Smorodintsev Research Institute of Influenza

NATIONAL WEEKLY INFLUENZA BULLETIN OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

week 47 of 2026 (16.11.26 - 22.11.26)

Summary

Influenza and ARI incidence data. Influenza and other ARI activity in Russia increase of influenza and other ARI activity in Russia in comparison with previous week. The nationwide ILI and ARI morbidity level (63.3 per 10 000 of population) was lower than national baseline (82.9) by 23.6%.

Etiology of ILI & ARI. Among 11738 patients investigation 843 (**7.2%**) respiratory samples were positive for influenza, including 117 cases of unsubtyped influenza A in 6 cities, 719 cases of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in 40 cities, 2 cases of influenza A(H3N2) in 1 city and 5 cases of influenza B in 4 cities.

7 influenza viruses were isolated on MDCK cell culture, including: 6 cases of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses in Astrakhan (1), Moscow (3), Saint-Petersburg (2) and 1 influenza B virus in Saint-Petersburg. Since the beginning of the season 20 influenza viruses, including: 18 A(H1N1)pdm09, 1 A(H3N2) and 1 B viruses.

Antigenic characterization. Since the beginning of the season 2026-2027 7 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses have been antigenically characterized by the NICs in Saint-Petersburg and Moscow. 6 A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses isolated in Moscow, Kazan, and Saint-Petersburg were similar to the vaccine strain A/Missouri/11/25, which was recommended for inclusion in vaccines for countries in the Northern Hemisphere for the 2026–2027 season. One A(H1N1)pdm09 virus, isolated in November 2026 in Saint-Petersburg, was a drift variant of that strain.

Genetic characterization. Since the beginning of the season 2026-2027 sequenced 23 influenza viruses in Saint-Petersburg. 21 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses belonged to genetic group 6B.1A.5a.2a.1, subclade D.3.1.1. One influenza A(H3N2) virus was classified as clade 3C.2a1b.2a.2a.3a.1, subclade K. One influenza B virus belonged to the clade V1A.3a.2 (C.5.6.).

Susceptibility to antivirals. Since the beginning of the season 2026-2027, the sensitivity of 6 influenza viruses to neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir, zanamivir) were studied in NIC (Saint-Petersburg), including: 4 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses and 2 influenza A(H3N2) viruses. All studied viruses were sensitive to neuraminidase inhibitors.

ARVI detections. The overall proportion of respiratory samples tested positive for other ARVI (PIV, ADV, RSV, RhV, CoV, MPV, BoV) was estimated in total as **12.6%** (PCR).

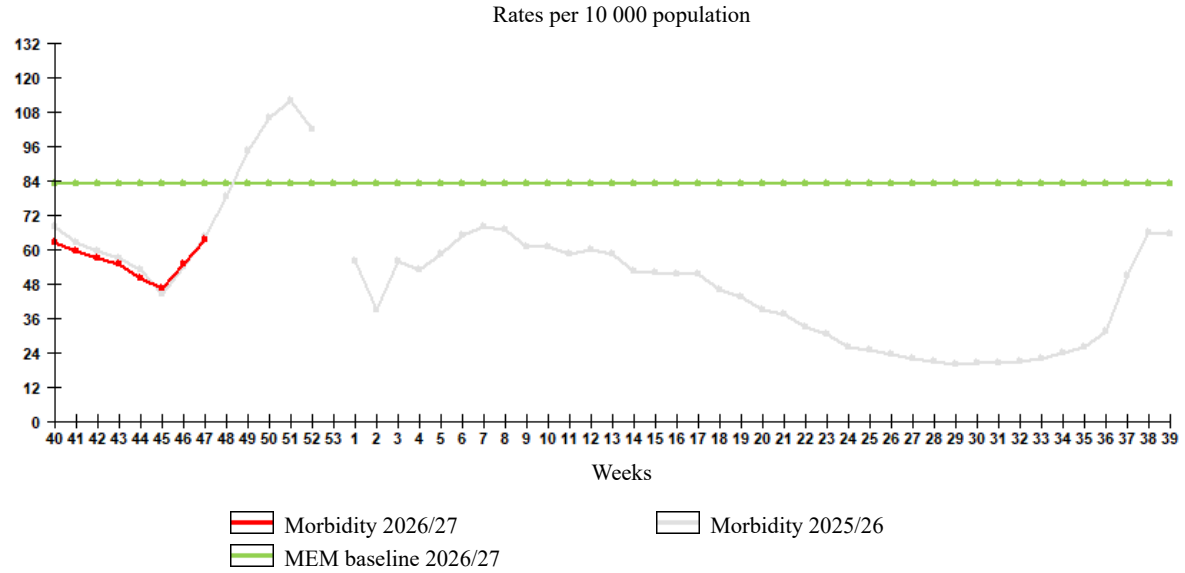
In sentinel surveillance system clinical samples from 46 SARI patients were investigated for influenza, among them 2 (**4.3%**) cases of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were recognized. Among 42 SARI samples no positive cases for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 were recognized. Among 42 SARI samples no positive cases for ARVI were recognized.

Clinical samples from 31 ILI/ARI patient were investigated for influenza, among them 1 (**3.2%**) case of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was recognized. Among 31 ILI/ARI samples 3 (9.7%) cases positive for RhV infection were detected. Among 31 ILI/ARI samples no positive cases for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 were recognized.

COVID-19. According to the data obtained by NIC in Saint-Petersburg totally 18916 clinical samples were PCR investigated in last week. Among them coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 212 (**1.1%**) cases.

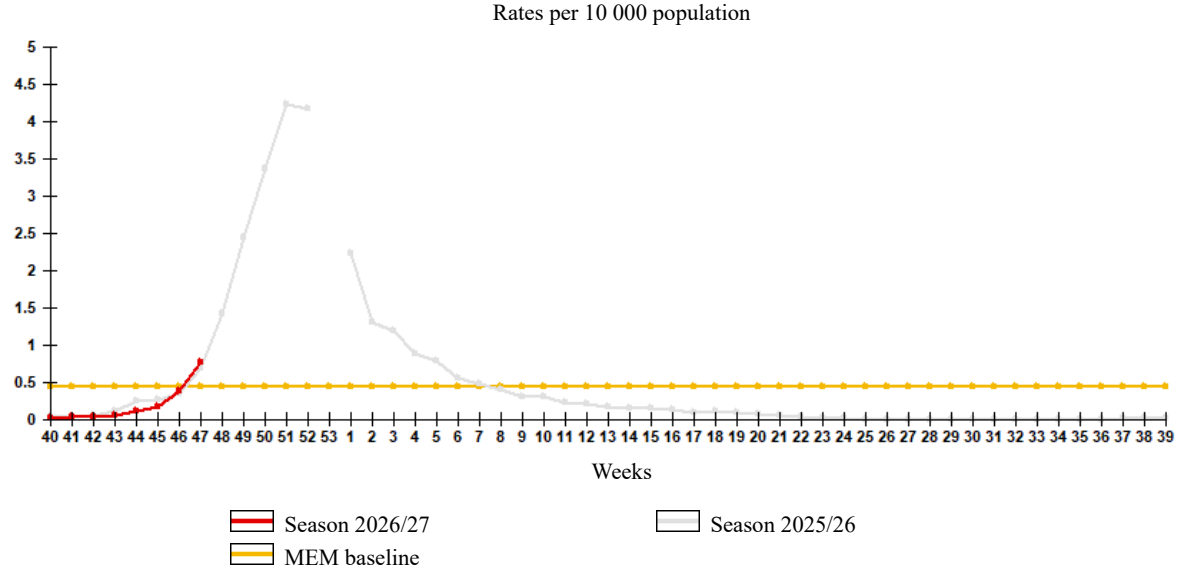
Influenza and ARI morbidity data

Fig. 1. Influenza and ARVI morbidity in 61 cities under surveillance in Russia, seasons 2025/26 and 2026/27



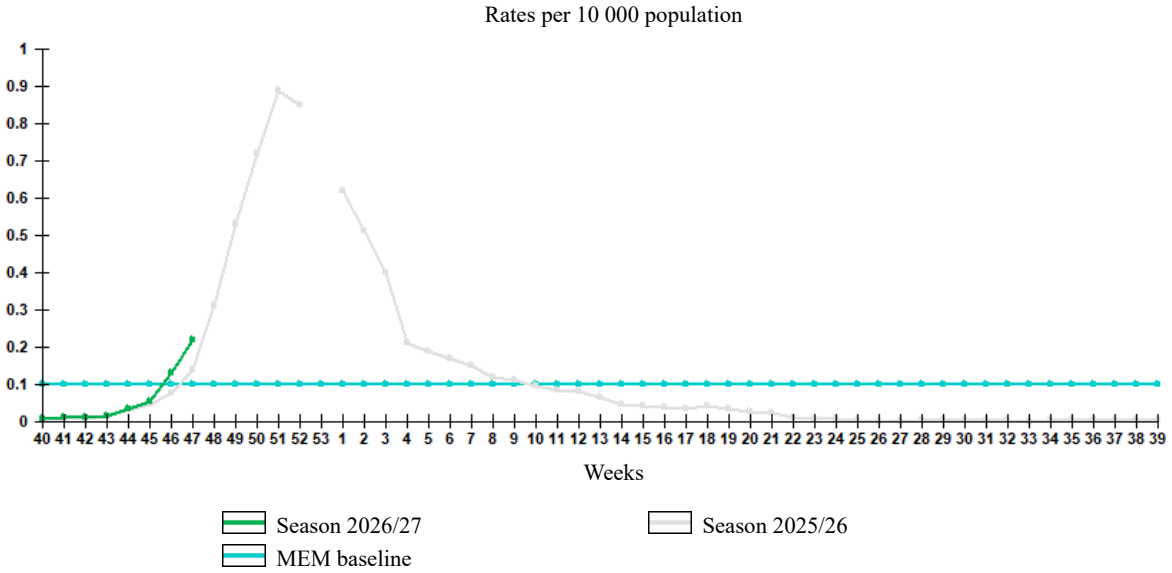
Epidemiological data showed increase of influenza and other ARI activity in Russia in comparison with previous week. The nationwide ILI and ARI morbidity level (63.3 per 10 000 of population) was lower than national baseline (82.9) by 23.6%.

Fig. 2. Comparative data on incidence rate of clinically diagnosed influenza, seasons 2025/26 and 2026/27



Incidence rate of clinically diagnosed influenza increased comparing to previous week and amounted to 0.77 per 10 000 of population, it was higher than pre-epidemic MEM baseline (0.45).

Fig. 3. Comparison of hospitalization rate with clinical diagnosis of influenza, seasons 2025/26 and 2026/27



Hospitalization rate of clinically diagnosed influenza increased comparing to previous week and amounted to 0.22 per 10 000 of population, it was higher than pre-epidemic MEM baseline (0.099).

Influenza and ARVI laboratory testing results

Cumulative results of influenza laboratory diagnosis by rRT-PCR were submitted by 43 RBLs and two WHO NICs. According to these data as a result of 11738 patients investigation 843 (**7.2%**) respiratory samples were positive for influenza, including 117 cases of unsubtyped influenza A in 6 cities, 719 cases of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in 40 cities, 2 cases of influenza A(H3N2) in 1 city and 5 cases of influenza B in 4 cities.

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Fig. 4. Geographic distribution of RT-PCR detected influenza viruses in cities under surveillance in Russia, week 47 of 2026

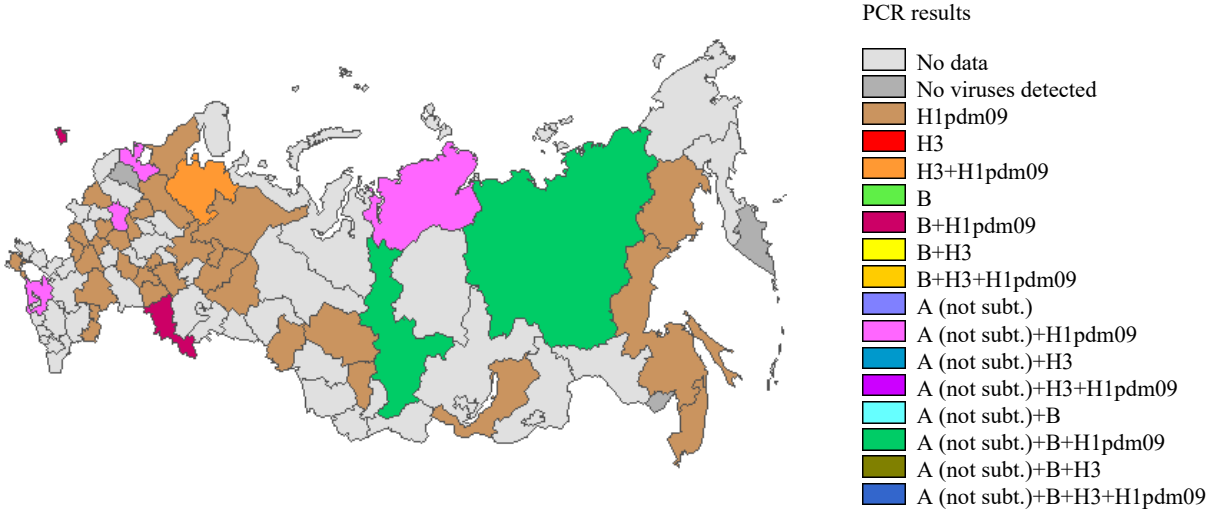


Fig. 5. Monitoring of influenza viruses detection by RT-PCR in Russia, season 2026/27

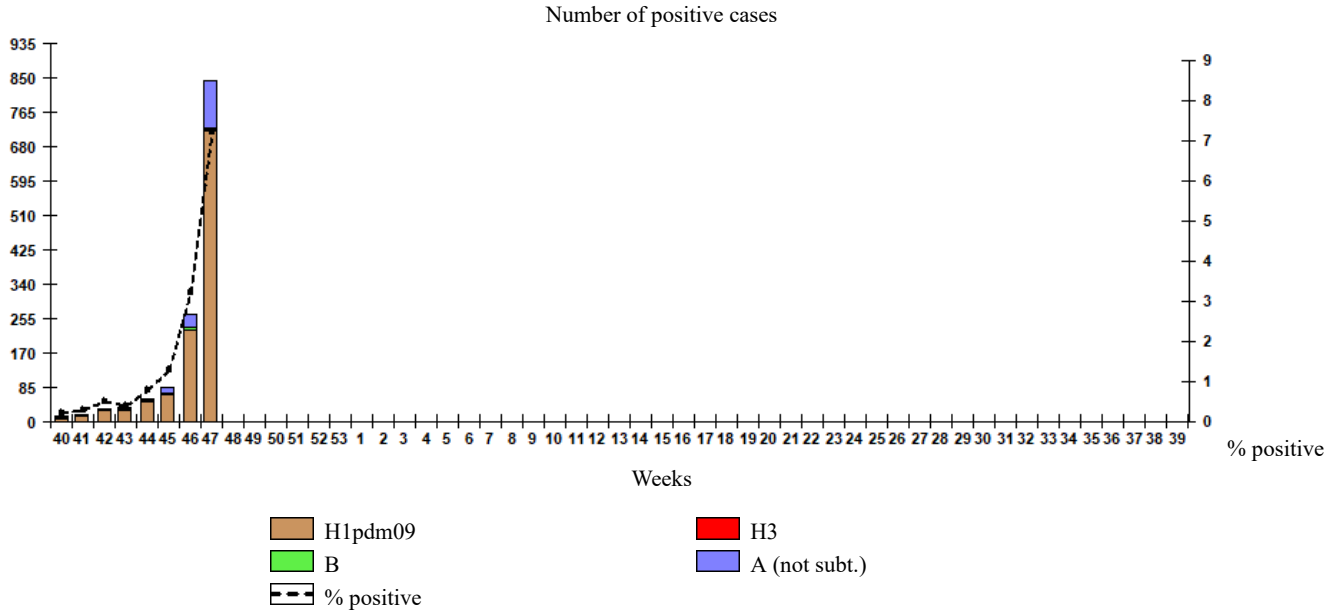
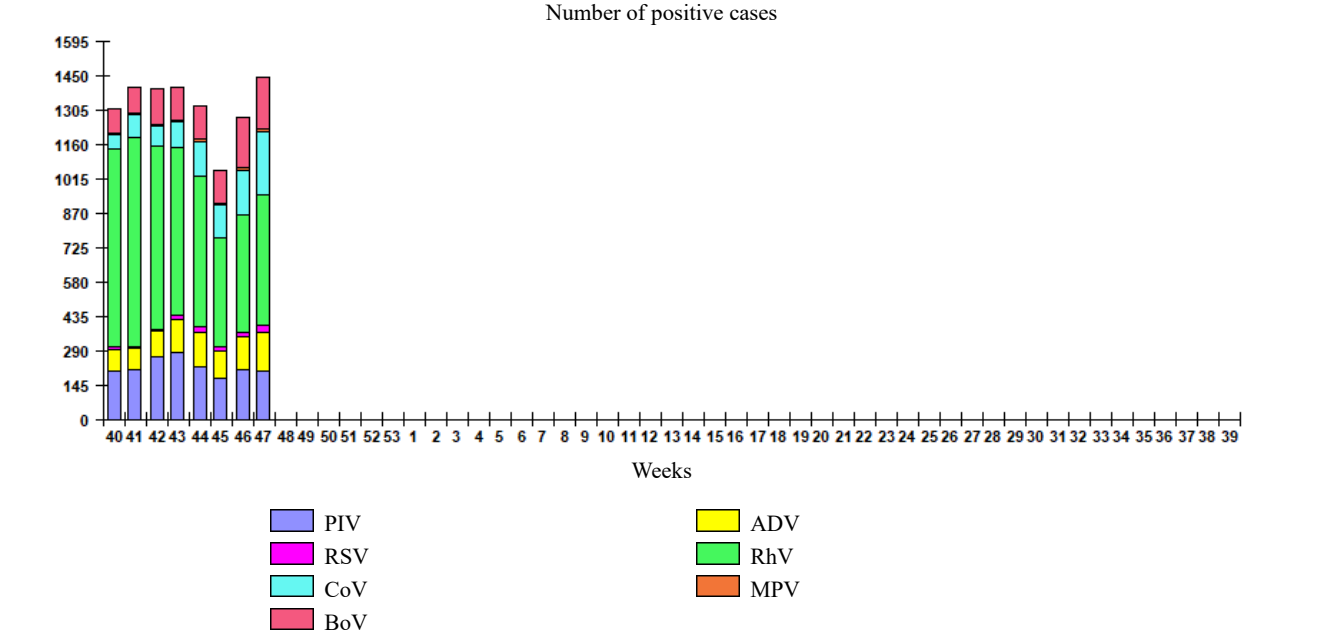


Fig. 6. Monitoring of ARVI detection by RT-PCR in Russia, season 2026/27



ARVI detections. The overall proportion of respiratory samples tested positive for other ARVI (PIV, ADV, RSV, RhV, CoV, MPV, BoV) was estimated **12.6%** of investigated samples by PCR.

Fig. 7. Monitoring of influenza viruses isolation in Russia, season 2026/27

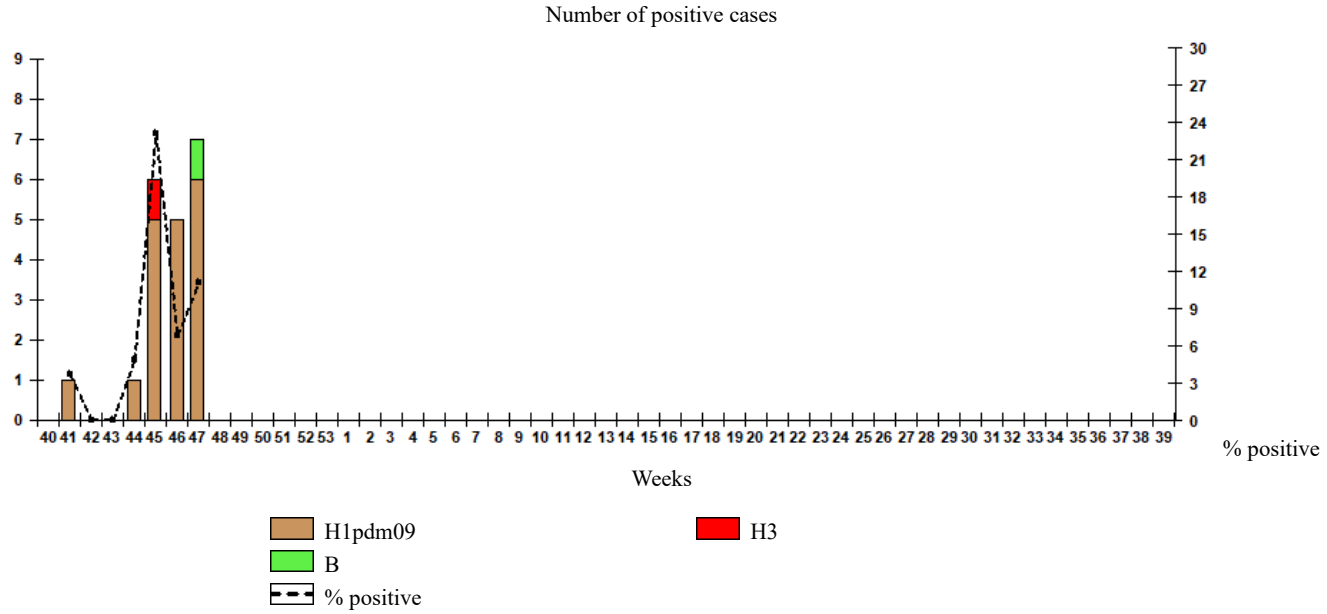
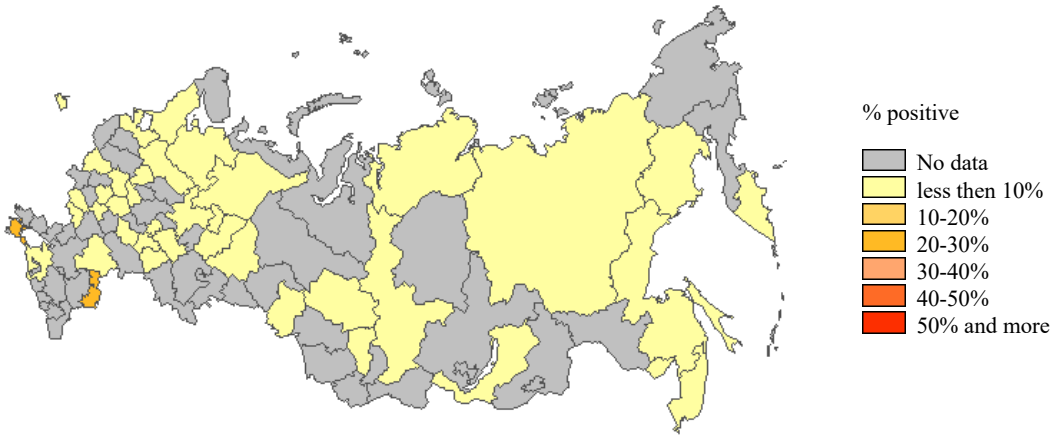


Table 1. Results of influenza and other ARVI detection by RT-PCR in Russia, week 47 of 2026

	Number of specimens / number of positive cases	**% positive**
Influenza		
Number of specimens tested for influenza	*11738*	-
Influenza A (not subt.)	*117*	*1,0%*
Influenza A(H1)pdm09	*719*	*6,1%*
Influenza A(H3)	*2*	*0,02%*
Influenza B	*5*	*0,04%*
All influenza	*843*	*7,2%*
Other ARVI		
Number of specimens tested for ARVI	*11421*	-
PIV	*207*	*1,8%*
ADV	*165*	*1,4%*
RSV	*28*	*0,2%*
RhV	*547*	*4,8%*
CoV	*267*	*2,3%*
MPV	*14*	*0,1%*
BoV	*215*	*1,9%*
All ARVI	*1443*	*12,6%*
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)		
Number of specimens tested for SARS-CoV-2	*18916*	-
SARS-CoV-2	*212*	*1,1%*

Fig. 8. Results of PCR detections of SARS-CoV-2 in Russia



COVID-19. According to the data obtained by NIC in Saint-Petersburg totally 18916 clinical samples were PCR investigated in last week. Among them coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 212 (**1.1%**) cases.

Table 2. Results of influenza viruses isolation in Russia, week 47 of 2026

	Number of specimens / number of viruses	**% isolated viruses**
Number of specimens	*63*	-
Influenza A(H1)pdm09	*6*	*9,5%*
Influenza A(H3)	*0*	*0,0%*
Influenza B	*1*	*1,6%*
All influenza	*7*	*11,1%*

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Clinical samples from 46 SARI patients were investigated for influenza, among them 2 (4.3%) cases of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were recognized. Among 42 SARI samples no positive cases for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 were recognized. Among 42 SARI samples no positive cases for ARVI were recognized.

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Fig. 9. Monitoring of influenza viruses detection by RT-PCR among SARI patients in sentinel hospitals, season 2026/27

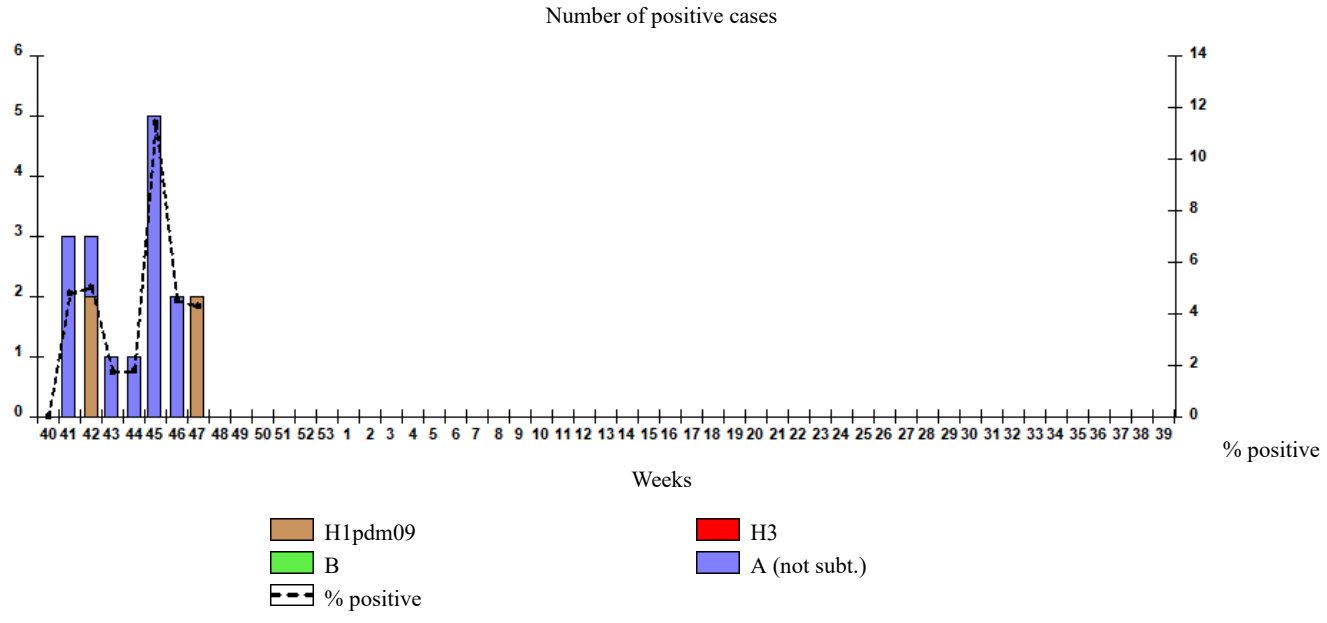


Fig. 10. Monitoring of influenza viruses detection by RT-PCR among ILI/ARI patients in sentinel polyclinics, season 2026/27

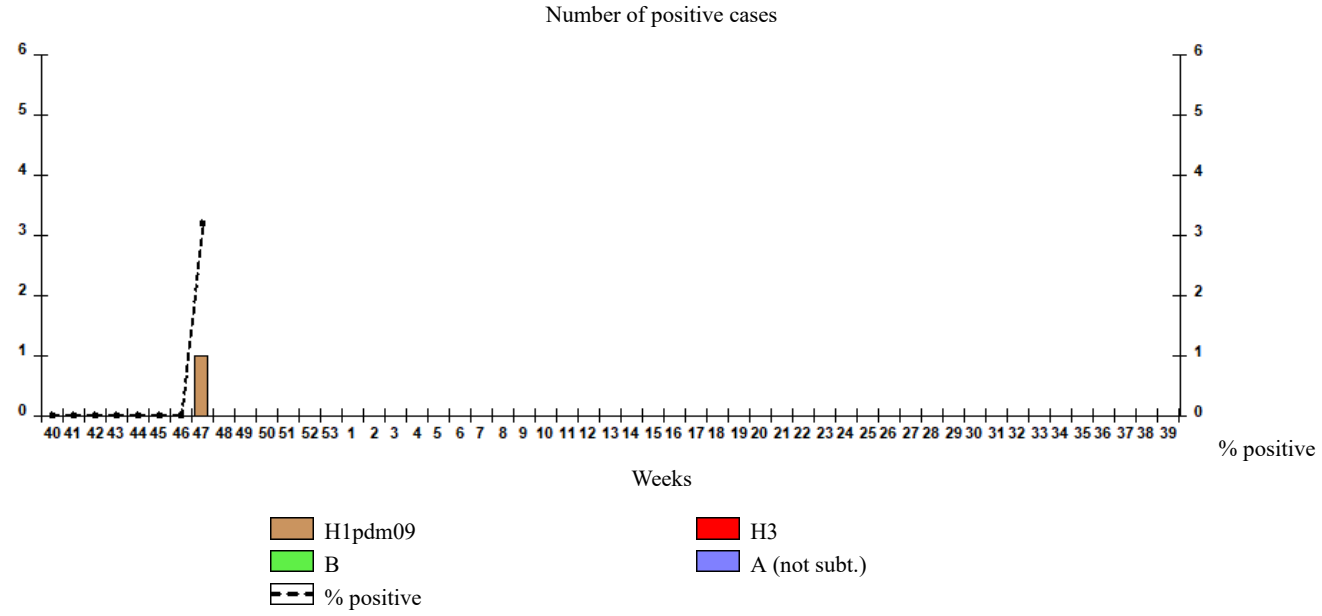


Fig. 11. Monitoring of ARVI detection by RT-PCR among SARI patients in sentinel hospitals, season 2026/27

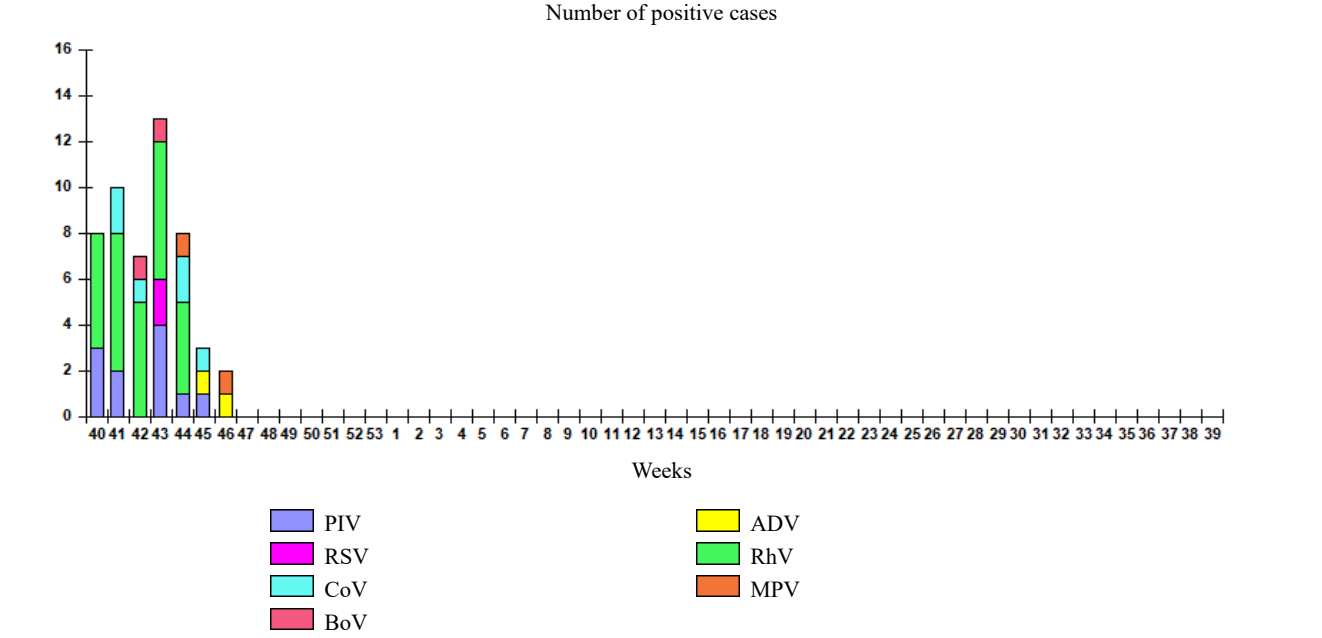
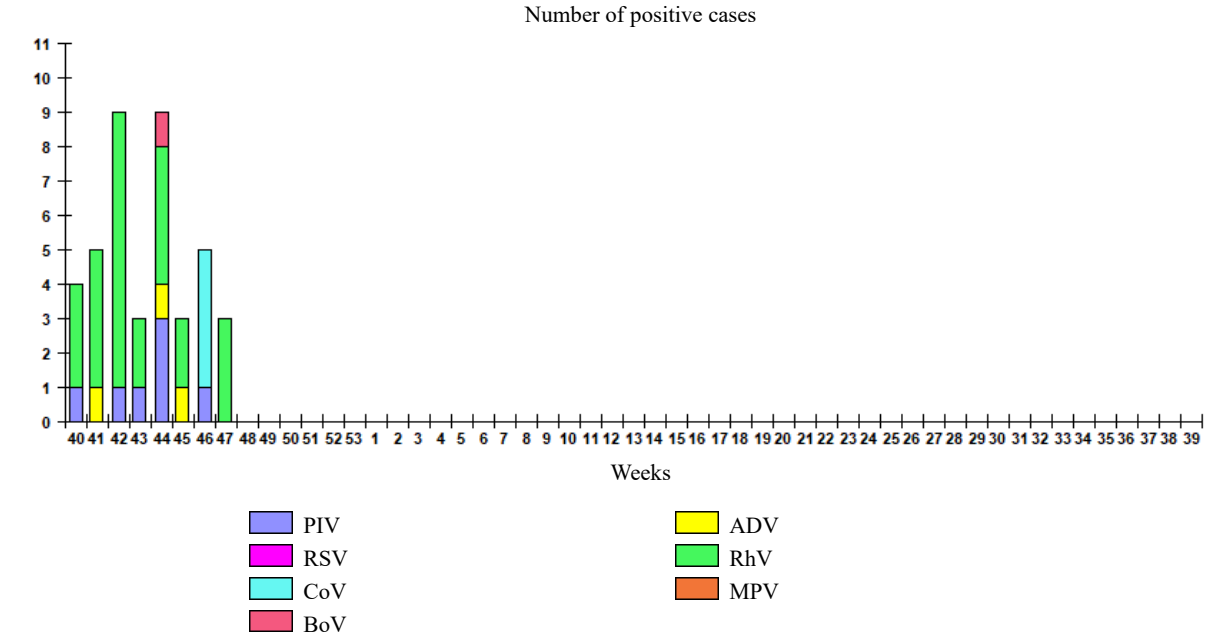


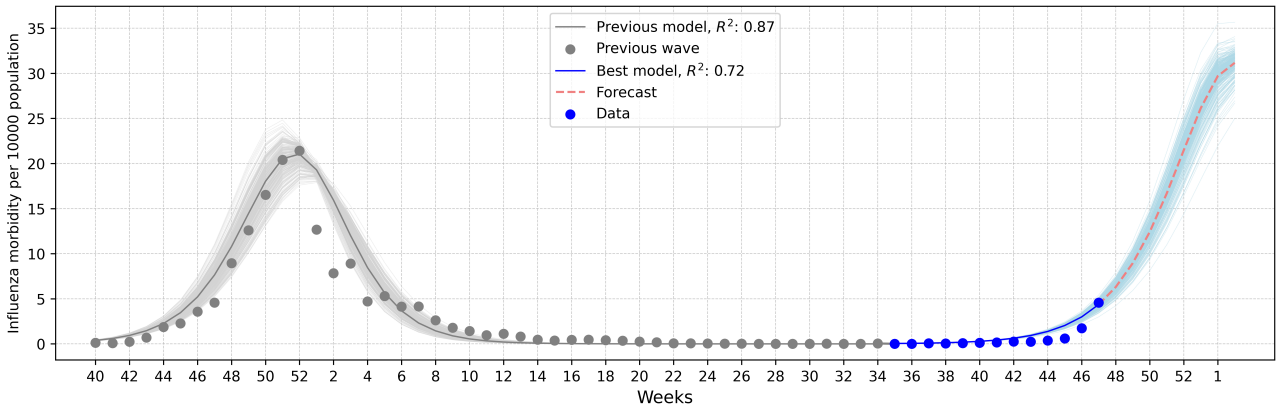
Fig. 12. Monitoring of ARVI detection by RT-PCR among ILI/ARI patients in sentinel polyclinics, season 2026/27



Influenza morbidity forecasting

An influenza incidence forecast was performed. The forecast is based on the Baroyan–Rvachev model. Model calibration was carried out using data on registered influenza and acute respiratory infection (ARI) cases, as well as laboratory influenza diagnostics (PCR), from the beginning of the epidemic season (week 40) up to the week preceding the publication of the forecast. The data are presented with a one-calendar-week time step. Optimal parameters were identified using calibration algorithms, resulting in the construction of a model curve. The estimated parameters allow the model curve to be extended and a forecast to be generated for the next four weeks from the observation date (the week for which the bulletin is published).

Fig. 13. Results of influenza incidence modeling, season 2026/27.



In week 47 of 2026, a increase in incidence was observed. The situation is expected to worsen in the coming weeks.