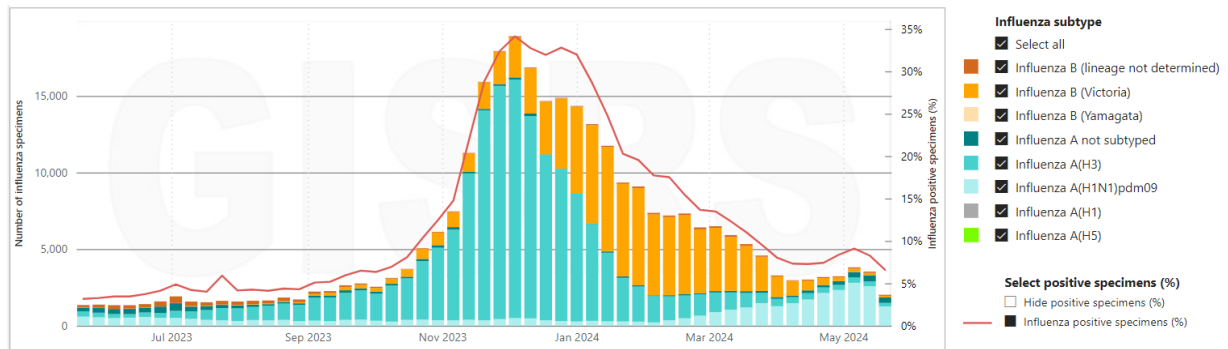


## Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 21 of 2024 are presented in Table 1 below. Influenza A and B are co-circulating, with Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 dominating in recent weeks (**Figure 1**). Caution should be taken when interpreting this data as there are reporting delays.

**Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1 to week 21, 2024**

Country (most recent week of report)	Total number of specimens processed	Total number of influenza-positive specimens
Australia (21 of 2024)	83 641	3 058
Brunei Darussalam (21 of 2024)	665	82
Cambodia (20 of 2024)	2 022	221
China (21 of 2024)	787 883	121 510
Fiji (19 of 2024)	650	46
Japan (21 of 2024)		2 673
Lao People's Democratic Republic (21 of 2024)	1 809	177
Malaysia (21 of 2024)	18 508	2 117
Mongolia (20 of 2024)	2 238	426
New Zealand (21 of 2024)	1 041	106
Papua New Guinea (20 of 2024)	178	24
Philippines (20 of 2024)	2 944	56
Republic of Korea (21 of 2024)	7 603	970
Singapore (21 of 2024)	6 082	1 451
Viet Nam (21 of 2024)	1 346	387
Grand Total	916610	133306



**Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 21, 2023 to week 21, 2024 (Source: [WHO FLUNET](#))**

## Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient indicator-based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included, and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted, and information is available.

The [WHO surveillance case definition](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization.

Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

## Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity are similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

### Outpatient ILI Surveillance

#### China (North)

During week 21 (20 to 26 May 2024), sentinel hospitals in the northern provinces reported ILI% of 3.9%, which is lower than the last week (4.0%), higher than the same week of 2021-2022 (2.9% and 1.7%), lower than the same week of 2023 (4.1%) (**Figure 2**).

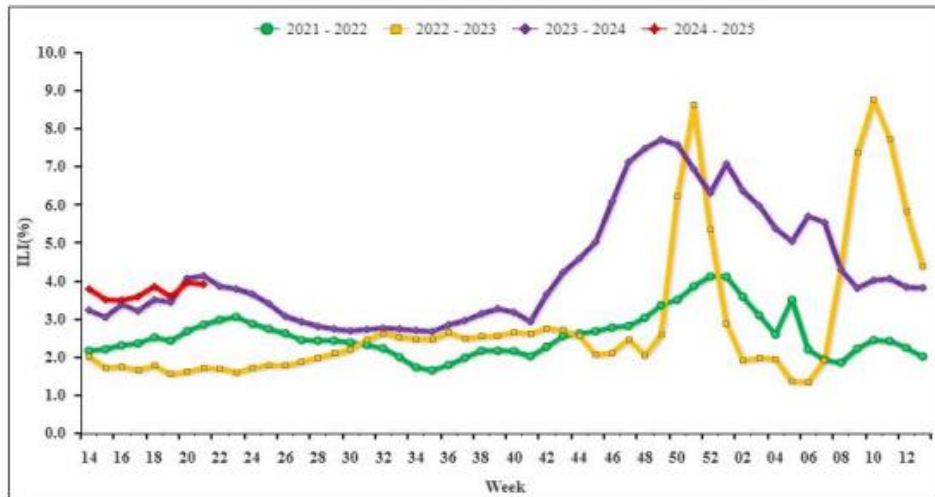
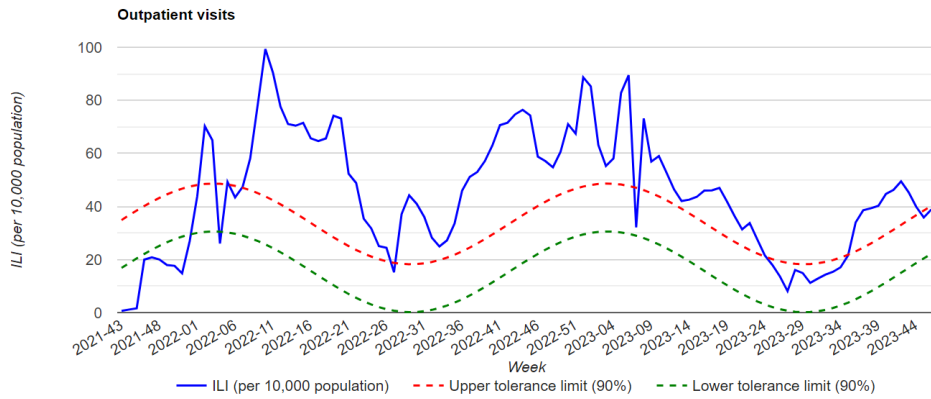


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in northern China, 2020-2024 (as of week 21)

(Source: Chinese National Influenza Center)

**Mongolia**

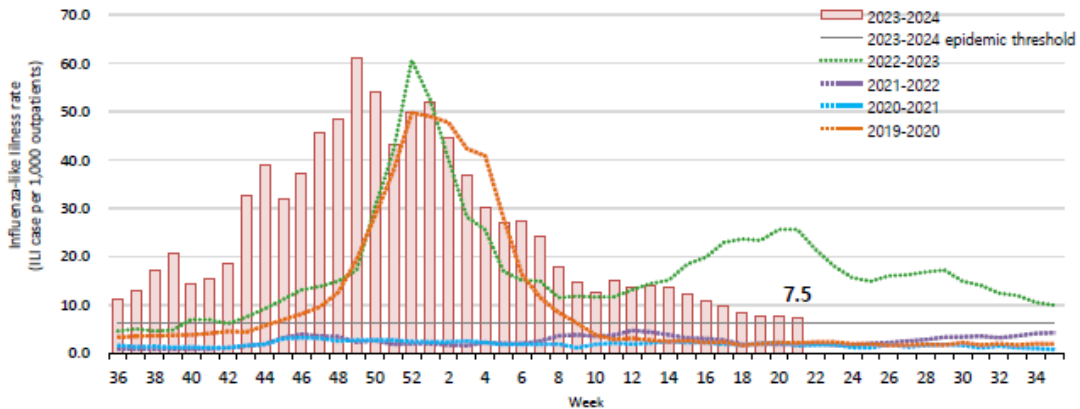
There was no update in this reporting period. During week 45 of 2023, the ILI activity in Mongolia increased to 38 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is above the upper tolerance limit (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people in Mongolia, 2021 (from week 16-49) -2023 (as of week 45)**  
(Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

**Republic of Korea**

In week 21 (19 to 25 May 2024), the overall weekly influenza-like illness (ILI) rate was 7.5 per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was lower than the rate recorded in the previous weeks (7.7 in week 20) (Figure 4).



**Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2019 (from week 36-52)-2024 (as of week 21)**  
(Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency).

### Sentinel influenza surveillance

#### Japan

In week 20 of 2024, the weekly number of cases reported by sentinel hospital sites in Japan continues to decrease since week 11. (Figure 5).

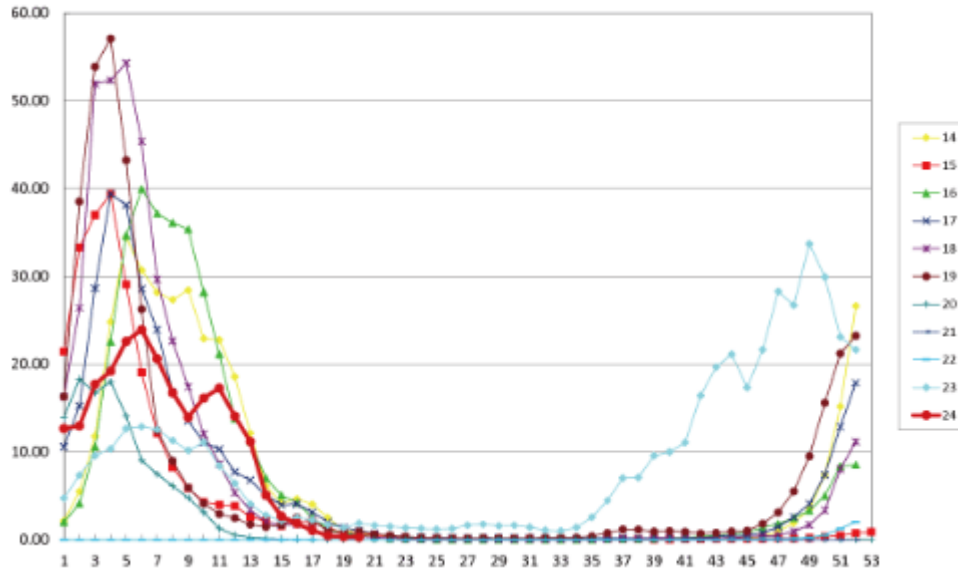


Figure 5: Weekly number of influenza cases reported per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2014-2024

(Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

### Countries/areas in the tropical zone

ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

#### Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance

In week 21, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 8.8 ILI cases per 1 000 consultations, which was lower than 10.9 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 44.8 ILI cases per 1 000 consultations, which was lower than 63.3 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

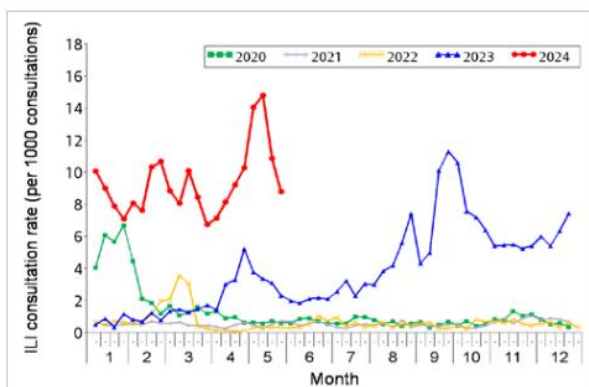


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024

(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

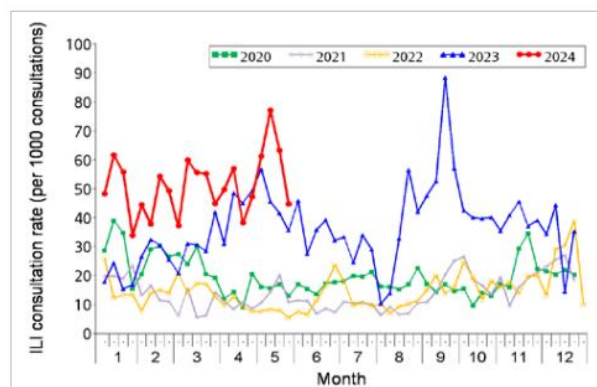


Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private medical practitioner clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024

(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**

During week 21, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI (ILI%) at national sentinel hospitals in southern provinces was 4.8%, lower than the last week (5.0%), higher than the same week in 2021 - 2022 (4.2% and 4.0%), lower than the same week of 2023 (6.6%) (Figure 8).

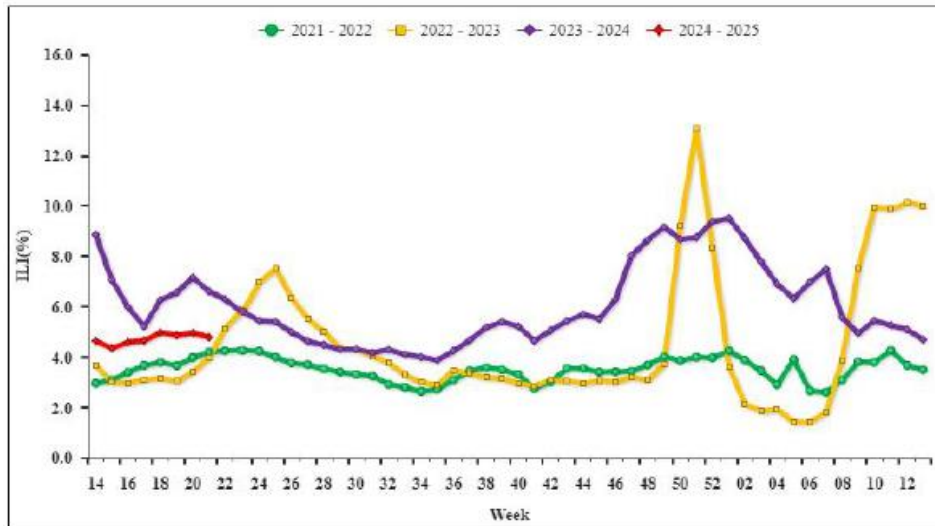


Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2020-2024 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

**Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance**

In week 20 (12 to 18 May 2024), the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI is 2 883 (over 5.5 working days) (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) among the polyclinic attendances for ARI is 0.8%. The overall positivity rate for influenza among ILI samples (n=283) in the community was 10.6% in week 20. Of the 161 specimens tested positive for influenza in April 2024, 44 (27.3%) were positive for Influenza A(H3N2), 42 (26.1%) were positive for Influenza A(pH1N1), one (0.6%) was positive for Influenza A (Low viral titre) and 74 (46.0%) were positive for Influenza B (Figure 10).

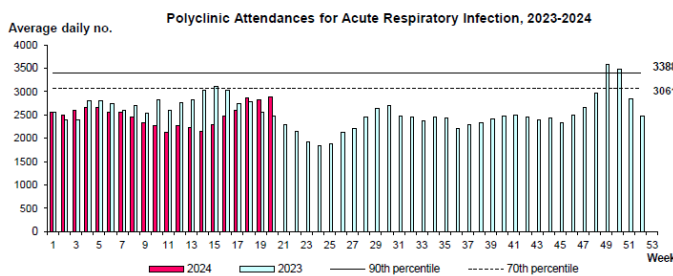


Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2023-2024 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

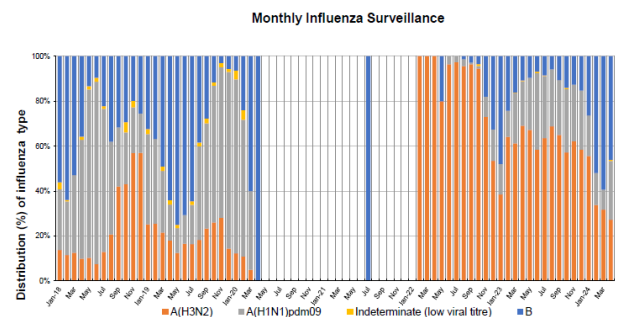
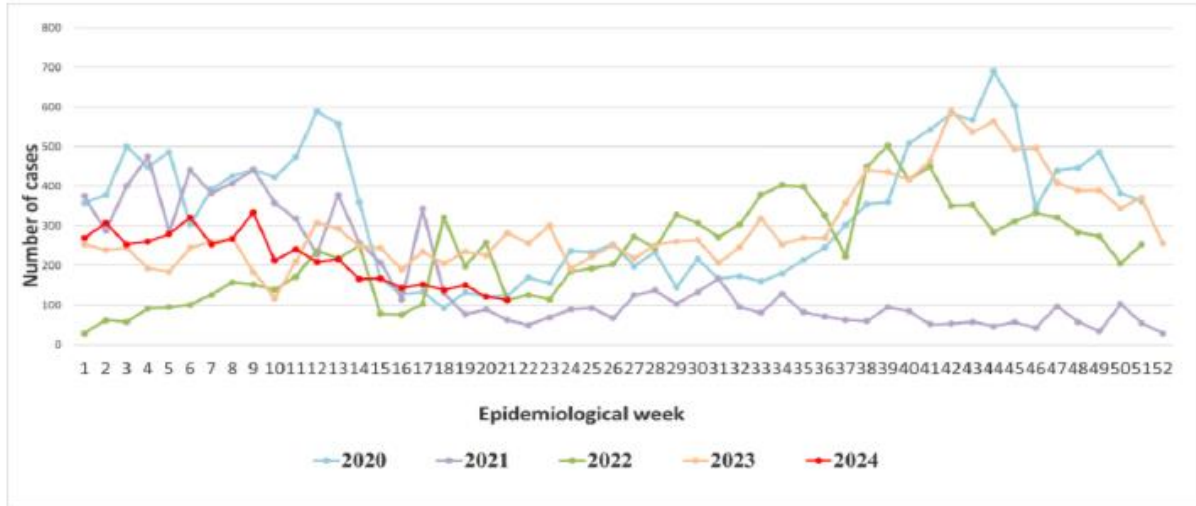


Figure 10: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2018-2024 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

**Lao PDR**

During week 21 (20 to 26 May 2024), the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology received data from all sentinel sites in Lao PDR. The number of ILI cases presenting at sentinel sites slightly decreased by 9 cases compared to the previous week (**Figure 11**). There were 34 samples tested for influenza in week 21 of 2024, of which four were positive for Influenza A/pdmH1N1.

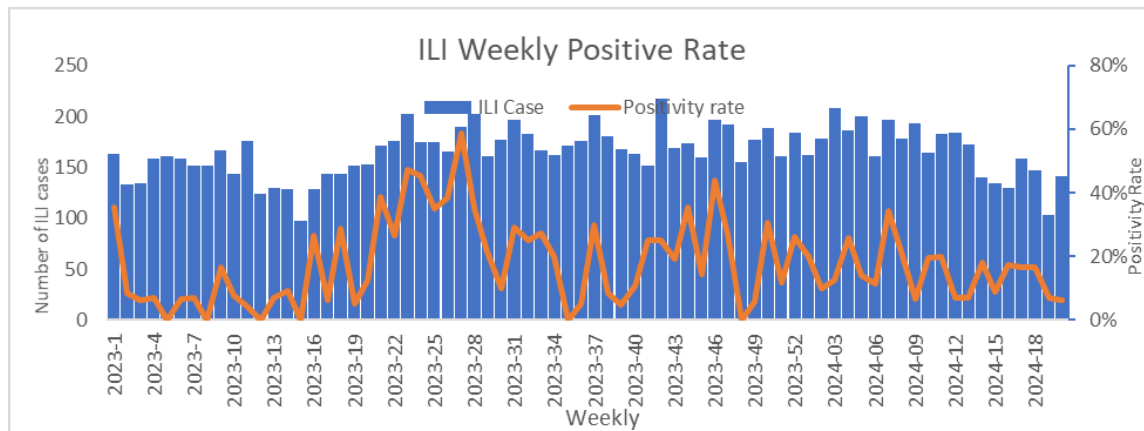


**Figure 11: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2020 to 2024)**  
(Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

**Cambodia**

In week 20 of 2024, the Ministry of Health received data from all seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases in Cambodia increased slightly in week 20 (141 cases) compared to week 19 (103 cases). The positivity rate decreased (6%) compared to last week (**Figure 12**).

*Note: Starting from week 2 of 2024, the ILI surveillance has been updated as follows: a) Changed case definitions of ILI from >38°C (greater than 38) to ≥ 38°C (greater or equal to 38), b) Increasing number of samples per sentinel sites from 5 to 10 per week. Therefore, the number of cases and positivity might also increase.*



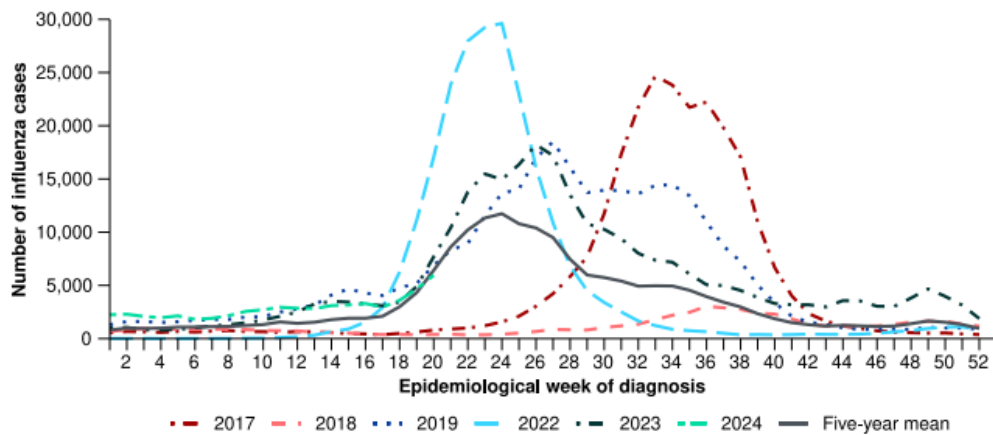
**Figure 12: Number of ILI samples from sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by the week, of 2023-2024, Cambodia**  
(Source: Communicable Disease Control Department, Cambodia Ministry of Health)

## Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season, usually starting in May in Australia and New Zealand.

### Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

In the year-to-date (1 January to 19 May 2024), there have been 57 199 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Australia, which is similar to the number of notifications in the same period in 2023 and the five-year mean. There were 10 619 laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications with a diagnosis date this fortnight (6 May to 19 May 2024), an increase compared to 6 557 notifications in the previous fortnight (**Figure 13**).

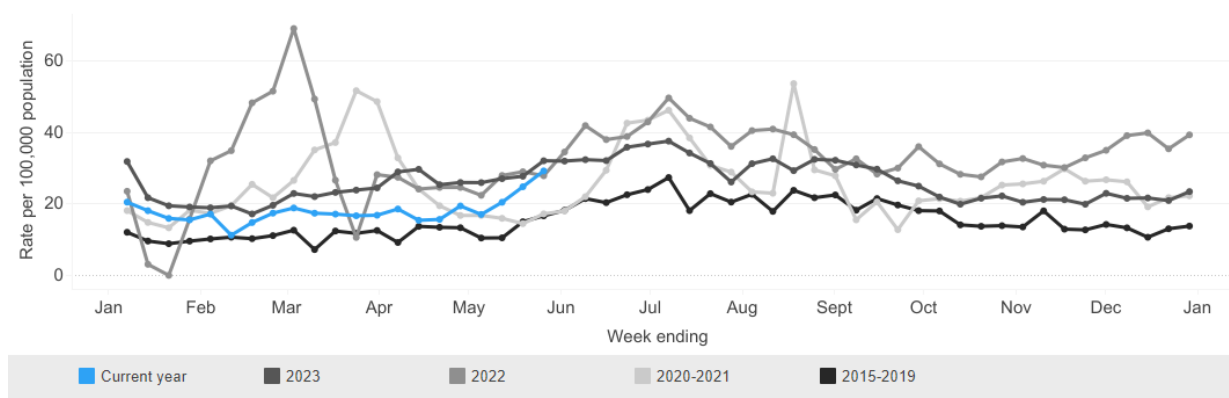


**Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2017 to 2024 in Australia** (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

### New Zealand – ILI Surveillance

Indicators of influenza-like illness in the community have continued to increase over the past few surveillance weeks. The rate of ILI related Healthline calls has increased in the week ending 26 May to a level similar to the same time in 2023. The percentage of FluTracking participants with fever and cough increased in the week ending 26 May to a rate similar to the same time in 2022 and slightly higher than the same time in 2023 (**Figure 14**).

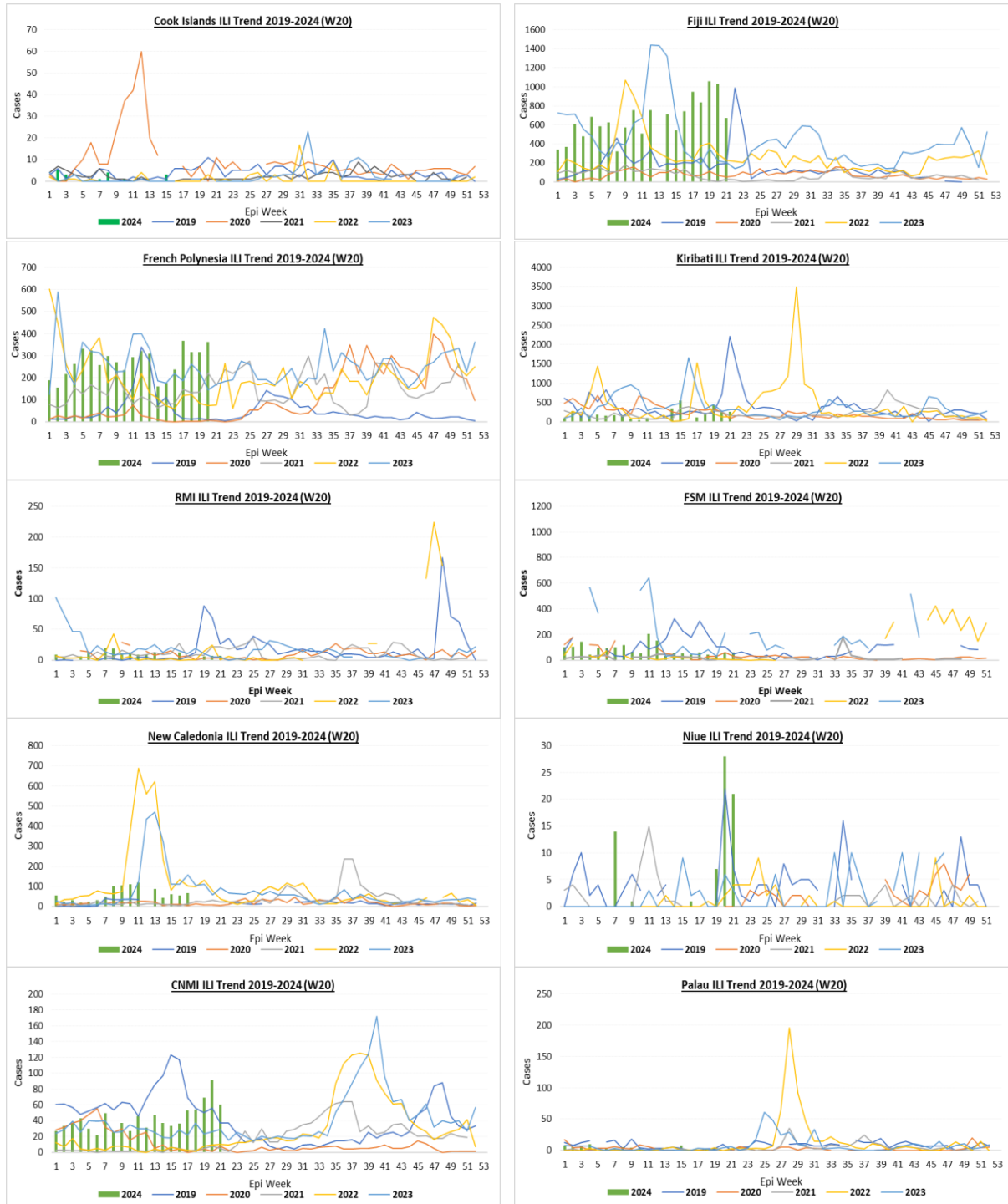
#### Weekly Healthline ILI call rates



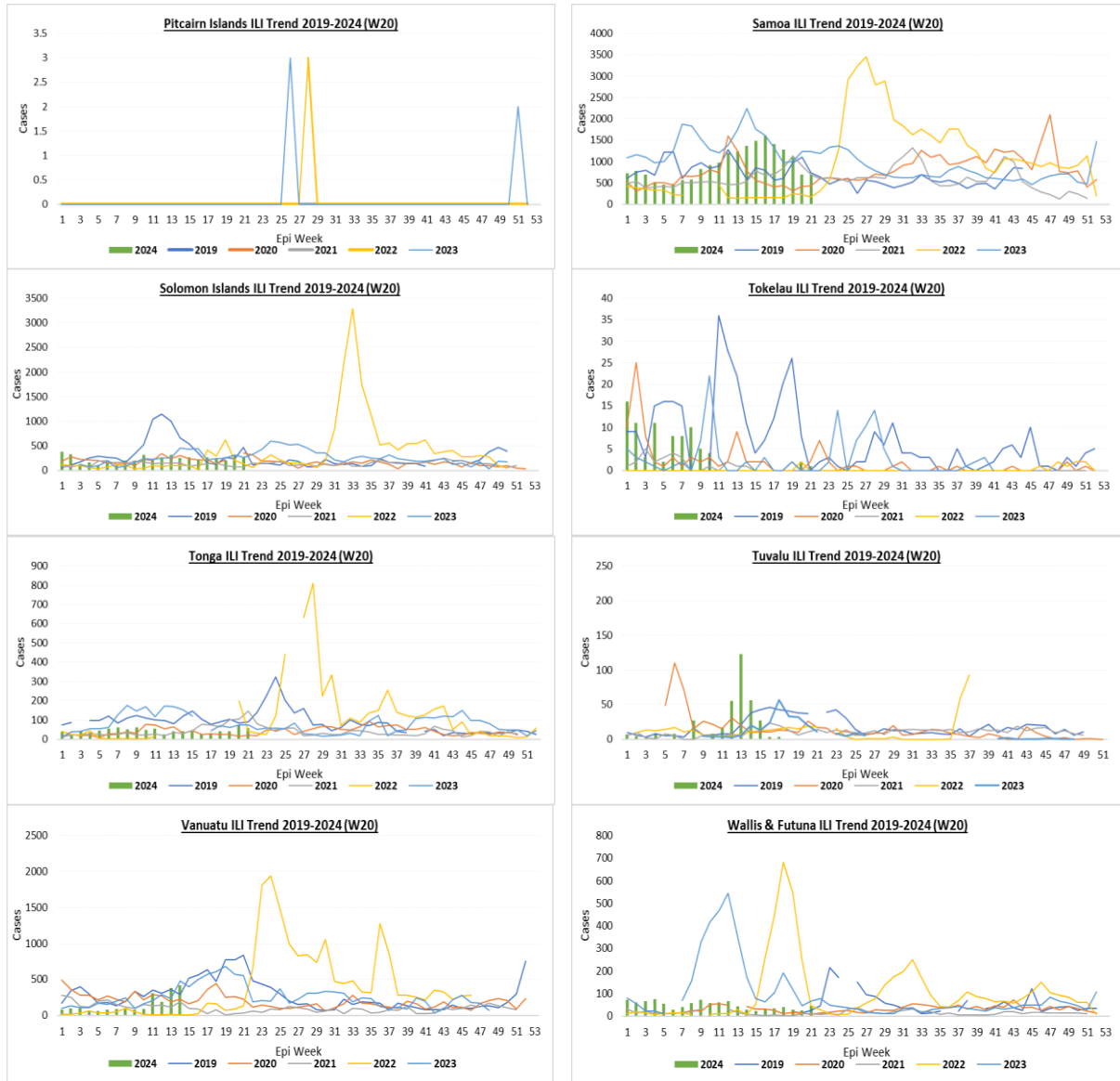
**Figure 14: Weekly Healthline ILI call rate per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2015-2024** (Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)

## Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In week 20 (13 May to 19 May 2024), 18 out of 21 PICs reported ILI surveillance data. No reports are available for American Samoa, Guam and Nauru. Fiji, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands have observed a decrease in ILI trends compared to the previous week, while French Polynesia observed a slight increase in ILI trend compared to the previous week. The remaining PICs have observed similar trends in ILI trends compared to previous weeks (**Figure 15**).







**Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2024**  
(Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

\* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

\*\* FSM: Federated States of Micronesia, CMNI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands



## Global influenza situation updates

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### [Virological update](#)

### [Global update](#)

#### Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2024-2025 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2024 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for Use in the 2024 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season 25-28 September 2023 [Link](#)
- WHO issues updated influenza vaccines position paper [Link](#)

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)