

Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

Week 26 2017

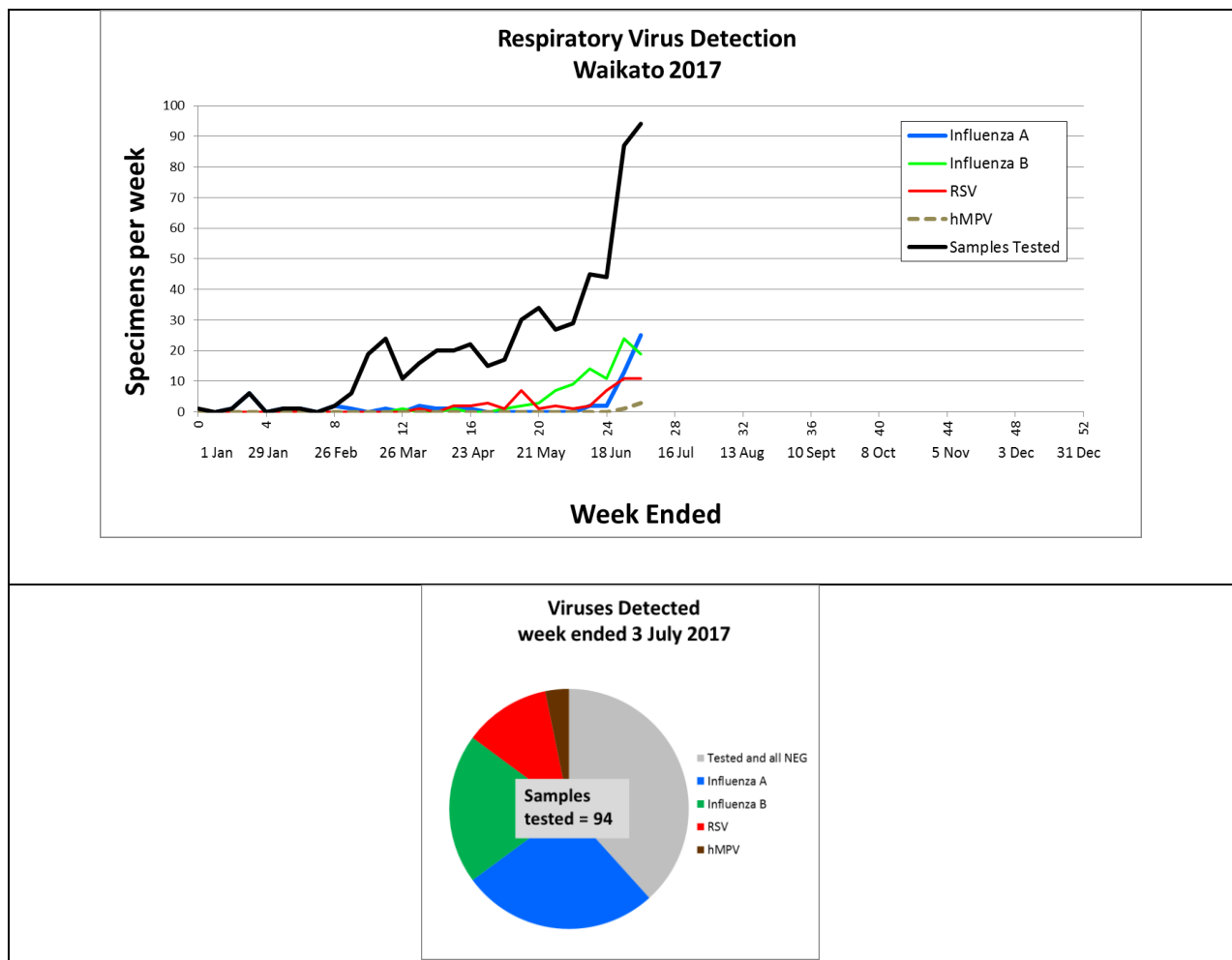
Week to 3 July 2017

We now have both Influenza A and B circulating at high levels. Two thirds of samples are now positive for one of the 4 main viruses. Half of samples are positive for Influenza, so the number needed to treat for benefit from oseltamivir is just over 2. Oseltamivir needs to be started within 48 hr of onset of symptoms (preferably earlier) to have worthwhile effect. Bacterial superinfection with *S. aureus* or *Haemophilus influenzae* can also occur, so some cases will require antibiotics like flucloxacillin or amoxicillin-clavulanate. The circulating A (H3N2) strain has drifted away from what was in the vaccine, so it is still possible for a patient to have Influenza even if they have been vaccinated.

“Influenza Like Illness”: abrupt onset, fever, prominent myalgia, malaise or prostration, some cough, coryza, wheeze or sore throat.

Specimen quality has been good, with over 90% of samples having sufficient material to issue a valid result. Please send Nasopharyngeal swabs. Label both swab and form “NPS”.

<http://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/assets/NewsItems/Viral-Resp-Swabs-flyer-2017.pdf>



Waikato Hospital laboratory web site: <http://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/>

NZ Influenza Surveillance: https://surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php