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# TARRANT WATCH VIRAL WATCH

**April 2025 Newsletter**

**TARRANT News & Updates**

Greetings Sentinels,

Spring has sprung - and with the weather beginning to warm up, we are seeing changes in the viruses circulating in our community.

### The season so far

Cases of respiratory infection seen by sentinel physicians in the community have been steadily decreasing since the peak in January. Influenza A was the most common infection this season, with mixed H1N1 and H3N2. We are now seeing an increase in Influenza B cases, as typically occurs in the late season. COVID-19 cases have declined steadily since their peak in the fall. Enterovirus cases dropped over January and February, with a slight increase in March, along with metapneumovirus. There is an unusual long and late peak in Respiratory Syncytial Virus, which usually only has a short peak around Christmas and New Year (Figure 1, Table 1).

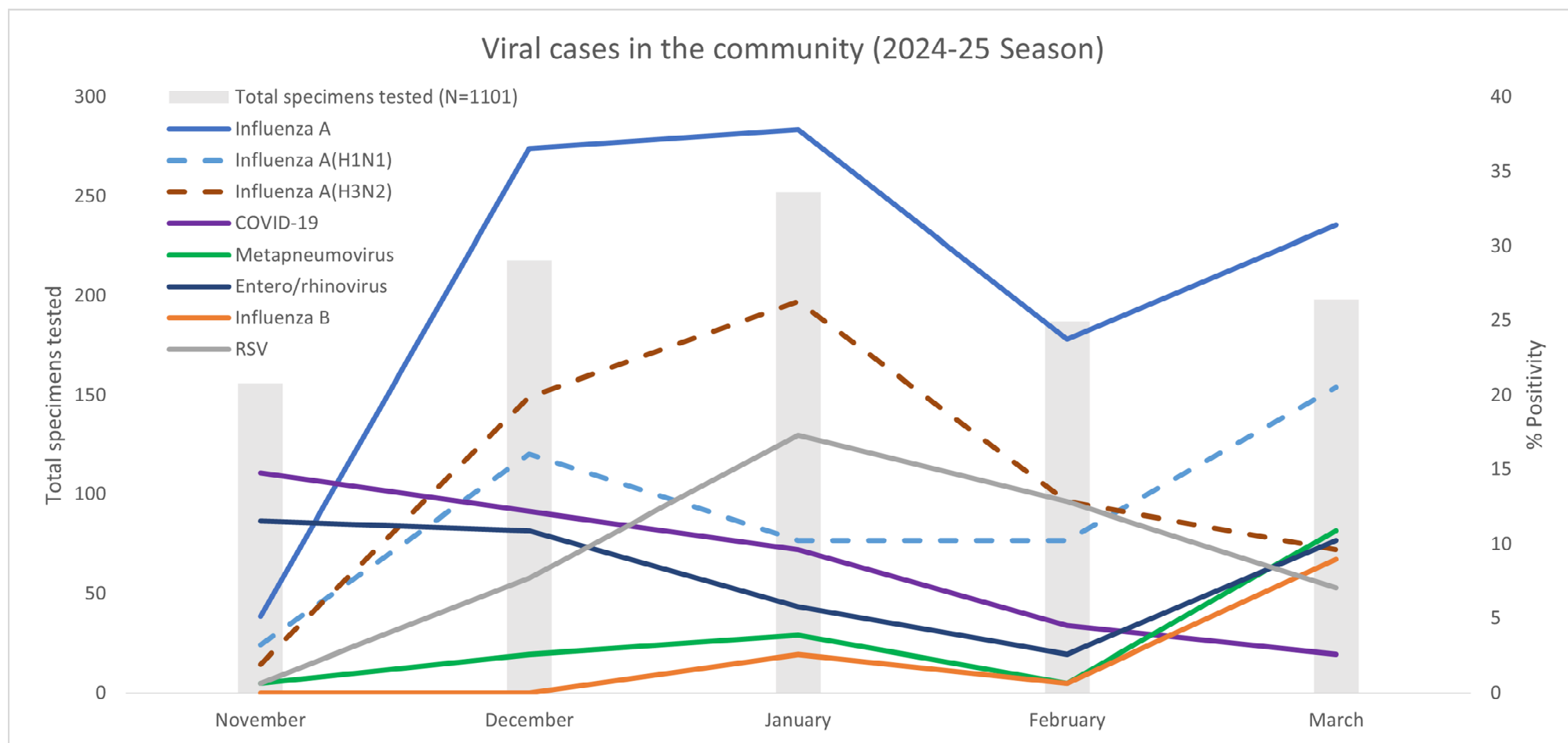


Table 1. Counts of laboratory-confirmed viral cases in 2024-25 season.

| Virus                           | November | December | January | February | March |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Total specimens tested (N=1101) | 156      | 218      | 252     | 187      | 198   |
| Influenza A                     | 8        | 57       | 59      | 37       | 49    |
| Influenza A(H1N1)               | 5        | 25       | 16      | 16       | 32    |

|                       |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Influenza A(H3N2)     | 3  | 31 | 41 | 20 | 15 |
| Influenza B           | 0  | 0  | 4  | 1  | 14 |
| RSV                   | 1  | 12 | 27 | 20 | 11 |
| COVID-19              | 23 | 19 | 15 | 7  | 4  |
| Human Metapneumovirus | 1  | 4  | 6  | 1  | 17 |
| Entero/rhinovirus     | 18 | 17 | 9  | 4  | 16 |

The Alberta dashboard includes our samples, which you can view at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/dashboard/respiratory-virus-dashboard.htm?data=summary#summary>

## 2025 Annual General Meeting

Thank you, sentinels, for all your hard work in helping us monitor viral respiratory infections during the 2024-25 season so far! We invite you to attend the Tarrant Viral Watch Annual General Meeting. The AGM will discuss the current state of respiratory illness in Alberta, the implications for our future work, and provide a platform to further strengthen our collaboration. It will also be an opportunity for you to share your experiences, insights, and suggestions for enhancing our program. We are excited to welcome back our colleague, Dr. Danuta Skowronski, who has led the Canadian Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network (SPSN) at the BC Centre for Disease Control since 2004.

We plan to hold the AGM on Friday afternoon, May 2, 2025 at 1pm to 4.30pm at the Alt Hotel in University District, just north of the Alberta Children's Hospital. We will start with lunch at 12pm midday. All interested are welcome, and sentinels who sent us samples this season are eligible for transport costs and accommodation that evening. More details on the program will be sent out once we have confirmed the speaker list.

We look forward to the chance to thank you all for your participation in the Tarrant Viral Watch surveillance program - we could not do it without you!

Regards,

The Tarrant Viral Watch Team

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TARRANT Viral Watch  
Q Health Sciences Ctr  
G012-3330 Hospital Dr NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 4N1  
Canada

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