



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

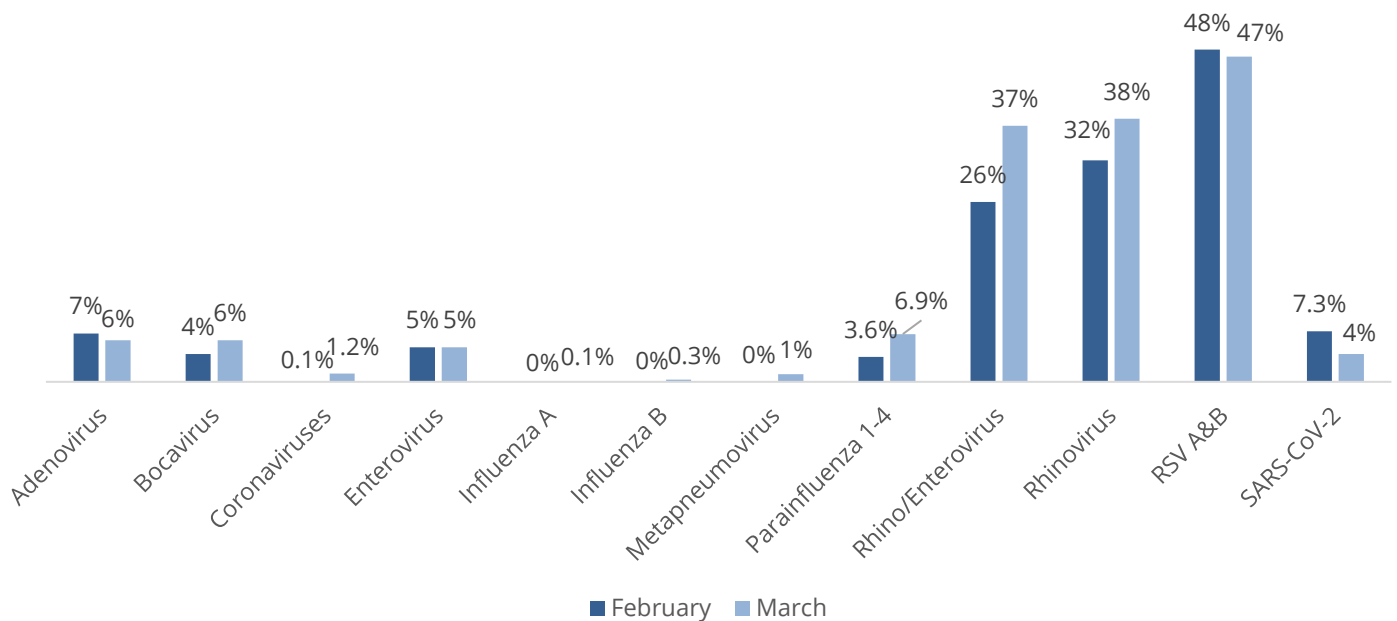


Figure 1: Respiratory viruses – countrywide data March findings

- The most frequently detected viruses during March were as follow: RSV (47%), Rhinovirus (38%) and Rhino/Enterovirus (37%), Parainfluenza (6.9%), Adenovirus (6%) and Bocavirus (6%).
- It is important to note that even though the percentage of RSV cases detected during March remained stable as compared to February, the total number of respiratory multiplex PCR tests conducted, as well as the absolute number of RSV cases detected, doubled in March. This increase in testing and number of RSV cases detected may indicate an increase in symptomatic RSV cases or increased clinician awareness. The high rates of RSV remain problematic.
- One case of Influenza A was detected in Gauteng and 6 cases of Influenza B were detected in the KwaZulu-Natal province during March. Clinicians are advised to remain vigilant and to encourage patients to take the Influenza vaccine.
- The novel Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was detected in 4% of specimens tested nationally, decreasing from 7.3% in February.
- 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.



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

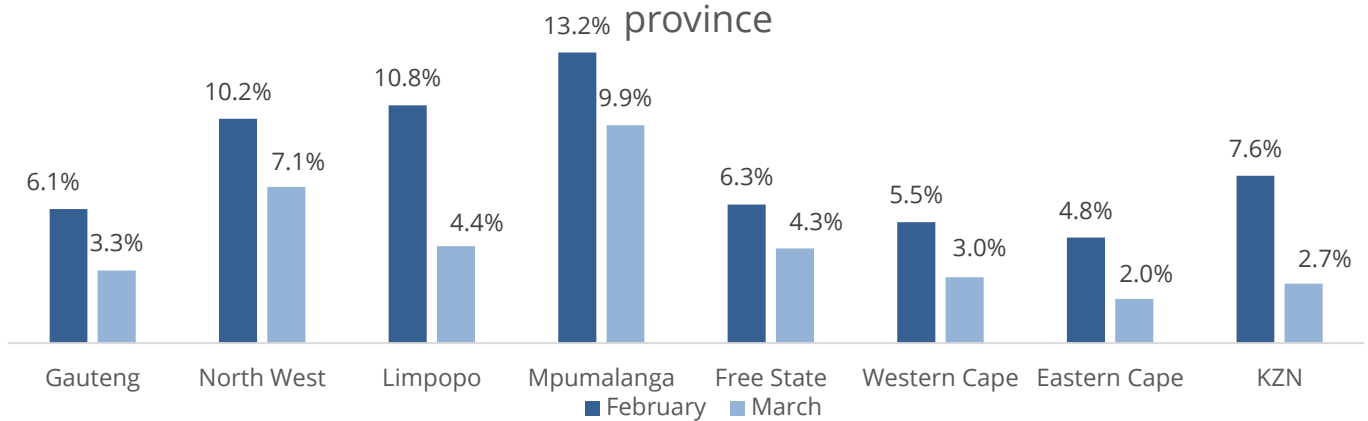


Figure 3: Distribution of total positive SARS-CoV-2 tests per province

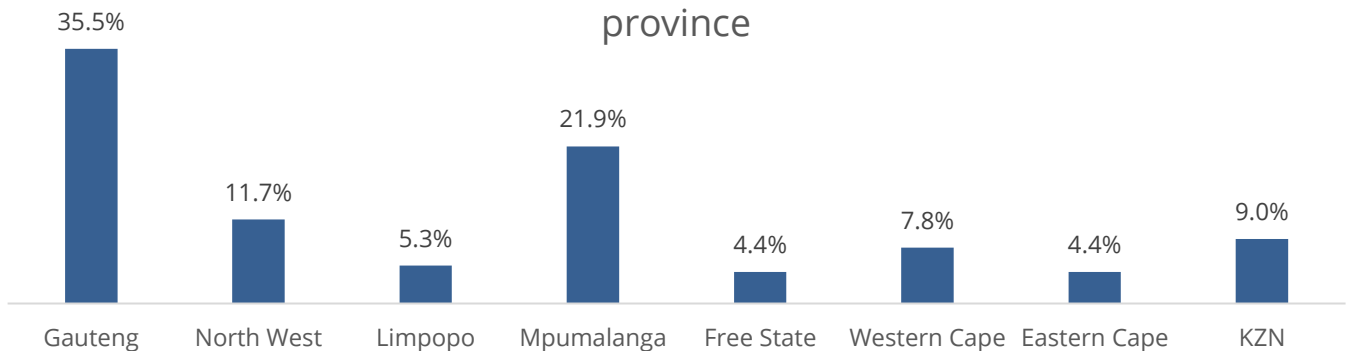


Figure 2: Percentage of total positive SARS-CoV-2 tests per province

- The percentage of specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 continued to decrease across all provinces during March.
- 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 Gauteng (35%), Mpumalanga (21.9%), North West (11.7%) and the KwaZulu-Natal province (9%).
- This percentage was calculated by dividing the number of positive specimens per province by the total of positive specimens countrywide.