	0	0	149
Mid North Coast	0	0	0	0	0	256
Murrumbidgee	0	0	0	0	0	117
Northern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	161
Southern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	75
Western NSW	0	0	0	0	0	156
Total	52	63	73	0	188	0

Interpretation: There were 52 locally-acquired cases reported in the week ending 2 January. The majority of cases were residents of Northern Sydney LHD (15, 29%) followed by Western Sydney (11, 21%).

Table 4. Locally acquired COVID-19 cases with no identified links to known cases or cluster by LHD of residence and week reported, 6 December to 2 January 2021

Local Health District	Week ending				Total
	02 Jan	26 Dec	19 Dec	12 Dec	
Central Coast	0	0	0	0	0
Illawarra Shoalhaven	1	0	0	0	1
Nepean Blue Mountains	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Sydney	0	4	0	0	4
South Eastern Sydney	0	2	1	0	3
South Western Sydney	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney	2	0	0	0	2
Western Sydney	1	0	0	0	1
Far West	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter New England	0	0	0	0	0
Mid North Coast	0	0	0	0	0
Murrumbidgee	0	0	0	0	0
Northern NSW	0	0	0	0	0
Southern NSW	0	0	0	0	0
Western NSW	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	6	1	0	11

Interpretation: There were four locally-acquired COVID-19 cases reported this week with no links to a known case or cluster. Of these, one case was a resident of Sydney LHD and the source of a cluster in the Inner West and one case was a resident of Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD and is being investigated for potential links with the Inner West cluster. The remaining two cases in Sydney and Western Sydney LHD have no associated links to a case or cluster and are under ongoing investigation.

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.

In the week ending 2 January there were 48 cases linked to a case or cluster. Of these, 23 cases were associated with the Avalon cluster, 13 cases with the Berala cluster and 8 cases with the Inner West cluster. Two further cases were linked to a Patient Transport worker and two cases were reported in household contacts of a previously reported case residing in Wollongong and not part of a cluster. In order to describe settings of transmission in the community, we report the groups of cases who were infected at each location and subsequent cases in contacts of households or other residential settings.

Cases in community settings

Avalon cluster

On 16 December Northern Sydney Public Health Unit was notified of two cases of COVID-19 in Avalon residents. While both cases were known to each other, the source of their infection was unknown. Further investigation following another notification in a Northern Sydney resident revealed that the cases had likely been exposed at the Avalon RSL. Several more cases were reported over subsequent days all associated with a growing cluster of infections related to the Avalon area. In addition, there were also seven exposure locations outside the Northern Beaches area where transmission occurred. These locations have been seeded by cases associated with this cluster and include two pubs, two hairdressing salons, an office in the CBD and a café and dinner party in Paddington. Whole genome sequencing of the virus suggests that this is an overseas strain most similar to strains circulating in the United States.

Cases associated with this cluster attended a large number of public venues across Sydney including clubs, restaurants, gyms, hair salons and schools. To limit the spread of COVID-19, NSW Health have issued multiple public health alerts to people who may have been exposed. The list of venues attended by cases is published on the [NSW Government website](#).

In the week ending 2 January there were 23 cases and an additional exposure location associated with the Avalon cluster. Of these, 15 out of 23 were in isolation more than 48 hours prior to symptom onset or test date. The source of the outbreak remains under investigation. In total, there are 148 cases associated with this cluster. In the last fortnight, there have been five cases that reside in the Northern Sydney area that are geographically associated with this cluster but have no direct epidemiological link. These cases are not included in the numbers below.

Table 5. Cases linked to Avalon cluster by setting of exposure, reported to week ending 2 January, NSW

Setting of exposure	Exposure site	Location	Primary cases	Subsequent cases		Total
				Non-household setting	Household setting	
Restaurant/Bar/Club	RSL	Avalon	26	0	5	31
	Bowling Club	Avalon	28	1	7	36
	RSL / Bowling Club	Avalon	8	1	2	11
	Pub	Erskineville	4	2	4	10
	Pub	Circular Quay	3	0	2	5
	Restaurant	Manly	1	0	1	2
	Pub	Newport	1	0	0	1
Gym	Gym 1	Mona Vale	5	0	0	5
	Gym 2	Avalon	2	0	3	5
School	Primary School	Narrabeen	8	1	2	11
Office Building	Workplace	CBD	5	0	1	6
Food Service	Take-away shop	Avalon	3	0	1	4
	Café	Paddington	2	0	0	2
Personal Service	Hair Salon	Turramurra	7	0	0	7
	Hair Salon	Paddington	2	0	1	3
Private event	Dinner party	Paddington	2	0	1	3
Retail Centre	Shopping Centre	Mona Vale	2	2	2	6
Total			109	7	32	148

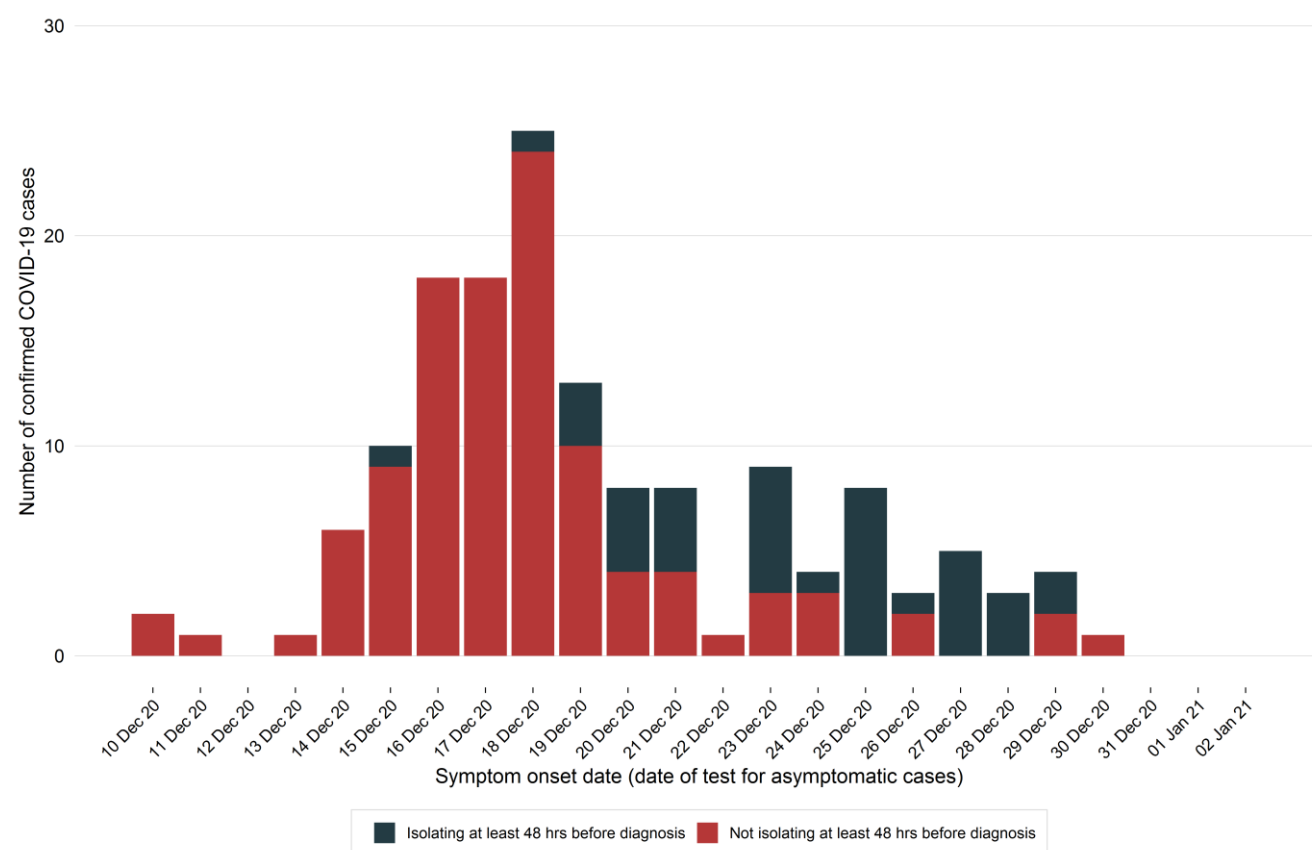
Table 6. Rates of PCR tests within the Northern Beaches LGA and rest of Greater Sydney region per 1,000 people by week of test request

Region	07-Dec-20	14-Dec-20	21-Dec-20	28-Dec-20	04-Jan-21	Total
Northern Beaches LGA - Northern	9.4	8.5	445.8	274.9	98.8	167.5
Northern Beaches LGA - Southern	10.7	9.7	204.1	148.8	47.7	84.2
Rest of Greater Sydney LHDs	9.3	8.5	23.5	21.1	19	16.3

Note: Rate of tests in the most recent week could be lower than the actual due to delays in reporting negative results and/or being in the middle of the week.

Interpretation: The testing rate increased significantly across Northern Beaches LGAs in the week ending 21 December compared to previous weeks in response to the Avalon cluster identified on 16 December. Northern Beaches testing rates have been higher than the rest of Greater Sydney for three consecutive weeks and is largely driven by targeted public health messaging to the Northern Beaches community advising them to seek testing and isolate immediately following the outbreak.

Figure 8. Number of confirmed cases linked to the Avalon cluster (n=148) by isolation status and illness onset date, week ending 2 January 2021



Interpretation: There was an increase in the proportion of people isolating at least 48 hours before symptom onset in the week ending 2 January compared to previous weeks. The identification of cases and isolation of their close contacts before they develop symptoms is essential to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Patient transport cases

On 21 December Western Sydney Public Health Unit was notified of two cases in patient transport workers. Following investigation, the first case was found to be infected by returned travellers being transported from Sydney airport to a quarantine hotel. The second case was a close contact who had worked multiple shifts with the first case. In the week ending 2 January, a further two close contacts of these workers were subsequently notified as cases.

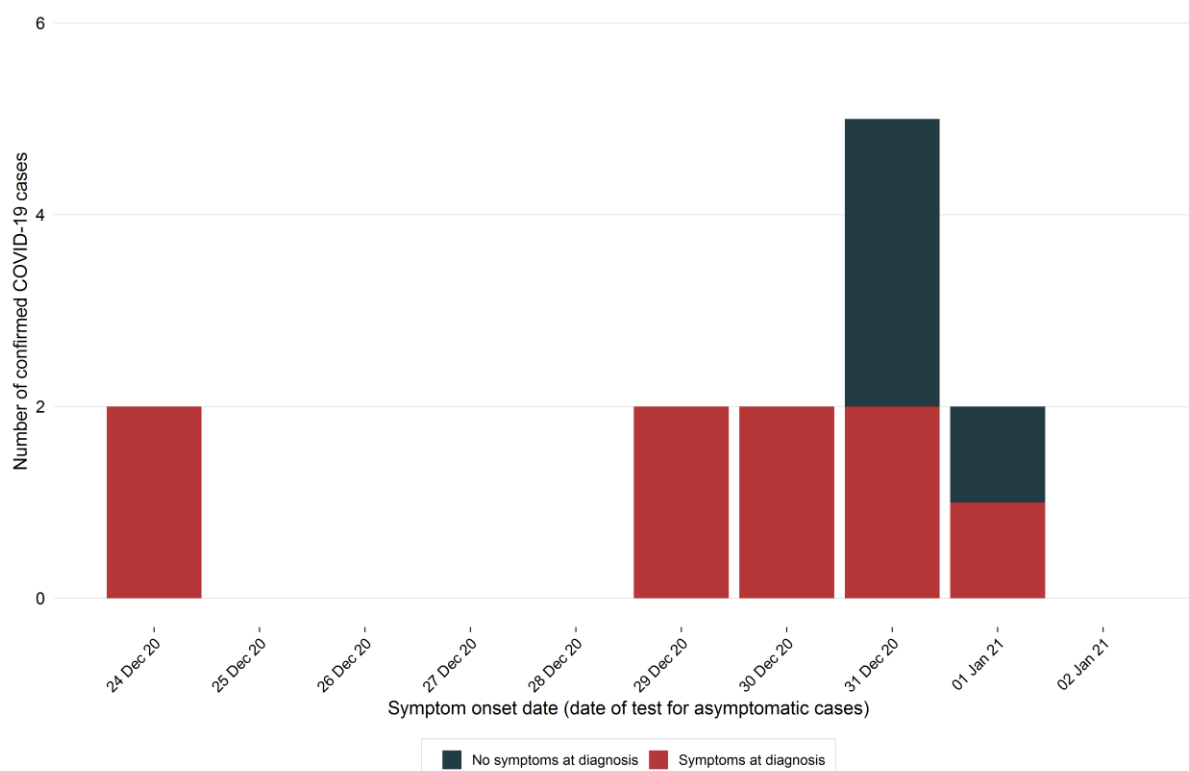
Berala cluster

On 31 December a case was reported in a Western Sydney resident whose source of infection was initially unknown. Subsequent testing of the case's household and contacts identified several more cases associated with a bottle shop in Berala. Further investigation supported by whole genome sequencing has revealed that this cluster is linked to one of the patient transport workers. Excluding the source, there were 13 cases linked to this cluster in the week ending 2 January.

Table 7. Cases linked to Berala cluster by setting of exposure, reported to week ending 2 January, NSW

Setting of exposure	Exposure site	Location	Primary cases	Secondary cases		Total
				Non-household setting	Household setting	
Retail	Bottle shop	Berala	5	0	8	13

Figure 9. Number of confirmed cases linked to the Berala cluster (n=13) by symptom onset date and symptoms, week ending 2 January 2021



Interpretation: There have been fewer symptomatic cases towards the later stages of the Berala cluster outbreak compared with the beginning. This has largely been driven by timely contact tracing - advising close contacts to get tested immediately, and targeted public health messaging advising people who attended the bottle shop in Berala to get tested and self-isolate immediately until a negative result is received.

Inner West cluster

On 28 December Sydney Public Health Unit was notified of one case of COVID-19 in a resident of the Inner West. The source of infection was unknown. Investigation into close contacts and exposures during the cases' incubation period revealed a number of family gatherings in the preceding days before symptom onset. Testing of family contacts was undertaken and several more cases were identified. Excluding the initial case, whose source is unknown at this point, there are eight cases linked to this cluster. Whole genome sequencing results suggest that this cluster is linked to the Avalon cluster, but epidemiological links are still under investigation.

An additional three cases in a family that reside in Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District are being investigated as potentially linked to this cluster. Investigations have revealed that a member of this family cluster and of the Inner West cluster dined at the same Wollongong restaurant on 19 November during their incubation period. This suggests a common yet unknown source. Whole genome sequencing of samples taken from the family indicate a match to the Inner West and Avalon cluster.

SECTION 5: COVID-19 IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

COVID-19 in 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 cases of COVID-19 infections in healthcare to identify ongoing risks in healthcare settings.

There have been three cases of COVID-19 reported in healthcare workers (HCW) in the week ending the 2 January. The reported cases were infected in the community outside of healthcare settings. One case reported working two days whilst unknowingly infectious, however tests of contacts has identified no transmission at that workplace.

In total, there have been 45 cases of COVID-19 in health care workers since 1 August 2020. Of these, 25 HCWs were potentially infected in healthcare settings. A further eight cases were social or household contacts of a known case, six were exposed in community settings, and for four cases the source of infection is unknown.

Aboriginal people

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. There were no locally-acquired cases in an Aboriginal person reported in the week ending 2 January. In total, 46 Aboriginal people have been diagnosed with COVID-19, representing 1% of all cases in NSW.

Pregnant women

There were no locally-acquired cases in pregnant women in the week ending 2 January. In total, 38 pregnant women have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in NSW. As those who test negative are not interviewed, testing rates among pregnant women are not available.

SECTION 6: DEATHS

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

In total, 1.2% 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.

Table 8. Deaths as a result of COVID-19, by age group, NSW, 2021

Age group	Number of deaths	Number of cases	Case fatality rate
0-4 years	0	102	0%
5-11 years	0	106	0%
12-17 years	0	143	0%
18-29 years	0	1082	0%
30-49 years	0	1508	0%
50-59 years	1	660	0.2%
60-69 years	4	626	0.6%
70-79 years	15	381	3.9%
80+ years	36	162	22.2%
Total	56	4770	1.2%

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.

SECTION 7: 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.

In the week ending 2 January, 73 sewage samples were tested for fragments of SARS-CoV-2. Of these, there were ten detections from eight locations – these samples were taken from the Liverpool, Glenfield, Wollongong, Warriewood, Hornsby Heights, Bondi, North Head and Malabar treatment plants. The table below shows results for previous weeks from various sites across NSW.

Table 9. Locations with positive SARS-CoV-2 detections in sewage samples since September for the week ending 2 January 2021

Pop.	Location	Week ending									
		31-Oct	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec	02-Jan
60,514	Blue Mountains (Winnalee)	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
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										
233,176	Cronulla										
1,857,740	Malabar 1										
	Malabar 2										
181,005	Liverpool					n					
98,743	West Camden										
6,882	Wallacia										
14,600	Picton										
161,200	Glenfield										
1,341,986	North Head										
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										
196,488	Wollongong										

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW
Epidemiological week 53, ending 2 January 2021

www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Regional sites		Week ending									
		31-Oct	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec	02-Jan
Pop.	Location	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
14,700	Bowral										
14,000	Mittagong										
9,000	Moss Vale										
1,000	Berrima										
2,000	Bundanoon										
900	Robertson										
16,068	Bombo										
32,000	Ulladulla										
18,000	Bomaderry										
37,500	Nowra										
16,000	St Georges Basin										
11,000	Culburra Beach										
139,500	Gosford-Kincumber										
29,300	Wyong-Toukley										
38,900	Bateau Bay										
41,300	Woy Woy										
3,000	Jindabyne										
8,000	Cooma										
500	Gunning										
51,750	Albury composite	c	c			c	c				
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		
2,050	Bourke										
	Orange										
36,603	Bathurst										
19,000	Broken Hill										
500	Dareton										
11,600	Parkes										
37,000	Dubbo										
24,000	Armidale										
45,000	Tamworth										
10,000	Moree										
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										
	Hunter - Dora Creek										
	Hunter - Toronto										
	Hunter - Edgeworth										
2,500	Hunter - Karuah										
17,000	East Lismore										
15,500	South Lismore										
18,958 (both plants total)	Byron Bay - Ocean Shores										
	Byron Bay										
31,104	Ballina										
72,000 (Tweed District)	Tweed - Murwillumbah										
	Tweed - Banora Point										
	Tweed - Kingscliff										
	Tweed - Hastings Point										
12,250	North Grafton										
6,300	South Grafton										
6,500	Yamba										
8,730	Nambucca Heads										
54,370	Port Macquarie										
7,010	Bonny Hills										
8,540	Dunbogan										
	South West Rocks										
	Crescent Head										
	Bellingen										
50,000	Coffs Harbour										

	not sampled or not analysed
	SARS-CoV-2 not detected
	SARS-CoV-2 detected

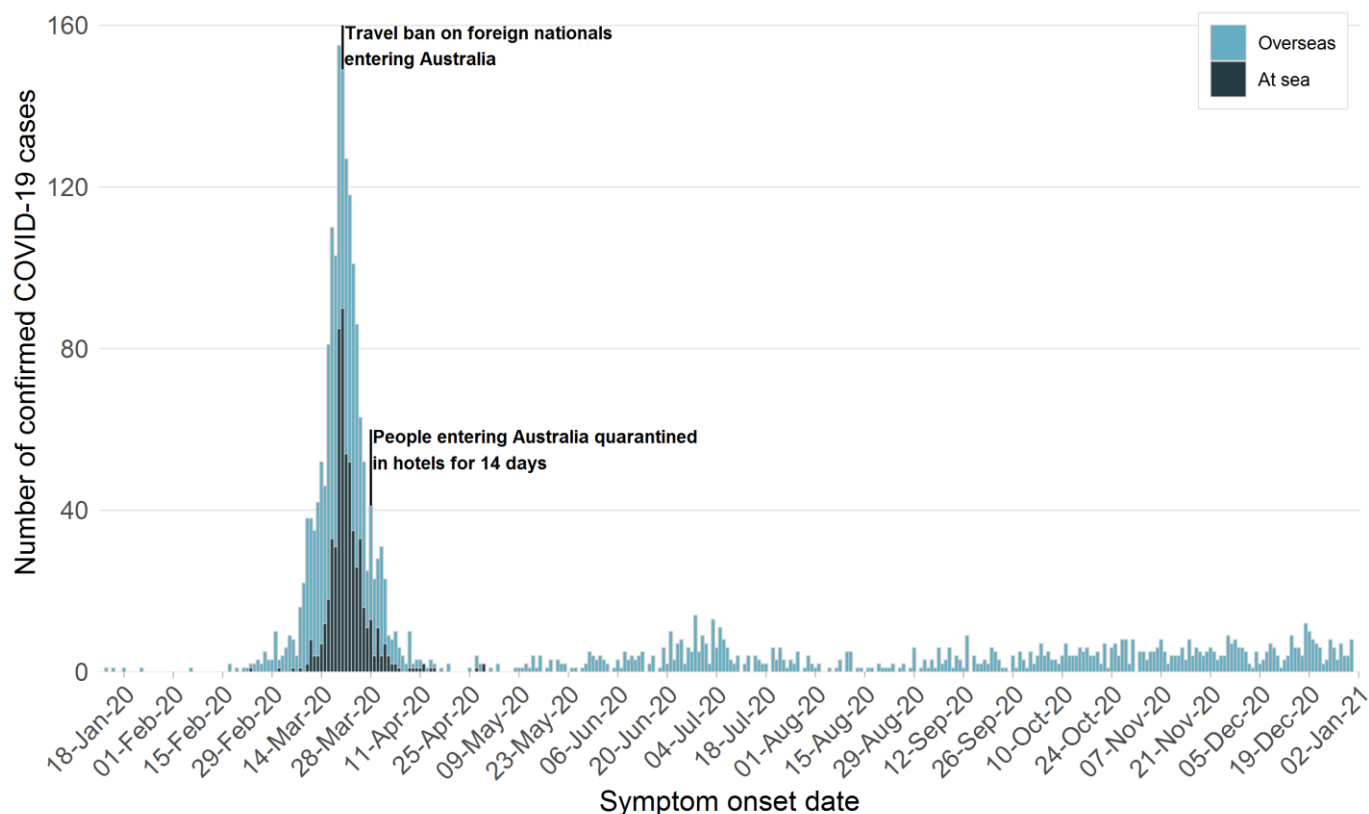
Interpretation: In the last week, there were ten detections of SARS-CoV-2 from eight locations. The Malabar, Bondi and North Head plants serve around 3.5 million people, including quarantine hotels. The Liverpool, Glenfield, Wollongong, Warriewood and Hornsby Heights detections were associated with known locally-acquired cases.

SECTION 8: 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 addition, since 29 March returned travellers have been quarantined in hotels for a 14-day period and travellers who develop symptoms are isolated until no longer infectious.

The graph below shows the number of cases in returned travellers by the date of symptom onset. Cases acquired at sea refers to those cruise ship passengers who acquired their infection prior to disembarking in NSW.

Figure 10. Number of PCR tests per day, NSW, 02 January



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

Interpretation: The number of new cases in returned travellers has decreased markedly since March in line with travel restrictions. There were 44 overseas acquired cases reported in the week ending 2 January, 10% less than the previous week.

Country of acquisition of COVID-19 for overseas travellers

In the last four weeks, there have been 163 COVID-positive travellers who have arrived in NSW. The table below lists the top 10 countries of acquisition for these travellers.

Table 10. Top 10 countries of acquisition for overseas travellers that have tested positive in the last four weeks, 6 December to 2 January 2021

Country of acquisition of COVID-19	Number (%) of cases in the last four weeks
USA	62 (38%)
United Kingdom	17 (10%)
India	12 (7%)
Lebanon	9 (6%)
Pakistan	7 (4%)
United Arab Emirates	6 (4%)
Egypt	5 (3%)
Philippines	4 (2%)
South Africa	4 (2%)
Netherlands	3 (2%)
Other	34 (21%)
Total	163 (100%)

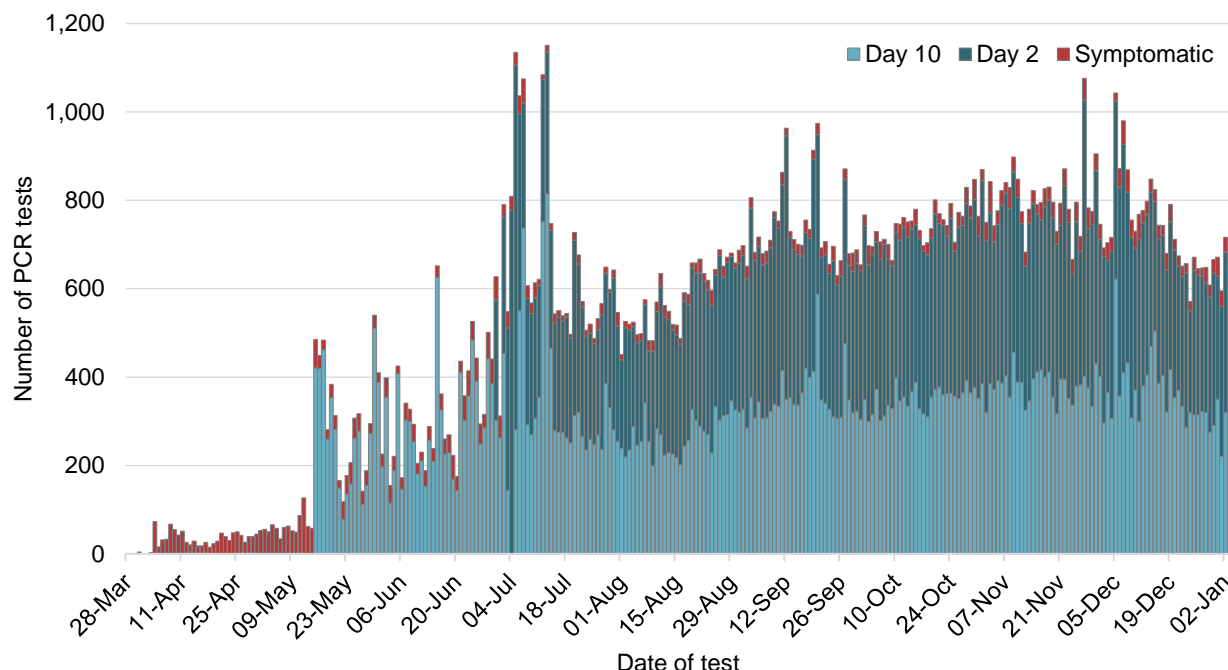
Interpretation: In the last four weeks, travellers returning from the United States accounted for the largest number of overseas acquired cases (62, 38%), followed by travellers returning from the United Kingdom (17, 10%), and India (12, 7%).

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 on both day two and day ten after arrival. Testing is also carried out on individuals that became symptomatic in addition to the two mandatory tests.

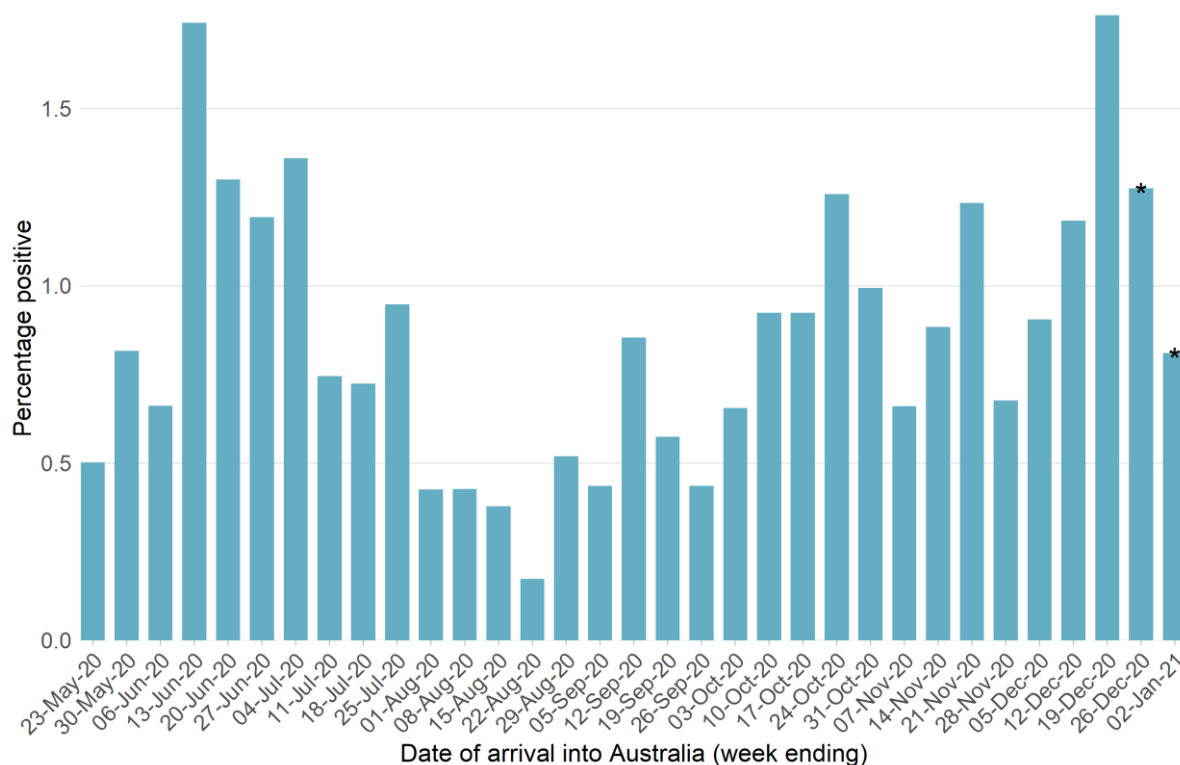
Since hotel quarantine began on 29 March, a total of 149,662 PCR tests have been conducted with 760 overseas acquired cases and 4 interstate acquired COVID-19 cases detected while in hotel quarantine. In the last four weeks, 9,558 returned travellers received a day two swab in hotel quarantine; of these 2.6% reported symptoms at the time of screening. In the same time period, 9,851 returned travellers received a day 10 swab, and 1.1% reported symptoms at the time of screening.

Figure 11. COVID-19 testing in returned travellers in hotel quarantine, reported from 21 March to 2 January, NSW, 2021



Interpretation: In the week ending 2 January, there were 4,551 tests of travellers conducted through the hotel quarantine screening programs.

Figure 12. COVID-19 percentage positive in returned travellers in hotel quarantine by week of arrival in Australia, reported from week ending 23 May to week ending 2 January, NSW, 2021



*Returned travellers in the past 14 days are still in hotel quarantine and may return a positive result

Interpretation: In the most recent weeks, slightly more than 1% of returned travellers have tested positive during their stay in hotel quarantine. This increase suggests that more returned travellers are testing positive on arrival into NSW, which is consistent with the current high numbers of COVID-19 cases being reported worldwide. Data is likely incomplete for returned travellers who have arrived within the last two weeks as they are still in hotel quarantine.

SECTION 9: OTHER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN NSW

Influenza and other respiratory virus cases and tests reported in NSW, up to 27 December 2020

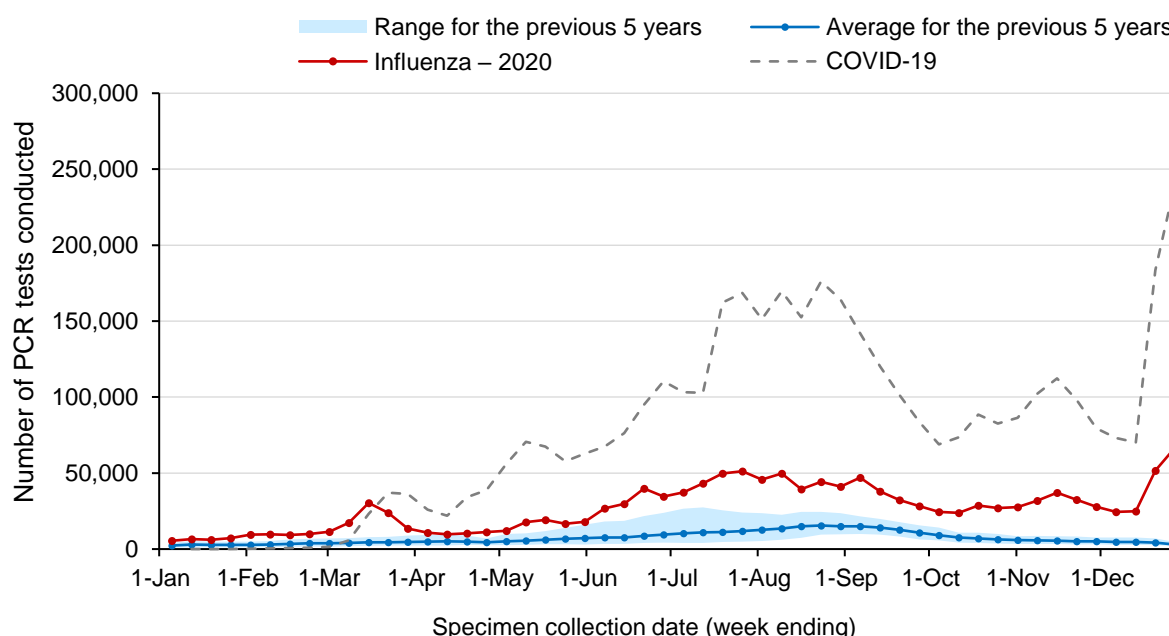
In NSW, routine surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses is conducted through sentinel laboratories. The number of all PCR tests (positive and negative) are provided to NSW Health by participating laboratories each week. Testing counts reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted;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

The most recent data available is for testing carried out to 27 December. A total of 1,393,182 influenza tests have been performed at participating laboratories to 27 December, with 66,776 tests conducted in the most recent week. 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. The blue line shows the average number of tests carried out for the same week in the last five years and the shaded area shows the range of counts reported in the previous five years. The grey line shows the number of COVID-19 tests.

Figure 13. Testing for influenza and COVID-19 by week, to 27 December 2020

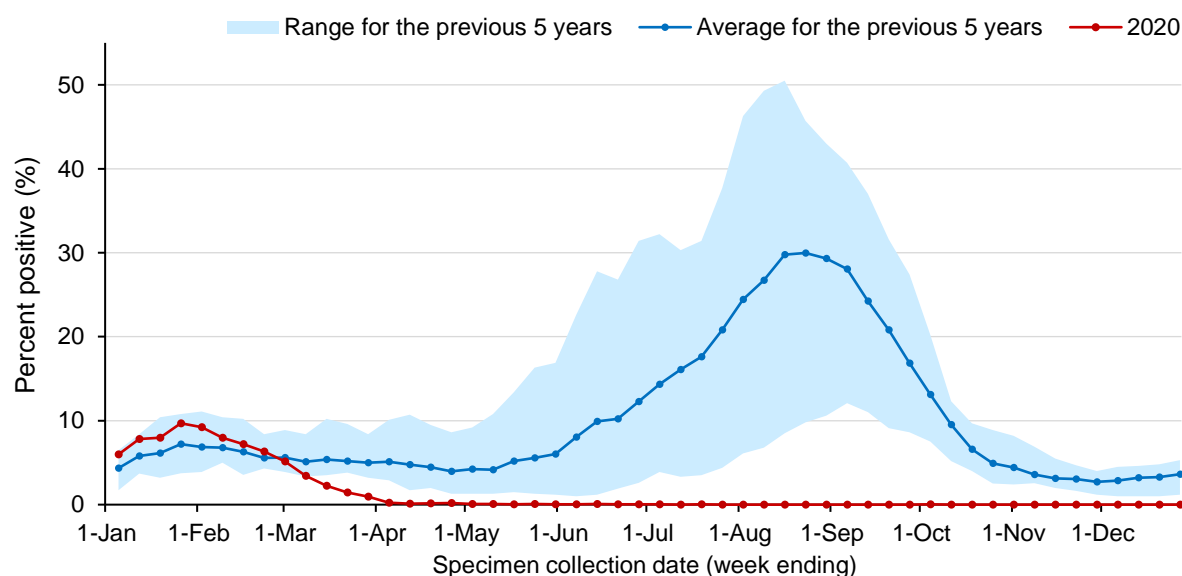


Interpretation: The number of influenza tests performed increased for the second week in a row. In every week this year, the number of tests has exceeded the previous five-year average.

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 2020, the blue line showing the average for the past five years and the shaded area showing the range recorded in the previous five years.

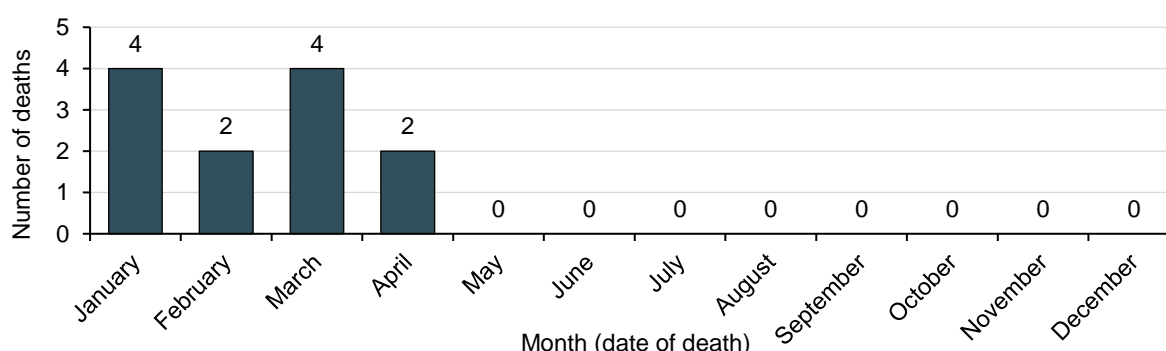
Figure 14. Proportion of tests positive for influenza, to 27 December 2020



Interpretation: In the week ending 27 December, 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, this percentage has remained far lower than the usual range for the time of year.

How many people have died as a result of influenza?

Figure 15. Laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths by month of death, to 27 December 2020



Interpretation: No influenza deaths have been reported in NSW since April 2020. The number of influenza-related deaths identified via Coroner's reports and death registrations from 1 January to 27 December 2020 is lower than the same period last year (12 deaths in 2020 compared with 334 in 2019)². Two-thirds of the deaths were in people aged 65 years and over.

How are emergency department presentations for respiratory infections tracking?

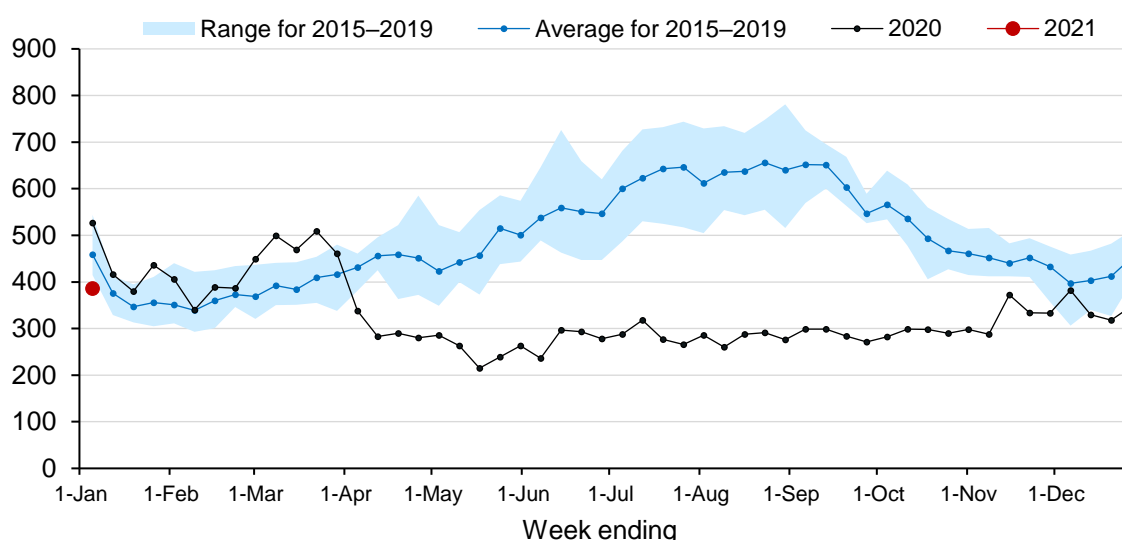
The figure below shows weekly pneumonia presentations to Emergency Departments in NSW, using PHREDSS³.

The red line shows the weekly counts for 2020, the blue line shows the average for the same week for the past five years and the shaded area shows the range recorded in the previous five years.

² Includes deaths in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

³ 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).

Figure 16. Emergency Department pneumonia presentations in NSW by week, to 3 January 2021

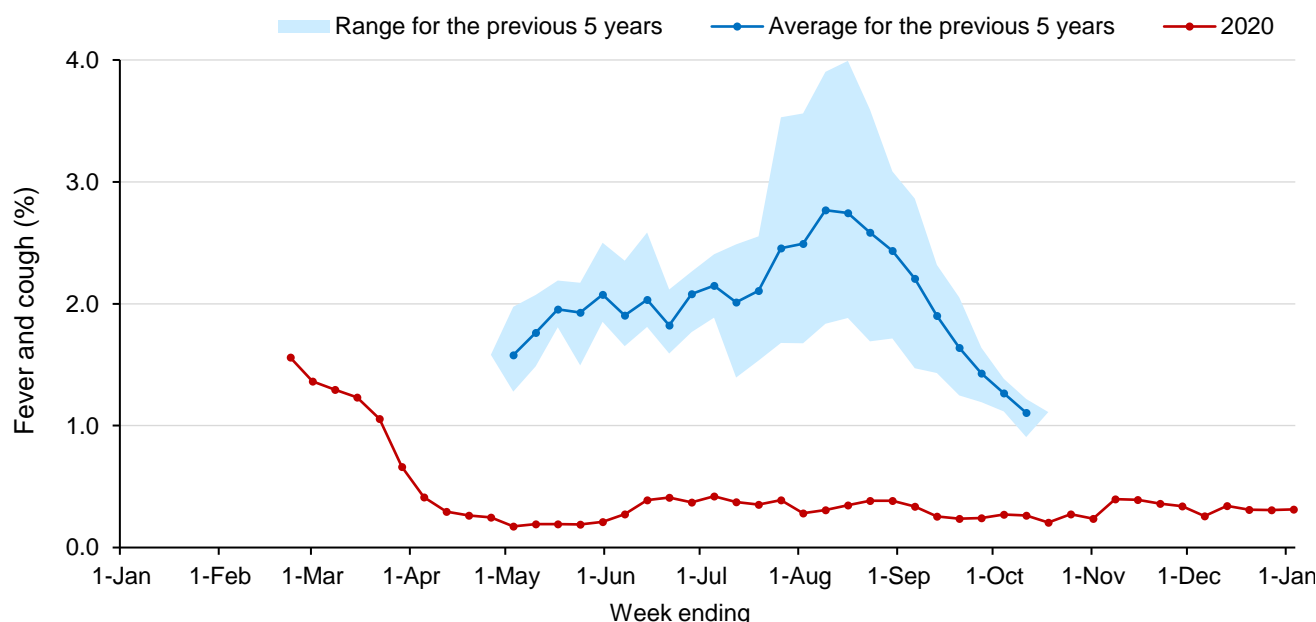


Interpretation: Pneumonia presentations include people with diagnoses of viral, bacterial, atypical or unspecified pneumonia, and Legionnaires' disease, but excludes 'pneumonia with influenza' and provides an indicator of more severe respiratory conditions. In the week ending 2 January, pneumonia presentations increased but were below the seasonal range for the beginning of January.

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 17. Proportion of FluTracker participants in NSW reporting influenza-like illness, to 3 January 2021



Interpretation: In NSW in the week ending 27 December of the 11,828 people surveyed, 37 people (0.30%) reported flu-like symptoms.

Respiratory infections in children aged 0-4 years

The figures below show weekly any respiratory, pneumonia and bronchiolitis presentations to Emergency Departments in NSW for children under five, using PHREDSS data. Also shown are weekly laboratory notifications for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) from sentinel surveillance.

Figure 18. Emergency Department presentations in children 0–4 years, for all respiratory problems/fever and unspecified infection, pneumonia and bronchiolitis in NSW by week, to 3 January 2021

All respiratory problems/fever and unspecified infection – total

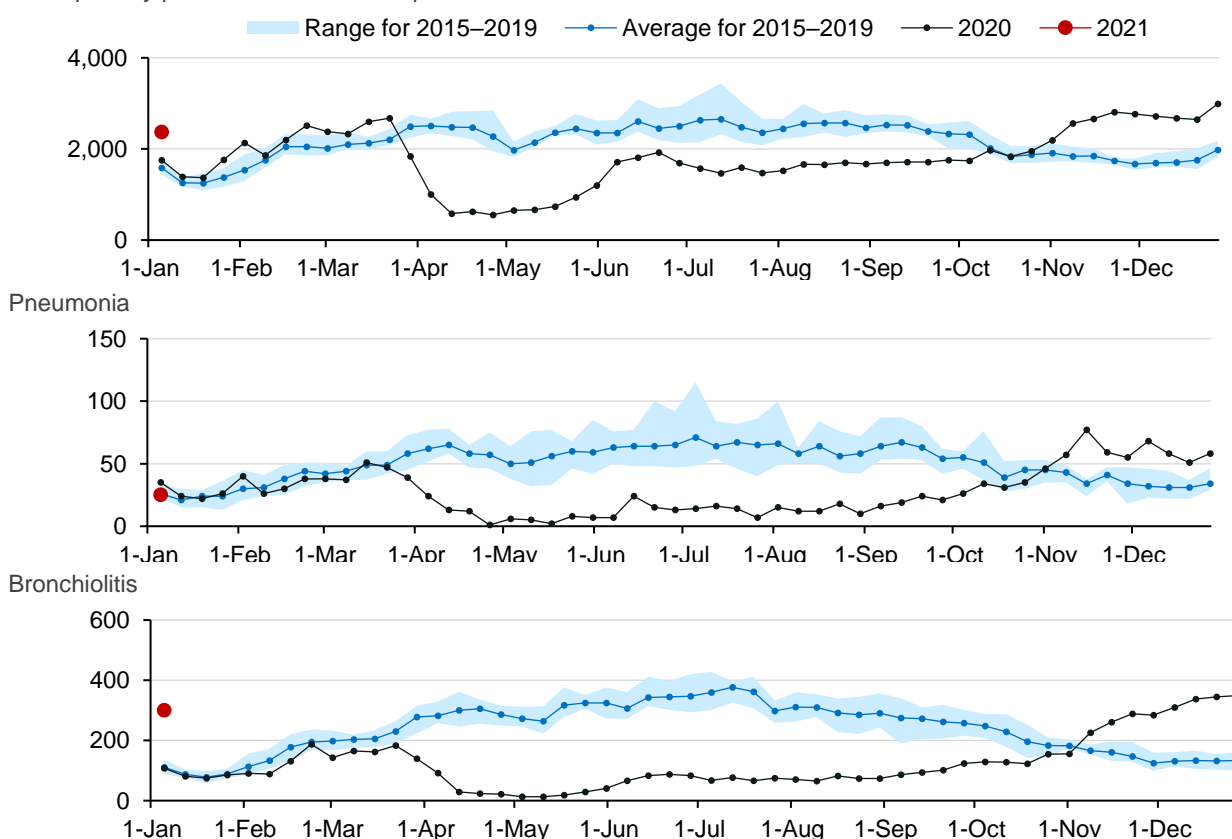
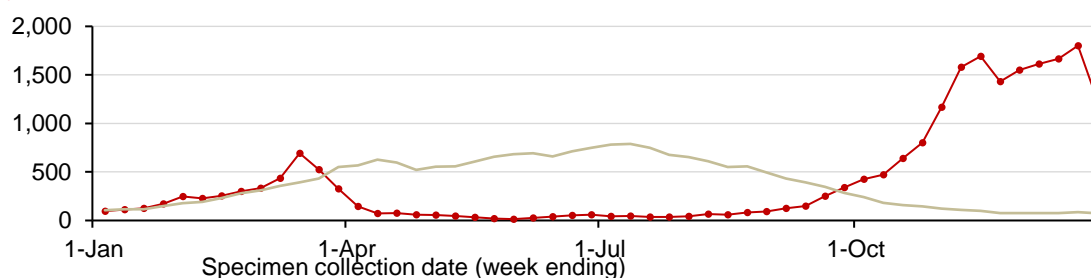


Figure 19. Number of positive PCR test results for all ages, for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) at sentinel NSW laboratories, 1 January to 27 December 2020



Interpretation:

- Emergency presentations for any respiratory illness among those aged 0–4 years decreased **this week and have been above the seasonal range since early November.**
- Pneumonia presentations decreased this week in children aged 0–4 years and has returned to within seasonal range for early January. For all other age groups, pneumonia presentations are below the seasonal range for this time of year.
- Bronchiolitis is a common disease of infants often caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). In the week ending 3 January, bronchiolitis presentations decreased but remain above the usual five-year average range for the time of year.
- RSV detections decreased but have been above the five-year mean since September. The increase in reported cases corresponds to the increase in emergency presentations for bronchiolitis, which has been above the usual seasonal range since early November.

APPENDIX A: COVID-19 PCR TESTS IN NSW

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		01-January		26-December			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
Central Coast	Central Coast / LHD Total ²	6644	18.8	11793	33.4	156907	444.7
Far West	Balranald	4	1.7	9	3.9	526	225.0
	Broken Hill	188	10.8	180	10.3	5700	326.1
	Central Darling	6	3.3	0	0.0	423	230.0
	Wentworth	43	6.1	57	8.1	2487	352.6
	LHD Total ²	241	8.0	246	8.2	9136	303.1
Hunter New England	Armidale Regional	244	7.9	336	10.9	10647	345.9
	Cessnock	290	4.8	477	8.0	17076	284.7
	Dungog	50	5.3	94	10.0	2680	284.4
	Glen Innes Severn	39	4.4	36	4.1	1947	219.5
	Gunnedah	80	6.3	84	6.6	3520	277.6
	Gwydir	13	2.4	20	3.7	753	140.7
	Inverell	65	3.9	83	4.9	4427	262.1
	Lake Macquarie	2728	13.3	3531	17.2	96309	467.7
	Liverpool Plains	48	6.1	65	8.2	2257	285.6
	Maitland	934	11.0	1362	16.0	43003	504.9
	Mid-Coast	801	8.5	2696	28.7	26781	285.4
	Moree Plains	40	3.0	71	5.4	3207	241.8
	Muswellbrook	117	7.1	154	9.4	4991	304.8
	Narrabri	62	4.7	77	5.9	2882	219.4
	Newcastle	2593	15.7	3681	22.2	95007	573.8
	Port Stephens	791	10.8	1345	18.3	31532	429.1
	Singleton	196	8.4	315	13.4	10232	436.1
	Tamworth Regional	526	8.4	713	11.4	23872	381.7
	Tenterfield	14	2.1	28	4.3	1143	173.3
	Upper Hunter Shire	104	7.3	171	12.1	4457	314.3
	Uralla	25	4.2	39	6.5	1344	223.6
	Walcha	20	6.4	45	14.4	980	312.7
	LHD Total ²	9777	10.3	15414	16.2	388747	408.2
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Kiama	653	27.9	390	16.7	11052	472.6
	Shellharbour	2594	35.4	823	11.2	34306	468.5
	Shoalhaven	1272	12.0	1167	11.1	37196	352.1
	Wollongong	15528	71.2	3294	15.1	102971	472.1
	LHD Total ²	20047	47.8	5674	13.5	185525	442.1
Mid North Coast	Bellingen	131	10.1	163	12.5	4034	310.4
	Coffs Harbour	652	8.4	733	9.5	21810	282.2
	Kempsey	243	8.2	256	8.6	9659	324.7
	Nambucca	148	7.5	182	9.2	5325	268.9
	Port Macquarie-Hastings	959	11.4	1207	14.3	28374	335.7
	LHD Total ²	2133	9.5	2541	11.3	69202	306.7
Murrumbidgee	Albury	547	10.1	587	10.8	18668	343.5
	Berrigan	25	2.9	41	4.7	2050	234.3

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total		
		01-January		26-December				
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	
	Bland	20	3.4	31	5.2	1582	264.9	
	Carrathool	14	5.0	7	2.5	359	128.3	
	Coolamon	45	10.4	55	12.7	1339	308.5	
	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	71	6.3	166	14.8	3204	285.2	
	Edward River	39	4.3	42	4.6	2691	296.2	
	Federation	78	6.3	83	6.7	3045	244.8	
	Greater Hume Shire	93	8.6	67	6.2	3317	308.2	
	Griffith	416	15.4	413	15.3	9482	350.8	
	Hay	17	5.8	13	4.4	563	190.9	
	Hilltops	131	7.0	200	10.7	5576	298.1	
	Junee	36	5.4	34	5.1	1336	199.9	
	Lachlan ¹	30	4.9	24	4.0	974	160.3	
	Leeton	79	6.9	97	8.5	2814	245.9	
	Lockhart	14	4.3	23	7.0	832	253.3	
	Murray River	29	2.4	19	1.6	864	71.3	
	Murrumbidgee	32	8.2	26	6.6	842	215.0	
	Narrandera	26	4.4	29	4.9	1163	197.2	
	Snowy Valleys	98	6.8	133	9.2	4549	314.2	
	Temora	23	3.7	22	3.5	1327	210.4	
	Wagga Wagga	848	13.0	1014	15.5	26996	413.7	
	LHD Total ²	2694	9.0	3106	10.4	92928	311.7	
	Nepean Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains	1953	24.7	1982	25.1	48419	612.0
		Hawkesbury	771	11.5	1098	16.3	33661	500.2
Lithgow		190	8.8	204	9.4	7024	325.1	
Penrith		2634	12.4	4057	19.1	117642	552.4	
LHD Total ²		5513	14.1	7277	18.6	205100	524.6	
Northern NSW	Ballina	340	7.6	472	10.6	14909	334.1	
	Byron	404	11.5	512	14.6	14507	413.5	
	Clarence Valley	347	6.7	385	7.5	12101	234.2	
	Kyogle	47	5.3	67	7.6	1910	217.1	
	Lismore	349	8.0	352	8.1	15418	352.9	
	Richmond Valley	134	5.7	155	6.6	7050	300.5	
	Tenterfield	14	2.1	28	4.3	1143	173.3	
	Tweed	585	6.0	741	7.6	25803	266.0	
	LHD Total ²	2208	7.1	2690	8.7	91976	296.4	
Northern Sydney	Hornsby	2987	19.6	7037	46.3	73692	484.6	
	Hunters Hill	682	45.5	1264	84.4	16685	1113.8	
	Ku-ring-gai	4585	36.1	10881	85.6	96129	756.0	
	Lane Cove	2044	50.9	4717	117.5	47746	1189.0	
	Mosman	970	31.3	2716	87.7	20017	646.1	
	North Sydney	1803	24.0	4583	61.1	36623	488.2	
	Northern Beaches	25812	94.4	74745	273.3	259227	947.8	
	Parramatta ¹	3722	14.5	5993	23.3	106866	415.5	
	Rvde	2771	21.1	6204	47.3	66813	509.0	

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		01-January		26-December			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
	Willoughby	1679	20.7	3698	45.6	36914	454.7
	LHD Total ²	44118	46.2	117521	122.9	675221	706.4
South Eastern Sydney	Bayside	2380	13.3	3748	21.0	71138	398.8
	Georges River	1918	12.0	2904	18.2	60971	382.3
	Randwick	3149	20.2	6063	39.0	97998	629.6
	Sutherland Shire	4258	18.5	6994	30.3	131069	568.4
	Sydney ¹	6113	24.8	12190	49.5	158933	645.2
	Waverley	2085	28.1	4321	58.2	56764	764.0
	Woollahra	1791	30.2	4303	72.5	47834	805.5
	LHD Total ²	17608	18.4	32321	33.7	524092	546.4
South Western Sydney	Camden	1455	14.3	1775	17.5	71145	701.4
	Campbelltown	2076	12.1	2143	12.5	94791	554.5
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	7185	19.0	5603	14.8	156333	413.7
	Fairfield	1810	8.6	1610	7.6	75185	355.2
	Liverpool	3498	15.4	2836	12.5	117490	516.3
	Wingecarribee	934	18.3	1102	21.6	29823	583.2
	Wollondilly	457	8.6	502	9.5	20479	385.3
	LHD Total ²	13923	13.4	12440	12.0	486396	468.4
Southern NSW	Bega Valley	591	17.1	314	9.1	10524	305.3
	Eurobodalla	543	14.1	486	12.6	16379	425.7
	Goulburn Mulwaree	325	10.4	348	11.2	11149	358.1
	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	412	6.7	549	9.0	15200	248.8
	Snowy Monaro Regional	292	14.0	269	12.9	6688	321.6
	Upper Lachlan Shire	73	9.1	103	12.8	2403	298.2
	Yass Valley	146	8.5	175	10.2	3705	216.8
	LHD Total ²	2382	11.0	2244	10.3	66077	304.4
Sydney	Burwood	1317	32.4	790	19.5	14183	349.2
	Canada Bay	3143	32.7	3396	35.4	55524	577.9
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	7185	19.0	5603	14.8	156333	413.7
	Inner West	5945	29.6	8615	42.9	131530	655.0
	Strathfield	1442	30.7	1176	25.1	25029	533.4
	Sydney ¹	6113	24.8	12190	49.5	158933	645.2
	LHD Total ²	19125	27.5	25270	36.3	403817	579.6
Western NSW	Bathurst Regional	499	11.4	622	14.3	18916	433.7
	Blayney	83	11.3	104	14.1	3043	412.4
	Bogan	21	8.1	14	5.4	632	245.0
	Bourke	20	7.7	14	5.4	502	193.8
	Brewarrina	3	1.9	4	2.5	306	189.9
	Cabonne	75	5.5	109	8.0	3017	221.3
	Cobar	16	3.4	36	7.7	995	213.6
	Coonamble	8	2.0	51	12.9	914	230.9
	Cowra	87	6.8	127	10.0	3373	264.7
	Dubbo Regional	450	8.4	575	10.7	17872	332.7
	Forbes	49	5.0	79	8.0	2128	214.8

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total	
		01-January		26-December			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
	Gilgandra	24	5.7	27	6.4	924	218.0
	Lachlan ¹	30	4.9	24	4.0	974	160.3
	Mid-Western Regional	245	9.7	277	11.0	8249	326.7
	Narromine	32	4.9	59	9.1	1673	256.7
	Oberon	33	6.1	48	8.9	1705	315.1
	Orange	480	11.3	906	21.3	19972	470.5
	Parkes	94	6.3	122	8.2	4048	272.8
	Walgett	13	2.2	38	6.4	1556	261.4
	Warren	30	11.1	50	18.5	1262	467.9
	Warrumbungle Shire	45	4.9	77	8.3	2641	284.7
	Weddin	15	4.2	14	3.9	794	219.8
	LHD Total ²	2341	8.2	3373	11.8	95208	334.1
Western Sydney	Blacktown	5155	13.8	8017	21.4	184064	491.6
	Cumberland	5456	22.6	3586	14.9	106986	443.0
	Parramatta ¹	3722	14.5	5993	23.3	106866	415.5
	The Hills Shire	3709	20.8	6220	35.0	118721	667.1
	LHD Total ²	17597	16.7	22249	21.1	498905	473.6
NSW Total ³		173,607	21.5	273,740	33.8	4,205,083	519.8

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 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, 1 January to 27 December 2020

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.

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

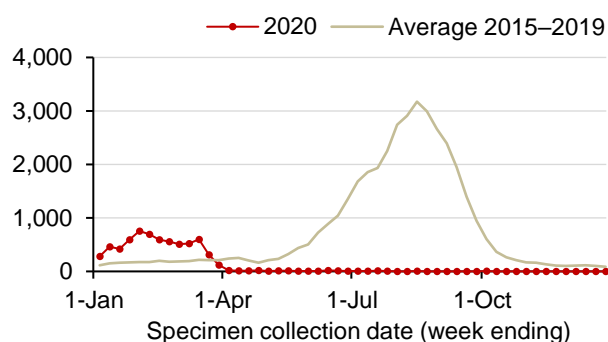
*Five-week period

Specimen collection date	PCR tests conducted	Influenza A No. %Pos.		Influenza B No. %Pos.		Adeno-virus	Para-influenza	RSV	Rhino-virus	HMPV**	Entero-virus
1 Jan — 27 Dec											
Total	1,393,182	6,631	0.48%	955	0.07%	9,139	9,193	22,004	138,661	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
Week ending											
6 December	24,404	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	148	9	1,614	1,488	59	153
13 December	24,954	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	159	14	1,666	1,334	73	139
20 December	51,622	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	164	22	1,801	1,494	12	148
27 December	66,776	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	113	19	1,236	1,079	7	115

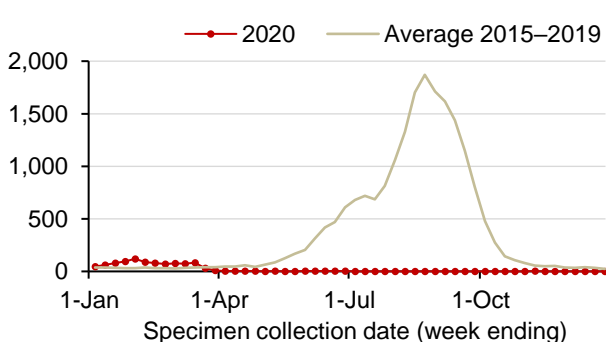
APPENDIX C: NUMBER OF POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULTS FOR INFLUENZA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY VIRUSES AT SENTINEL NSW LABORATORIES, 1 January to 27 December 2020

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.

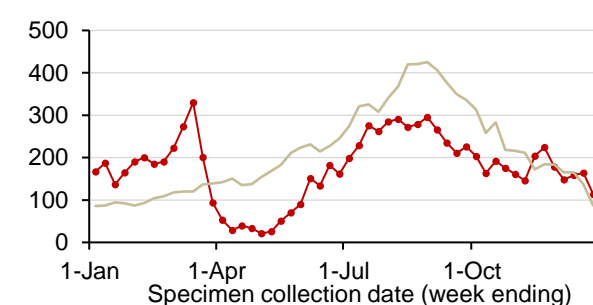
Influenza A



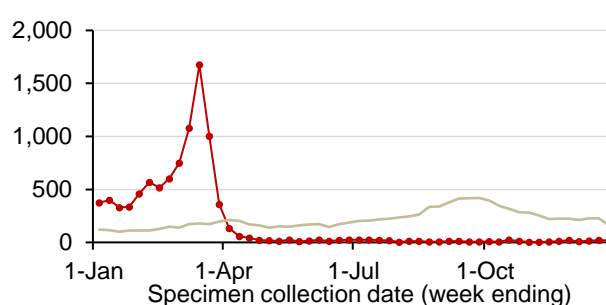
Influenza B



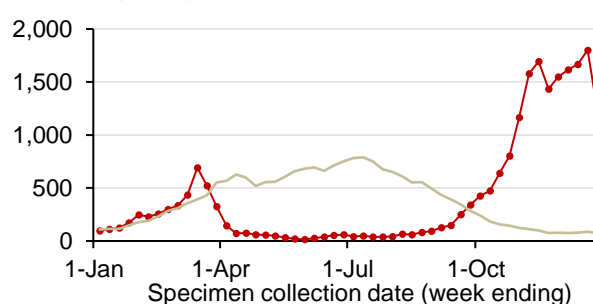
Adenovirus



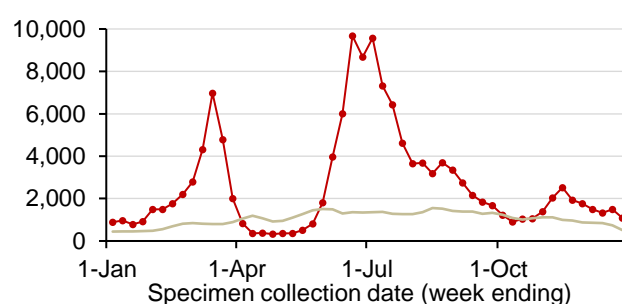
Parainfluenza



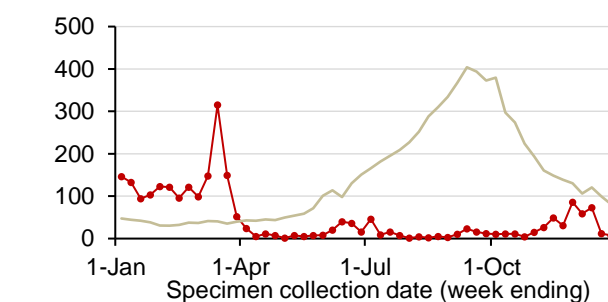
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



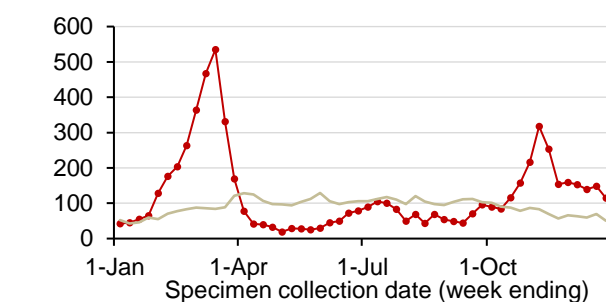
Rhinovirus



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

GLOSSARY

Term	Description
Case	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). Case counts include: - 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	This date is provided to NSW Health by the laboratory. Laboratories prioritise notification of positive results to allow prompt public health action. 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. 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.