aspren | ASPREN UPDATE

Reporting period: Week 1 – 2, 2026
(29 December 2025 – 11 January 2026)

Summary: Influenza-like-illness (ILI) rates are low; however influenza positivity is high for this time of year.

Influenza-like-illness levels are decreasing

16% **Influenza positivity during the reporting period.**

4 **Case of influenza have been detected this year:**
reporting period
4 x Influenza A
0 x Influenza B

4 **Case of influenza have been detected in this reporting period**
4 x Influenza A
0 x Influenza B

Key messages

- ILI rates are low and below baseline, nationally.
- Influenza activity has decreased from the previous fortnight but is still high for the interseasonal period.
- Influenza A and rhinovirus are the most commonly circulating pathogens in this reporting period.

This report is based on data available as at 23rd January 2026. Delays in the reporting of data may cause data to change retrospectively.

Participation

319 reporters have submitted data to ASPREN this fortnight (319 YTD), throughout all 8 jurisdictions. Reporters undertook a total of 33,470 patient consultations during the reporting period. Note that this period coincides with a time of increased annual leave among reporters and may not be representative of usual reporting proportions.

Table 1. ASPREN reporter participation, weeks 1-2, 2026.

Jurisdiction	Reporters	Consultations	Proportion	ABS population proportion
ACT	21	1,355	6.6%	1.76%
NSW	79	8,290	24.8%	31.1%
NT	3	177	0.9%	0.96%
QLD	37	5,033	11.6%	20.5%
SA	45	4,015	14.1%	6.89%
TAS	21	1,796	6.6%	2.09%
VIC	43	5,136	13.5%	25.6%
WA	70	7,668	21.9%	11%
Australia	319	33,470	100%	100%

Syndromic Surveillance

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

Figure 1. ASPREN ILI rate per 100,000 consultations, 1 January 2024 – 11 January 2026.

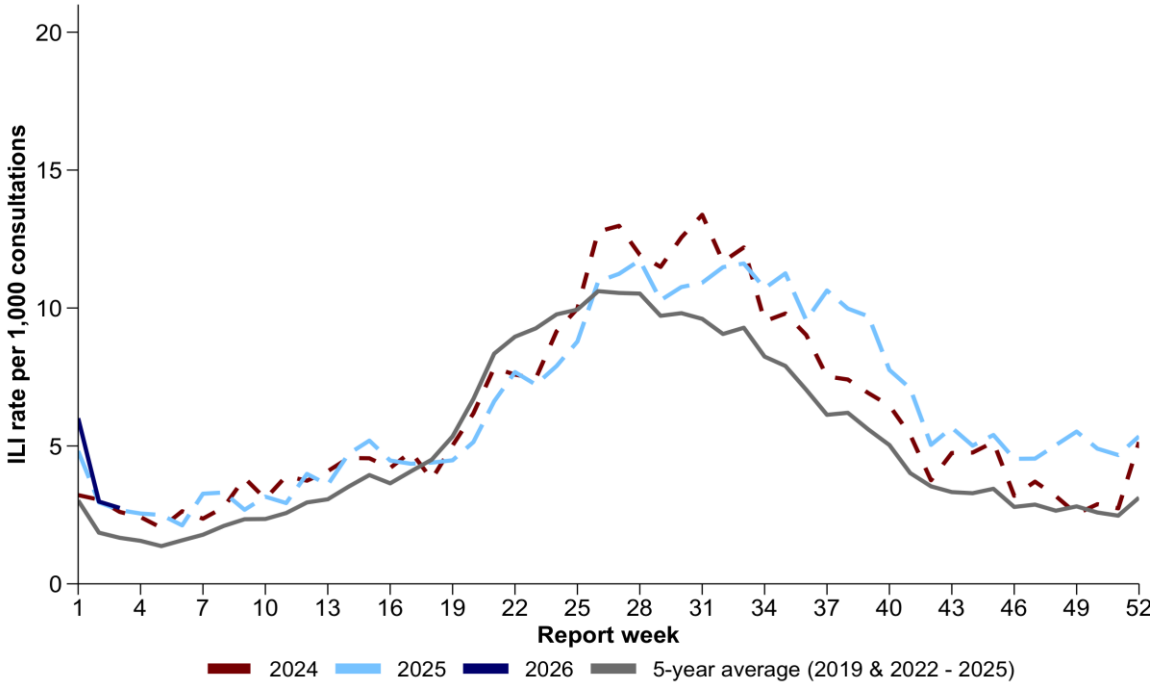


Figure 2. ASPREN ILI rate by jurisdiction, 1 January 2025 – 11 January 2026.

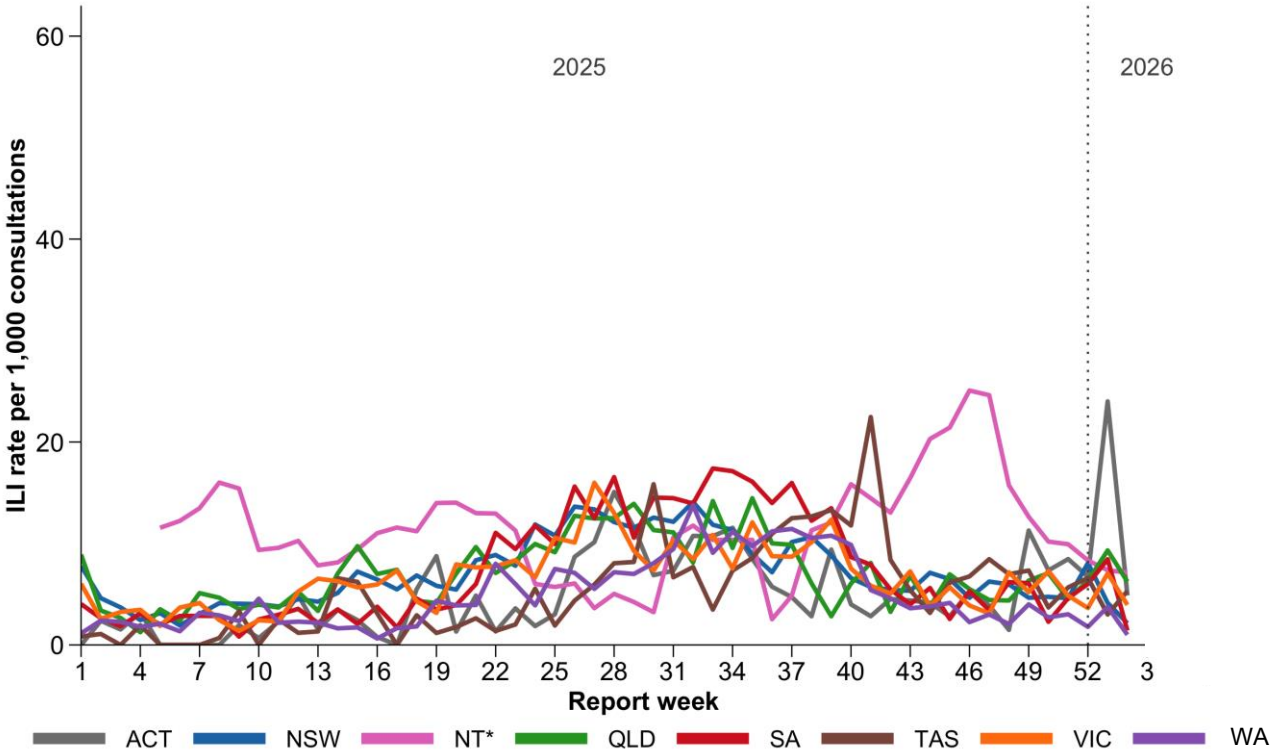


Figure 3. Map of ILI activity by jurisdiction, week 2, 2026

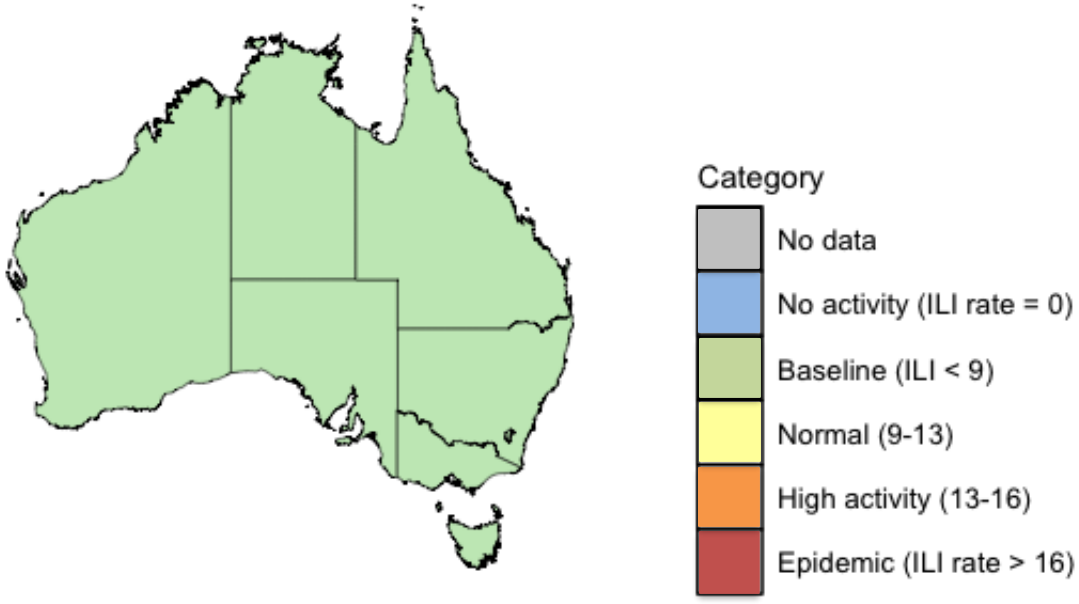
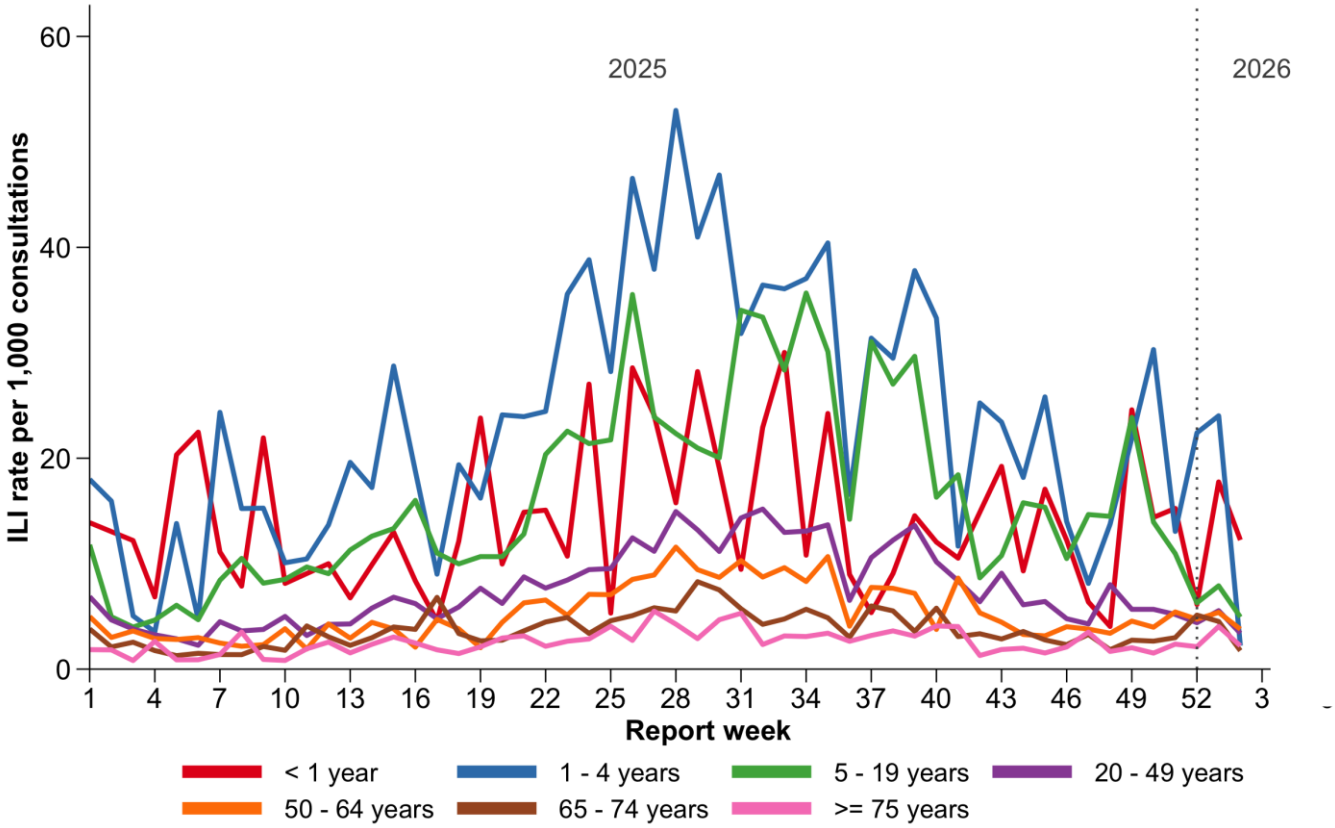


Figure 4. ASPREN ILI rate by age, 2025 – 2026.



Summary ILI activity

- ASPREN reporters saw 131 ILI patients in week 1 – 2, 2026.
- Nationally, ILI rates are low and below baseline.
- While rates appear highest in the ACT, further investigations reveal this is due to sparse data, as a result of a large proportion of ACT reporters being on leave.
- ILI rates are highest in the <1 year, 1 – 4 years and 5 – 19 years age groups, consistent with previous trends.

Virological Surveillance

Respiratory pathogen activity

Table 2: ASPREN virological surveillance summary, 2026.

Indicator	Current fortnight 26 December 2025 – 11 January 2026	Previous fortnight 15 December – 28 December 2026	YTD 1 – 11 January 2026
Number of ILI notifications	133	190	133
Number of swab tests performed	32	64	32
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza	13%	31%	13%
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza A	13%	31%	13%
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza B	0%	0%	0%
Proportion of swab tests positive for COVID-19	0%	3%	0%
Proportion of swab tests positive for RSV	6%	3%	6%
Proportion of swab tests positive for any pathogen	19%	38%	19%

Figure 5. ASPREN weekly virological detection of respiratory pathogens, 2026.

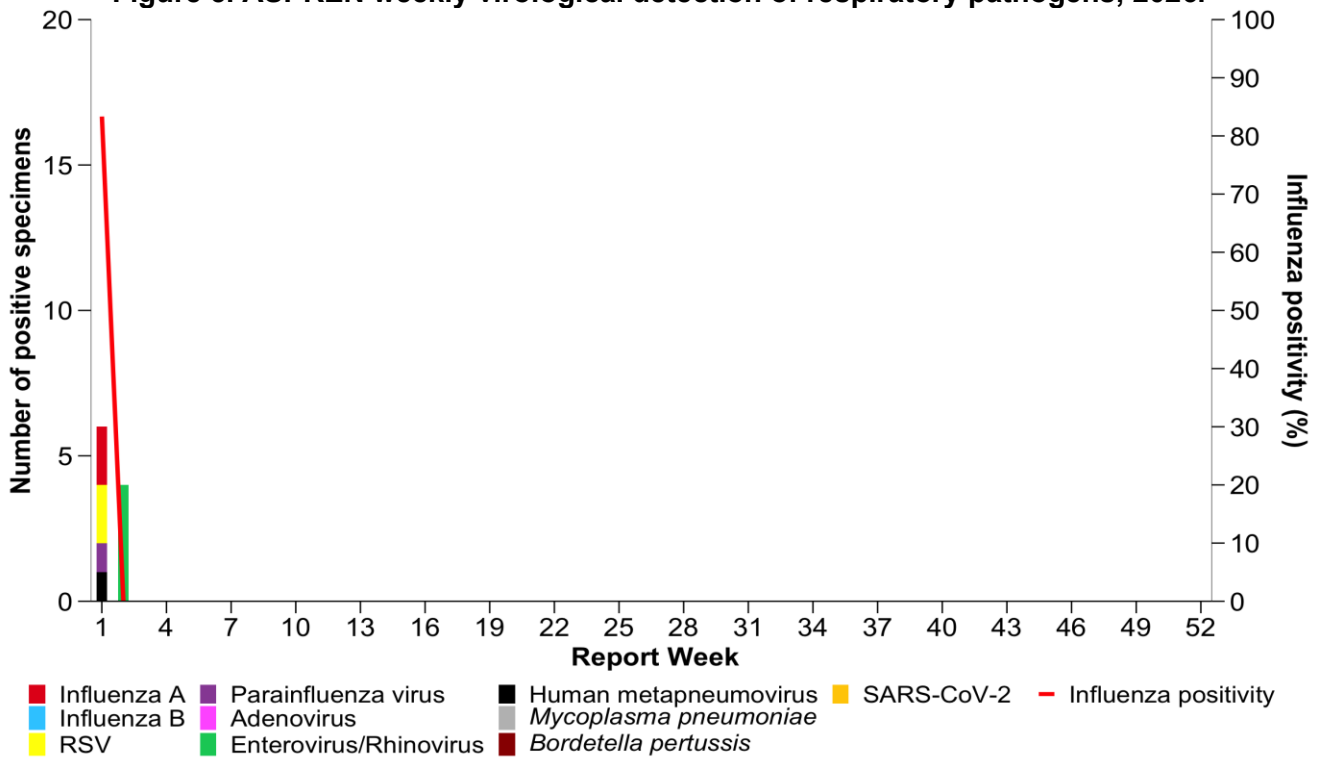


Figure 6: ASPREN weekly virological detection of influenza by type and subtype, RSV and COVID-19, 2026.

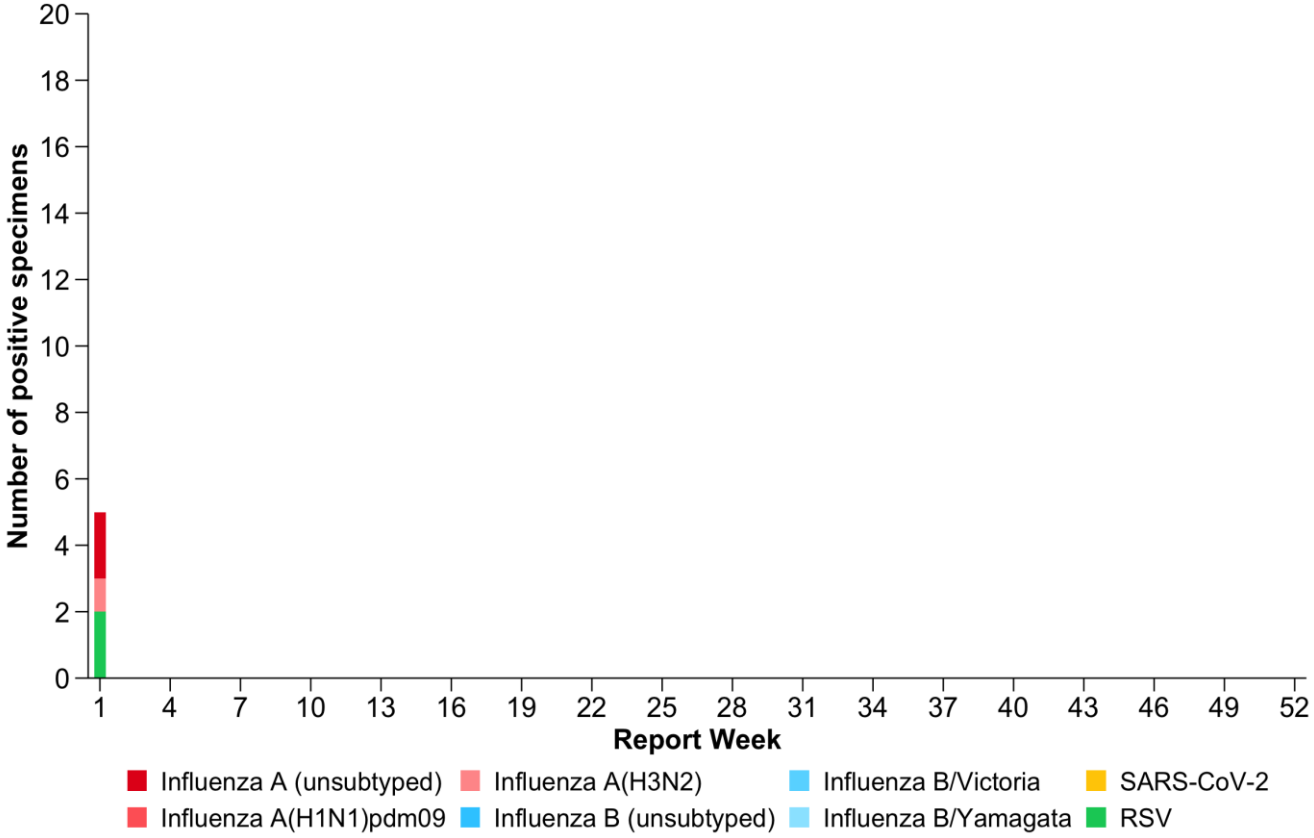


Figure 7: ASPREN virological detection by jurisdiction, 2026.

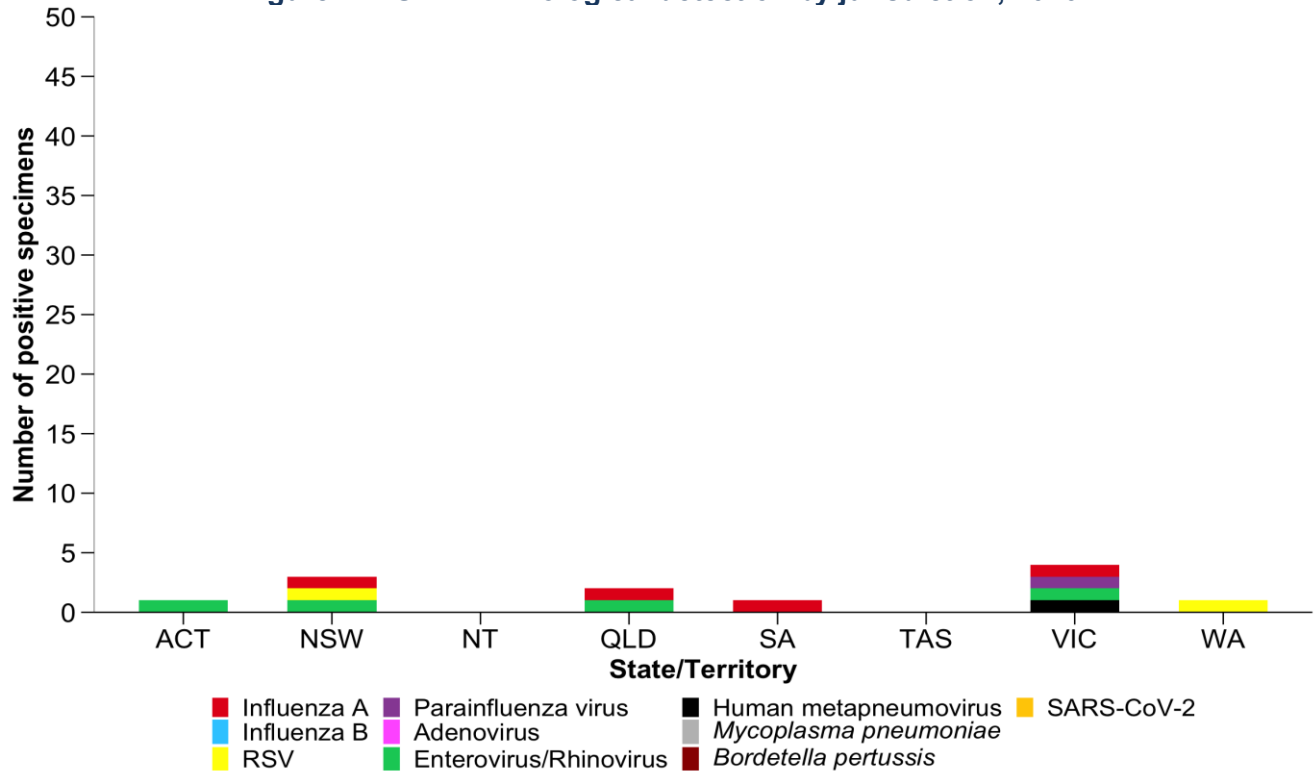


Table 3: ASPREN respiratory pathogen positivity by age group, 2026.

Pathogen	<1 year	1 – 4 years	5 – 19 years	20 – 49 years	50 – 64 years	65 – 74 years	>= 75 years
Influenza A	0	20%	0	20%	20%	40%	0
Influenza A H1N1pdm09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A H3N2	0	50%	0	0	0	50%	0
Influenza A H3N2 subclade K	0	50%	0	0	0	50%	0
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COVID-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RSV	50%	0	50%	0	0	0	0
Positive for non-influenza respiratory pathogen	11%	11%	22%	45%	11%	0	0

Summary virological activity

- Influenza A and rhinovirus are the most commonly circulating pathogens in this reporting period.
- 2 cases of influenza A were influenza A H3N2 subclade K. We are awaiting typing results from the other 2 influenza A samples.
- It is too early in the season to draw conclusions by jurisdiction or age.

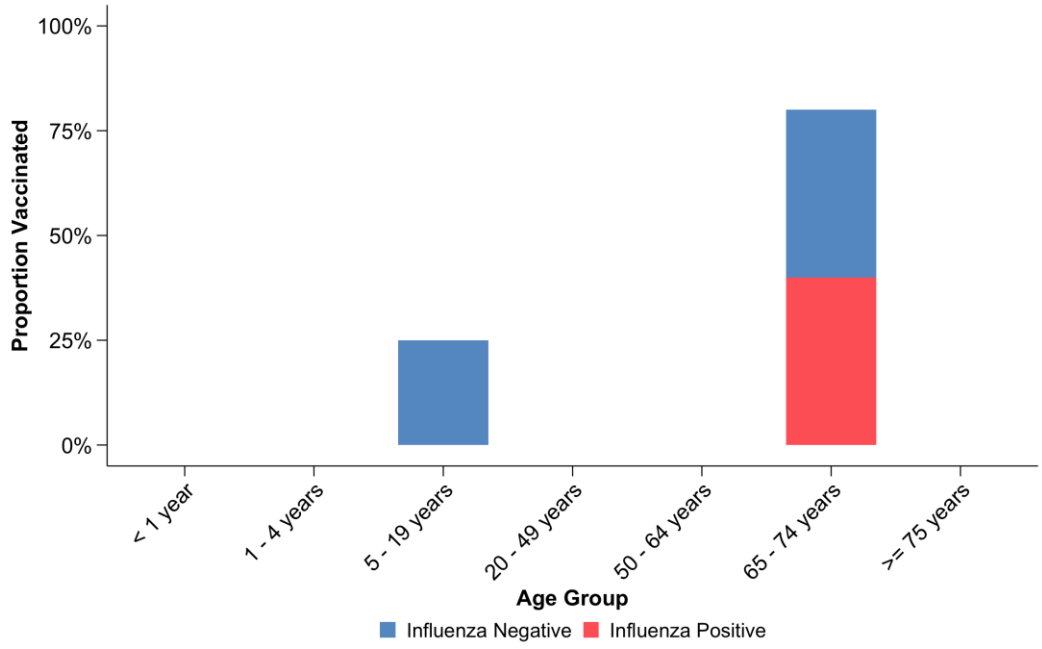
Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Effectiveness (VE)

Vaccination coverage

Table 4: ASPREN vaccination coverage by year, 2024 – 2026.

Vaccine	Vaccinated	Not vaccinated	Unknown vaccination status	% vaccinated 2026 YTD (n)	% vaccinated 2025 (n)	% vaccinated 2024 (n)
Influenza	7	17	8	29.2% (7)	38.9% (1,147)	39.6% (975)
COVID-19	0	31	2	0% (0)	8.7% (251)	N/A
RSV < 6 months	1	0	0	100% (1)	32% (8)	17.5% (7)
Maternal RSV	1	0	0	100% (1)	28.6% (10)	3.8% (1)
RSV > 6 months	0	4	0	0% (0)	4.9% (98)	1.4% (11)

Figure 8: Influenza vaccination coverage by age and influenza status, 2026.



Summary vaccination coverage and vaccine effectiveness

- Early-season data preclude interpretation of vaccine coverage and vaccine effectiveness.