

Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin



Epidemiological Week 7
(Up to 15 February 2026)

World Health
Organization
Western Pacific Region

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Regional situation at a glance

- Regional influenza positivity and SARS-CoV-2 positivity are below 5% in week 7 of 2026 (Figure 1). The predominant circulating influenza subtypes are influenza A(H3/N2) and influenza B(Victoria) (Figure 2).
- Among northern hemisphere countries, influenza activity is decreasing in Brunei Darussalam, China (Hong Kong SAR), and Lao PDR, but has increased in Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Viet Nam.
- All southern hemisphere countries have decreased influenza activity except in Papua New Guinea.

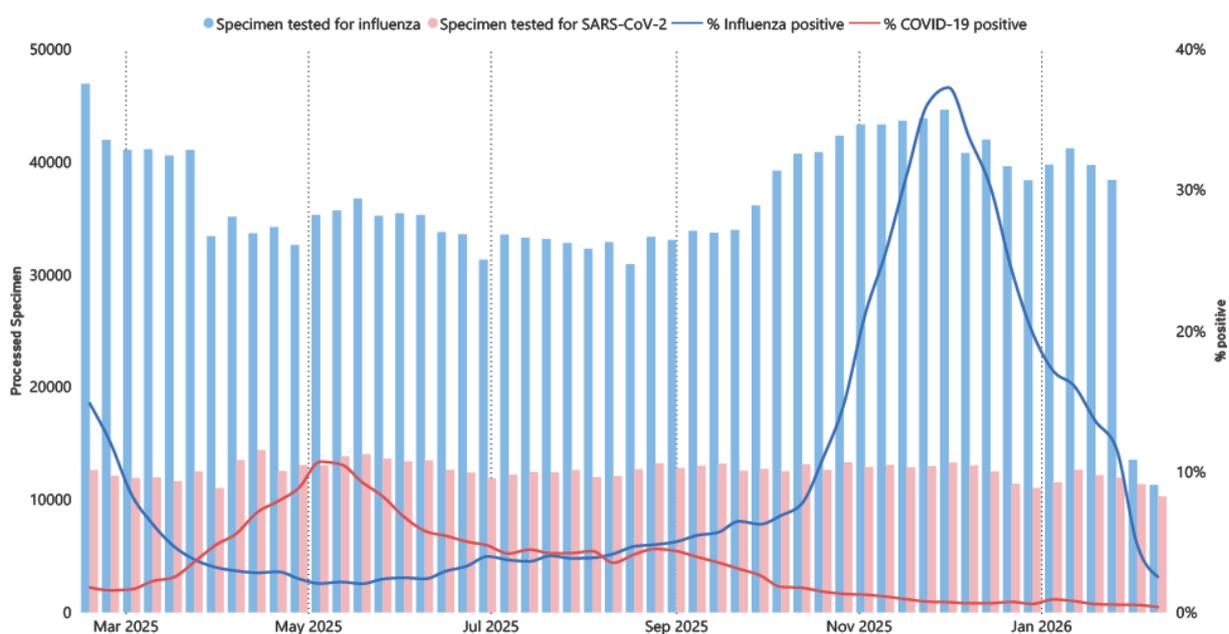


Figure 1: Number of sentinel surveillance specimens tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and positivity rates as reported to RespiMart from countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026 (Source: [GISRS surveillance data reported to RespiMart](#))*

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.

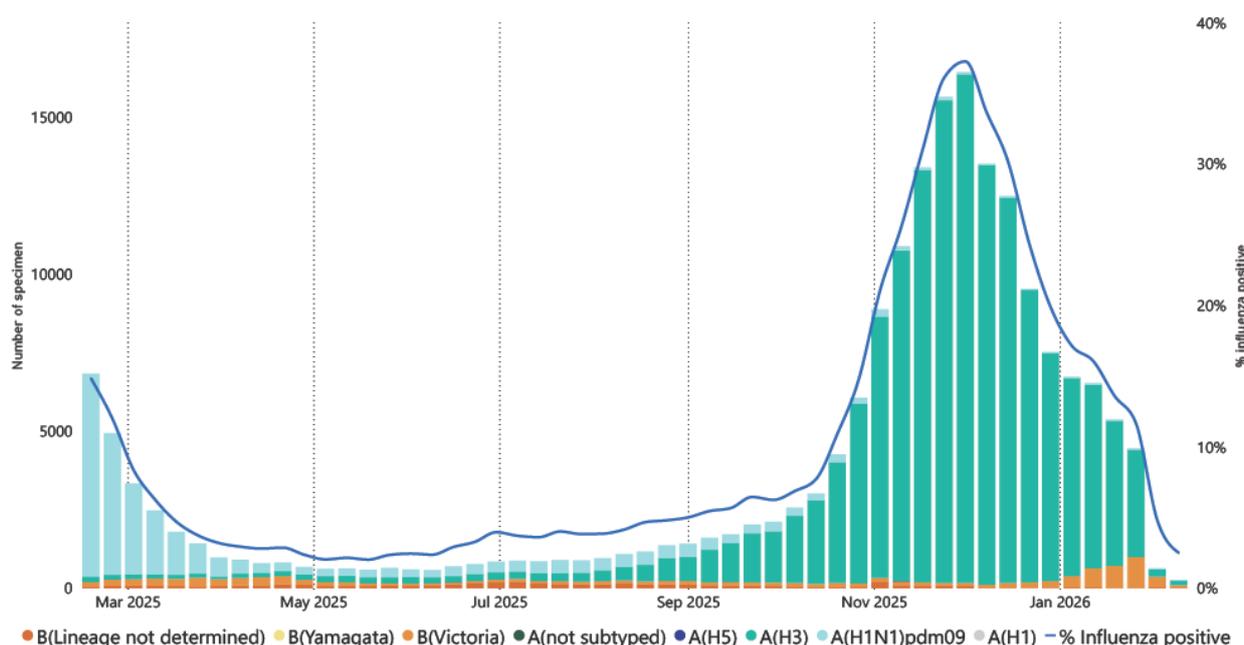


Figure 2. Influenza virus detections by subtype in the Western Pacific Region, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026 (Source: [Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information](#))

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

¹ [Influenza transmission zones](#)

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 increased in most countries in the Eastern Asia transmission zone: Japan and Republic of Korea have positivity rates of 51% in week 7, and 38% during week 6, respectively, and Mongolia also has increased positivity but is at 5% as of week 6 (Figure 3). SARS-CoV-2 positivity continues to remain below 5% for countries in this transmission zone, except Japan where positivity is 6% in week 6. Both influenza A(H3/N2) and influenza B(Victoria) are circulating in this transmission zone, with influenza B(Victoria) being the predominant influenza subtype in Japan, Mongolia, and Republic of Korea (Figure 4). No data was received from China in this reporting period.

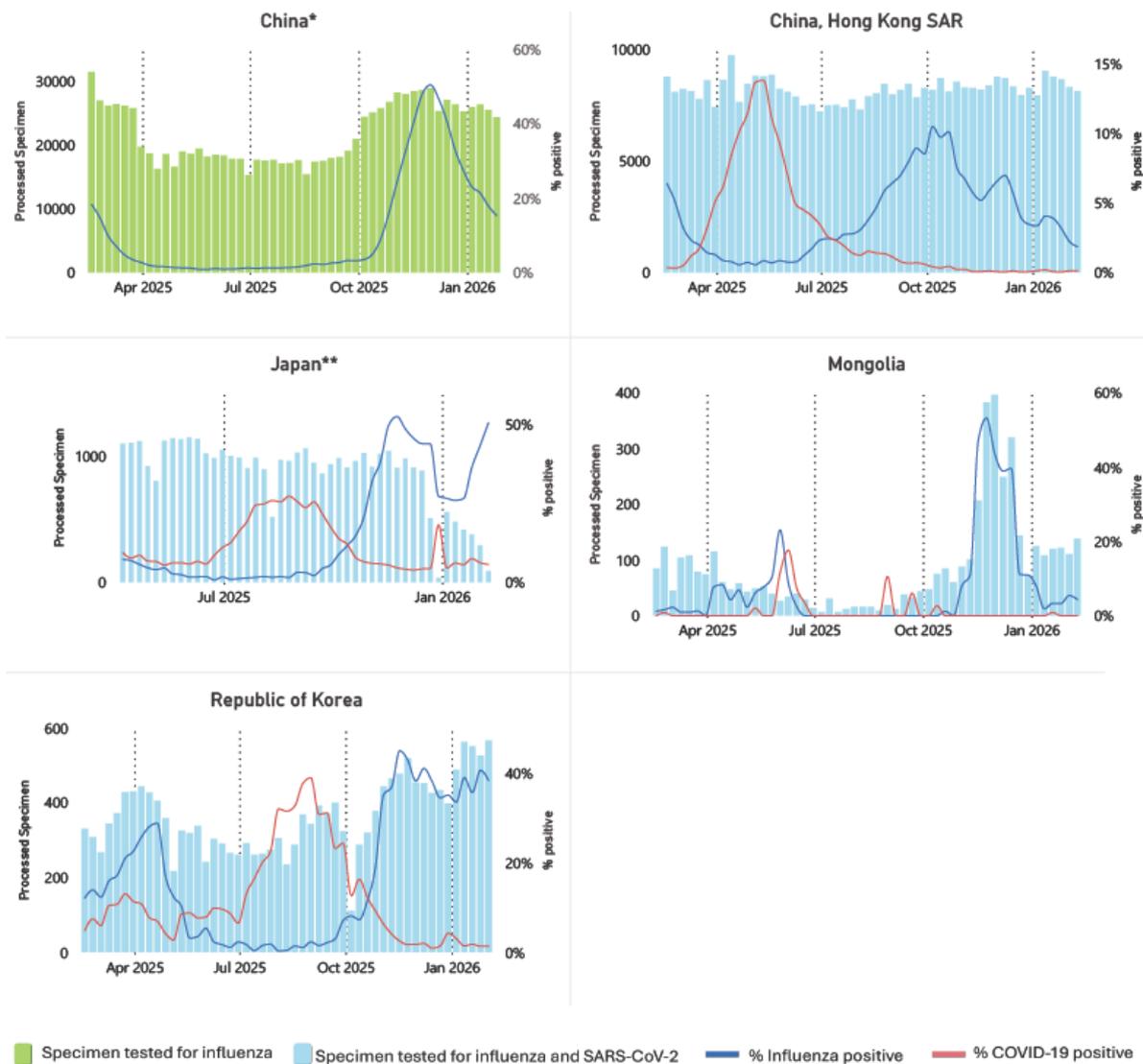


Figure 3: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

* 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.

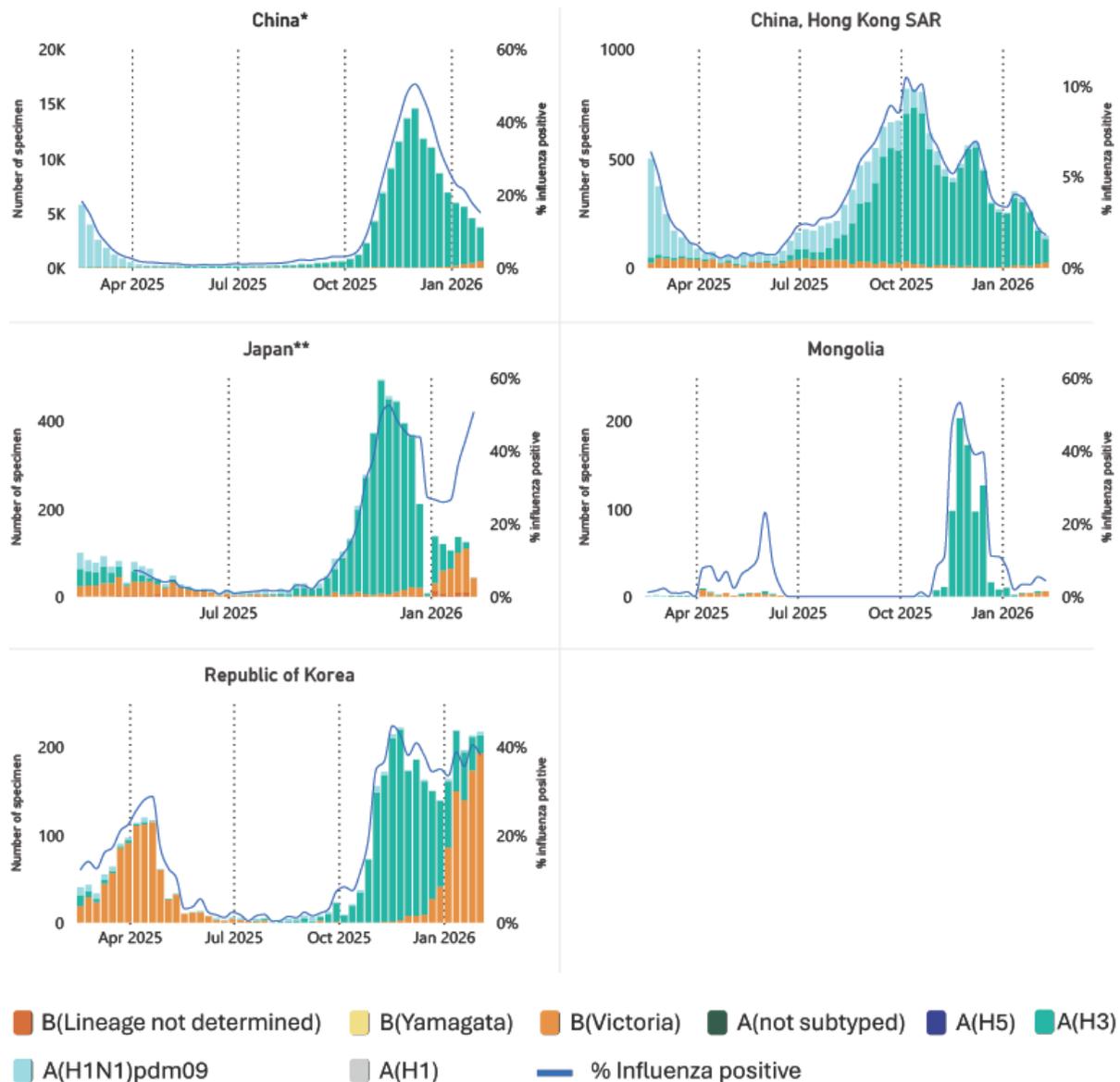


Figure 4: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

* 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 in the South-East Asia transmission is mixed, with increases in positivity reported from Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam, and decreases in Brunei Darussalam and Lao PDR. Influenza positivity in this transmission zone ranges from 0% (Brunei Darussalam) to 18% (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 are circulating in this transmission zone, with influenza B being the predominant subtype in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore (Figure 6). No data was received from Cambodia in this reporting period.

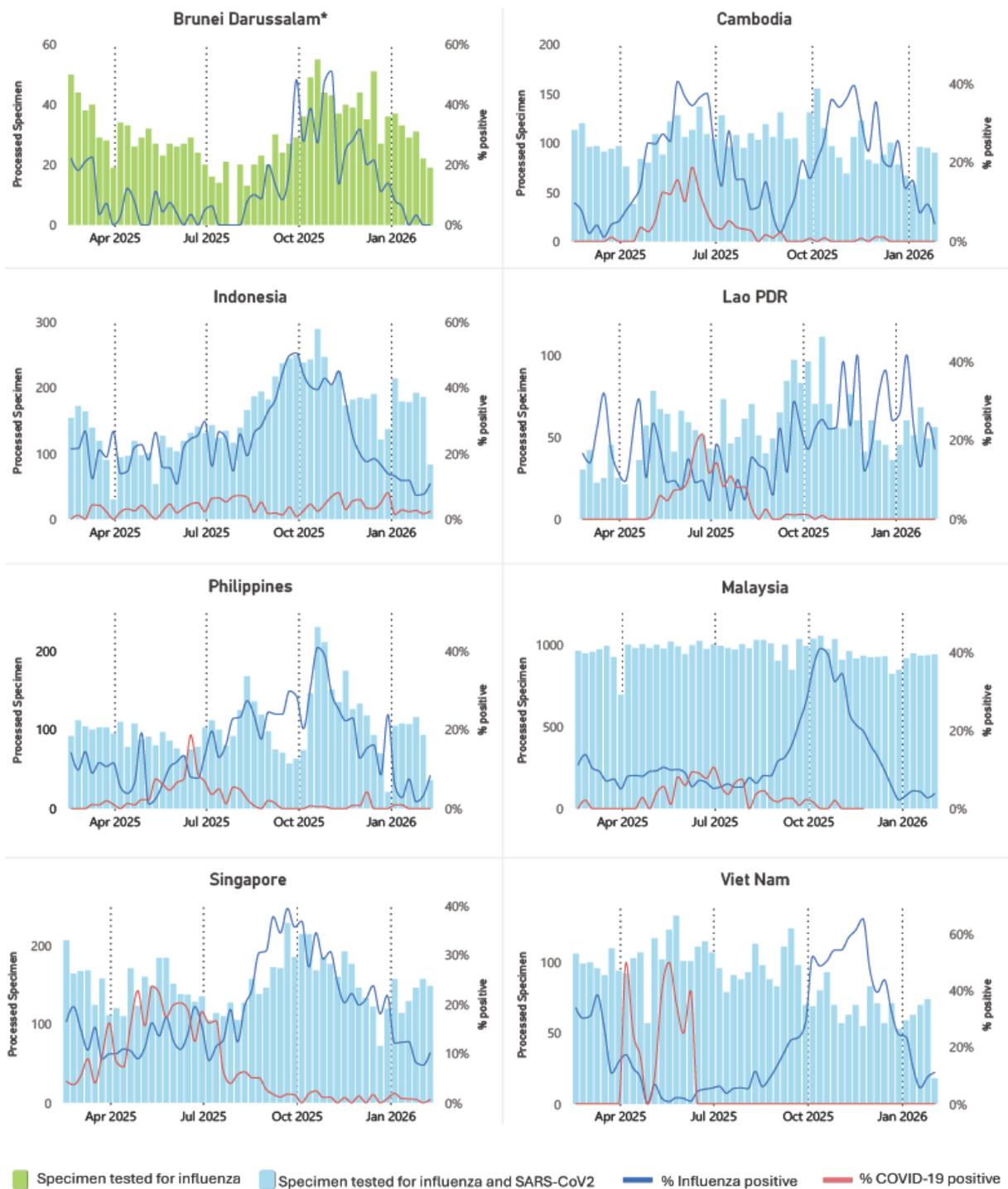


Figure 5: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

* Brunei Darussalam only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.

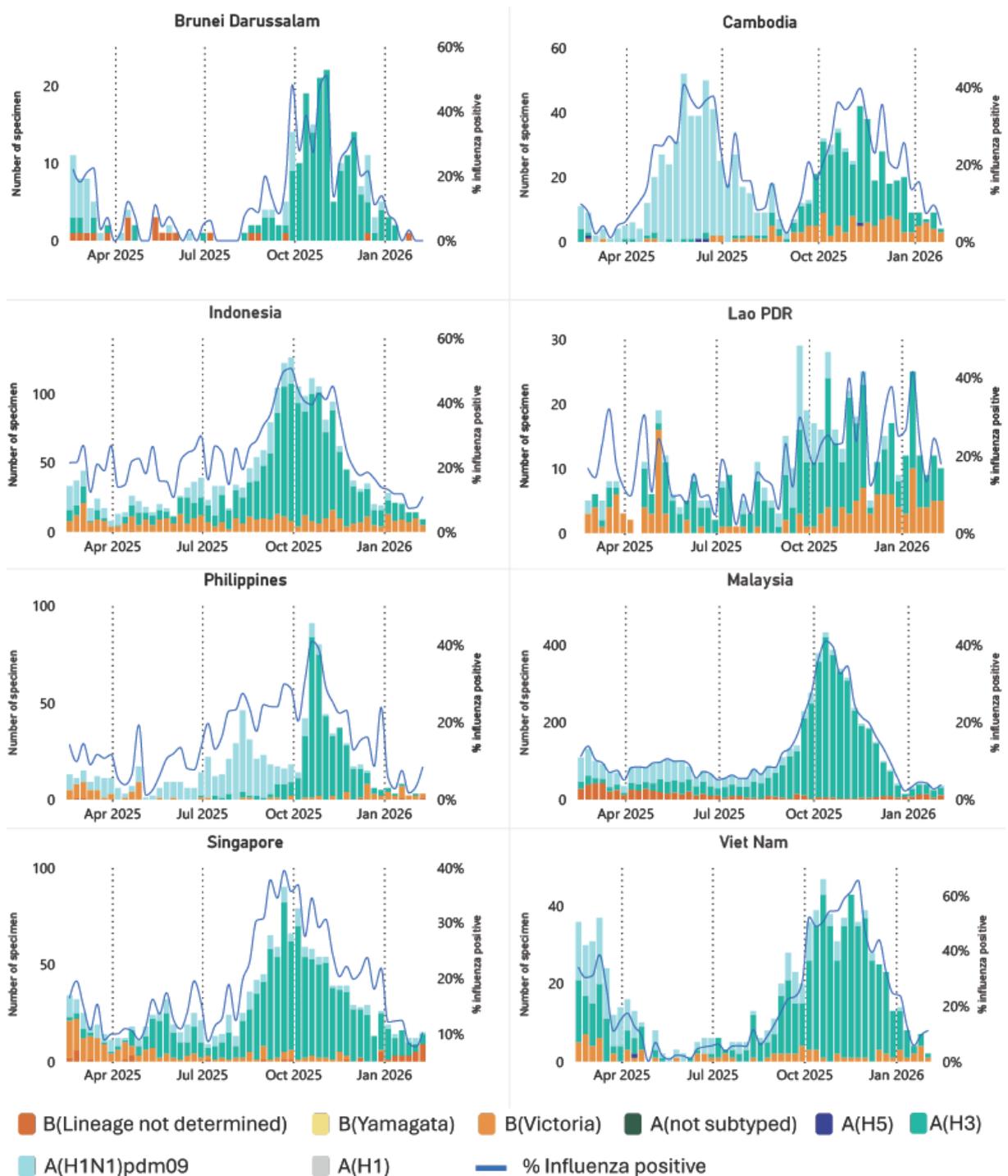


Figure 6: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

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

Influenza activity has declined in all countries in this transmission zone with positivity below 5%, except for Papua New Guinea. The positivity rate for SARS-CoV-2 is highest in New Zealand with positivity at 7% as of week 6; however, positivity in all other countries remains below 5% as of week 7. The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza A(H3/N2) in this transmission zone but influenza B has been detected in New Zealand (Figure 8).

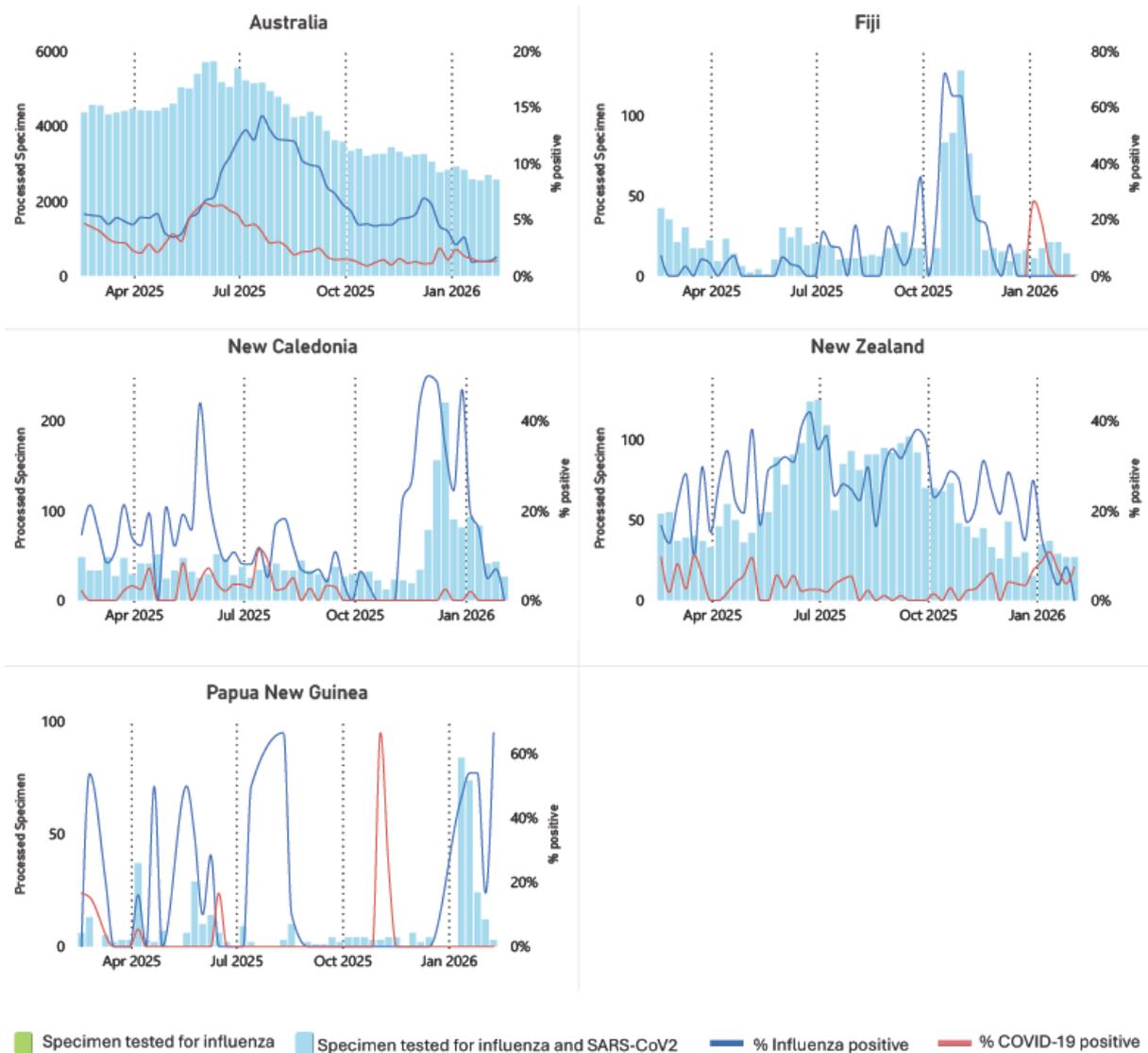


Figure 7: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

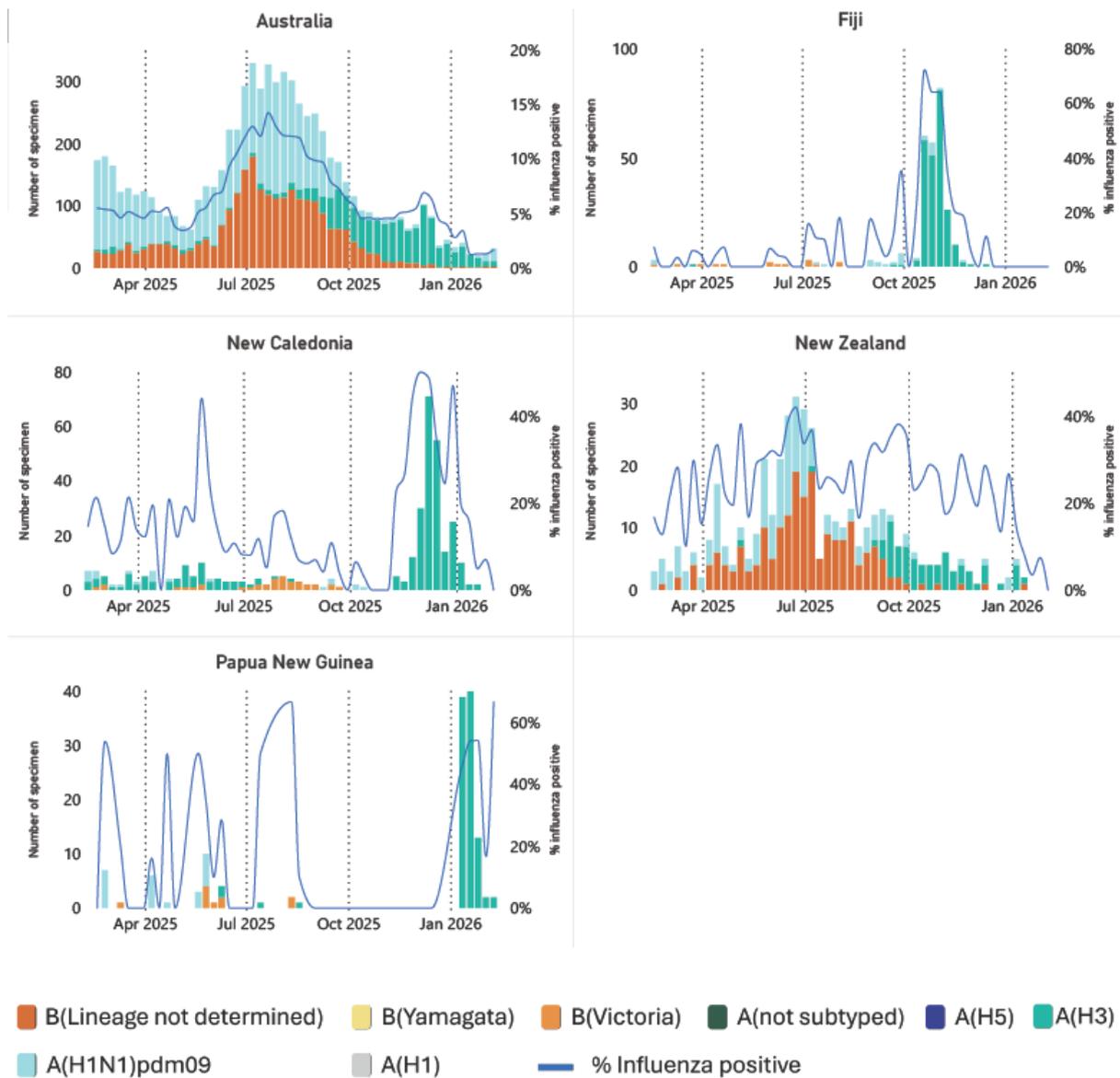


Figure 8: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 17 February 2025 to 15 February 2026

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 6 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 no ILI cases in the past 52 weeks. An increase in ILI cases was reported in Cook Islands and Vanuatu, while ILI cases decreased in Solomon Islands, and Wallis and Futuna.

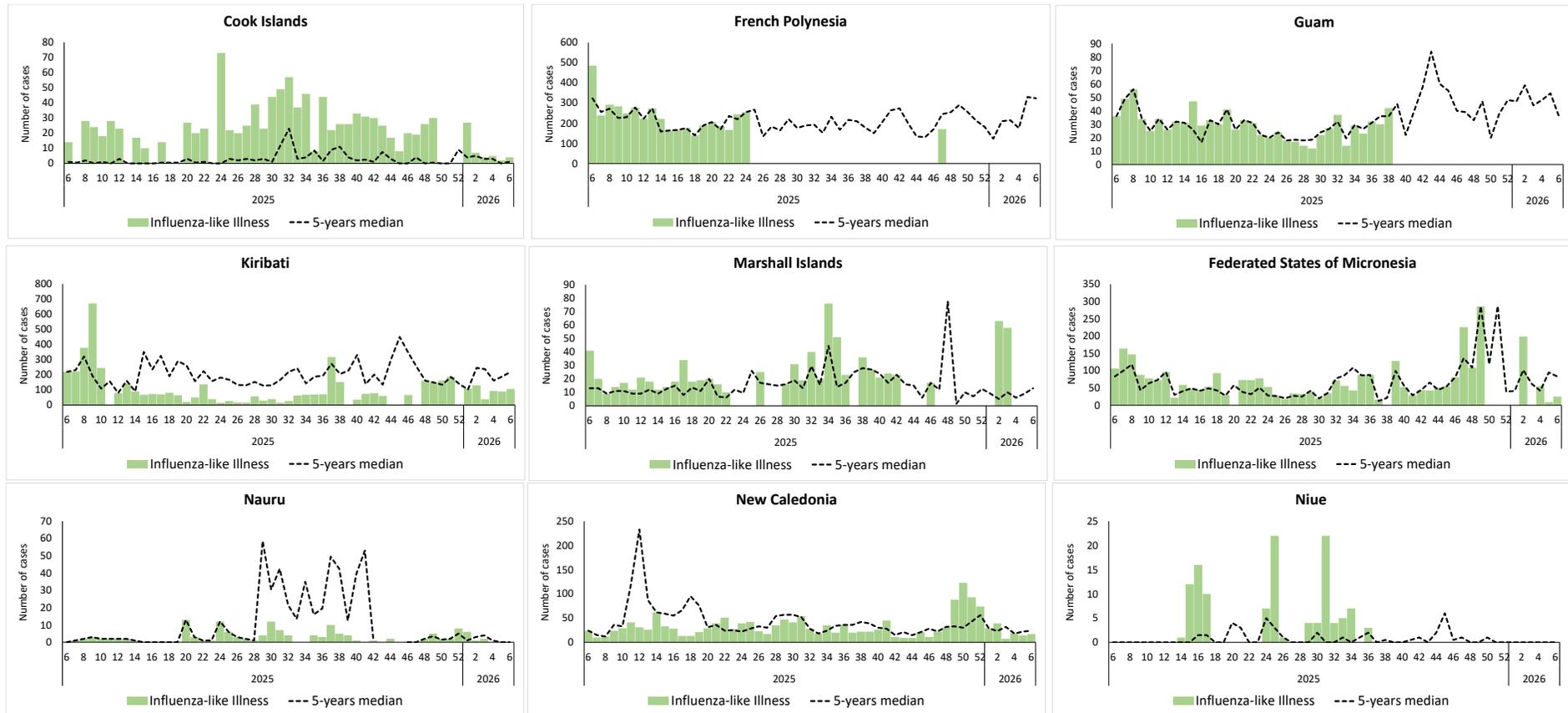


Figure 9a: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 6, 2025 to week 6, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

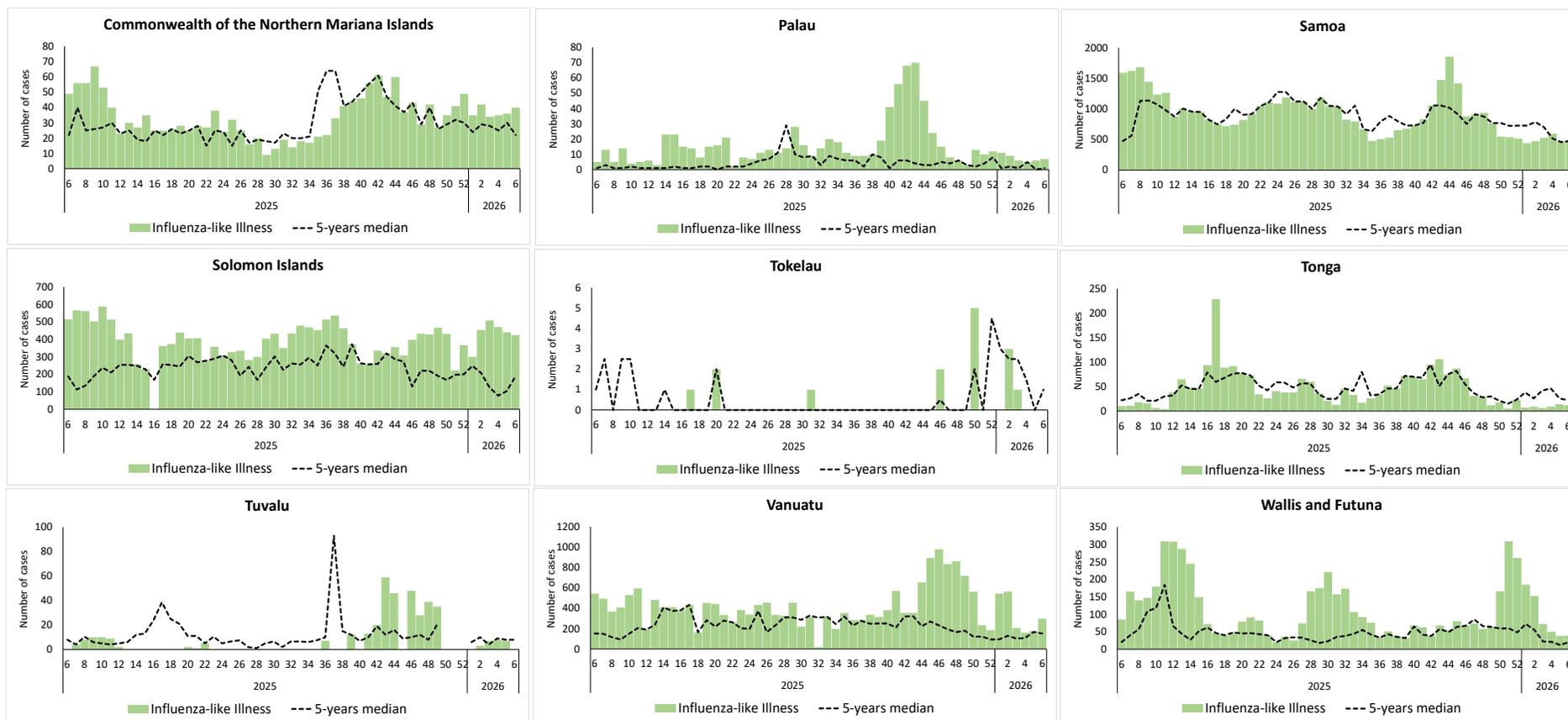


Figure 9b: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 6, 2025 to week 6, 2026 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

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

As of 24 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 33.33%, XFG at 29.49%, JN.1 at 12.82%, B.1.1.529 at 11.54%, KP.3.1.1 at 11.54%, and remaining variants collectively at 1.28% (Figure 10). Contribution of SARS-CoV-2 sequences to GISAID for regional analysis is indicated in Table 1.

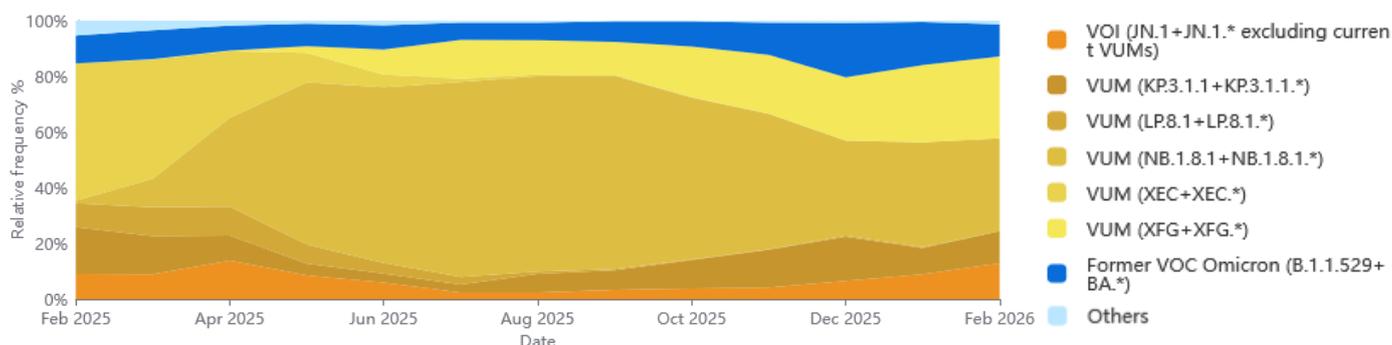


Figure 10: Relative frequency (%) of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region, 2025-2026

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	2 373	1 390	311	Feb-26
Brunei Darussalam	11	0	0	Sep-25
Cambodia	19	5	0	Oct-25
China	2 221	370	42	Jan-26
China, Hong Kong SAR	153	78	21	Feb-26
Guam	26	0	0	Aug-25
Indonesia	34	15	0	Nov-25
Japan	1 578	377	39	Feb-26
Lao PDR	43	0	0	Sep-25
Malaysia	217	15	0	Dec-25
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1	0	0	Jul-25
Mongolia	3	2	0	Oct-25
New Caledonia	8	0	0	Sep-25
New Zealand	867	314	180	Feb-26
Philippines	2	0	0	Jul-25
Republic of Korea	1 863	395	36	Jan-26
Singapore	1 007	172	97	Feb-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 24 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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