MINISTRY OF HEALTH
For a healthier life

Medical Technologies, Information and Research Division

Israel Center for Disease Control

Surveillance Report on Morbidity due to Respiratory Viruses

Week 21 ending 24/5/2025

Summary:

During week 21, low influenza and RSV activity was observed.

The decrease in the activity of the COVID-19 virus among hospitalized patients continued.

The downward trend in the activity of the hMPV virus among hospitalized patients continued.

Clinical surveillance:

Community clinics (Maccabi Health Services):

The gross rates of visits to clinics due to influenza-like illness were at inter-seasonal activity levels. No significant change was observed in the gross rate of visits due to upper respiratory tract infection and pneumonia, compared to the previous week.

Laboratory:

Community sentinel clinics network:

The laboratory surveillance at community sentinel clinics has come to an end for the 2024/2025 season.

General hospitals

13 general hospitals:

During week 21, the following figures were reported for inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals:

- Influenza viruses – 9 new positive cases of influenza: 7 cases of type A influenza and 2 positive cases of type B influenza.
- RSV – 2 new positive cases.
- SARS-CoV-2 – 16 new cases, constituting 2.1% of the total samples tested.
- hMPV – 19 new cases, constituting 2.6% of all samples taken and 9.3% of the total samples positive for respiratory viruses.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem:

- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* – detected in samples from hospitalized patients every week since the beginning of 2024.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

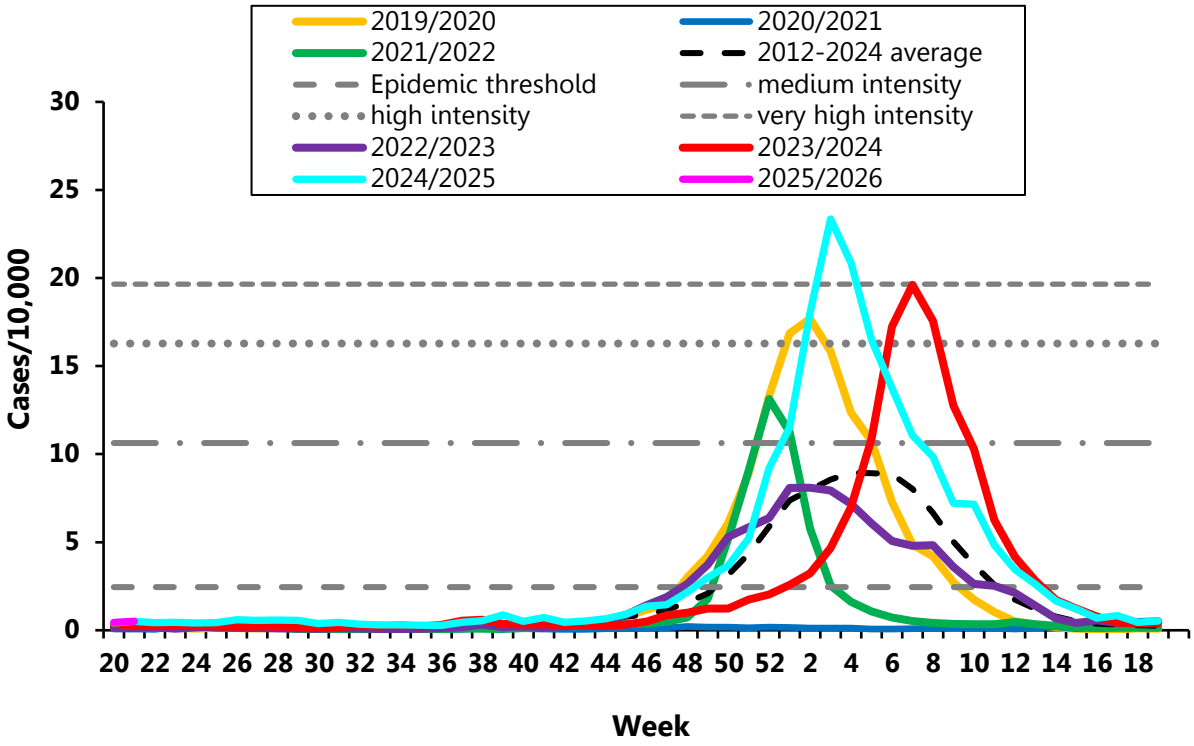
המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

1. Visits to community clinics due to influenza-like illness (ILI)

At week 21, the gross rate of visits to Maccabi Health Services clinics due to influenza-like illness is similar to inter-seasonal rates. The same is true for the segmentation by age groups (Figures 1 + 2). Clalit Health Services data show a similar picture.

Figure 1: Weekly rate of visits per week due to influenza-like illness, 2019-2025 compared to the multi-year average

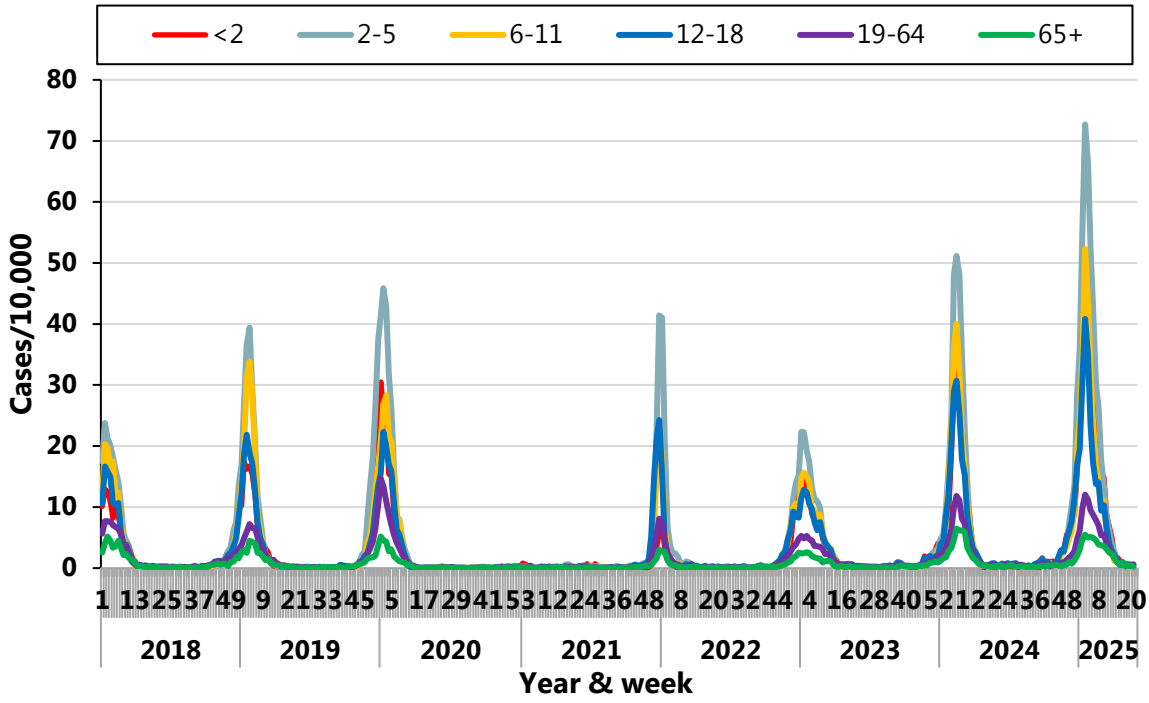
*Weeks 20-21 belong to the 2025/2026 season



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Figure 2: Rate of visits by age and year due to influenza-like illness, 2018-2025



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

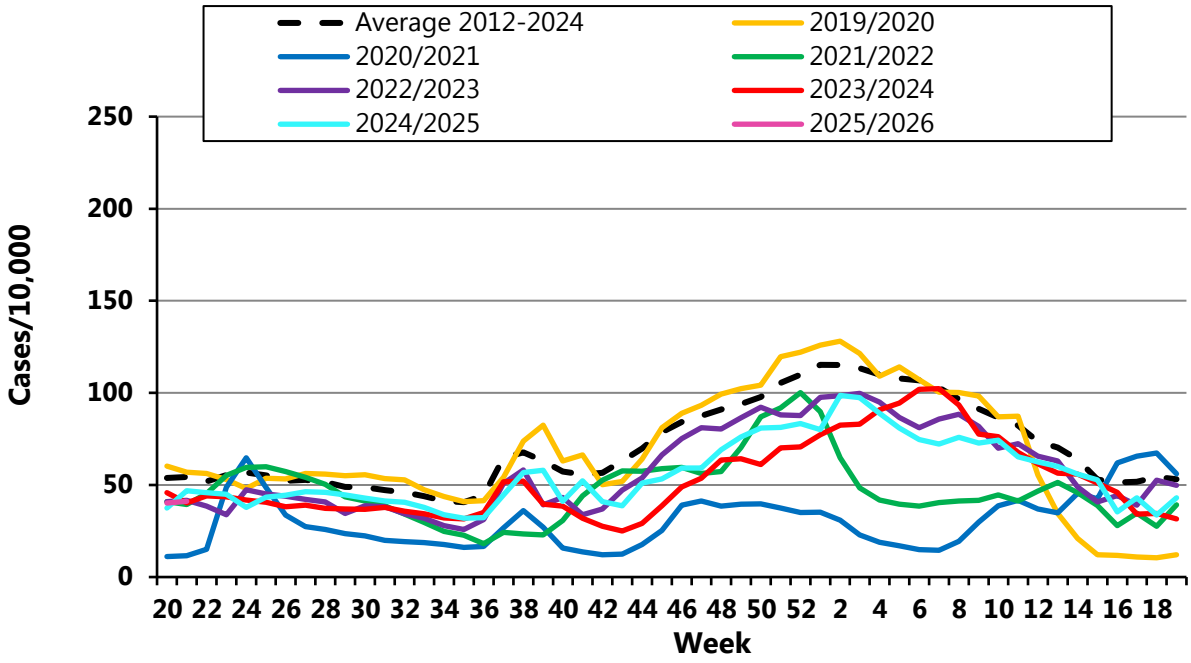
המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

2. Visits to community clinics due to upper respiratory tract infections (URIs)

At week 20, no significant change was observed in the gross rate of visits to Maccabi Health Services clinics due to upper respiratory tract infections, compared to the previous week. The gross rate of is now below the multi-year average (Figures 3 + 4). Clalit Health Services data show a similar picture.

Figure 3: The weekly rate of visits due to upper respiratory tract infections, 2019-2025 compared to the multi-year average

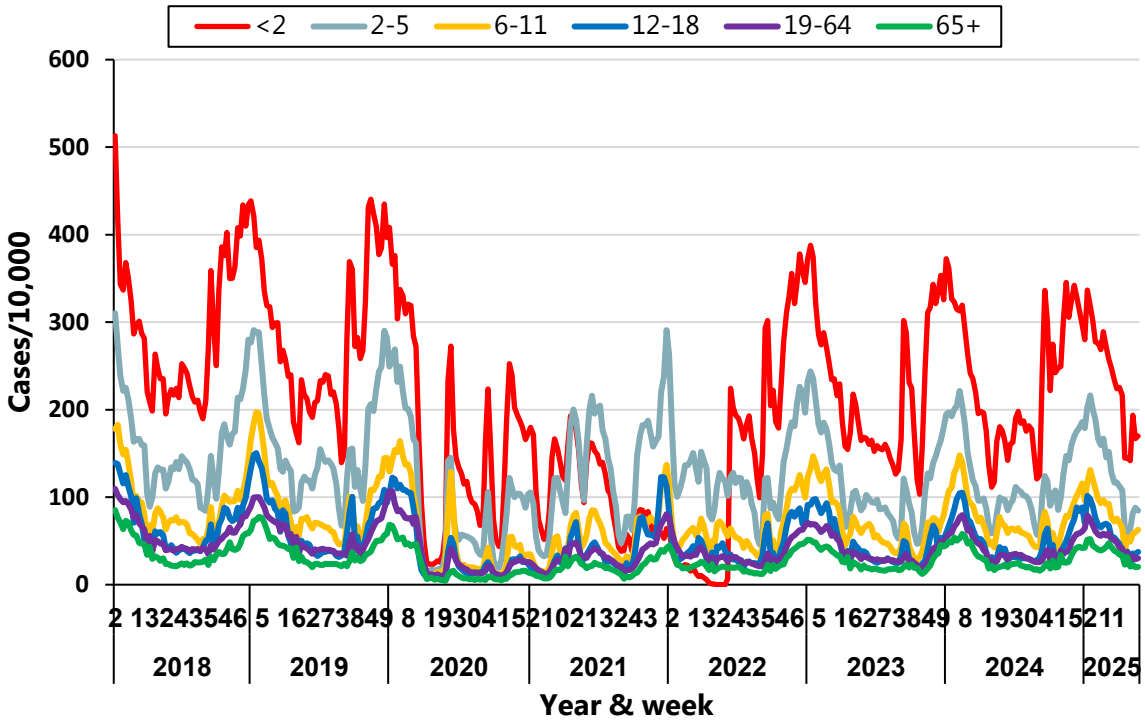
*Weeks 20-21 belong to the 2025/2026 season



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Figure 4: Rate of visits by age and year due to upper respiratory tract infections, 2018-2025



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

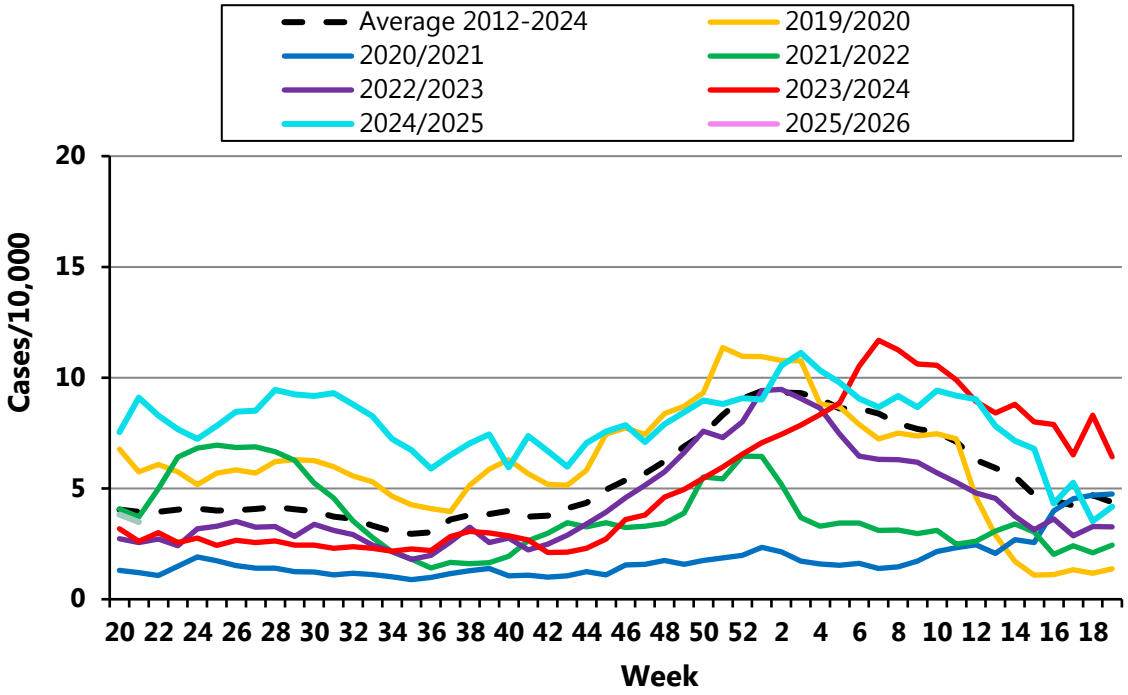
המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

3. Visits to community clinics due to pneumonia illness

At week 21, no significant change was observed in the gross rate of visits to Maccabi Health Services clinics due to pneumonia. The gross rate of visits is now similar to the multi-year average (Figures 5 + 6). Clalit Health Services data show a similar picture.

Figure 5: Rate of visits per week due to pneumonia, 2019-2025 compared to the multi-year average

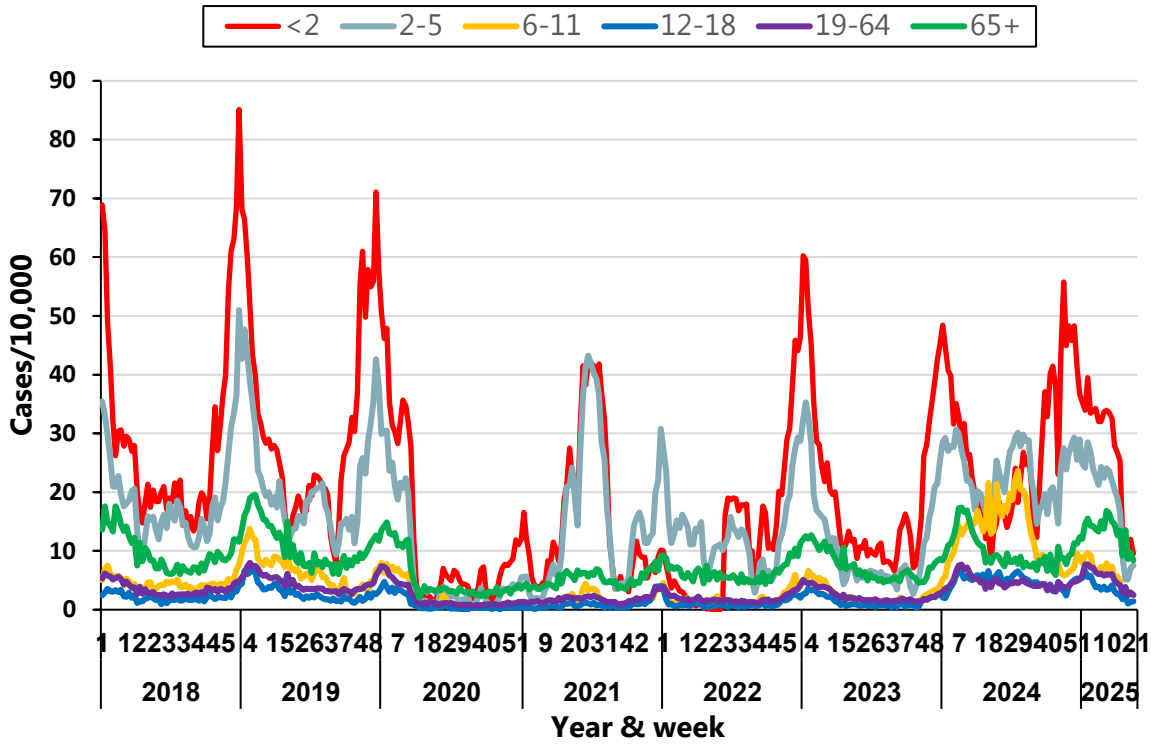
*Weeks 20-21 belong to the 2025/2026 season



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Figure 6: Rate of visits by age and year due to upper respiratory tract infections, 2018-2025



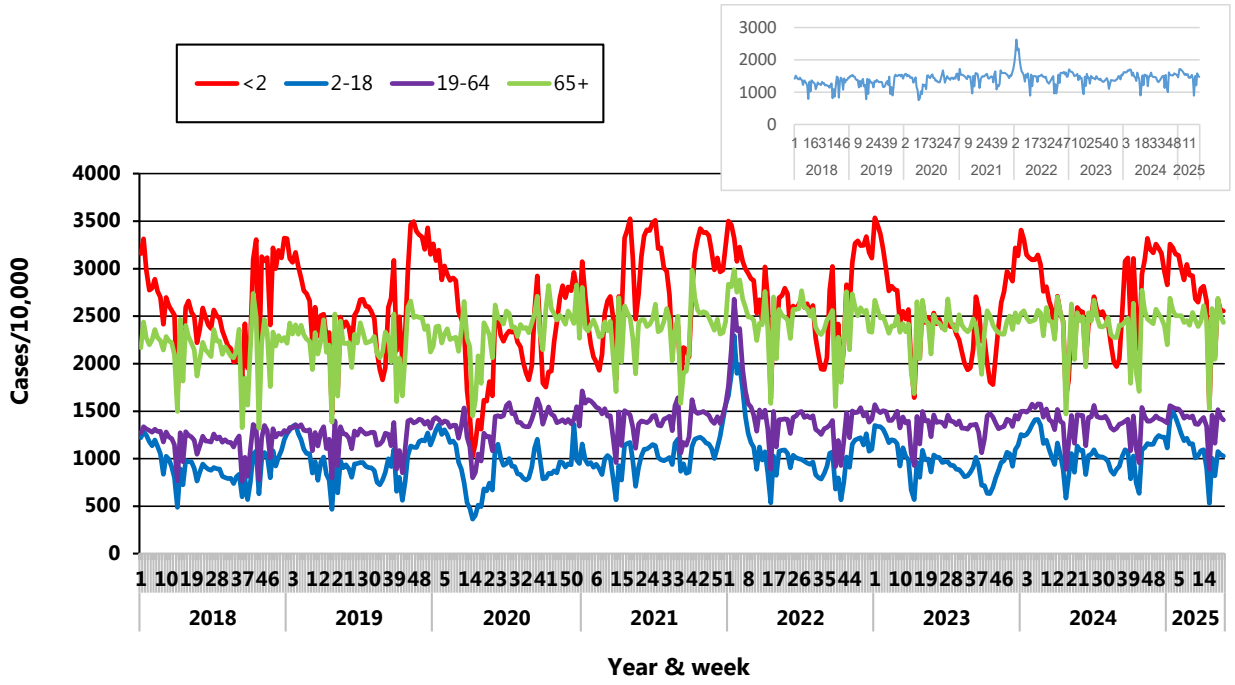
ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

4. Visits to clinics in the community due to all diagnoses, Maccabi Health Services

At week 21, the decrease in the rate of visits to Maccabi Health Services clinics due to all diagnoses continued among all age groups, except among 0-2-year-olds, for whom no significant change was observed (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Rate of visits to clinics in the community due to all diagnoses by age, 2018-2025



*The diagram in the window in the upper right corner shows the gross rate of visits to clinics due to all the diagnoses, 2018-2025.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

5. Laboratory: Influenza samples tested in general hospitals in Israel (13 hospitals*)

* The surveillance system for respiratory morbidity in hospitals is undergoing an upgrade process. Therefore, the data presented in this report are based on 13 hospitals nationwide, for which the upgrade was carried out (and in which are about 60% of hospitalization beds out of all the general hospitals in Israel). As the upgrade process progresses, more hospitals will be added.

Figure 8 presents the results of the samples for the influenza viruses among new inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals in Israel. During week 21, 9 new positive cases of influenza were reported: 7 positive cases of type A influenza and 2 positive cases of type B influenza (Figure 8).

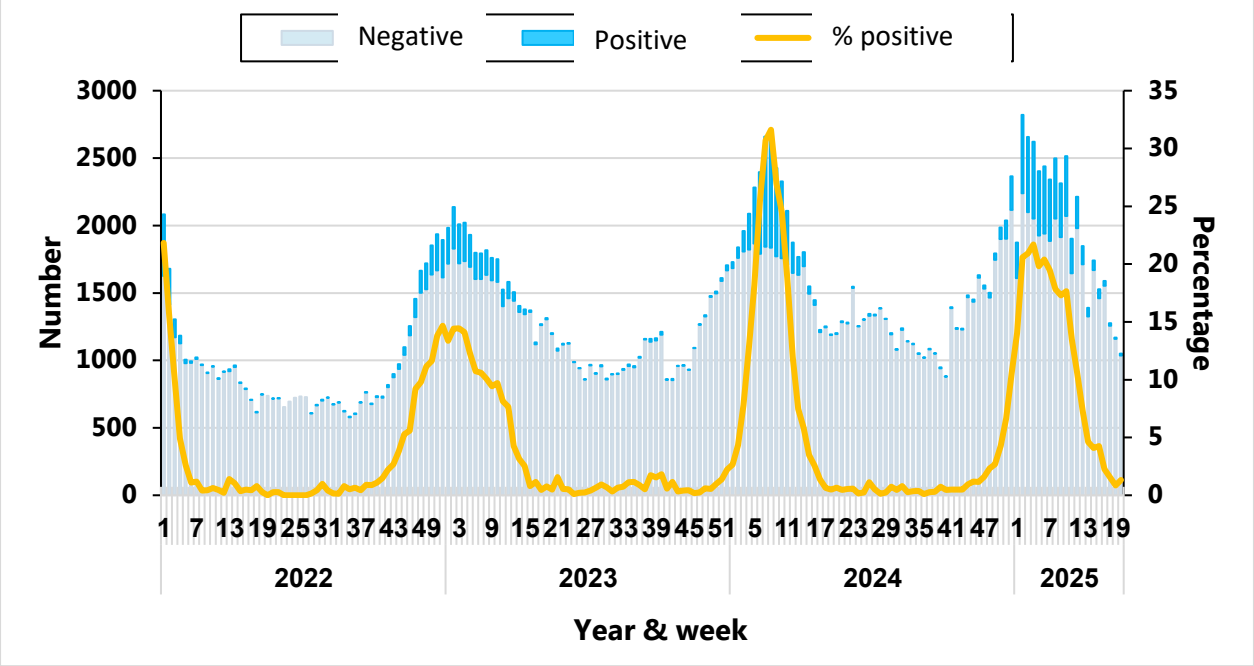
Characterization of influenza A viruses in inpatients by subtype was performed at two general hospitals (Sheba and Hadassah) and showed that the influenza A/H1N1 subtype is dominant this season.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Figure 8: Influenza-positive cases among inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals, 2022-2025

*The numbers may be updated retrospectively.



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

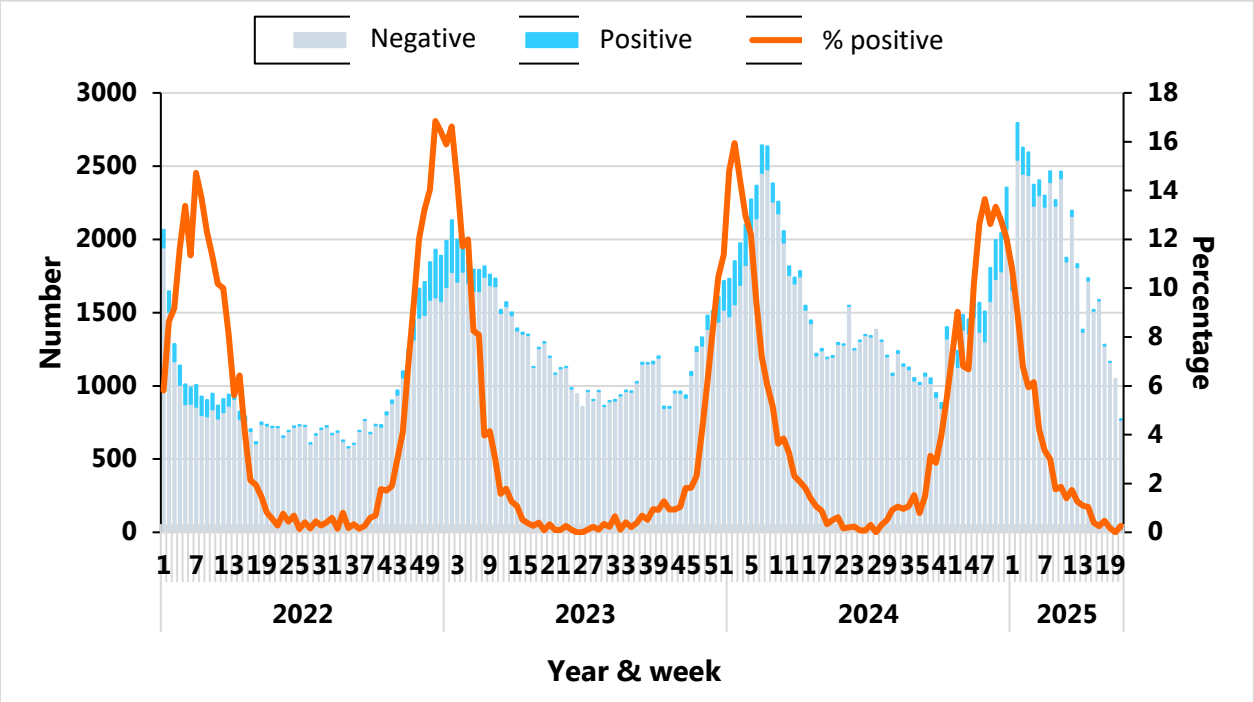
6. Laboratory: RSV samples tested in general hospitals in Israel (13 hospitals*)

* The surveillance system for respiratory morbidity in hospitals is undergoing an upgrade process. Therefore, the data presented in this report are based on 13 hospitals nationwide, for which the upgrade was carried out (and in which are about 60% of hospitalization beds out of all the general hospitals in Israel). As the upgrade process progresses, more hospitals will be added.

Figure 9 presents the results of the samples for the RSV virus among new inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals in Israel. During week 21, 2 new RSV-positive cases were reported among inpatients (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Positive cases of RSV viruses among inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals, 2022-2025

*The numbers may be updated retrospectively.



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

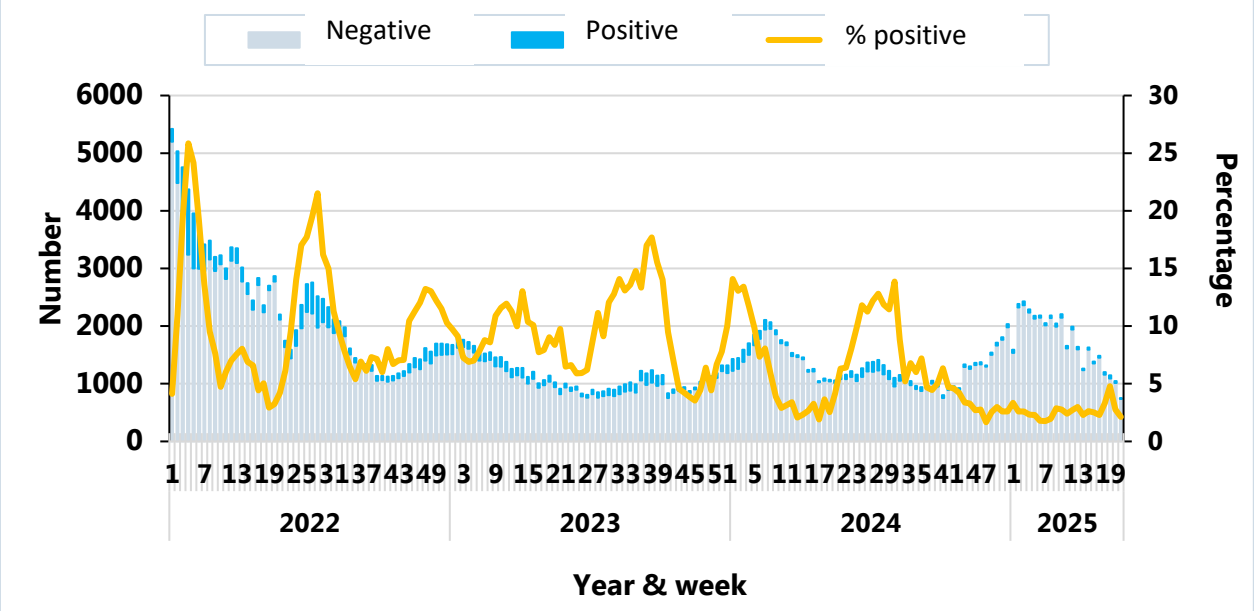
7. Hospitalized patients with samples positive for SARS-CoV-2 in general hospitals in Israel (10 hospitals*)

* Due to the upgrading of the surveillance system for respiratory morbidity in hospitals, the data presented are based on 10 hospitals nationwide.

Figure 10 specifies the number and percentage of new cases per week with positive samples for SARS-CoV-2 in general hospitals.

At week 21, 16 new cases were reported. The percentage of positive samples was 2.1%. These numbers constitute a decrease compared to weeks 19 and 20.

Figure 10: The number of new hospitalized patients positive for SARS-CoV-2 in general hospitals, 2022-2025 * The numbers may be updated retrospectively.



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

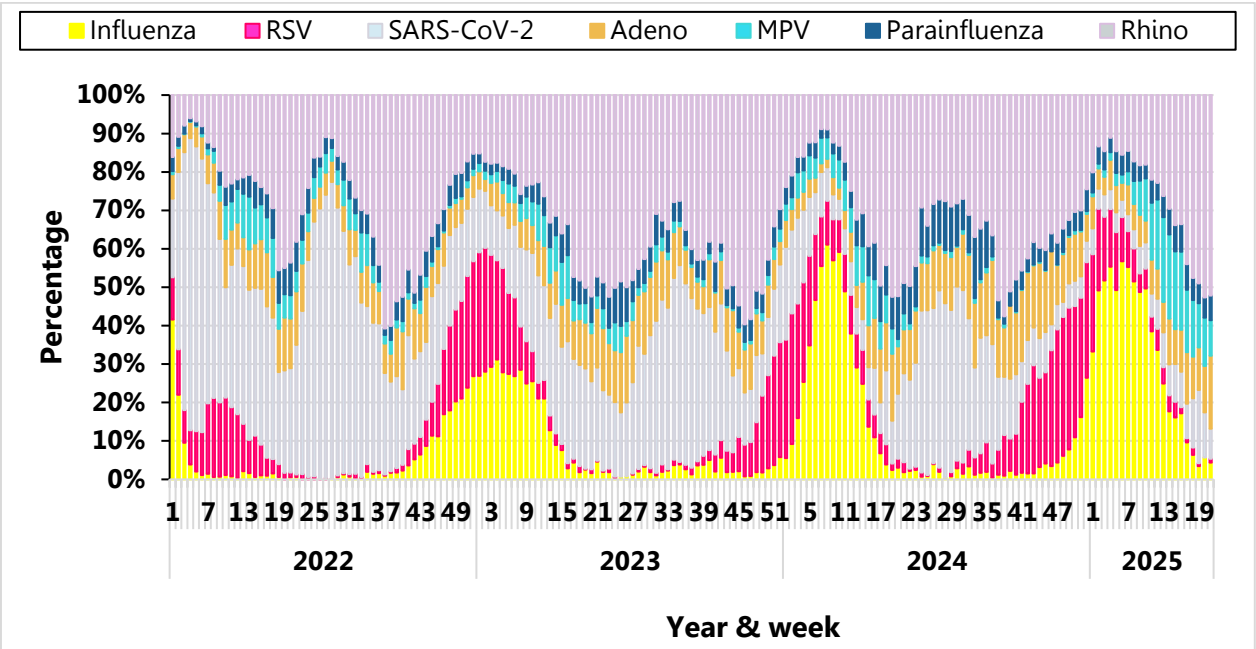
8. Laboratory: Respiratory viruses' samples tested in general hospitals in Israel (13 hospitals*)

* The surveillance system for respiratory morbidity in hospitals is undergoing an upgrade process. Therefore, the data presented in this report are based on 13 hospitals nationwide, for which the upgrade was carried out (and in which are about 60% of hospitalization beds out of all the general hospitals in Israel). As the upgrade process progresses, more hospitals will be added.

The common viruses in week 21 were the rhinoviruses.

As of week 21, 19 new hospitalized patients were identified as positive for the hMPV virus. This number constitutes 2.6% of all samples and 9.2% of all samples positive for respiratory viruses tested among hospitalized patients. It appears that at week 21 the downward trend in the activity of the hMPV virus continued.

Figure 11: Positive cases of respiratory viruses among inpatients hospitalized in general hospitals, 2022-2025



*The numbers may be updated retrospectively.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

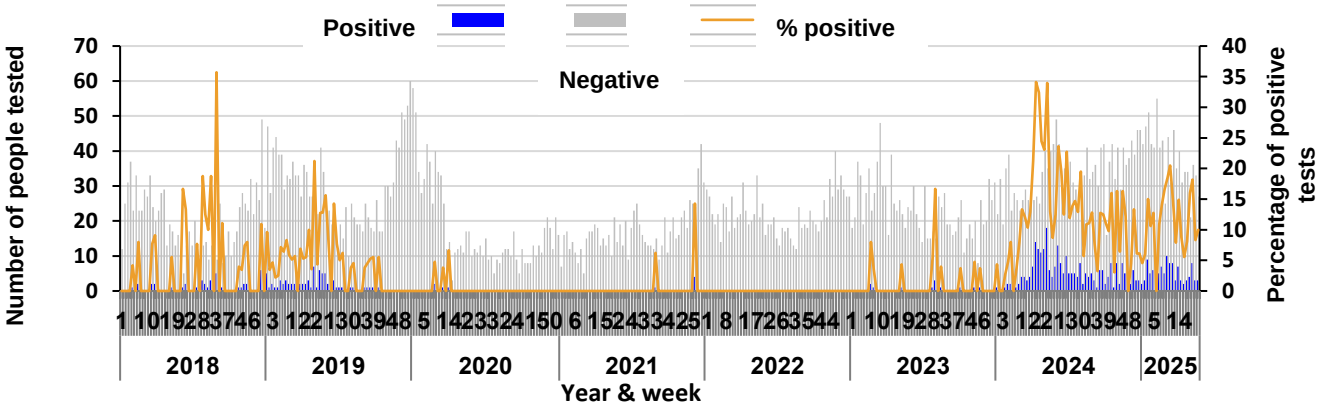
המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

9. Samples tested for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* at the Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem

Figures 12 and 13 show the results of the tests from 2018 to the present day by epidemiological weeks. In the years 2020-2022, during the COVID-19 pandemic, almost no activity of the bacteria was detected. In 2023, little and sporadic activity was detected, and since 2024, weekly activity of the bacteria has been detected.

Figure 14 shows the results of the tests by age groups and by months, from January 2018 to March 2025. The highest activity was generally identified in those aged 5-18 years, and the lowest activity was generally identified in those aged 65 and over.

Figure 12: Samples tested for Mycoplasma pneumoniae at the Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem, all ages, 2018-2025, by epidemiological week



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Figure 13: Samples tested for Mycoplasma pneumoniae at the Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem, all ages, 2023-2025, by epidemiological week

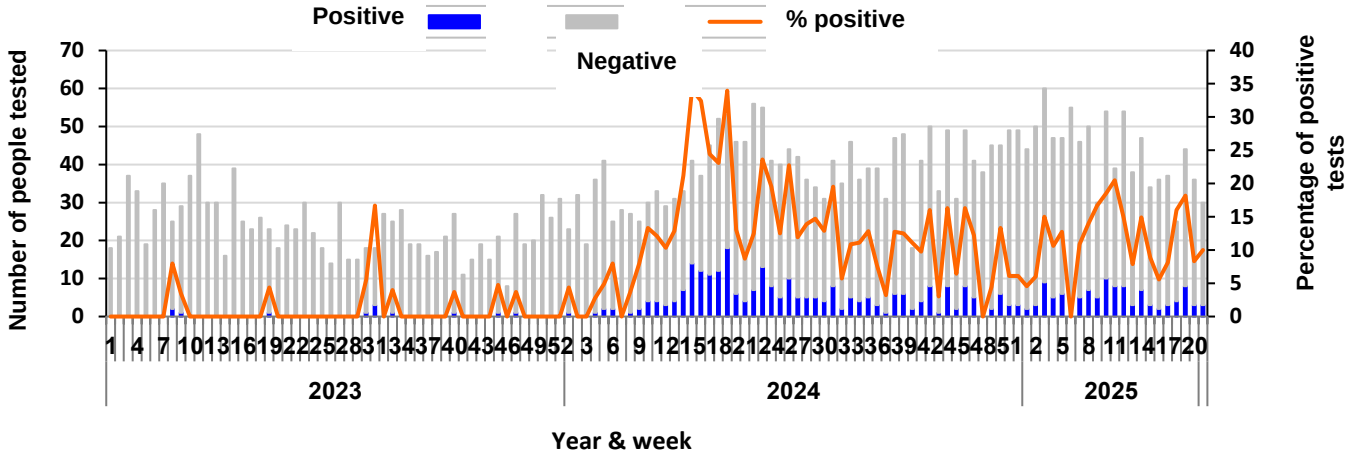
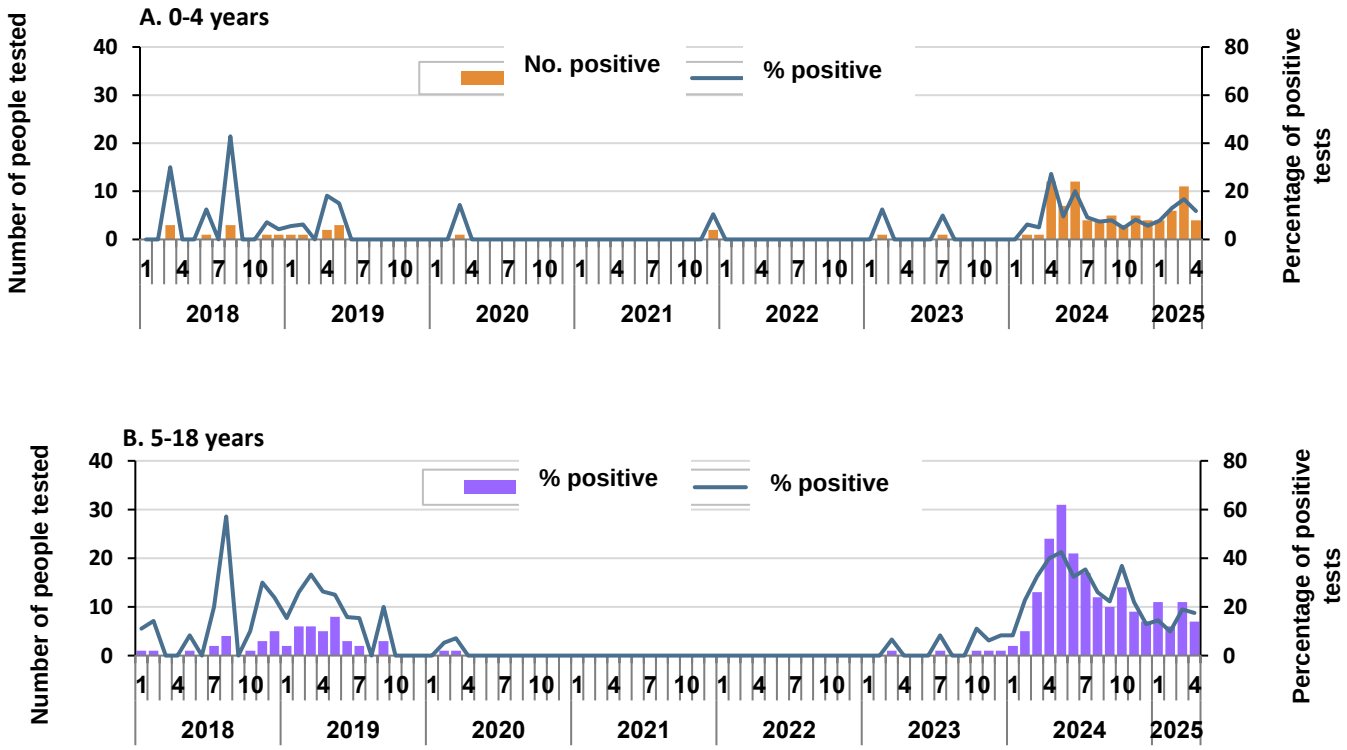
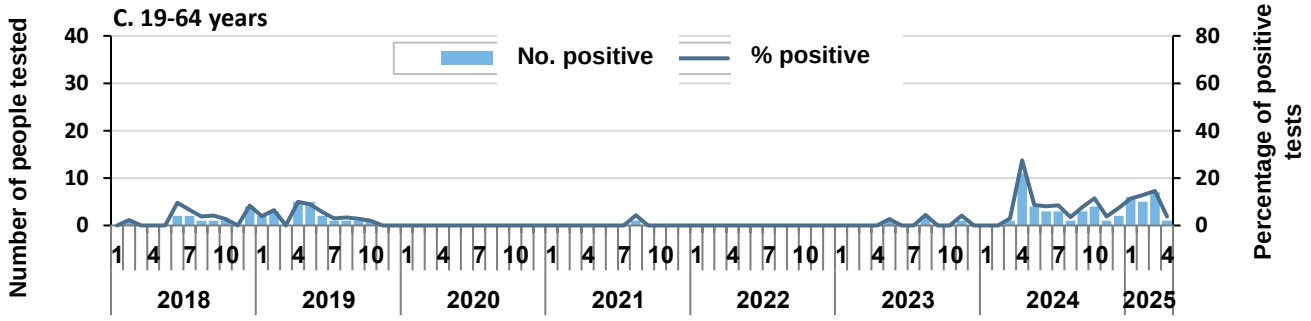


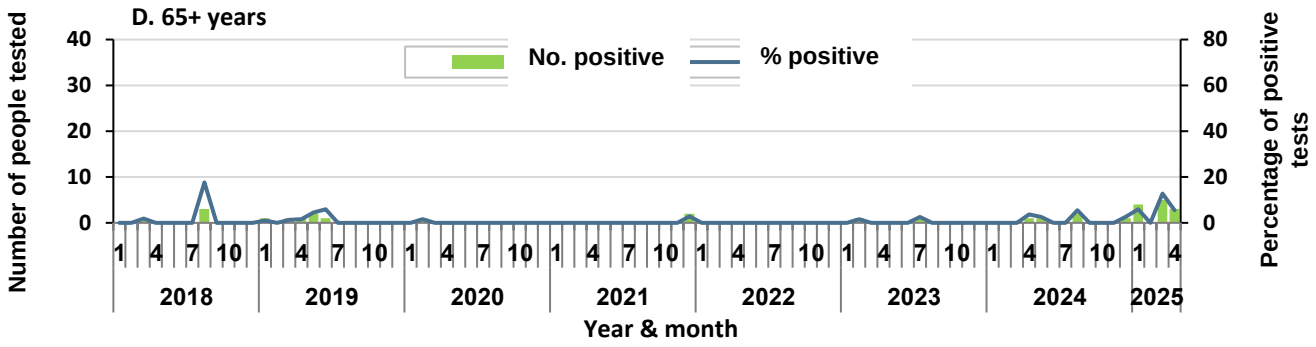
Figure 14: Samples tested for Mycoplasma pneumoniae at the Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem, 2018-2025, by age groups (years), by month



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881





ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

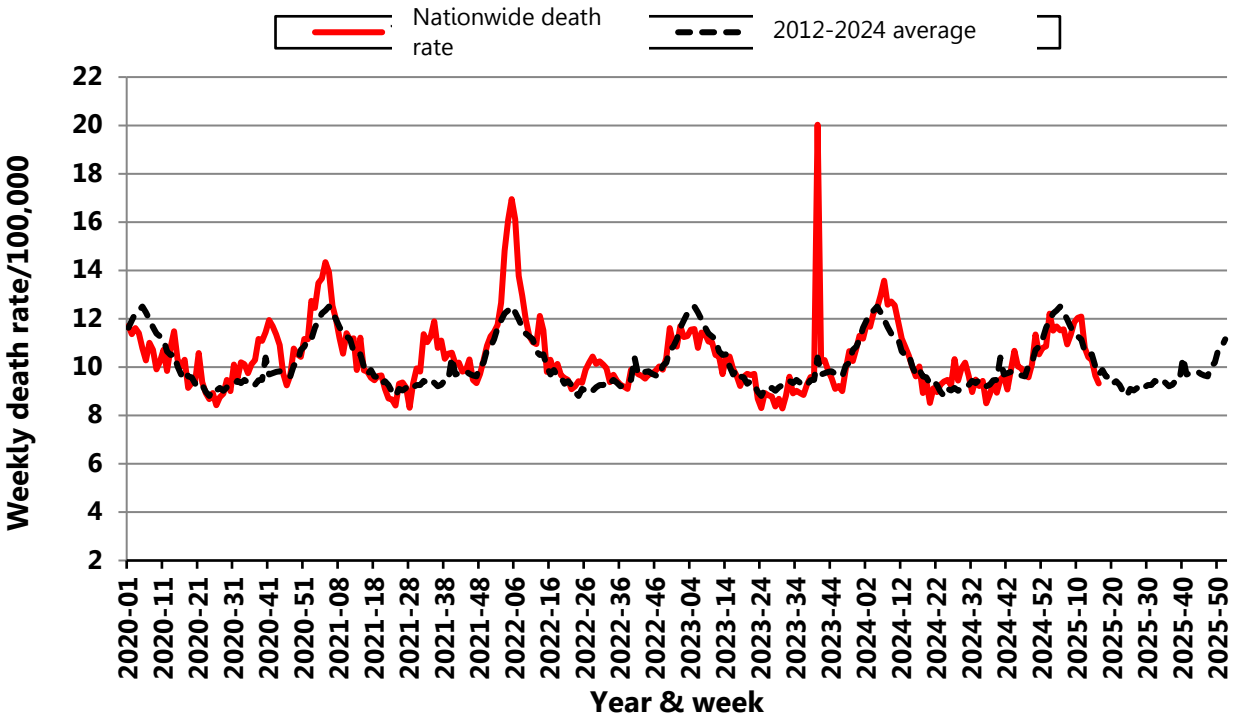
המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

10. Mortality situation in Israel

10.1 Mortality from all causes (data updated as of week 16 ending on 19/4/2025)

As of week 16, which ended on 19/4/2025, the death rate from all causes continues to decrease and is below the multi-year average (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Nationwide death rate, 2019-2024 compared to the multi-year average



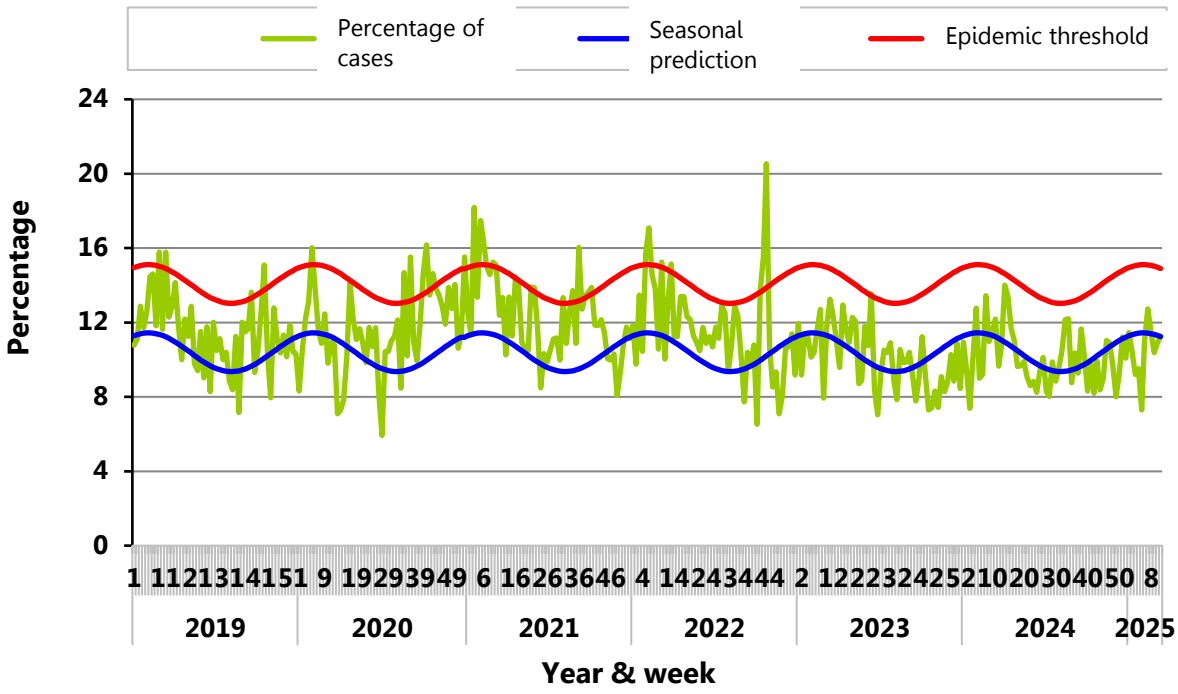
ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

10.2 Mortality due to pneumonia (data is updated for week 11 ending on 15/3/25)

As of week 11, the mortality rate from pneumonia similar to the range expected for the season (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Percentage of pneumonia deaths of all death causes, 2019-2025, compared to the multi-year seasonal prediction



ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

11. Situation in the world – influenza

Northern Hemisphere

World Health Organization (WHO): As per the latest report updated as of 11/5/2025[1], influenza activity in the Northern Hemisphere continued to be stable or decreased. There is a slight increase in several countries: Central American and the Caribbean, East Africa, Eastern Europe, and South + Southeast + East Asia. The number of positive isolations for influenza remained high in the following countries:

- Central America and the Caribbean - mostly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.
- East Africa, East and Southeast Asia - all type A influenza subtypes.
- Eastern Europe - mostly type B influenza.
- West Asia - combined activity of type B influenza + subtype A/H3N2 influenza.
- South Asia - mostly A/H3N2 activity.

United States CDC: As of week 20, which ended on 17/5/2025, influenza activity is low[2].
Bird flu: From February 2024 to 16/5/25, 70 cases of H5N1 bird flu (avian influenza) were identified in humans in the US and one mortality case[3]. In most cases, professional exposure to cattle and poultry was reported[3], with cattle exposure identified in 59% of these cases[3]. No transfer between humans was reported[3].

Southern Hemisphere

World Health Organization (WHO): According to the latest report, updated as of 11/5/2025[1], in general influenza activity remained stable or increased

The percentage of samples positive for influenza increased in the following countries:

- Temperate South America and part of Oceania - mostly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.
- South Africa - mostly A/H3N2 activity.
- East Africa and Southeast Asia - all type A influenza subtypes.

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

Sources of information (influenza):

1. Global Respiratory Virus Activity Weekly Update N° 527 (who.int)
2. https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/surveillance/2025-week-20.html
3. https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

12. Situation in the world – hMPV virus

Britain: As of the last report from week 21, a slight decrease was observed in the activity of the hMPV virus (1.7% of all samples received by the surveillance laboratory network, compared to 2.8% in the previous week)[1].

United States CDC: As of week 20 (ending on 17/5/25), the percentage of samples positive for the hMPV virus from the NREVSS surveillance network I stable and stands at about 6.2%[2].

China: There were no additional reports since the report of the week of 7/1/2025, in which an increase in various respiratory viruses including influenza, RSV and hMPV, was reported. This increase was consistent with this seasonal phase in China[3].

Sources of information (hMPV):

1. National flu and COVID-19 surveillance report: 22 May (week 21) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2. Interactive Dashboard | NREVSS | CDC
3. Trends of acute respiratory infection, including human metapneumovirus, in the Northern Hemisphere (who.int)

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881

13. Situation in the world – COVID-19

According to the latest WHO report, updated as of 11/05/2025, positive samples of the SARS-CoV-2 virus remained low in most reporting countries, except several countries in Central America and the Caribbean, and in West and Southeast Asia, where the positive findings of the virus were high[1]. In the USA, according to a CDC report updated as of 17/05/2025, 2.8% positive samples for SARS-CoV-2 were reported in week 20, compared to 3% in the preceding week. The percentage of SARS-CoV-2 diagnoses out of the total visits to emergency rooms was 0.3% in week 20, with no significance change from the preceding week[2].

On the global level, the Omicron variant is the most dominant, of which the XEC and LP subvariants are the most widespread (see Table 1).

Table 1: Percent of dominant subvariants in countries that reported genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2[3] (based on data updated on the database[3] as of 26/5/2025, correct as of April-May)

	Reporting month	XEC (%)	XEC.4 (%)	LP.8.1 (%)	L.P.8.1.6 (%)	NY.10 (%)	NB.1.8.1 (%)	JN.1.18.5 (%)	XFG (%)	LP.8.1.1 (%)	NL.6 (%)	^X (%)
England	May			15						30		
Denmark	April									10	10	
Germany	April	16										13
Spain	May				13					30		
United States	May							11	13	17		
Australia	May	10	13			15	20					

Sources of information (COVID-19):

1. Global Respiratory Virus Activity Weekly Update N° 527(who.int)
2. COVID Data Tracker CDC https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#maps_percent-covid-ed
3. https://www.gisaid.org

ICDC-Israel Center for Disease Control
Ministry of Health
Gertner Institute, Chaim Sheba Medical Center
icdc.@icdc.health.gov.il
Tel: 03-7371500 Fax: 03-5349881

המרכז הלאומי לבקרת מחלות
משרד הבריאות
מכון גרטנר, מרכז רפואי שיבא, תה"ש 52621
icdc@icdc.health.gov.il
טל: 03-7371500 פקס: 03-5349881