

# Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

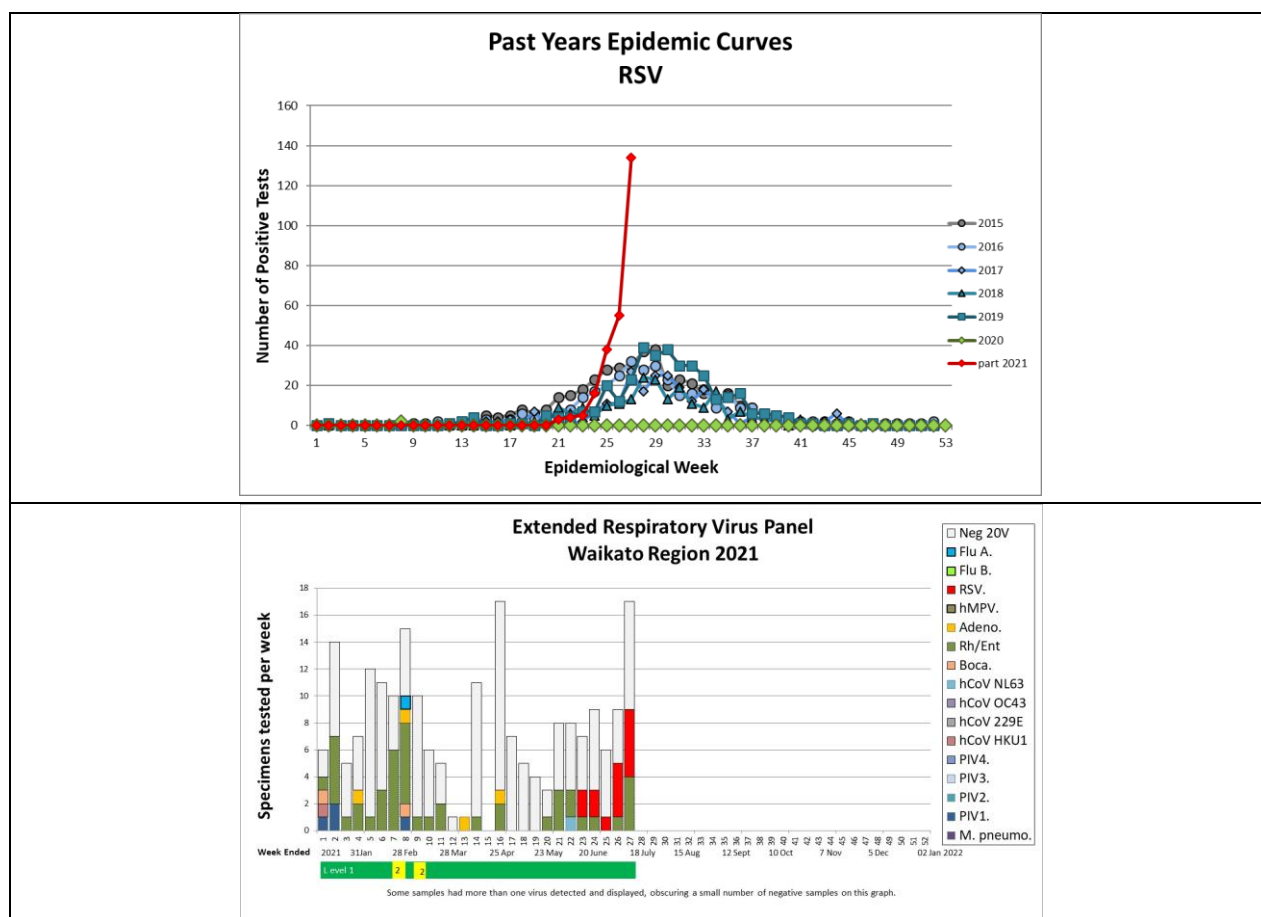
Week 27 2021

Week to 11 July 2021

Respiratory Syncytial Virus numbers continued to increase exponentially. Numbers are higher than any seen in the past 10 years which I have records for. The rate of increase is also twice as fast as in past years, probably due to having twice the number of under two year old children who have never been exposed to RSV. The effective R value will be twice as large. It remains to be seen whether the total number of cases in 2021 will also be about twice that seen in ordinary years, in which case the epidemic may soon burn out.

No Influenza is present in New Zealand. There were no new positive cases of COVID-19 last week among in either the community or returned travellers. Rhinovirus is also common in the Waikato at present; the patients tested by extended panel may not be representative, so the relative incidence of Rhinovirus vs RSV shouldn't be estimated from the graph below.

Patients with acute respiratory tract infection in the community should be tested for SARS-CoV-2, wherever possible, in order to detect outbreaks as early as possible.



Waikato laboratory web site and virus report archive: <https://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/news/>

Global Influenza surveillance: <https://www.who.int/influenza/en/>

WHO global COVID situation page <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>