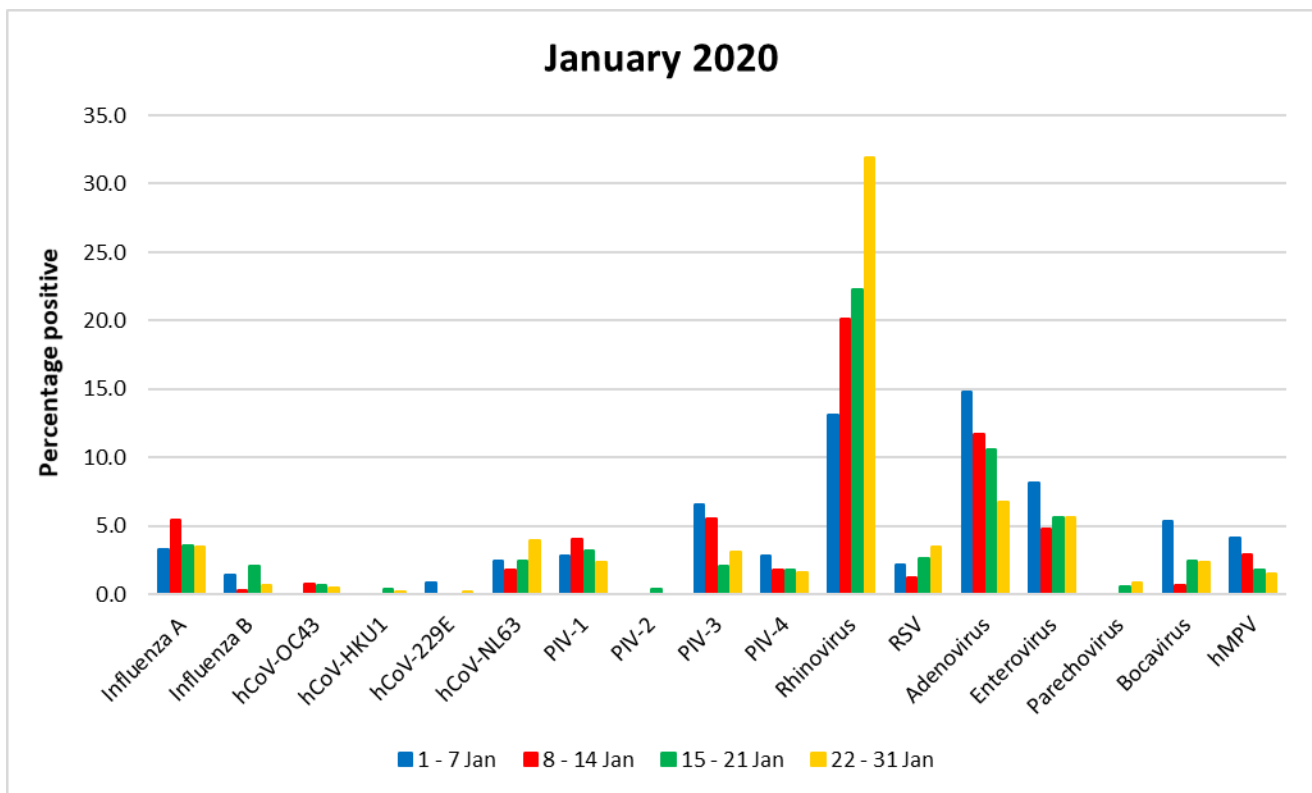




One or more respiratory viruses were detected in 50.0% of respiratory specimens submitted for testing to Lancet Laboratories during **January 2020**. The number of samples submitted for testing increased by 13.1% when compared to December 2019. In the full respiratory virus panel a single viral pathogen was detected in 39.7% of the samples. An equal number of samples were received from female and male patients (50.3% female vs 49.7% male) and 39.9% of 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 January, detected in 20.8% of all samples, followed by Adenovirus (8.4%) and Enterovirus (5.0%).
- Influenza B virus, hCoV-OC43, hCoV-HKU1, hCoV-229E, PIV-2 and Parechovirus were all detected in 1% or less of samples submitted for testing.
- To date, no cases of 2019-nCoV (“novel coronavirus”) have been detected in South Africa. Please also note that the 4 seasonal coronaviruses are quite distinct from 2019-nCoV.
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* was detected in 2.3% of samples (not represented graphically).

Compiled by Dr L Maree

