
Subject: Epidemiological Report for Respiratory Illnesses

Date: 31 January 2024

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the available epidemiological data on the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), as well as influenza and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) activity in Jersey.

The report includes information on COVID-19 PCR testing rates (Figure 1) and shows the volume of positive COVID-19 cases over the last 12 months (Figure 2). Please note that the de-escalation of elements of COVID-19 testing and reporting from the end of January 2023 have affected the COVID-19 surveillance data available, and information should be interpreted with this in mind.

The report also includes the volume of Influenza like-illness (Figure 3), number of positive Influenza cases (Flu A & B, Table 1), and number of positive RSV cases (Table 2) in Jersey to date this season, with comparisons to historic seasons.

Key Points

COVID-19

The number of PCR tests carried out in Jersey in the most recent week was 280 (Figure 1). Cases of confirmed COVID-19 have shown a slight decrease, with the number of monthly positive PCR test cases from 1st January 2024 to 31st January 2024 being 91 (Figure 2).

For comparison, the most recent data for England shows that there has been a decrease in overall COVID-19 case rates in some regions and age groups¹.

Influenza

Influenza activity in Jersey has increased slightly, however it has been within the normal activity levels for this time of year, with confirmed positive influenza A and B for this season to date being 147 (Table 1). Additionally, the number of monthly flu like-illness is currently around 450 which is within the normal activity levels for this time of year (Figure 3).

For comparison, the most recent data for England shows that there has been a slight increase in influenza activity however, it has been within the normal activity levels for this time of year¹.

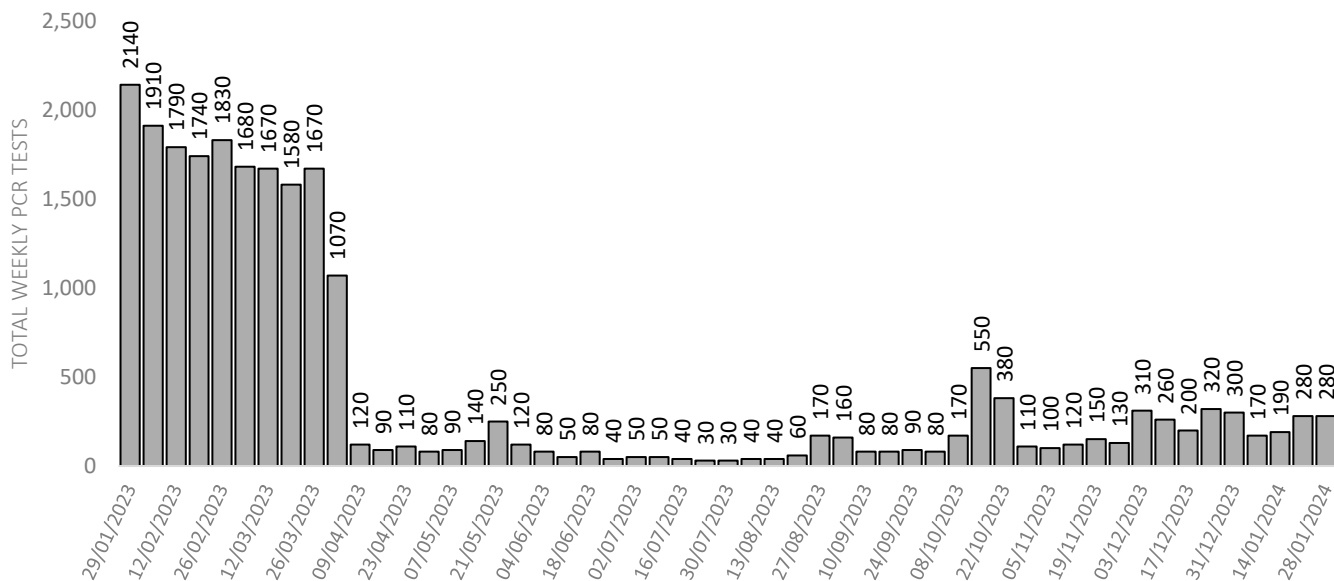
RSV

RSV continues to circulate in Jersey, with total confirmed positive RSV during this season to date being 240 (Table 2). This is similar to last year.

The most recent data for England shows that RSV activity has decreased¹, and that positivity remains highest in those aged under 5 years.

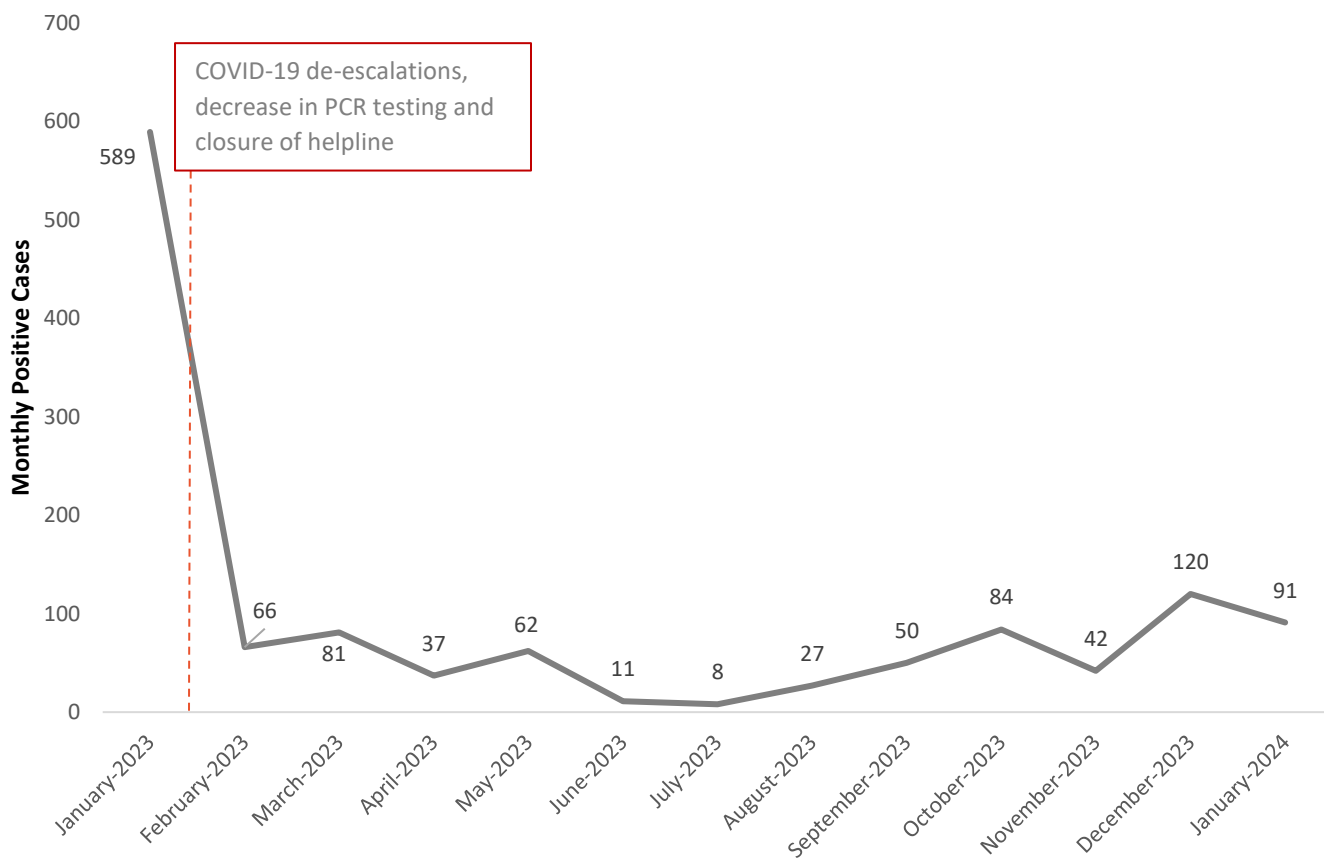
¹ [National Influenza and COVID-19 surveillance report](#)

Figure 1: Weekly PCR tests* in Jersey over the last 12-month period. Numbers rounded to the nearest 10



*PCR testing for the general population ceased at the end of January 2023. From 1st April, pre-admission screening for healthcare settings moved from PCR to LFT, and all other asymptomatic screening ceased. PCR (4 in 1) tests are now undertaken only when clinically required.

Figure 2: Confirmed positive COVID-19 cases by month

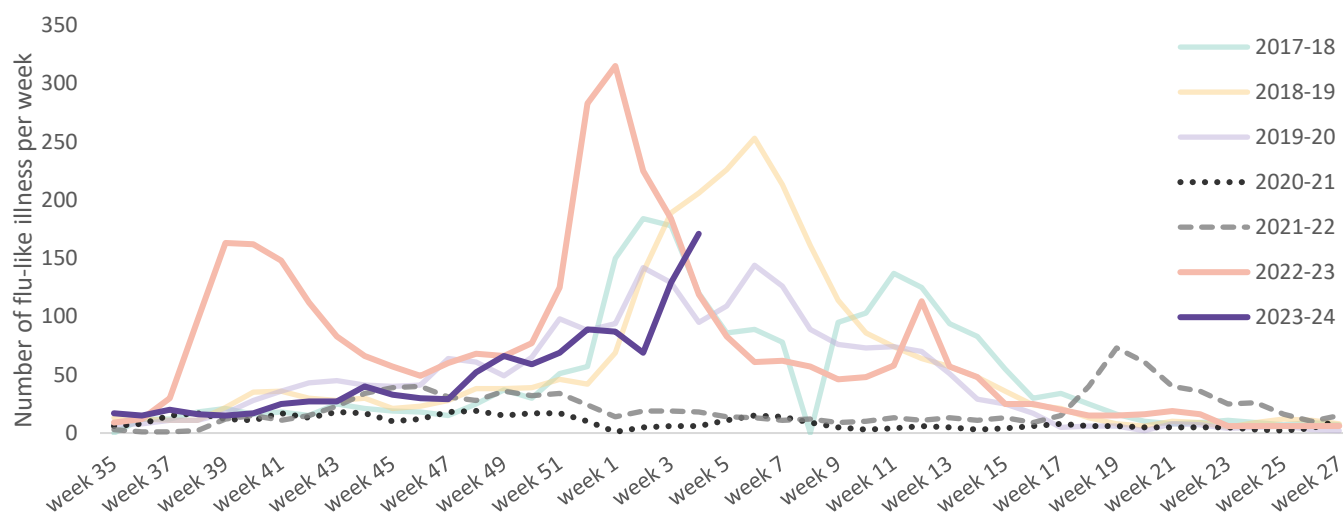


Numbers of 'flu-like' illnesses presenting to GPs

Figure 3 shows the numbers recorded per week as presenting to their GP with 'flu-like' symptoms over each flu season between the 2017-2018 winter and the 2023-2024 winter. The individual flu-season profiles vary, in terms of the peak number of cases seen, the timing of the increase and decrease in the number of cases, and shape of profile.

For further analysis of historic flu seasons please see the [Seasonal Influenza Report](#)

Figure 3: Weekly flu like-illness across influenza seasons, 2017-18 to 2023-24



Patients with confirmed Influenza and RSV

The cumulative number of confirmed positive cases of Flu A/B and for RSV for the season so far (i.e. up to week 04) are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Note that the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected influenza testing protocols, due to the need to clinically distinguish between the different respiratory illnesses. This means comparisons of years before and after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic should be done with caution. More information can be found in the [Seasonal Influenza Report](#).

Table 1: Cumulative positive influenza A & B for the season to date

Winter Season	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Cumulative number of positive Flu A & B to Week 04	115	42	48	0	14	565	147

Table 2: Cumulative positive RSV for the season to date

Winter Season	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Cumulative Number of RSV to Week 04	118	76	110	0	142	242	240