

ACT Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report 2025

Reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Summary

Between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, there were 3,174 notifications of COVID-19 in the ACT (Table 1), compared with 4,680 and 23,799 cases notified during the same period in 2024 and 2023 respectively. In 2025, the first wave of COVID-19 notifications peaked in June, with a second wavelet peaking in November (Figure 1). The notification rate per 100,000 was highest for those aged between 0 and 4 years closely followed by those aged 65 years and over (Table 1).

Between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, there were 8,991 notifications of influenza (Table 1). In contrast, 4,882 and 4,065 cases were notified over the same period in 2024 and 2023 respectively. In 2025, notifications slowly increased from May, peaked between late June and mid-July, then steadily declined (Figure 2). From late October, increased notifications were reported, consistent with trends observed nationally. Most notifications in 2025 were influenza A ($n = 5878$, 65.4% of all cases; noting that not all cases were typed). There were 2,161 influenza B notifications (26.9% of typed cases) in 2025, compared to only 88 cases typed as influenza B (1.9% of typed cases) in 2024. A similarly high proportion of influenza B notifications was previously reported in 2023 ($n = 1,256$, 32.2% of typed cases). In 2025 the notification rate for laboratory-confirmed influenza was highest in those aged under 5 years, closely followed by those aged 5 to 19 years (Table 1).

Between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, there were 3,088 notifications of RSV (Table 1), compared with 2,783 and 2,004 cases notified over the same period in 2024 and 2023 respectively. RSV notifications peaked in July in 2025 (Figure 3). Consistent with trends observed in previous years, the number of notifications and notification rates per 100,000 population were highest in those aged under 5 years (Table 1).

ACT COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Epidemiology Overview

Prepared by Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD)

Table 1: Notifications of COVID-19, influenza and RSV, ACT, between 1 January and 31 December 2025

	COVID-19		Influenza		Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	
	Number of cases ^a	Rate per 100,000 ^b	Number of cases ^a	Rate per 100,000 ^b	Number of cases ^a	Rate per 100,000 ^b
Total	3,174	654.7	8,991	1,854.6	3,088	637.0
Age group (years)						
0-4	390	1,487.4	1,047	3,996.9	1,499	5,717.0
5-19	267	307.4	2,818	3,243.9	416	478.9
20-64	1,538	506.4	3,835	1,262.8	767	252.6
65+	979	1,439.3	1,291	1,898.0	406	596.9

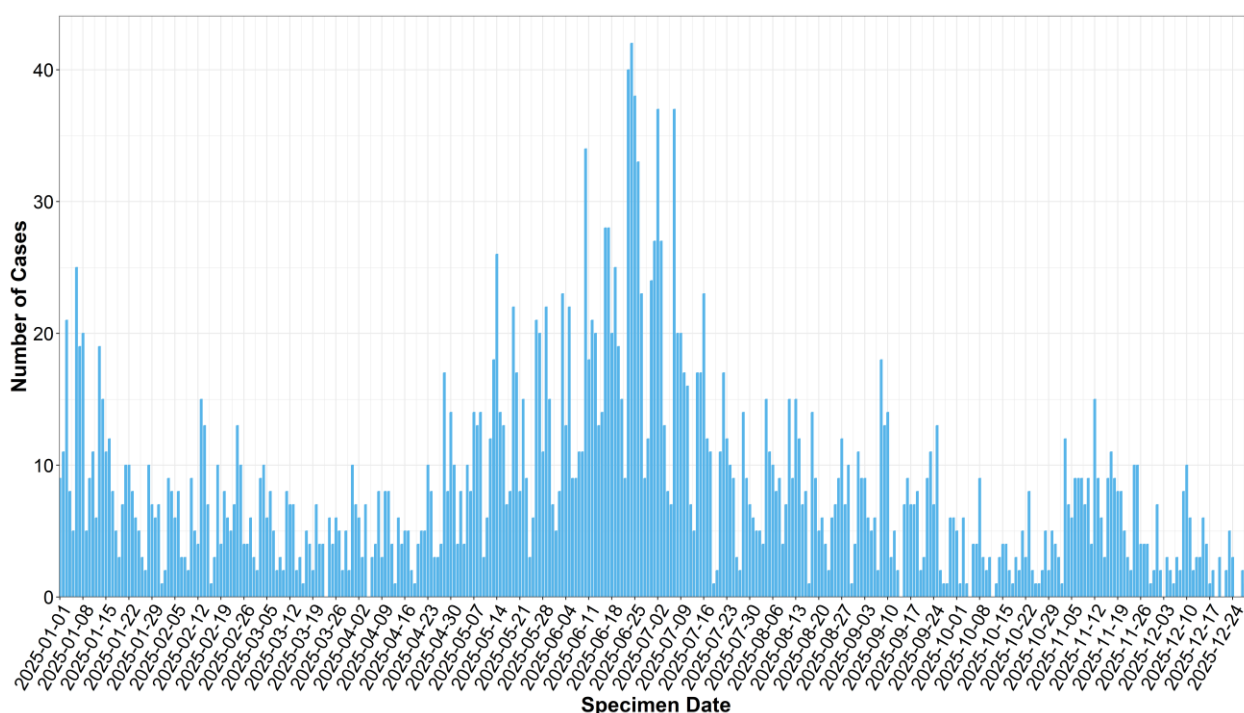
^aCases notified to HCSD during the reporting period.

^bRate per 100,000 population for the reporting period. Population data are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population as of December 2025.

ACT COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Epidemiology Overview

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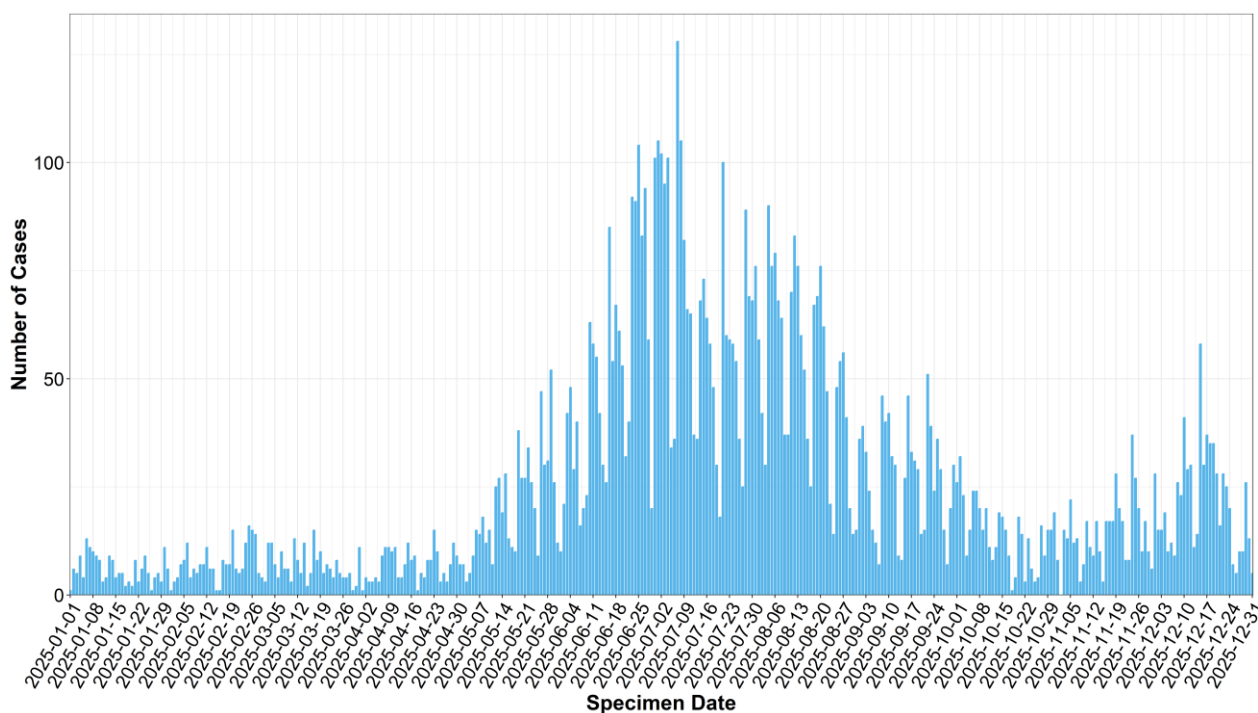
Figure 1: COVID-19 notifications between 1 January and 31 December 2025 by specimen date^a



^aData include laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

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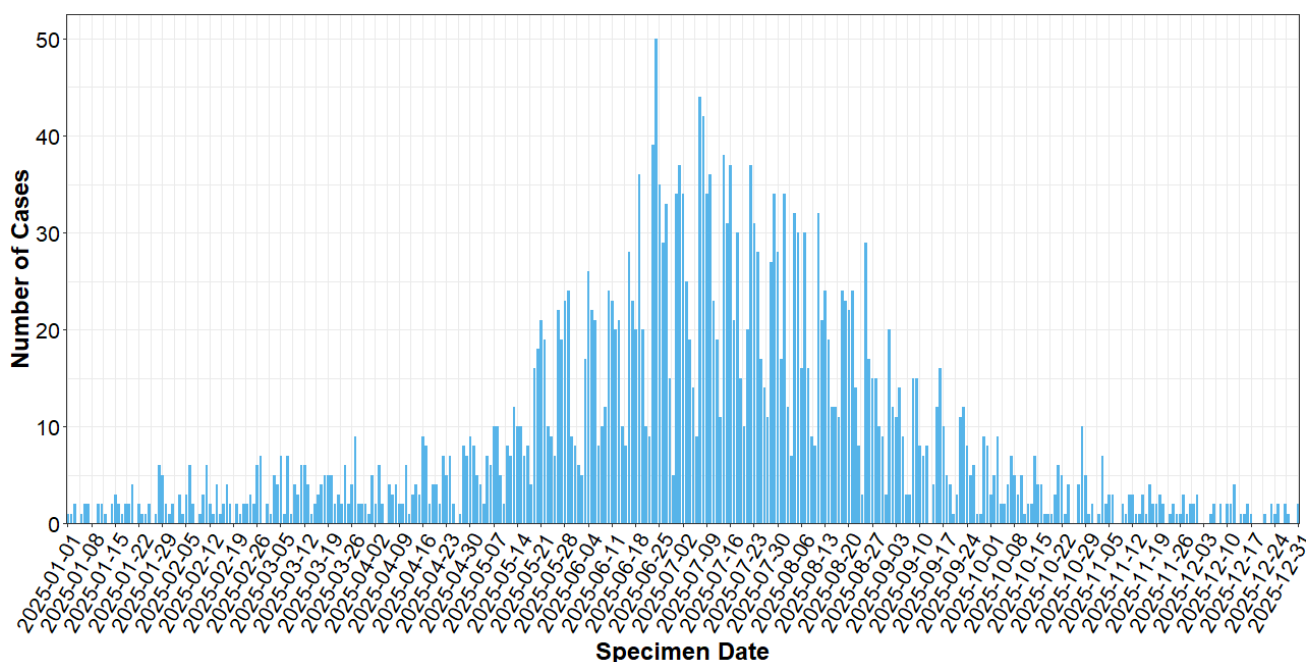
Figure 2: Influenza notifications between 1 January and 31 December 2025 by specimen date^a



^aData include laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

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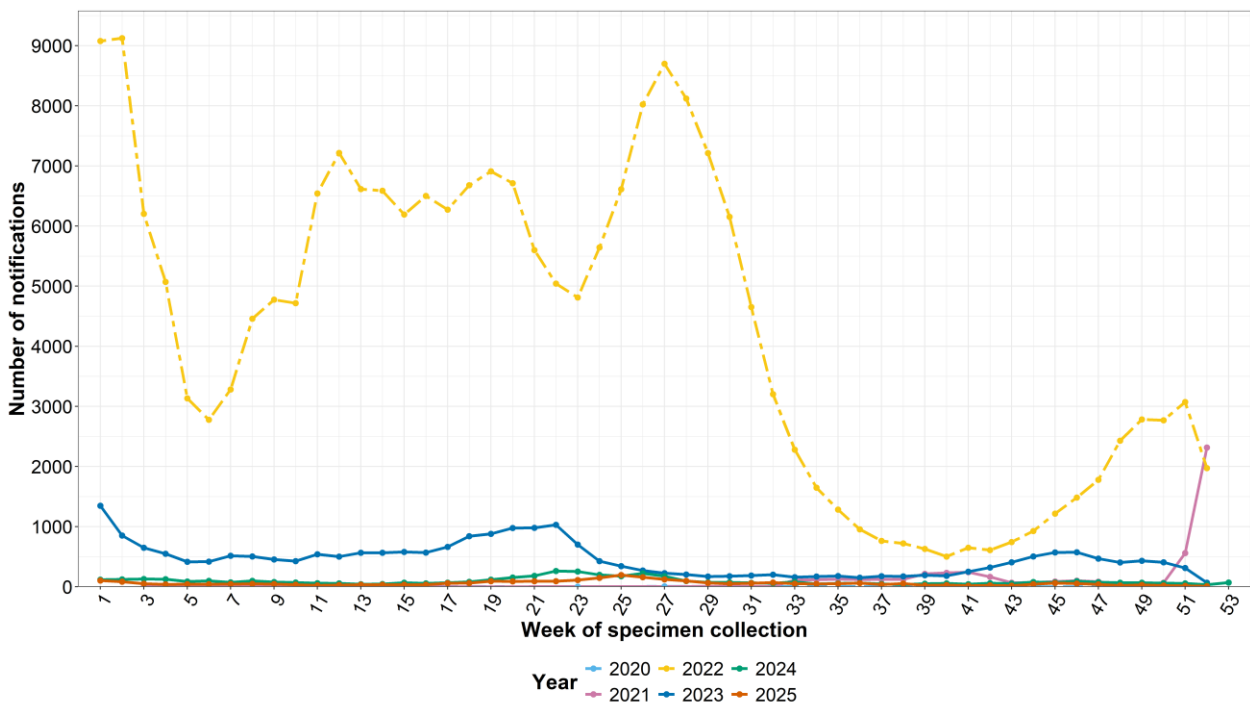
Figure 3: RSV notifications between 1 January and 31 December 2025 by specimen date^a



^aData include laboratory-confirmed cases of RSV reported to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

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Figure 4: Number of COVID-19 notifications, by week and year of specimen collection^{a,b}

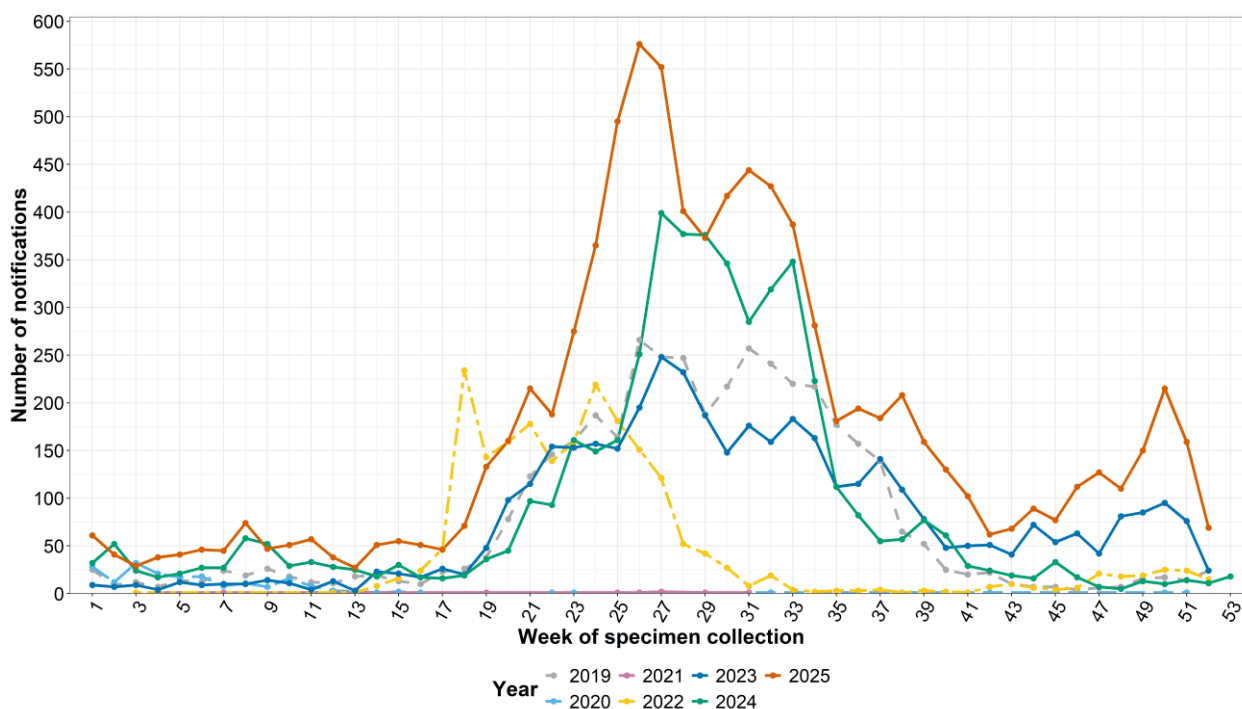


^a Data is based on reports to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

^b Case count between 12 January 2022 and 23 December 2023 includes self-reported Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 notifications.

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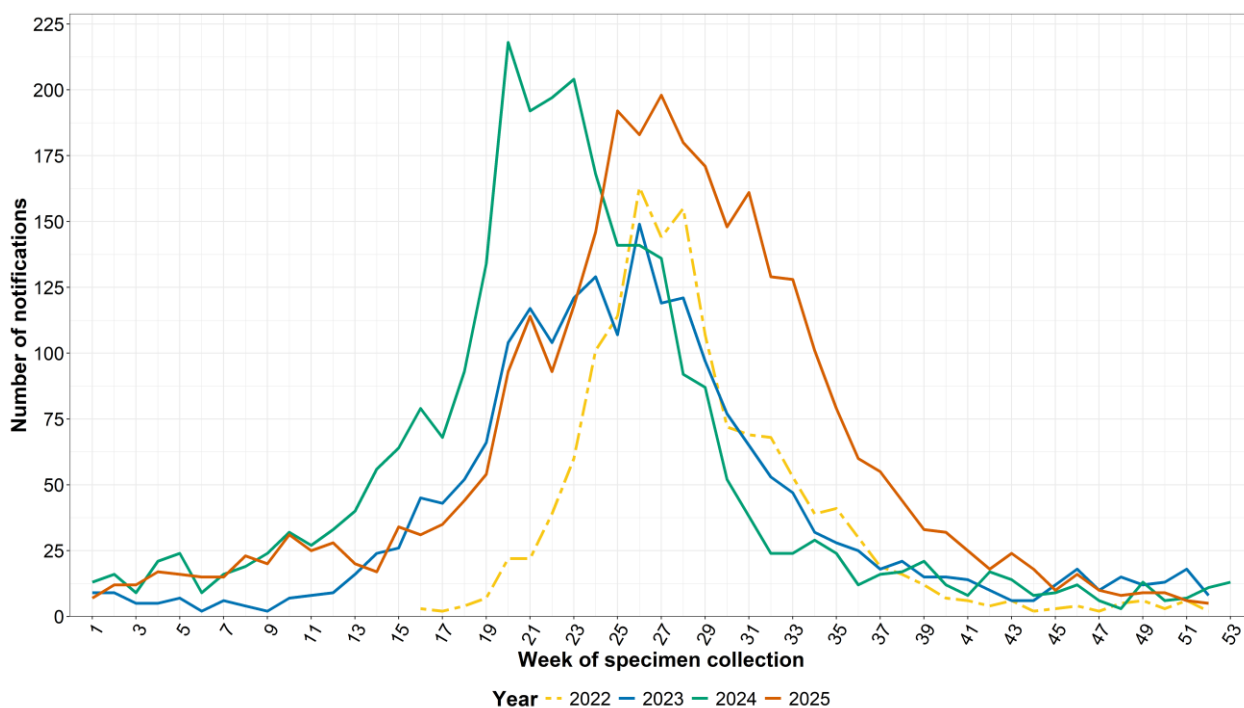
Figure 5: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications, by week and year of specimen collection^a



^a Data is based on reports to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

Prepared by Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD)

Figure 6: Number of laboratory-confirmed RSV notifications, by week and year of specimen collection^{a,b}



^a Data is based on reports to HCSD. HCSD continuously performs data audits and cleaning and may reclassify cases following investigation, removal of duplicates, and other case processing activities. In addition, new cases in ACT residents may be identified in previous reporting periods due to the inter-jurisdictional reporting agreements. For these reasons, data are subject to change.

^b RSV became a notifiable condition in the ACT from 21 February 2022.