FluCov-Bulletin – February 2025

FluCov project: *combining data from around the world to better understand the co-circulation of influenza and COVID-19*

Commentary

Contents

The FluCov Bulletin offers a summary starting from January 2019, detailing the count of confirmed **influenza** and **SARS-CoV-2** detections, along with positivity rates of tested specimens, across 25 countries globally (see page 3).

Results

On a global level, **influenza** activity decreased in February, primarily due to declining activity in the Northern Hemisphere (see Figure 1). The following country patterns were observed for **influenza**:

- In the <u>Northern Hemisphere</u>, **influenza** activity continued to increase in **Canada** (driven by **influenza** A/not subtyped), while it decreased in the **United States** [1] and **Mexico**, although activity remained at elevated levels in February.
- In Europe, most countries have reached or passed peak **influenza** activity, with decreasing but elevated activity in **France**, **Italy**, the **Netherlands**, the **United Kingdom** and **Spain**. In the **United Kingdom**, there was a shift from **influenza** A to B, marked by decreasing cases of **influenza** A (not subtyped) and rising cases of **influenza** B (not subtyped). **Poland** and **Germany** reported increased activity, with a high positivity rate (>50%), driven primarily by **influenza** A (not subtyped) in **Poland** and **influenza** B/Victoria in **Germany**.
- **Influenza** activity also decreased in **China** and **South Korea** after peaking in late January. In February, the predominantly circulating viruses were **influenza** A(H1N1)pdm09 in **China** and **influenza** B/Victoria in **South Korea**. In **South Korea**, **influenza** A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) were dominant strains in December and January before **influenza** B/Victoria became more prevalent.
- **Influenza** activity decreased in **Egypt** (mainly **influenza** A(H3N2)) and **Israel** (mix of **influenza** A (not subtyped) and **influenza** B, lineage not determined).
- **Influenza** activity remained stable in **India**, **Japan** and **Vietnam**, and increased slightly in **Thailand**.
- In the <u>Southern Hemisphere</u>, **influenza** activity decreased or remained stable at low levels in **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Chile**, **South Africa**, the **Philippines**, and **Australia**. **New Zealand**
- No update on **influenza** activity was available for the **United States** in February.

Globally, **SARS-CoV-2** detections were low during February. The following country patterns were observed for **SARS-CoV-2**:

- **SARS-CoV-2** activity decreased in the **Netherlands**, **Poland**, and the **United Kingdom**. Activity also decreased in the **United States** and **Canada** in week 8 [2,3].
- In **Brazil**, **SARS-CoV-2** activity stabilized at intermediate levels [4].
- **SARS-CoV-2** activity remained stable at low levels in **Argentina**, **Chile, India**, **Italy**. **SARS-CoV-2** activity also remained at low levels in **France**, **Germany** and **Spain** [5].
- No update on **SARS-CoV-2** was available for **Australia**, **China**, **Egypt**, **Israel**, **Japan**, **Mexico**, **New Zealand**, the **Philippines**, **South Africa**, **South Korea**, **Thailand**, and **Vietnam**.

Implications

Global **influenza** activity is declining but remains elevated in most Northern Hemisphere countries covered by the Bulletin. The decreasing trend suggests that most countries have reached or passed their peak **influenza** activity (including **United States**, **China** and most **European** countries). In most countries, the timing of the **influenza** season's onset is similar to pre-COVID-19 years. This aligns with ECDC reporting that 'trends from the last two years suggest a return to a more regular timing of seasonal **influenza**' [6].

The current **influenza** season is considered intense in both the **United States** and **Europe**. The CDC has classified it as the first high-severity season since 2017/18 [1]. In **Europe**, hospital admissions have begun to decline from very high levels in most reporting countries [5]. Since week 40, the greatest impact of **influenza** in secondary care has been in adults aged 65 years and above. Additionally, EuroMOMO has reported all-cause mortality exceeding expected levels, primarily in adults aged 65 years and above, since week 51, 2024 [7].

The **United States** and **United Kingdom** report a good vaccine match for **influenza** A(H1N1)pdm09 and B/Victoria, and a partial match for A(H3N2) [1,8]. Interim vaccine effectiveness estimates from **Europe** indicated that in primary care settings, vaccine effectiveness against any **influenza** across all age groups ranged from 40% to 53%. In the hospital setting, vaccine effectiveness for all ages ranged from 34% to 52%. Effectiveness was lowest for adults ≥ 65 years and against the H3N2 strain (with circulation of **influenza** A still ongoing) [9].

The WHO 2025-2026 Northern Hemisphere Vaccine Composition Report recommends a trivalent vaccine to protect against **influenza** A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), and B/Victoria lineage viruses [10], excluding B/Yamagata. It remains important to continue monitoring and determining the lineages of **influenza** B specimens to assess whether **influenza** B/Yamagata has truly ceased circulating [11].

In February 2025, **SARS-CoV-2** activity was low in most countries covered by the Bulletin. The WHO declared the end of the pandemic in May 2023 [12], countries have adopted diverse monitoring strategies for **SARS-CoV-2**, leading to reduced surveillance and instances of unshared data with the WHO. This variation in approaches impact the completeness of data reported in the FluCov Bulletin.
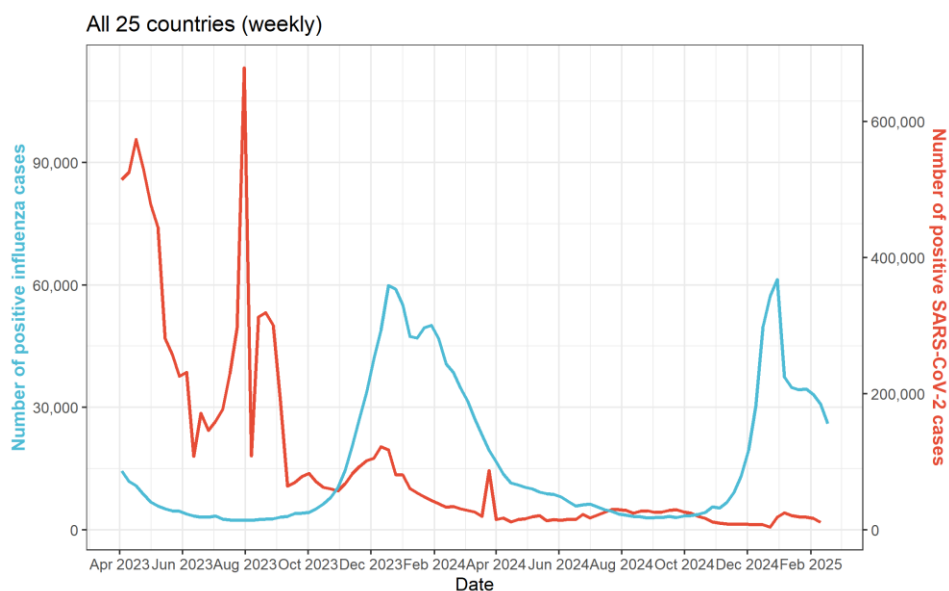

Figure 1: SARS-CoV-2 and influenza detections in the 25 countries covered by the Bulletin (period: from week 14/2023 to week 8/2025).

> **Disclaimer: Comparisons between countries and seasons of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 detections should be made with care, as national surveillance systems may differ (e.g. surveillance structures and testing intensity) and change over time.**

Monthly plots by country

The plots per country show weekly data for **influenza** and of **SARS-CoV-2** infections from 1 January, 2023 up to 23 February, 2025. For real time figures starting from 1 January 2019, please visit the **FluCov Dashboard**. This FluCov-Bulletin includes the countries Canada, United States, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Poland, South Africa, Egypt, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Israel, Australia and New Zealand.

Per country, the first plot displays the number of positive **influenza** (in blue) and **SARS-CoV-2** (in red) detections. An overview of the absolute number of **influenza** and **SARS-CoV-2** detections per country can be found on **pages 29-32 of this FluCov-Bulletin (click here).** The second plot shows the **influenza** detections by subtypes/lineages reported to FluNet. The third plot displays the percentage of specimens testing positive for **influenza** during the current season (in red), the last two seasons, and the average of the two pre-COVID-19 seasons (2017-18 and 2018-19).

The FluCov Dashboard is live!
All Figures and Tables in the FluCov-Bulletin can be accessed (real-time) at:
https://www.nivel.nl/en/dossier-epidemiology-respiratory-viruses/flucov-dashboard

Countries (click to view plot)

North America
Canada
United States

Central America Caribbean
Mexico

Tropical South America
Brazil

Temperate South America
Argentina
Chile

Northern Europe
United Kingdom

Eastern Europe
Poland

South West Europe
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Spain

Northern Africa
Egypt

Southern Africa
South Africa

Eastern Asia
China
Japan
South Korea

Southern Asia
India

South East Asia
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam

Western Asia
Israel

Oceania
Australia
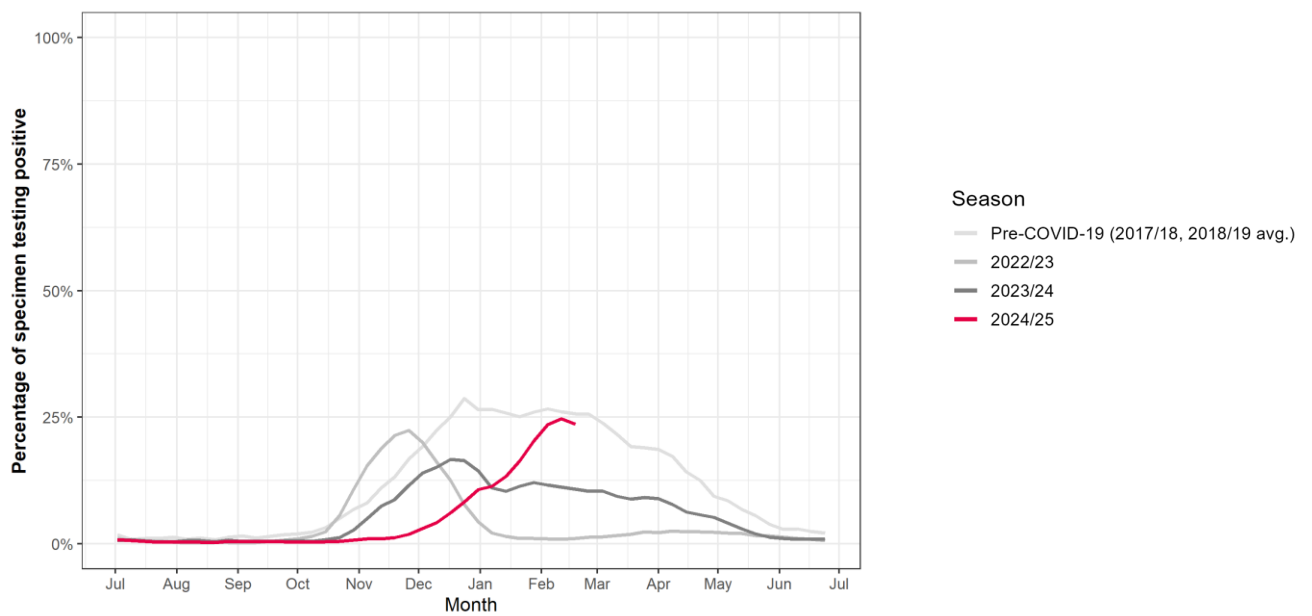**New Zealand**

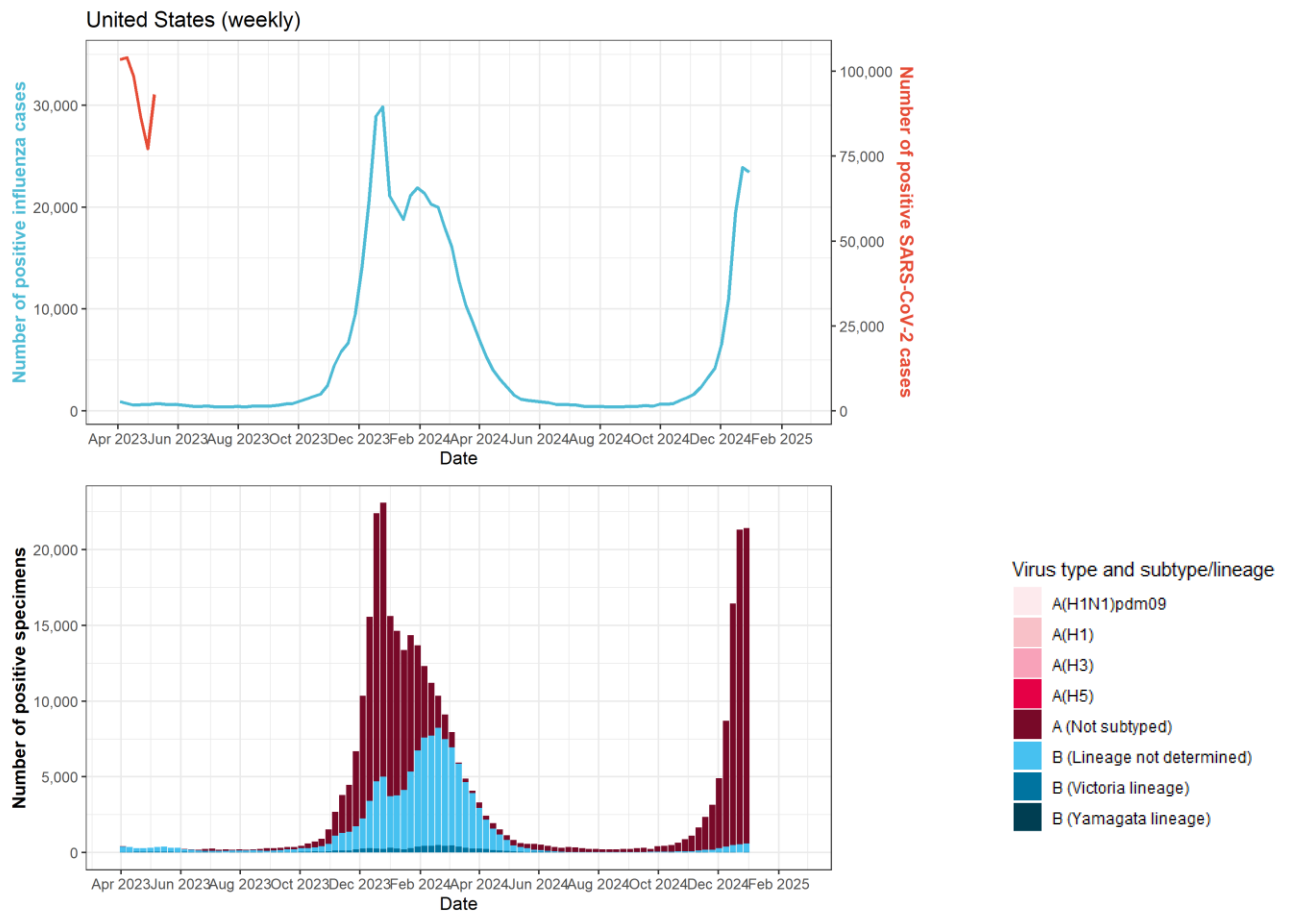# North America

Canada

Canada (weekly)
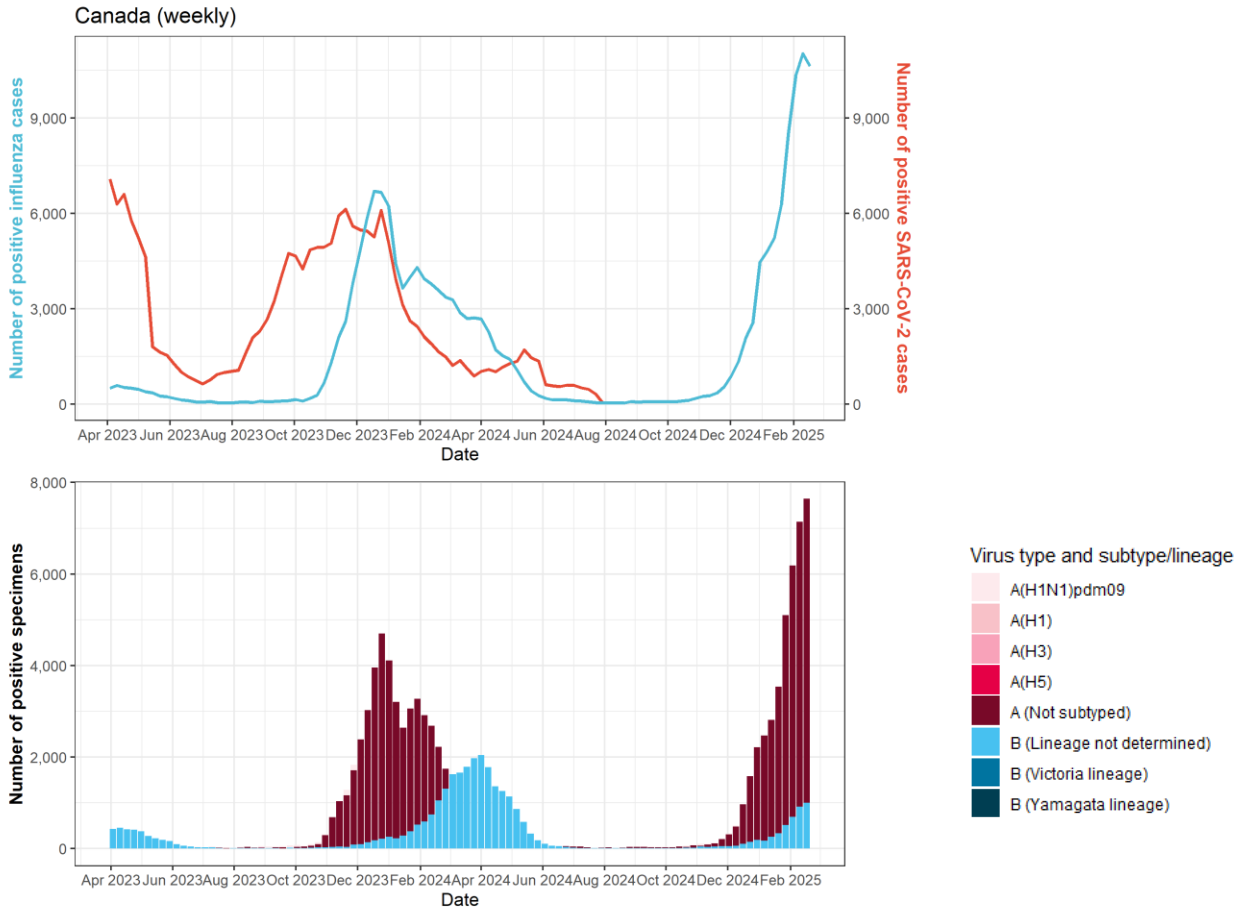
Note: Canada stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W31/2024

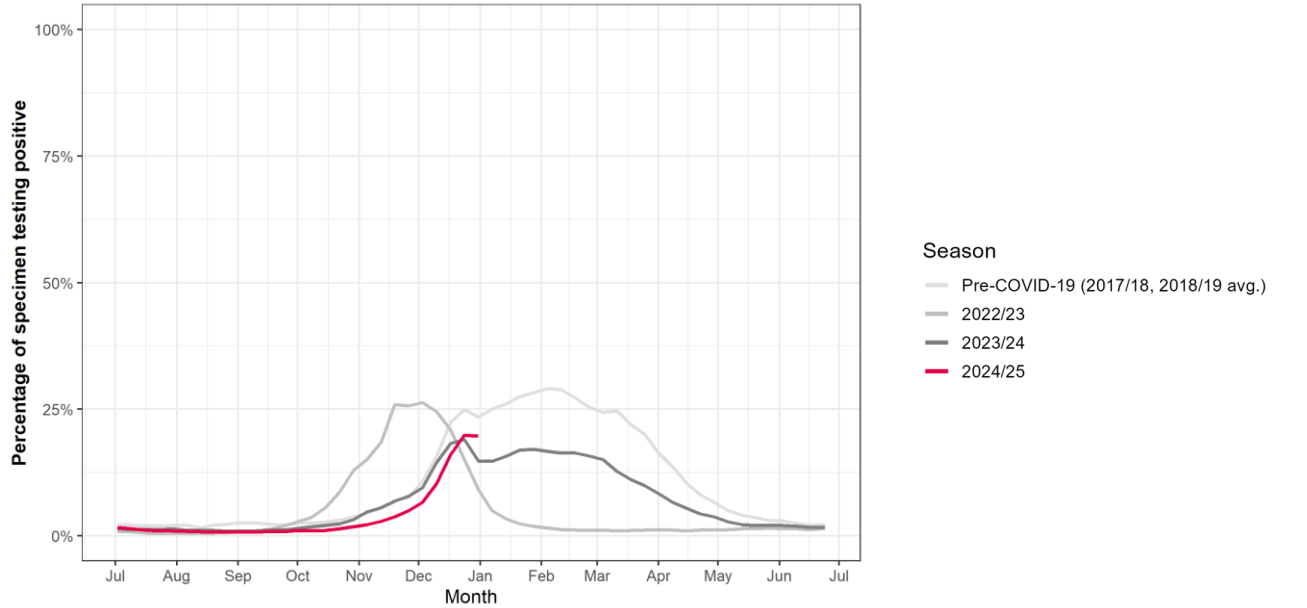## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
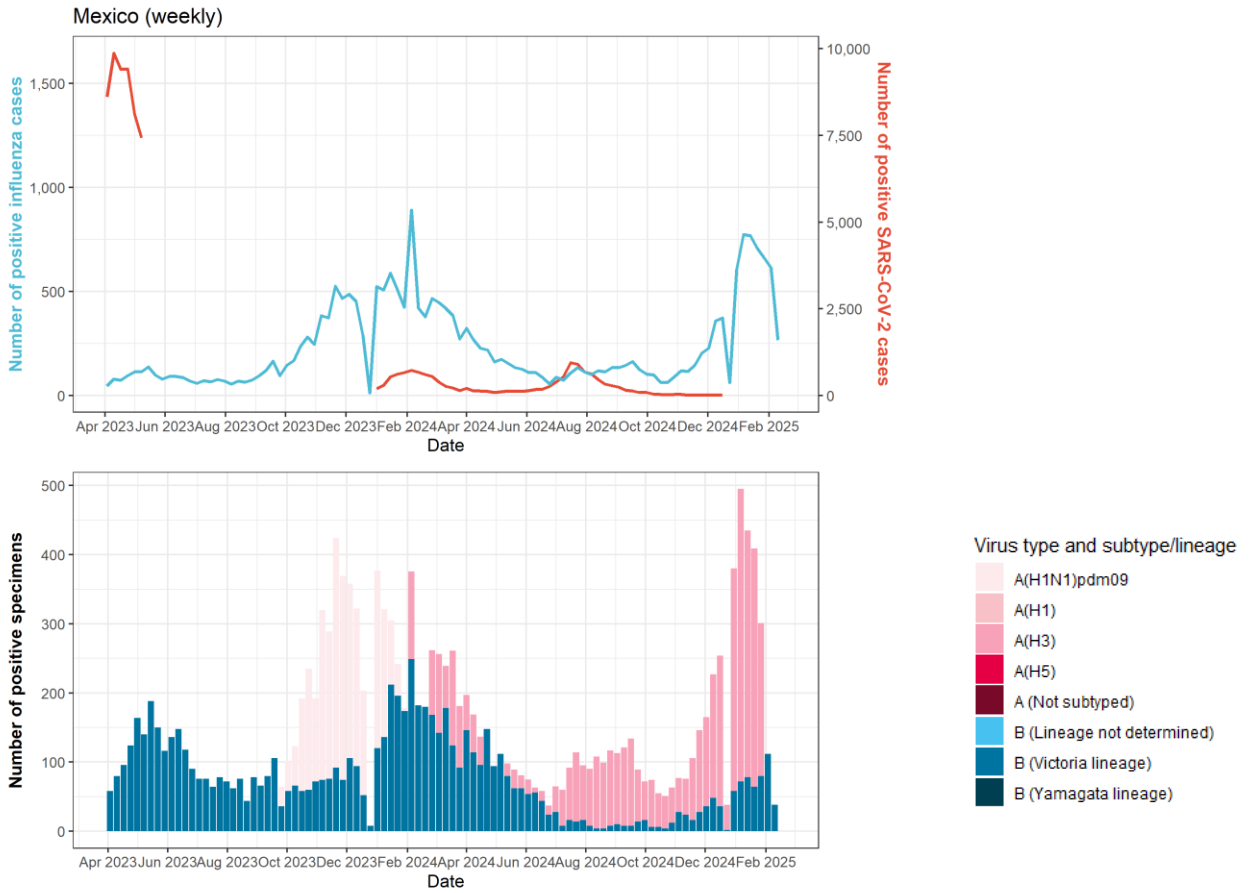
United States

United States (weekly)

Note: The United States stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W20/2023

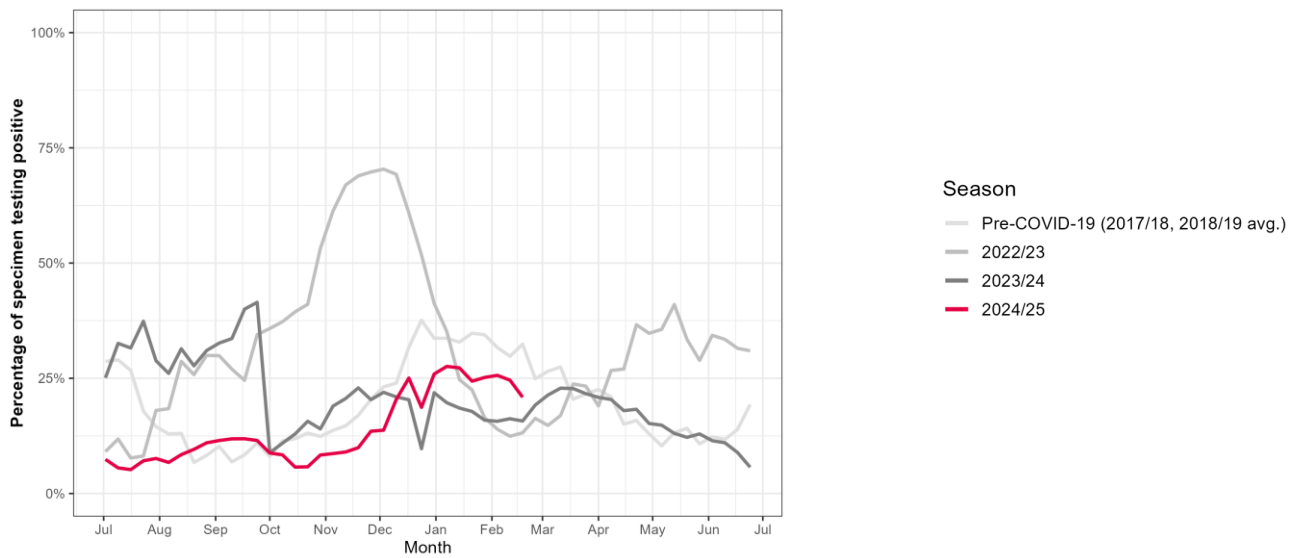## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
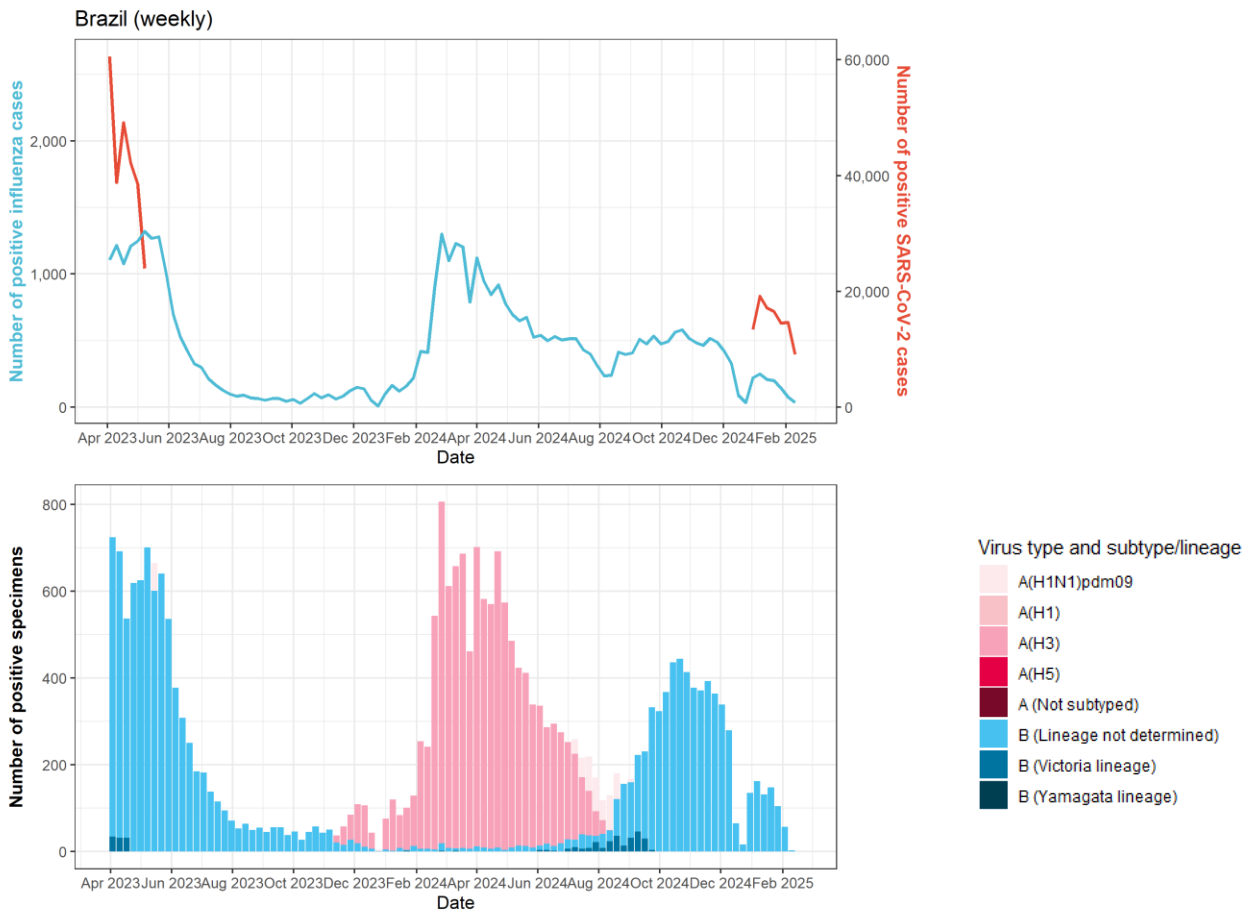
Central America Caribbean

Mexico

Mexico (weekly)

Note: the displayed decrease in influenza cases in week 52 may be due to reduced or delayed testing and reporting during the holiday period.

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
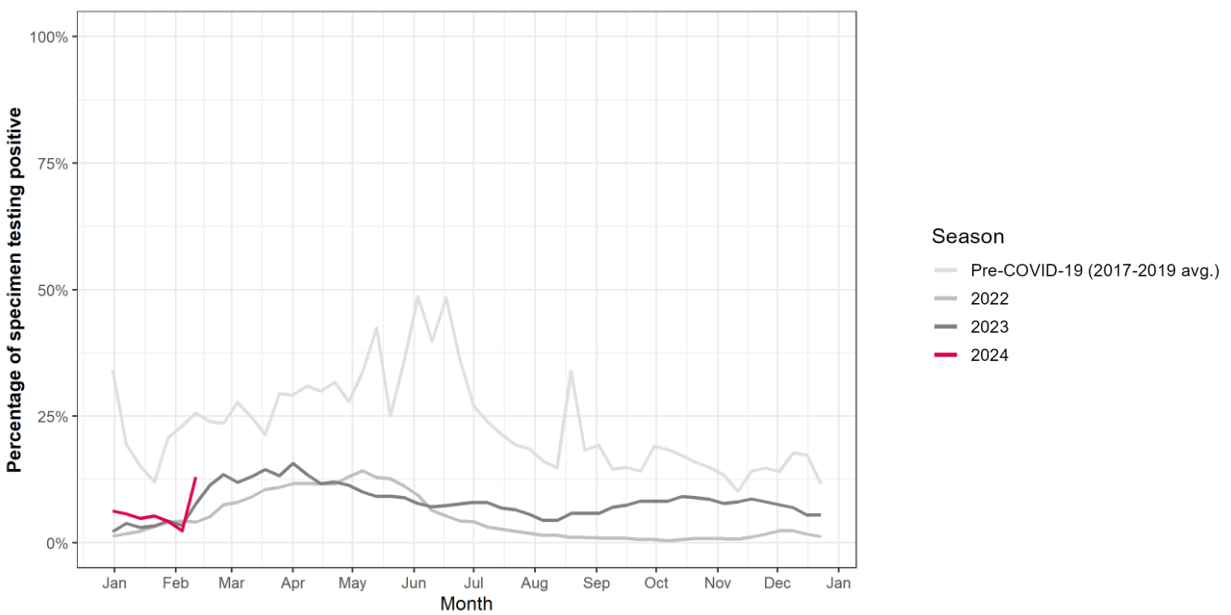
Tropical South America
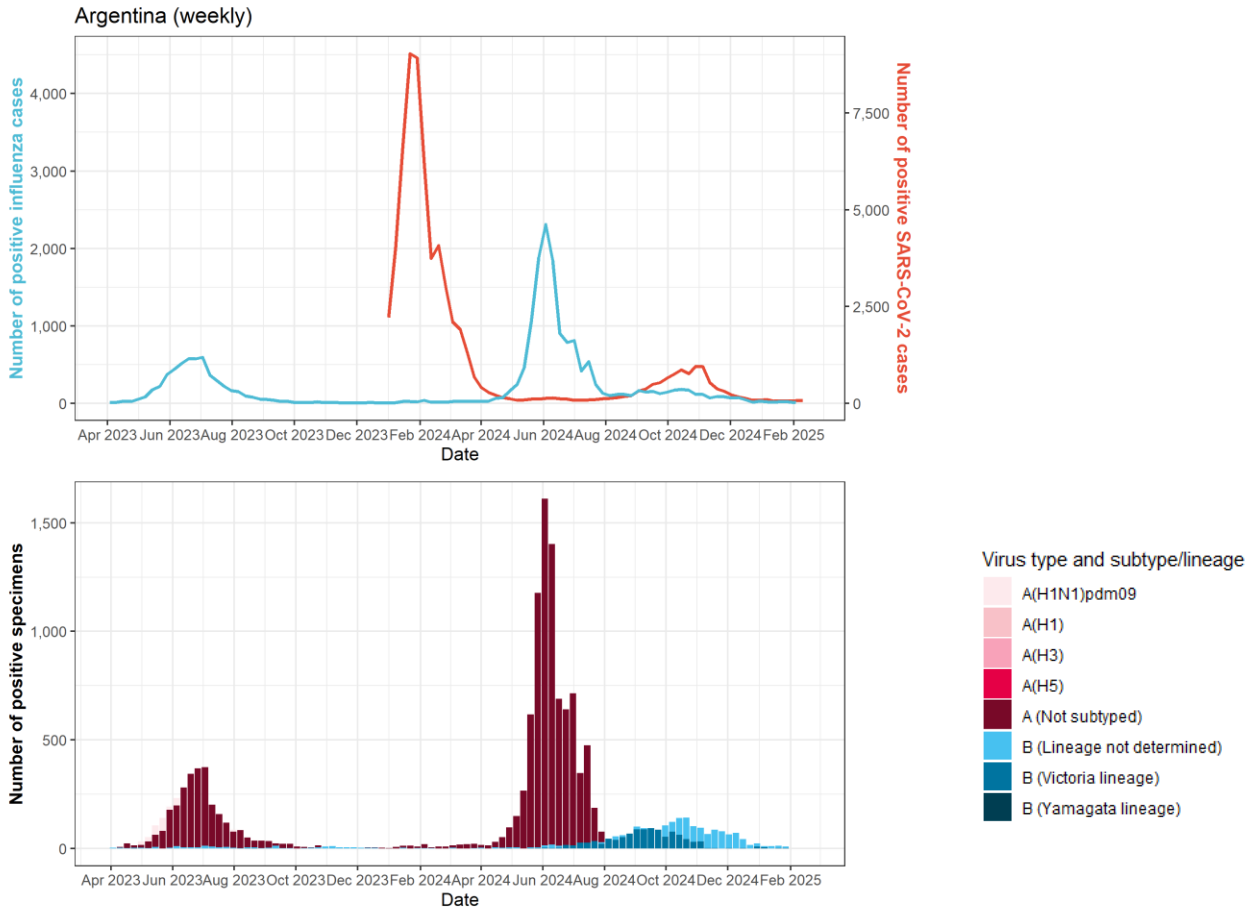
Brazil

Brazil (weekly)

Virus type and subtype/lineage
- A(H1N1)pdm09
- A(H1)
- A(H3)
- A(H5)
- A (Not subtyped)
- B (Lineage not determined)
- B (Victoria lineage)
- B (Yamagata lineage)

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Season
- Pre-COVID-19 (2017-2019 avg.)
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024

Temperate South America

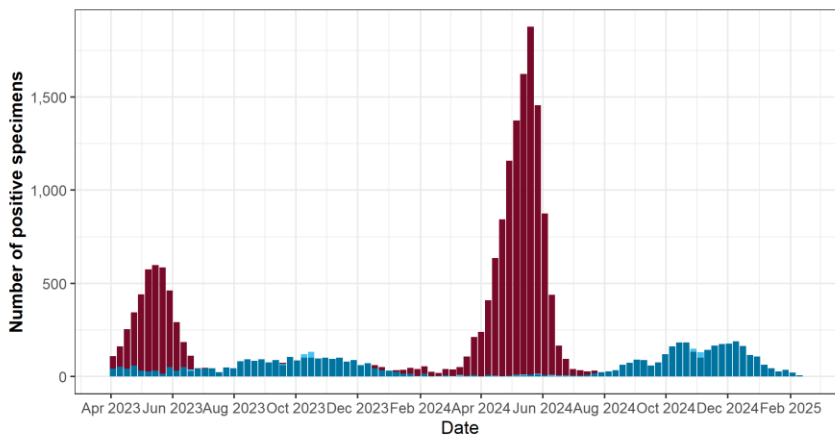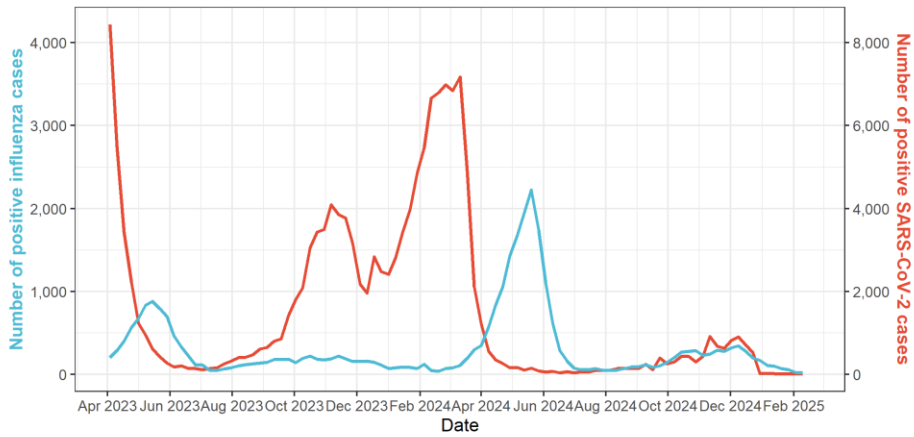## Argentina

Argentina (weekly)

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
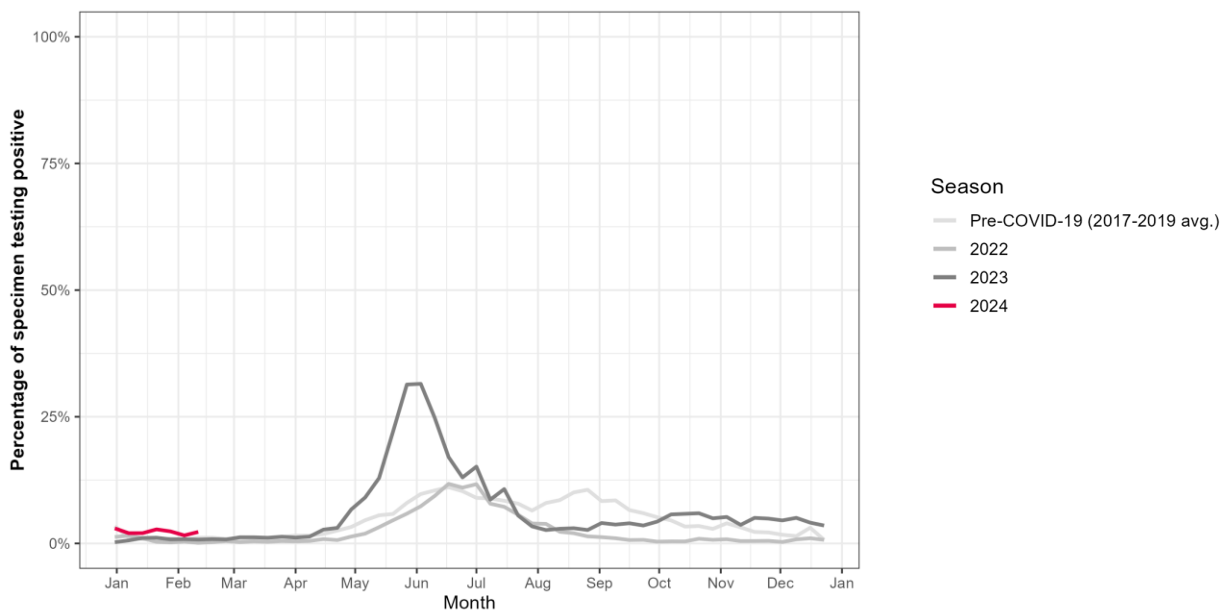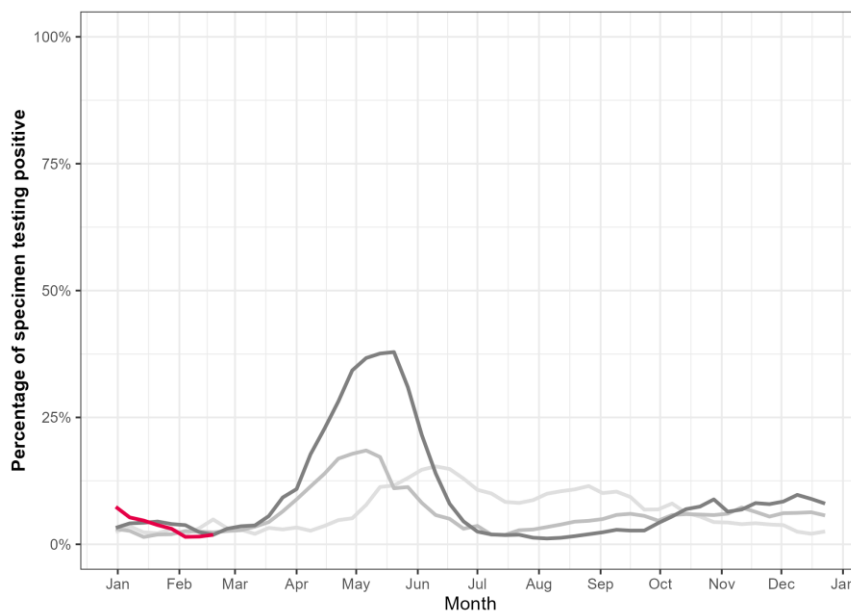
Chile

Chile (weekly)

Virus type and subtype/lineage
- A(H1N1)pdm09
- A(H1)
- A(H3)
- A(H5)
- A (Not subtyped)
- B (Lineage not determined)
- B (Victoria lineage)
- B (Yamagata lineage)

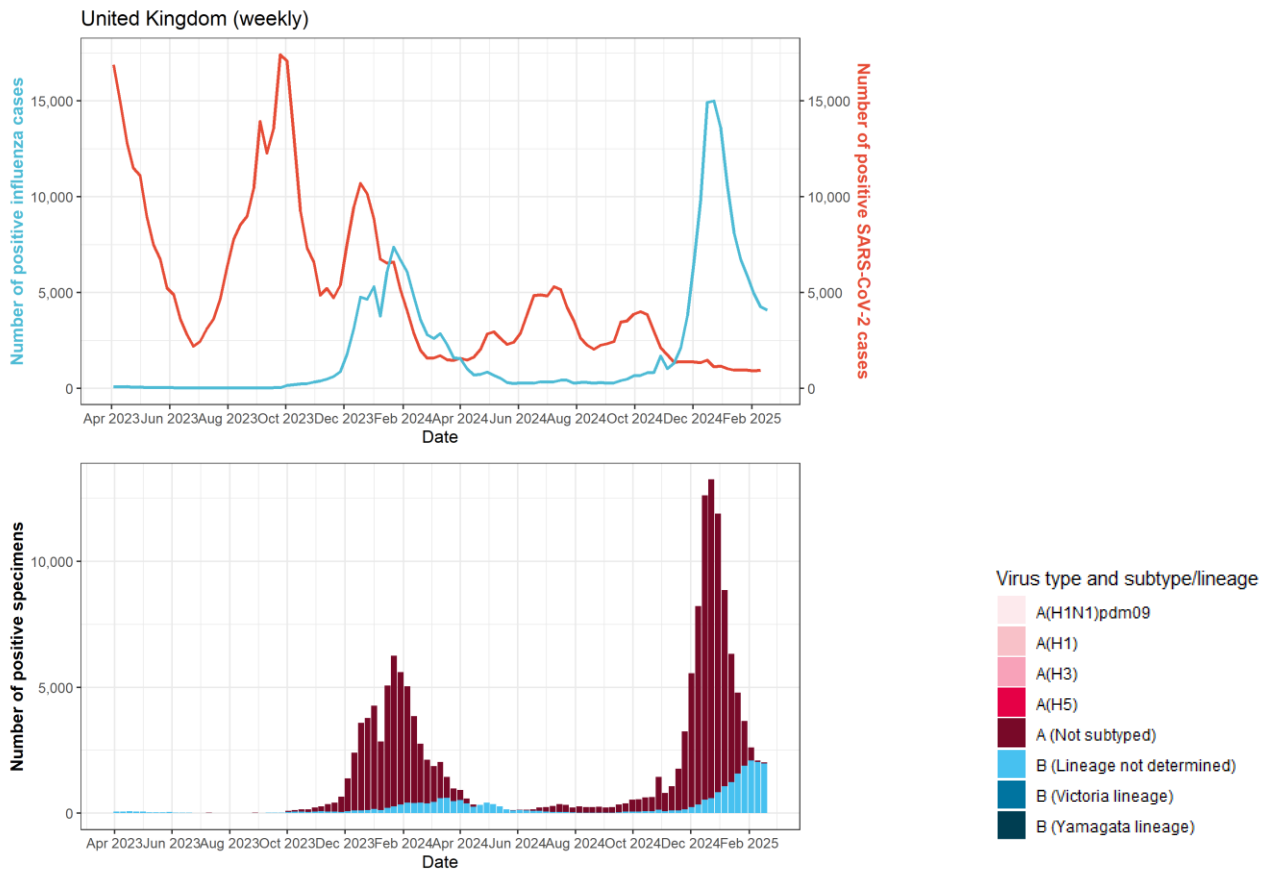## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Season
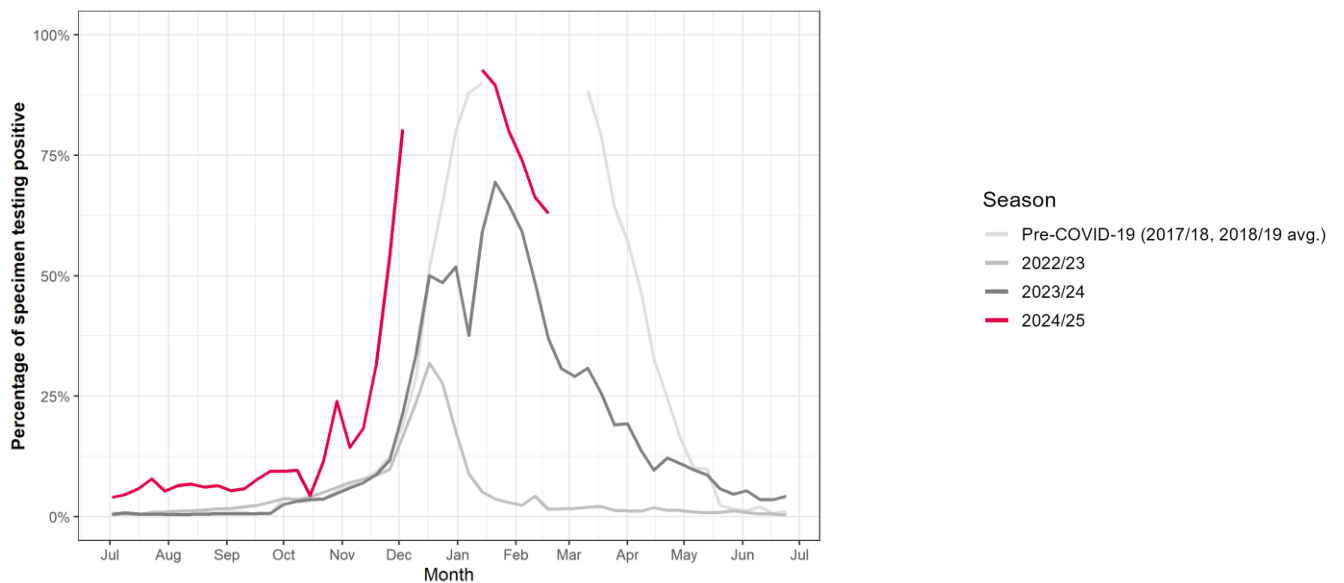- Pre-COVID-19 (2017-2019 avg.)
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024

Northern Europe
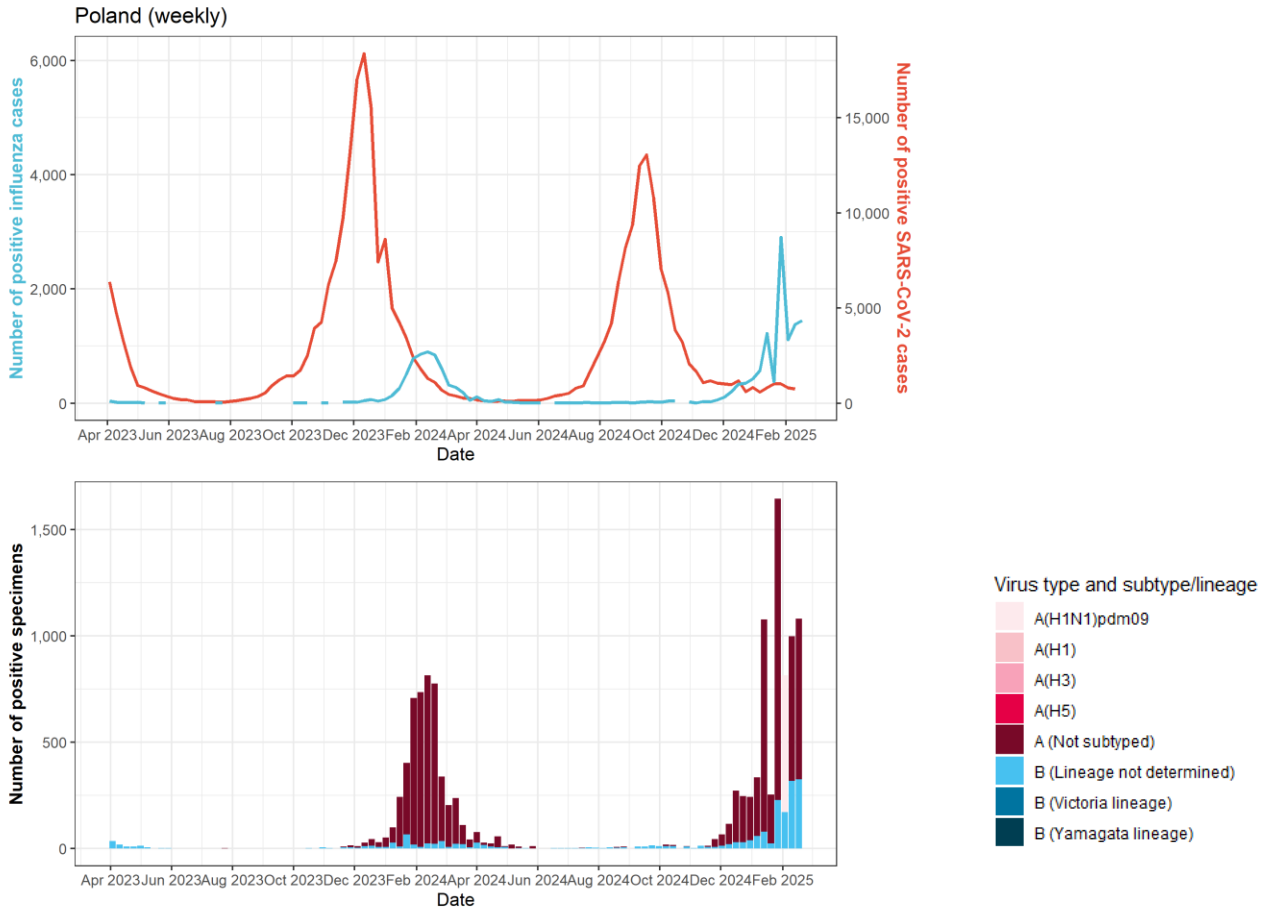
United Kingdom

United Kingdom (weekly)

Note: the displayed decrease in influenza cases in week 51 may be due to reduced or delayed testing and reporting during the holiday period.

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

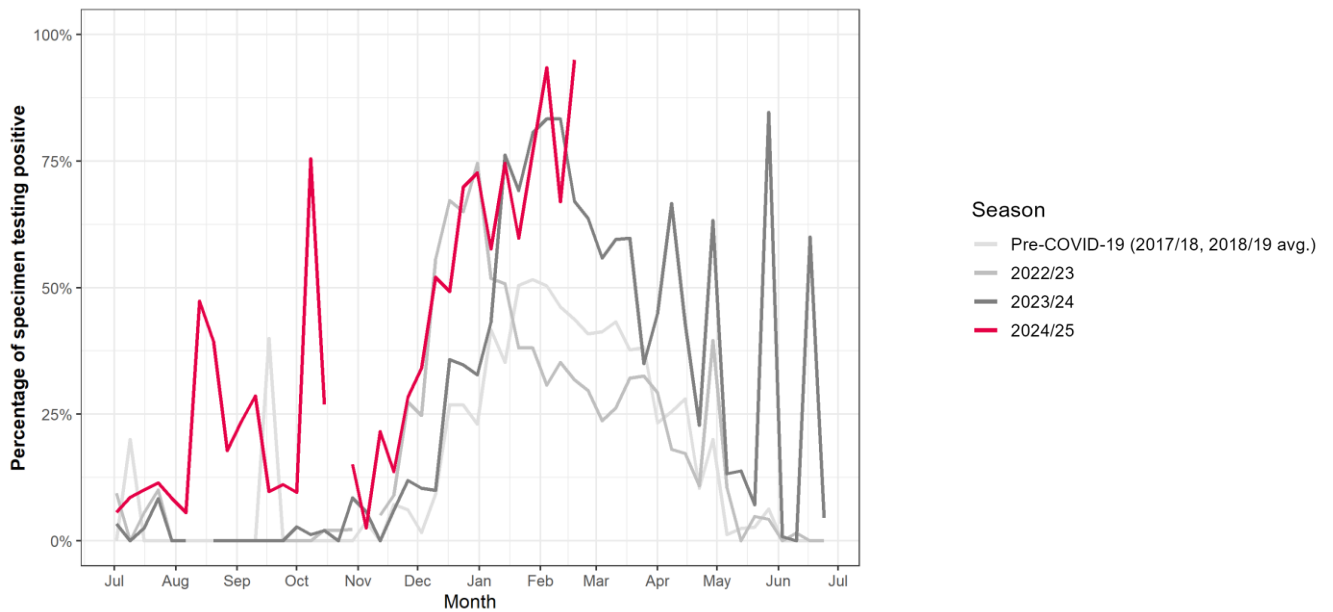# Eastern Europe

Poland

Poland (weekly)

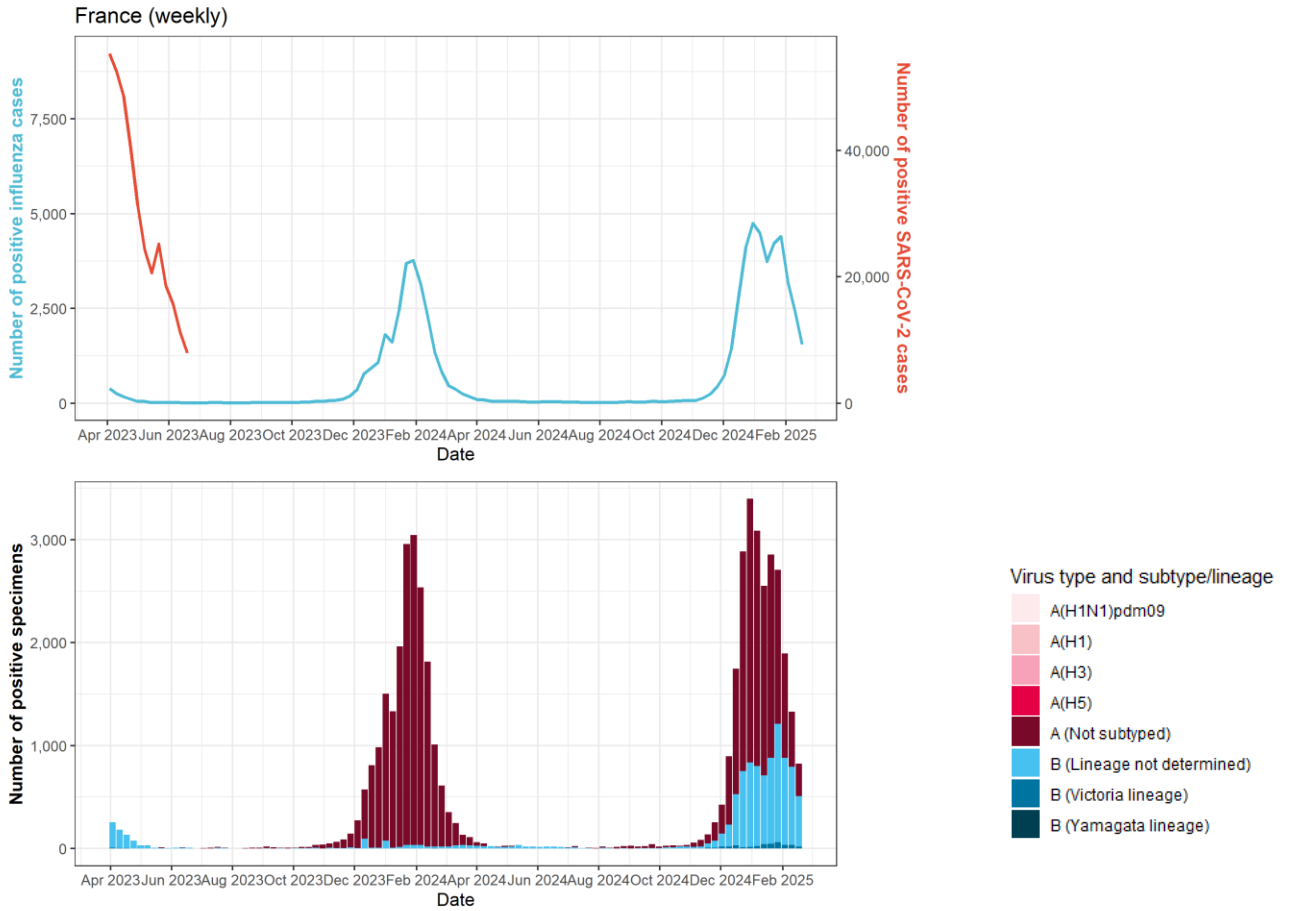## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Note: the high variety in percentage positive since April 2024 is likely caused by a low number of tested specimens

South West Europe

France

France (weekly)

Note: France stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W26/2023

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Germany

Germany (weekly)
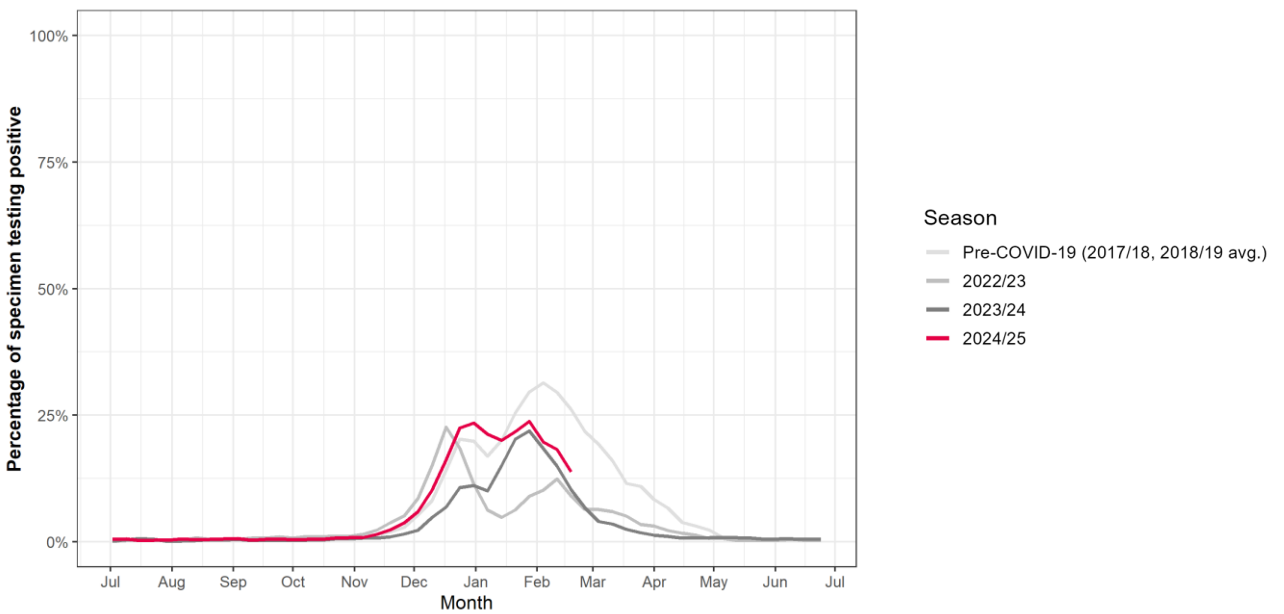

Note: Germany stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W27/2023

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Italy

Italy (weekly)

Note: Italy stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W34/2024

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons: data not available

Netherlands

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons: data not available
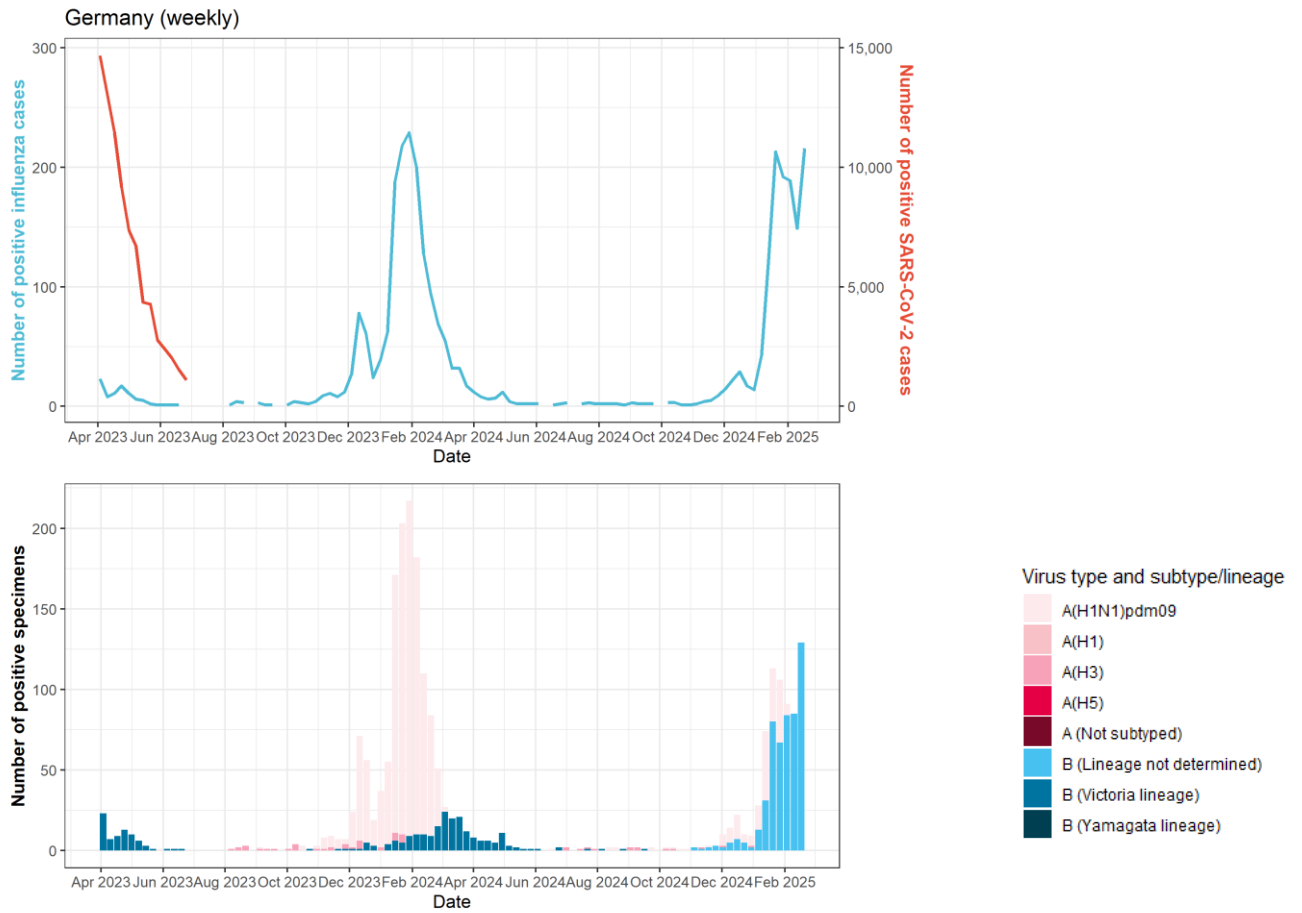
Spain

Spain (weekly)

Note: Spain stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W27/2023

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Northern Africa

Egypt

Egypt (weekly)

Note: Egypt stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W18/2023

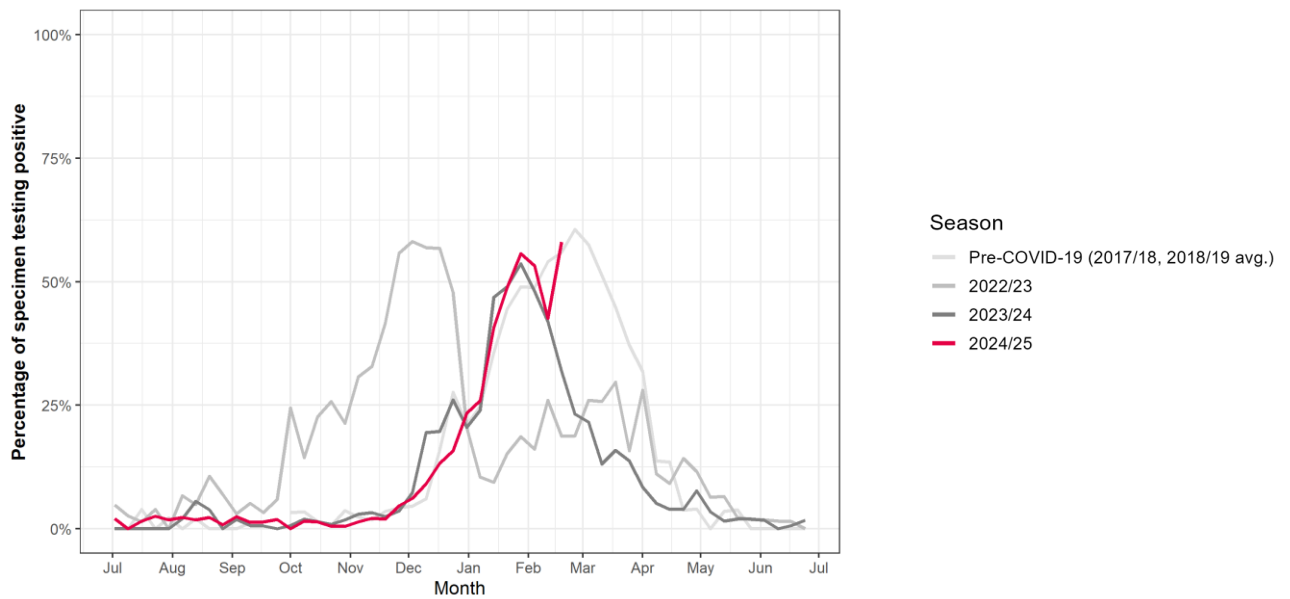## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Southern Africa

South Africa

South Africa (weekly)

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Eastern Asia

China

China (weekly)
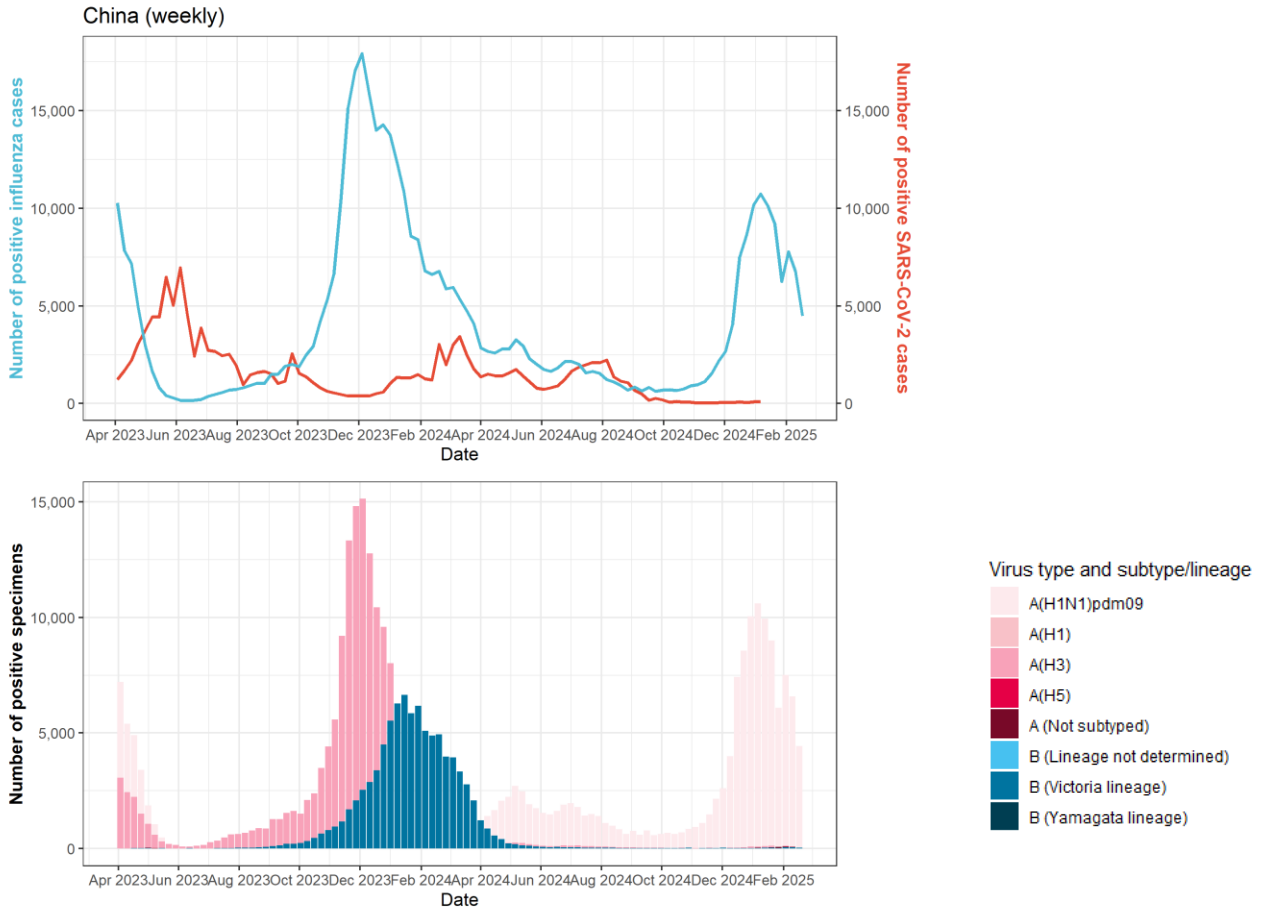
Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
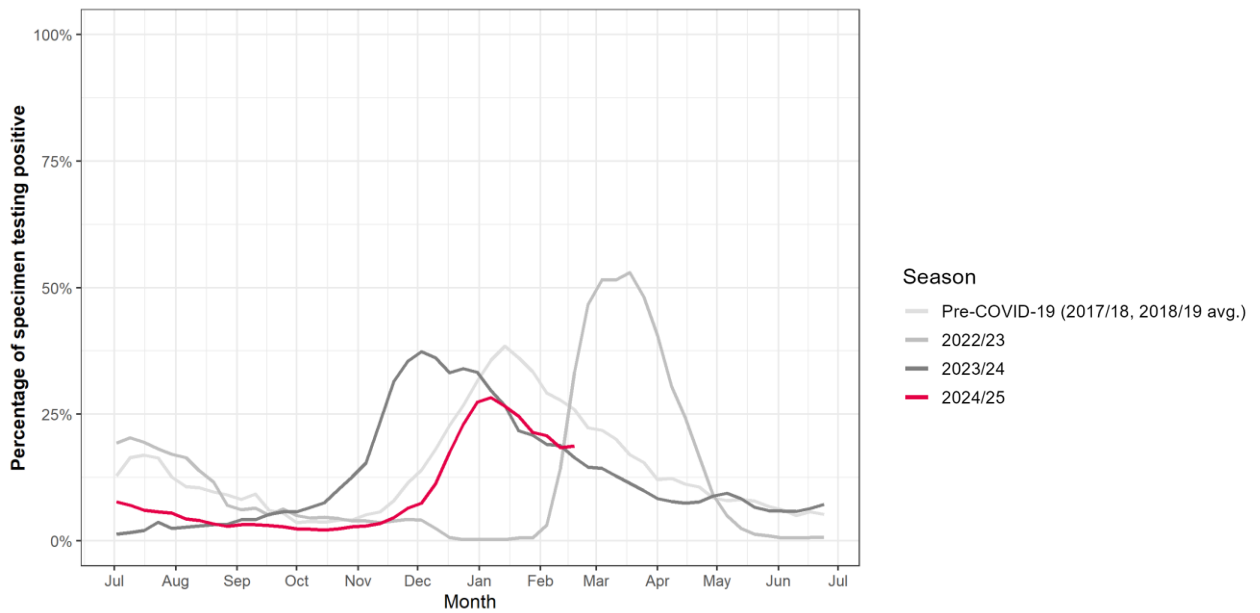
Japan
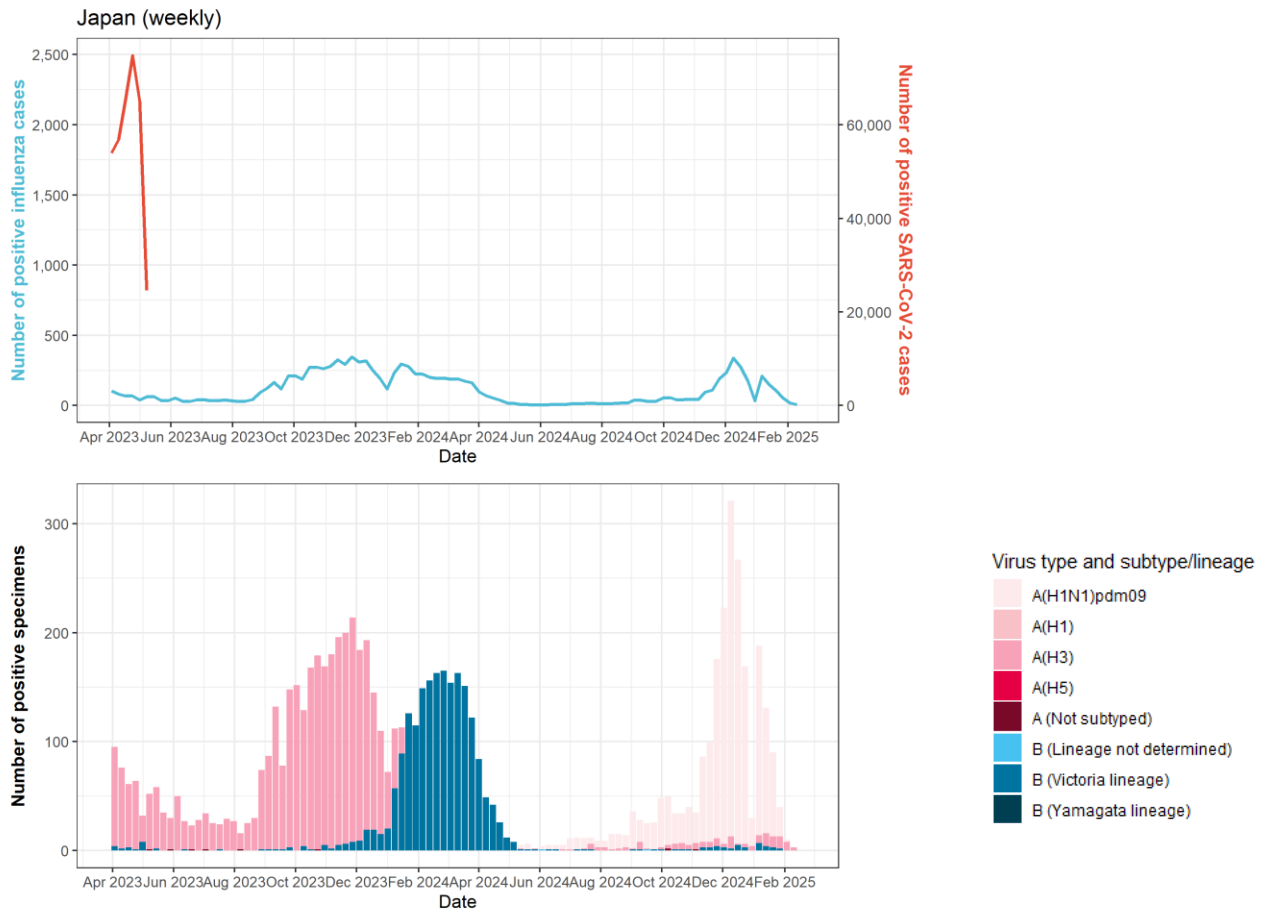
Note: Japan stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W21/2023

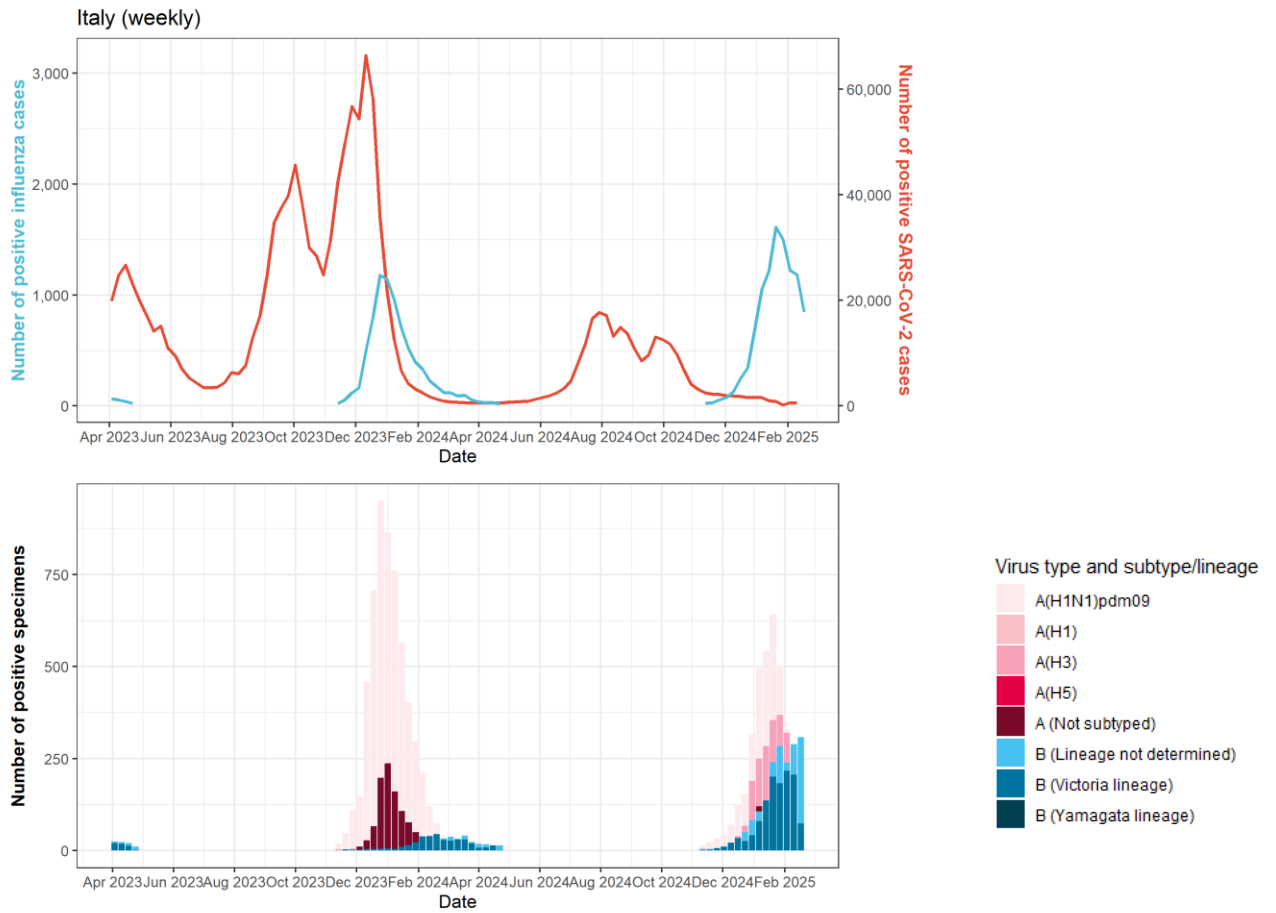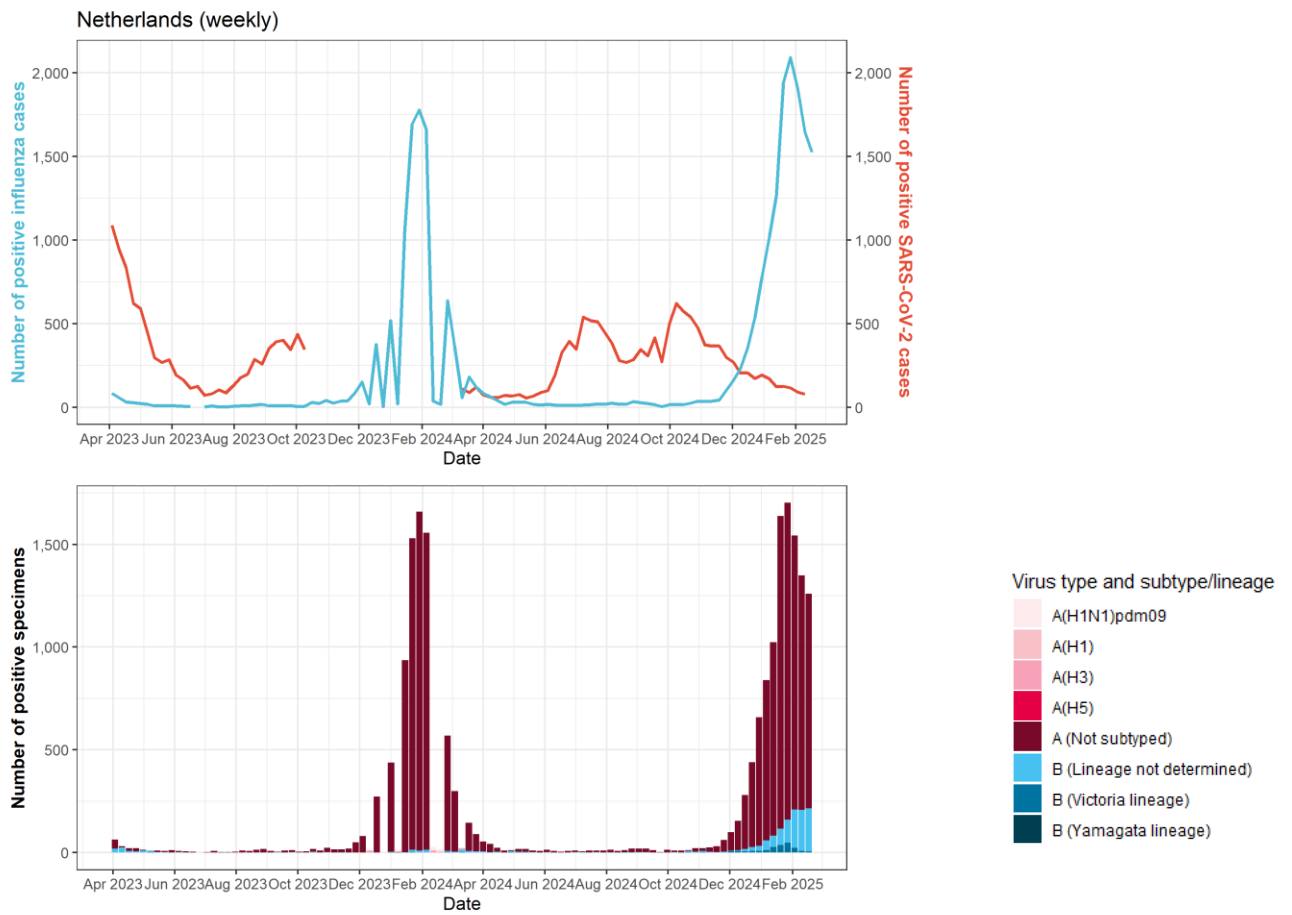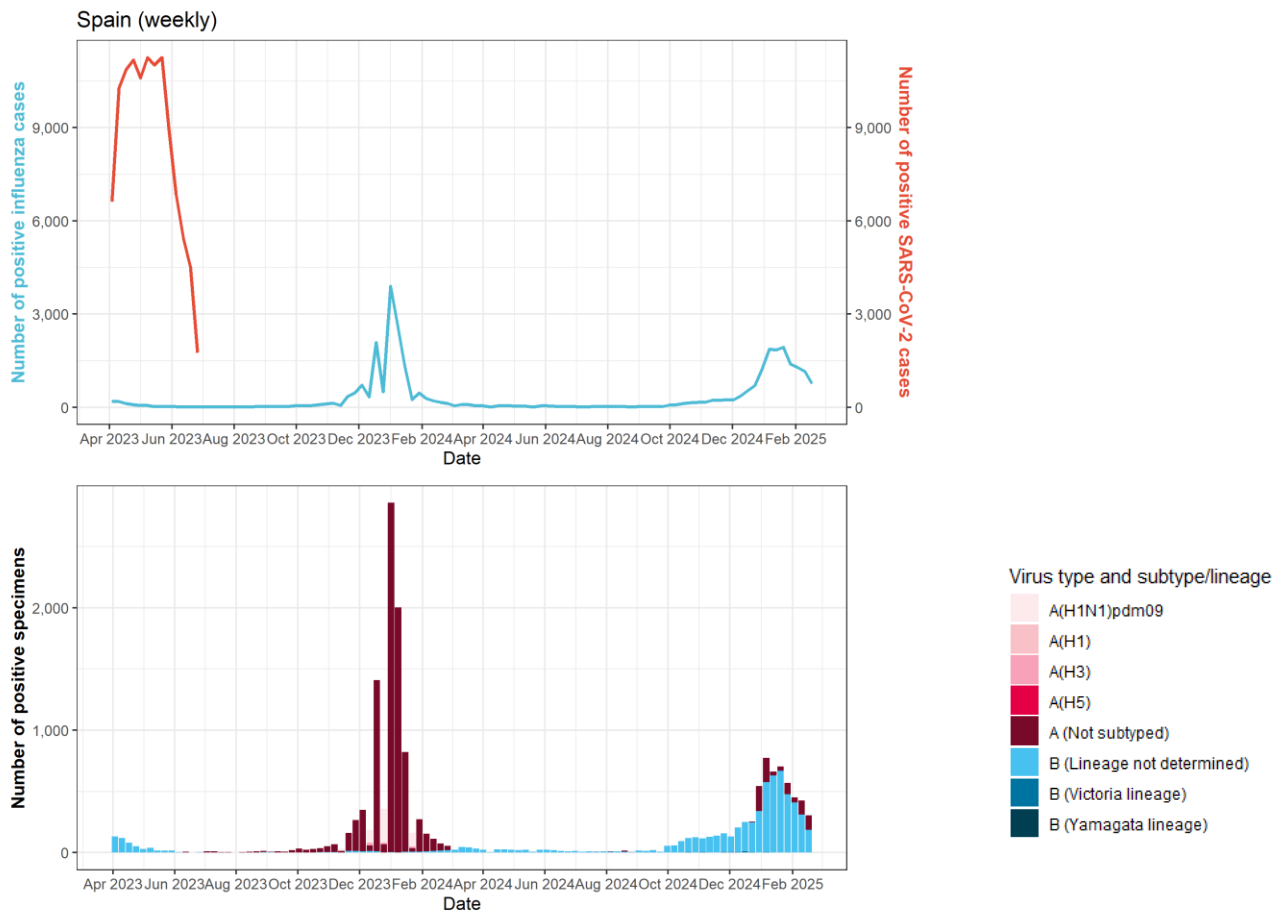*Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons: data not available*

South Korea

South Korea (weekly)

Note: South Korea stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W37/2023

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
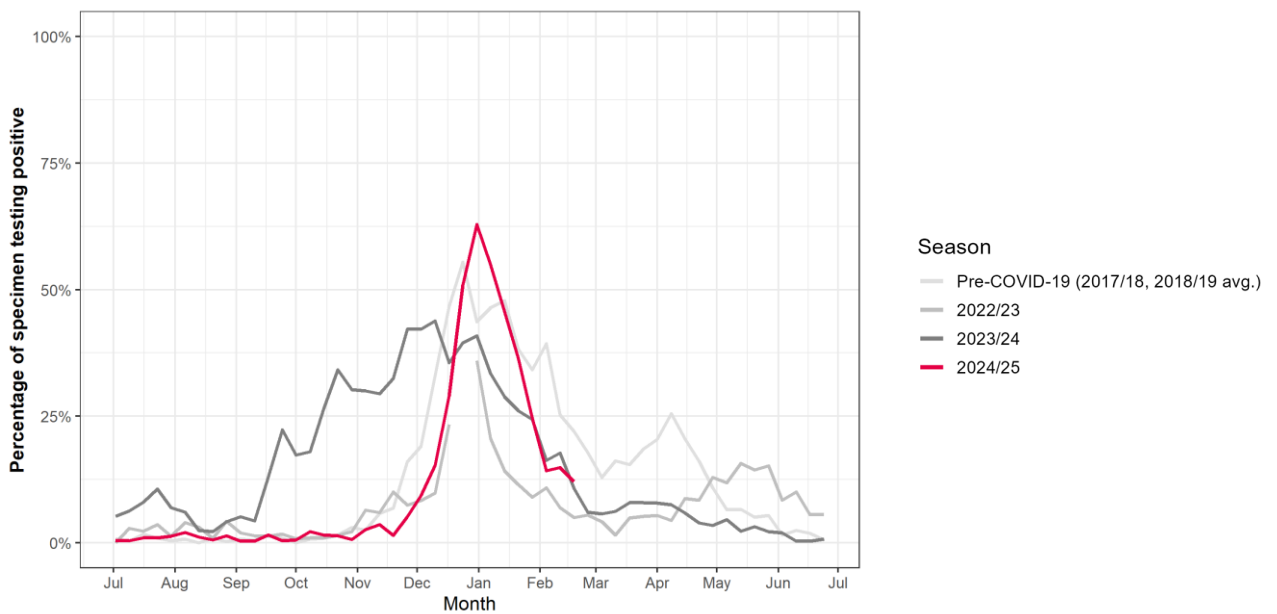
Southern Asia

India

India (weekly)

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

South-East Asia

Philippines

Philippines (weekly)

Note: the Philippines stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W04/2024

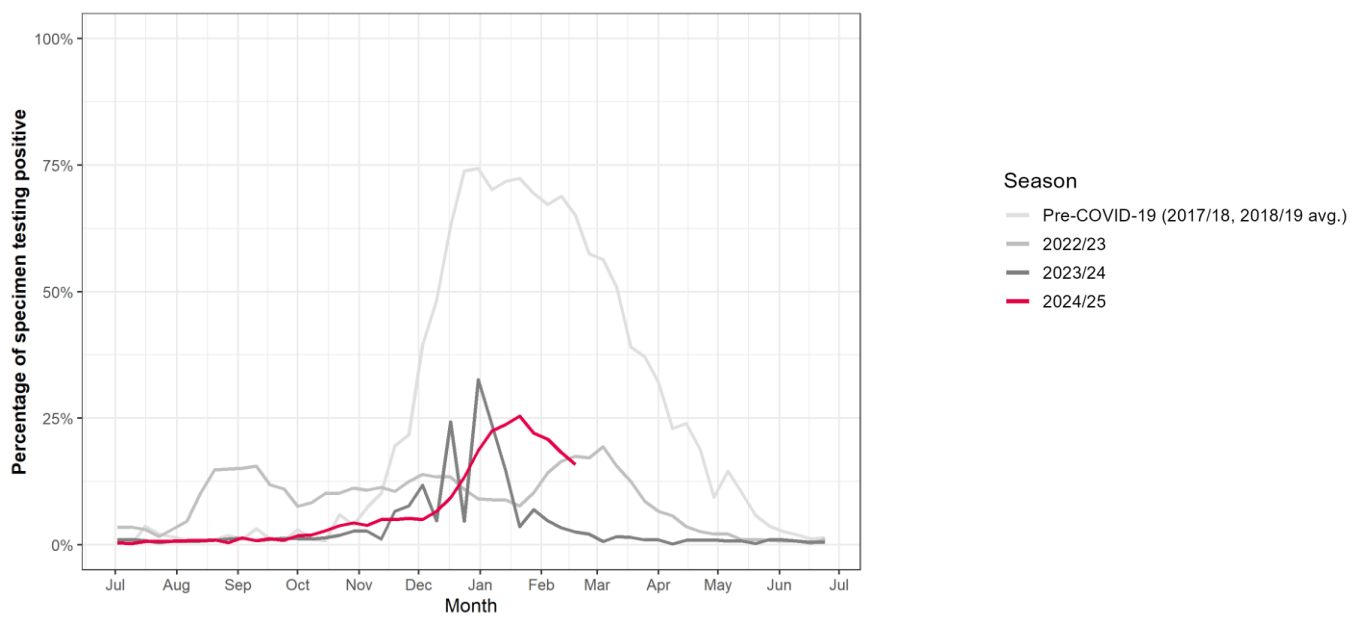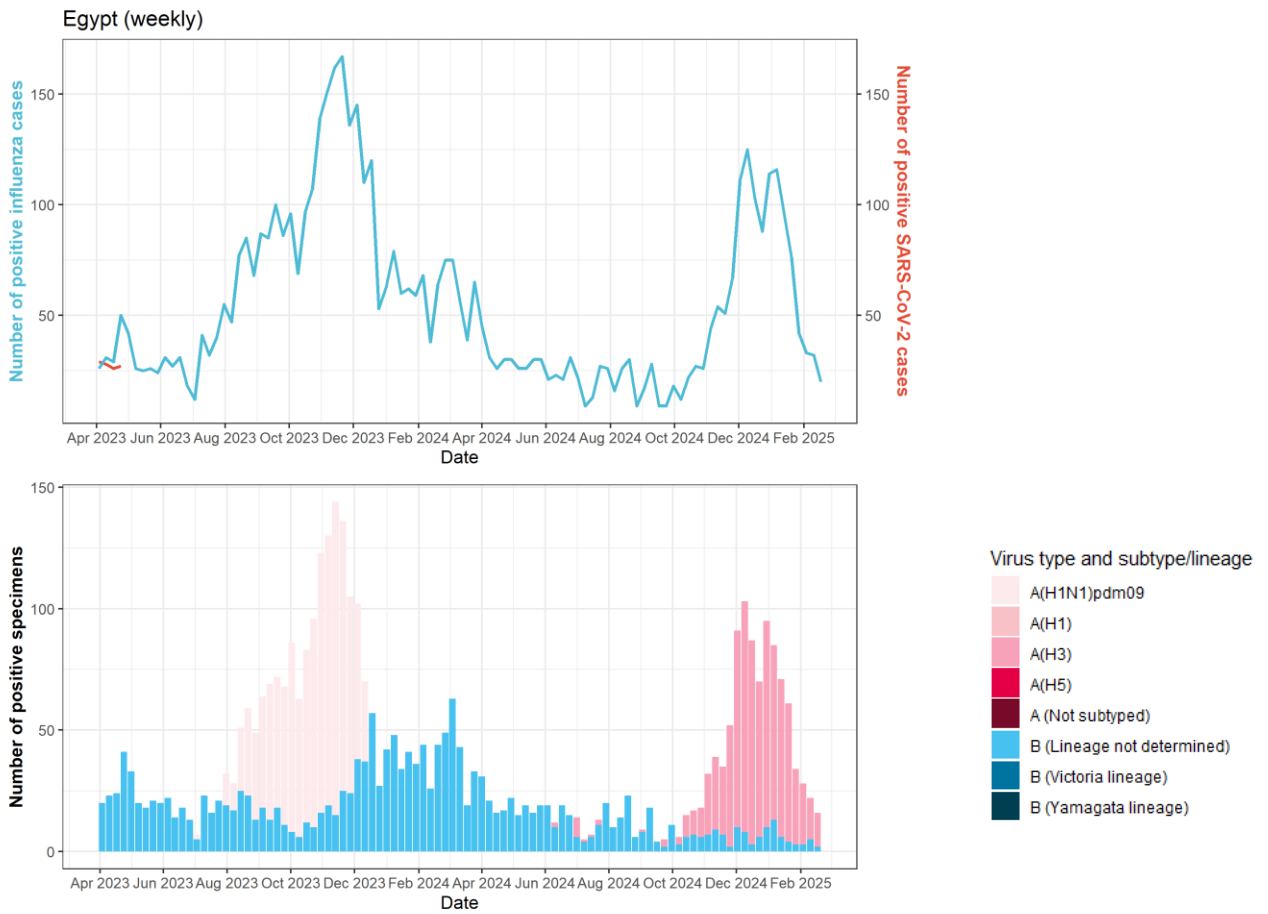## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
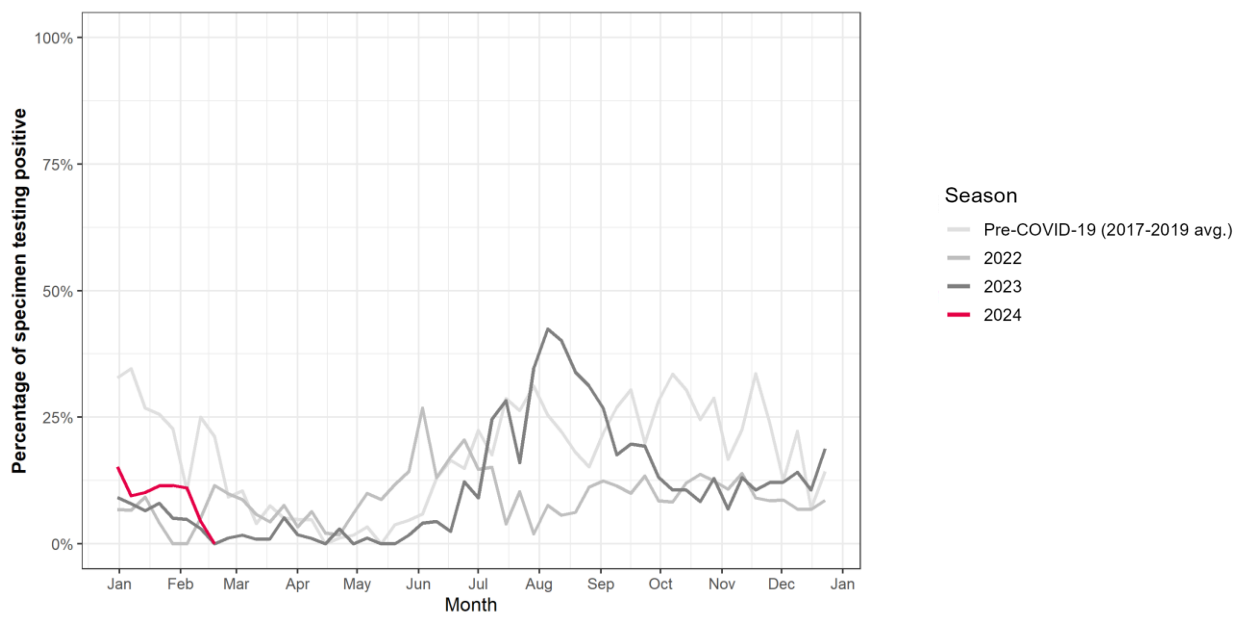
Thailand

Thailand (weekly)

Virus type and subtype/lineage
- A(H1N1)pdm09
- A(H1)
- A(H3)
- A(H5)
- A (Not subtyped)
- B (Lineage not determined)
- B (Victoria lineage)
- B (Yamagata lineage)

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Season
- Pre-COVID-19 (2017/18, 2018/19 avg.)
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
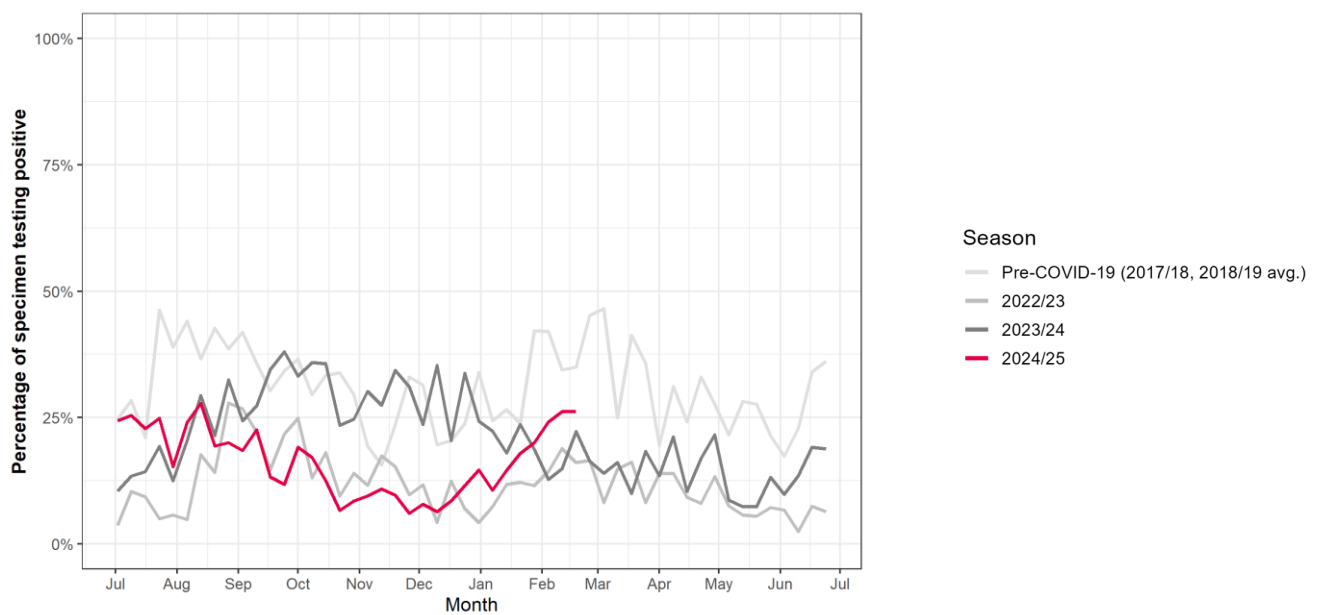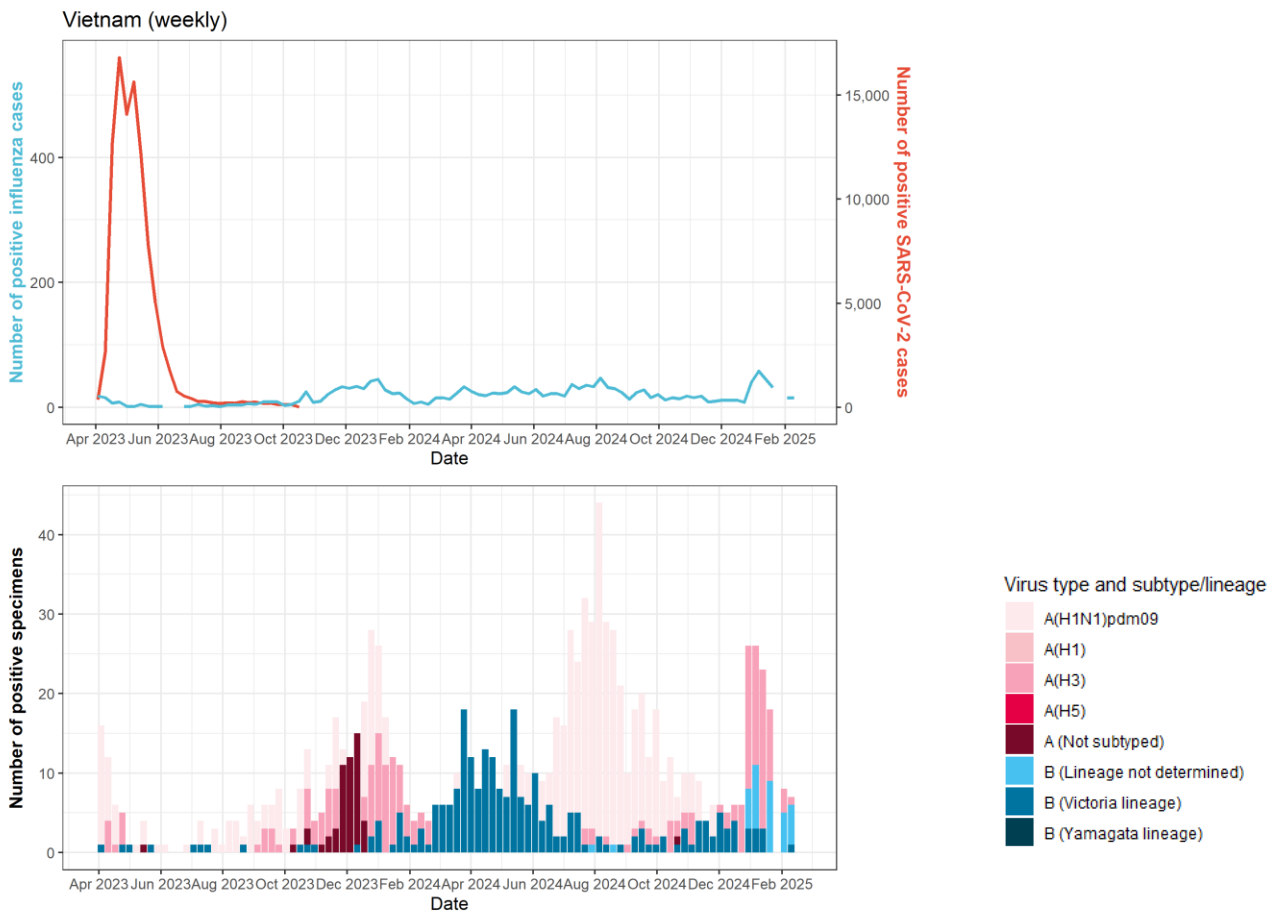
Vietnam

Note: Vietnam stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W44/2023

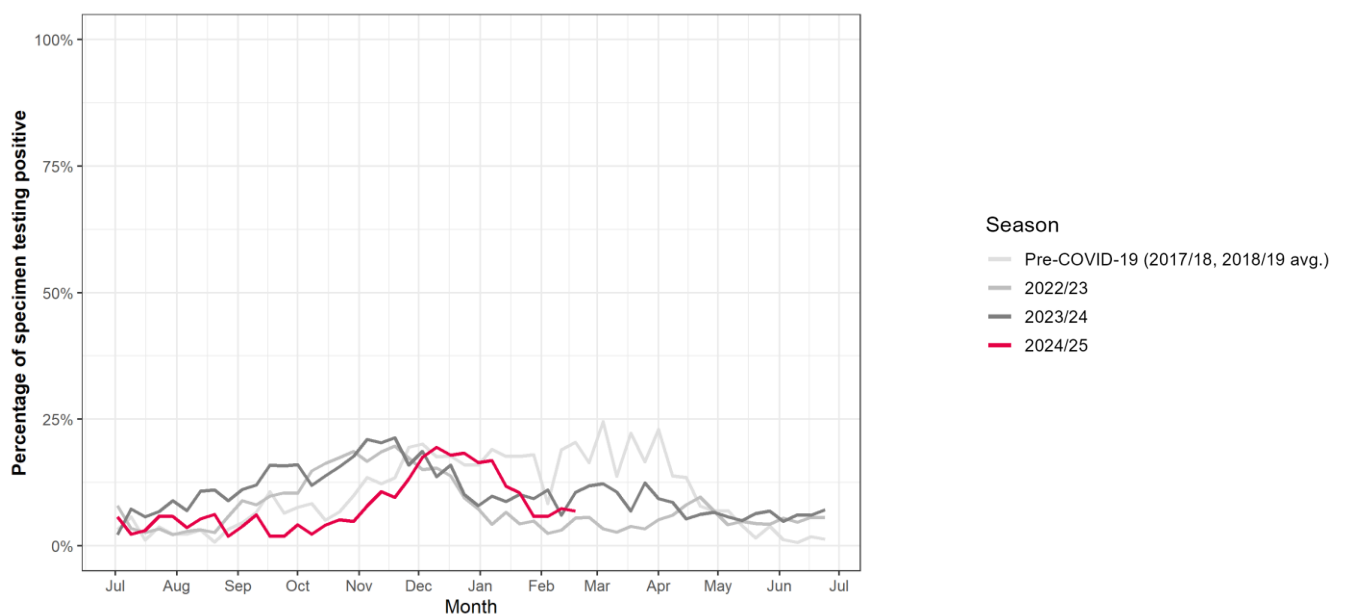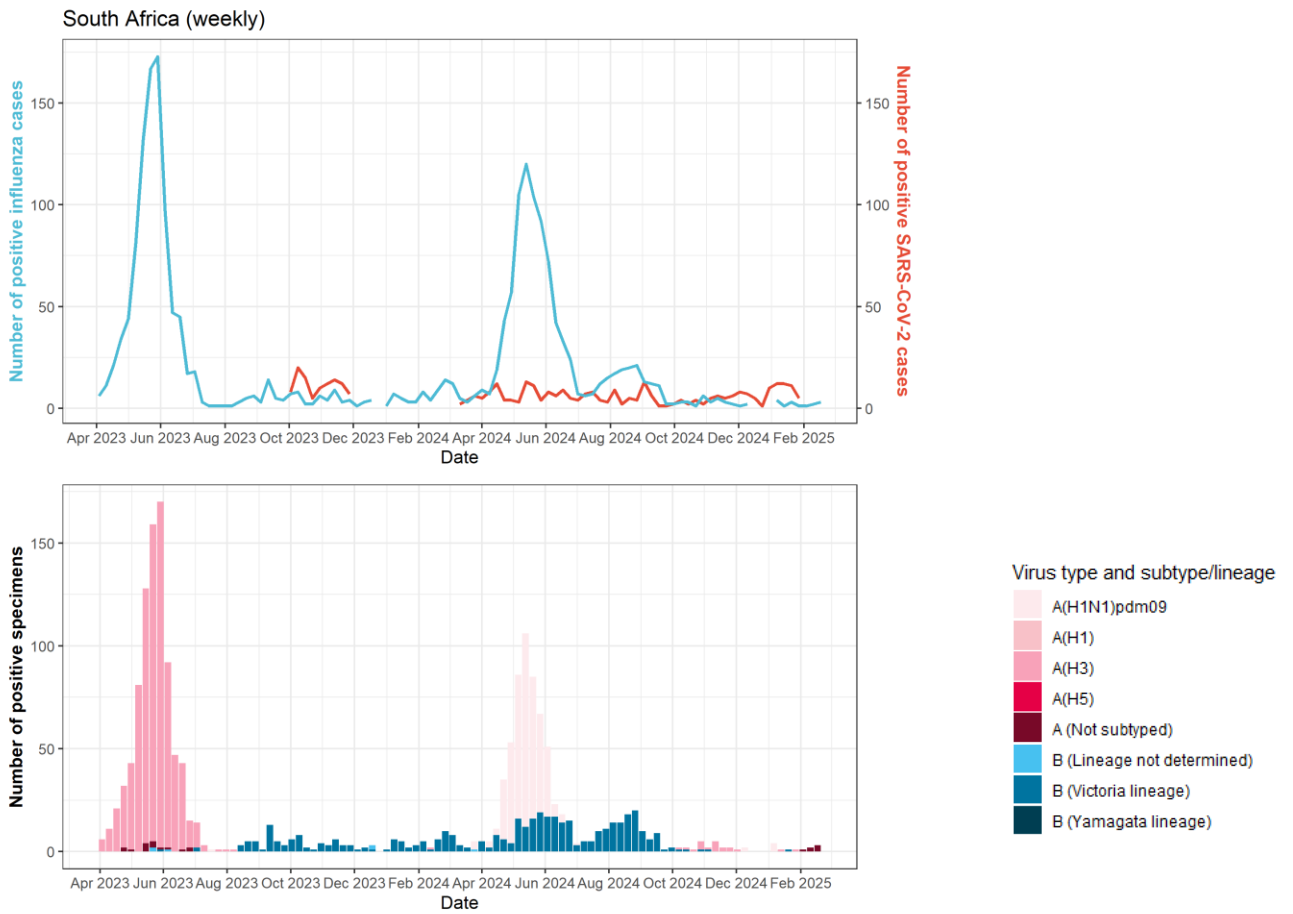*Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons: data not available*

Western Asia

Israel

Israel (weekly)
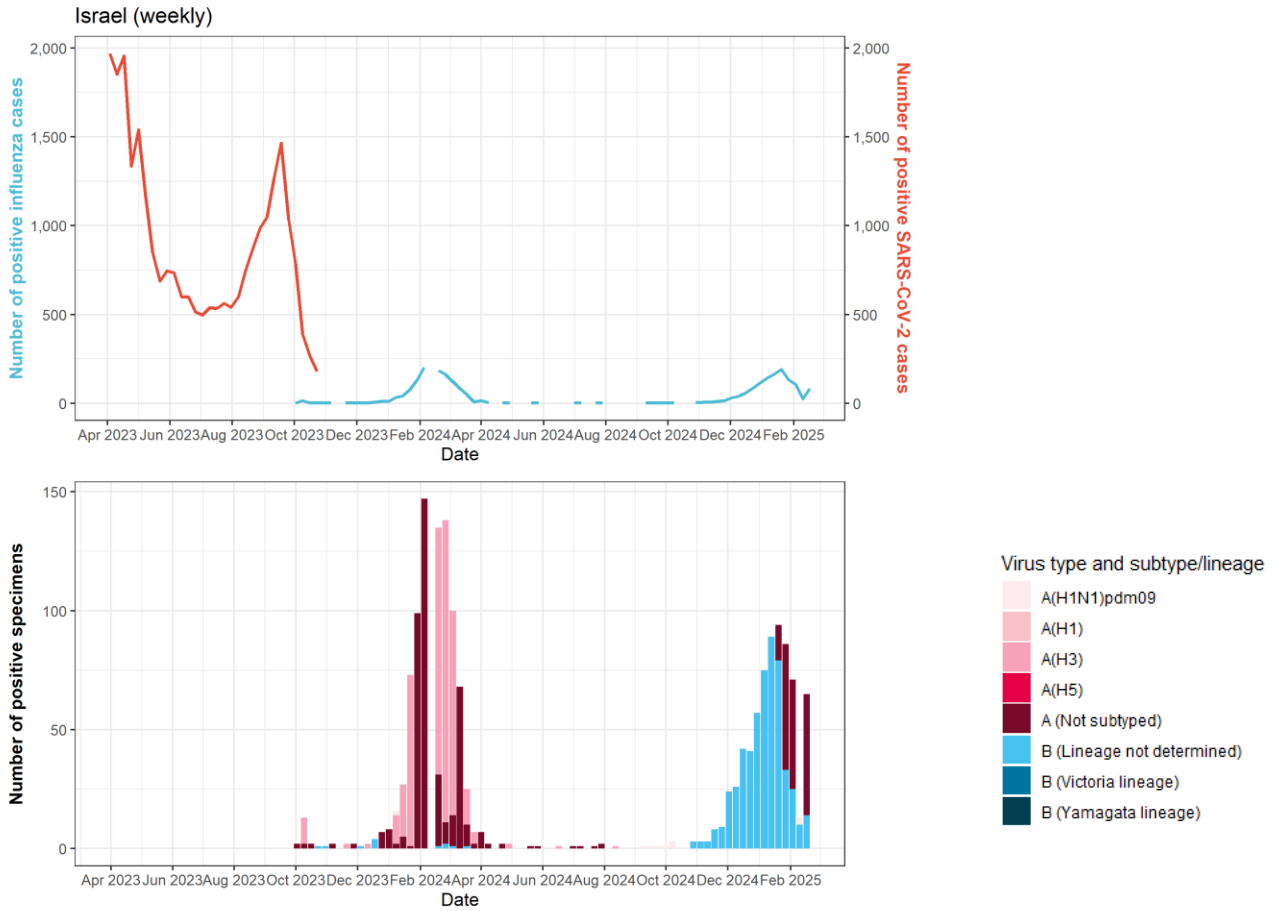
Note: Israel stopped reporting **SARS-CoV-2** activity to the WHO since W44/2023

Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons

Oceania

Australia

Australia (weekly)
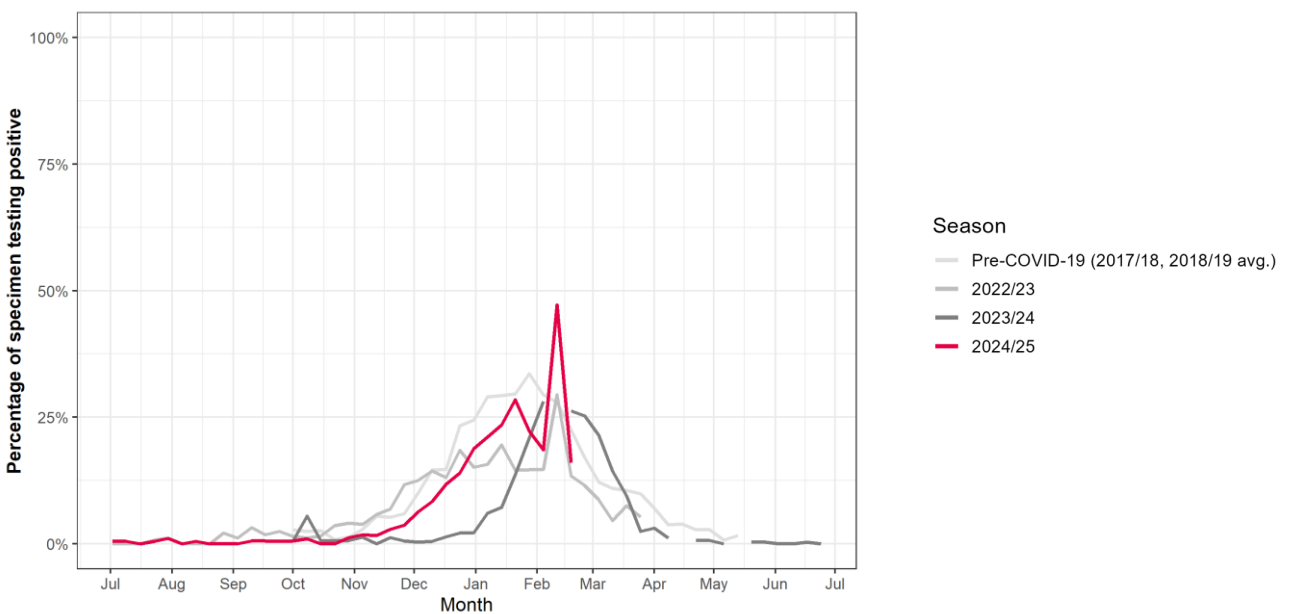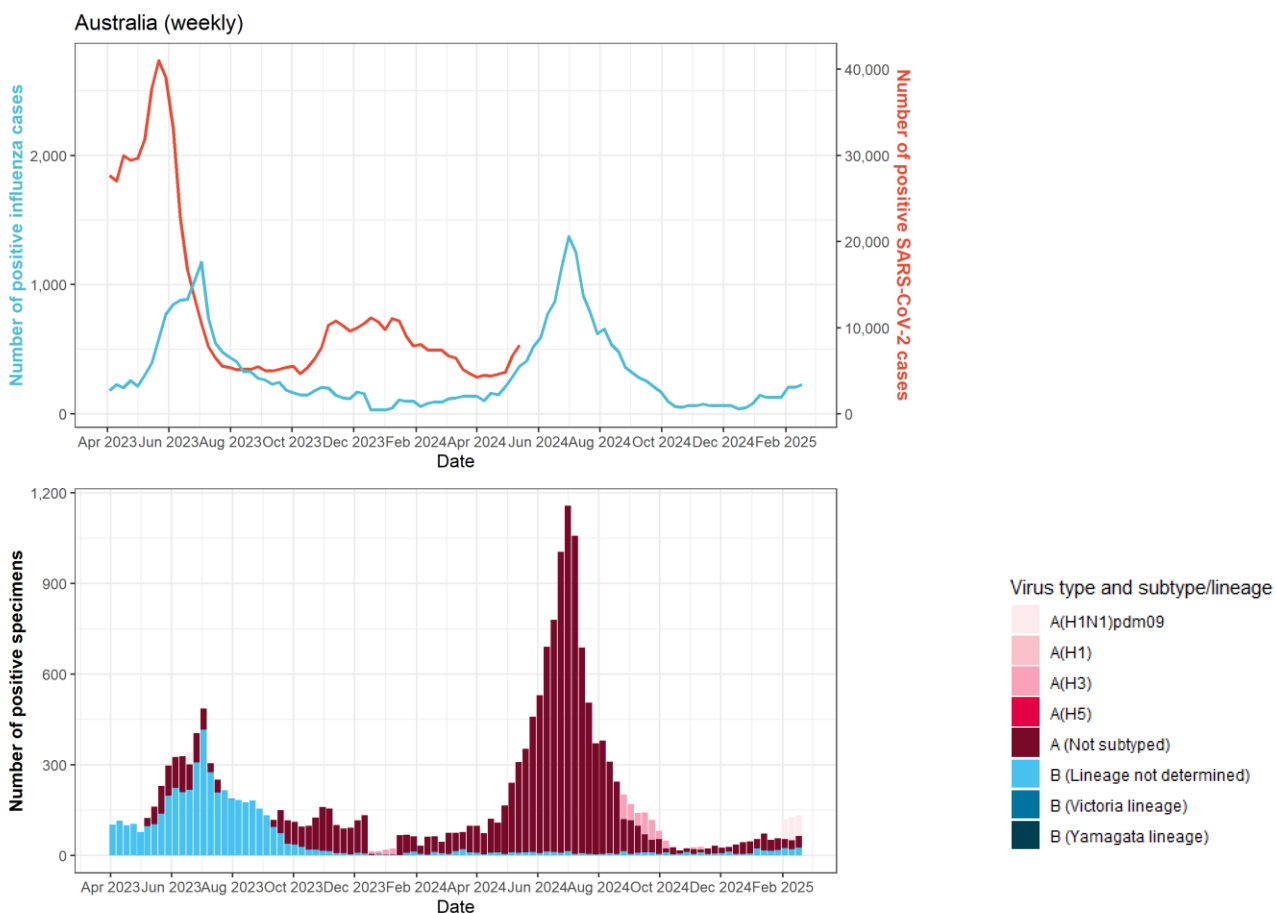
Note: Australia stopped reporting SARS-CoV-2 activity to the WHO since W20/2024

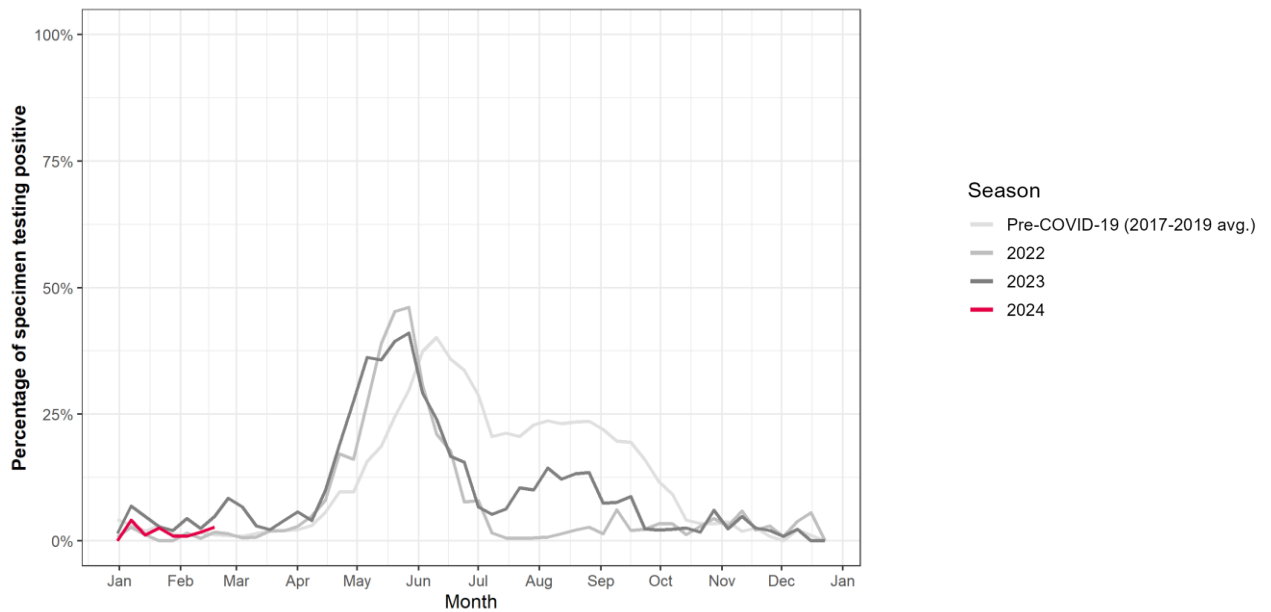## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
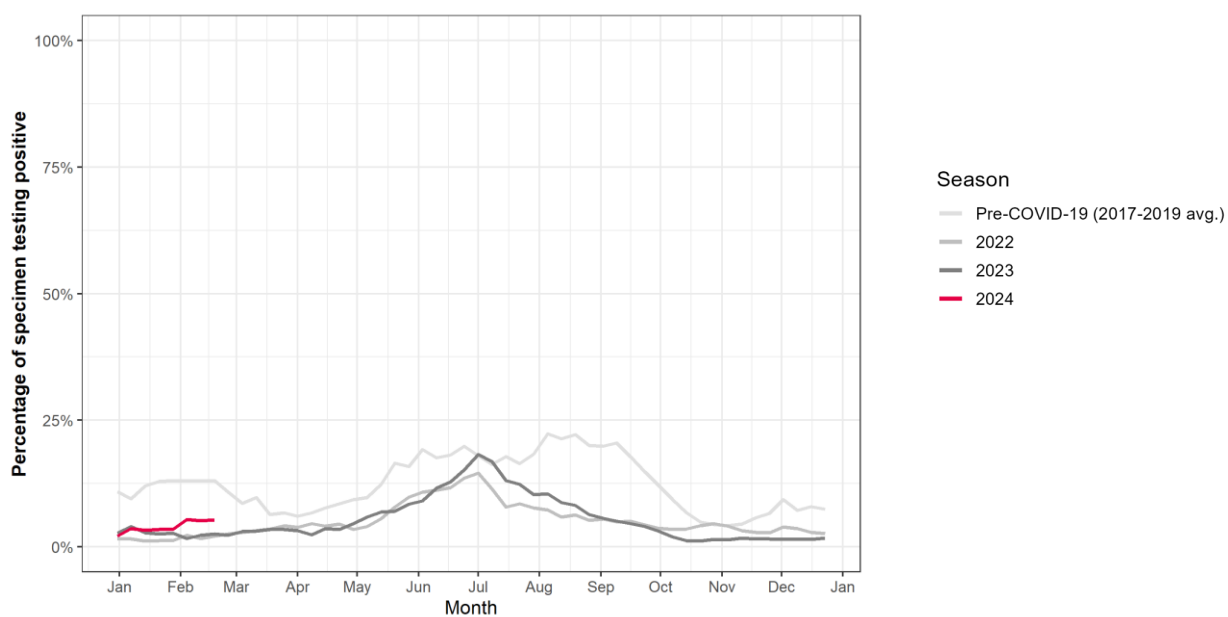
New Zealand

### New Zealand (weekly)

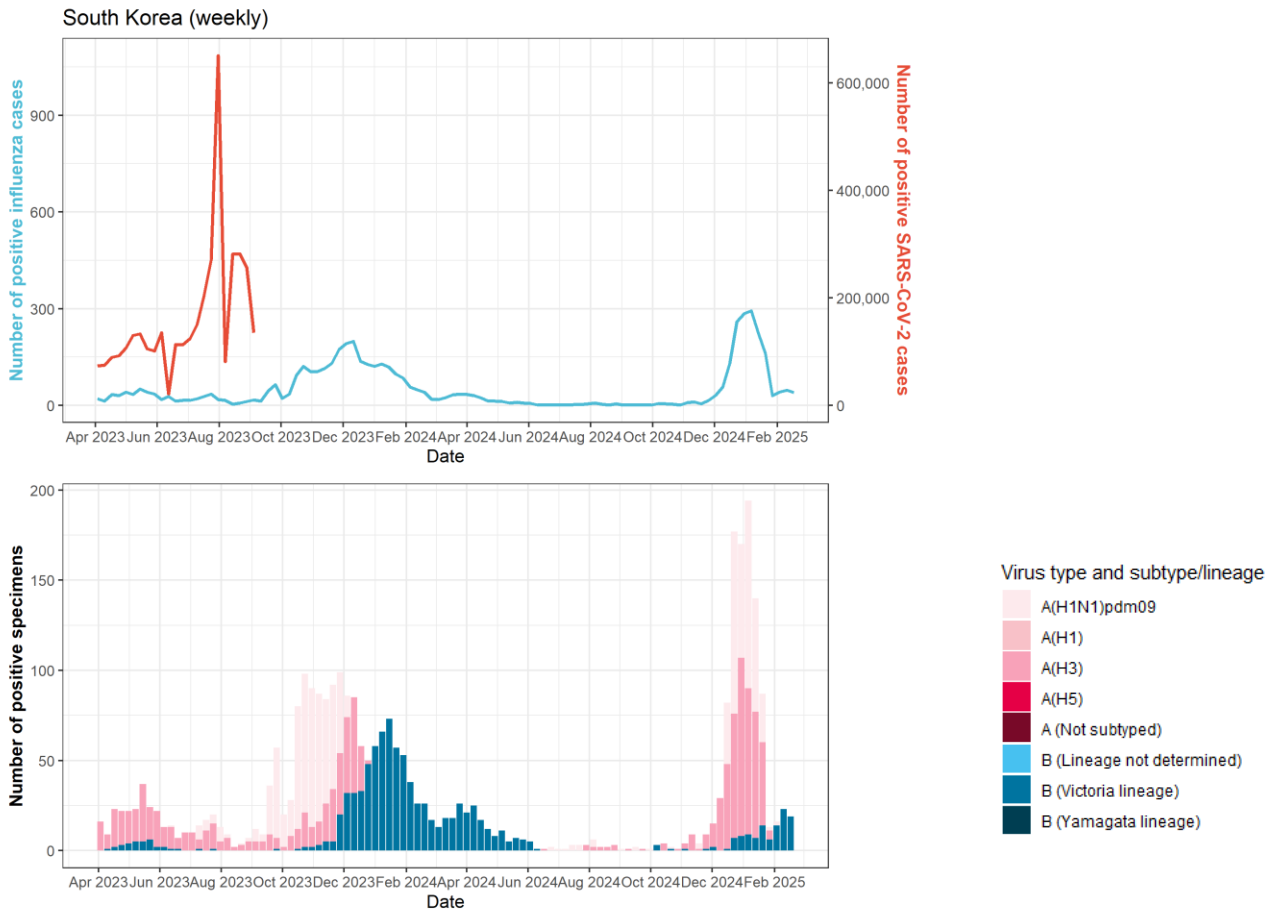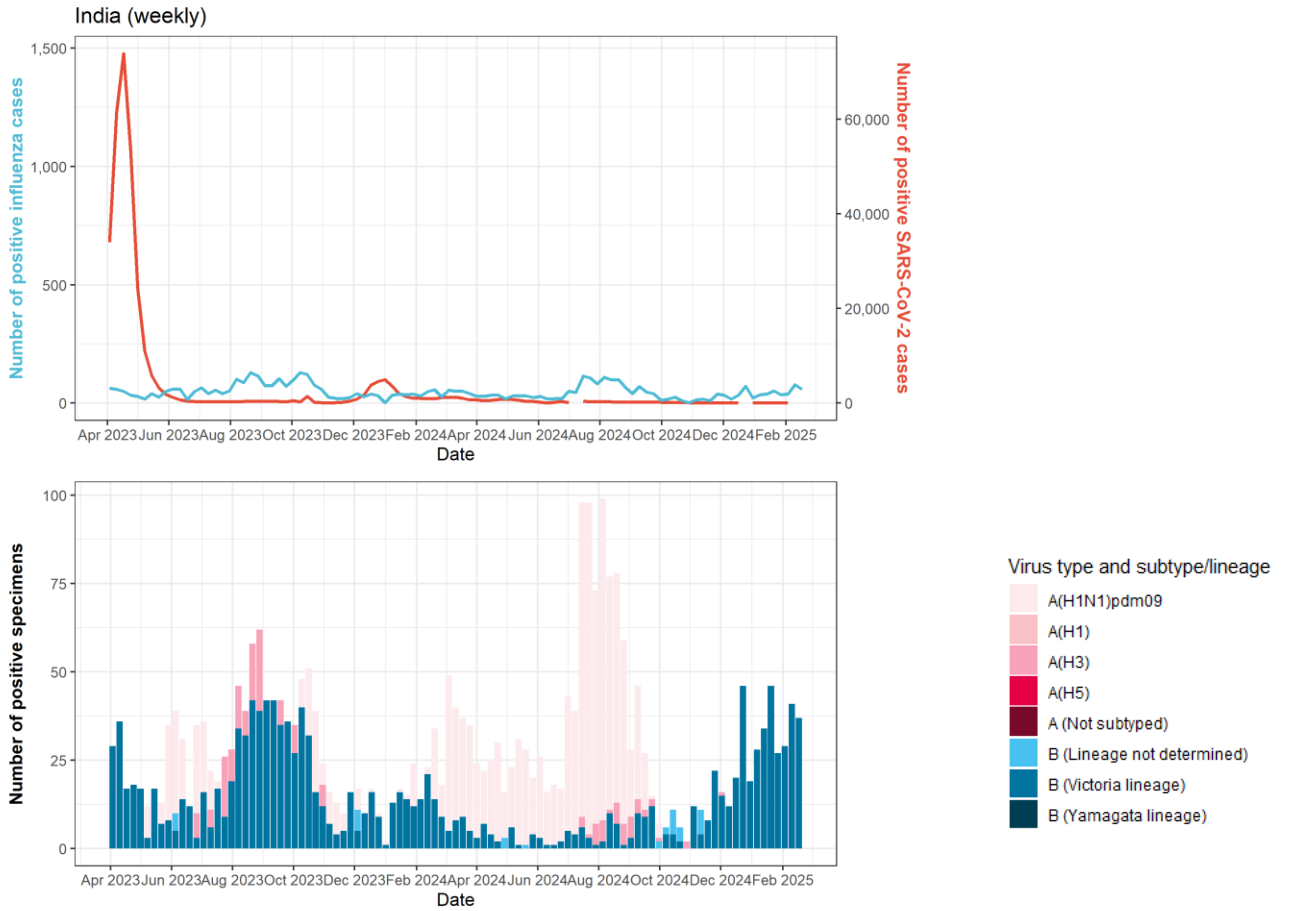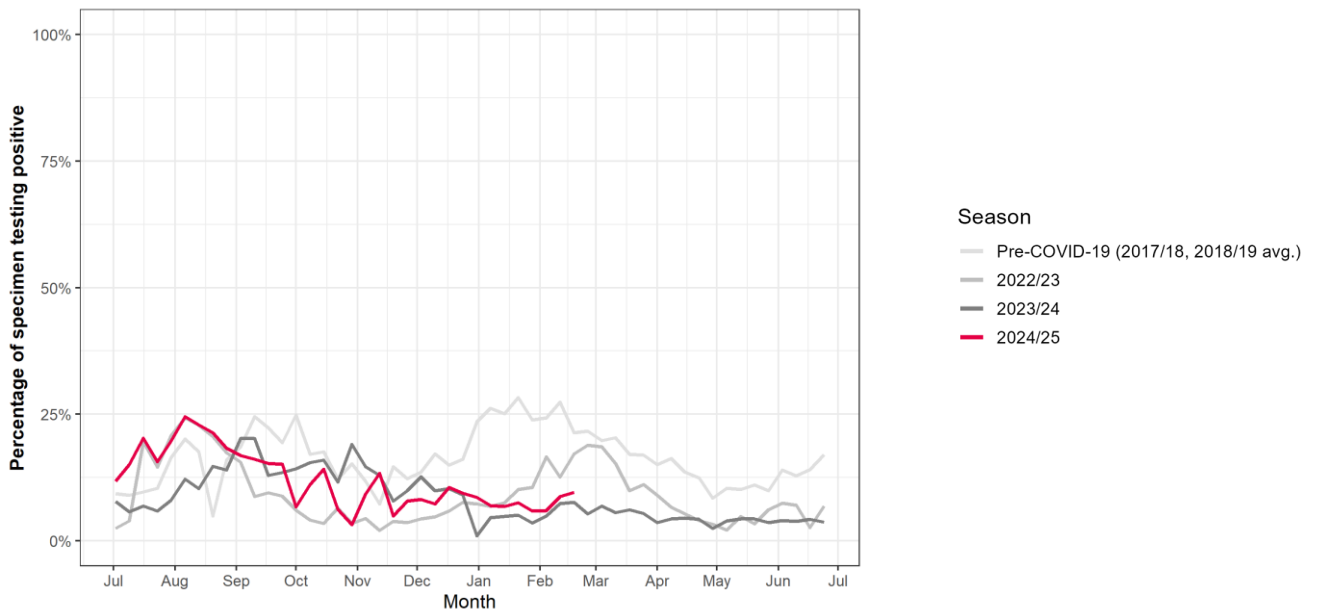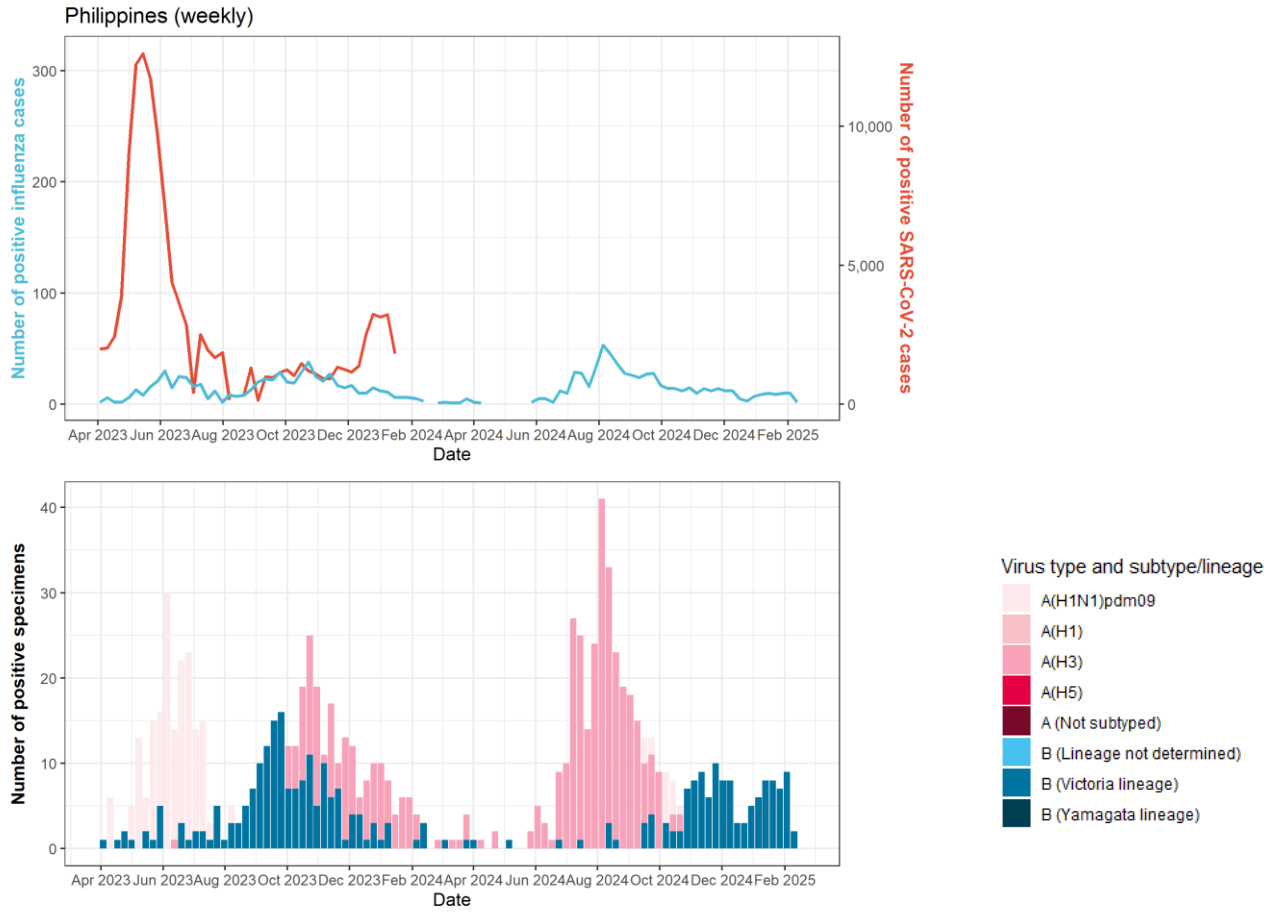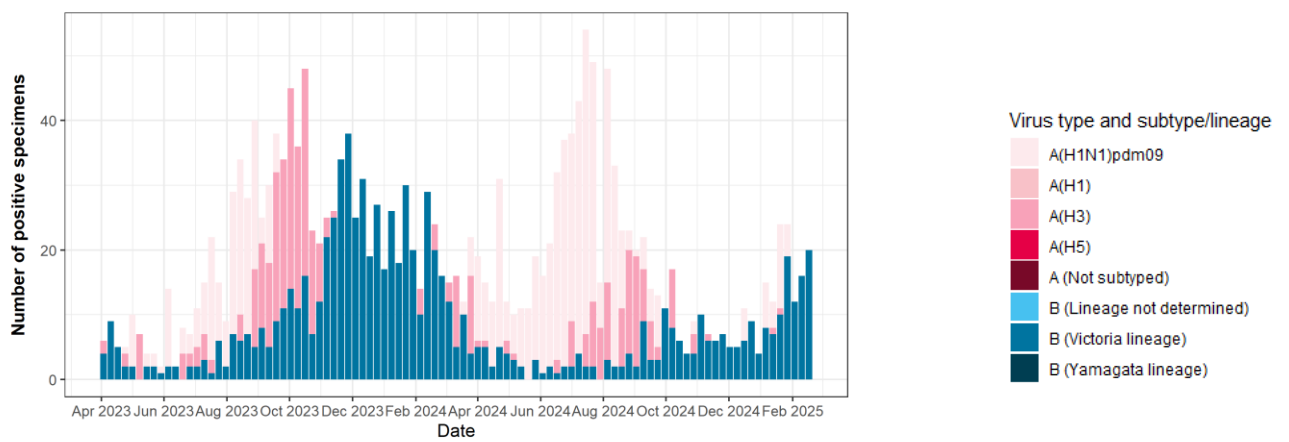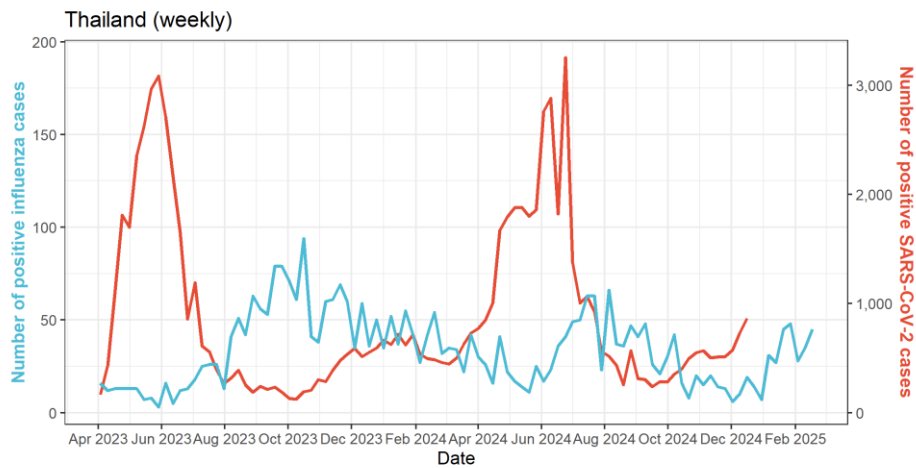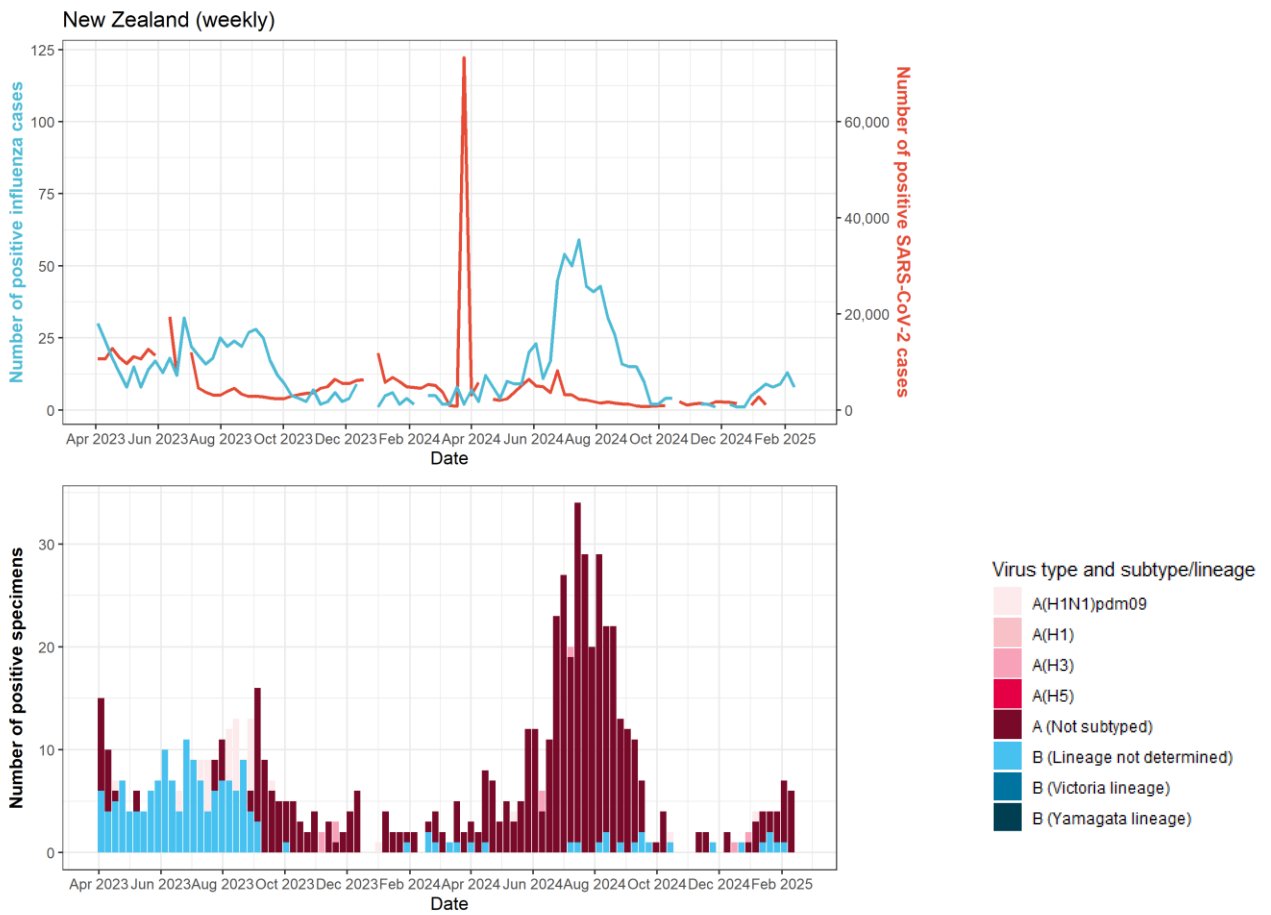## Percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in different seasons
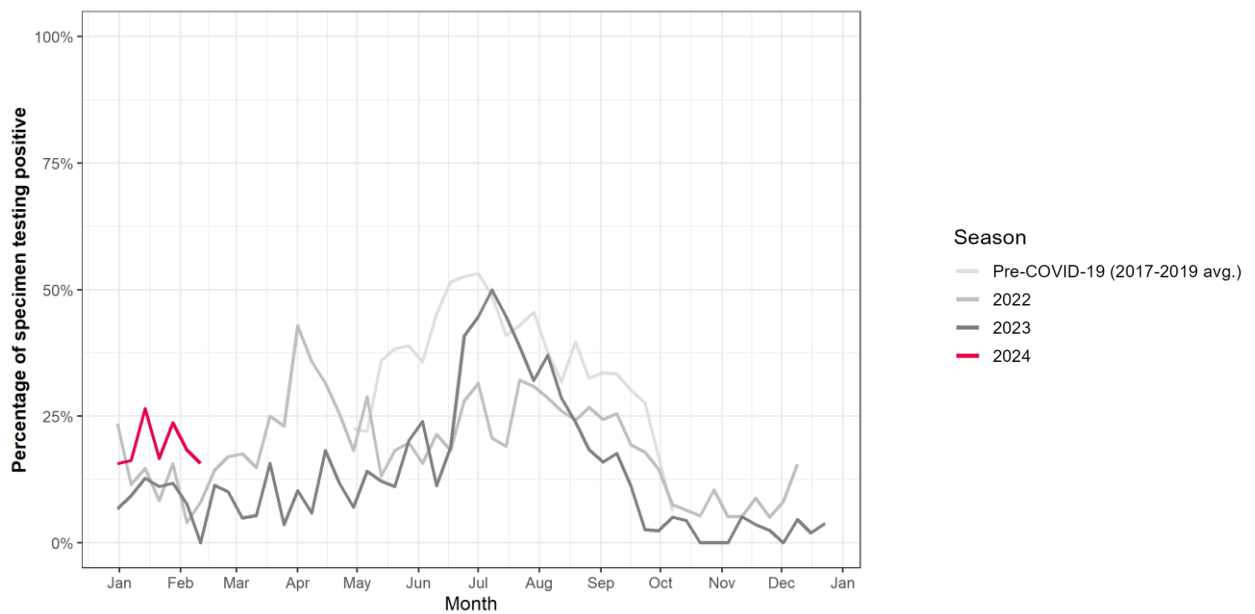
Absolute numbers per country

Country	Year	Cases[a,b] of SARS-CoV-2*	+/- since last month[c]	Cases[a] of influenza	+/- since last month[c]	Week of last influenza update
Argentina	2019			6,477		
Argentina	2020	1,674,319		465		
Argentina	2021	4,106,203		29		
Argentina	2022	4,110,617		26,585		
Argentina	2023	153,818		5,618		
Argentina	2024	65,804		14,705		
Argentina	2025	442	138	130	12	2025-06
Australia	2019			14,002		
Australia	2020	28,381		949		
Australia	2021	338,226		8		
Australia	2022	10,418,952		14,654		
Australia	2023	935,976		15,427		
Australia	2024	139,626		15,944		
Australia	2025	0	0	1,255	640	2025-08
Brazil	2019			3,459		
Brazil	2020	7,563,551		1,391		
Brazil	2021	14,700,856		1,240		
Brazil	2022	14,038,581		3,648		
Brazil	2023	1,209,506		21,939		
Brazil	2024	13,446		28,171		
Brazil	2025	91,120	23,746	1,128	111	2025-07
Canada	2019			43,196		
Canada	2020	565,508		44,956		
Canada	2021	1,536,966		337		
Canada	2022	2,390,310		71,314		
Canada	2023	281,456		47,166		
Canada	2024	44,819		71,454		
Canada	2025	0	0	61,342	32,012	2025-08
Chile	2019			6,539		
Chile	2020	605,950		272		
Chile	2021	1,198,732		77		
Chile	2022	3,227,670		13,139		
Chile	2023	300,625		10,926		
Chile	2024	76,988		19,770		
Chile	2025	90	23	555	46	2025-07
China	2019			122,757		
China	2020	96,673		31,237		
China	2021	35,398		26,151		
China	2022	84,792,971		56,455		
China	2023	14,397,685		260,766		
China	2024	58,852		180,092		
China	2025	182	0	65,558	19,036	2025-08

Country	Year	Cases[a,b] of SARS-CoV-2*	+/- since last month[c]	Cases[a] of influenza	+/- since last month[c]	Week of last influenza update
Egypt	2019			1,999		
Egypt	2020	136,644		659		
Egypt	2021	248,084		233		
Egypt	2022	130,805		2,709		
Egypt	2023	490		3,074		
Egypt	2024	0		2,163		
Egypt	2025	0	0	529	85	2025-08
France	2019			25,405		
France	2020	2,338,258		16,589		
France	2021	6,371,668		3,071		
France	2022	29,279,621		40,148		
France	2023	1,007,943		22,690		
France	2024	0		33,541		
France	2025	0	639	28,759	7,156	2025-08
Germany	2019			1,215		
Germany	2020	1,660,178		958		
Germany	2021	5,353,865		29		
Germany	2022	30,227,893		1,923		
Germany	2023	1,195,820		796		
Germany	2024	0		1,561		
Germany	2025	0	2	1,139	554	2025-08
India	2019			10,428		
India	2020	10,266,679		655		
India	2021	24,572,130		5,128		
India	2022	9,840,329		1,948		
India	2023	334,788		3,359		
India	2024	31,401		2,124		
India	2025	34	5	359	177	2025-08
Israel	2019			1,796		
Israel	2020	419,661		1,424		
Israel	2021	962,275		456		
Israel	2022	3,381,658		774		
Israel	2023	77,964		1,013		
Israel	2024	0		1,399		
Israel	2025	0	0	961	214	2025-08
Italy	2019			6,361		
Italy	2020	2,083,689		7,485		
Italy	2021	3,897,739		31		
Italy	2022	19,187,010		5,817		
Italy	2023	1,494,001		5,256		
Italy	2024	296,853		5,968		
Italy	2025	4,728	1,129	9,336	3,252	2025-08
Japan	2019			10,343		
Japan	2020	230,304		2,915		
Japan	2021	1,503,484		9		
Japan	2022	27,371,282		273		
Japan	2023	4,698,502		7,752		
Japan	2024	0		4,993		
Japan	2025	0	0	582	24	2025-07

Country	Year	Cases[a,b] of SARS-CoV-2*	+/- since last month[c]	Cases[a] of influenza	+/- since last month[c]	Week of last influenza update
Mexico	2019			6,963		
Mexico	2020	1,496,067		4,799		
Mexico	2021	2,538,755		960		
Mexico	2022	3,236,805		10,314		
Mexico	2023	336,789		7,666		
Mexico	2024	14,097		11,976		
Mexico	2025	0	0	4,398	881	2025-07
Netherlands	2019			5,166		
Netherlands	2020	773,198		3,235		
Netherlands	2021	2,312,304		471		
Netherlands	2022	5,480,565		14,864		
Netherlands	2023	53,984		10,175		
Netherlands	2024	12,077		10,436		
Netherlands	2025	711	171	12,170	5,074	2025-08
New Zealand	2019			1,011		
New Zealand	2020	1,807		0		
New Zealand	2021	11,939		0		
New Zealand	2022	2,043,704		0		
New Zealand	2023	382,925		631		
New Zealand	2024	224,052		647		
New Zealand	2025	3,809	0	59	21	2025-07
Philippines	2019			612		
Philippines	2020	472,523		52		
Philippines	2021	2,371,346		105		
Philippines	2022	1,218,790		260		
Philippines	2023	134,620		688		
Philippines	2024	8,183		630		
Philippines	2025	0	0	57	12	2025-08
Poland	2019			1,786		
Poland	2020	1,297,400		1,282		
Poland	2021	2,811,801		2		
Poland	2022	2,259,187		1,604		
Poland	2023	263,677		2,085		
Poland	2024	138,044		7,490		
Poland	2025	5,007	1,555	9,447	3,937	2025-08
South Africa	2019			1,164		
South Africa	2020	1,039,161		157		
South Africa	2021	2,407,371		413		
South Africa	2022	602,048		1,171		
South Africa	2023	24,056		1,024		
South Africa	2024	238		1,000		
South Africa	2025	40	0	15	6	2025-08
South Korea	2019			1,702		
South Korea	2020	60,722		505		
South Korea	2021	574,528		0		
South Korea	2022	28,424,023		295		
South Korea	2023	5,512,600		2,586		
South Korea	2024	0		1,565		
South Korea	2025	0	0	1,122	129	2025-08

Country	Year	Cases[a,b] of SARS-CoV-2*	+/- since last month[c]	Cases[a] of influenza	+/- since last month[c]	Week of last influenza update
Spain	2019			16,358		
Spain	2020	1,919,549		8,822		
Spain	2021	4,180,589		84		
Spain	2022	7,654,824		10,747		
Spain	2023	225,378		13,948		
Spain	2024	0		13,689		
Spain	2025	0	0	11,434	3,185	2025-08
Thailand	2019			1,568		
Thailand	2020	6,919		297		
Thailand	2021	2,216,551		23		
Thailand	2022	2,500,484		575		
Thailand	2023	38,456		1,717		
Thailand	2024	46,079		1,625		
Thailand	2025	1,884	0	266	108	2025-08
United Kingdom	2019			42,447		
United Kingdom	2020	2,563,561		14,373		
United Kingdom	2021	10,878,146		2,752		
United Kingdom	2022	10,752,848		26,719		
United Kingdom	2023	670,729		24,070		
United Kingdom	2024	160,282		127,578		
United Kingdom	2025	5,748	1,875	58,119	13,285	2025-08
United States	2019			268,524		
United States	2020	19,577,585		229,766		
United States	2021	33,956,701		39,507		
United States	2022	45,877,410		469,968		
United States	2023	4,025,133		176,909		
United States	2024	0		342,482		
United States	2025	0	0	23,435	0	2025-01
Vietnam	2019			355		
Vietnam	2020	1,456		146		
Vietnam	2021	1,729,801		39		
Vietnam	2022	9,793,887		399		
Vietnam	2023	98,880		596		
Vietnam	2024	0		1,103		
Vietnam	2025	0	0	205	30	2025-08

[a] Laboratory-confirmed cases.

[b] As of the 24th bulletin, the data source, used by Our World In Data, for SARS-CoV-2 cases has been changed retrospectively. As a result, yearly totals displayed in this table may differ from those in previous bulletins.

[c] Influenza cases are reported by FluNet on a weekly basis. To convert these data to months, weekly data are assigned to the month most days in that week belong to. SARS-CoV-2 cases are reported per day and assigned to each month by date. +/- since last month includes all cases over the last full calendar month.

Methodology

Background

After assessment of alarming levels of spread and severity of SARS-CoV-2 virus, on March 11, 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic [13]. The emergence of this new virus has had a major impact on the global circulation of respiratory viruses, including influenza and RSV [14]. The FluCov project aims to understand and communicate the impact of COVID-19 on: i) influenza activity and ii) prevention and control measures (e.g. vaccination) in the coming years.

Scope

The countries included in this FluCov-Bulletin are distributed over the Americas (North, Central and Tropical South), Europe (Northern, South West and Eastern), Africa (Northern and Southern), Asia (Eastern, Southern, South East and Western) and Oceania. These data were compared to the prevention and control measures applied in each country using the Stringency Index from the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT), when this indicator was available (until 31 December 2022) [15].

Data sources

- **Influenza**: FluNet [16] is a global web-based tool for influenza virological surveillance first launched in 1997. The virological data entered into FluNet, e.g. number of influenza viruses detected by subtype, are critical for tracking the movement of viruses globally and interpreting the epidemiological data. The data are provided remotely by National Influenza Centres (NICs) of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) and other national influenza reference laboratories collaborating actively with GISRS or are uploaded from WHO regional databases.
- **SARS-CoV-2**: Our World in Data systematically collects COVID-19 data which is presented in their online tool [17]. We used this platform to extract data on the number of cases, as well as tests performed per country. As of 8 March 2023, Our World in Data changed their primary data source from the John Hopkins repository on daily confirmed COVID-19 cases to the WHO [18].
- **Government response tracker**: The Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) [15] systematically collects information on several different common policy responses that governments have taken to respond to the pandemic on 20 indicators such as school closures and travel restrictions. It now has data from more than 180 countries. OxCGRT data is downloaded directly from the Our World in Data platform.

Extraction details

Data were extracted on 3 March 2025 and cover the period 1 January 2019 to 23 February (influenza) and 16 February 2025 (SARS-CoV-2). Data from both platforms are regularly updated and **sometimes retrospectively corrected**. This might explain any discrepancies between our reported figures and the data published online, even when referring to the exact same period. In case of any unclear details or perceived irregularities, feel free to contact us at flucov@nivel.nl.

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Websites

Project Website: https://www.nivel.nl/en/flucov

FluCoV Dashboard: https://www.nivel.nl/en/dossier-epidemiology-respiratory-viruses/flucov-dashboard

Funding