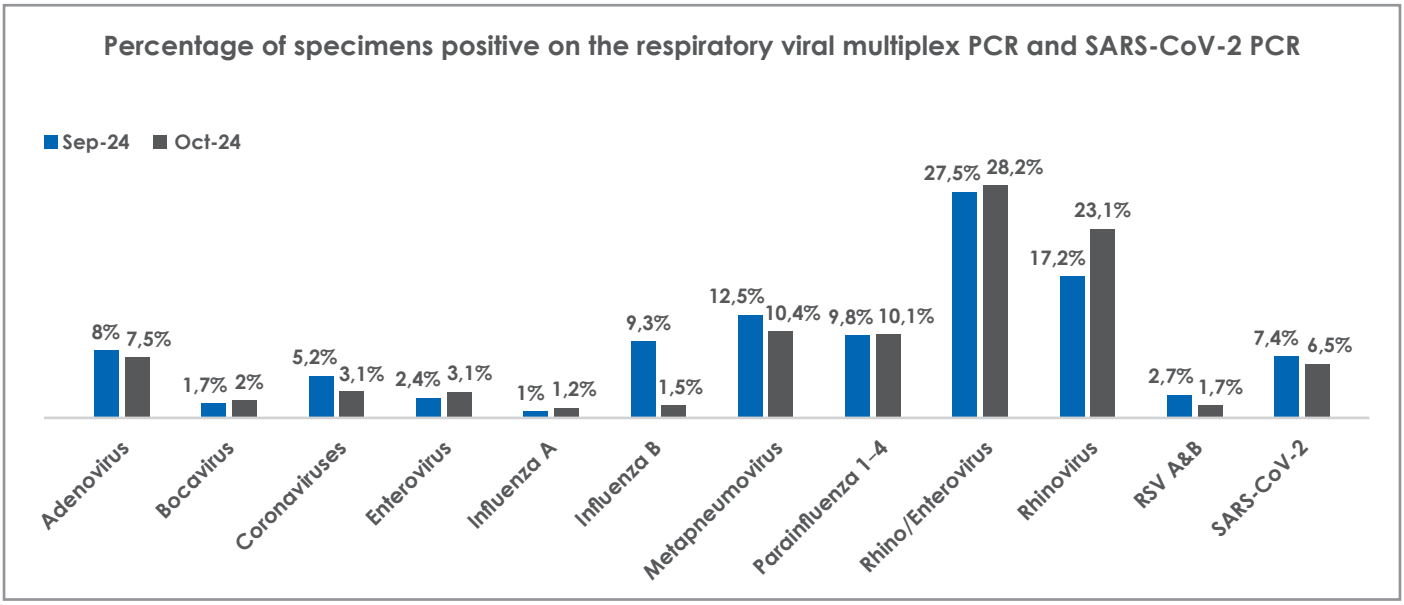
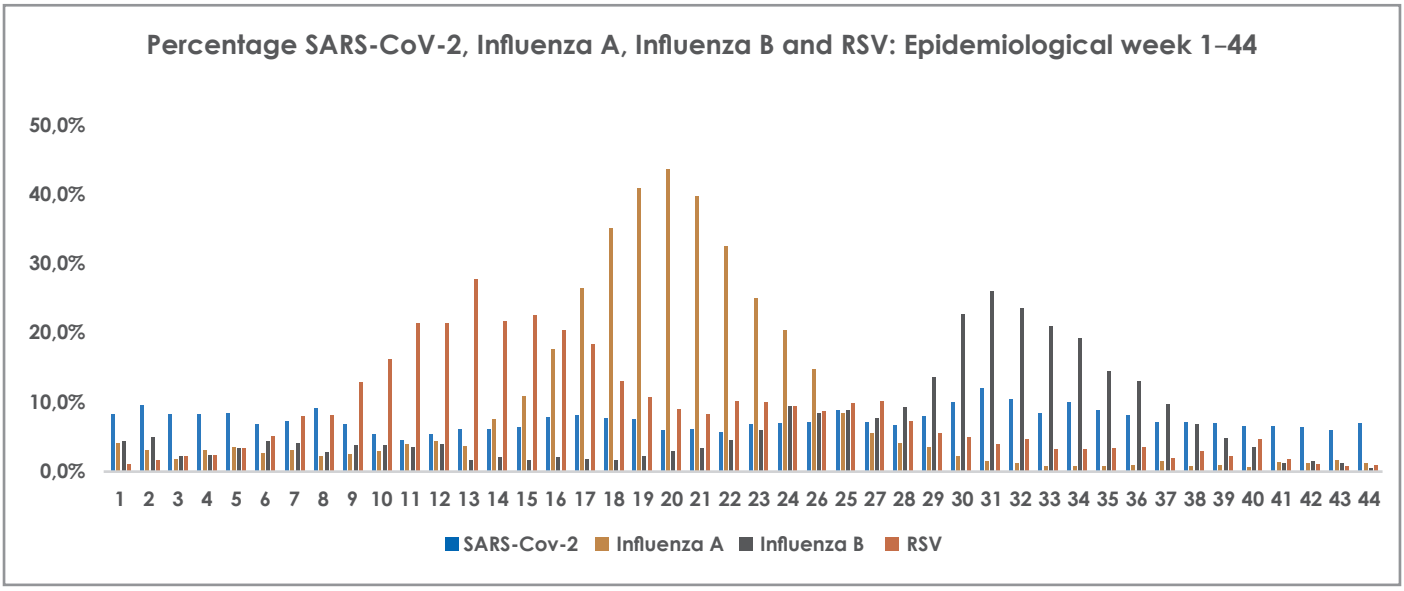
RESPIRATORY VIRUS STATISTICS
September/October 2024

AMPATH LABORATORIES

Respiratory virus multiplex PCR and SARS-CoV-2 PCR: All age groups





Comments

- The most frequently detected viruses across all age groups during October were: rhino/enterovirus (28,2%), rhinovirus (23,1%) and metapneumovirus (10,1%).
- Epidemiological week 1–44:
  - SARS-CoV-2: during the last four weeks, the number of specimens that tested positive has remained stable.
  - Influenza A: the number of specimens testing positive for influenza A peaked during epidemiological week 20, with 43,6% of all specimens submitted testing positive. This declined to 1,2% in epidemiological week 44.
  - Influenza B: the number of specimens testing positive for influenza B peaked at 26% in epidemiological week 31, and declined to 1% during epidemiological week 44.
  - The number of specimens testing positive for RSV peaked in epidemiological week 13, with 27,8% of all specimens submitted testing positive. The overall positivity rate declined to 1% in epidemiological week 44.

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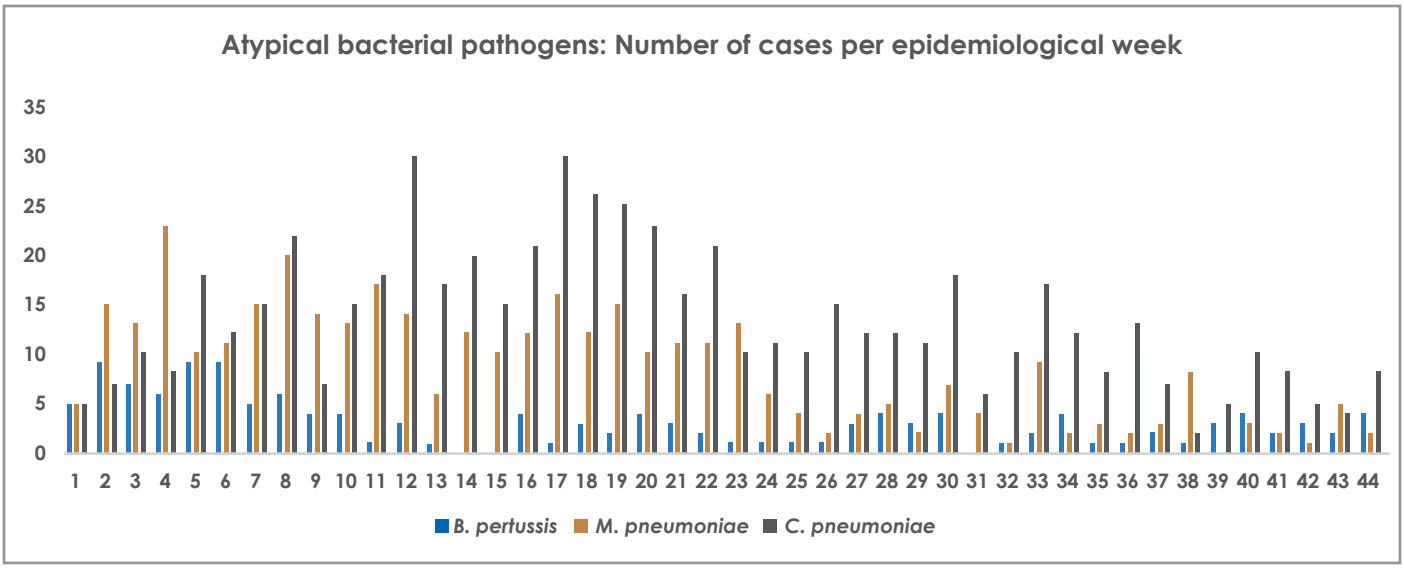
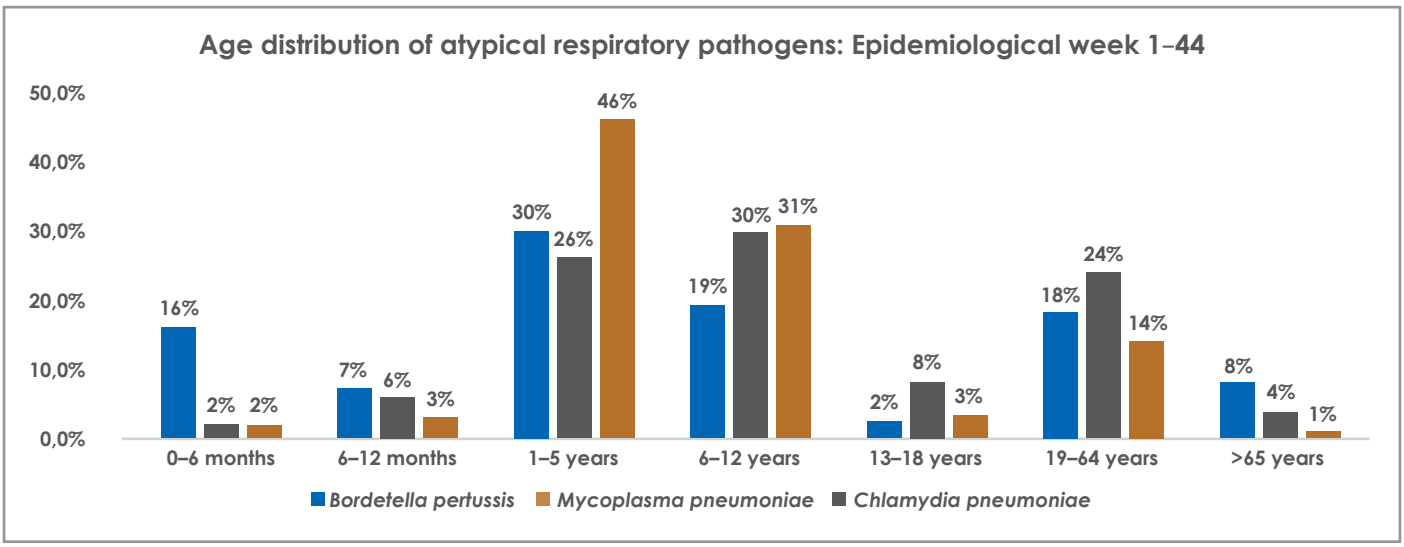
Atypical bacterial pathogens: *Bordetella pertussis, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae* and *Legionella pneumophila*





Comments

- *Bordetella pertussis, Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* continue to circulate at low levels. One case of *Legionella pneumophila* pneumonia was detected by PCR testing during October.
- In paediatric patients, most *B. pertussis* cases were detected in the 1–5 year age group (30%). Twenty six percent of cases were detected in patients >18 years and 16% in patients <6 months old.
- For both *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae,* the majority of cases were detected in patients between 1–12 years of age.

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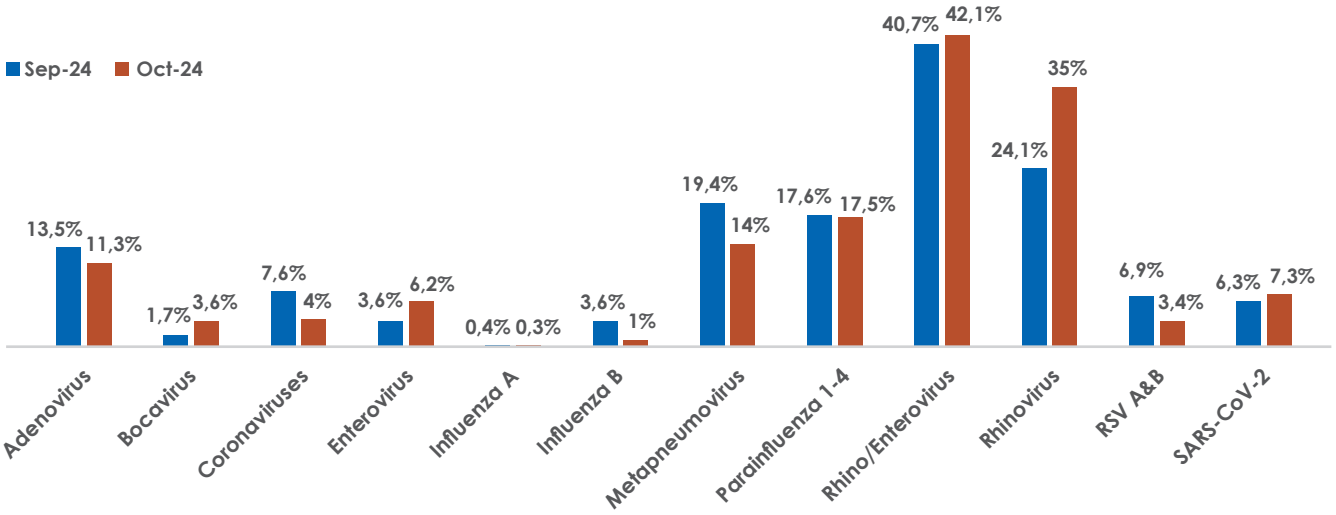
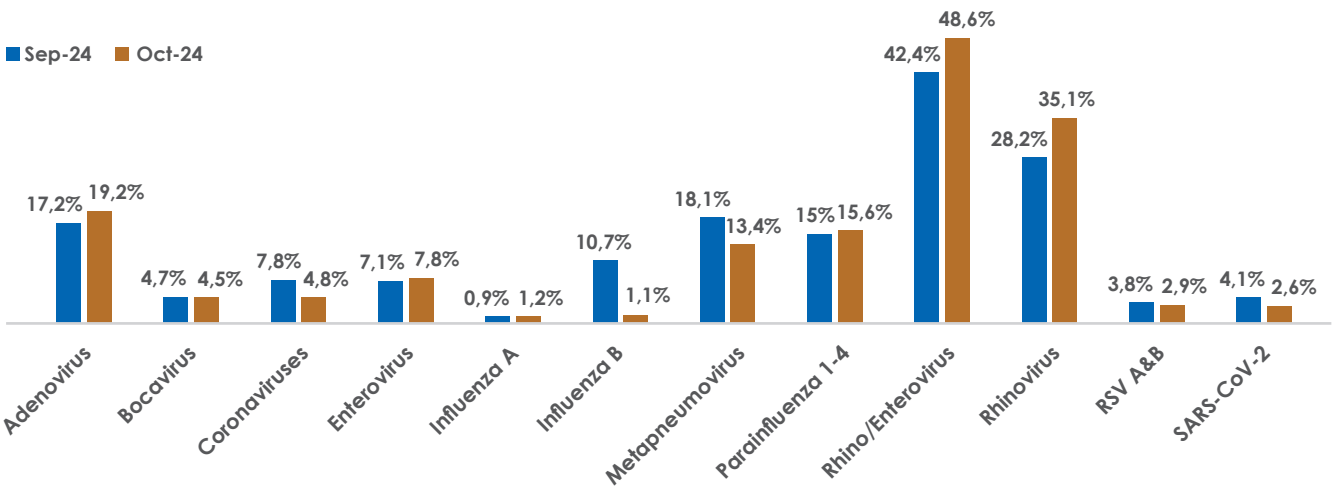
Paediatric respiratory viral multiplex PCR data

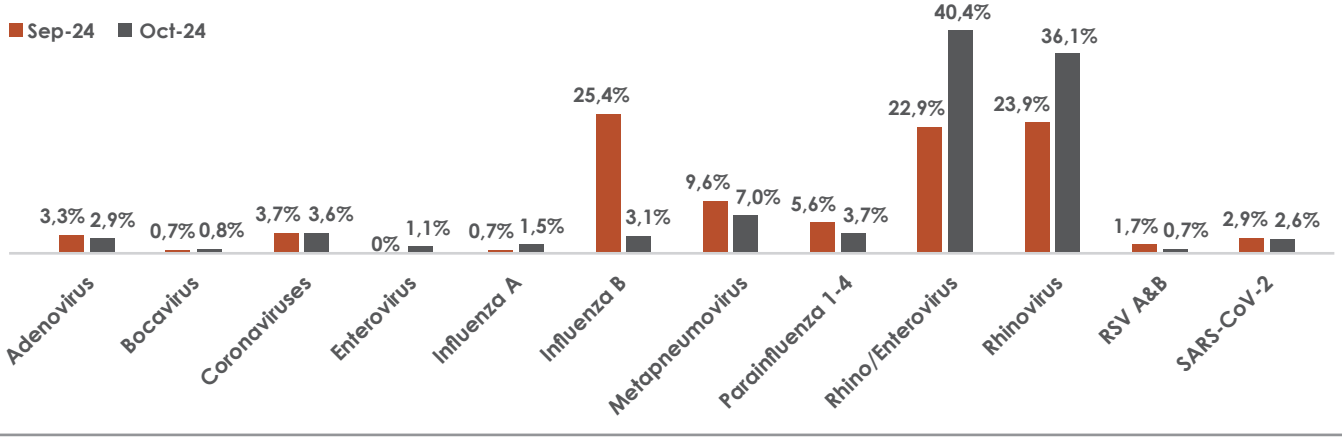
Percentage of specimens positive on the respiratory viral multiplex PCR (Patient age: <1 years)



Percentage of specimens positive on the respiratory viral multiplex PCR (Patient age: 1–5 years)



Percentage of specimens positive on the respiratory viral multiplex PCR (Patient age: 6–12 years)



Comments

Significant findings per age group during October:

- Less than 1 year of age: the most common viruses detected in this age group during October were rhino/enterovirus (42,1%), rhinovirus (35%), parainfluenza virus (17,5%) and metapneumovirus (14%). The positivity rate of RSV and influenza B continued to decrease in this age group from September to October.
- 1–5 years of age: the most common viruses detected in this age group during October were rhino/enterovirus (48,6%), rhinovirus (35,1%), adenovirus (19,2%) and parainfluenza virus (15,6%). Influenza B and RSV positivity rates continued to decline from September to October.
- 6–12 years of age: the influenza B positivity rate in this age group peaked at 38,7% during August and continues to decline from a positivity rate of 25,4% in September to 3,1% in October.