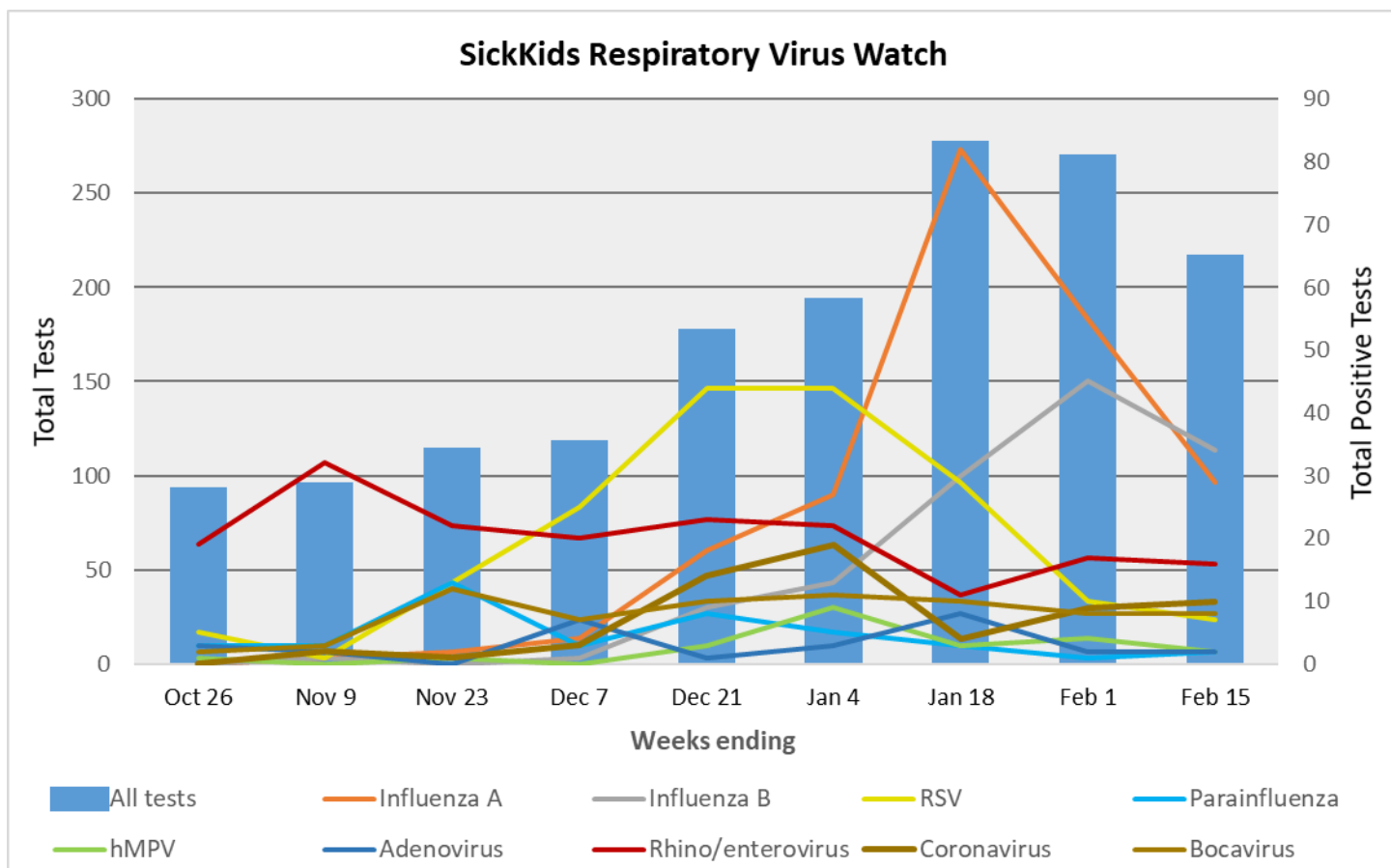


February 18, 2020

During the 2 week period of February 2, 2020 – February 15, 2020, 212 respiratory samples were sent for testing in the Microbiology Laboratory for respiratory virus multiplex PCR or the ED for rapid influenza PCR at SickKids. The total number of specimens tested decreased. Detection of both influenza A (n=29) and influenza B (34) has decreased, with influenza B now being detected slightly more often than influenza A. Rhino/enterovirus (16) remains the next most common virus detected.



Influenza activity in Ontario for the week of February 2 – February 8, 2020 was again lower than the previous week. Across the province influenza activity was reported as moderate for influenza A and low for influenza B. Influenza A positive testing has decreased for the third week.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

Nationally, the influenza activity remained high for the period of February 2 – February 8, 2020. Both influenza A and B continue to circulate in similar proportions. The dominant influenza A subtype continues to be A(H1N1), representing 85% of all influenza A detected. Among the 235 A(H1N1) viruses characterized, 62% were antigenically similar to A/Brisbane/02/2018. The majority of the influenza B viruses belong to the B/Victoria lineage and are antigenically similar to B/Colorado/06/2017.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza/influenza-surveillance.html>