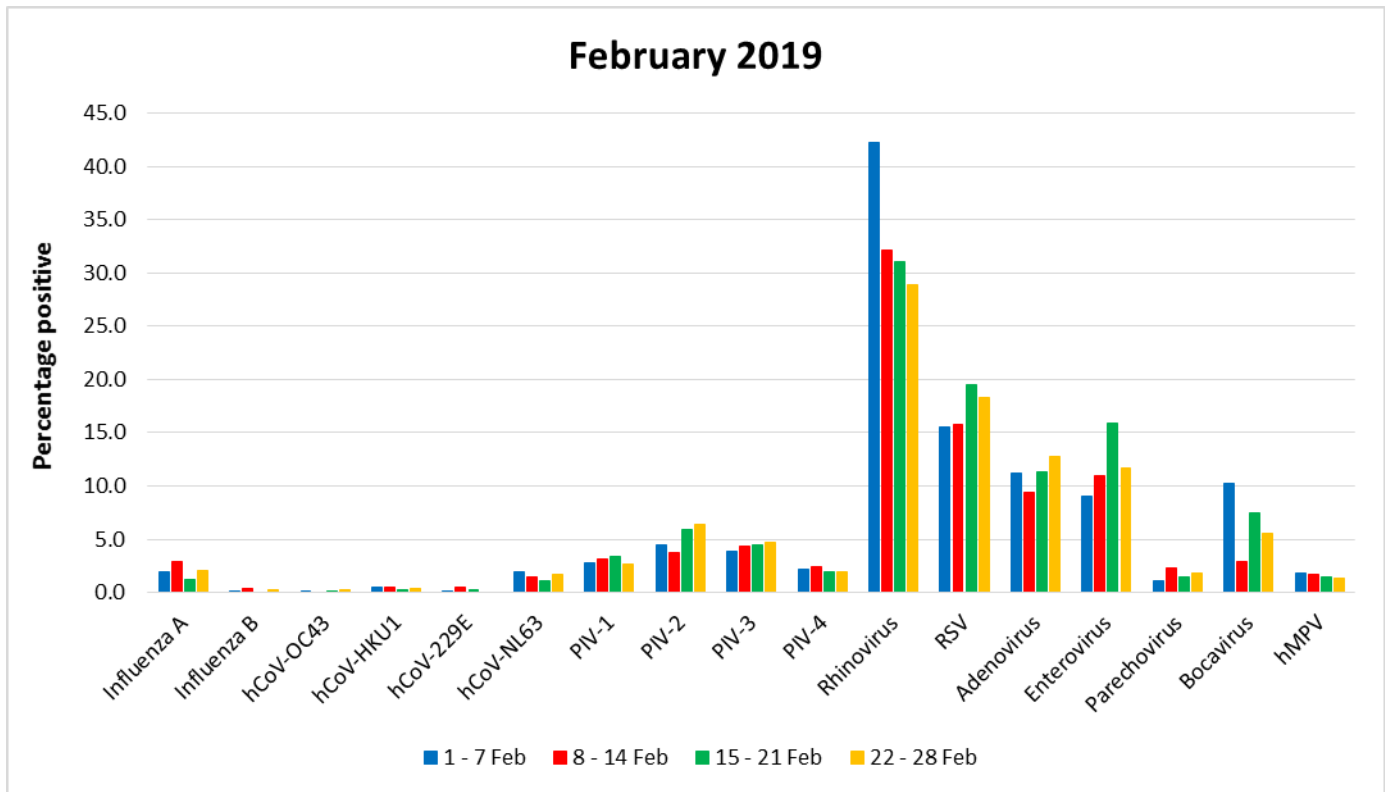




One or more respiratory viruses were detected in 69.5% of respiratory specimens submitted for testing to Lancet Laboratories during **February 2019**. The number of samples submitted for testing increased by 38.9% when compared to January 2019, and by 54.8% when compared to February 2018. In the full respiratory virus panel a single viral pathogen was detected in 46.7% of the samples. An equal number of samples were received from male and female patients, and 57.5% of the samples were received from children less than 5 years of age.

The graph below represents the viruses detected as the percentage positive per week for each particular virus.



hCoV = Human coronavirus; PIV = Parainfluenza virus; RSV = Respiratory syncytial virus; hMPV = Human metapneumovirus

- Rhinovirus was the most prevalent virus during February, detected in 33.1% of samples, followed by RSV (17.4%) and Enterovirus (12.0%).
- The prevalence of Rhinovirus decreased each week when compared to the preceding week.
- Influenza B virus, hCoV-OC43, hCoV-HKU1 and hCoV-229E were all detected in less than 1% of samples submitted for testing.
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* was detected in 0.9% of samples (not represented graphically).

Compiled by Dr L Maree

