RESPIRATORY VIRUS STATISTICS
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Figure 1: Percentage of specimens positive on the respiratory viral multiplex and SARS-CoV-2 PCR

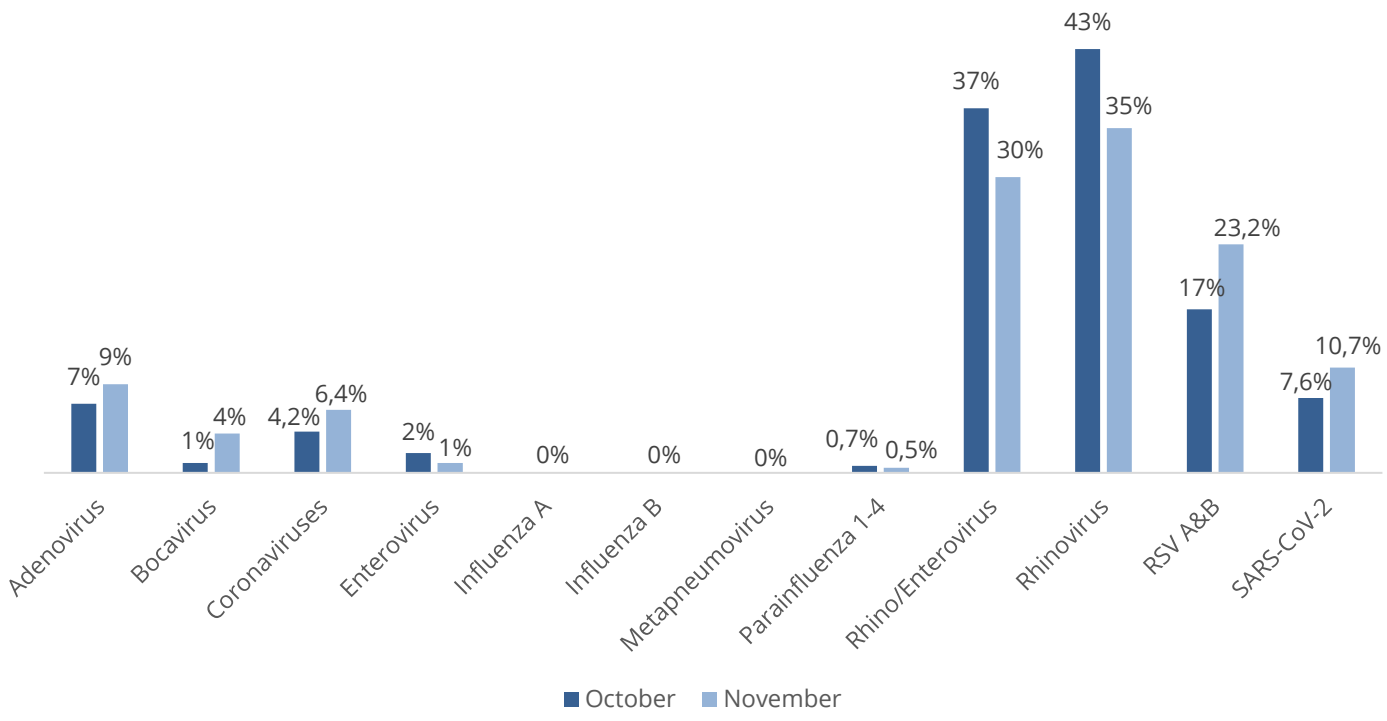

Figure 1: Respiratory viruses – countrywide data November findings

- The most frequently detected viruses during November were as follow: Rhinovirus (35%), Rhino/Enterovirus (30%), RSV (23,2%) SARS-CoV-2 (10,7%), Adenovirus (9%) and Human coronaviruses (HKU1, 229E, NL63 and OC43) 6,4%.
- The rate of detection of RSV increased from 17% to 23,2%.
- Influenza A and B were not detected in any of the specimens tested during both October and November.
- The novel Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was detected in 10,7% of specimens tested nationally, a slight increase from 7,6% in October.
- Please note: the graph includes the combined data from different respiratory multiplex assays offered by Ampath laboratories as well as the SARS-CoV-2 PCR.
- SARS-CoV-2 is not included in the multiplex molecular panels currently in use at Ampath.
- Refer to the Ampath website for the current and previous respiratory viral statistics both countrywide and per region: https://www.ampath.co.za/respiratory-tract-infection.

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Figure 2: Percentage of specimens positive for SARS-CoV-2 by province

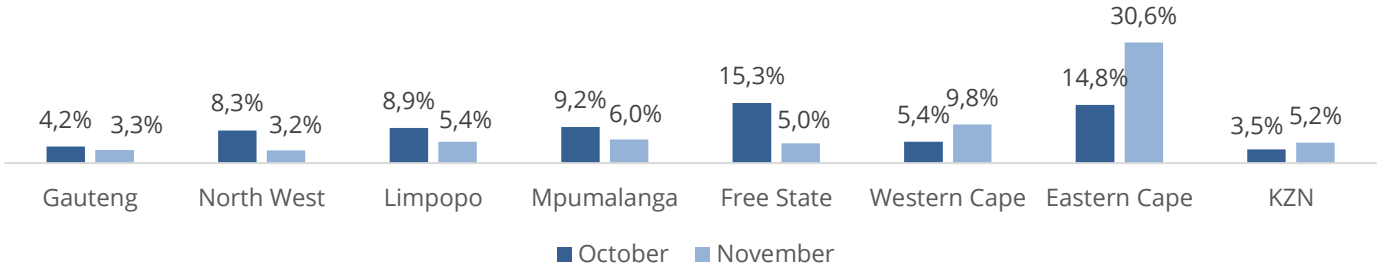

Figure 3: Distribution of total positive SARS-CoV-2 tests per province

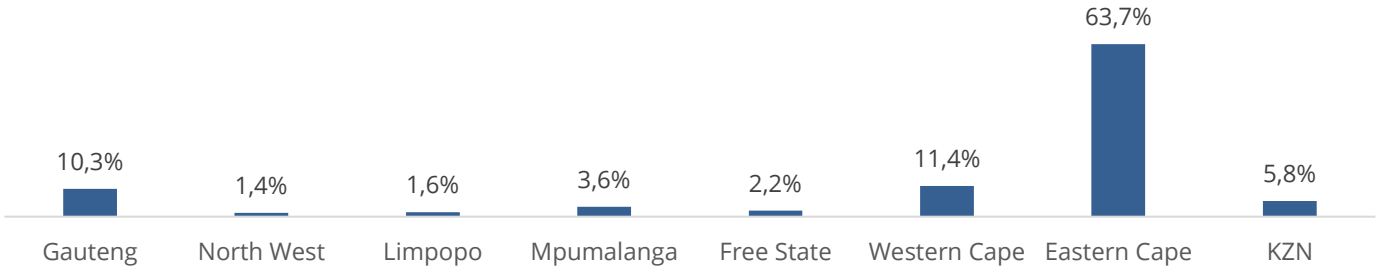

Figure 2: Percentage of total positive SARS-CoV-2 tests per province

- The percentage of specimens that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 increased in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KZN provinces.
- The percentage of specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 increased from 5,4% to 9,8% in the Western Cape and from 3,5% to 5,2% in KZN. A more significant increase from 14,8% to 30,6% was noted in the Eastern Cape.
- The percentage of specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 decreased in all other provinces.
- This percentage was calculated by dividing the number of positive specimens per province by the total of specimens submitted per province.

Figure 3: Distribution of specimens positive for SARS-CoV-2 per province

- The majority of the positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens were from the Eastern Cape province (63,7%) followed by Western Cape(11,4%), and Gauteng (10,3%).
- This percentage was calculated by dividing the number of positive specimens per province by the total of positive specimens countrywide.

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Figure 4: Eastern Cape weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate

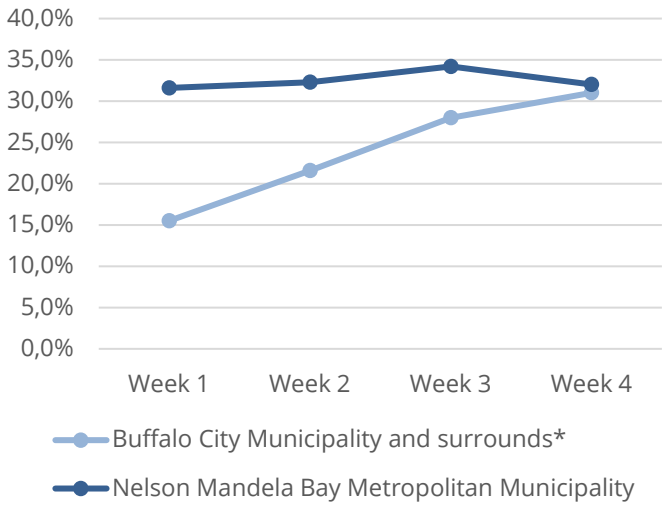

Figure 5: Western Cape weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate

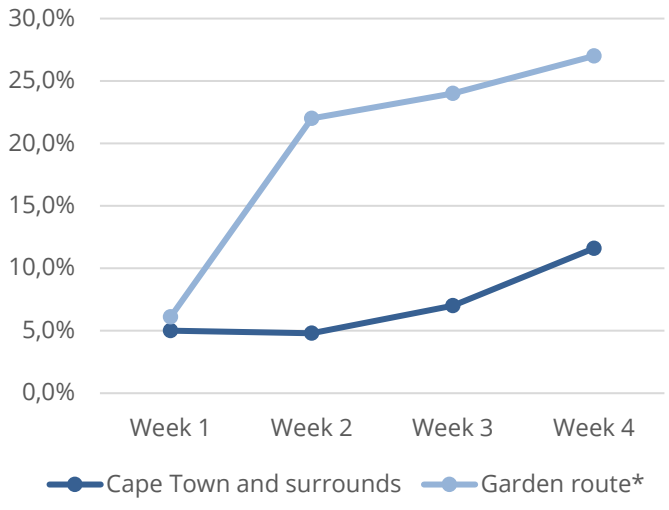

Figure 4: Eastern Cape weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate

- The majority of positive SARS-COV-2 specimens were collected in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan municipality. The percentage positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens from this area showed a marked increase during the 3rd week of October and has since stayed at an average positivity rate of 32,4 % during November.
- The percentage positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens from the Buffalo City municipality and surrounds* (Makhanda, Komani and Mthatha) continue to increase during November, from 15,5% in week 1 to 31% during week 4.

Figure 5: Western Cape weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate

- The SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate in the Garden route* (George, Knysna, Mosselbaai, Oudtshoorn and surrounding areas) increased from 6,1% in the first week of November to 27% in the fourth week of November.
- The SARS-CoV-2 positivity rate in the Cape Town area increased from 5% in the first week of November to 12% in the fourth week of November.