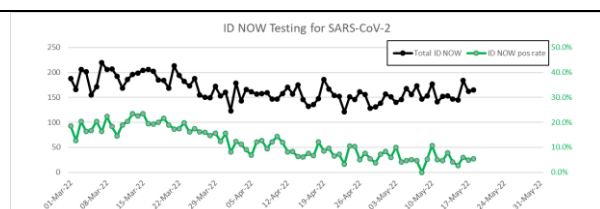
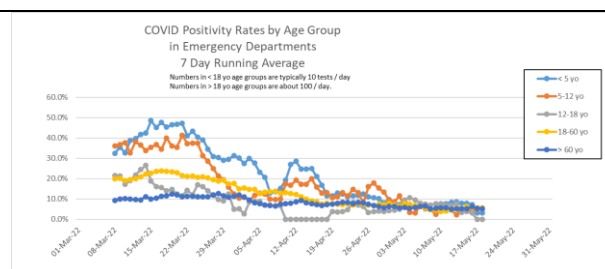


19 May 2022

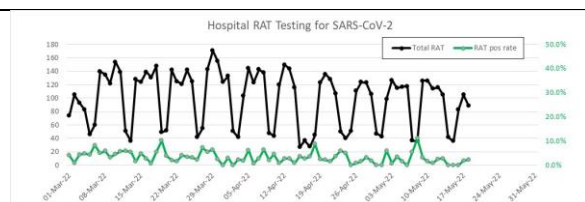
Tracking test numbers and positivity rates for testing at Waikato Hospital. Note that the large majority of COVID-19 testing in the Waikato community is done by self test RAT, which are uploaded by individuals to a national database and not shown here. Those numbers appear to be tending up, but are not reflected in specimen numbers, positivity rates or numbers of positives seen in Waikato Hospital lab.



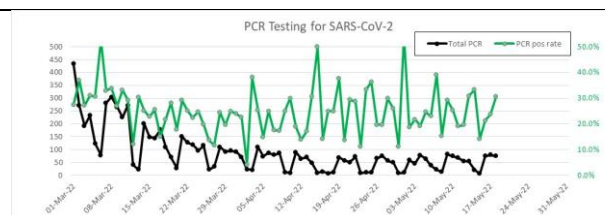
The ID NOW® test is the routine method at our Emergency departments and the number of tests is fairly stable at about 160 per day. The overall positivity rate is stable and has been about 5% over the last fortnight.



Positivity rates are stable and similar in all age groups.



Rapid antigen testing of patients in hospital is currently running at about 100 per day on week days. Since up to 1% of RAT give a false positive, a PCR test is needed to confirm any apparent positive.



PCR testing numbers are currently very low, only 60 – 70 a day 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/>