aspren | ASPREN UPDATE

Reporting period: Week 31-32 2026
(27 July - 9 August 2026)

Summary: Influenza-like illness rates remain steady and are below baseline levels. Test-positivity for influenza, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 is steady or decreasing and is lower than in previous years.

ILI levels have remained steady but are lower than seen during the same period in previous years.

11% influenza positivity during the reporting period.

115 cases of influenza have been detected this year:
99 influenza A
16 influenza B

18 cases of influenza have been detected in this reporting period:
16 influenza A
2 influenza B

Key messages

- ILI rates have remained steady since the last reporting period and are currently at baseline levels (see Figure 3)
- ILI activity is highest in the 1 - 4 years age group (see Figure 4)
- Influenza virus detections are comparable to the last reporting period and are lower than at the same time last year (see Table 2)
- RSV activity has decreased since the last reporting period
- SARS-CoV-2 activity has decreased since the last reporting period

This report is based on data available as at 9 August 2026. Delays in the reporting of data may cause data to change retrospectively.

Participation

339 reporters submitted data to ASPREN (380 YTD) this fortnight in all 8 jurisdictions.

Table 1. ASPREN reporter participation, weeks 31-32 (27 July– 9 August), 2026.

Jurisdiction	GPs	Consultations	Percentage	ABS population percentage
ACT	22	2,936	6.5%	1.8%
NSW	82	13,326	24%	31%
NT	27	3,675	8%	0.96%
QLD	31	5,791	9.1%	20%
SA	40	5,699	12%	6.9%
TAS	21	2,725	6.2%	2.1%
VIC	47	8,088	14%	26%
WA	69	10,385	20%	11%
Australia	**339**	**52,625**	**100%**	**100%**

Syndromic Surveillance

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

Figure 1. ASPREN ILI rate per 1,000 consultations, 1 January 2024 - 9 August 2026 and the 5-year average for 2019, 2022-2025.

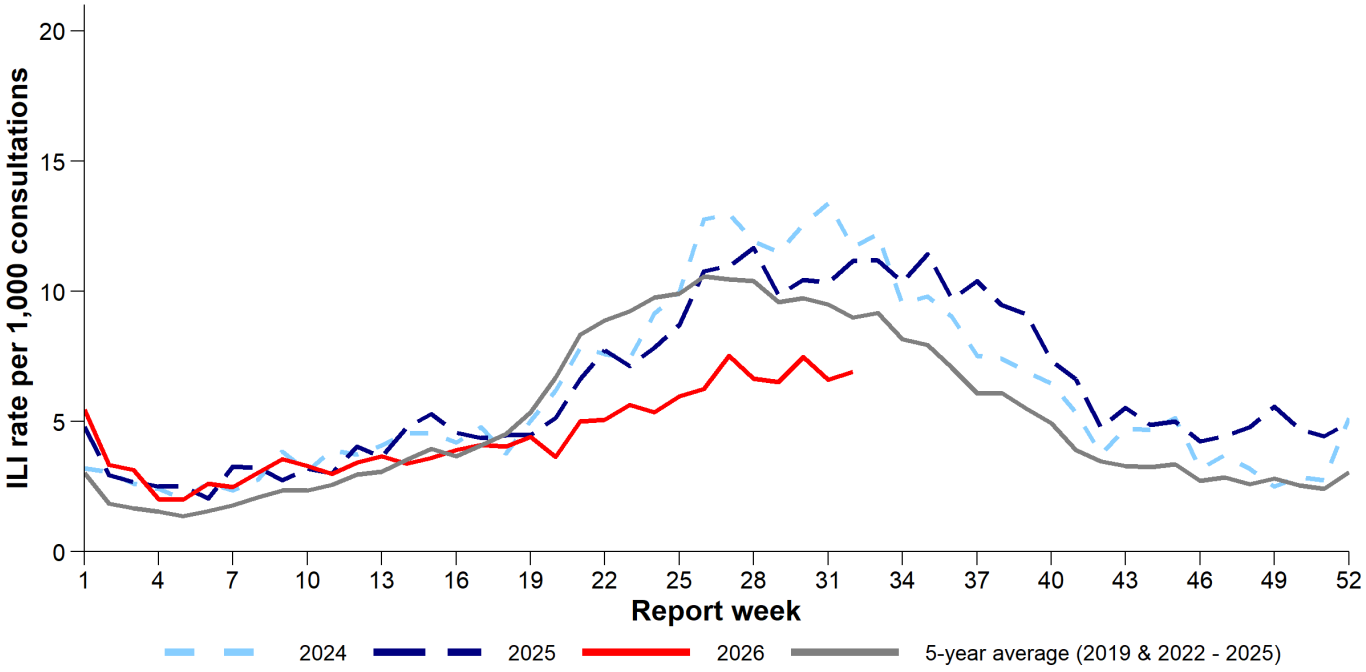

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Figure 2. ASPREN ILI rate by jurisdiction, 28 December 2025 - 9 August 2026.

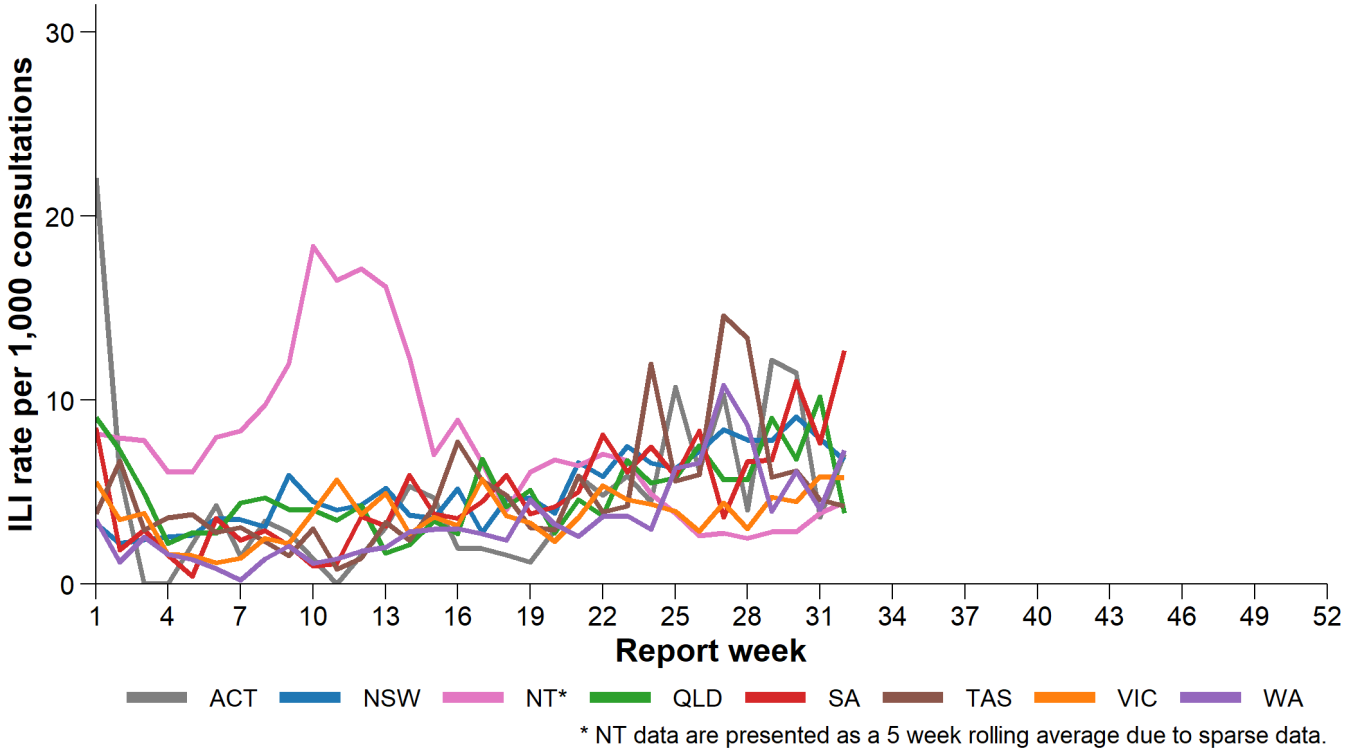

Figure 3. Map of ILI activity by jurisdiction, week 32 2026.

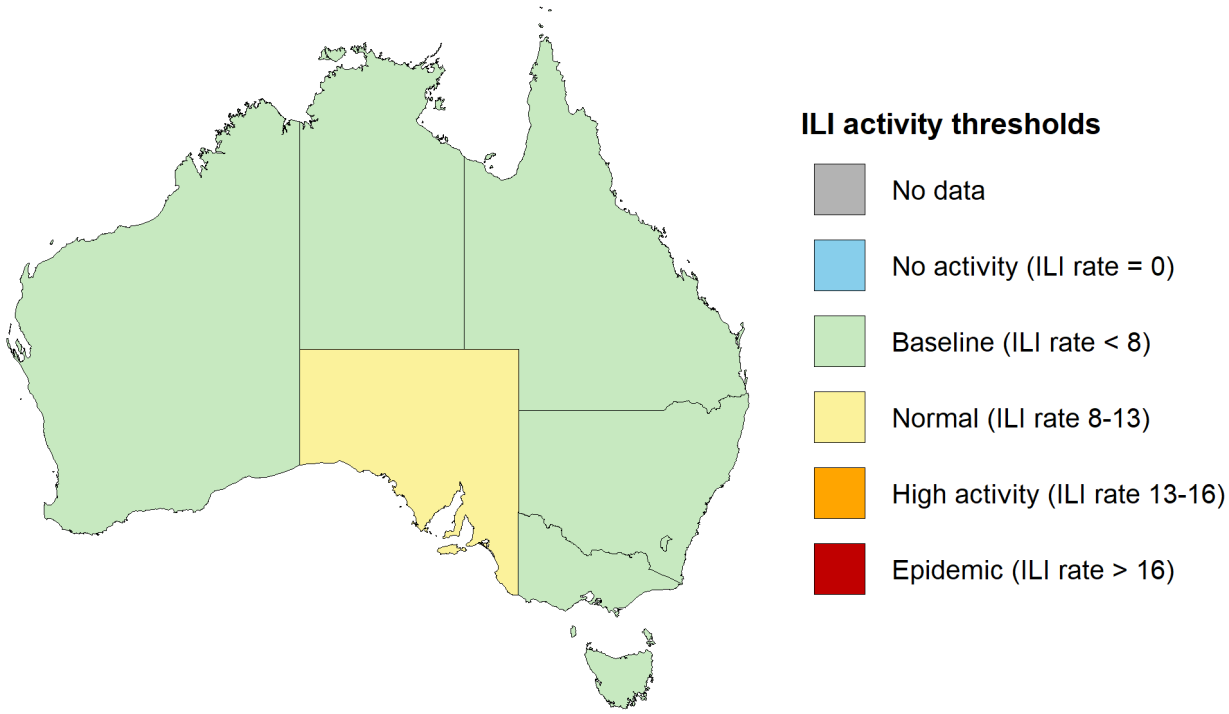

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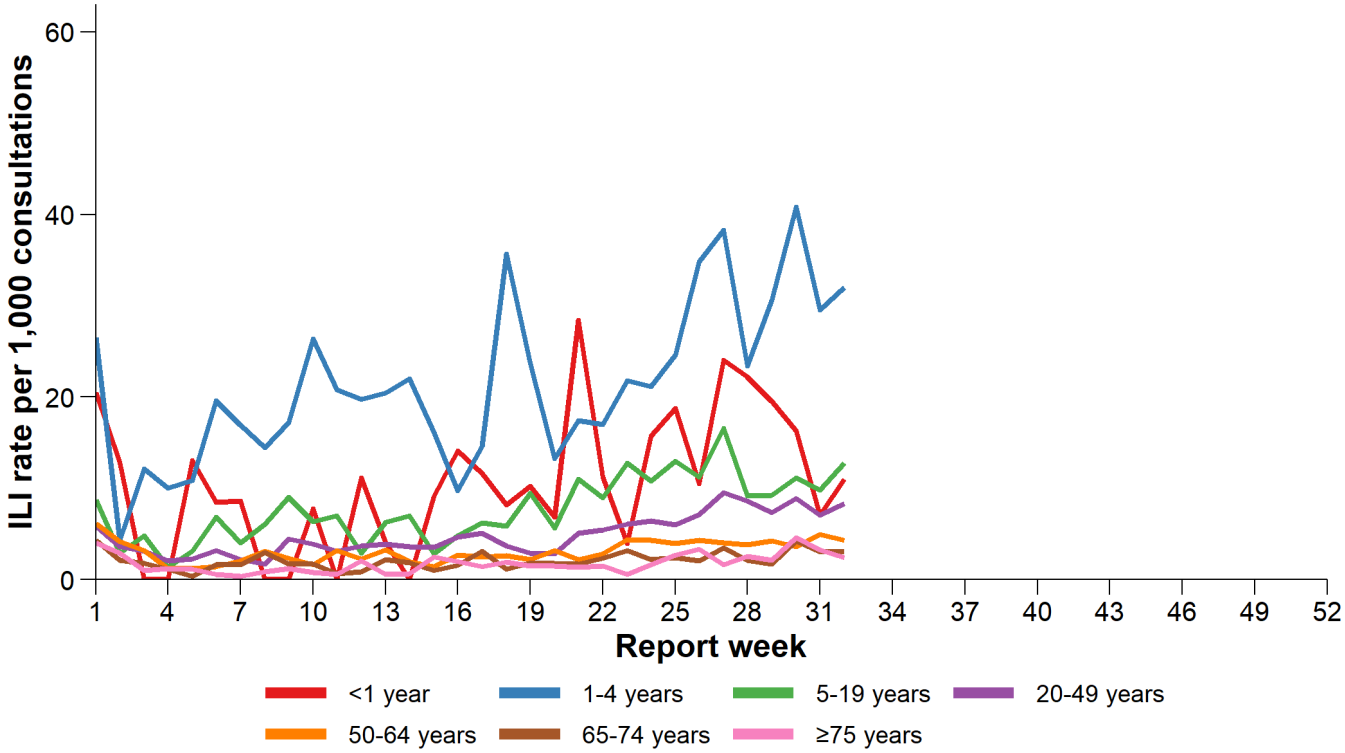
Figure 4. ASPREN ILI rate by age, 28 December 2025 - 9 August 2026.



Summary ILI activity

- ASPREN reporters saw 356 ILI patients in weeks 31-32 2026
- Nationally, ILI rates are lower than seen at this time of year compared to previous seasons (Figure 1).
- They have remained steady since the last reporting period at baseline levels.
- ILI rates are highest for the 1 - 4 years age group and lowest for people aged >= 75 years (Figure 4).

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Virological Surveillance

Respiratory pathogen activity

Table 2: ASPREN virological surveillance summary, 2026.

Indicator	Current fortnight 27 Jul – 9 Aug 2026	Previous fortnight 13 Jul – 26 Jul 2026	YTD 29 Dec 2025 – 9 Aug 2026	Last YTD 30 Dec 2024 – 10 Aug 2025
Number of ILI notifications	363	363	3613	4959
Number of swab tests performed	169	193	1760	1849
% swab tests positive for influenza	11%	11%	7%	20%
% swab tests positive for influenza A	9.5%	8.3%	5.6%	15%
% swab tests positive for influenza B	1.2%	2.6%	0.91%	5%
% swab tests positive for SARS-CoV-2	0.59%	3.1%	3.3%	6.7%
% swab tests positive for RSV	10%	13%	7.3%	6.3%
% swab tests positive for any pathogen	21%	27%	17%	33%

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

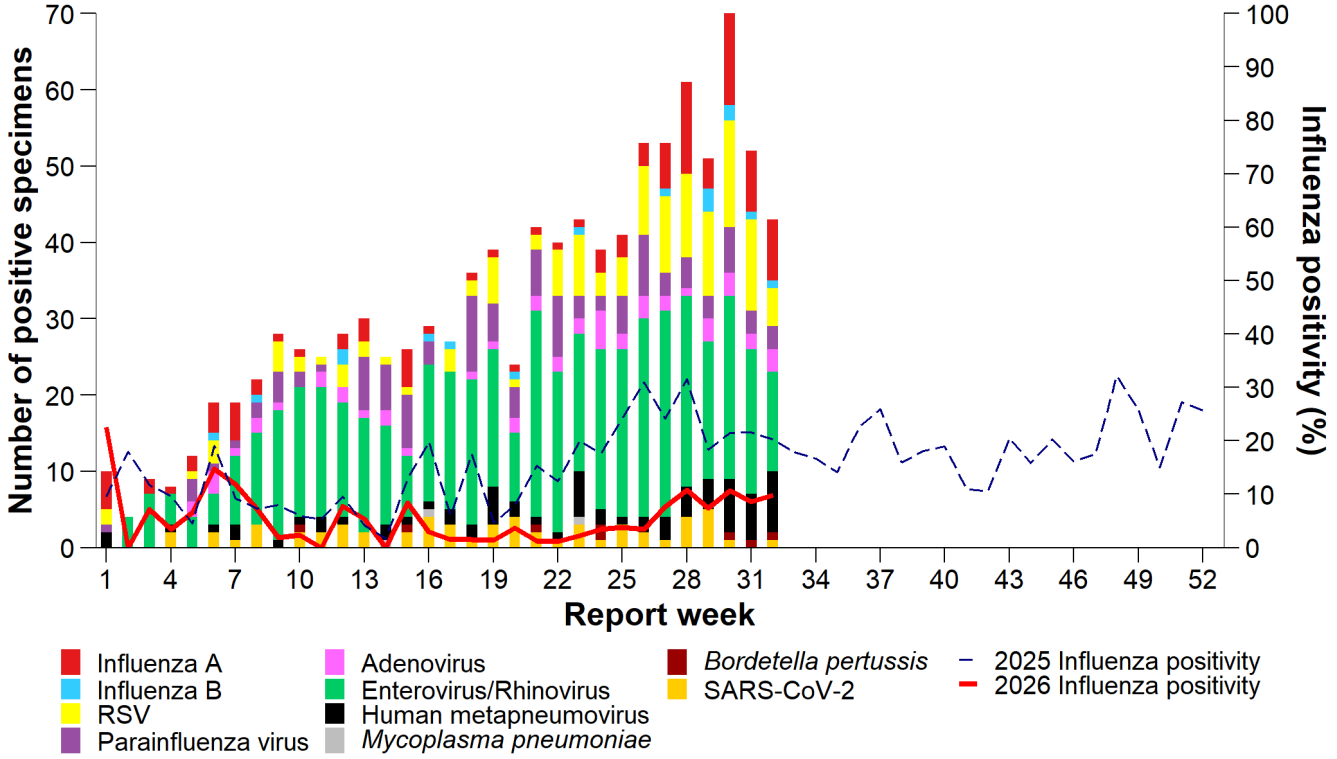

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Figure 6: ASPREN weekly virological detection of influenza by type and subtype, RSV and SARS-CoV-2, 2026.

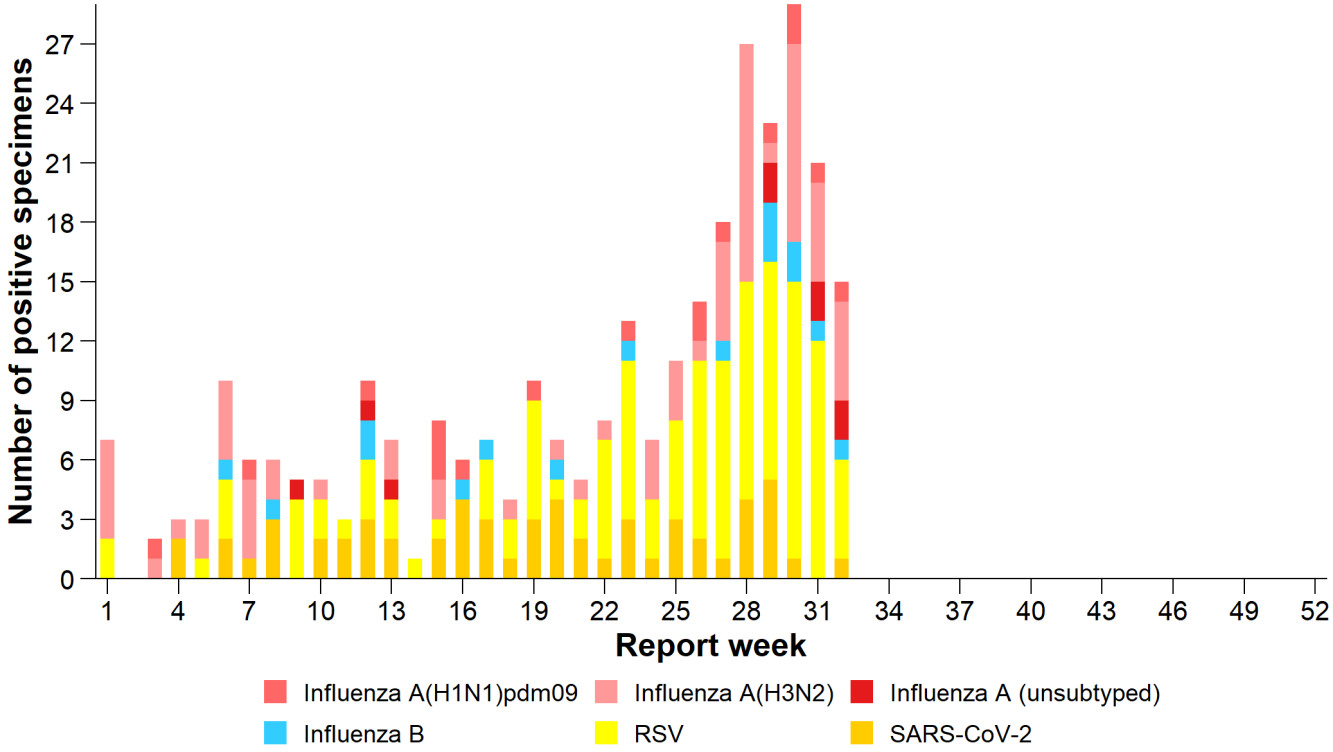

Figure 7: ASPREN virological detection by jurisdiction, 2026.

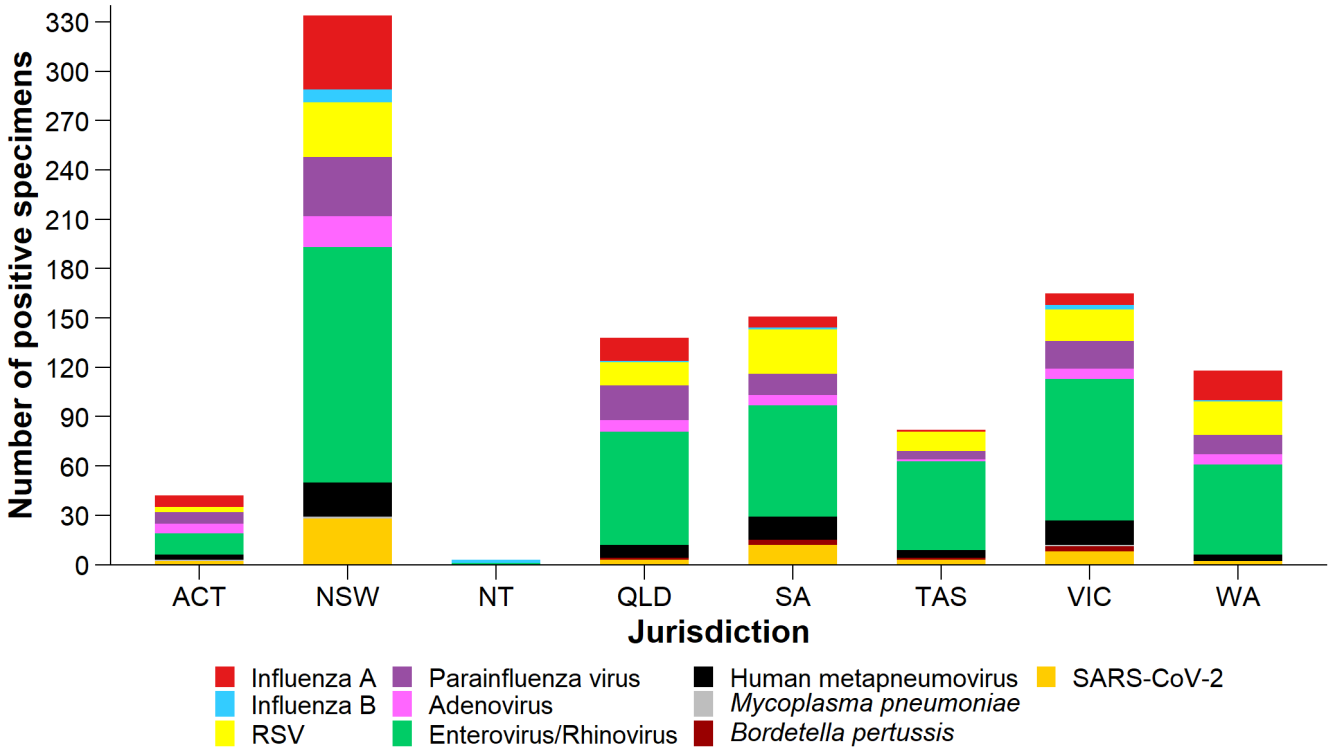

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Table 3: ASPREN respiratory pathogen positivity by age group, 2026.

Characteristic	<1 year N = 50	1-4 years N = 272	5-19 years N = 255	20-49 years N = 544	50-64 years N = 276	65-74 years N = 182	≥75 years N = 181
Influenza	1 (2.0%)	16 (5.9%)	31 (12%)	41 (7.6%)	10 (3.6%)	12 (6.6%)	4 (2.2%)
Influenza A	1 (2.0%)	16 (5.9%)	24 (9.4%)	35 (6.5%)	9 (3.3%)	10 (5.5%)	4 (2.2%)
A(H1N1)pdm09	0 (0%)	3 (1.1%)	1 (0.4%)	7 (1.3%)	3 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
A(H3N2)	1 (2.0%)	11 (4.1%)	21 (8.3%)	25 (4.6%)	5 (1.8%)	8 (4.4%)	2 (1.1%)
A(H3N2) subclade K	1 (2.0%)	10 (3.7%)	15 (6.1%)	17 (3.2%)	3 (1.1%)	4 (2.2%)	2 (1.1%)
Influenza B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (2.7%)	6 (1.1%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0%)
SARS-CoV-2	1 (2.0%)	8 (2.9%)	8 (3.1%)	16 (2.9%)	12 (4.3%)	3 (1.6%)	10 (5.5%)
RSV	9 (18%)	48 (18%)	12 (4.7%)	26 (4.8%)	11 (4.0%)	12 (6.6%)	10 (5.5%)
NIRP positive	39 (80%)	197 (73%)	126 (50%)	229 (43%)	117 (43%)	75 (42%)	82 (47%)
Positive for any pathogen	39 (80%)	210 (78%)	156 (62%)	269 (51%)	126 (47%)	85 (47%)	85 (49%)
Negative for all pathogens	10 (20%)	60 (22%)	97 (38%)	263 (49%)	143 (53%)	95 (53%)	90 (51%)

Proportion positivity was calculated as the number of specimens detected in each age group divided by the total number of specimens detected.
NIRP: Non-influenza respiratory pathogen. Includes parainfluenza virus 1, 2, 3, human metapneumovirus, adenovirus, enterovirus / rhinovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and Bordetella pertussis.

Summary virological activity

- Enterovirus/Rhinovirus has been the most common pathogen detected this reporting period and throughout the year.
- 18 cases of influenza were detected since the last reporting period: 10 A(H3N2), of which 9 were subclade K; 2 A(H1N1)pdm09; 6 still awaiting subtyping; and 2 B.
- RSV detections have decreased since the last reporting period and are at 10% positivity. Year-to-date, a majority of RSV presentations have been among persons aged 1 - 4 years.
- SARS-CoV-2 activity has continued to decrease since the last reporting period (1% positivity).

Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Effectiveness (VE)

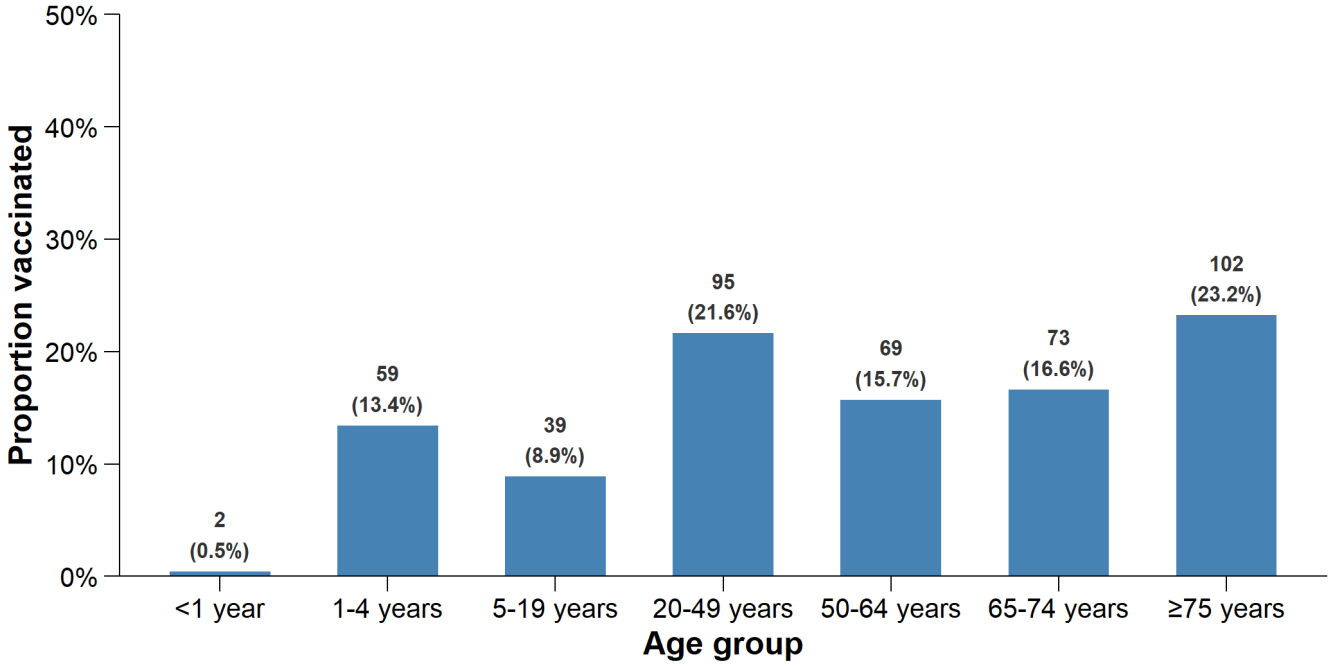
Vaccination coverage

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	439	772	8	36% (439)	36% (1,147)	36% (975)
COVID-19	105	1,588	67	6% (105)	8% (251)	N/A
RSV < 6 months	9	1	2	90% (9)	49% (18)	20% (8)
Maternal RSV	35	8	2	81% (35)	N/A	N/A
RSV > 6 months	94	1,403	224	6% (94)	4% (98)	1% (11)

Influenza vaccination coverage is calculated among influenza-negative patients. Patients are classified as vaccinated if they received an influenza vaccination after the vaccine became available (week 15, 2026).

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



Summary vaccination coverage

- Influenza vaccination coverage in 2026 is comparable with previous years (Table 4).
- Interim vaccine effectiveness estimates have been submitted to the World Health Organization for consideration at the 2027 southern hemisphere influenza vaccine strain selection meeting. The interim estimate for any influenza is 58% (95% confidence interval: 23, 77). Data from 1,124 ASPREN patients contributed to these estimates.

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