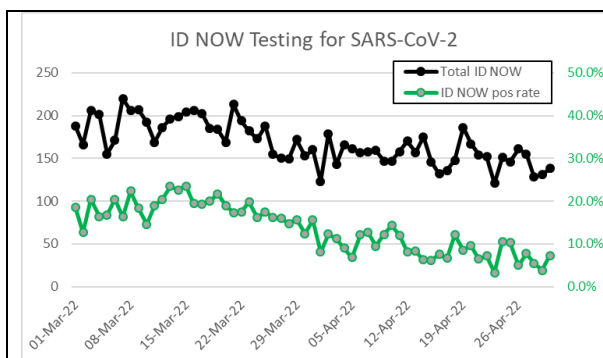
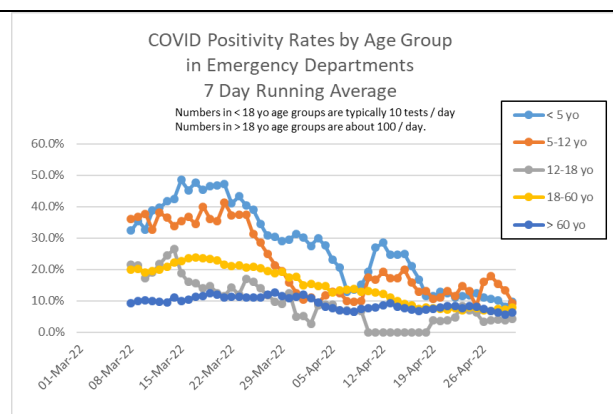


2 May 2022

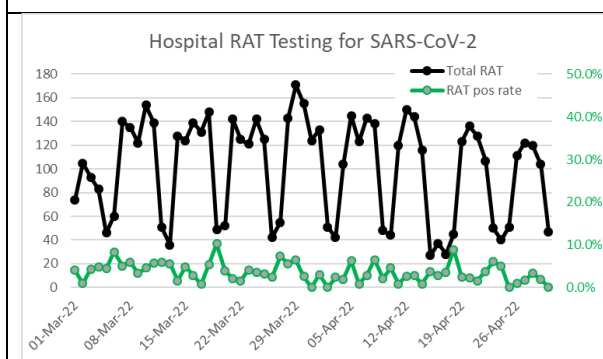
Tracking positivity rates for testing in Waikato Hospital. Note that the large majority of COVID-19 testing in the Waikato community is done by self test RAT, which are uploaded to a national database and not shown here.



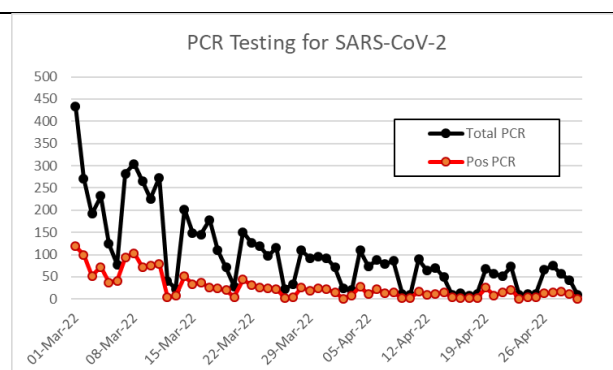
The ID NOW® test is the routine method at our Emergency departments and the number of tests is fairly stable at about 150 per day. The overall positivity rate is falling and has been about 5% over the last fortnight.



The initial high positivity rates and circulation among children have run their course and spillover into older, fully vaccinated, age groups has also receded.



Rapid antigen testing of patients in hospital is currently running at about 2% positive. Since up to 1% of RAT give a false positive, a PCR test is needed to confirm any apparent positive. RAT testing is more comfortable for the patient than the nasopharyngeal swab needed for PCR.



PCR testing numbers are currently very low and we have plenty of capacity available. PCR is used for a variety of purposes and can be offered to any patient or staff, particularly to check suspected false negative RAT results.

- Waikato laboratory web site and virus report archive: <https://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/news/>
 NZ Ministry of Health COVID data page: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/testing-covid-19>
 Radio New Zealand data visualisation: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/450874/covid-19-data-visualisations-nz-in-numbers>
 WHO COVID-19 dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>