



Reporting period: Week 17–18, 2026
(20 April – 3 May 2026)

Summary: Influenza-like illness (ILI) levels and influenza activity remain below baseline level.



Influenza-like-illness levels are increasing. Rates are consistent with the same period in previous years.

2%

Influenza positivity during the reporting period.

41

Case of influenza have been detected this year:
35 x Influenza A
6 x Influenza B

2

Case of influenza have been detected in this reporting period:
1 x Influenza A
1 x Influenza B

Key messages

- ILI rates are gradually increasing yet remain below baseline.
- ILI activity is highest in the 1 – 4 years age group.
- Influenza activity has decreased since the last report.
- Enterovirus / rhinovirus is the most commonly circulating pathogen in this reporting period. Parainfluenza-1 is the second most commonly circulating pathogen in this reporting period.

Participation

305 reporters have submitted data to ASPREN this fortnight (333 YTD), throughout all 8 jurisdictions. Reporters undertook a total of 47,173 patient consultations during the reporting period.

Table 1. ASPREN reporter participation, weeks 17-18, 2026.

Jurisdiction	Reporters	Consultations	Proportion	ABS population proportion
ACT	20	2,745	6.6%	1.76%
NSW	78	13,207	25.6%	31.1%
NT	3	429	1%	0.96%
QLD	34	7,203	11.1%	20.5%
SA	41	5,612	13.4%	6.89%
TAS	22	2,333	7.2%	2.09%
VIC	41	6,801	13.4%	25.6%
WA	66	8,843	21.6%	11%
Australia	305	47,173	100%	100%

Syndromic Surveillance

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

Figure 1. ASPREN ILI rate per 100,000 consultations, 1 January 2024 – 3 May 2026.

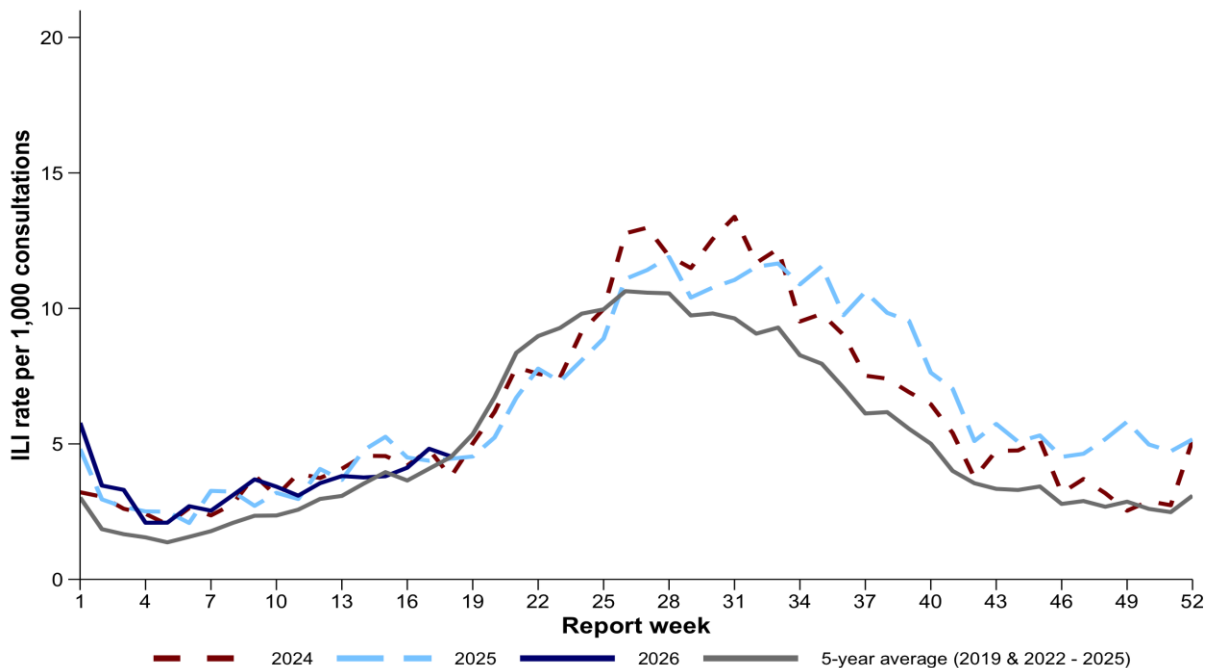
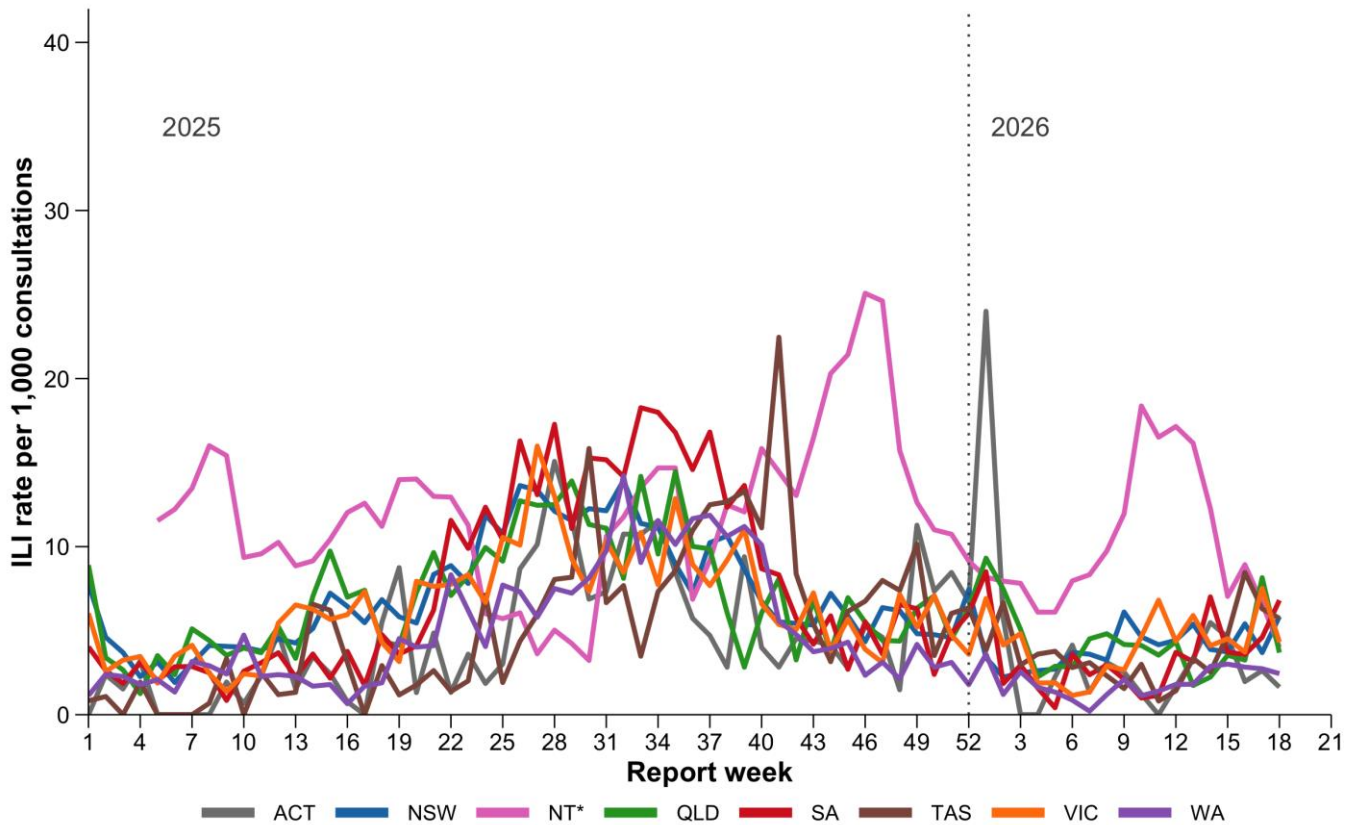


Figure 2. ASPREN ILI rate by jurisdiction, 1 January 2025 – 3 May 2026.



* NT data are presented as a 5 week rolling average due to sparse data.

Figure 3. Map of ILI activity by jurisdiction, week 18, 2026

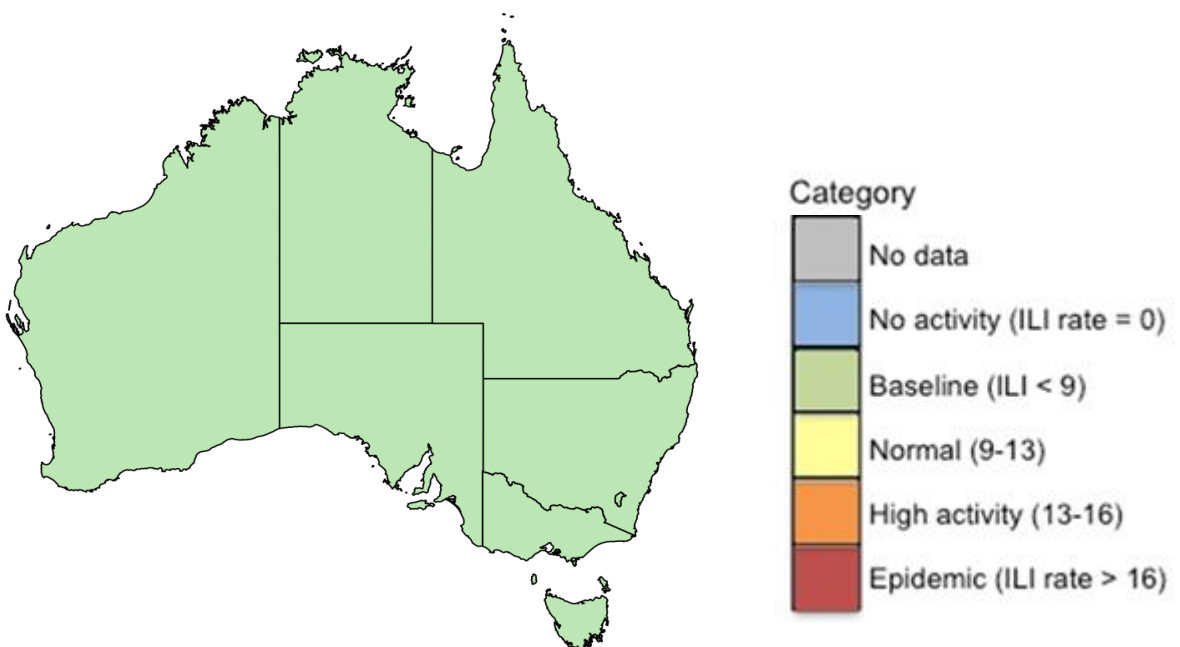
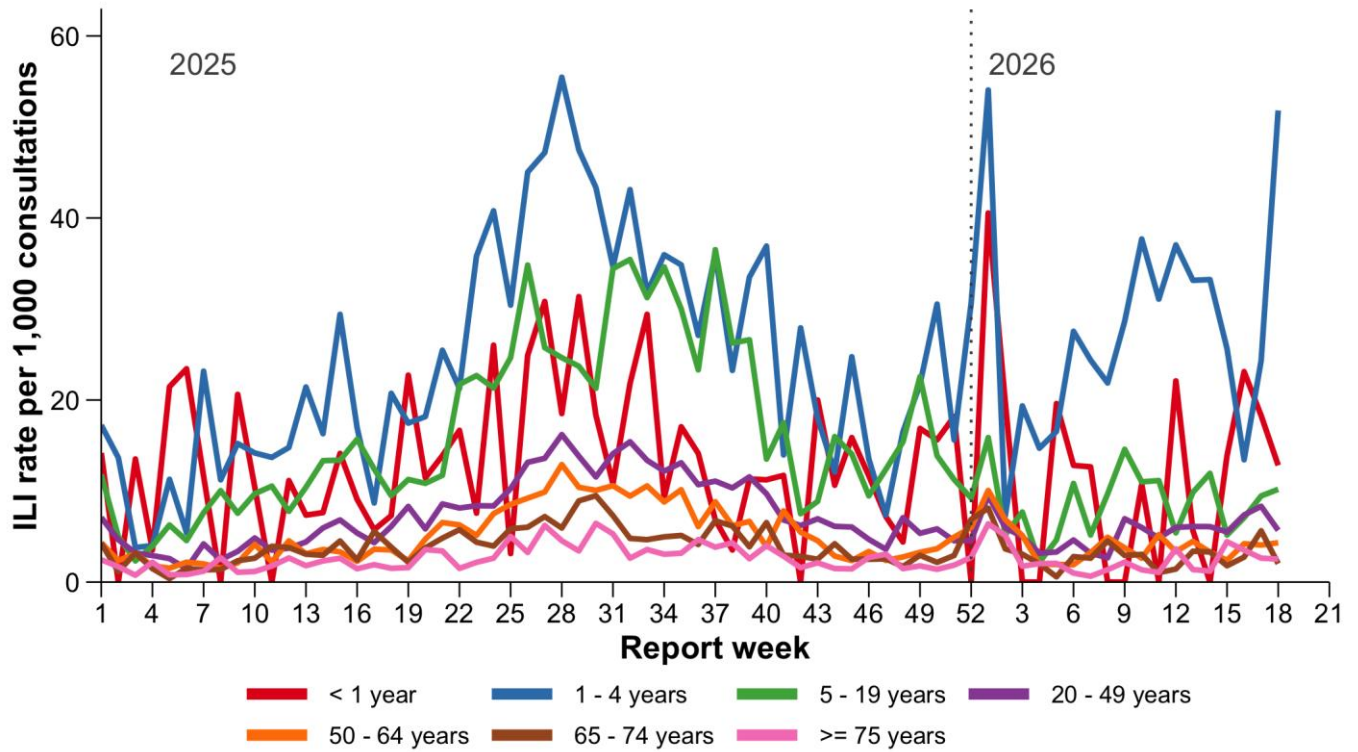


Figure 4. ASPREN ILI rate by age, 1 January 2025 – 3 May 2026.



Summary ILI activity

- ASPREN reporters saw 221 ILI patients in week 17 – 18, 2026.
- Nationally, ILI rates are low and below baseline, however have been gradually increasing.
- ILI activity in the NT has decreased since the last report and is consistent with other jurisdictions..
- ILI rates are highest in the 1 – 4 years age group.

Virological Surveillance

Respiratory pathogen activity

Table 2: ASPREN virological surveillance summary, 2026.

Indicator	Current fortnight 20 April – 3 May 2026	Previous fortnight 6 April – 19 April 2026	YTD 29 December 2025 – 3 May 2026
Number of ILI notifications	221	180	1,437
Number of swab tests performed	108	110	674
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza	2%	6%	6%
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza A	1%	5%	5%
Proportion of swab tests positive for influenza B	1%	1%	1%
Proportion of swab tests positive for COVID-19	4%	5%	4%
Proportion of swab tests positive for RSV	4%	1%	4%
Proportion of swab tests positive for any pathogen	9%	13%	13%

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

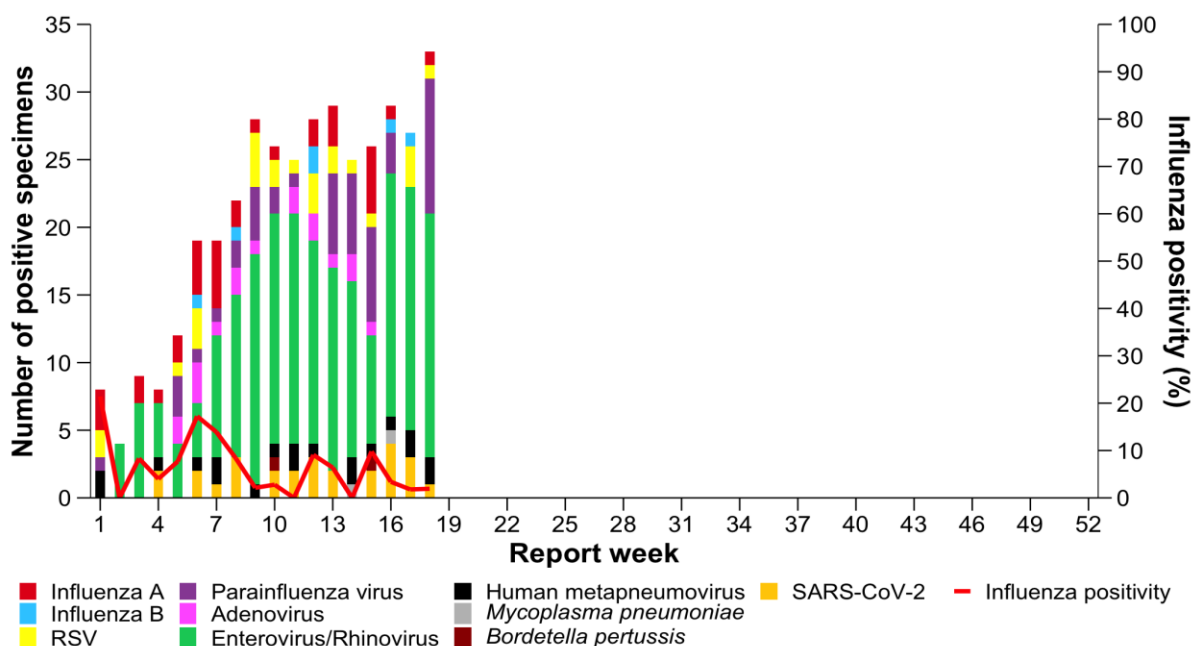


Figure 6: ASPREN weekly virological detection of influenza by type and subtype, RSV and COVID-19, 2026.

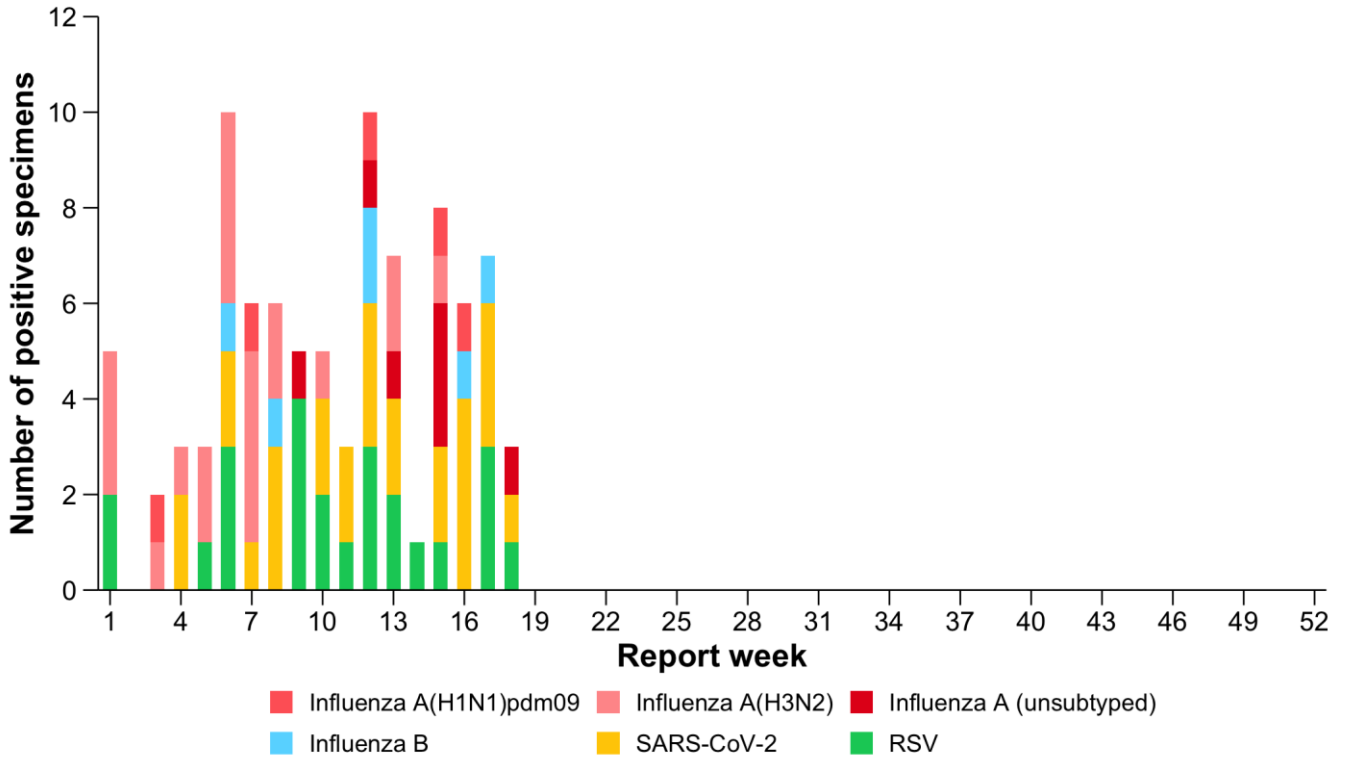


Figure 7: ASPREN virological detection by jurisdiction, 2026.

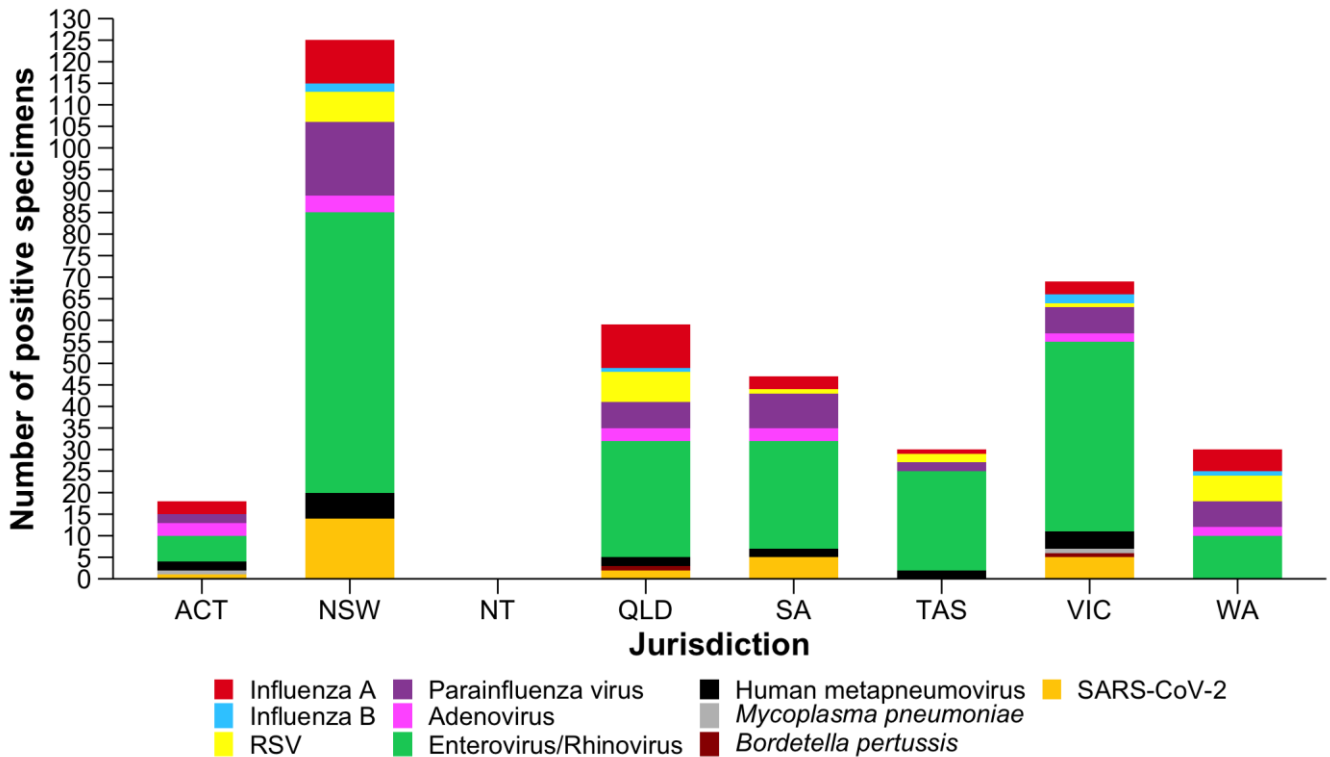


Table 3: ASPREN respiratory pathogen positivity by age group*, 2026.

Pathogen	<1 year	1 – 4 years	5 – 19 years	20 – 49 years	50 – 64 years	65 – 74 years	>= 75 years
Influenza A	2%	12%	15%	34%	17%	15%	5%
Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09	0%	20%	0%	40%	40%	0%	0%
Influenza A (H3N2)	4%	17%	13%	26%	17%	22%	0%
Influenza A (H3N2) subclade K	8%	31%	15%	15%	15%	15%	0%
Influenza B	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
COVID-19	4%	19%	11%	30%	15%	7%	15%
RSV	12%	29%	21%	17%	12%	8%	0%
NIRV positive	6%	20%	15%	31%	13%	8%	8%
Positive for other respiratory pathogen[#]	5%	19%	15%	31%	13%	9%	7%
Negative for all pathogens	1%	9%	13%	36%	18%	14%	10%

* Proportion positivity was calculated as the number of specimens detected in each age group divided by the total number of specimens detected.

Other respiratory pathogens are parainfluenza virus 1, 2, 3, human metapneumovirus, adenovirus, enterovirus / rhinovirus, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and *Bordetella pertussis*.

Summary virological activity

- Enterovirus / rhinovirus is the most commonly circulating pathogen in this reporting period and year to date.
- 1 case of influenza was detected – 1 x influenza A (awaiting subtyping results).
- RSV detections increased this reporting period with 4 cases detected (4% positivity).
- COVID-19 detections decreased this period with 4 cases detected (4% positivity).
- Parainfluenza-1 detections remain high with 7 cases detected during the reporting period (6% positivity).

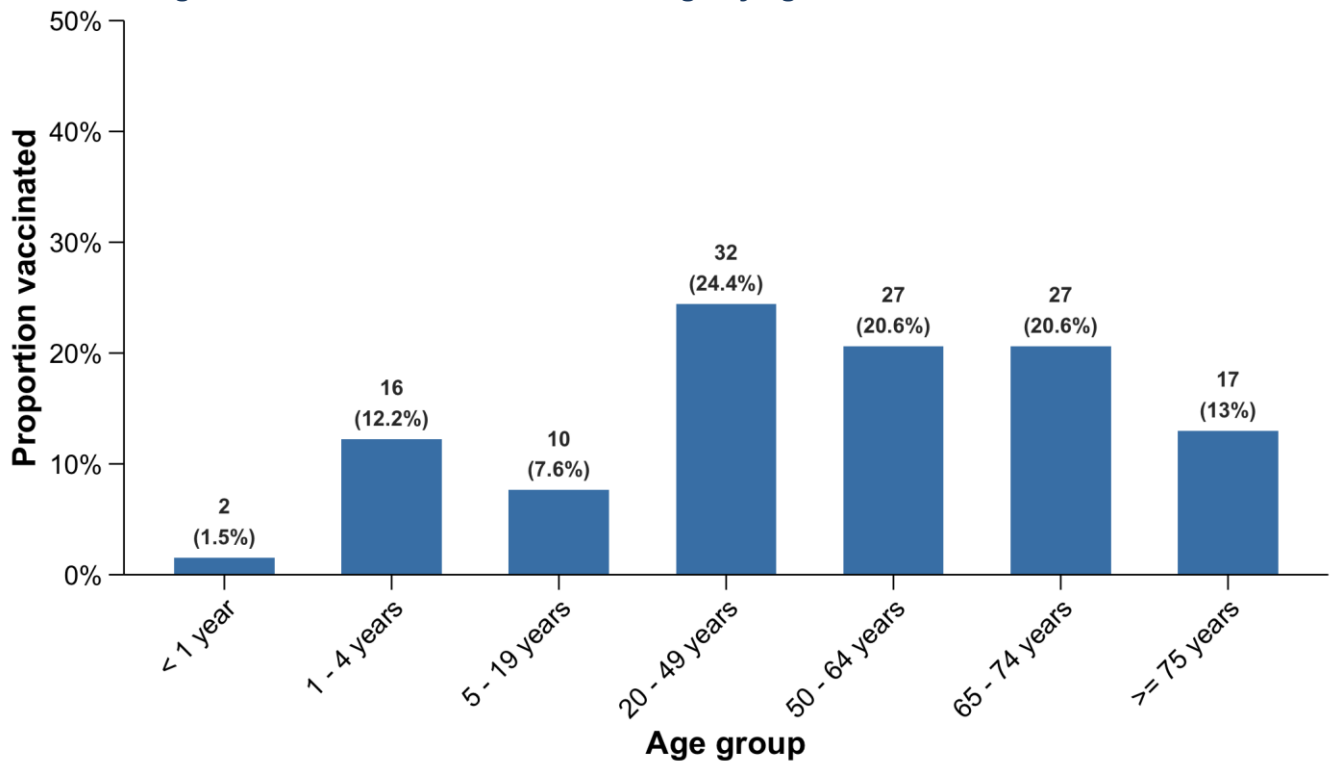
Vaccination Coverage

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	131	532	11	20%	36% (1,147)	36% (975)
COVID-19	23	622	29	4%	8% (251)	N/A
RSV < 6 months	6	0	1	100%	49% (18)	20% (8)
RSV > 6 months	20	511	132	4%	4% (98)	1% (11)

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



Summary vaccination coverage and vaccine effectiveness

- It is too early in the season for interpretation of vaccine coverage. The 2026 seasonal influenza vaccine is now available.