

Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 43
(Up to 26 October 2025)



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	12

Regional situation at a glance

- At the regional level, influenza positivity has increased gradually in recent weeks (Figure 1). As data submission may not be completed for the most recent week, current trends should be interpreted with caution.
- SARS-CoV-2 positivity has declined since May 2025, with a slight increase in the recent weeks. However, SARS-COV-2 remains low in most countries (Figure 1).
- In several countries, including Japan and the Republic of Korea, the onset of the typical seasonal influenza activity period appears earlier than in previous years.
- Multiple media sources¹ have reported increased respiratory activity in several of these countries, consistent with the expected seasonal circulation of respiratory pathogens, albeit earlier than usual, including influenza viruses, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and other common respiratory viruses.
- While there are also media reports² of increased hospitalisations, these are proportionate to the overall rise in respiratory infections, with no evidence of increased severity.
- The predominant circulating subtype is influenza A(H3) (Figure 2), marking a shift from A(H1N1)pdm09, which predominated during the previous winter season.

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-03367-z>; <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2124468/increase-in-influenza-like-cases-not-new-expert>; <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/flu-influenza-early-rise-cases-5417496>

² <https://www.fijivillage.com/news/Rising-cases-of-influenza-reported-across-Fiji-f845rx/>;
https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/10/24/2482183/private-hospitals-report-spike-flu-patients?utm_source=chatgpt.com

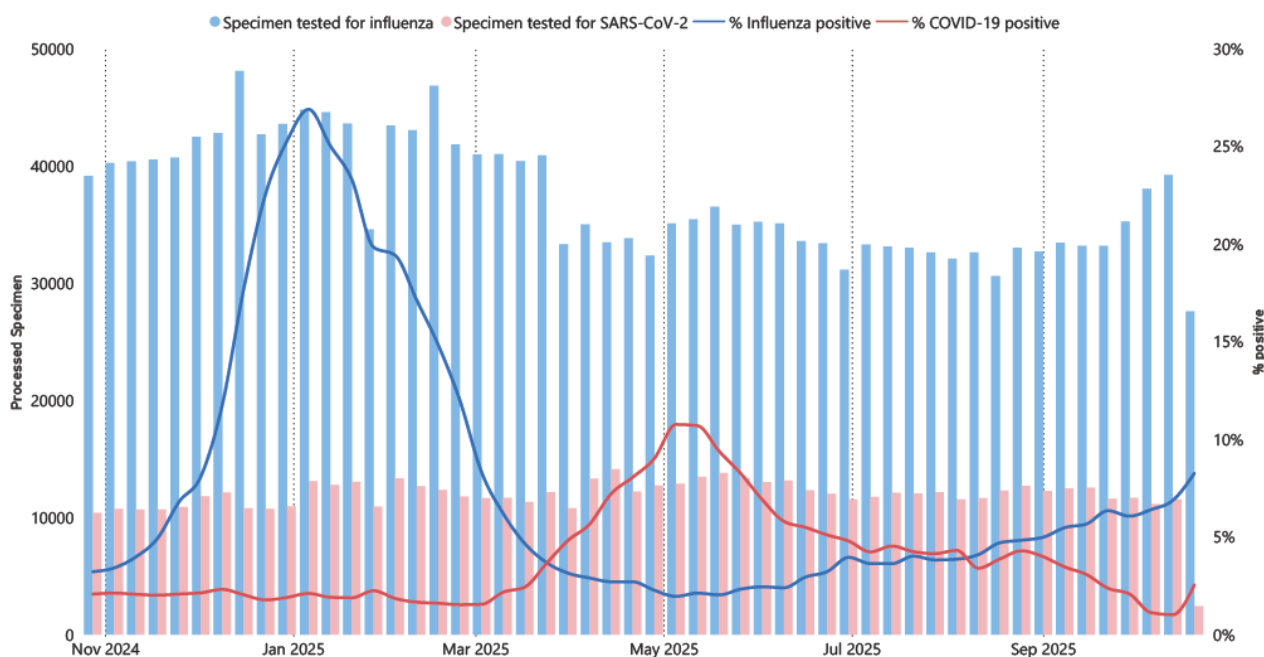


Figure 1: Number of sentinel surveillance specimens tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and positivity rates as reported to RespiMart from countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, from 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025 (Source: [GISRS surveillance data reported to RespiMart](#))

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

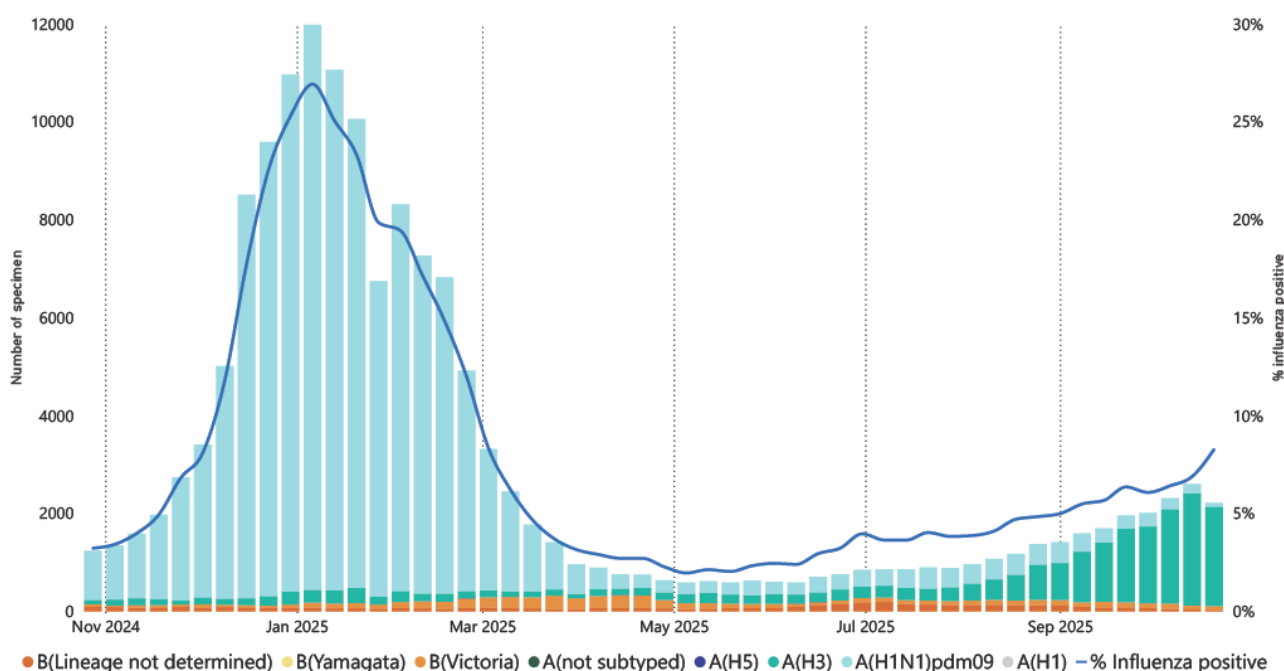


Figure 2. Influenza virus detections by subtype in the Western Pacific Region, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025 (Source: [Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information](#))

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 zone³. Typically, all sentinel surveillance specimens are tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2. However, in selected countries (China, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia) specimens are only tested for influenza. Additionally, Pacific Island Countries 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

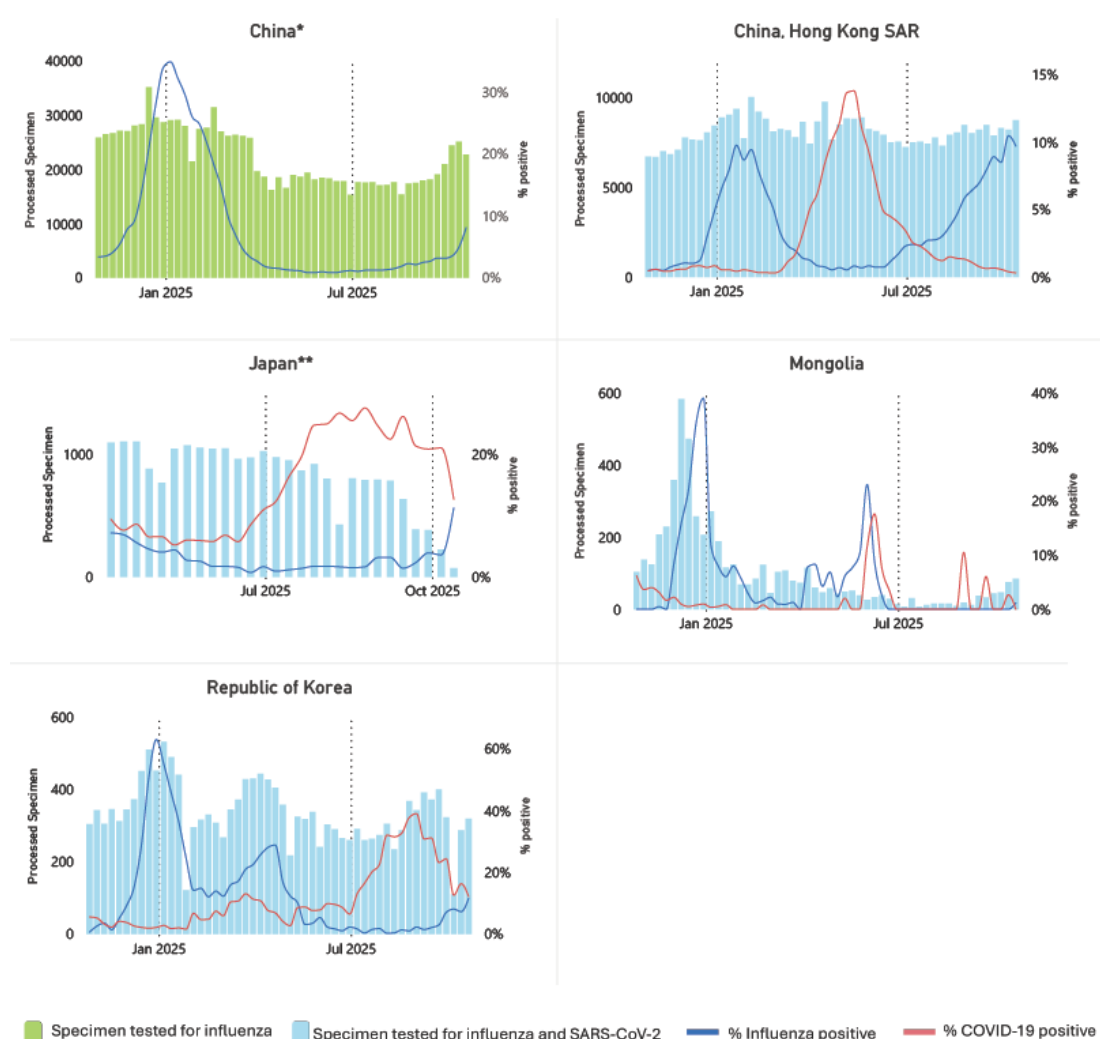


Figure 3: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

* 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.

³ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/influenza-updates/2025_09_24_influenza-transmission-zones.pdf?sfvrsn=22361408_3&download=true

Influenza activity is increasing in all countries in the Eastern Asia transmission zone (Figure 3), except Mongolia who have not reported any positive specimens from 23 June to 19 October 2025. Positivity ranged from 3% to 12% in the most recent week. SARS-CoV-2 positivity has been declining in China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan and Republic of Korea over the past few weeks. The predominant circulating subtype is influenza A(H3) in this transmission zone (Figure 4).

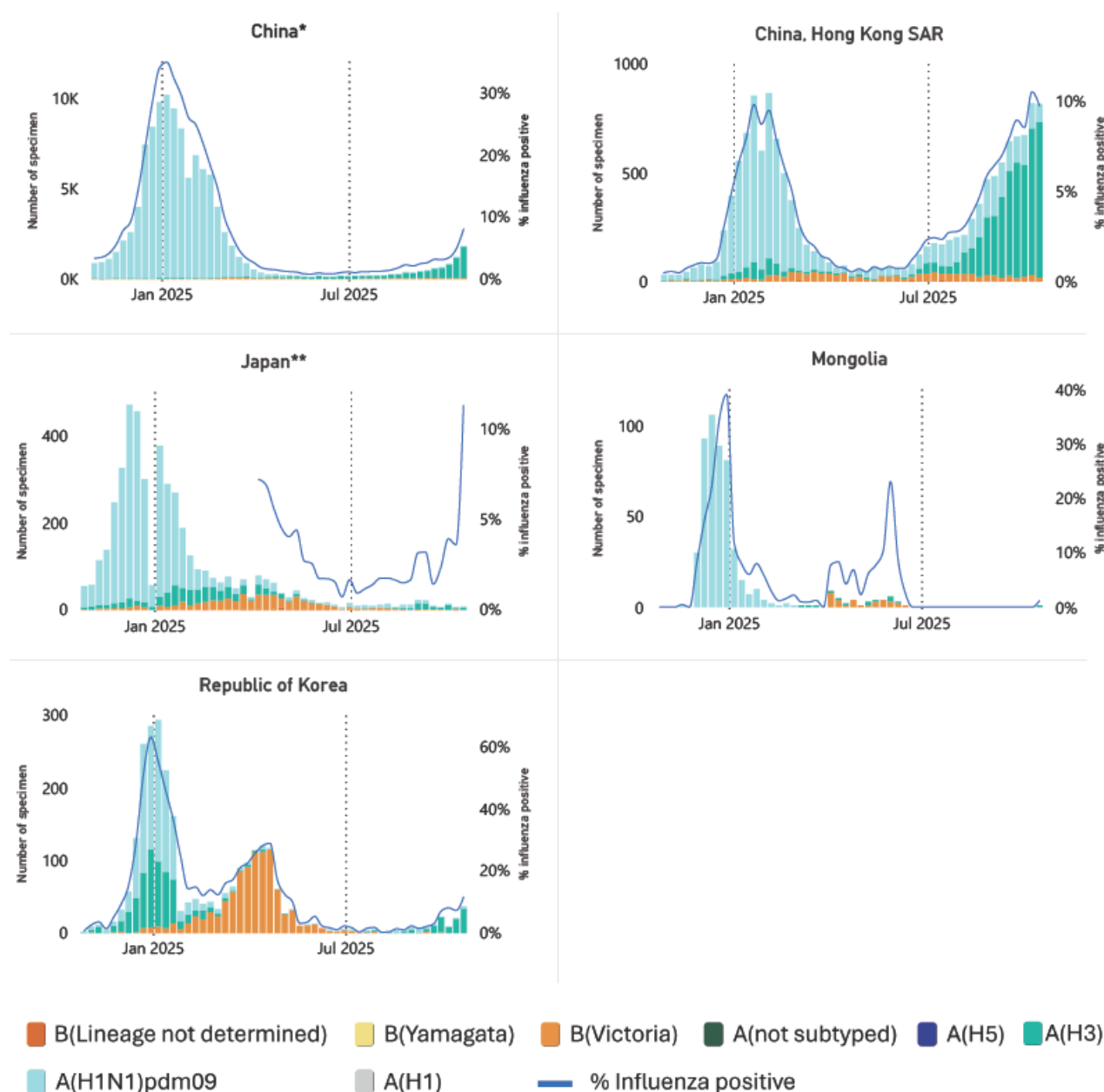


Figure 4: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

* 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 is increasing in all countries in the South East Asia transmission zone except for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia (Figure 5). Positivity ranged from around 17% to 55% in the most recent week. SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains low and stable in this transmission zone. The predominant circulating subtype is influenza A(H3) in this transmission zone (Figure 6). In recent weeks, the influenza subtype in the Philippines has shifted from influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 to influenza A(H3).



Figure 5: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

* Brunei Darussalam only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.

** Malaysia only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.

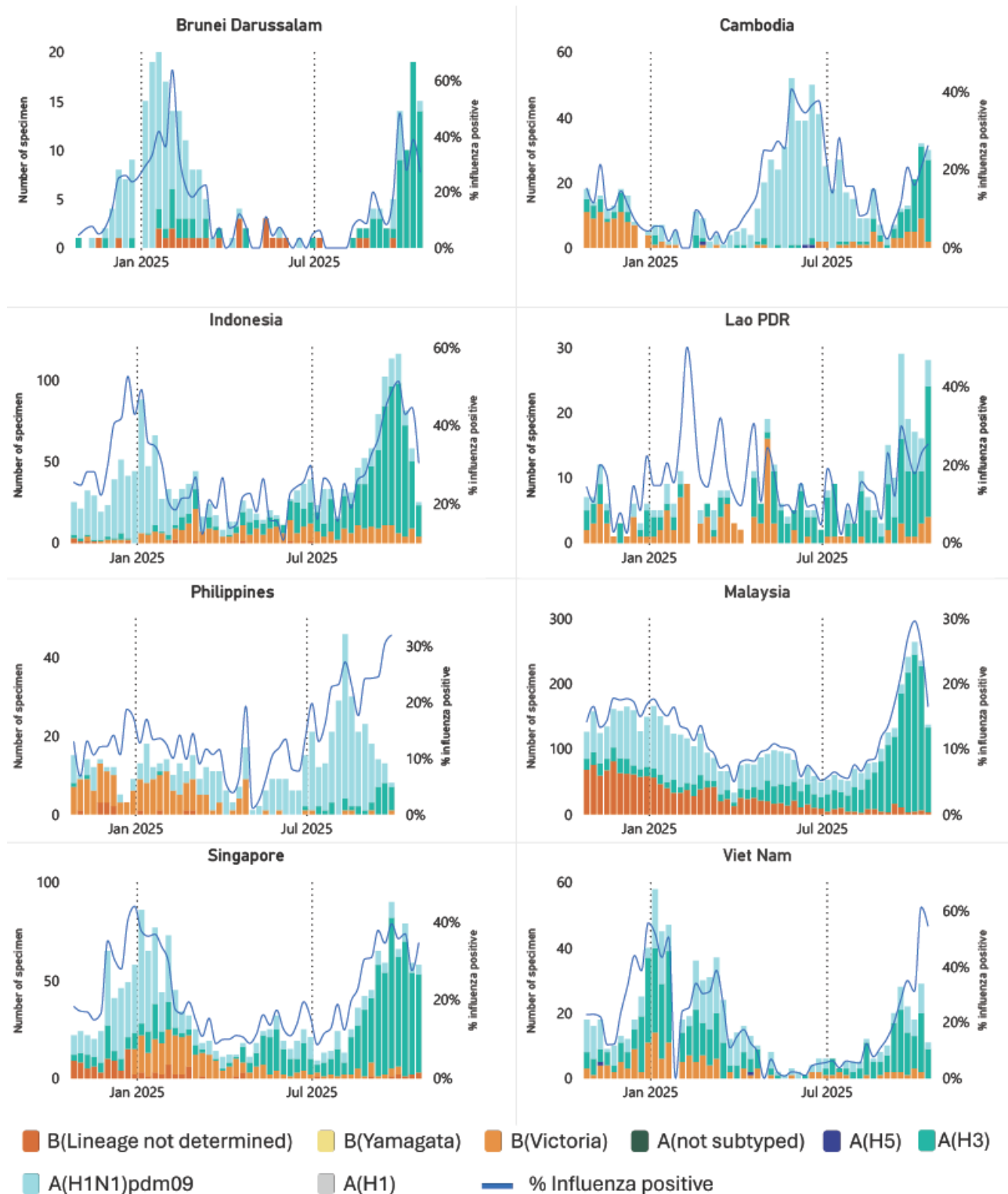


Figure 6: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

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

Influenza activity is declining in Australia as expected; however, activity in New Zealand is ongoing and remains high (34% positivity in the most recent week) (Figure 7). In Fiji, the influenza activity is increasing, however, the sample size is small and trends should be interpreted with caution. The predominant circulating subtype is influenza A(H3) in this transmission zone (Figure 8). However, Fiji and New Caledonia are detecting influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

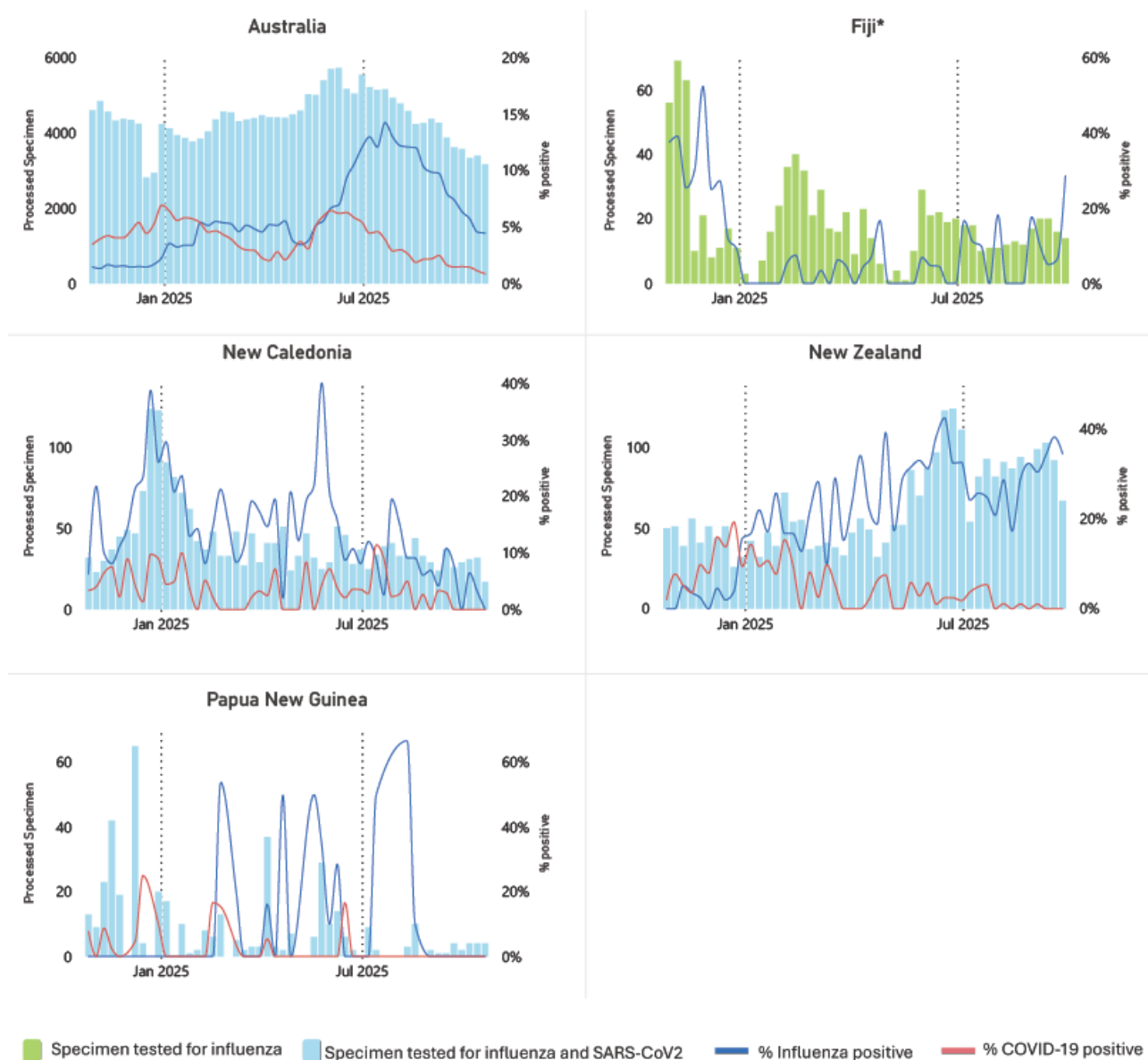


Figure 7: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

* Fiji only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.

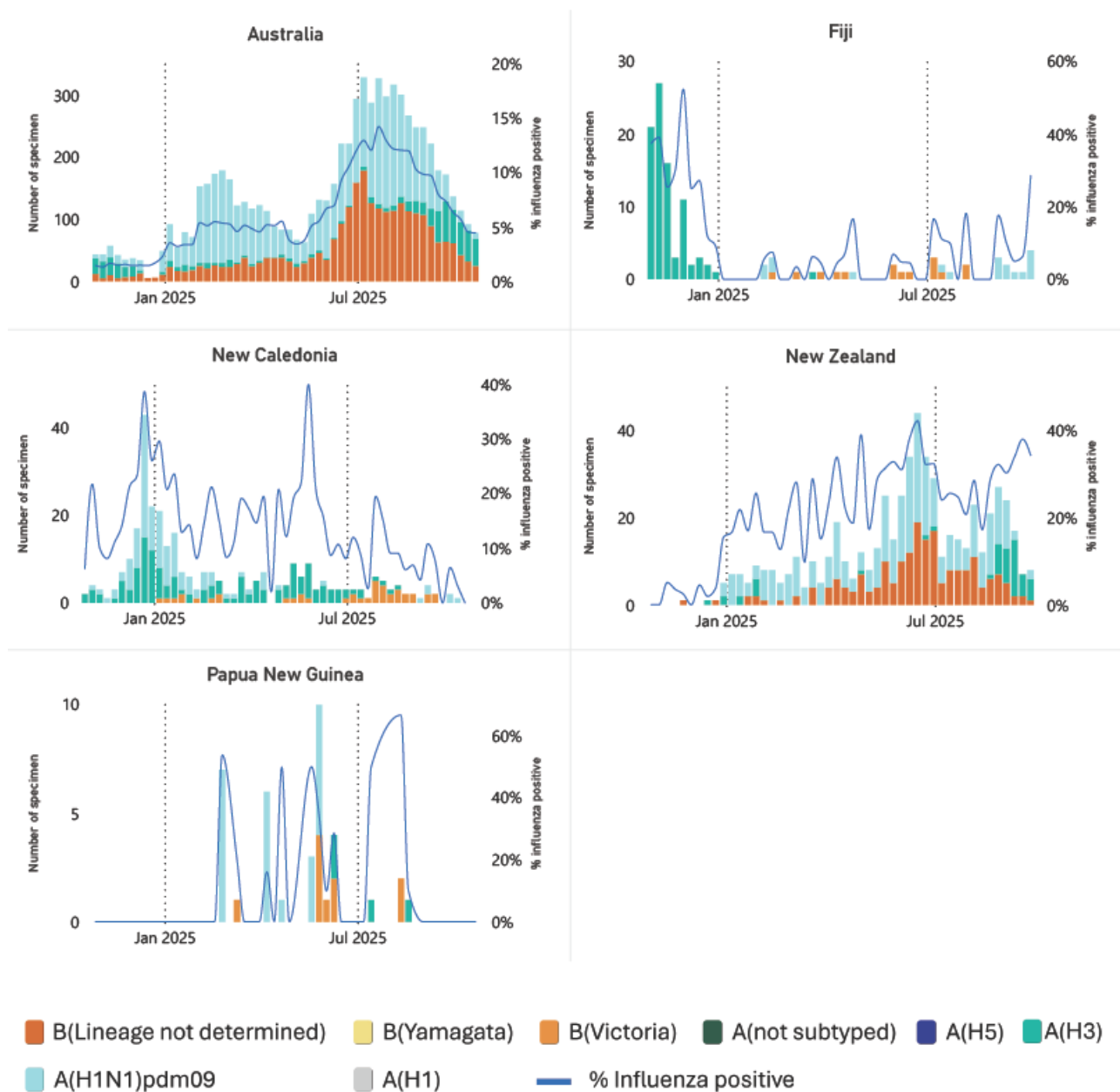
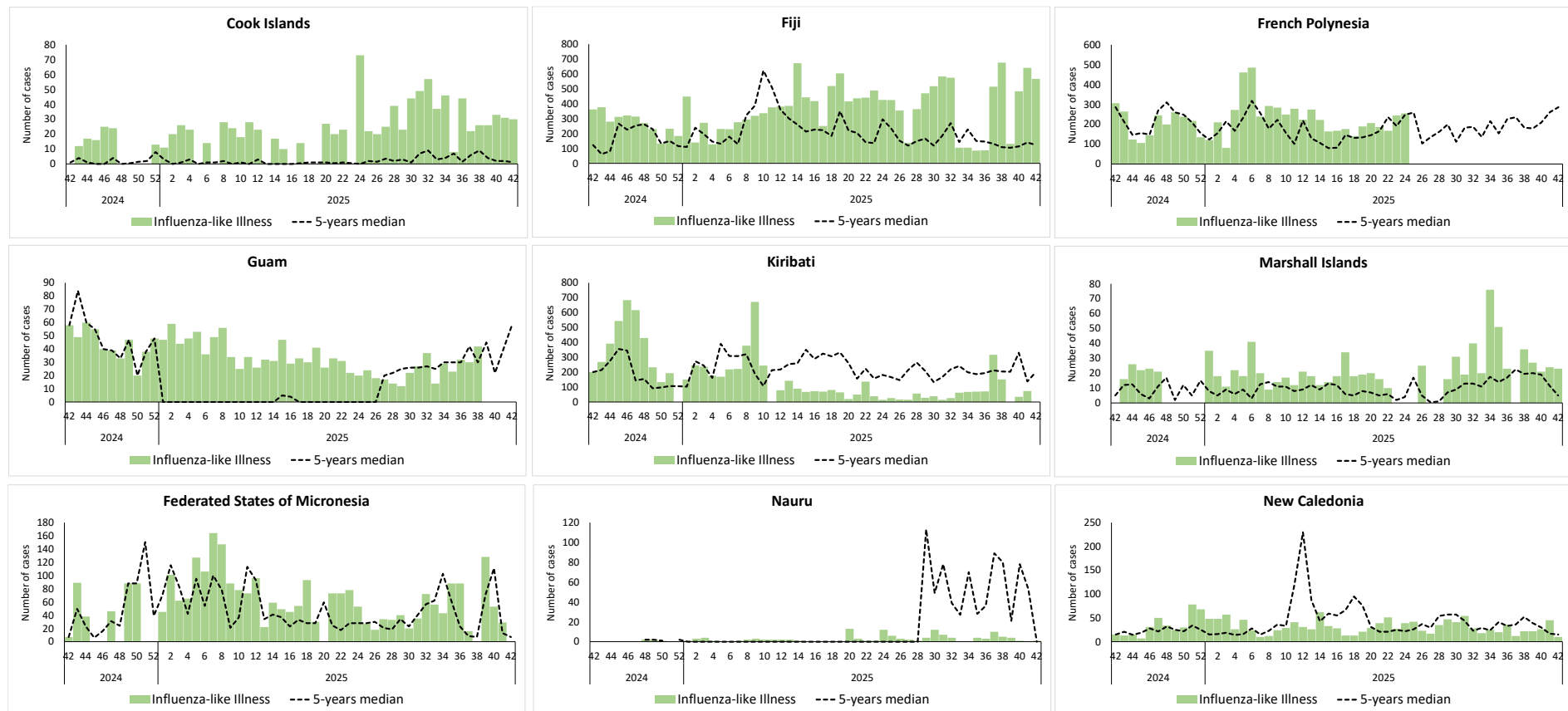


Figure 8: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 28 October 2024 to 26 October 2025

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

The Pacific Island countries and areas (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 42 has been received from PSSS and is presented below. In week 42, 11 of the 21 PICs reported ILI surveillance data to RespiMart (Figure 9). American Samoa and Pitcairn Island did not report. An increase in the ILI trend was observed in Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of), Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu during this reporting period.



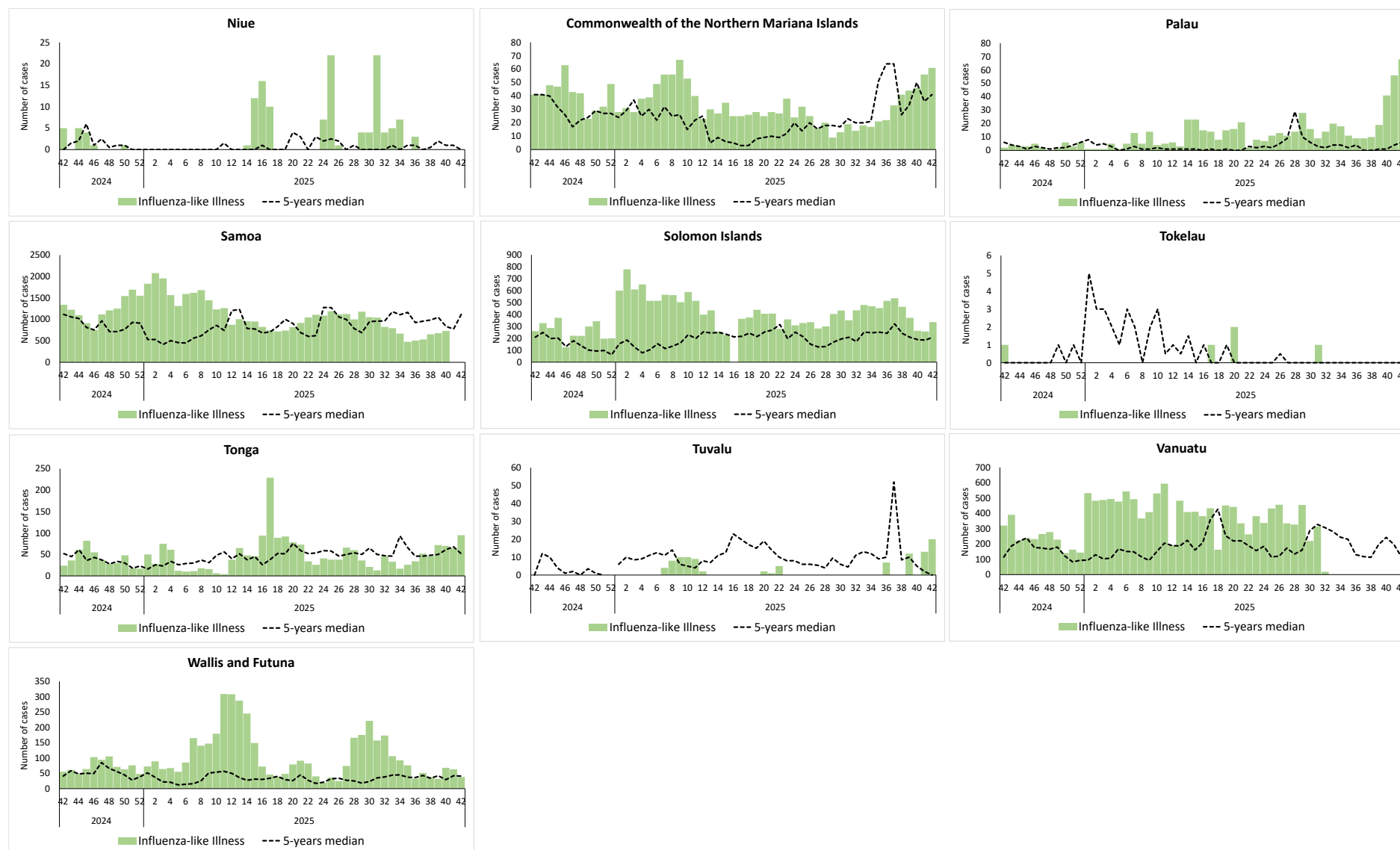


Figure 9: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 42, 2024 to week 42, 2025 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

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

As of 20 October 2025, relative frequency of circulating SARS COV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region is as follows: NB.1.8.1 at 43.1%, B.1.1.529 at 31.2% and KP.3.1.1 at 20.1%, (Figure 10). All circulating variants are derived from Omicron. The country- and area-specific data are available below for certain countries and areas where the information is routinely updated (Table 1).

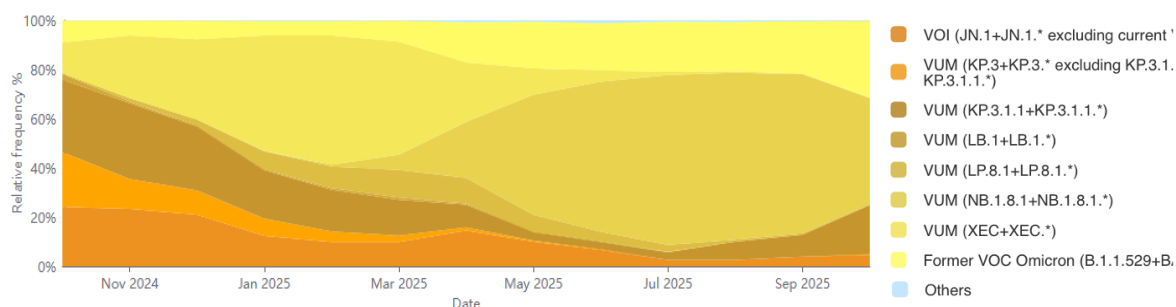


Figure 10: Relative frequency (%) of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region, 2024-2025

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	Last submission
American Samoa	0	Jan-25
Australia	2 486	Oct-25
Brunei Darussalam	28	Jul-25
Cambodia	142	Sep-25
China	3 018	Oct-25
China, Hong Kong SAR	227	Oct-25
Guam	20	Aug-25
Indonesia	21	Aug-25
Japan	547	Oct-25
Lao PDR	45	Aug-25
Malaysia	438	Sep-25
Marshall Islands	0	Dec-23
Micronesia (Federation of)	0	Jul-25
Mongolia	9	Jun-25
New Caledonia	13	Sep-25
New Zealand	735	Oct-25
Northern Mariana Islands	0	Mar-24
Palau	3	Jun-25
Papua New Guinea	0	Dec-22
Philippines	27	Jul-25
Republic of Korea	697	Oct-25
Singapore	2 469	Oct-25
Solomon Islands	0	Nov-22
Tonga	0	Feb-23
Viet Nam	67	Jun-25

* All data presented are from: [GSAID 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_ARI/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 \(thuvienphapluat.vn\)](#)