Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 45 (Up to 9 November 2025)

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

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Feedback on WPRO Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Bulletin

Contents

Regional situation at a glance*

- Influenza positivity has continued to increase in the region in recent weeks (Figure 1).
- SARS-CoV-2 positivity, despite its slow decline since May 2025, has begun to increase in recent weeks (Figure 1).
- The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza A(H3N2) (Figure 2), marking a shift from A(H1N1)pdm09, which predominated during the 2024-2025 winter season.
- Recent genetic data[1] has highlighted drift of the A(H3N2) HA gene away from previously circulating J.2 strains. Currently, J.2 and subclades of J.2, in particular, J.2.4 and K, predominate and globally account for 83% of sequences deposited to databases. In the Western Pacific Region, several countries and areas have detected these strains (J.2, J.2.4, and K) along with J.2.1, J.2.2, and J.3.
- Compared with influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) typically causes more severe illness, especially among older adults.[2] However, current evidence does not seem to associate A(H3N2) subclade K with increased disease severity or higher rates of hospitalisation.

[1] Nextstrain: real-time tracking of influenza A/H3N2 evolution
[2] Everything you need to know about 'subclade K' flu - and vaccine protection against it

- WHO continues to advocate for uptake of seasonal influenza vaccination for northern hemisphere populations.

*As data submission for the most recent week has not been received from all countries the current trends should be interpreted with caution.

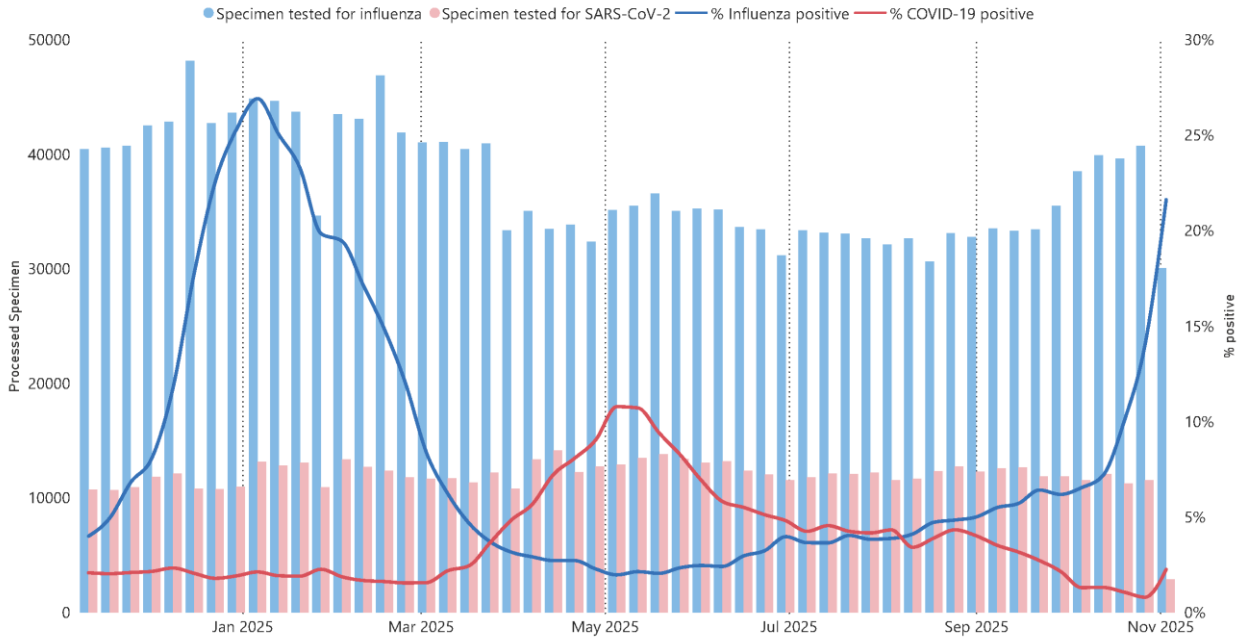

Figure 1: Number of sentinel surveillance specimens tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and positivity rates as reported to RespiMart from countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, from 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025 (Source: GISRS surveillance data reported to RespiMart)

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.

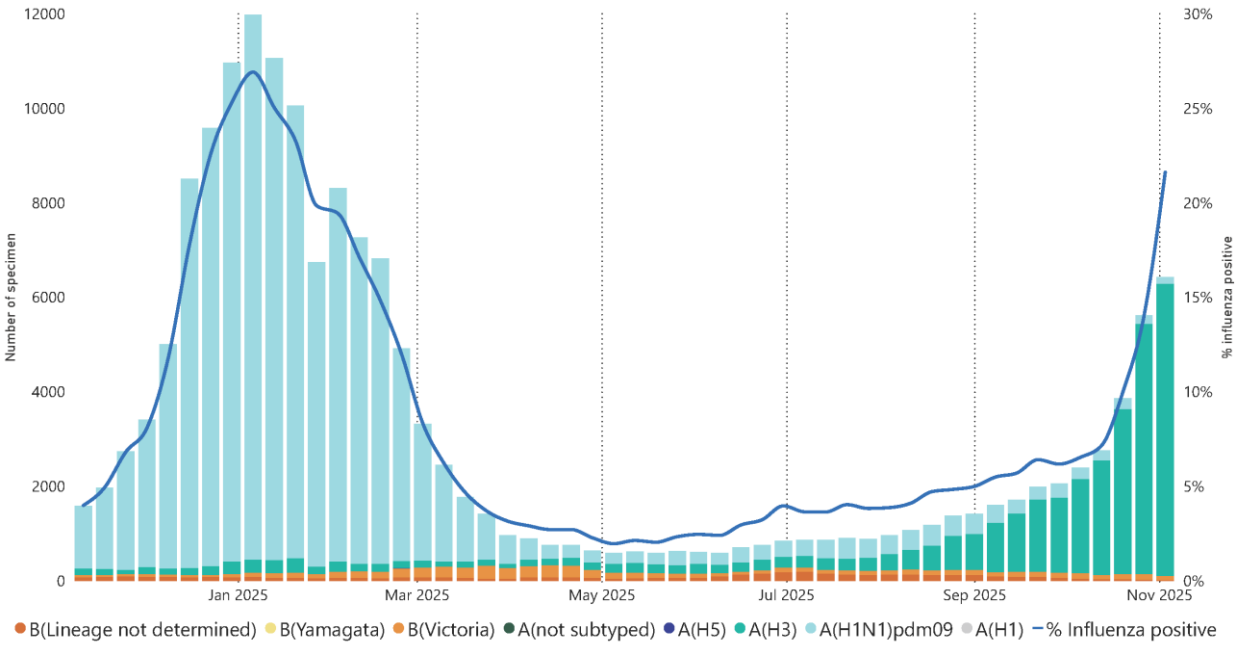

Figure 2. Influenza virus detections by subtype in the Western Pacific Region, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025 (Source: Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information)

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 zone[3]. Typically, all sentinel surveillance specimens are tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2. However, in selected countries (China, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia) sentinel surveillance 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

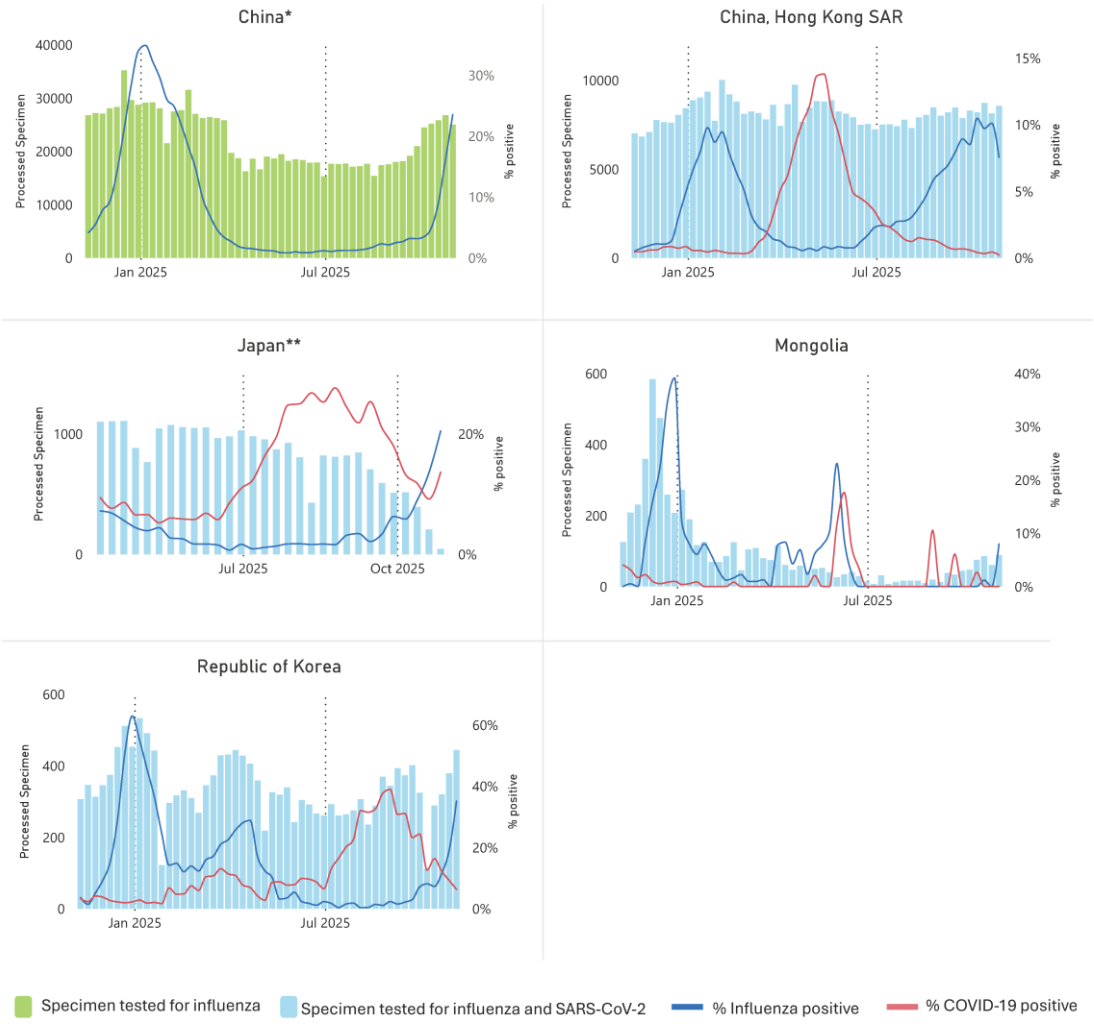

Figure 3: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

** 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] Influenza transmission zones

Influenza activity is increasing in all countries in the Eastern Asia transmission zone (Figure 3), with the exception of China, Hong Kong SAR where a decrease was observed in the recent week. In this transmission zone, influenza positivity ranged from arounds 8% (Mongolia and China, Hong Kong SAR) to 35% (Republic of Korea) in the most recent week. SARS-CoV-2 positivity has been declining in the Republic of Korea and increasing in Japan in the recent week. The predominant circulating influenza subtype, consistent with the global picture, is influenza A(H3N2) in this transmission zone (Figure 4).

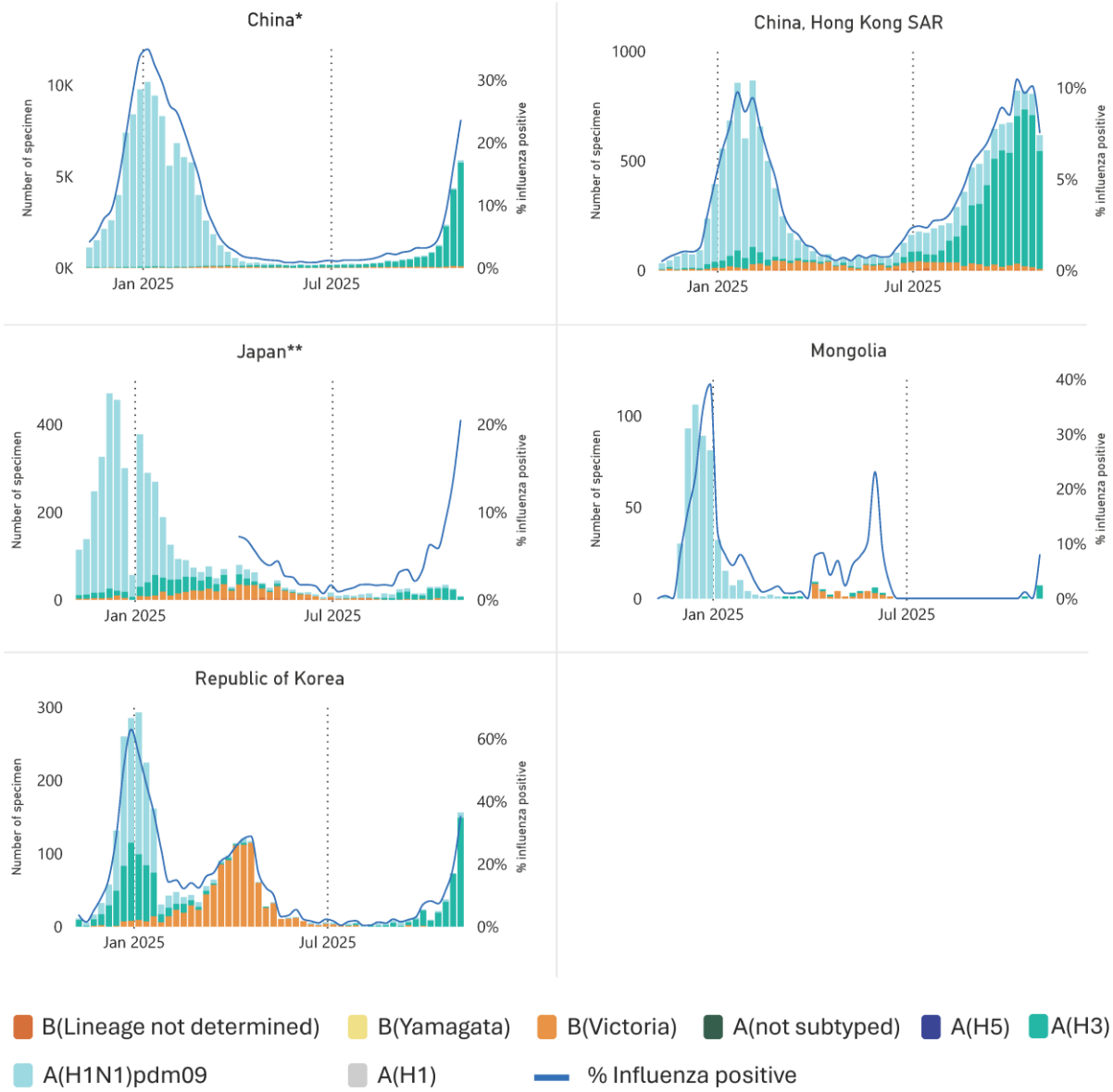

Figure 4: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

** 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 increased in all countries in the South-East Asia transmission zone, excepting Philippines and Malaysia (Figure 5) in the past week. Influenza positivity ranged from around 10% (Philippines) to 56% (Viet Nam) in the most recent week. SARS-CoV-2 positivity remains low and stable in this transmission zone (Figure 5). The predominant circulating subtype is influenza A(H3N2) in this transmission zone (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

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

*** Malaysia only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.*

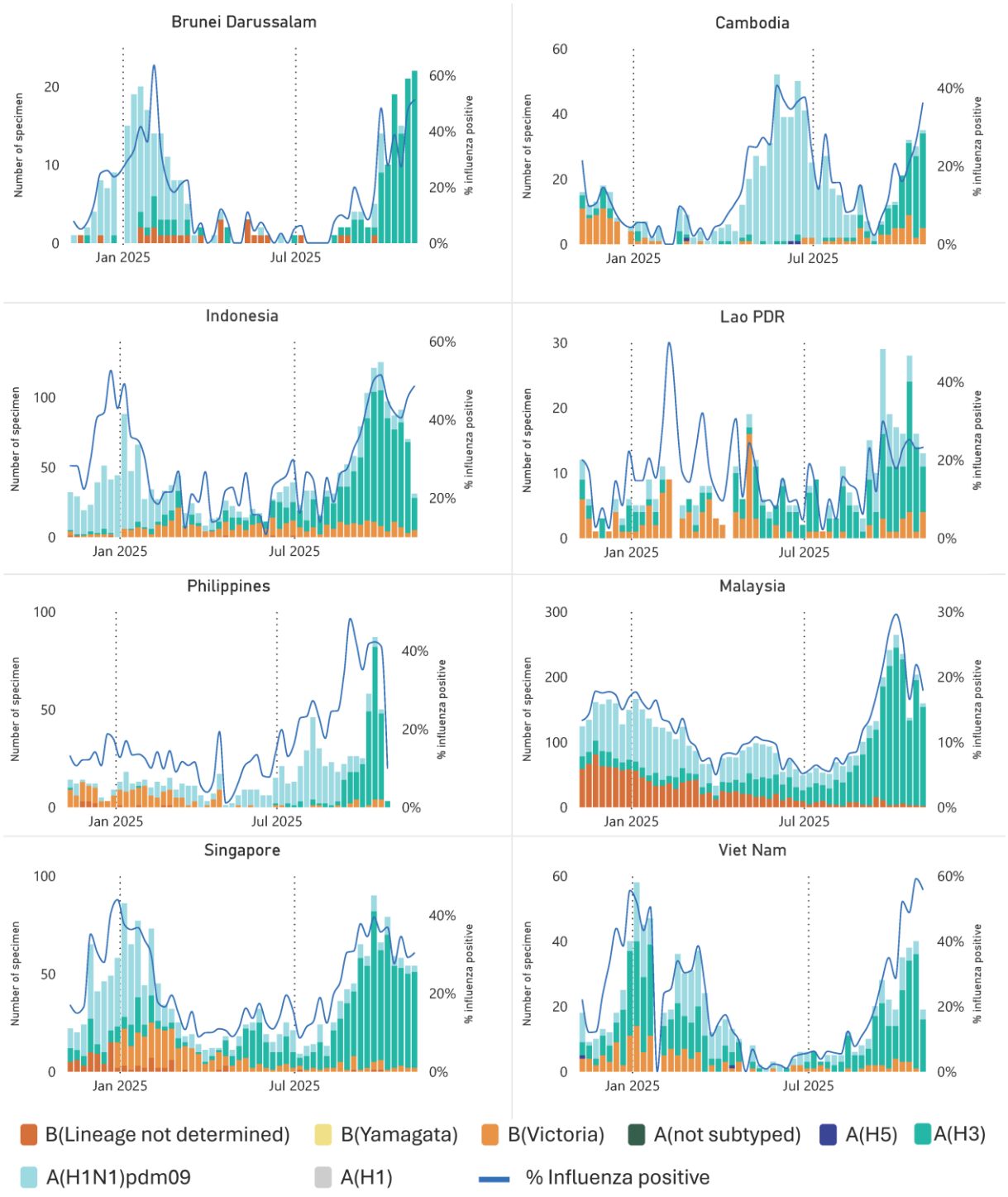

Figure 6: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

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

Influenza activity has declined in Australia since August as expected, while activity in New Zealand remains high (34% positivity in the most recent week) for this time of the year. In Fiji, influenza activity has rapidly increased over the past four weeks with 64% positivity reported in the past week. (Figure 7). The predominant circulating influenza subtype is influenza A(H3N2) in this transmission zone (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Number of specimens processed and % of specimens positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

** Fiji only tests sentinel specimens for influenza.*

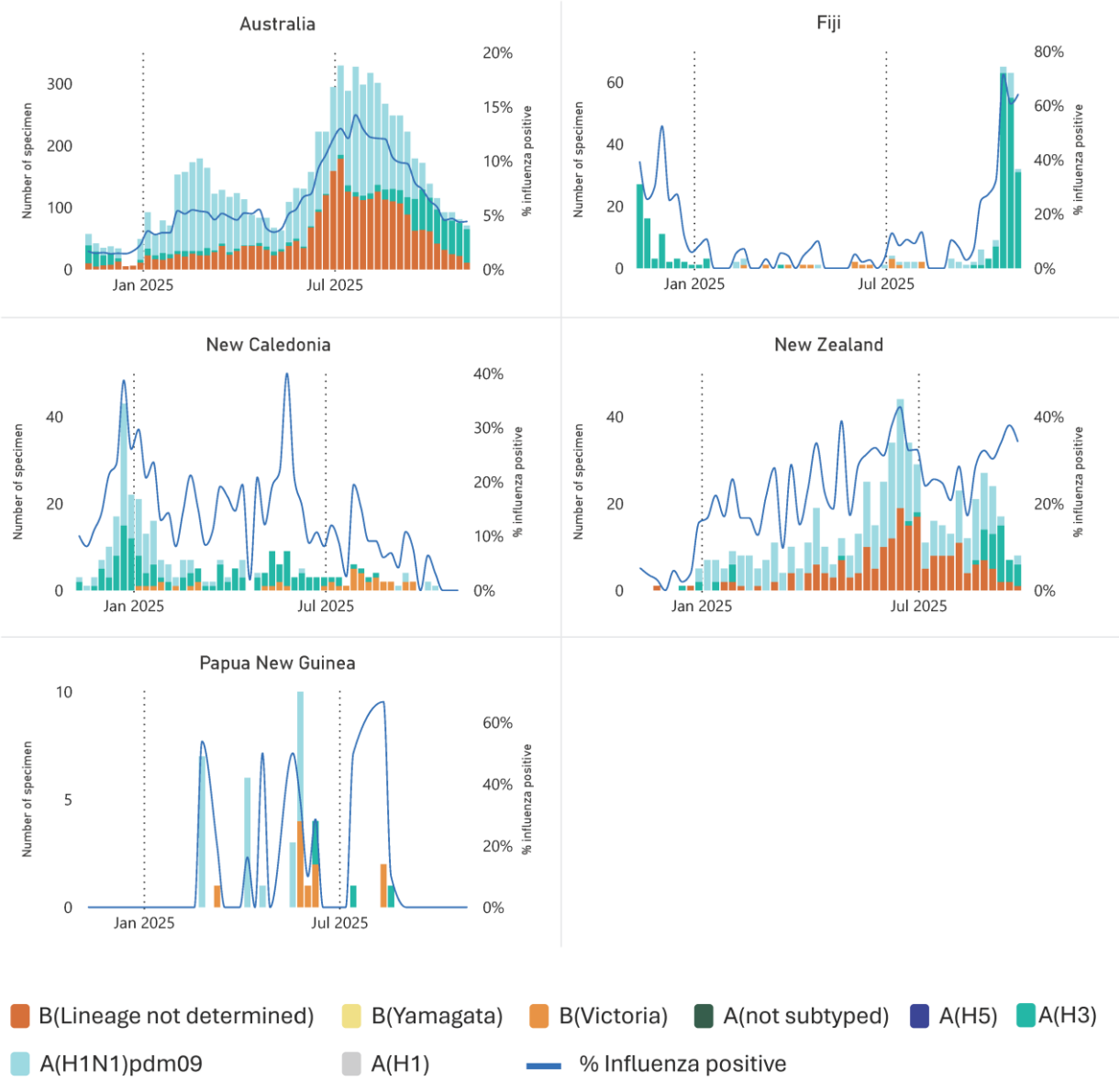

Figure 8: Influenza virus detections by subtype by week, 11 November 2024 to 9 November 2025

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 44 has been received from PSSS and is presented below. In week 44, 14 of the 21 PICs reported ILI surveillance data to RespiMart (Figure 9). American Samoa and Pitcairn Islands did not report. An increase in the ILI trend was observed in Fiji, Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of), and Samoa during this reporting period.

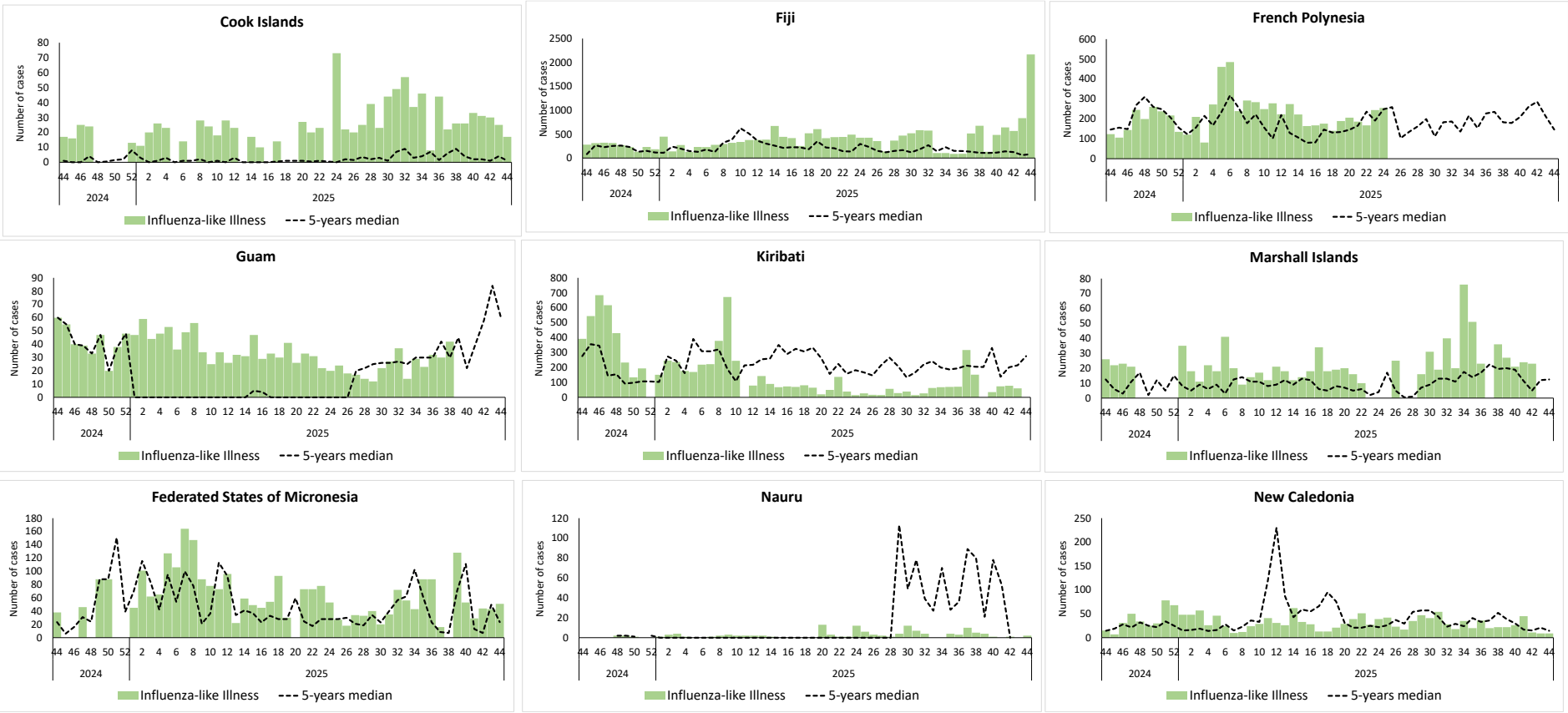

Figure 9: Reported cases of influenza-like illness from week 44, 2024 to week 44, 2025 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

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

As of 17 November 2025, relative frequency of circulating SARS COV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region, based on sequences submitted to GISAID by 7 countries (Table 1), is as follows: NB.1.8.1 at 25.0%, B.1.1.529 at 20.0% and KP.3.1.1 at 10.0%, (Figure 10). All circulating variants are derived from Omicron. Contribution of SARS CoV-2 sequences to GISAID for regional analysis are indicated in (Table 1).

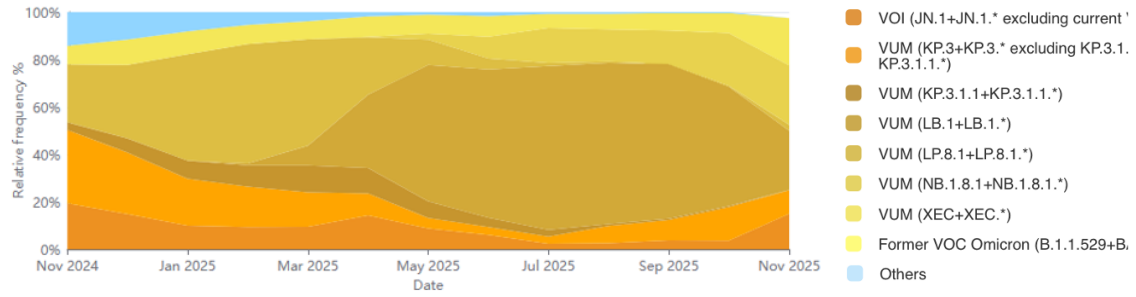

Figure 10: Relative frequency (%) of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region, 2024-2025
Note: Indonesia data is not included in this figure. (Source: GISAID hCoV-19 Variants Dashboard)

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	Total number of sequences submitted in quarter 4, 2025	Last submission
American Samoa	0	0	Jan-25
Australia	2 364	280	Nov-25
Brunei Darussalam	11	0	Sep-25
Cambodia	18	0	Sep-25
China	1 564	33	Oct-25
China, Hong Kong SAR	153	49	Nov-25
Guam	26	0	Aug-25
Indonesia	15	0	Aug-25
Japan	1 171	68	Nov-25
Lao PDR	21	0	Aug-25
Malaysia	197	0	Sep-25
Marshall Islands	0	0	Dec-23
Micronesia (Federation of)	1	0	Jul-25
Mongolia	0	0	Jun-25
New Caledonia	6	0	Sep-25
New Zealand	852	62	Oct-25
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	Mar-24
Palau	0	0	Jun-25
Papua New Guinea	0	0	Dec-22
Philippines	2	0	Jul-25
Republic of Korea	1 843	101	Oct-25
Singapore	1 006	85	Nov-25
Solomon Islands	0	0	Nov-22
Tonga	0	0	Feb-23
Viet Nam	0	0	Jun-25

** All data presented are from: GSAID SARS-COV-2 variants dashboard (as of 17 November 2025)*

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:

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