

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 9, ENDING 6 MARCH 2021

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SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 6 MARCH 2021

- There were no locally acquired NSW cases of COVID-19 reported in the week ending 6 March. The last locally acquired case was reported on 16 January 2021.
- There were 33 cases reported in overseas returned travellers in the last week, an increase compared to the week ending 27 February, when 26 cases were reported.
- There were 14 cases reported in the week ending 6 March found to have a SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern (VoC) following further testing. Two further cases with a VoC were also identified in travellers reported in previous weeks. VoC are of increased public health importance as these variants may be more easily transmissible than other strains of SARS-CoV-2. Of all 415 returned travellers diagnosed with COVID-19 since 30 November 2020, there have been 60 (14%) diagnosed with a VoC.
- Testing rates decreased compared to the previous week (down 12%). Testing rates decreased across most LHDs and in all age groups.
- The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program reported four detections – taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants, and the sewage network at Paddington (within the Bondi catchment) and Botany (within the Malabar catchment). All detections were associated with known cases in returned travellers.

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SECTION 1: HOW IS THE OUTBREAK TRACKING IN NSW?

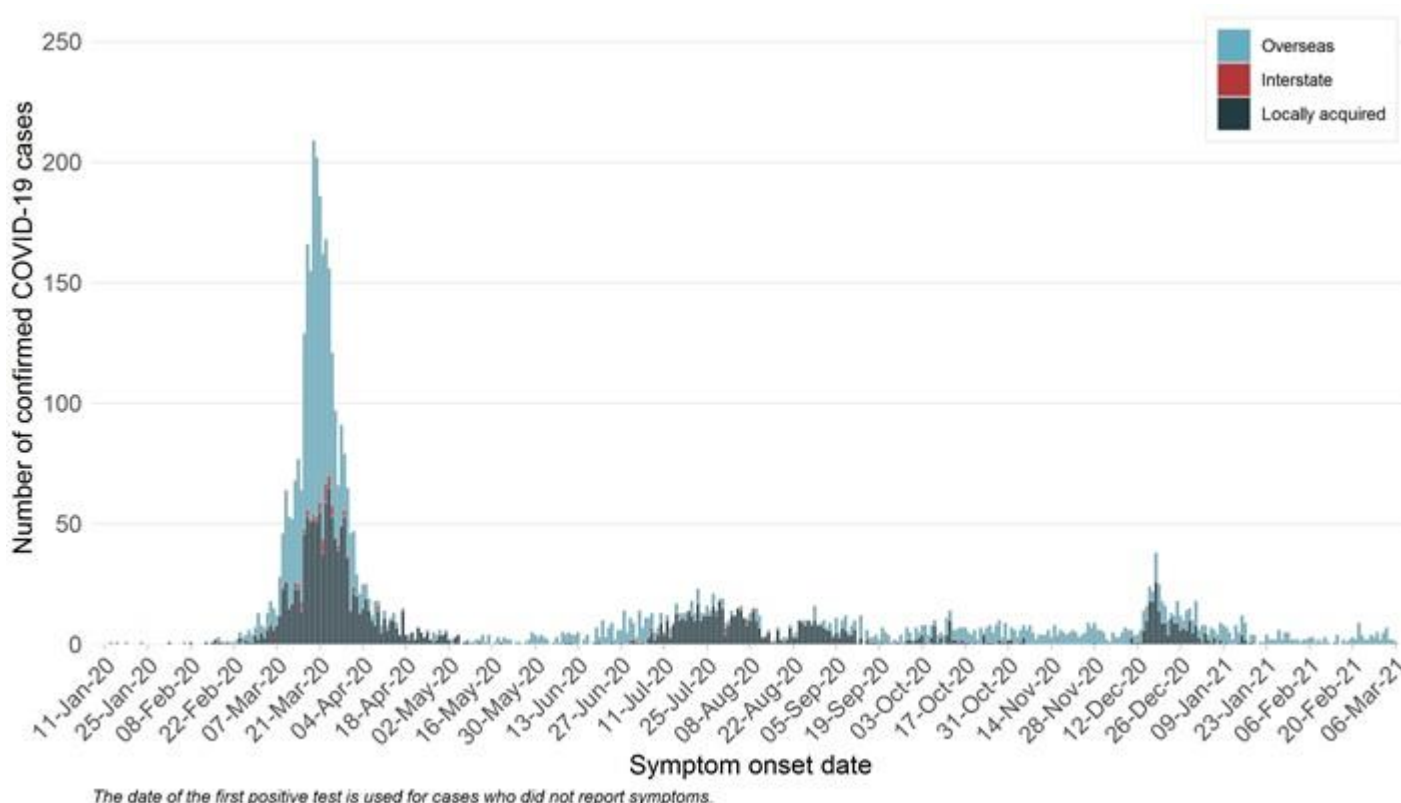
Table 1. COVID-19 cases and tests reported in NSW, from 25 January 2020 to 6 March 2021

	Week ending 6 Mar	Week ending 27 Feb	% change	Pandemic total
Number of cases	33	26	↑ 27%	5,020
Overseas acquired	33	26	↑ 27%	2,843
Interstate acquired	0	0	-	90
Locally acquired	0	0	-	2,087
No epidemiological links to other cases or clusters	0	0	-	446
Number of deaths	0	0	-	56
Number of tests	83,443	94,887	↓ 12%	5,107,947

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 & illness onset, NSW, 11 January 2020 to 6 March 2021

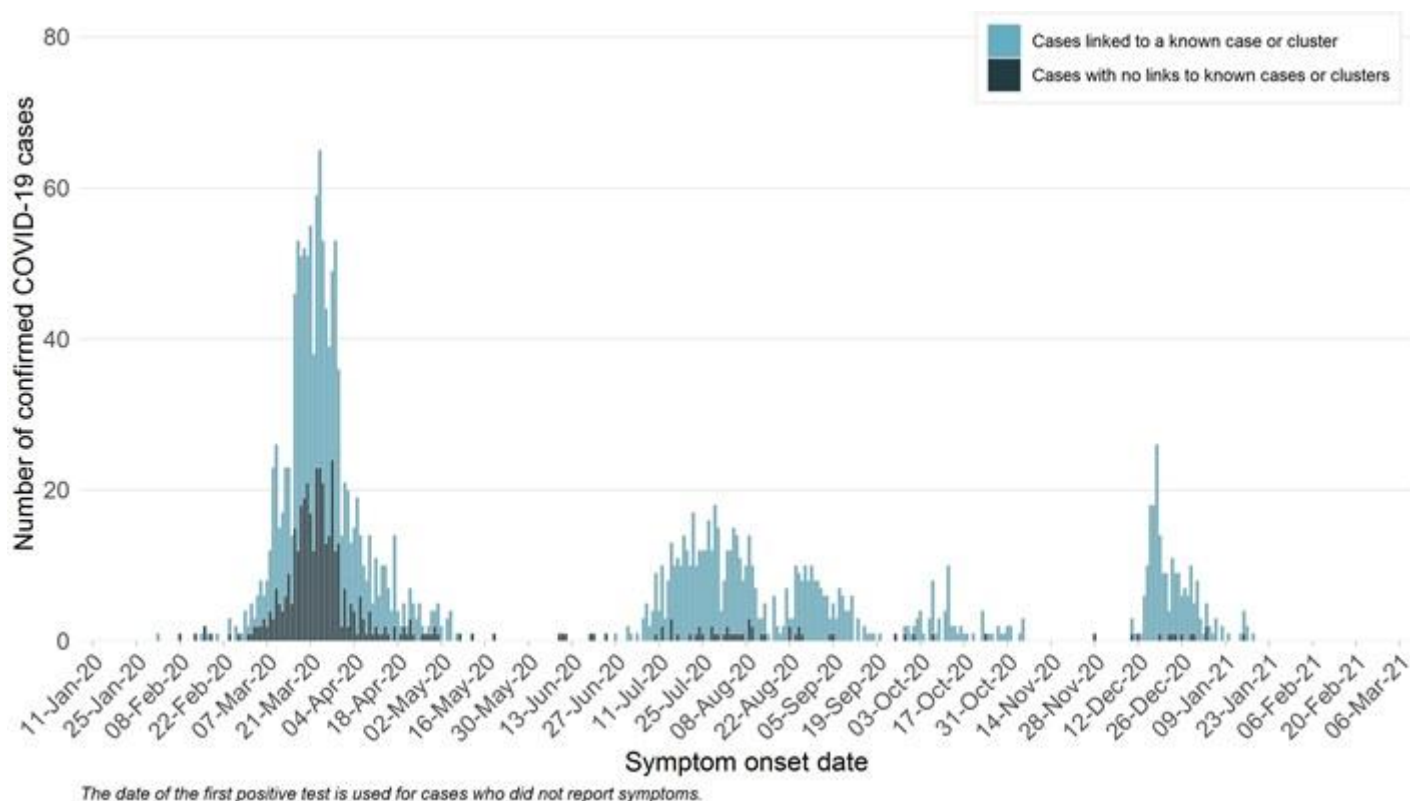


Interpretation: All COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the last four weeks in NSW were overseas acquired.

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. Locally acquired COVID-19 cases by likely infection source & illness onset, NSW, 11 January 2020 to 6 March 2021



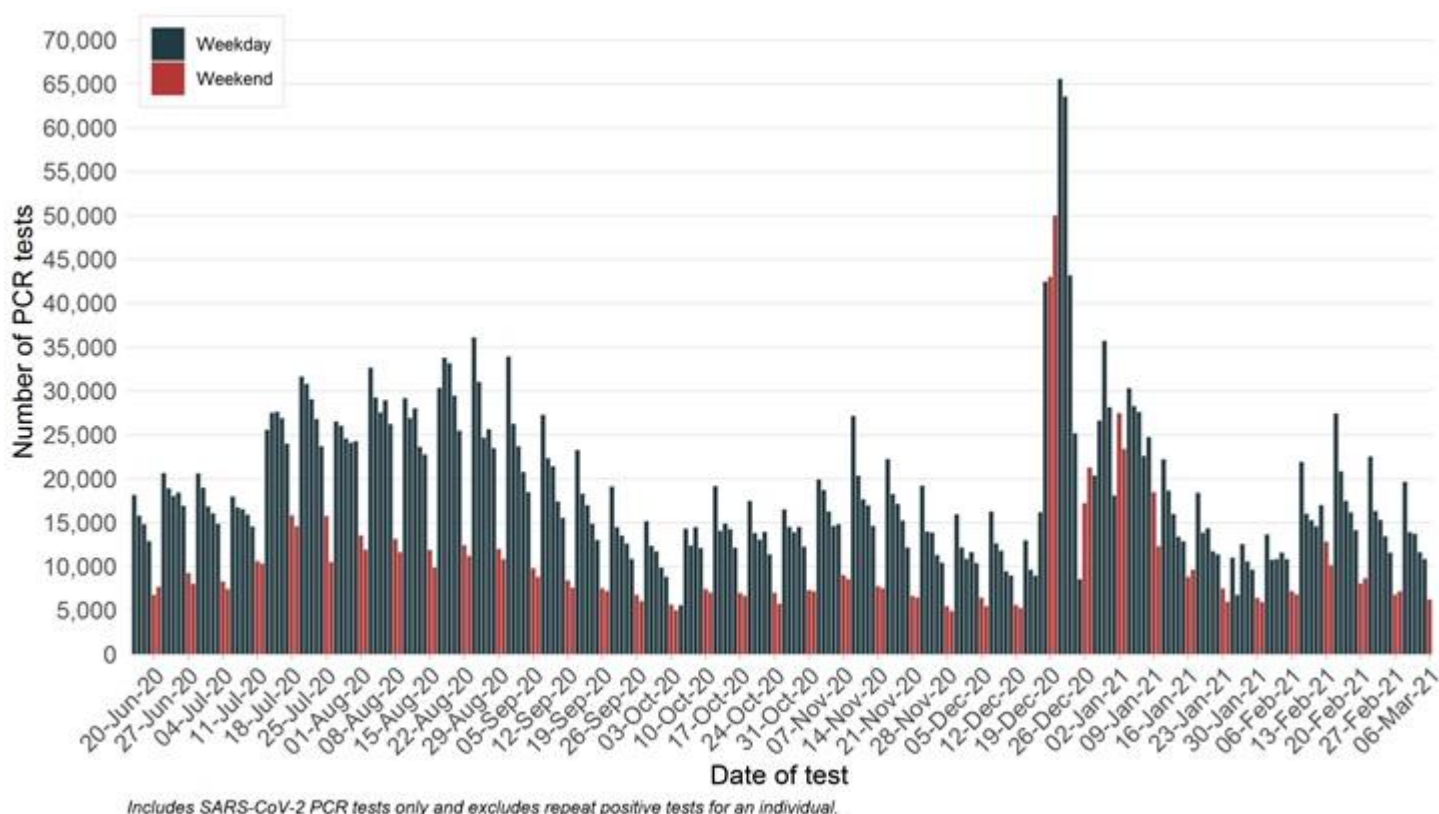
Interpretation: As at 6 March, 49 days have passed since the last locally acquired case recorded onset of symptoms in NSW. The last locally acquired case was notified on 16 January 2021.

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 generally 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, 20 June 2020 to 6 March 2021

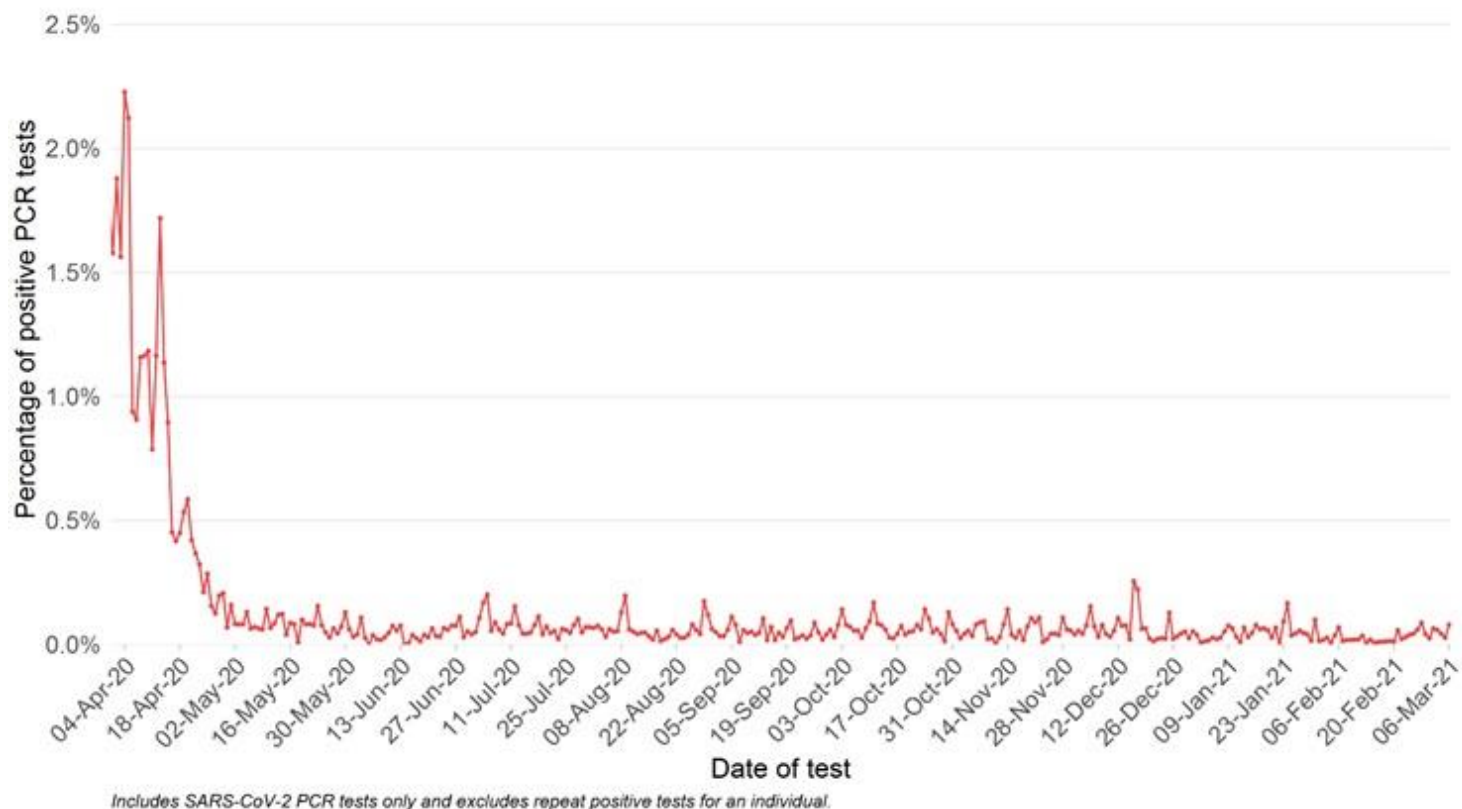


Interpretation: Testing numbers decreased in the week ending 6 March (down 12%) compared to the previous week. The average daily testing rate of 1.5 per 1,000 people in NSW each day has decreased compared to the previous week of 1.7 per 1,000 people.

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.

What proportion of tests are positive?

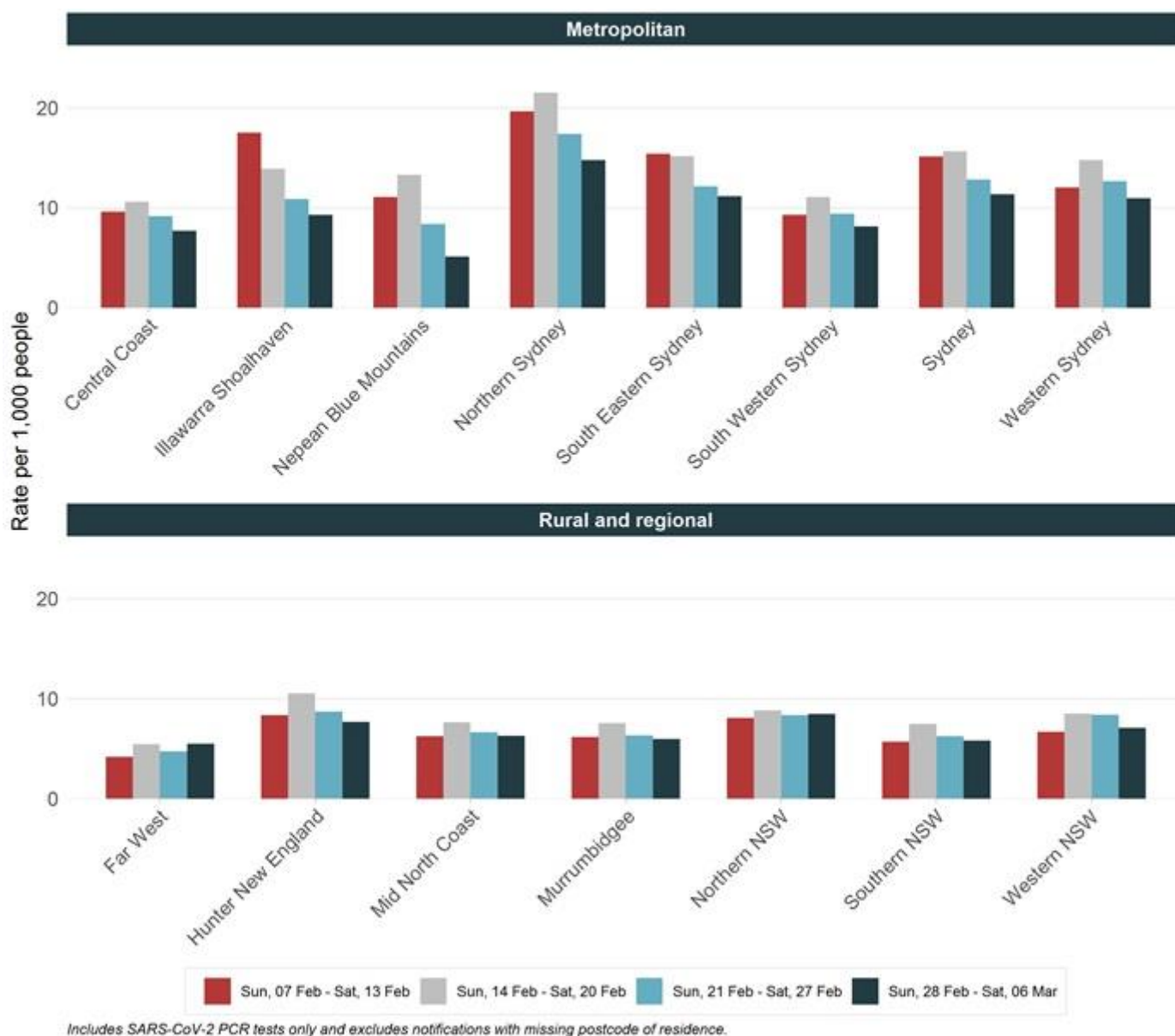
Figure 4. Proportion of positive PCR tests per day, NSW, 4 April 2020 to 6 March 2021



Interpretation: The proportion of tests positive for COVID-19 in NSW declined and then stabilised at very low levels in May 2020. This includes PCR testing of returned travellers in hotel quarantine and excludes saliva testing for people working in hotel quarantine.

Testing by Local Health District

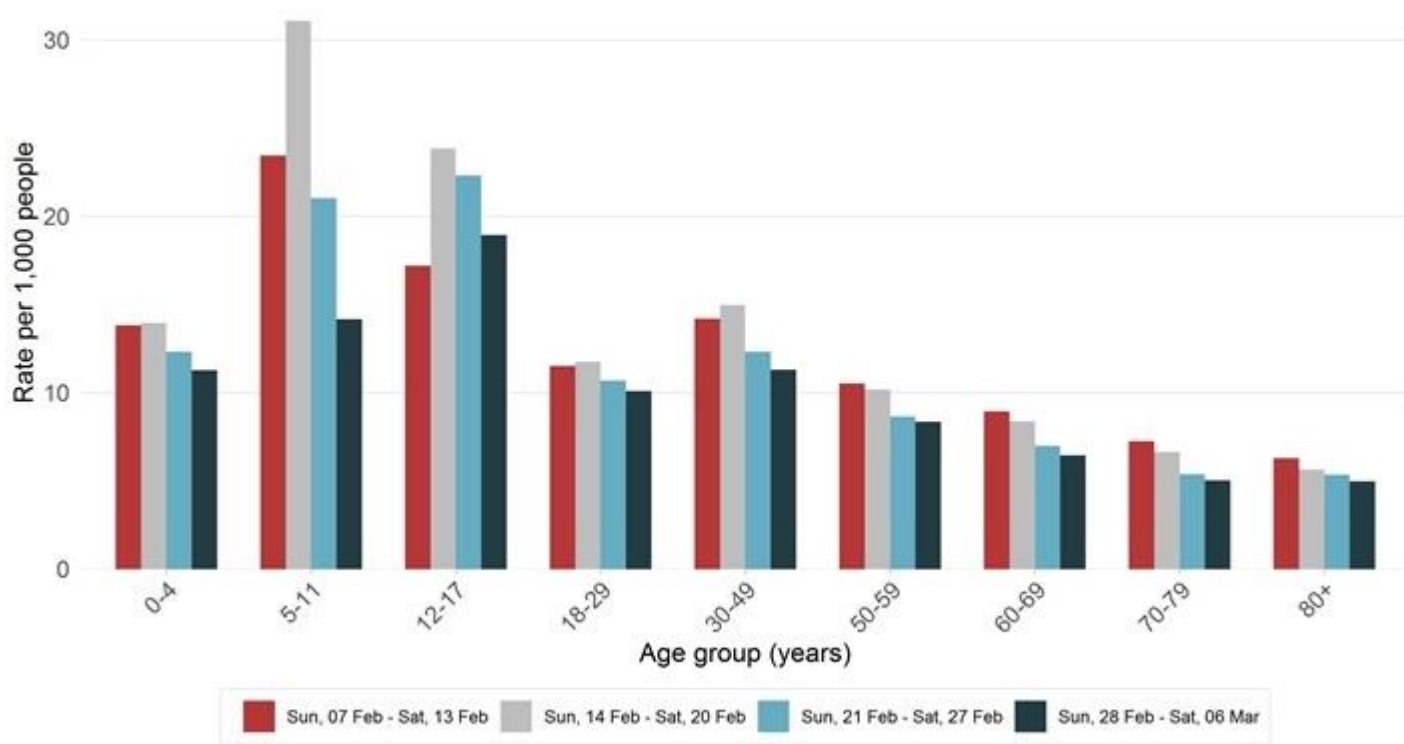
Figure 5. Rates of COVID-19 testing by LHD of residence, NSW, 7 February 2021 to 6 March 2021



Interpretation: State-wide testing rates in the week ending 6 March were lower compared to the previous week (10 per 1,000 people compared to 12 per 1,000 people). The decrease in testing rates was seen across most LHDs except Far West and Northern NSW, which both slightly increased.

Testing by age group

Figure 6. Rates of COVID-19 testing by age group and week, NSW, 7 February 2021 to 6 March 2021



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

Interpretation: In the week ending 6 March, testing rates have decreased in all age groups. Testing rates decreased significantly in children aged 5–11 years, after increased testing in February.

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, 7 February to 6 March 2021

Locally acquired cases	Week ending				Total
	6 Mar	27 Feb	20 Feb	13 Feb	
Cases who are linked to a known case or cluster	0	0	0	0	0
Cases with no epidemiological links to other cases or clusters	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Interpretation: There were no new locally acquired cases reported in the week ending 6 March. No locally acquired cases have been reported in the last four weeks.

Table 3. Locally acquired COVID-19 cases by LHD of residence and week reported, 7 February to 6 March 2021

Local Health District	Week ending				Total	Days since last case reported
	6 Mar	27 Feb	20 Feb	13 Feb		
Central Coast	0	0	0	0	0	67
Illawarra Shoalhaven	0	0	0	0	0	63
Nepean Blue Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	172
Northern Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	54
South Eastern Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	63
South Western Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	57
Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	54
Western Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	49
Far West	0	0	0	0	0	338
Hunter New England	0	0	0	0	0	212
Mid North Coast	0	0	0	0	0	319
Murrumbidgee	0	0	0	0	0	180
Northern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	224
Southern NSW	0	0	0	0	0	138
Western NSW	0	0	0	0	0	219
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	49

Interpretation: There were no locally acquired cases reported in the week ending 6 March.

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

There were no cases reported in the last week who were linked to recent clusters.

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 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 6 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](#)).

Pregnant women

There was one overseas acquired case of COVID-19 reported in pregnant women in the week ending 6 March.

In total, 40 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.

Aboriginal people

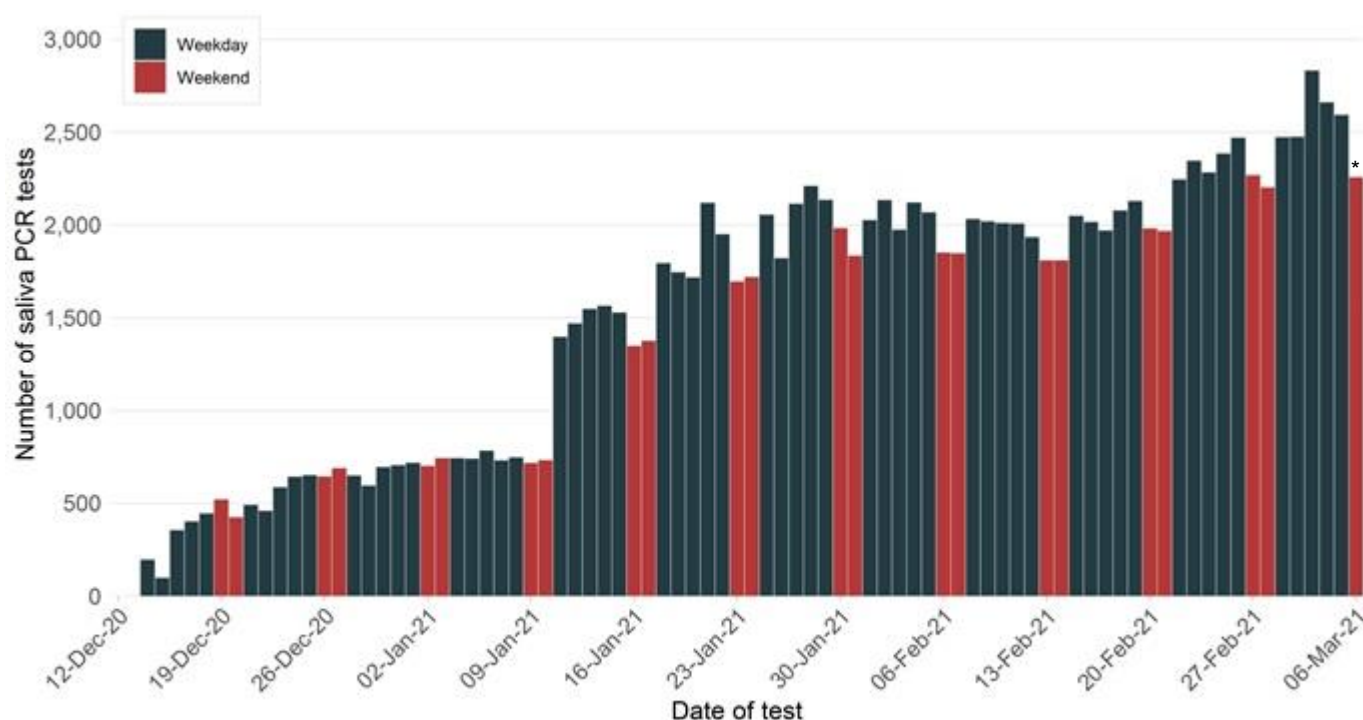
There were no cases of COVID-19 reported in Aboriginal people in the week 6 March.

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 number of COVID-19 cases are seen 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 7. Daily numbers of saliva PCR test results reported for workers in quarantine facilities, NSW, 2020-21



* The number of saliva PCR tests on 6 March 2021 is incomplete due to delays in reporting negative results.

Interpretation: Since screening of quarantine workers began in December 2020, a total of 128,998 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. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported through saliva PCR testing.

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

SECTION 6: 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 6 March.

Table 4. 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	113	0%
5–11	0	119	0%
12–17	0	161	0%
18–29	0	1,129	0%
30–49	0	1,624	0%
50–59	1	689	0.1%
60–69	4	636	0.6%
70–79	15	386	3.9%
80+	36	163	22.1%
Total	56	5,020	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.

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.

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. Further network locations within the North Head, Cronulla, Quakers Hill and St Marys treatment plant catchments have been added as routine sites.

Table 5. Locations with SARS-CoV-2 detections in sewage samples in the last 10 weeks, NSW, 27 December 2020 to 6 March 2021

		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Pop.	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sydney Sites											
69,245	Warriewood										
31,924	Hornsby Heights										
57,933	West Hornsby										
318,810	Bondi									n	n
1,857,740	Malabar 1									n	n
	Malabar 2										
181,005	Liverpool						n				
161,200	Glenfield										
1,341,986	North Head								n	n	
163,374	Quakers Hill										
55,000	Wollongong										
Sydney Network Sites											
Bondi	Paddington Sewage Network										
Malabar	Botany Sewage Network										
North Head	Camellia SPS - North										
North Head	Camellia SPS - South										
North Head	Auburn Sewage Network										
Glenfield	Minto Sewage Network										
Liverpool	Ireland Park Sewage Network										
Regional Sites											
32,000	Ulladulla										

Sampling commenced week ending 18 July 2020

	not sampled or analysed
	SARS-CoV-2 not detected
	SARS-CoV-2 detected
n	result from network sites

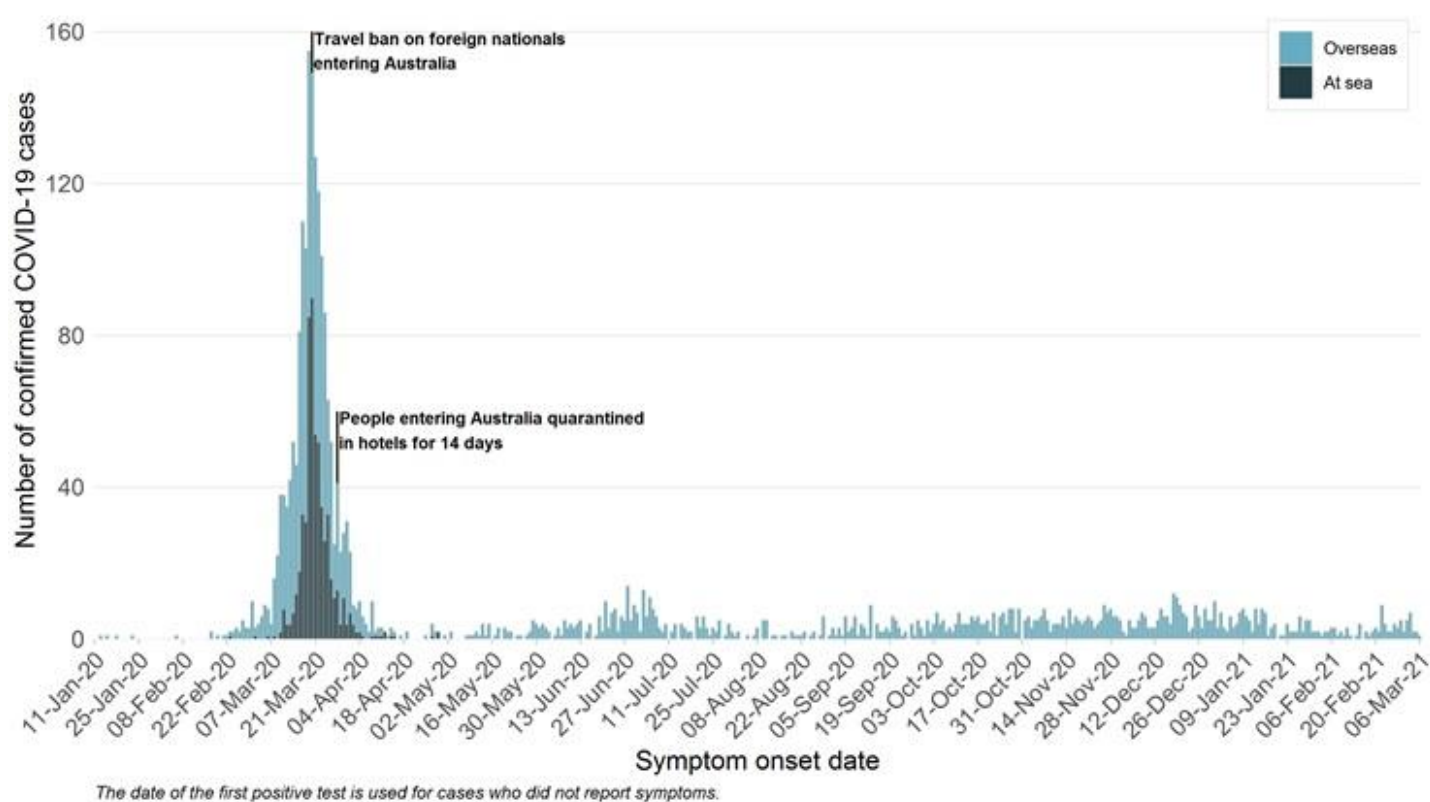
Interpretation: In the week ending 6 March, 139 sewage samples were tested for fragments of SARS-CoV-2. Of these, there were four detections – taken from the Bondi and Malabar treatment plants, and the sewage networks at Paddington (within the Bondi catchment) and Botany (within the Malabar catchment). All detections were associated with returned travellers. There were no regional detections.

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 8. Overseas acquired COVID-19 cases by infection source & illness onset, NSW, 11 January 2020 to 6 March 2021



Interpretation: There were 33 overseas acquired cases reported in the week ending 6 March (up 27% compared to the previous week).

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 9. Overseas acquired COVID-19 cases by country of acquisition & arrival month, reported September 2020 to 6 March 2021



Interpretation: In recent months, most detections of COVID-19 were in travellers from the United States of America, with travellers from Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, India and the United Kingdom also having moderate numbers of cases detected. 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, there have been 89 COVID-positive travellers who have arrived in NSW. The table below lists the top 10 countries of acquisition for these travellers.

Table 6. Top 10 countries of acquisition for overseas travellers that have tested positive in the four weeks ending 13 February to 6 March 2021

Country of acquisition of COVID-19	Number (%) of cases in the last four weeks
Lebanon	16 (18%)
USA	15 (17%)
India	8 (9%)
United Kingdom	5 (6%)
Canada	4 (4%)
Pakistan	4 (4%)
United Arab Emirates	4 (4%)
Egypt	3 (3%)
France	2 (2%)
Germany	2 (2%)
Serbia	2 (2%)
Other	24 (27%)
Total	89 (100%)

Interpretation: In the last four weeks, travellers returning from Lebanon accounted for the largest number of overseas acquired cases (16, 18%), followed by travellers returning from the United States of America (15, 17%), and India (8, 9%).

COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VoC) in returned travellers

New variants of COVID-19 are of concern if they are demonstrated to be more infectious than other strains. NSW Health Pathology has identified three Variants of Concern (B.1.1.7, B.1.351 and P1) in returned travellers in hotel quarantine. VoC B.1.1.7 originated in the United Kingdom, VoC B.1.351 in South Africa and VoC P1 in Brazil. All three strains can now be found in other parts of the world.

NSW Health has strict protocols in place for managing the health of returned travellers and staff which have been further strengthened to address the additional risk associated with the new variants. Since 30 November, 60 returned travellers have tested positive with the three Variants of Concern.

Table 7. Overseas travellers that have tested positive by VoC and week of COVID-19 diagnosis, 30 November 2020 to 6 March 2021

	Previous four weeks (week ending)				30 Nov – 6 Feb	Total since 30 November
	6 March	27 Feb	20 Feb	13 Feb		
Overseas acquired cases	33	26	12	18	326	415
Cases with VoC	14	7	2	5	32	60
B.1.1.7	12	7	2	5	24	50
B.1.351	1	0	0	0	8	9
P1	1	0	0	0	0	1
% of overseas cases with VoC	42%	27%	17%	28%	10%	14%

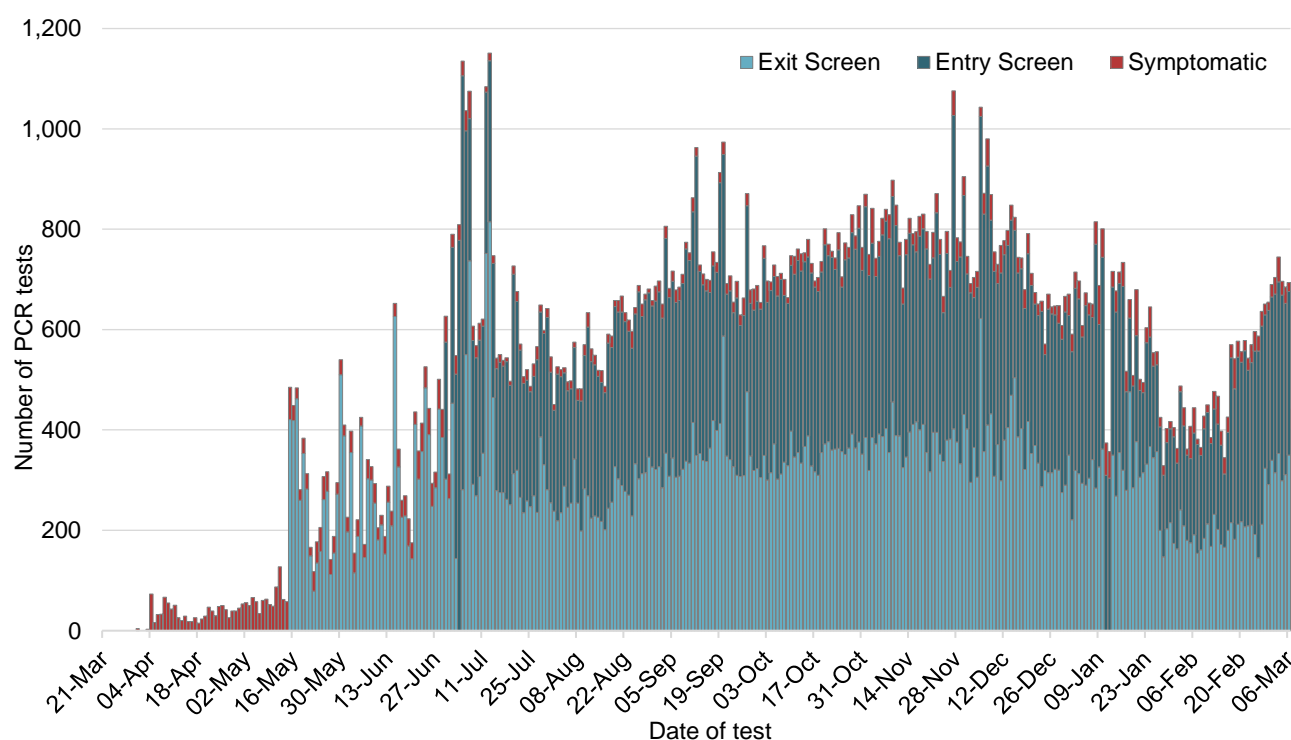
Interpretation: In the week ending 6 March, 14 returned travellers in hotel quarantine were reported as having a COVID-19 Variant of Concern. Two further cases were detected in travellers who were reported in previous weeks (B.1.1.7). Since 30 November 2020, travellers with a VoC likely acquired their infection in the Lebanon (15), United Kingdom (13), South Africa (7), the United Arab Emirates (5), USA (5), Germany (2), India (2), and one case each in Finland, France, Jordan, Pakistan, Netherlands, Zambia and Nigeria. There are four cases where the likely country of acquisition was unable to be determined.

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 the two mandatory tests.

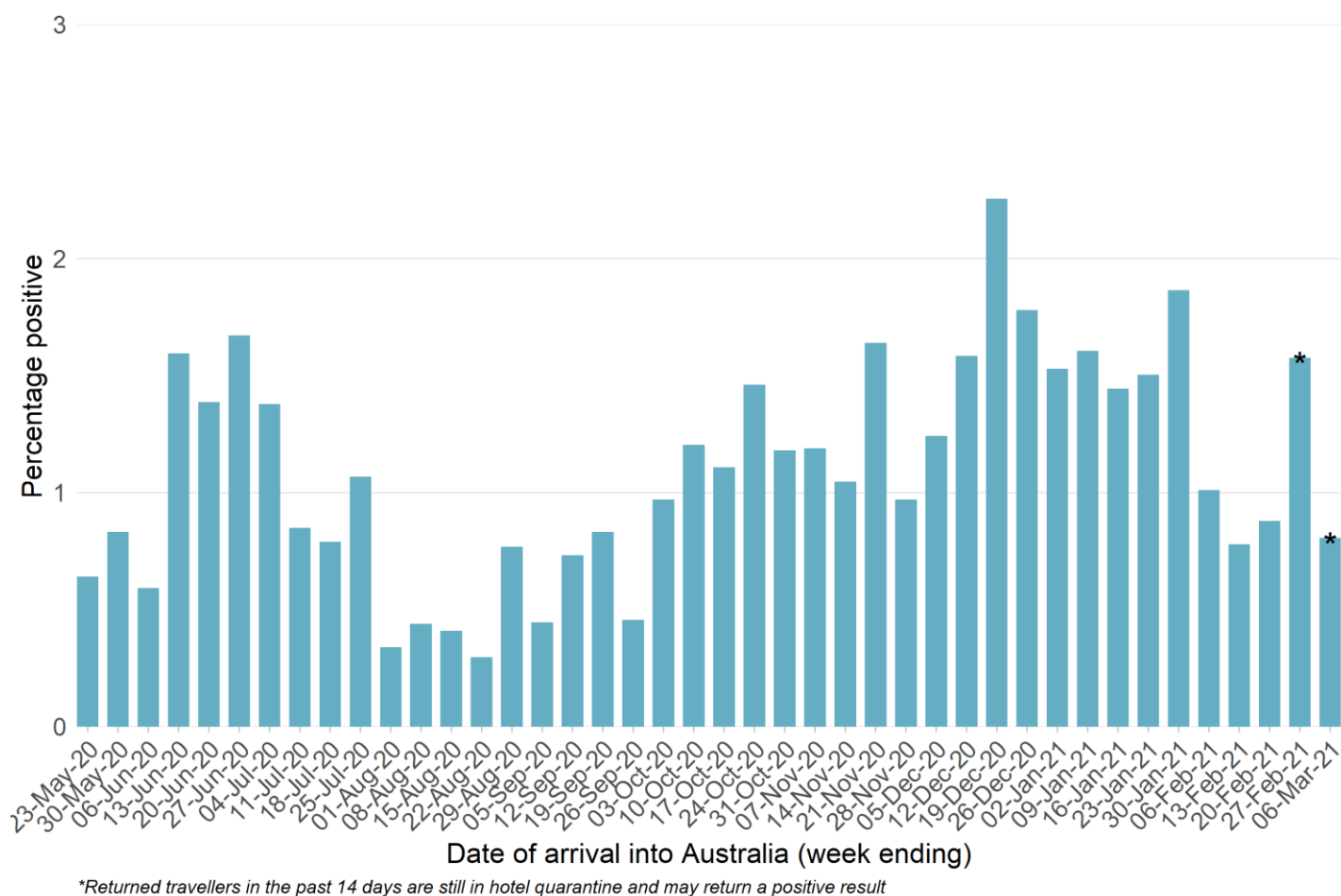
Since hotel quarantine began on 29 March 2020, a total of 184,800 PCR tests have been conducted with 922 overseas acquired cases and 4 interstate acquired COVID-19 cases detected while in hotel quarantine. In the last four weeks, 8158 returned travellers received an entry swab on day two in hotel quarantine and 6,436 returned travellers received an exit swab.

Figure 10. COVID-19 testing in returned travellers in hotel quarantine, reported from 21 March 2020 to 6 March 2021, NSW



Interpretation: In the week ending 6 March, there were 4,869 tests of travellers conducted through the hotel quarantine screening programs.

Figure 11. COVID-19 percentage positive in returned travellers in hotel quarantine by week of arrival in Australia, reported from week ending 23 May 2020 to week ending 6 March, NSW, 2020 and 2021



Interpretation: The increase in returned travellers testing positive during their quarantine period since September 2020 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 28 February 2021

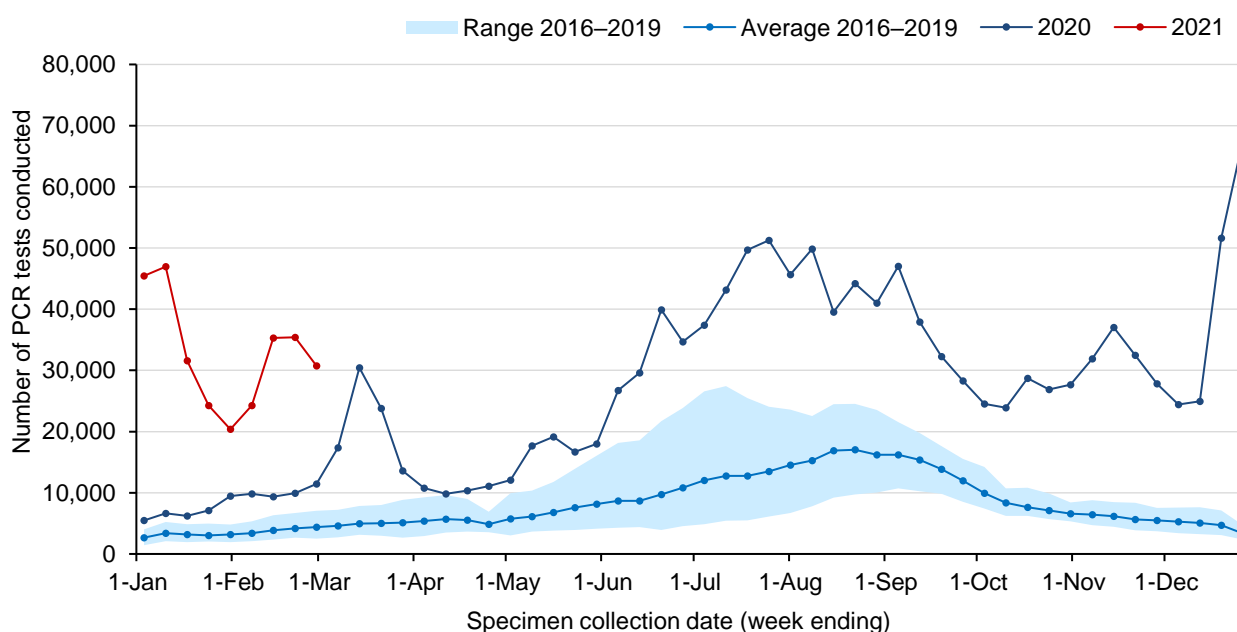
In NSW, routine surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses is conducted through sentinel laboratories. The number of all PCR tests (positive and negative) are provided to NSW Health by participating laboratories each week. Testing counts reflect the number of influenza PCR tests conducted;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

The most recent data available is for testing carried out to 28 February 2021. A total of 294,314 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 and the black line shows the testing numbers for 2020. The blue line shows the average number of tests carried out for the same week in the previous four years (2016–2019) and the shaded area shows the range of counts reported in the same time period.

Figure 12. Testing for influenza by week, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 28 February 2021

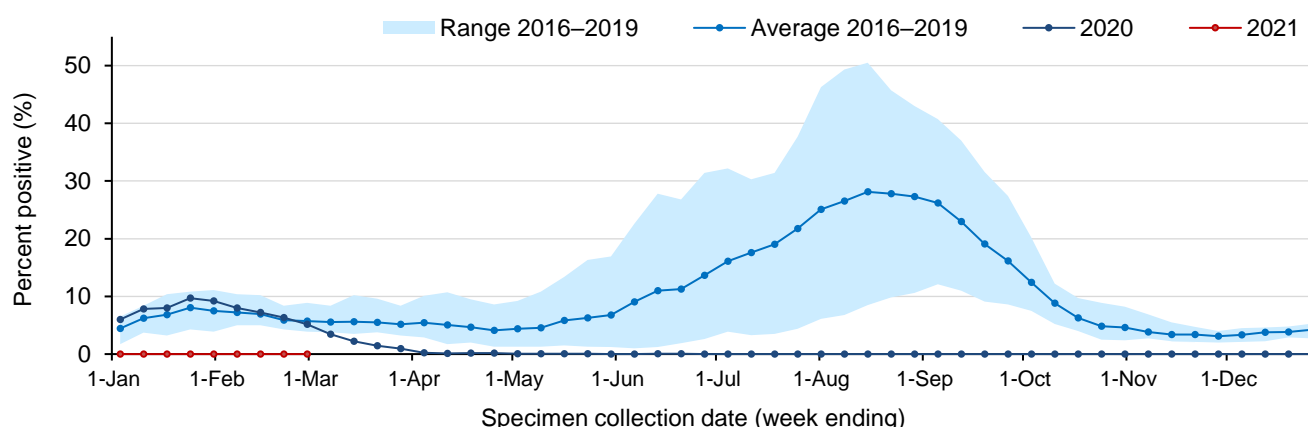


Interpretation: In the week ending 28 February, there were 30,749 influenza tests performed across the participating laboratories. Testing has decreased, following a similar pattern to COVID-19 testing. The testing numbers continue to exceed the four-year average for this time of year.

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 black line showing counts for 2020, the blue line showing the average for 2016 to 2019 and the shaded area showing the range recorded for 2016 to 2019.

Figure 13. Proportion of tests positive for influenza, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 28 February 2021

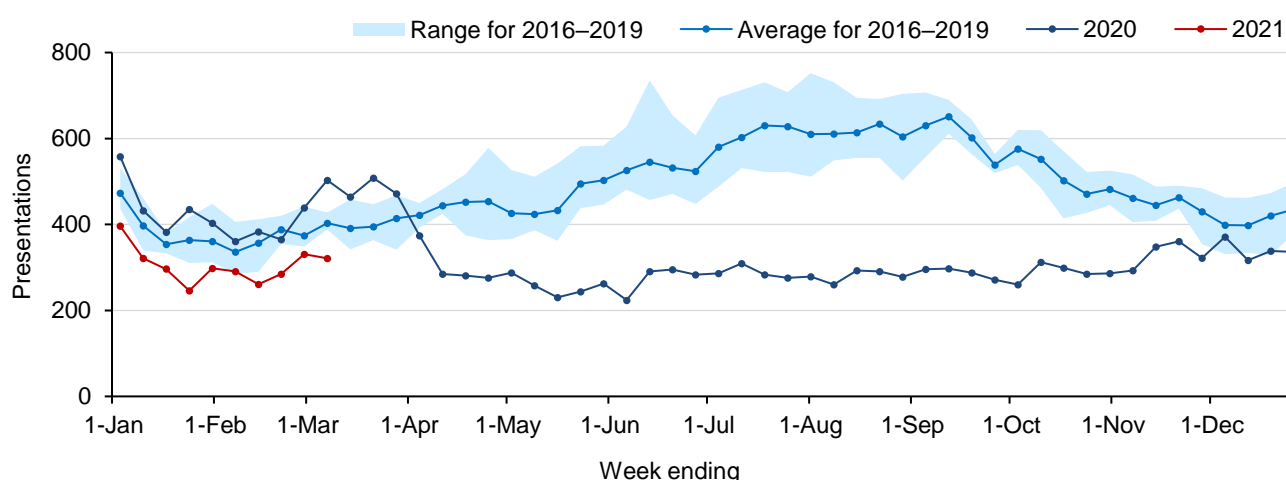


Interpretation: In the week ending 28 February, the percent of influenza tests that were positive continued to be very low (<0.01%), indicating limited influenza transmission in the community. Since early March 2020, this percentage has remained far lower than the usual range for the time of year.

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 black line showing counts for 2020, the blue line showing the average for 2016 to 2019 and the shaded area showing the range recorded for 2016 to 2019.

Figure 14. Emergency Department pneumonia presentations, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 7 March 2021



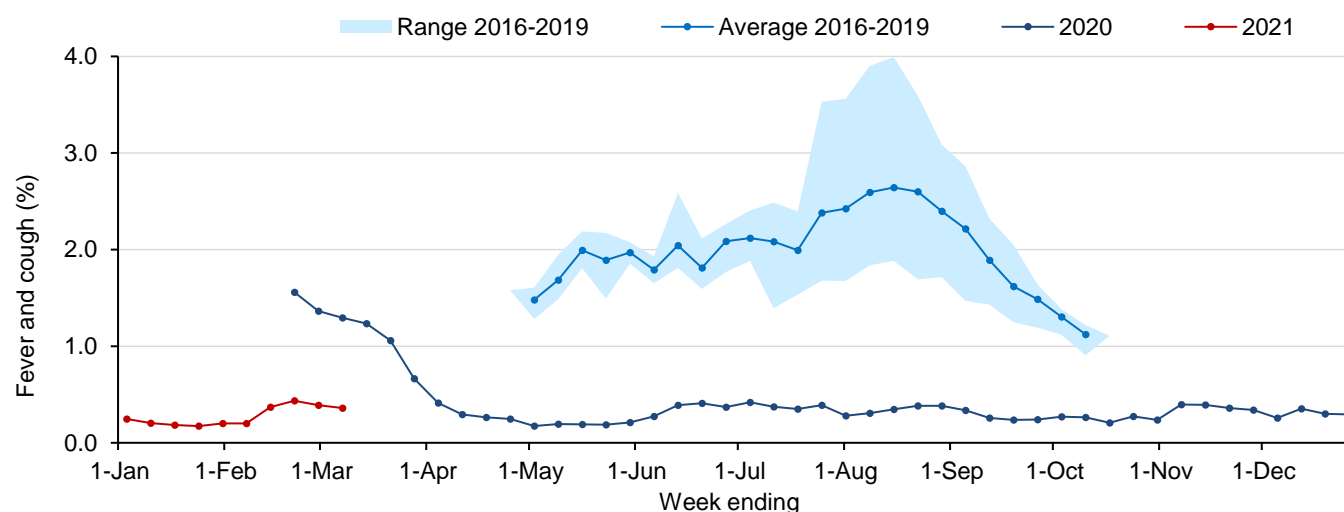
Interpretation: Pneumonia presentations include people with diagnoses of viral, bacterial, atypical or unspecified pneumonia, and Legionnaires' disease, but excludes 'pneumonia with influenza' and provides an indicator of more severe respiratory conditions. In the week ending 7 March, pneumonia presentations decreased slightly and remain 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 15. Proportion of FluTracker participants reporting influenza-like illness, NSW, 1 January 2016 to 7 March 2021



Interpretation: In NSW in the week ending 7 March of the 15,786 people surveyed, 57 people (0.36%) reported flu-like symptoms. In the last four weeks, two-thirds (185/281) 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 2020	
		6-March		27-February		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	2720	7.71	3247	9.2	187997	532.78
Far West	Balranald	7	2.99	11	4.7	644	275.45
	Broken Hill	133	7.61	105	6.01	8398	480.46
	Central Darling	2	1.09	0	0	511	277.87
	Wentworth	24	3.4	27	3.83	3123	442.79
	LHD Total ²	166	5.51	143	4.74	12676	420.51
Hunter New England	Armidale Regional	221	7.18	252	8.19	12961	421.1
	Cessnock	216	3.6	277	4.62	19770	329.58
	Dungog	62	6.58	79	8.38	3184	337.9
	Glen Innes Severn	36	4.06	33	3.72	2319	261.41
	Gunnedah	61	4.81	74	5.84	4145	326.87
	Gwydir	6	1.12	17	3.18	873	163.09
	Inverell	65	3.85	90	5.33	5268	311.9
	Lake Macquarie	1935	9.4	2189	10.63	115032	558.68
	Liverpool Plains	60	7.59	49	6.2	2707	342.53
	Maitland	948	11.13	1105	12.97	51823	608.49
	Mid-Coast	444	4.73	510	5.44	31590	336.65
	Moree Plains	72	5.43	60	4.52	3776	284.74
	Muswellbrook	104	6.35	104	6.35	5850	357.21
	Narrabri	42	3.2	26	1.98	3249	247.35
	Newcastle	1814	10.96	1922	11.61	112243	677.91
	Port Stephens	488	6.64	587	7.99	36630	498.5
	Singleton	194	8.27	217	9.25	12052	513.7
	Tamworth Regional	415	6.64	517	8.27	28630	457.78
	Tenterfield	25	3.79	33	5	1384	209.89
	Upper Hunter Shire	88	6.21	90	6.35	5301	373.84
	Uralla	18	2.99	33	5.49	1573	261.64
	Walcha	21	6.7	40	12.76	1150	366.94
	LHD Total ²	7328	7.69	8291	8.71	461155	484.21
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Kiama	222	9.49	276	11.8	13410	573.42
	Shellharbour	680	9.29	778	10.62	40925	558.83
	Shoalhaven	742	7.02	879	8.32	45381	429.55
	Wollongong	2256	10.34	2634	12.08	129355	593.06
	LHD Total ²	3900	9.29	4567	10.88	229071	545.91
Mid North Coast	Bellingen	97	7.46	110	8.46	4988	383.81
	Coffs Harbour	373	4.83	481	6.22	26487	342.75
	Kempsey	214	7.19	173	5.82	11712	393.75
	Nambucca	101	5.1	91	4.59	6375	321.89
	Port Macquarie-Hastings	638	7.55	646	7.64	34238	405.06
	LHD Total ²	1423	6.31	1501	6.65	83800	371.35

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW
Epidemiological week 9, ending 6 March 2021

www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total since January 2020	
		6-March		27-February			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
Murrumbidgee	Albury	418	7.69	388	7.14	22691	417.47
	Berrigan	27	3.09	26	2.97	2286	261.26
	Bland	16	2.68	22	3.68	1839	307.94
	Carrathool	7	2.5	7	2.5	422	150.77
	Coolamon	23	5.3	47	10.83	1639	377.56
	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	49	4.36	47	4.18	3739	332.8
	Edward River	25	2.75	47	5.17	3139	345.55
	Federation	92	7.4	103	8.28	3770	303.13
	Greater Hume Shire	59	5.48	67	6.22	3914	363.62
	Griffith	164	6.07	161	5.96	11391	421.44
	Hay	4	1.36	8	2.71	651	220.75
	Hilltops	106	5.67	110	5.88	6587	352.17
	Junee	12	1.8	32	4.79	1695	253.63
	Lachlan ¹	8	1.32	16	2.63	1170	192.59
	Leeton	49	4.28	56	4.89	3372	294.63
	Lockhart	16	4.87	29	8.83	977	297.41
	Murray River	5	0.41	9	0.74	1016	83.84
	Murrumbidgee	17	4.34	12	3.06	998	254.79
	Narrandera	15	2.54	11	1.86	1359	230.38
	Snowy Valleys	74	5.11	66	4.56	5192	358.59
	Temora	17	2.7	24	3.81	1597	253.21
	Wagga Wagga	584	8.95	619	9.49	33016	505.93
	LHD Total ¹²	1781	5.97	1893	6.35	111677	374.62
Nepean Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains	374	4.73	687	8.68	56260	711.09
	Hawkesbury	434	6.45	600	8.92	39266	583.48
	Lithgow	27	1.25	66	3.05	7968	368.8
	Penrith	1202	5.64	1953	9.17	137316	644.75
	LHD Total ¹²	2007	5.13	3274	8.37	238884	610.98
Northern NSW	Ballina	618	13.85	471	10.55	18825	421.82
	Byron	437	12.46	340	9.69	17996	512.98
	Clarence Valley	201	3.89	295	5.71	14757	285.65
	Kyogle	40	4.55	55	6.25	2360	268.3
	Lismore	462	10.57	502	11.49	19190	439.21
	Richmond Valley	219	9.33	205	8.74	8813	375.58
	Tenterfield	25	3.79	33	5	1384	209.89
	Tweed	651	6.71	712	7.34	32394	333.96
	LHD Total ¹²	2633	8.48	2592	8.35	114661	369.44
Northern Sydney	Hornsby	1843	12.12	2195	14.44	90828	597.32
	Hunters Hill	391	26.1	453	30.24	20430	1363.82
	Ku-ring-gai	2363	18.58	2938	23.11	119529	940.04
	Lane Cove	998	24.85	1182	29.44	57907	1442.09
	Mosman	366	11.81	466	15.04	24533	791.87
	North Sydney	752	10.02	773	10.3	44509	593.29

COVID-19 WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE IN NSW
Epidemiological week 9, ending 6 March 2021

www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total since January 2020	
		6-March		27-February			
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population
	Northern Beaches	4072	14.89	4788	17.51	314074	1148.36
	Parramatta ¹	2571	10	2909	11.31	132443	514.95
	Ryde	1835	13.98	2095	15.96	83275	634.37
	Willoughby	920	11.33	1061	13.07	46012	566.73
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	14139	14.79	16627	17.39	827672	865.84
South Eastern Sydney	Bayside	1504	8.43	1709	9.58	87505	490.51
	Georges River	1352	8.48	1514	9.49	74196	465.26
	Randwick	1899	12.2	2079	13.36	120291	772.84
	Sutherland Shire	2675	11.6	2939	12.74	156803	679.95
	Sydney ¹	3336	13.54	3510	14.25	193846	786.89
	Waverley	1100	14.81	1199	16.14	68870	926.98
	Woollahra	967	16.28	1025	17.26	58037	977.27
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	10690	11.15	11670	12.17	635819	662.93
South Western Sydney	Camden	1276	12.58	1489	14.68	83016	818.4
	Campbelltown	1746	10.21	2070	12.11	111824	654.16
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	3016	7.98	3247	8.59	193322	511.55
	Fairfield	1140	5.39	1324	6.25	86943	410.7
	Liverpool	1872	8.23	2157	9.48	136558	600.03
	Wingecarribee	663	12.97	802	15.68	35375	691.81
	Wollondilly	329	6.19	436	8.2	23820	448.17
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	8477	8.16	9792	9.43	572634	551.39
Southern NSW	Bega Valley	207	6	234	6.79	12639	366.6
	Eurobodalla	241	6.26	344	8.94	19201	499.08
	Goulburn Mulwaree	218	7	238	7.64	13279	426.54
	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	333	5.45	312	5.11	18274	299.08
	Snowy Monaro Regional	130	6.25	128	6.16	7999	384.66
	Upper Lachlan Shire	63	7.82	47	5.83	2921	362.45
	Yass Valley	72	4.21	54	3.16	4391	256.98
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	1264	5.82	1357	6.25	78734	362.71
Sydney	Burwood	286	7.04	301	7.41	17914	441.1
	Canada Bay	1113	11.58	1305	13.58	68877	716.92
	Canterbury-Bankstown ¹	3016	7.98	3247	8.59	193322	511.55
	Inner West	2325	11.58	2723	13.56	159947	796.51
	Strathfield	562	11.98	647	13.79	31487	670.99
	Sydney ¹	3336	13.54	3510	14.25	193846	786.89
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	7932	11.38	8938	12.83	496395	712.42
Western NSW	Bathurst Regional	338	7.75	443	10.16	22463	514.99
	Blayney	71	9.62	76	10.3	3704	501.97
	Bogan	10	3.88	11	4.26	980	379.84
	Bourke	7	2.7	6	2.32	592	228.57
	Brewarrina	6	3.72	2	1.24	357	221.6
	Cabonne	104	7.63	114	8.36	3760	275.78
	Cobar	18	3.86	42	9.02	1270	272.65

Local Health District	Local Government Area	Week ending				Total since January 2020	
		6-March		27-February		No.	Tests per 1,000 population
		No.	Tests per 1,000 population	No.	Tests per 1,000 population		
	Coonamble	13	3.28	19	4.8	1066	269.33
	Cowra	74	5.81	116	9.1	4069	319.31
	Dubbo Regional	371	6.91	412	7.67	21642	402.87
	Forbes	37	3.74	30	3.03	2510	253.38
	Gilgandra	13	3.07	9	2.12	1079	254.54
	Lachlan ¹	8	1.32	16	2.63	1170	192.59
	Mid-Western Regional	170	6.73	186	7.37	9881	391.31
	Narromine	41	6.29	38	5.83	2061	316.25
	Oberon	29	5.36	34	6.28	1925	355.76
	Orange	489	11.52	631	14.86	25429	599.02
	Parkes	95	6.4	82	5.53	4752	320.28
	Walgett	14	2.35	15	2.52	1778	298.67
	Warren	23	8.53	21	7.79	1505	558.03
	Warrumbungle Shire	70	7.54	69	7.44	3163	340.91
	Weddin	20	5.54	25	6.92	962	266.26
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	2019	7.08	2395	8.4	115778	406.22
Western Sydney	Blacktown	3982	10.63	4954	13.23	225626	602.55
	Cumberland	2379	9.85	2525	10.45	144552	598.51
	Parramatta ¹	2571	10	2909	11.31	132443	514.95
	The Hills Shire	3130	17.59	3536	19.87	145904	819.83
	<i>LHD Total²</i>	11558	10.97	13360	12.68	627790	595.95
NSW Total³		83,443	10.31	94,887	11.73	5,107,947	631.4

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, January 2020 to 28 February 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 2020–28 February 2021

Specimen collection date	PCR tests conducted	Influenza A No.	Influenza A %Pos.	Influenza B No.	Influenza B %Pos.	Adeno-virus	Para-influenza	RSV	Rhino-virus	HMPV**	Entero-virus
Total	294,314	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	835	193	5,656	12,153	40	1,470
Month ending											
31 January *	168,596	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	416	88	3,275	3,541	23	560
Week ending											
7 February	24,256	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	102	12	614	1,292	4	187
14 February	35,304	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	105	17	583	2,078	4	201
21 February	35,409	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	96	27	550	2,587	2	229
28 February	30,749	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	116	49	634	2,655	7	293

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

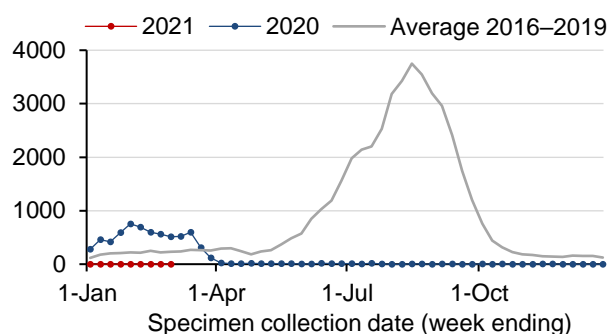
RSV - Respiratory syncytial virus

*Five-week period

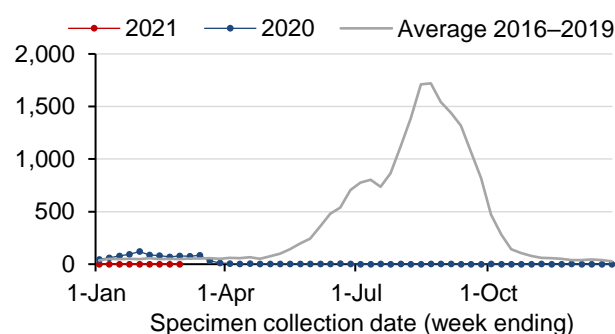
APPENDIX C: NUMBER OF POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULTS FOR INFLUENZA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY VIRUSES AT SENTINEL NSW LABORATORIES, January 2020 to 28 February 2021

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.

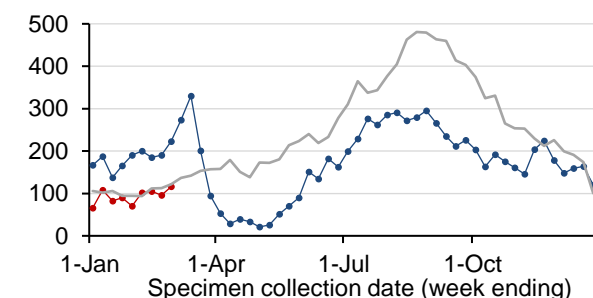
Influenza A



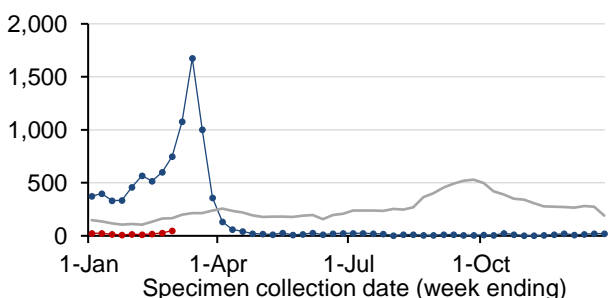
Influenza B



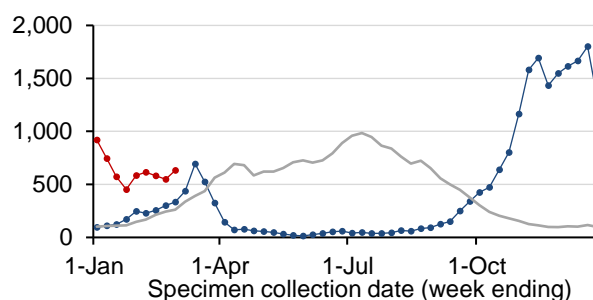
Adenovirus



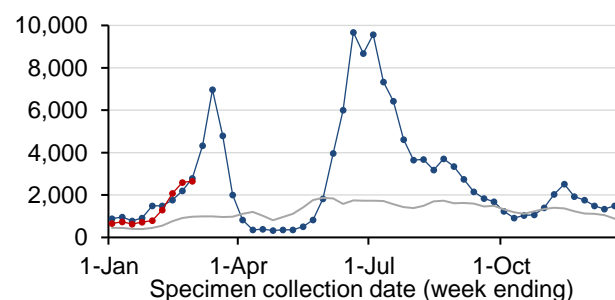
Parainfluenza



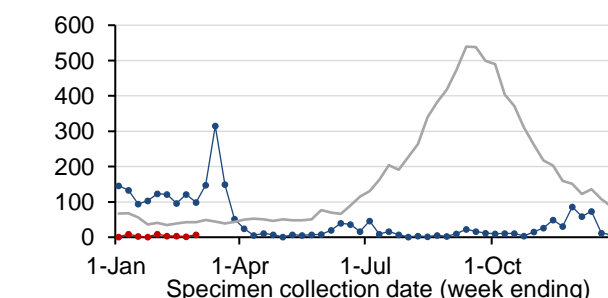
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



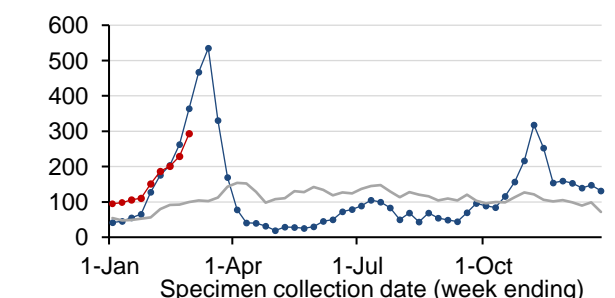
Rhinovirus



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 6 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		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Pop.	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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
233,176	Cronulla										
1,857,740	Malabar 1									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		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Network	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Pop.	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14,700	Bowral										
14,000	Mittagong										
9,000	Moss Vale										
1,000	Berrima										
2,000	Bundanoon										
900	Robertson										
16,068	Bombo										
7,200	Gerrigong/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
	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
	Wagga Wagga- inlet 1										
	Wagga Wagga- inlet 2										
	Wagga Wagga -Koorringal STP										
2,050	Bourke										
	Nyngan										

Regional Sites (con't)		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Pop.	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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										
32,500	Lismore composite							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
12,250	North Grafton										
6,300	South Grafton										

Regional Sites (con't)		2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
Pop.	Location	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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>