

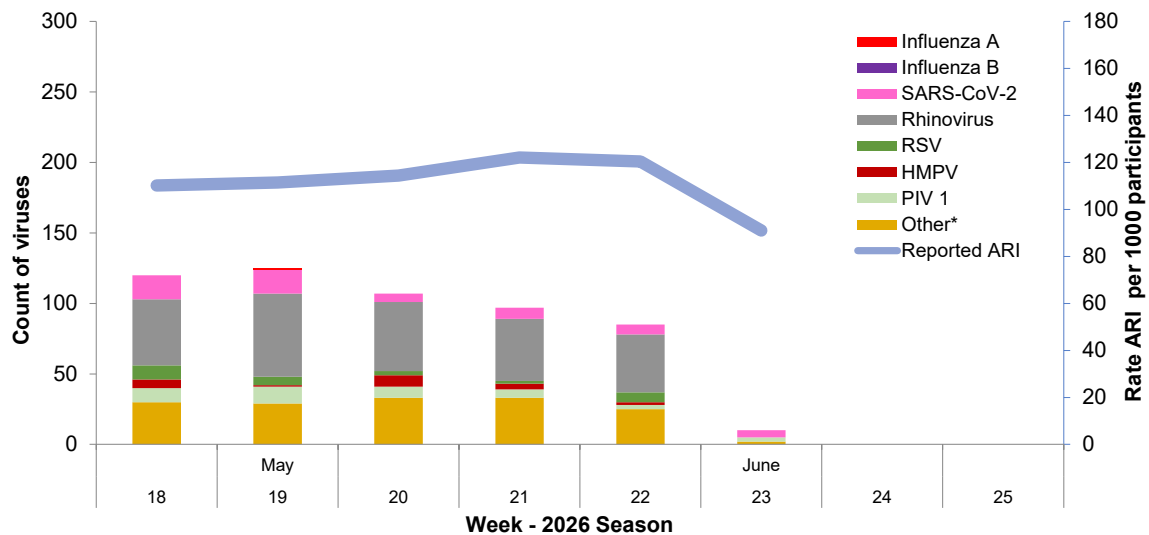


## WellKiwis weekly report on acute respiratory illness and associated viruses

Week 23 ending 7 June 2026

The surveillance for community cohort-based acute respiratory illness (ARI) or influenza-like illness (ILI) provides evidence to inform public health and clinical practice and to reduce the impact of influenza virus infection and other important respiratory pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2 (causing COVID-19 infection). As part of the WellKiwis influenza study, this weekly report summarises data obtained from the WellKiwis cohorts in Wellington. The report includes incidence and viruses for community cohort ARI cases for the past week as well as the cumulative period since 27 April 2026.

Figure 1 shows the weekly rate of acute respiratory illness (ARI) and associated viruses detected among the WellKiwis cohort participants during the study period.



Note: other viruses include enterovirus, adenovirus and parainfluenza virus types 2 and 3. The left axis indicates number of respiratory viruses detected among participants each week. The different coloured bars on the graph represent the count of the different respiratory viruses detected. The right axis shows weekly ARI rates - the blue line is the weekly rate of ARI reported by participants (per 1000). (Note: The case definition<sup>1</sup> in 2020–2026 has been widened compared to previous years, 2018–2019. This is to increase the sensitivity to detecting influenza as well as SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19 infection). X-axis is based on the date of symptom onset.

*The case definition in 2020–26: acute respiratory illness (ARI) with fever or feverishness and/or one of following symptoms (cough, running nose, wheezing, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell/taste) with onset in the past 10 days). And a clinician's judgement that the illness is due to an infection. The case definition in 2018 and 2019: influenza-like illness (ILI) with cough and fever/measured fever of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  and onset within the past 10 days).*



The WellKiwis cohort is an excellent platform to understand incidence, risk factors and household transmission caused by influenza and other respiratory viruses in our community.

Tables 1 and 2 below indicate all swabs tested for influenza and other non-influenza respiratory viruses from week 18 (starting 27 April) to this week.

**Table 1. Non-influenza respiratory viruses among ARI cases, since 27 April 2026**

<i>Non-influenza respiratory viruses</i>	WellKiwis Households	Wellkiwis Adults	WellKiwis Infants	Total
<b>No. of specimens tested</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>924</b>
No. of positive specimens (%) <sup>1</sup>	243 (46.9)	26 (40.0)	210 (61.6)	479 (51.8)
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	10	0	18	28
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	15	0	27	42
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	5	0	6	11
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	1	0	4	5
Rhinovirus (RV)	135	22	83	240
Adenovirus (AdV)	22	0	29	51
Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)	9	1	11	21
Enterovirus	44	5	36	85
SARS-CoV-2	32	0	28	60
Single virus detection (% of positives)	214 (88.1)	24 (92.3)	178 (84.8)	416 (86.8)
Multiple virus detection (% of positives)	29 (11.9)	2 (7.7)	32 (15.2)	63 (13.2)

<sup>1</sup> Positive specimens may be positive for more than one virus

**Table 2. Influenza respiratory viruses among ARI cases, since 27 April 2026**

<i>Influenza viruses</i>	WellKiwis Households	Wellkiwis Adults	WellKiwis Infants	Total
<b>No. of specimens tested</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>924</b>
No. of positive specimens (%) <sup>1</sup>	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)
<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
A (not subtyped)	0	0	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09	1	0	0	1
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	1	0	0	1
A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus	0	0	0	0
A(H3N2)	0	0	0	0
A(H3N2) by PCR	0	0	0	0
A/Singapore/GP20238/2024 (H3N2)-like virus	0	0	0	0
<b>Influenza B</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
B (lineage not determined)	0	0	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage	0	0	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	0	0	0	0
B/Phuket/3073/2013 – like virus	0	0	0	0
B/Victoria lineage	0	0	0	0
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	0	0	0	0
B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus	0	0	0	0
<b>Influenza and non-influenza co-detection (% +ve)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Positive specimens may be positive for more than one virus

Note: The PCR positive cases only include those participants with acute respiratory illnesses.



Table 3 below indicates the demographic status of ARI and influenza infection among WellKiwis participants.

**Table 3. Demographic status of ARI and influenza infection, since 27 April 2026**

Characteristics	ARI cases among WellKiwis participants		Influenza cases among WellKiwis participants	
	ARI Cases	ARI incidence (per 100)	Influenza Cases	Influenza incidence (per 100)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>59.0 (56.5, 61.7)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0 (0.0, 0.2)</b>
<i>Age group (years)</i>				
<1	115	383.3 (338.5, 425.4)	0	0.0 (0.0, 12.2)
1–4	567	73.8 (68.2, 79.7)	0	0.0 (0.0, 0.5)
5–19	321	74.0 (66.5, 81.9)	0	0.0 (0.0, 0.8)
20–34	126	49.0 (41.1, 57.9)	0	0.0 (0.0, 1.4)
35–49	511	66.4 (61.0, 72.0)	0	0.0 (0.0, 0.5)
50–64	106	20.8 (17.1, 25.0)	1	0.2 (0.0, 1.1)
≥65	49	18.0 (13.4, 23.7)	0	0.0 (0.0, 1.4)
<i>Ethnicity</i>				
Māori	172	58.1 (50.1, 66.9)	0	0.0 (0.0, 1.2)
Pacific peoples	100	87.0 (71.7, 104.1)	0	0.0 (0.0, 3.2)
Asian	174	64.4 (55.6, 74.1)	0	0.0 (0.0, 1.4)
European and Other	1349	57.2 (54.3, 60.1)	1	0.0 (0.0, 0.2)
<i>Sex</i>				
Female	1029	59.7 (56.3, 63.3)	1	0.1 (0.0, 0.3)
Male	764	58.3 (54.4, 62.4)	0	0.0 (0.0, 0.3)
Other	2	25.0 (3.1, 85.5)	0	0.0 (0.0, 44.4)

