

Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin



Epidemiological Week 21
(Up to 24 May 2026)

World Health
Organization
Western Pacific Region

Contents

Regional situation at a glance	1
Updates from countries and areas by WHO transmission zones	3
Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the Eastern Asia transmission zone	3
Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the South-East Asia transmission zone	5
Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia	7
Influenza like illness (ILI) situation in the Pacific Island countries and areas (PICs).....	9
Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region	11
Data Sources and Disclaimer	11

Regional situation at a glance

- Regional influenza positivity remained stable and is at 9% in week 21 of 2026. SARS-CoV-2 positivity remained below 5% in the Region (Figure 1).
- An increasing trend in both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 positivity was observed in Singapore in the past few weeks, with positivity for both at 17% on week 21 (Figure 5). Singaporean authorities have also noted in their press release a recent increase in COVID-19 cases and called for public vigilance ([Source](#)).
- The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza B(Victoria), accounting for 90.4% of all detections (Figure 2).

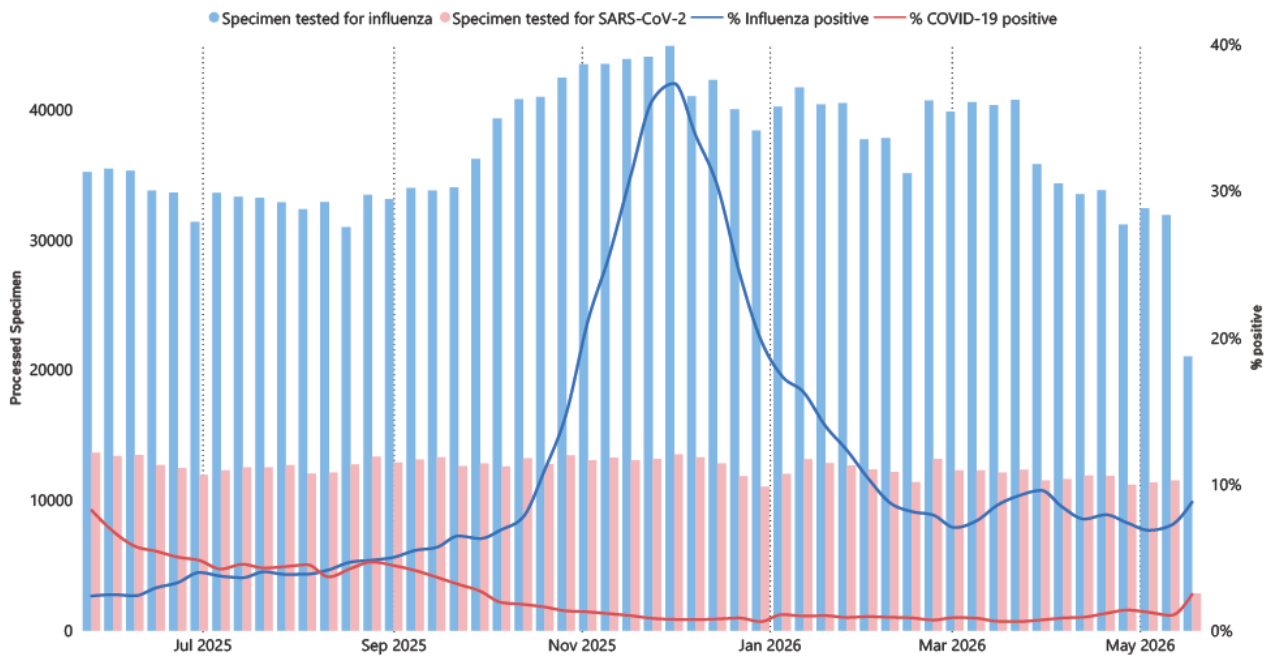


Figure 1: Number of sentinel surveillance specimens tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and positivity rates as reported to RespiMart from countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026 (Source: [GISRS surveillance data reported to RespiMart](#))

Note: Sentinel surveillance specimens are not tested for SARS-CoV-2 in Brunei Darussalam and China. As data submission may not be completed for the most recent week, current trends should be interpreted with caution.

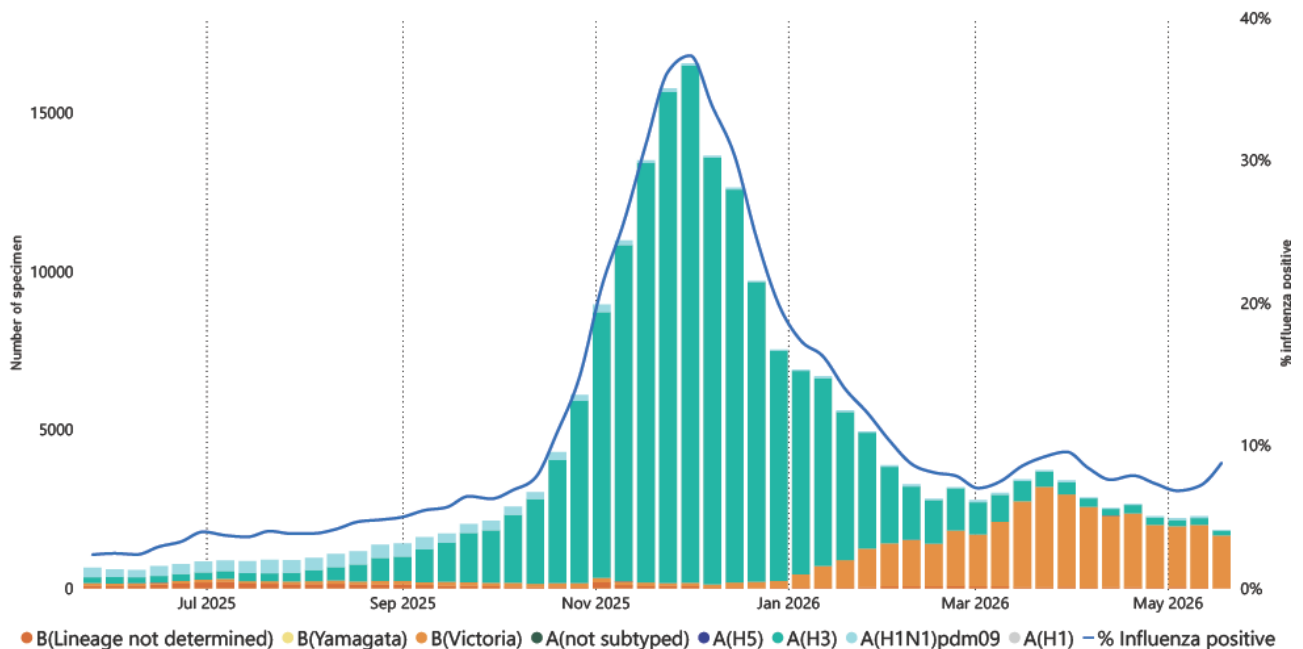


Figure 2. Influenza virus detections by subtype in the Western Pacific Region, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026 (Source: [Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information](#))

Note: All influenza A specimens are subtyped using PCR primers for H1N1pdm09 and H3N2 subtypes. Therefore, specimens indicated as A(H3) in the following figures are subtyped as A(H3/N2).

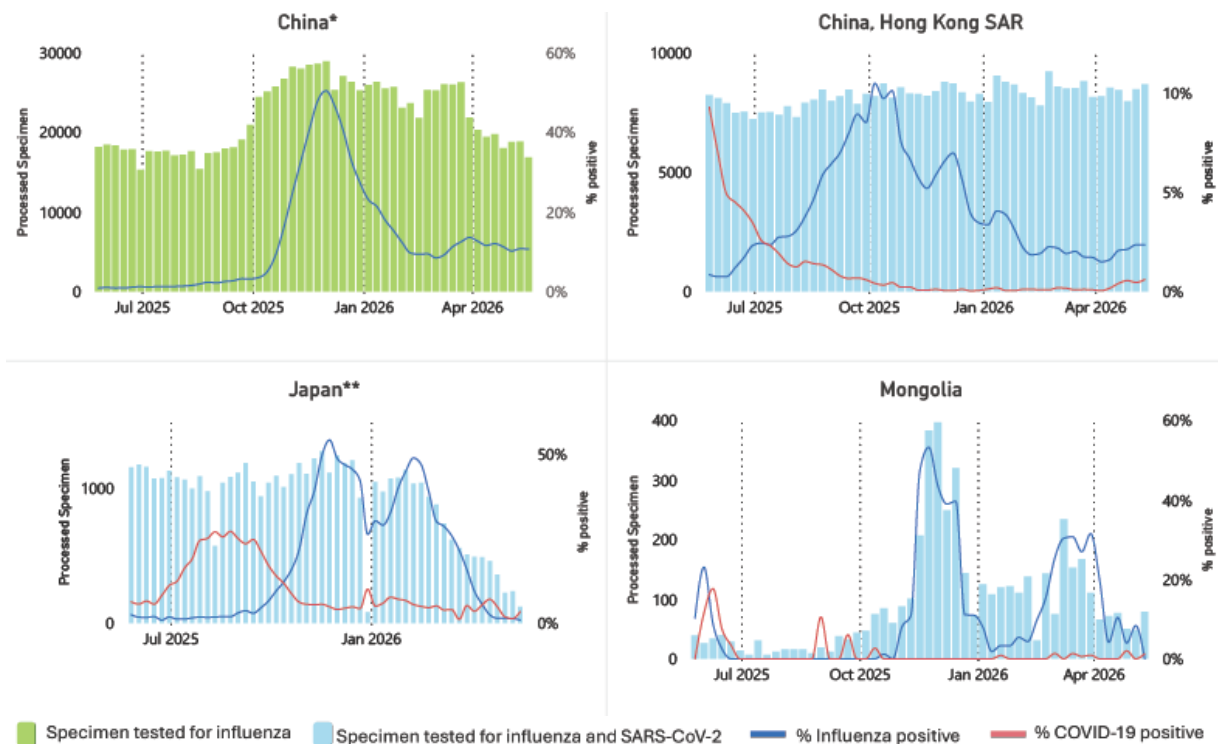
Updates from countries and areas by WHO transmission zones

The figures below illustrate sentinel surveillance data submitted to RespiMart from countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region. Countries and areas are grouped by transmission zone¹. Typically, all sentinel surveillance specimens are tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2. However, in selected countries (Brunei Darussalam, China, and Malaysia), sentinel surveillance specimens are only tested for influenza. Additionally, Pacific Island countries and areas are currently only reporting syndromic influenza like illness (ILI) data as virological testing has not been initiated.

For each country and area in a WHO transmission zone, data are presented for the number of specimens tested and percent positivity for influenza and/or SARS-CoV-2, and the circulating influenza subtypes. Each figure illustrates trends based on a rolling 52-week timeframe. The vertical axis scale differs by country to reflect the weekly number of samples tested and to optimize the clarity of the charts.

Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the Eastern Asia transmission zone

Influenza activity has decreased in all countries in the Eastern Asia transmission zone between weeks 19 and 21 with positivity below 5%, except China where positivity has remained at 11% for the past two weeks (Figure 3). SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains at or below 5% for all countries in this zone (Figure 3). The predominant circulating subtype is influenza B(Victoria), but influenza A(H3), influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, and influenza B(Lineage not determined) have been detected in China; China, Hong Kong SAR; Japan; and Republic of Korea (Figure 4).



(Figure 3 continued on the next page)

¹ [Influenza transmission zones](#)

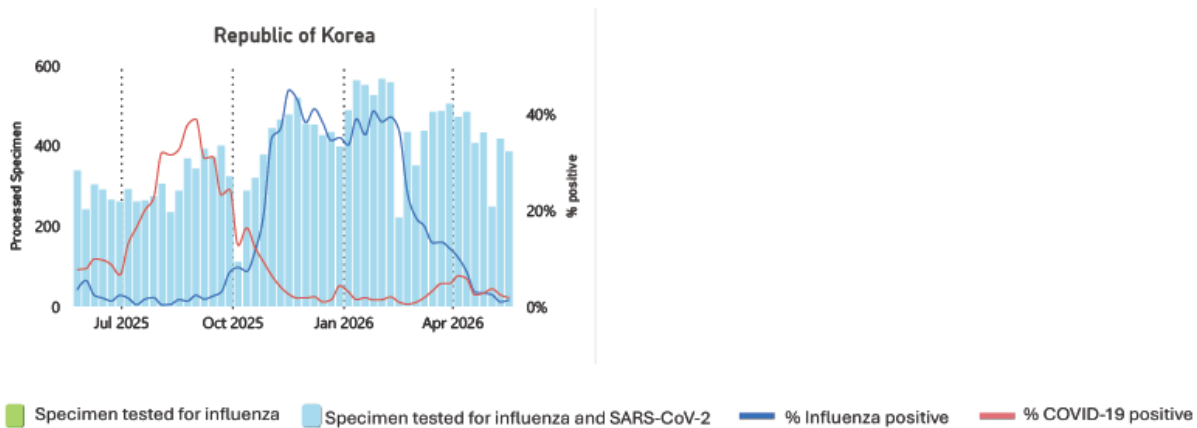


Figure 3: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

* China does not test sentinel specimens for SARS-CoV-2. Data for China and China, Hong Kong SAR, are presented separately.

** Denominator data are available for Japan since week 15, 2025.

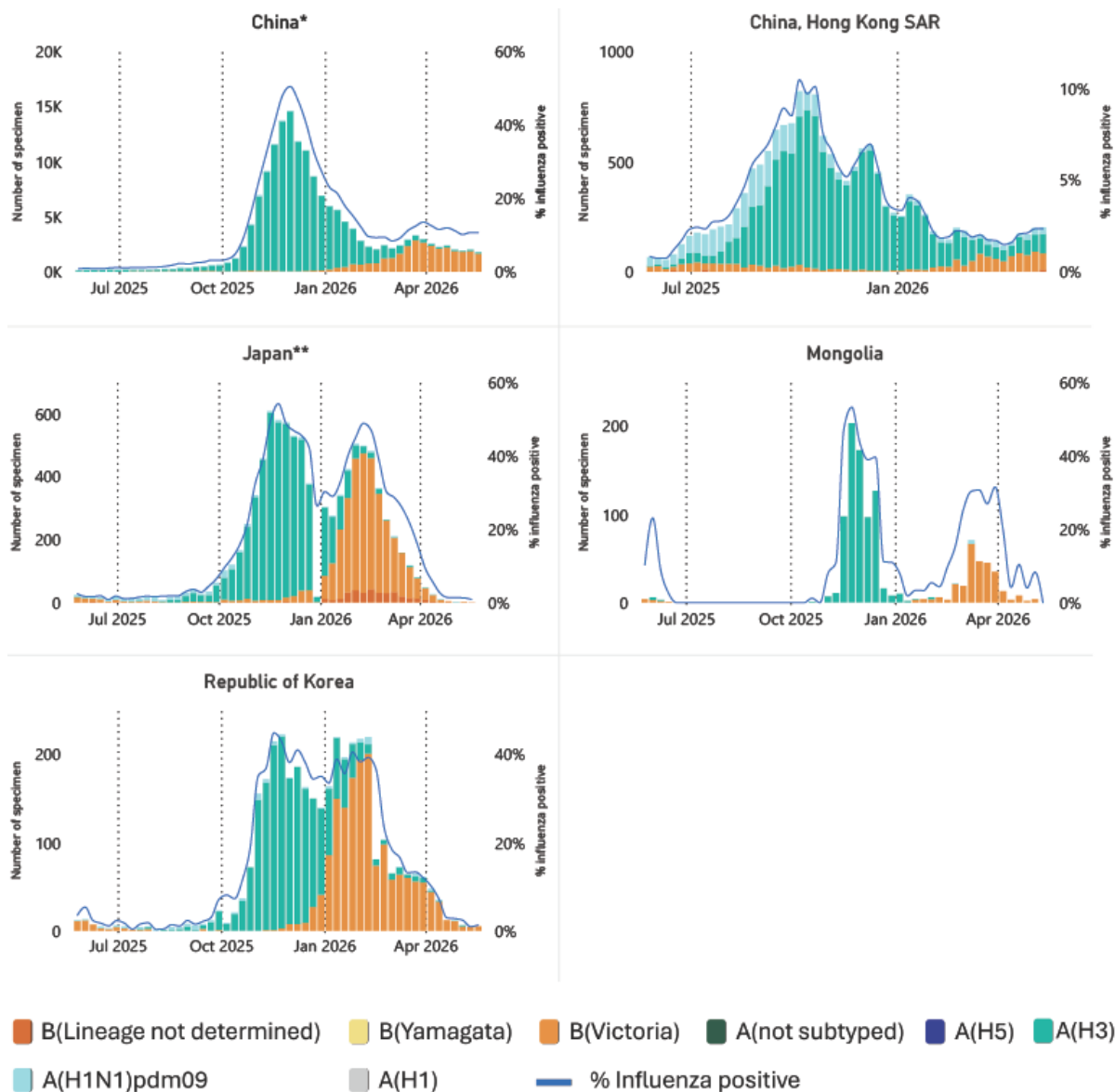


Figure 4: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

* Data for China and China, Hong Kong SAR, are presented separately.

** Denominator data are available for Japan since week 15, 2025.

Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the South-East Asia transmission zone

Influenza activity in the South-East Asia transmission zone has been mixed during this reporting period. Influenza positivity increased in Brunei Darussalam (from 5% in week 19 to 13% in week 21), Indonesia (from 13% in week 19 to 27% in week 20), and Singapore (from 10% in week 19 to 17% in week 21). In particular, the influenza activity in Singapore has been increasing in the past five weeks. Influenza positivity in Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam has decreased or remained at similar levels and are currently below 5%. No update was received from Cambodia and Malaysia (Figure 5). SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains below 5% in this transmission zone, except Singapore where positivity has been increasing since week 15 and is currently at 17% in week 21 (Figure 5). Influenza B (Lineage not determined), influenza B(Victoria), influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 are circulating in the South-East Asia transmission zone.

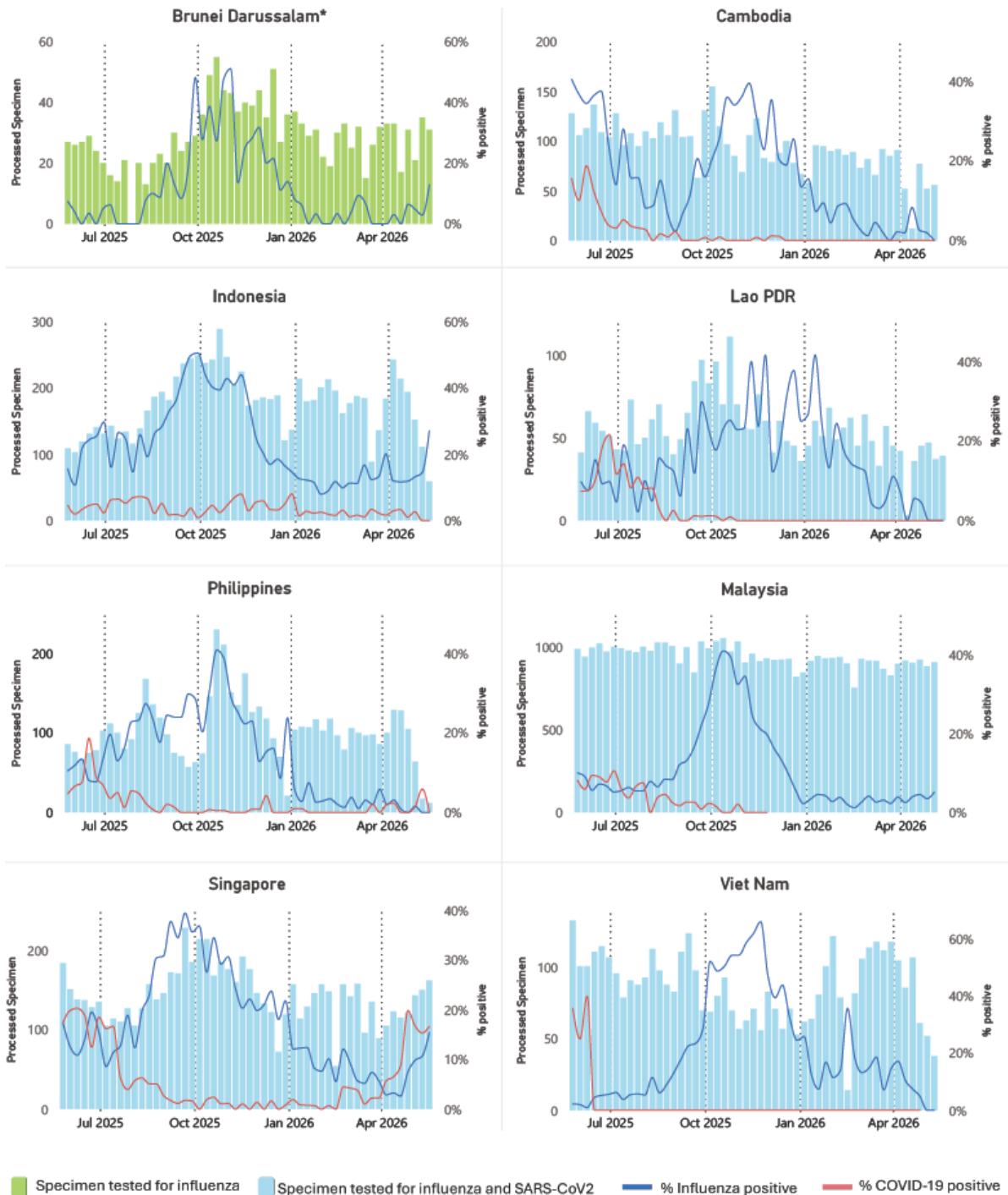


Figure 5: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

* Brunei Darussalam only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.

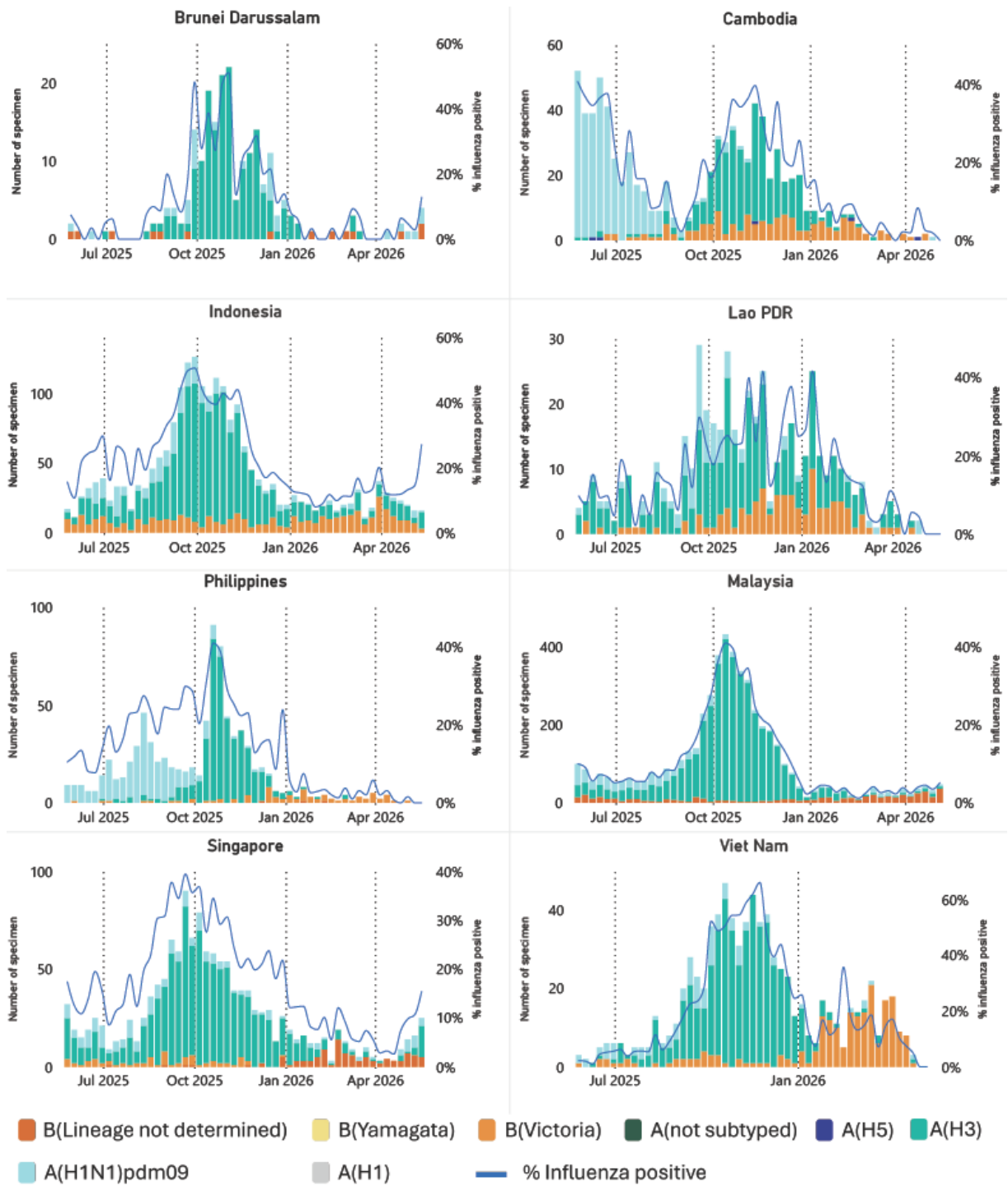


Figure 6: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity in the Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia

During this reporting period, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 activity data was received from Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand where positivity for both viruses was below 5% (Figure 7). The influenza subtypes reported are influenza A(H3), B (Lineage not determined), and A(H1N1)pdm09 (Figure 8).

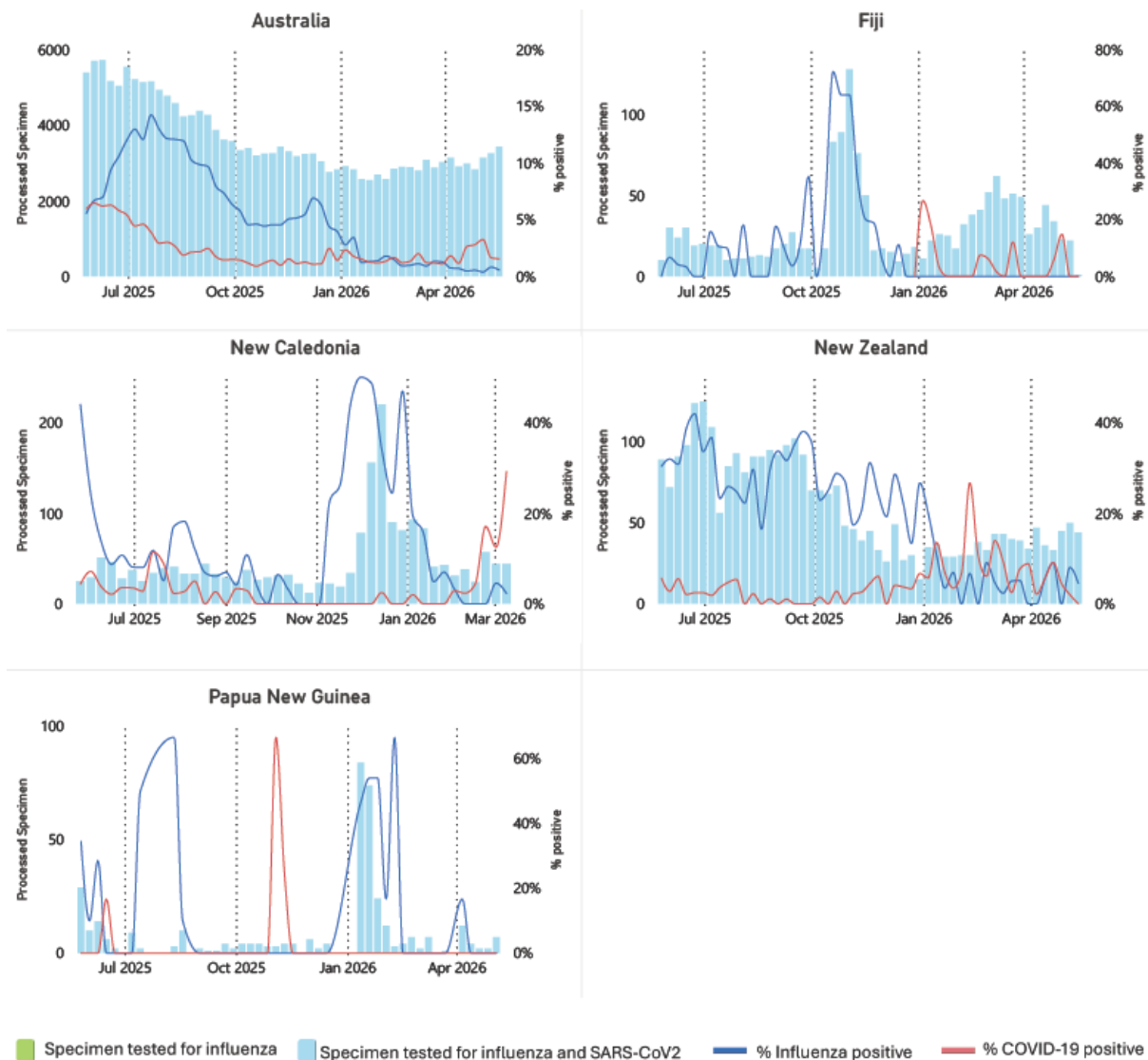


Figure 7: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

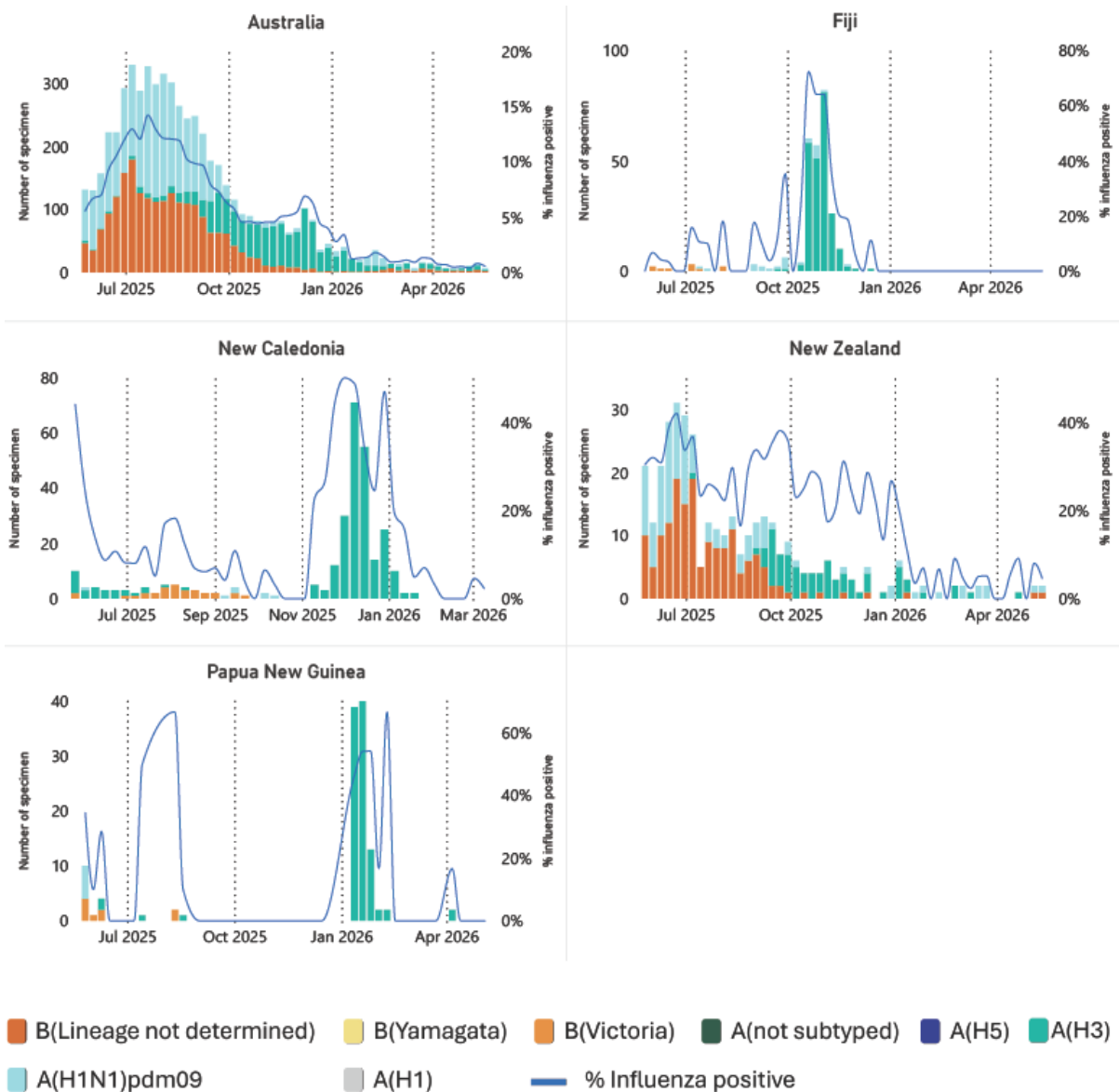


Figure 8: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 26 May 2025 to 24 May 2026

Influenza like illness (ILI) situation in the Pacific Island countries and areas (PICs)

The PICs collect data weekly for ILI and SARI through the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System (PSSS) and report weekly ILI data to RespiMart. Data up to week 20 of 2026 has been received from PSSS and is presented below (Figure 9a, 9b). No data was received from French Polynesia, Guam and Niue. There has been an increase in ILI cases in Solomon Islands and Tonga, while there is decrease in ILI cases in Kiribati and Tuvalu.

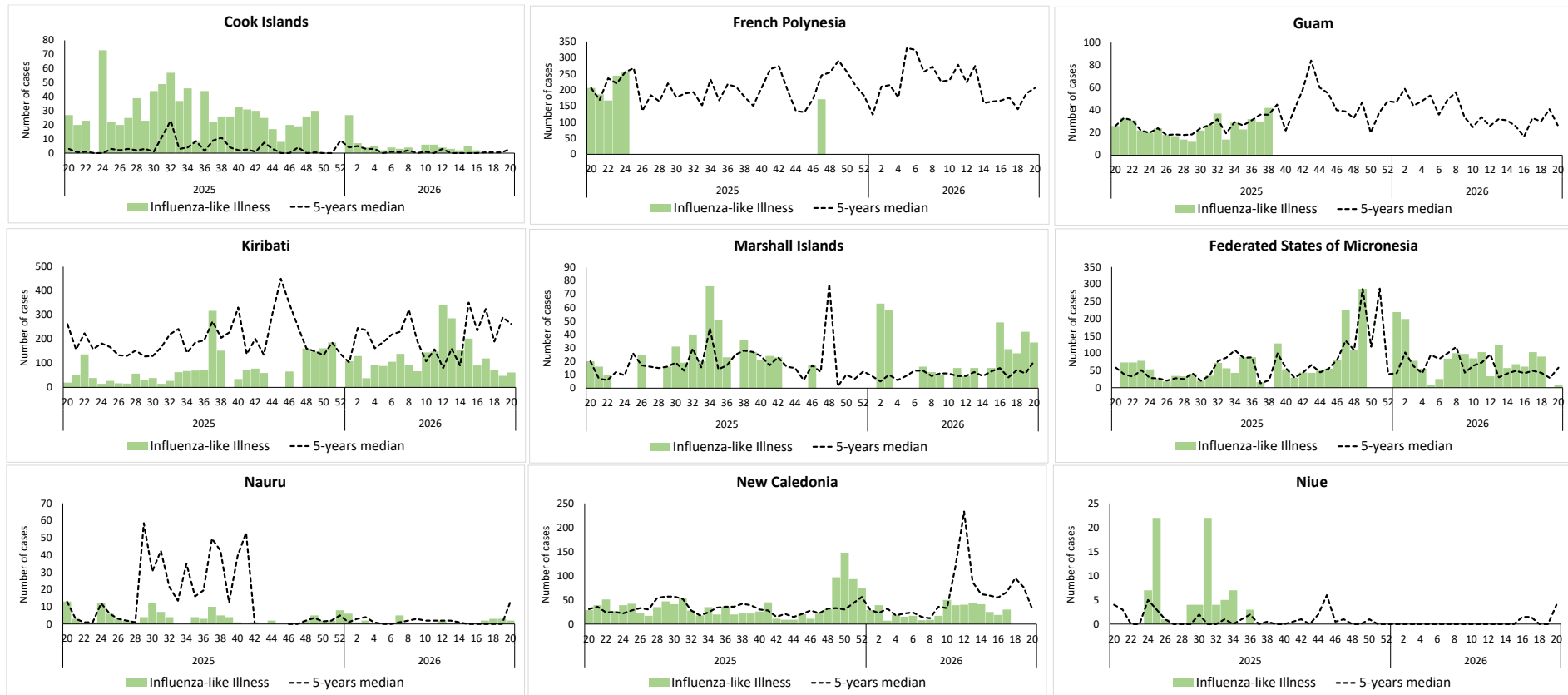


Figure 9a: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 20, 2025 to week 20, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

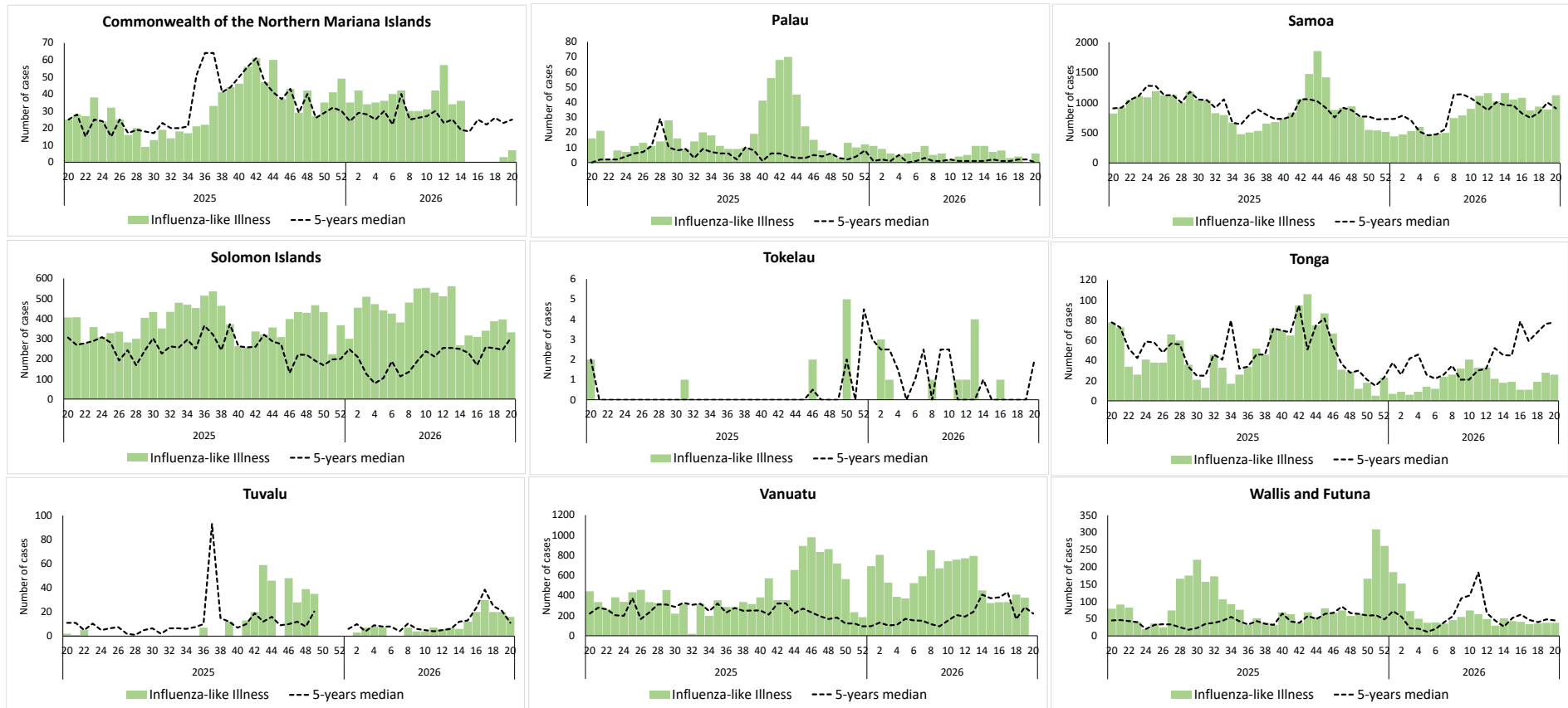


Figure 9b: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 20, 2025 to week 20, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region

WHO continues to monitor SARS-CoV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region. Further information on variants circulating in the region is available from GISAID ([GISAID SARS-COV-2 variants dashboard](#)).

Data Sources and Disclaimer

- Caution should be taken in interpreting this data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.
- The information presented in this update is based on data provided by Ministries of Health and National Influenza Centers of Member States to Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)'s online platform RespiMart ([Integrated influenza and other respiratory viruses surveillance output](#)) and open data that Ministries of Health published on its website or shared with the WHO Regional Officer for the Western Pacific.

Reference links:

1. Australia, Department of Health and Aged Care. List of nationally notifiable diseases. Updated on 4 March 2024. Available from: <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/communicable-diseases/nationally-notifiable-diseases/list>
2. Australia, Department of Health and Aged Care. National Communicable Disease Surveillance Dashboard. Available from: <https://nindss.health.gov.au/pbi-dashboard/>
3. China, National Health Commission (NHC). National Health Office Medical Emergency Letter. Updated on 6 January 2023. Available from: <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/ylyjs/pgt/202301/32de5b2ff9bf4eaa88e75bdf7223a65a.shtml>
4. China, NHC. Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism Comprehensive Issue. Updated on 7 January 2023. Available from: <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/zhengcwj/202301/bdc1ff75feb94934ae1dade176d30936.shtml>
5. China, National Disease Control and Prevention Administration. List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases. Available from: <https://www.ndcpa.gov.cn/jbkzxx/c100041/common/list.html>
6. Hongkong SAR China, Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Communicable Disease Surveillance: Case definitions. Updated on 7 September 2023. Available from: https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/disease.html
7. Indonesia Ministry of Health EWARS guidelines 2023. Available from: [BUKU PEDOMAN SKDR PP KLB 2023](#)
8. Circular Letter of the Director General of P2 Number SR.03.01/C/1422/2025 concerning Vigilance against Increase in COVID-19 Cases, 28 May 2025. Available from: [Emerging Infections](#).
9. Japan, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Notification by Physicians and Veterinarians under the act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases, COVID-19. Available from: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou11/01-shitei-01.html>
10. Japan, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID). Weekly surveillance report of SARS-CoV-2. Available from: <https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/ja/2019-ncov/2484-idsc/12015-covid19-surveillance-report.html>
11. Japan, Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance Weekly Report: https://id-info.jihs.go.jp/surveillance/idss/content/teiten_ARII/index.html
12. Republic of Korea, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). Press release on de-escalation of COVID-19 alert level from 1 May 2024. Available from: <https://www.kdca.go.kr/board/board.es>
13. Korea Influenza Weekly Report, <https://www.kdca.go.kr/board/board.es?mid=a30504000000&bid=0033>
14. Republic of Korea, KDCA. Classification of Notifiable Diseases. Available from: <https://ncov.kdca.go.kr/pot/ii/sttyInftnsds/sttyInftnsds.do>
15. Malaysia, Ministry of Health Malaysia. COVID-19 Management Guidelines in Malaysia. Updated in February 2024. Available from: [KKM Guidelines | COVID-19 MALAYSIA \(moh.gov.my\)](#).
16. New Zealand, Health New Zealand (Te Whatu ora). Communicable Disease Control Manual, COVID-19. Updated in January 2024. Available from: <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/health-sector-guidance/communicable-disease-control-manual/covid-19/#case-definition>
17. [Decision 3985/QD-BYT 2023 guiding COVID19 surveillance and prevention \(thuvienphapluat.vn\)](#)
18. [Circular 54/2015/TT-BYT on the regime of information on reporting and declaration of the latest infectious diseases \(thuvienphapluat.vn\)](#)