

## Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

Week 18 2017

Week to 7 May 2017

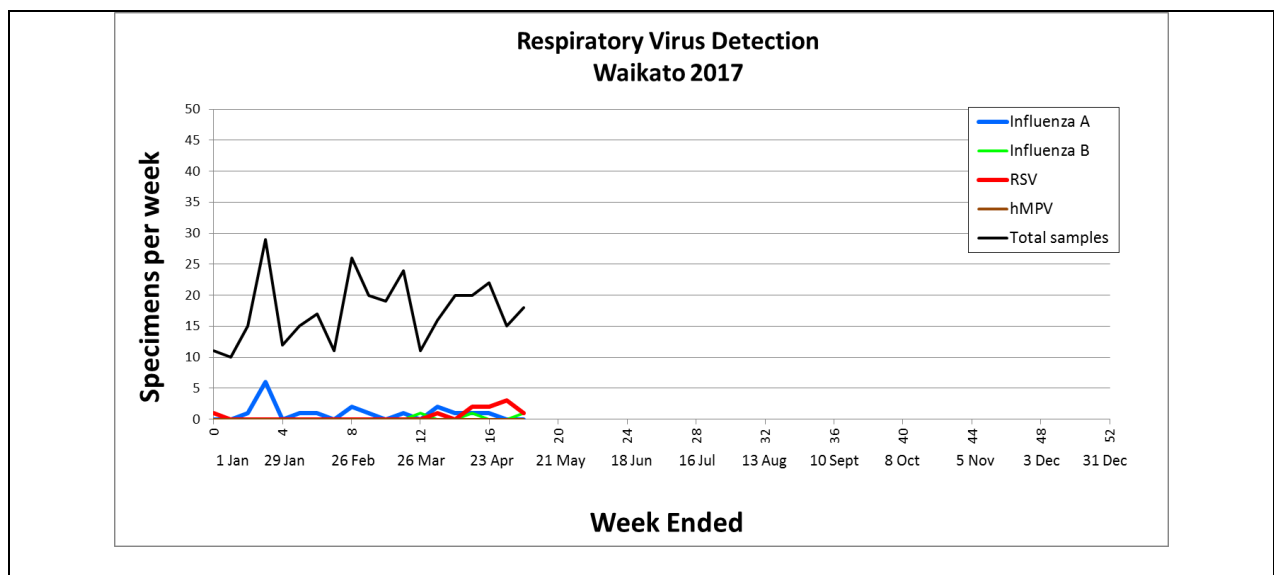
There are few cases of RSV, Influenza A or B at present. Sample numbers are at low, summer-like, rates.

Our lab methods are:

- **4 Virus in house PCR panel** (FluA, FluB, RSV, hMPV) automated processing in batches, currently Mondays and Thursdays, 5/7 daily in mid winter.
- **19 Virus panel** (Fast Track Diagnostics) one sample at a time, as required, weekdays only. This is used only for immunosuppressed patients and by special request for others. Sensitivity is not quite as good as the standard panel of 4. In general, the additional 15 viruses cause milder illness, unlikely to need medical care in otherwise healthy people.

We require nasopharyngeal swabs (or aspirates) for all testing now. Swab type details are on the Waikato Lab web site: <http://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/collection-guides/>  
<http://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/assets/NewsItems/Viral-Resp-Swabs-flyer-2017.pdf>

For many years, we have tested low nose swabs for respiratory viruses but sensitivity is not as good as a real nasopharyngeal swab and the practice has not become established internationally. We also don't test throat swabs for viruses, even though most sore throats are believed to be due to virus. This is because we get so few positives; viral shedding is quite low there. Again, send a NPS even if there aren't many nasal symptoms. Bacterial throat swabs are encouraged for Group A Strep screening in targeted populations.



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

NZ Influenza Surveillance: [https://surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza\\_weekly\\_update.php](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php)