# Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

## Epidemiological Week 5 (Up to 1 February 2026)

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## Regional situation at a glance

- Regional influenza positivity is 14% in week 5 of 2026, and SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains below 5% (Figure 1). The predominant circulating influenza subtype remains influenza A(H3/N2), however increases in influenza B(Victoria) in some countries have been observed (Figure 2).
- Among northern hemisphere countries, influenza activity is decreasing in China and Mongolia, but has increased in Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam.
- All southern hemisphere countries have decreased influenza activity except in Papua New Guinea, where media outlets reported increase in cases of influenza A(H3/N2), including deaths [1][2][3]. However, official data for Papua New Guinea is available only until week 51 of 2025.

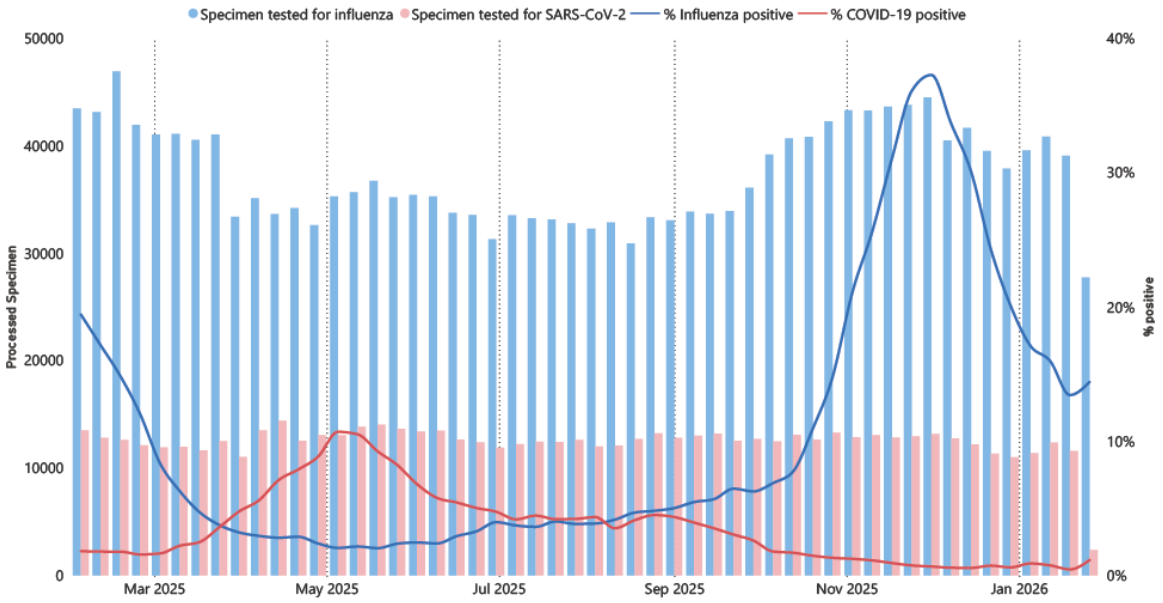


**Figure 1: Number of sentinel surveillance specimens tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and positivity rates as reported to RespiMart from countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026** (Source: GISRS surveillance data reported to RespiMart)*

*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.*

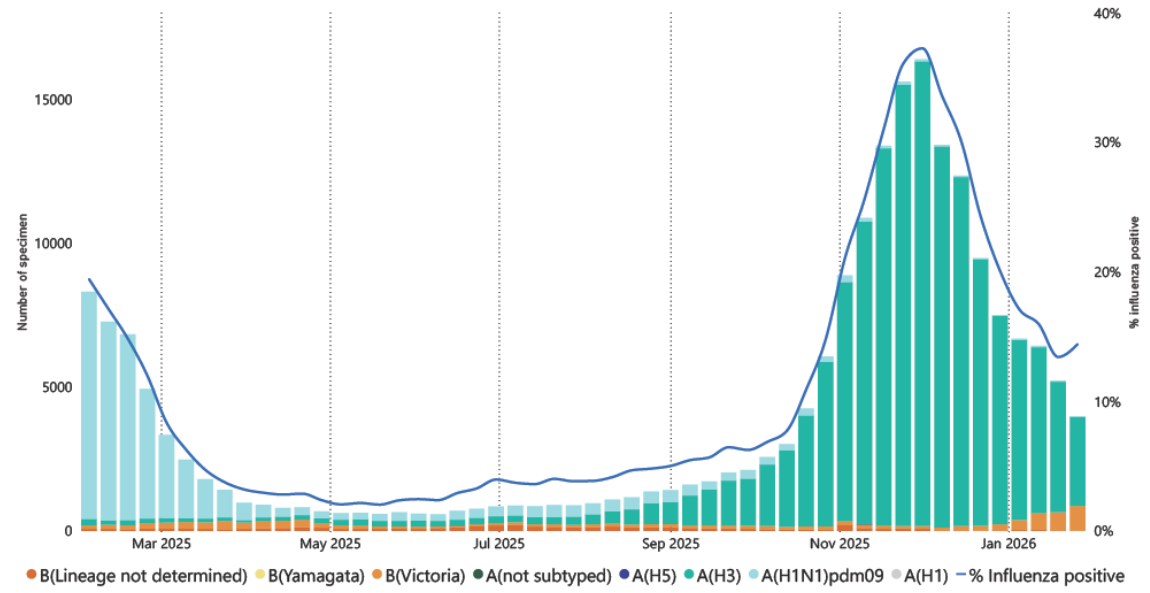


**Figure 2. Influenza virus detections by subtype in the Western Pacific Region, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026** (Source: Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information)

*Note: All infleunza A specimens are subtyped using PCR primerrs 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 zone[1]. 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.

[1] Influenza transmission zones

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, except for Japan and Republic of Korea, where positivity during week 5 is currently at 35% and 41%, respectively (Figure 3). Other countries and areas in this transmission zone have positivity rates ranging from around 1% (Mongolia) to 15% (China). SARS-CoV-2 positivity continues to remain below 5% for countries in this transmission zone, except Japan where positivity is 8% in week 5. The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza A(H3/N2) in this transmission zone, with the exception of Republic of Korea and Japan where increasing levels of influenza B(Victoria) have been observed.(Figure 4).

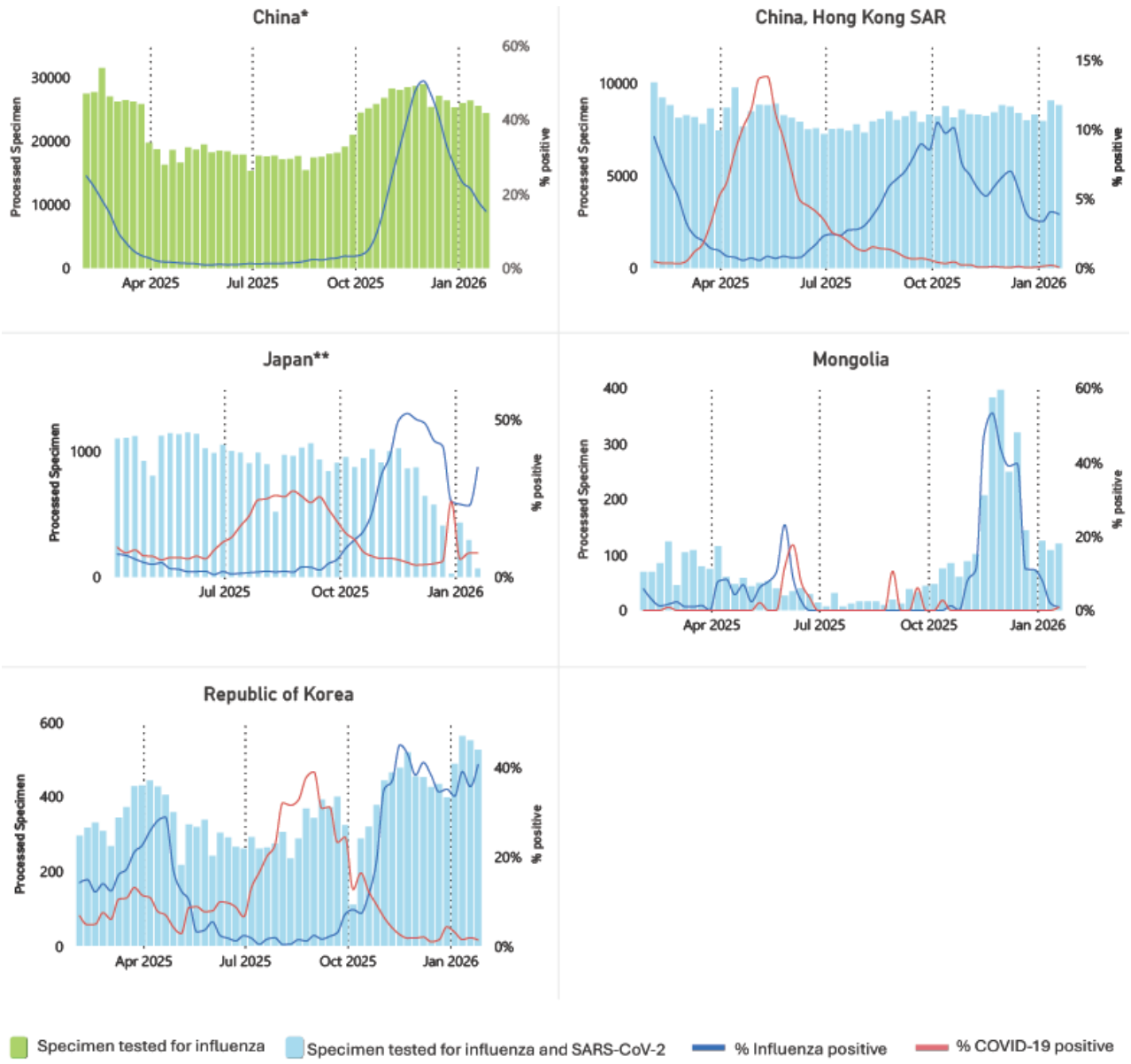


**Figure 3: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

** 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.*

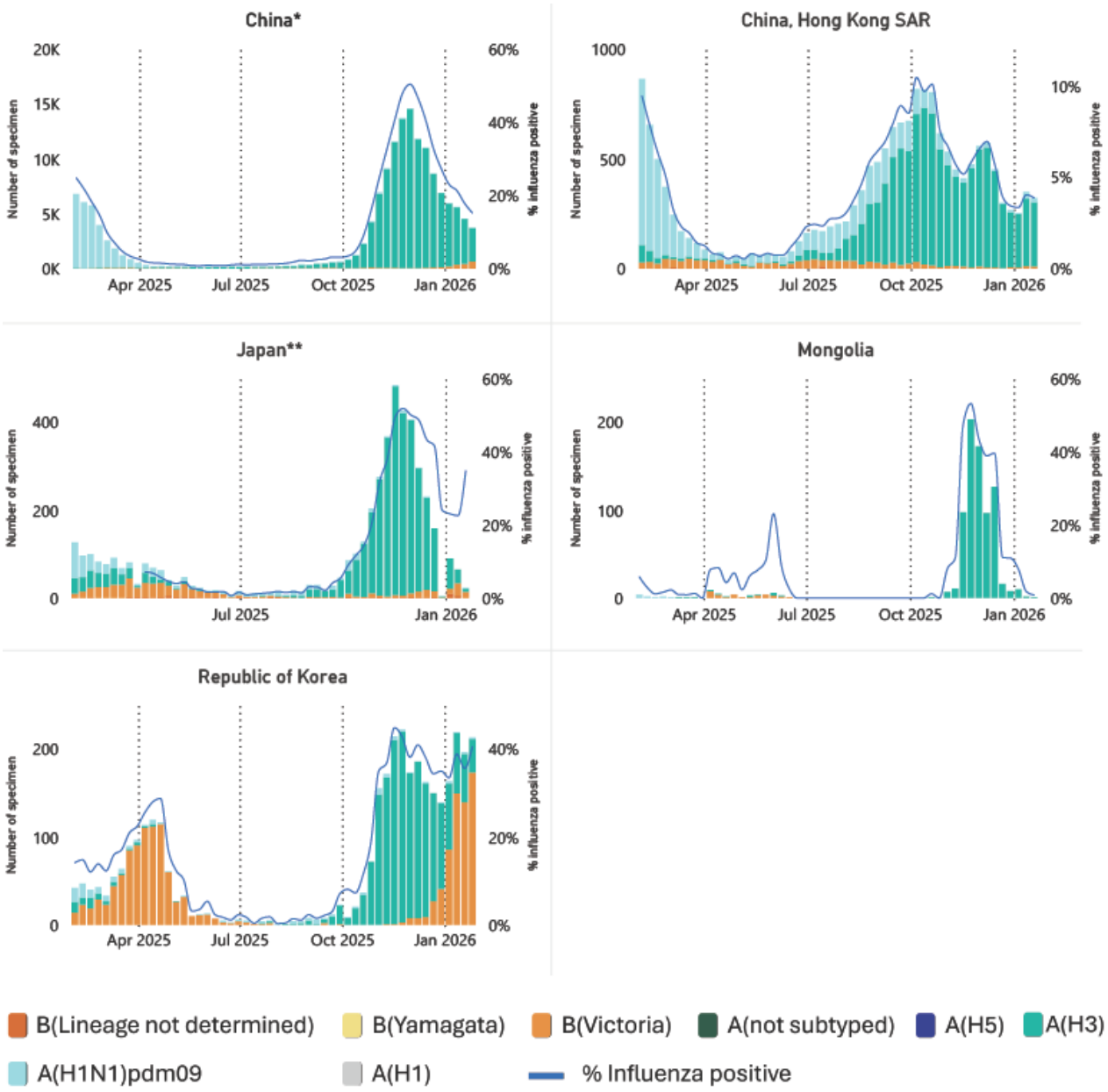


**Figure 4: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

** 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 has decreased in most countries in the South-East Asia transmission zone during this reporting period, except for Cambodia and Viet Nam where positivity remains below 10% despite a small increase being observed. Influenza positivity in this transmission zone ranges from 0% (Brunei Darussalam) to 13% (Lao PDR) (Figure 5). SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains below 5% in this transmission zone (Figure 5). Both influenza A(H3/N2) and influenza B (Victoria) are circulating in this transmission zone (Figure 6). Of note is the increasing number of infleunza B(Victoria) specimens in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

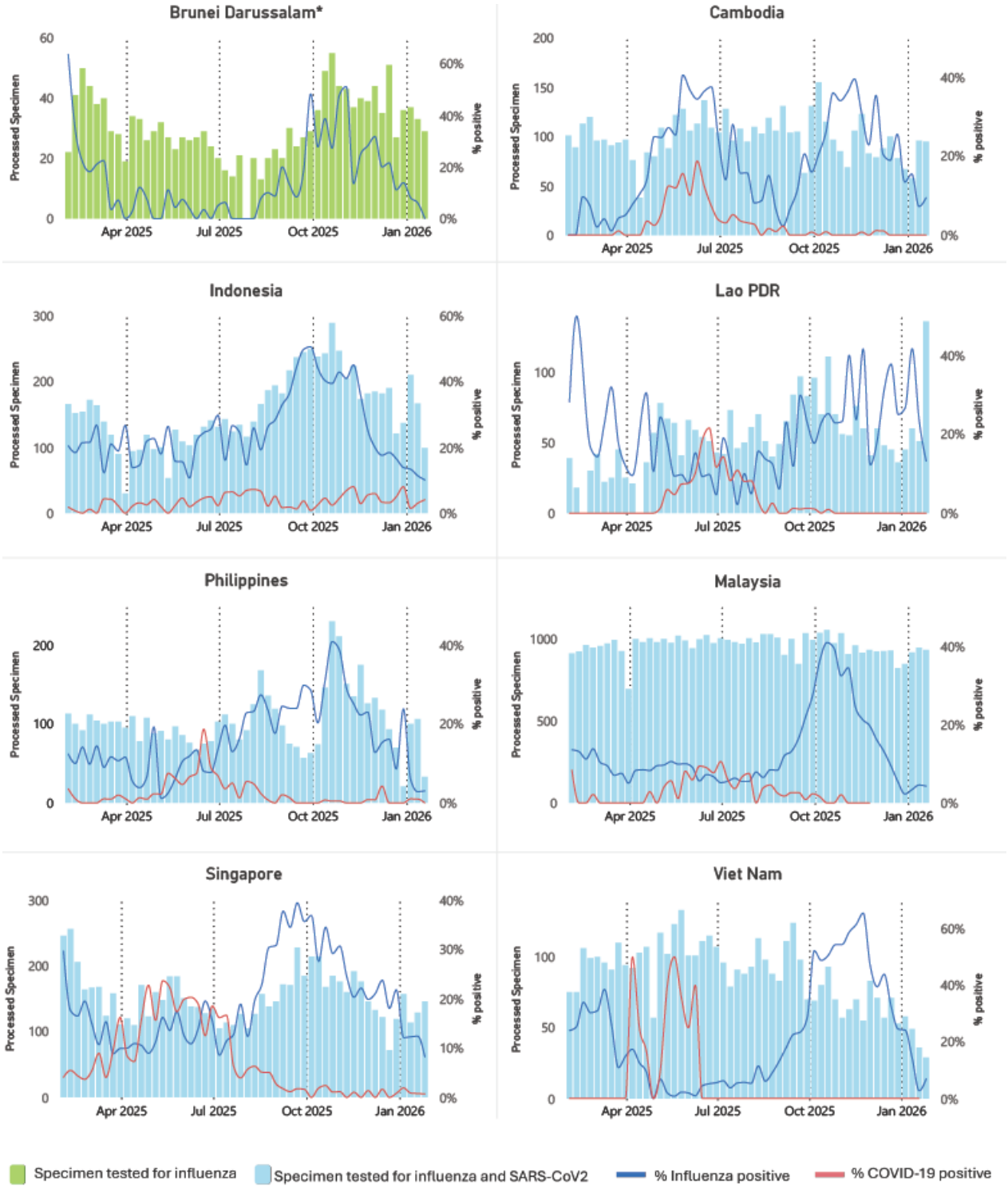


**Figure 5: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

** Brunei Darussalam only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.*

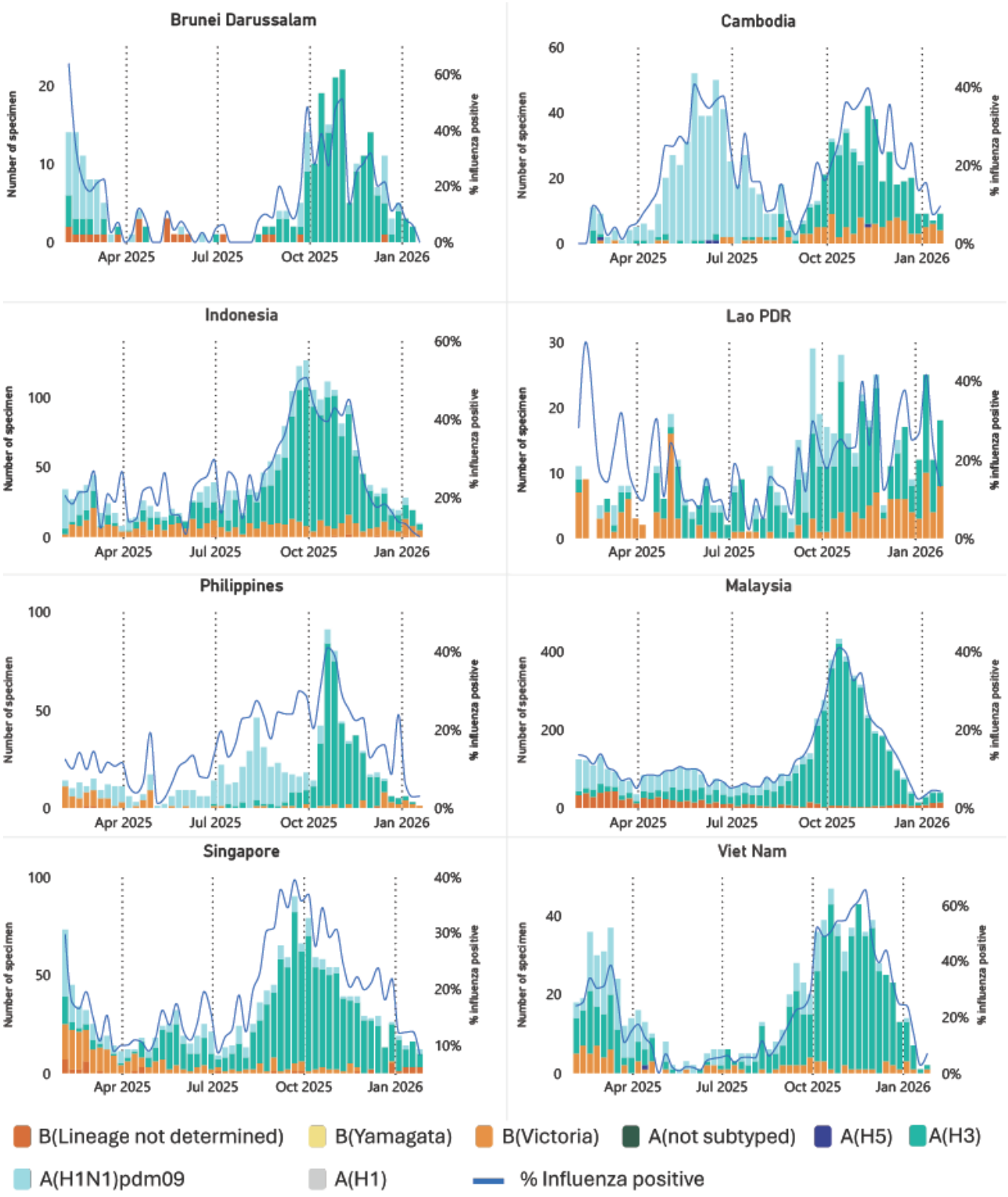


**Figure 6: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

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

Influenza activity has declined in all countries in this transmission zone. The positivity rate for both influenza and SARS-CoV2 is highest in New Zealand, however positivity in all countries remains at 5% or below as of week 5. The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza A(H3/N2) in this transmission zone (Figure 8).

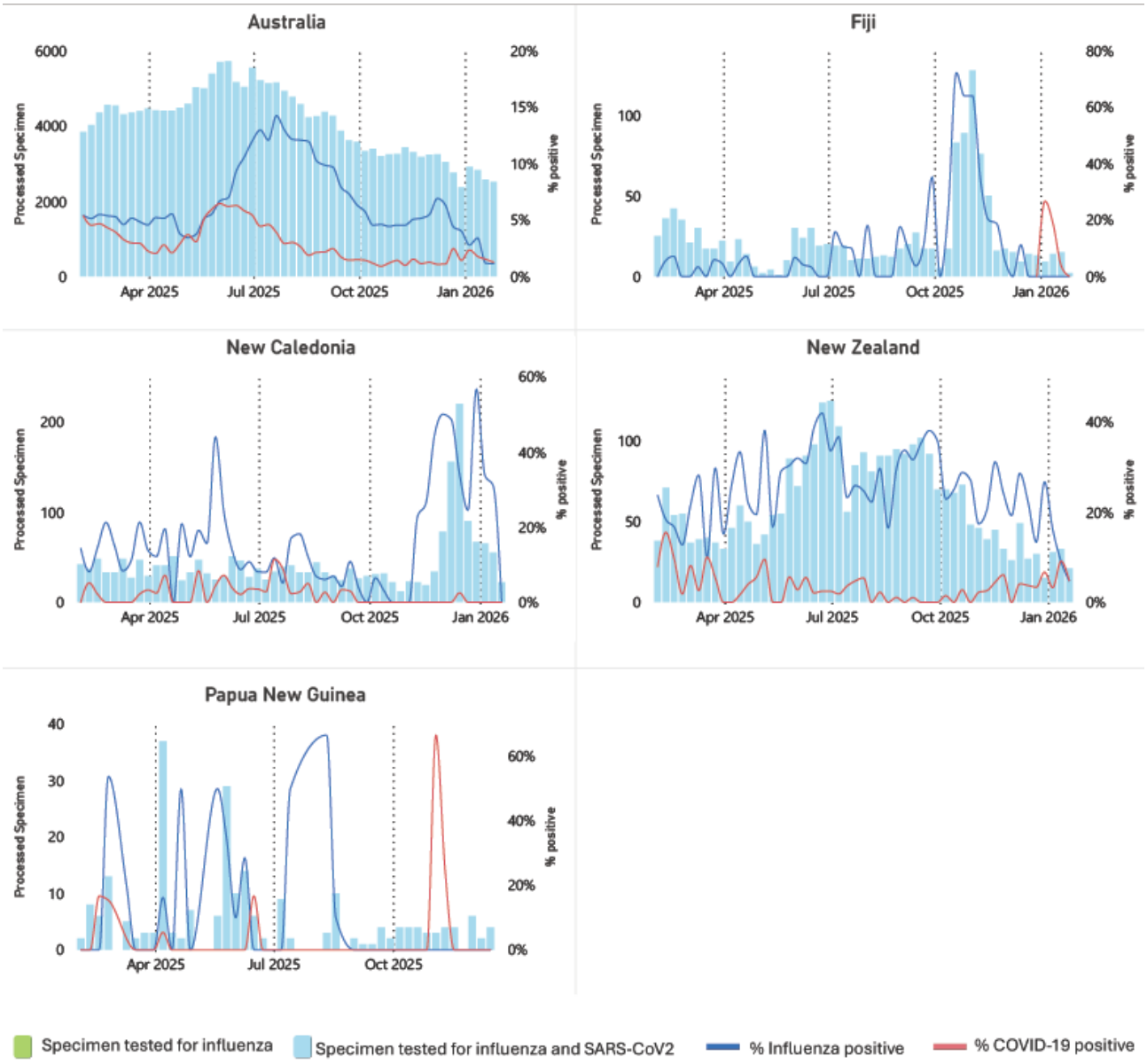


**Figure 7: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

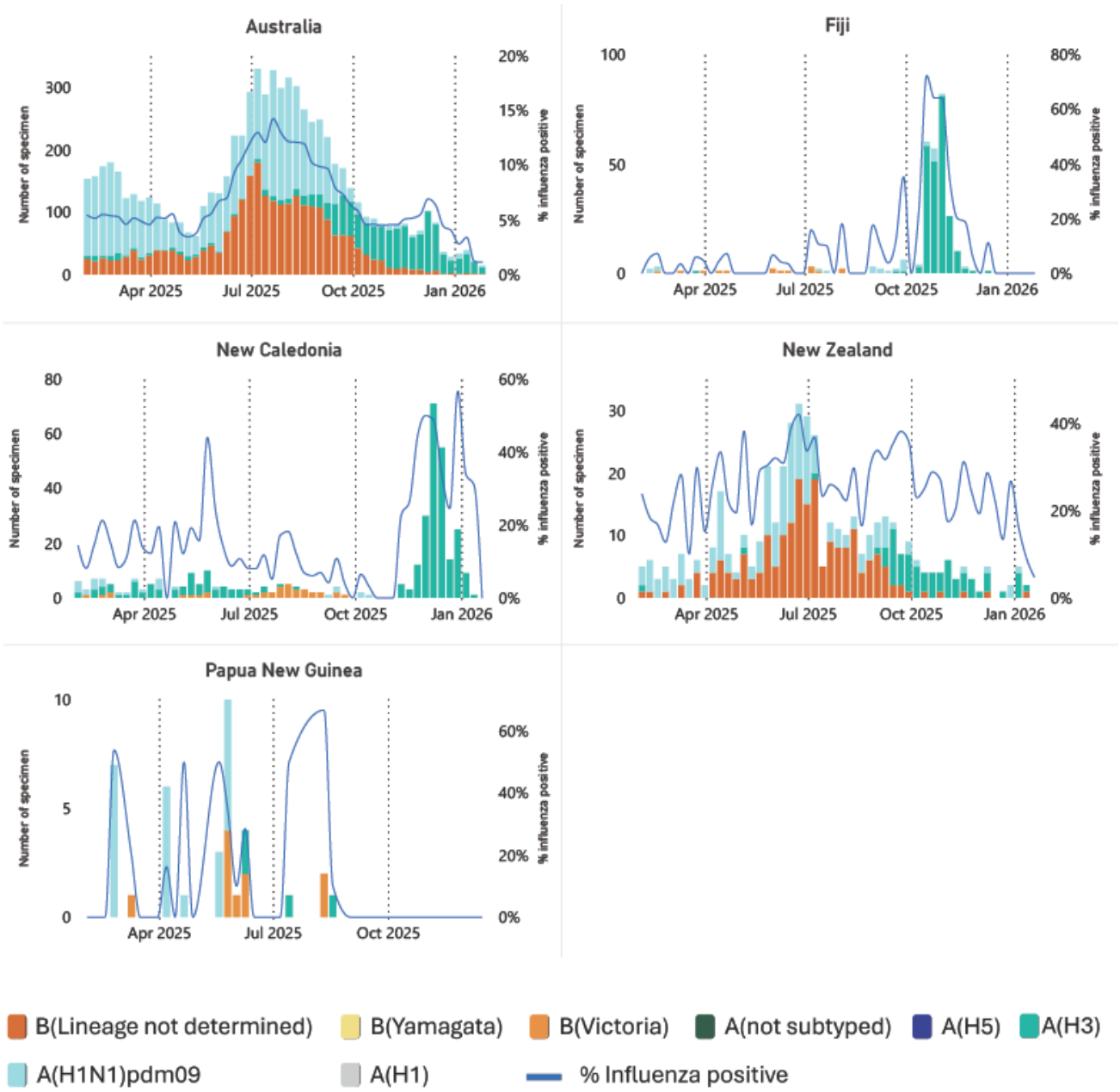


**Figure 8: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 3 February 2025 to 1 February 2026**

## 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 4 of 2026 has been received from PSSS and is presented below (Figure 9a, 9b). No data was received from French Polynesia, Guam and Niue. Pitcairn Islands have reported zero ILI cases in the past 52 weeks. An increase in ILI cases was reported in Marshall Islands, Palau, and Samoa, while ILI cases decreased in Cook Islands, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

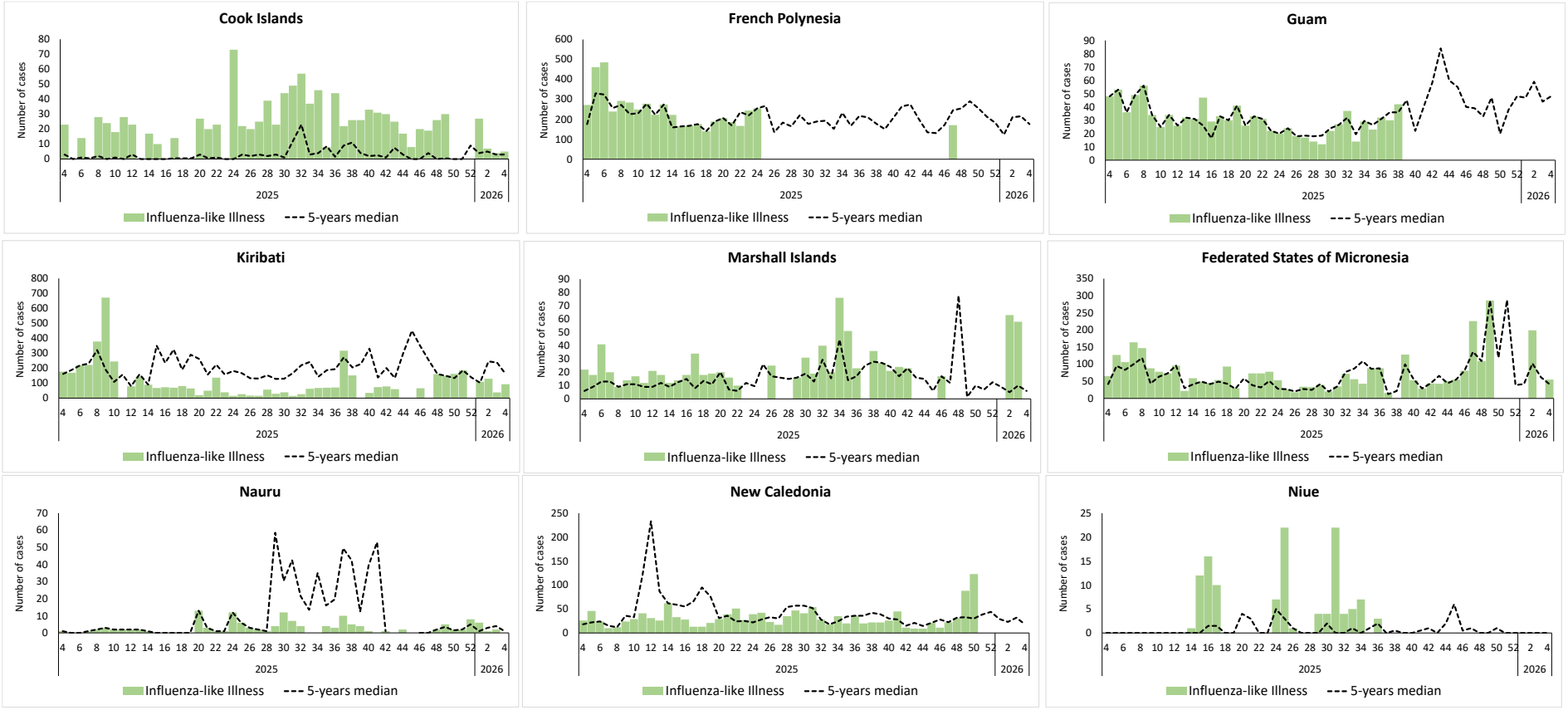


**Figure 9a: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 4, 2025 to week 4, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)**

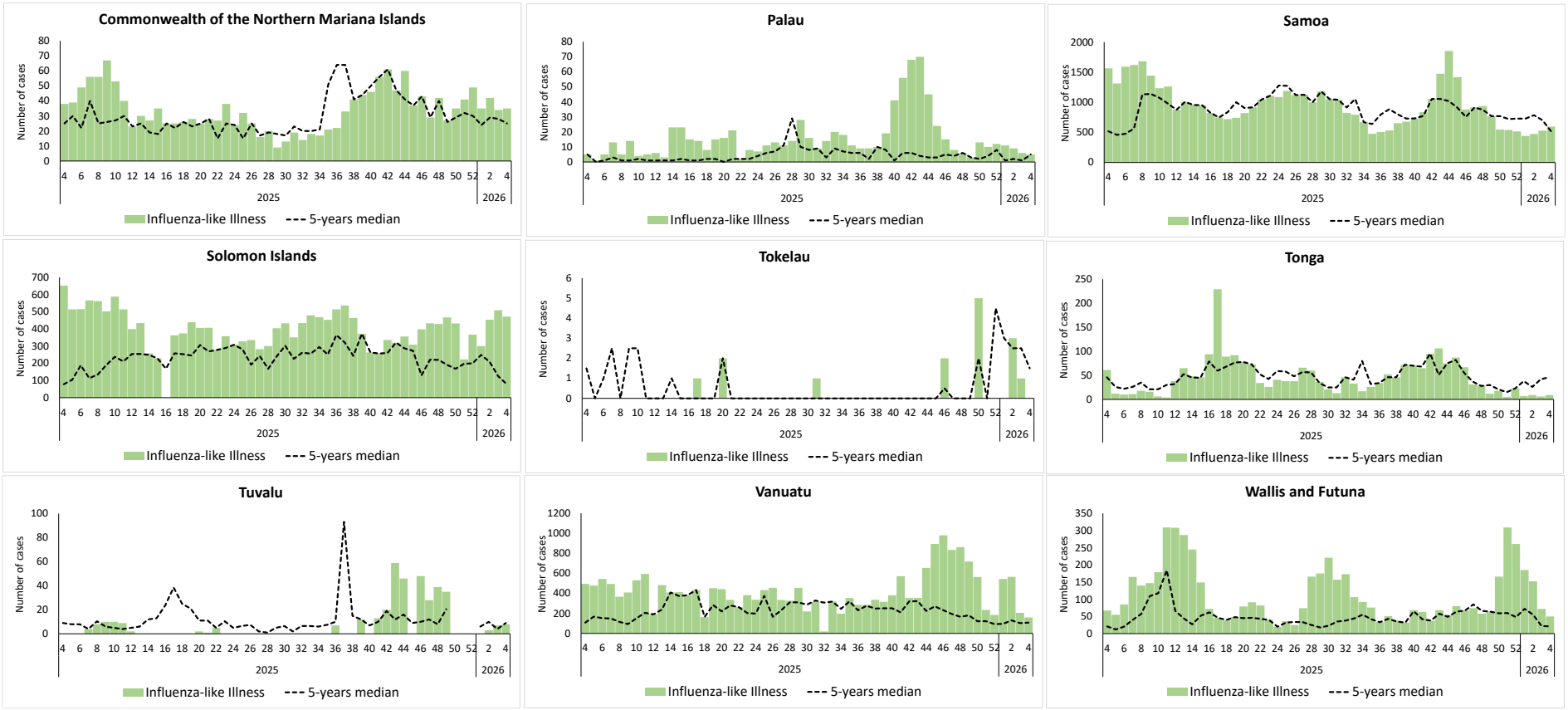


**Figure 9b: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 4, 2025 to week 4, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)**

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

As of 10 February 2026, the relative frequency of circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region, based on sequences submitted to GISAID (Table 1), is as follows: NB.1.8.1 at 38.31%, XFG at 26.76%, B.1.1.529 at 11.83%, JN.1 at 11.55%, KP.3.1.1 at 10.7, and remaining variants collectively at 0.84% (Figure 10). Contribution of SARS-CoV-2 sequences to GISAID for regional analysis is indicated in Table 1.

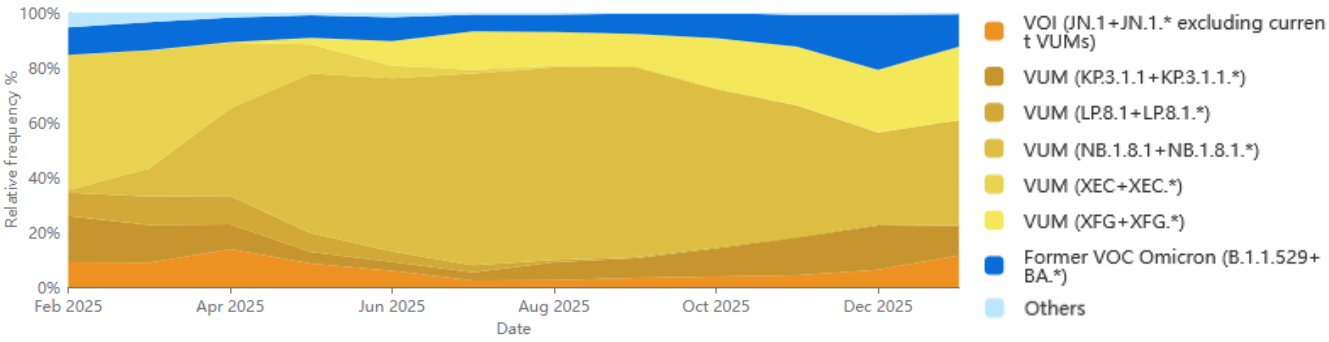


**Figure 10: Relative frequency (%) of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region, 2025-2026**
*Note: Indonesia data is not included in this figure.* (Source: GISAID hCoV-19 Variants Dashboard)

**Table 1: Number of SARS-CoV-2 sequences submitted to GISAID from the Western Pacific Region***

| Country and area | Total number of sequences submitted in quarter 3, 2025 | Total number of sequences submitted in quarter 4, 2025 | Total number of sequences submitted in quarter 1, 2026 | Last submission |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 2 371 | 1 364 | 96 | Jan-26 |
| Brunei Darussalam | 11 | 0 | 0 | Sep-25 |
| Cambodia | 19 | 1 | 0 | Oct-25 |
| China | 2 216 | 354 | 42 | Jan-26 |
| China, Hong Kong SAR | 153 | 78 | 13 | Jan-26 |
| Guam | 26 | 0 | 0 | Aug-25 |
| Indonesia | 34 | 15 | 0 | Nov-25 |
| Japan | 1 541 | 358 | 15 | Jan-26 |
| Lao PDR | 22 | 0 | 0 | Aug-25 |
| Malaysia | 217 | 15 | 0 | Dec-25 |
| Micronesia (Federated States of) | 1 | 0 | 0 | Jul-25 |
| Mongolia | 3 | 2 | 0 | Oct-25 |
| New Caledonia | 6 | 0 | 0 | Sep-25 |
| New Zealand | 867 | 314 | 104 | Jan-26 |
| Philippines | 2 | 0 | 0 | Jul-25 |
| Republic of Korea | 1 863 | 395 | 24 | Jan-26 |
| Singapore | 1 006 | 172 | 74 | Jan-26 |
| Viet Nam | 9 | 0 | 0 | Aug-25 |
| Wallis and Futuna | 1 | 0 | 0 | Jul-25 |

** All data presented are from: GSAID SARS-COV-2 variants dashboard (as of 10 February 2026)*

## 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.

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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)