



MMWR Week: 40

Ending on: 10/10/2026

Respiratory Surveillance At-A-Glance

Virology

Percent Positivity at LAC Sentinel Laboratories

Influenza

7.9%
Decreasing

Moderate

COVID-19

7.4%
Decreasing

Moderate

RSV

1.2%
Increasing

Low

The up and down arrows indicate a change of at least 0.5 percentage points in the percentage of specimens positive for influenza, COVID-19, or RSV compared to the previous week reported by LA County sentinel surveillance laboratories.

Illness

Emergency Department Visits

Percent of ED Visits for Influenza-like Illness

4.1%
Decreasing

Low

The up and down arrows indicate a change of at least 0.1 percentage points in the percentage of influenza-like illness classified emergency department visits in LA County compared to the previous week.

The moderate, high and very high categories are calculated by applying the moving epidemic method to historical data. Details can found on in the technical notes on the online version of [RESPWatch](#).

Severity

Viral Respiratory Deaths

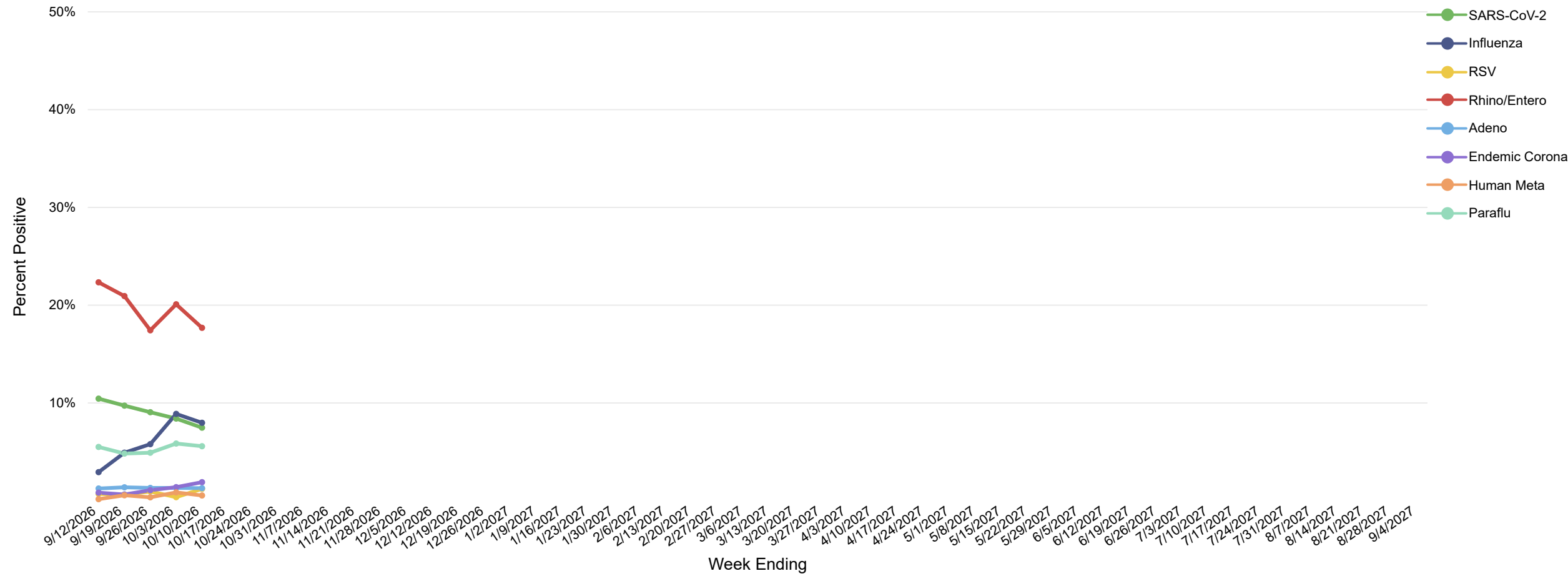
Pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 accounted for **8.5%** of deaths registered in LAC in **MMWR Week 39**. Since the start of the 2025-2026 respiratory season, **129** influenza-coded deaths and **187** COVID-coded deaths have been identified through death certificate data.

Notes: Public Health prepares this report to summarize current respiratory illness surveillance data in LA County (excluding the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena). **Weekly surveillance data are preliminary and subject to change.** The respiratory virus surveillance period starts with MMWR week 40 and runs through week 39 of the following year. The 2026-27 season started on Oct 4, 2026.



Viral surveillance data is provided by clinical laboratories serving hospitals and healthcare networks across Los Angeles County. Participating laboratories provide the number of positive tests and total number of specimens tested for SARS-Cov-2, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus. Some laboratories also share testing data on other common respiratory viruses with Public Health.

Figure 1. Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive by Viral Etiology, Los Angeles County Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories, 2026-27 Influenza Season

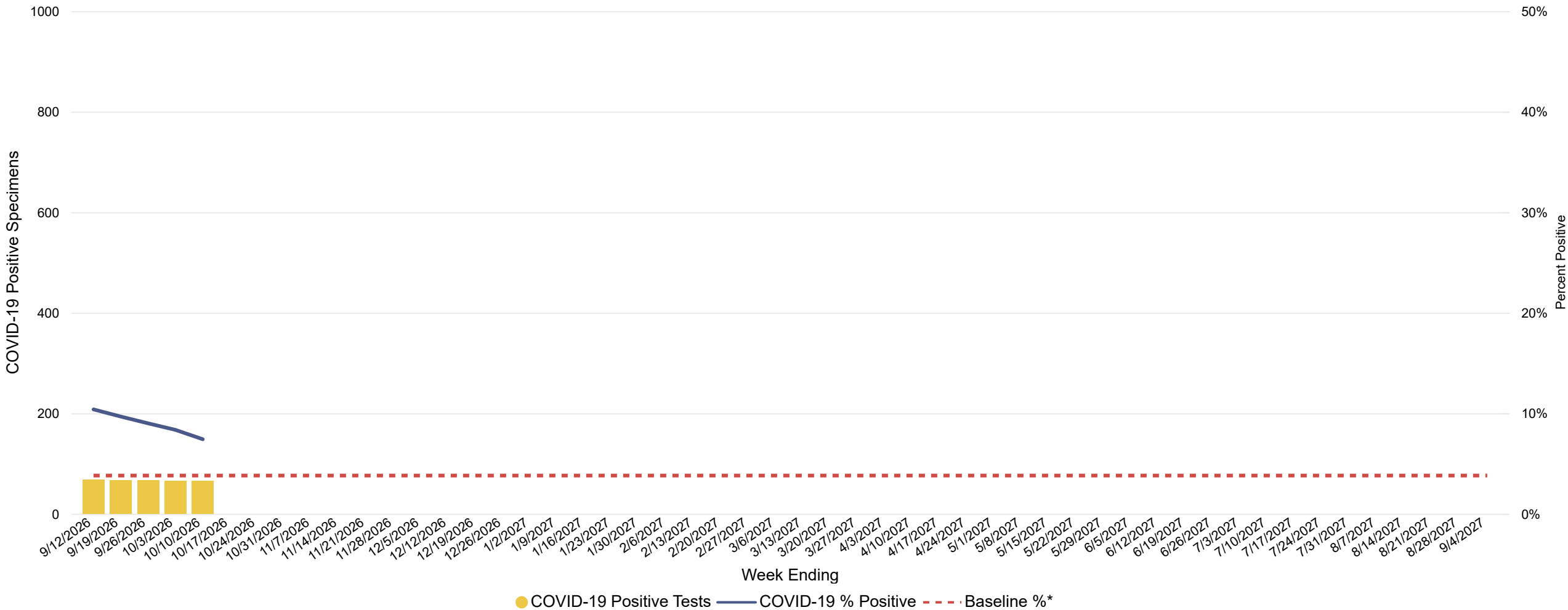


*Public Health surveillance data excludes the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena.

*The respiratory virus surveillance period starts with MMWR week 40 and runs through week 39 of the following year. The 2026-27 season started on Oct 4, 2026

Virologic Surveillance - COVID-19

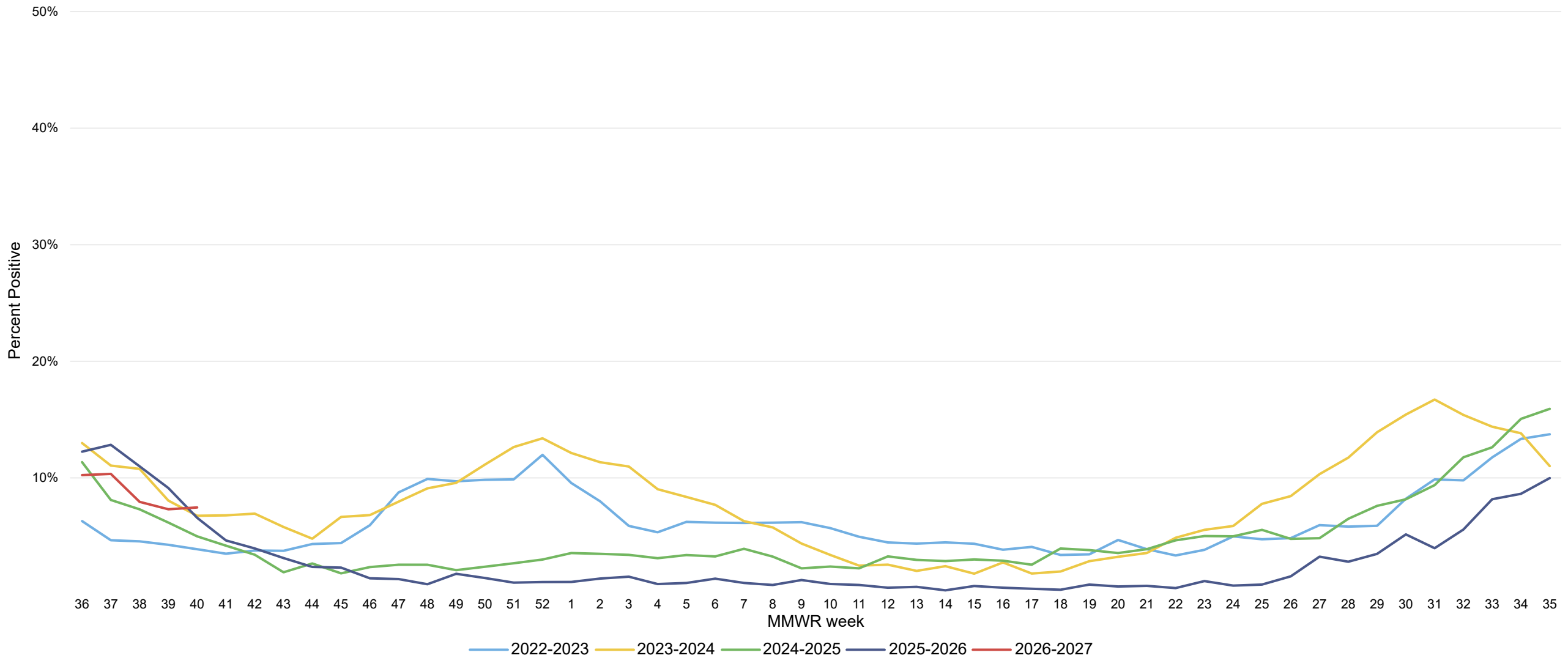
Figure 2. Respiratory Specimens Tested and Percent Positive for COVID-19 by LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories, 2026-27 Season



**Baseline is defined as mean percentage of specimens testing positive during non-epidemic weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. Non-epidemic weeks are periods of ≥2 consecutive weeks during which each week accounted for < 2% of the season’s total number of specimens that tested positive.*

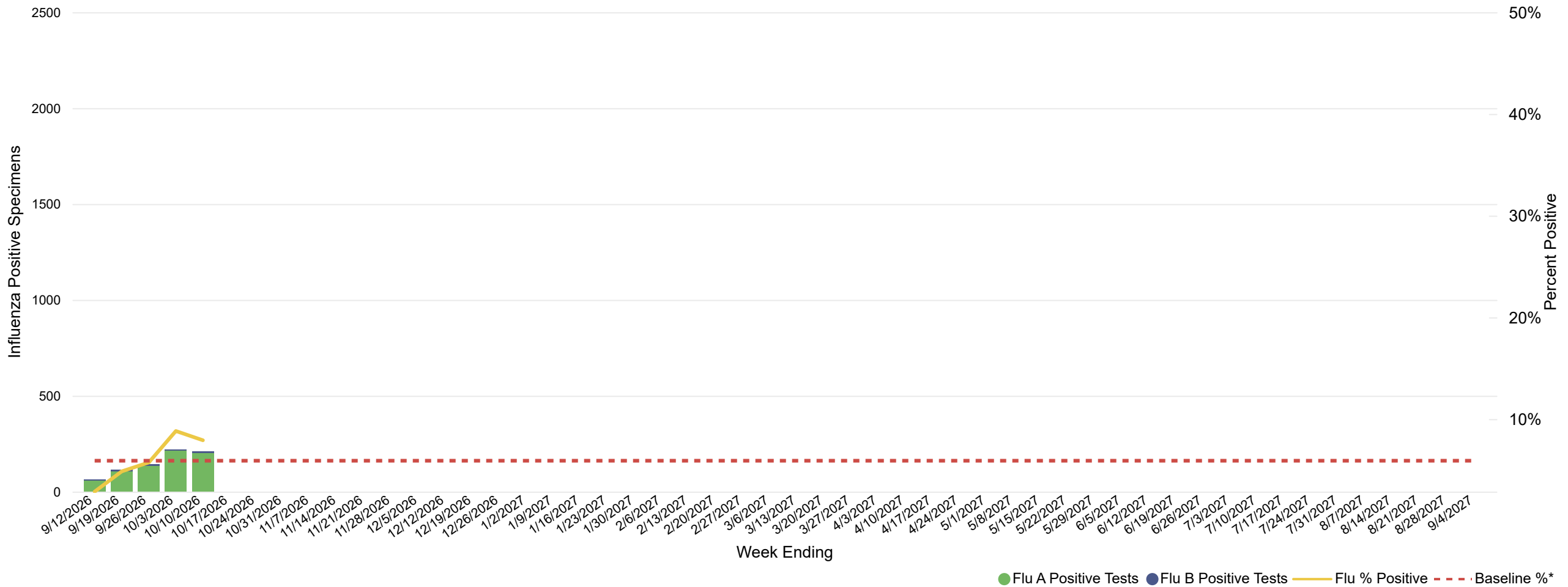
Virologic Surveillance - COVID-19

Figure 3. Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive for COVID-19 at LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories by Season, 2022-23 Through 2026-27



Virologic Surveillance - Influenza

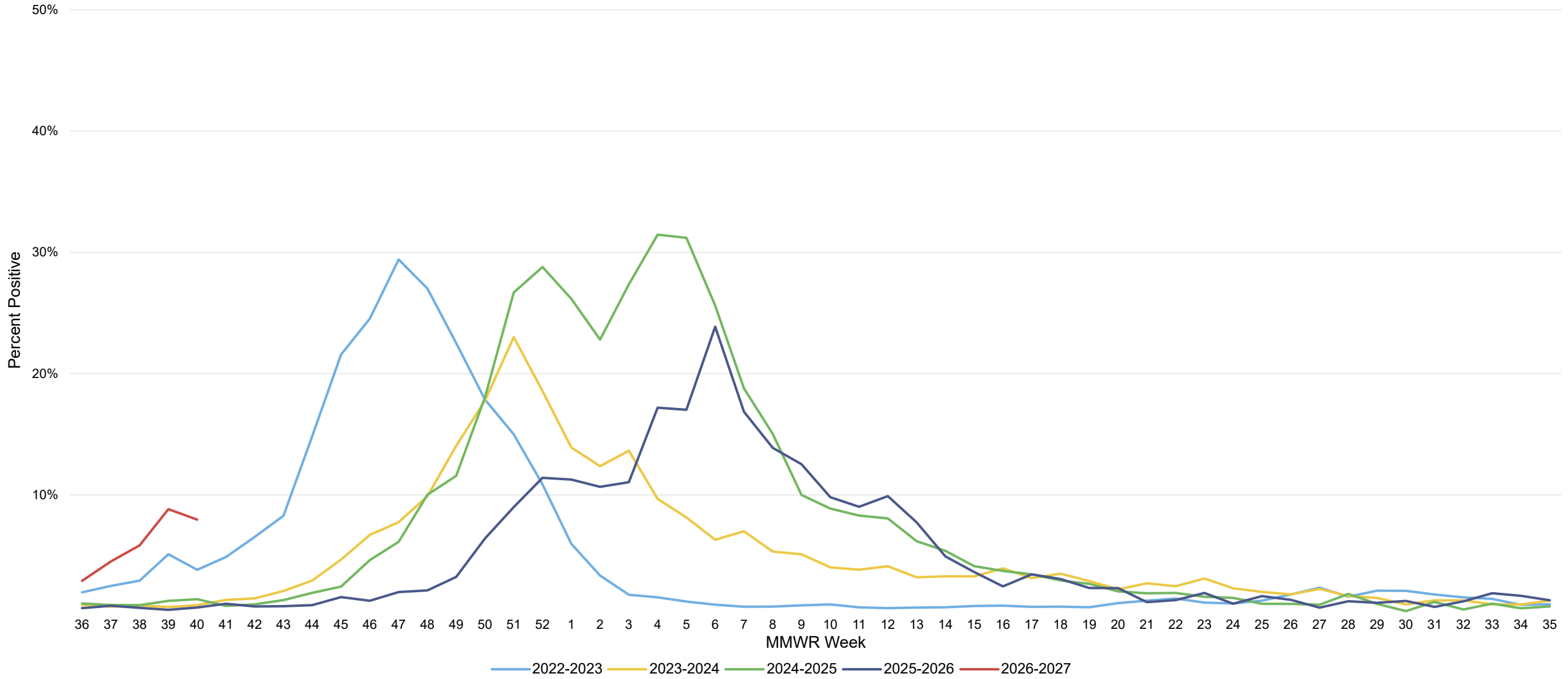
Figure 4. Respiratory Specimens Tested and Percent Positive for Influenza Virus by LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories, 2026-27 Influenza Season



**Baseline is defined as mean percentage of specimens testing positive during non-epidemic weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. Non-epidemic weeks are periods of ≥ 2 consecutive weeks during which each week accounted for $< 2\%$ of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive.*

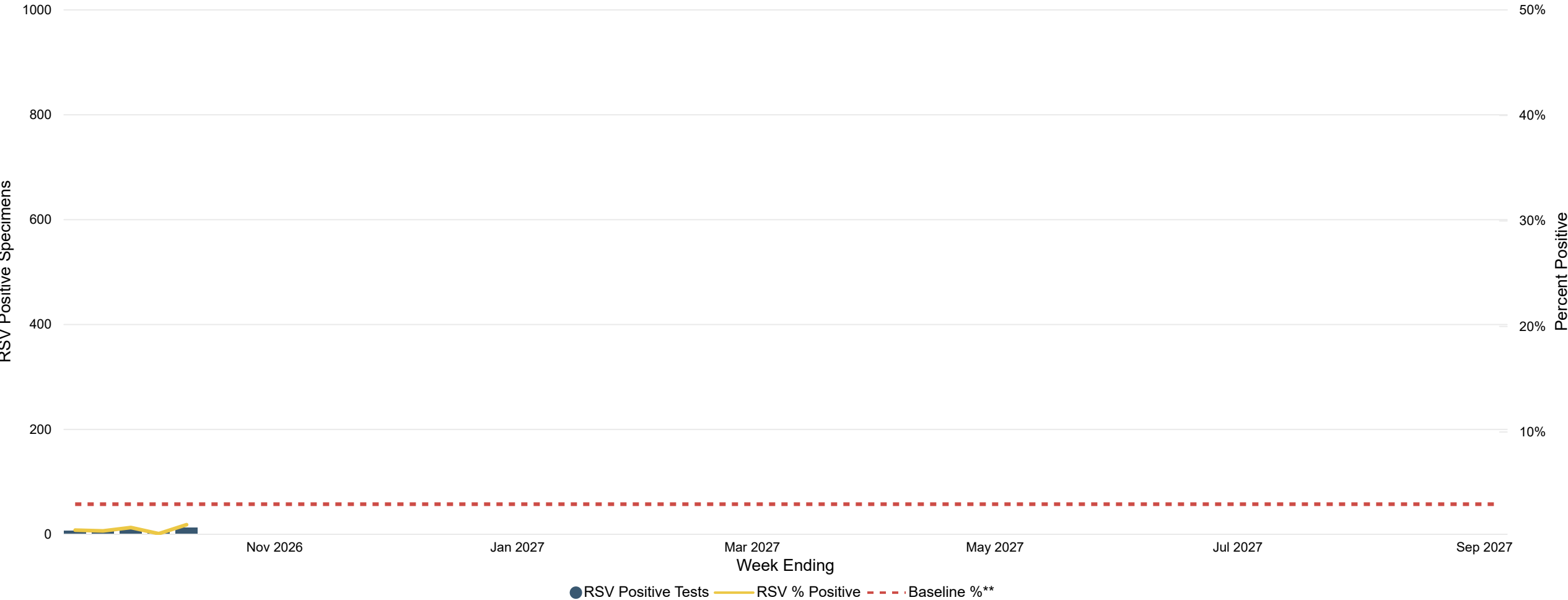
Virologic Surveillance - Influenza

Figure 5. Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive for Influenza at LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories by Season, 2022-23 Through 2026-27



Virologic Surveillance - RSV

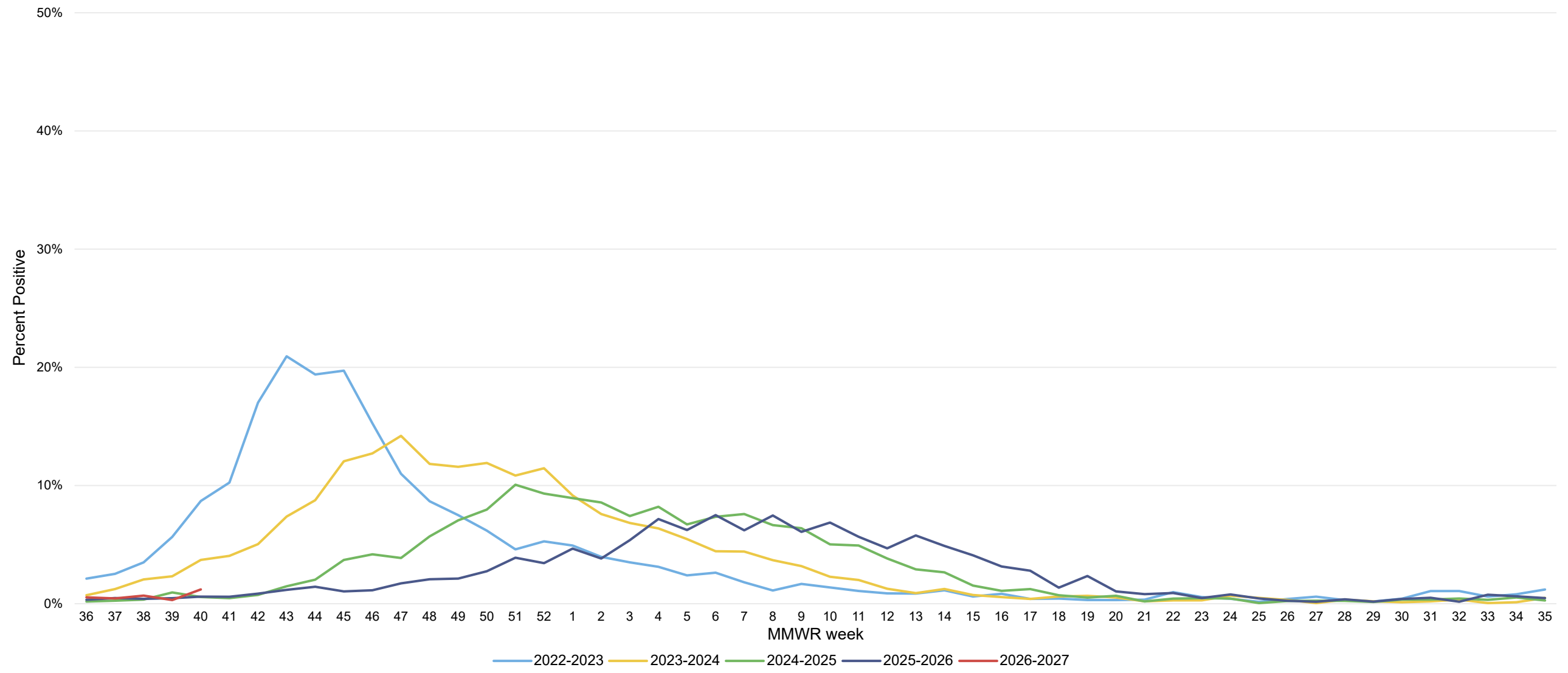
Figure 6. Respiratory Specimens Tested and Percent Positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) by LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories, 2026-27 Season



**Baseline is defined as mean percentage of specimens testing positive during non-epidemic weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. Non-epidemic weeks are periods of ≥ 2 consecutive weeks during which each week accounted for $< 2\%$ of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive.*

Virologic Surveillance - RSV

Figure 7. Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) at LAC Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories by Season, 2022-23 Through 2026-27

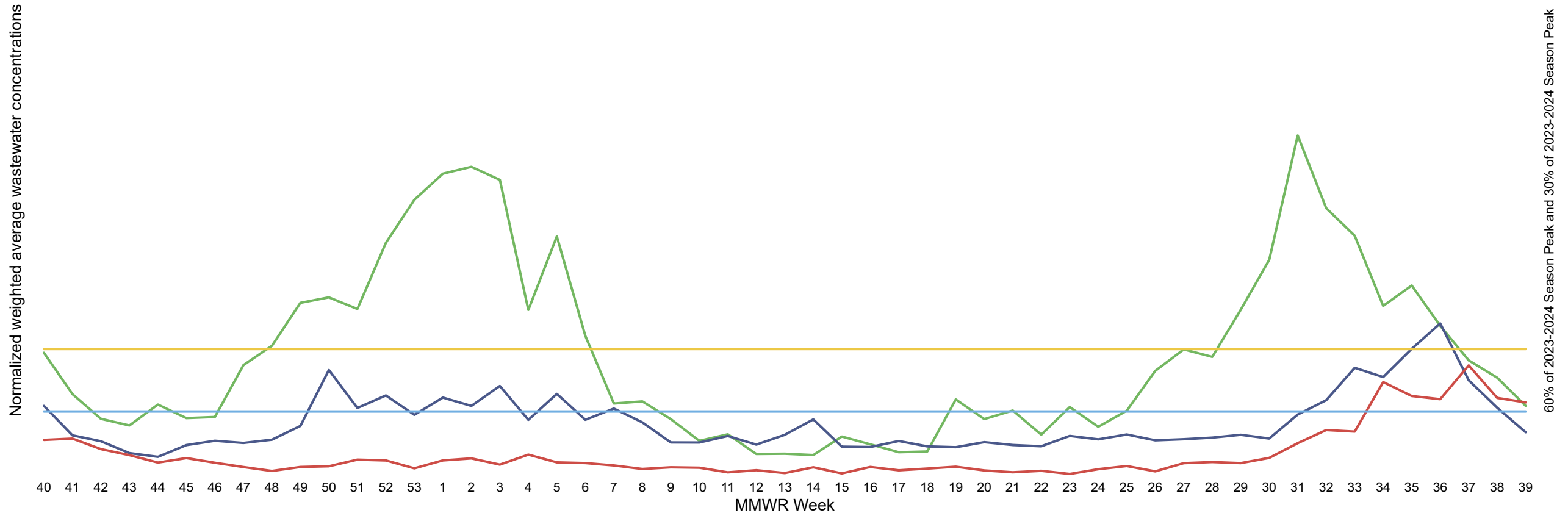




Wastewater data includes data from the Warren, Hyperion, and Lancaster sewersheds. These three sewersheds cover 90% of the population of LA County. All data courtesy of WastewaterSCAN. Data are normalized average wastewater SARS-CoV-2 concentrations. A weighted average is calculated by using the SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and RSV viral concentrations across the three sewer systems, with the weights representing the population size served by each sewer system.

Figure 8. Wastewater Concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 in LA County by Season, 2023-2024 through 2025-2026

2023-2024 2024-2025 2025-2026 60% of 2023-2024 Season Peak 30% of 2023-2024 Season Peak



*Threshold values representing 30% and 60% of the previous season's peak are shown in the light blue and yellow horizontal lines. These thresholds can aid in interpreting the current season; for example, values at or below the 30% threshold indicate lower concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) in the wastewater, whereas values at or above the 60% threshold indicate higher concentrations.

Figure 9. Wastewater Concentrations of Influenza A in LA County by Season, 2023-2024 through 2025-2026

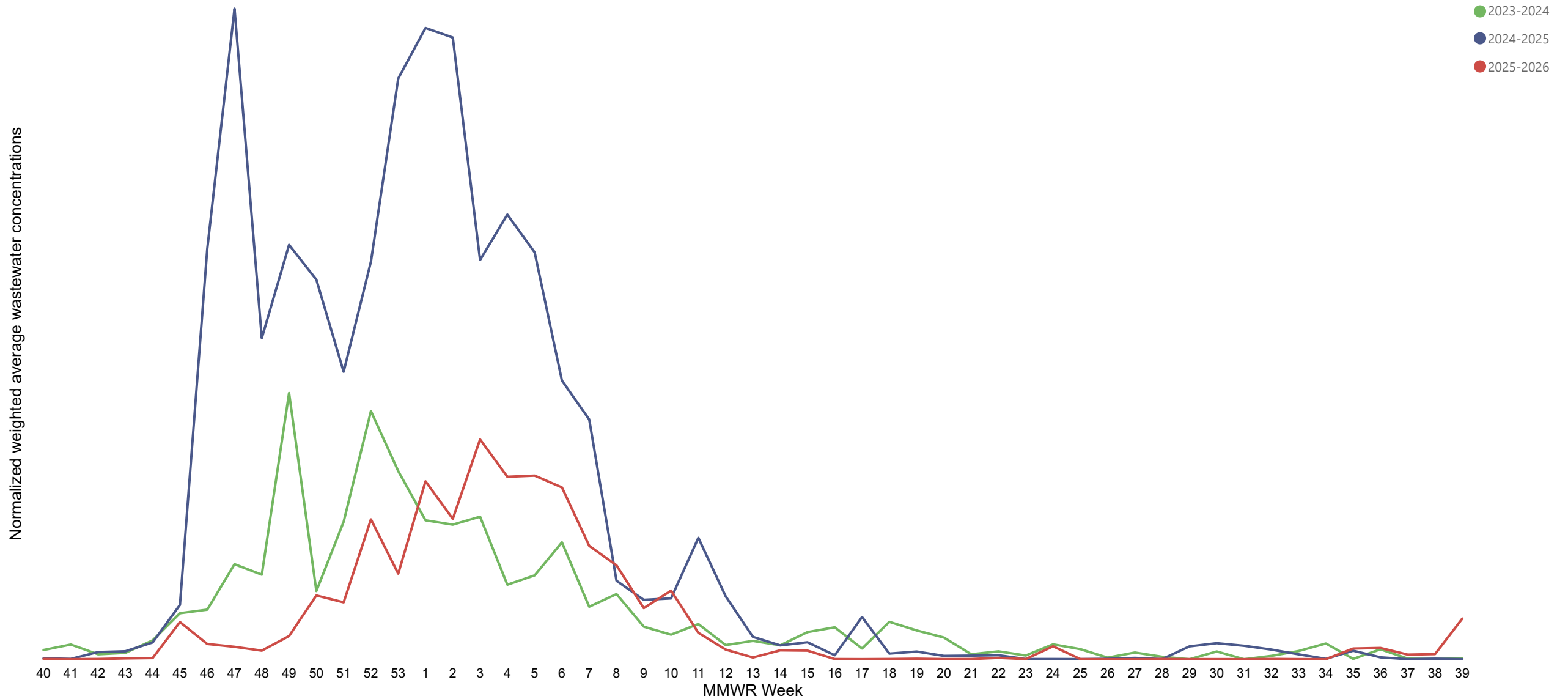


Figure 10. Wastewater Concentrations of Influenza B in LA County by Season, 2023-2024 through 2025-2026

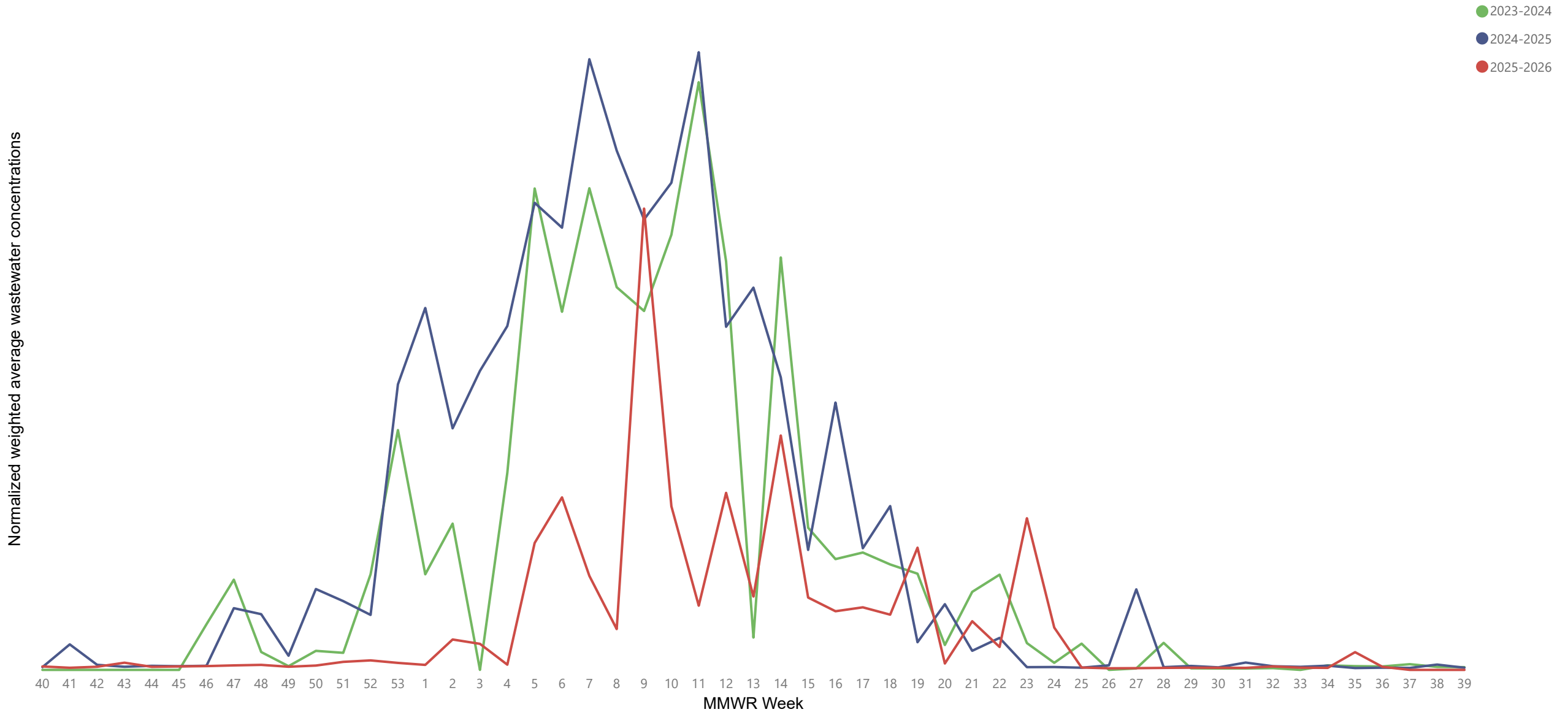
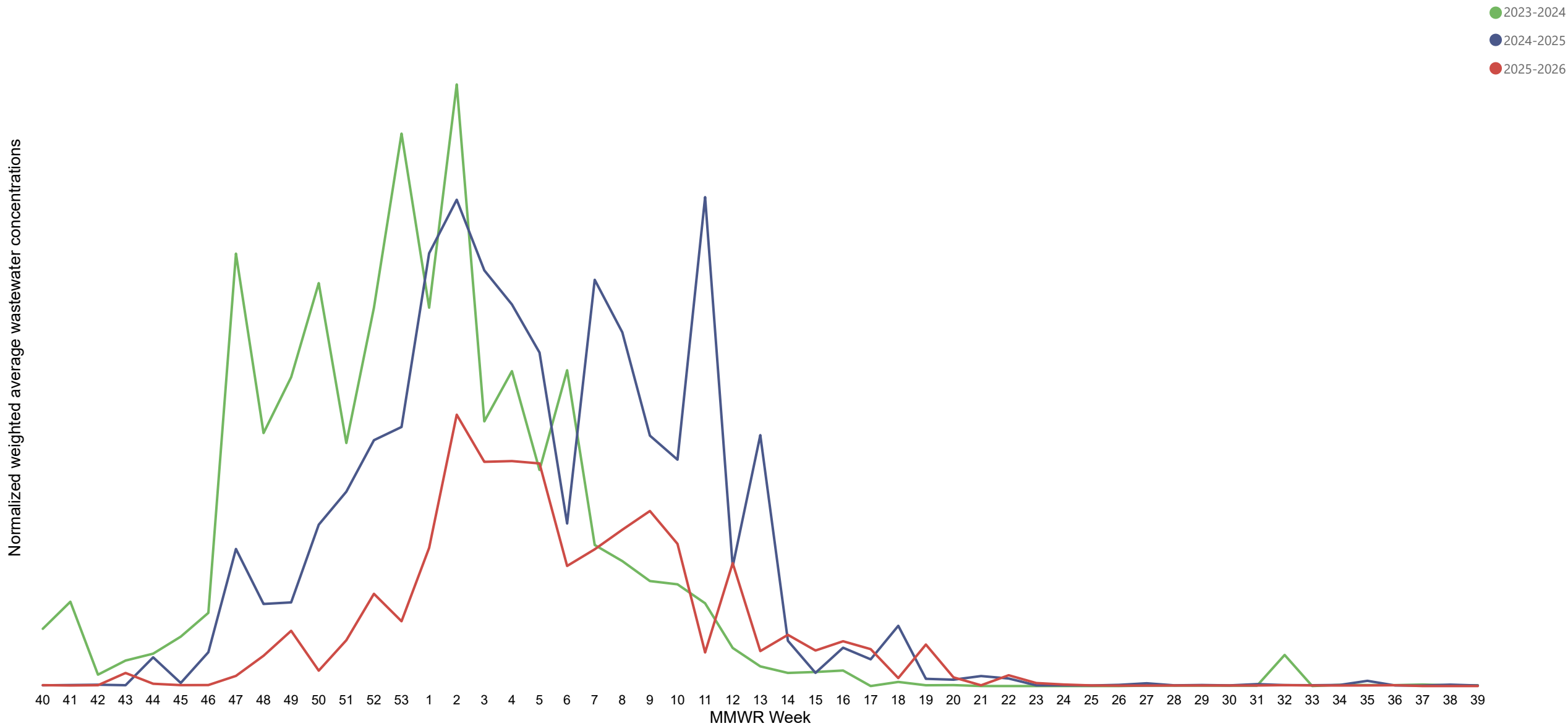
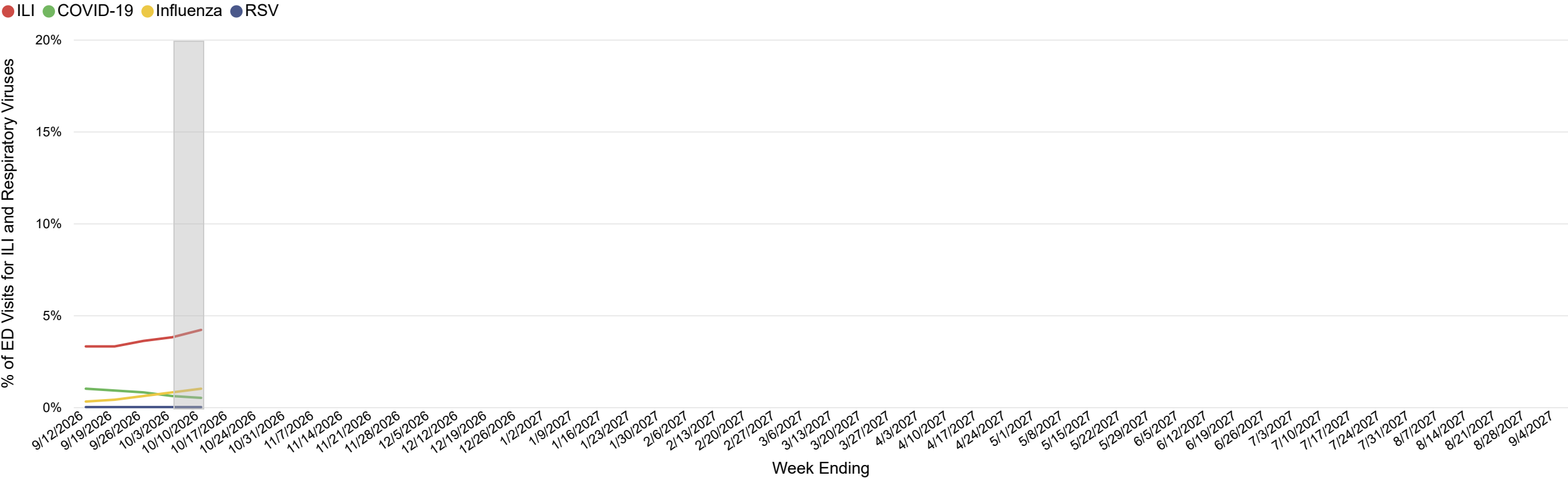


Figure 11. Wastewater Concentrations of RSV in LA County by Season, 2023-2024 through 2025-2026



Public Health's Syndromic Surveillance Project monitors initial self-reported symptoms as well as diagnosis codes from patients presenting to participating emergency departments (EDs) throughout LA County. The syndrome of influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as mention of influenza; or fever (subjective or measured greater than 100° F) plus cough or sore throat, and can include someone with flu, COVID-19, RSV, or some other respiratory infection. ED visits can also be classified by specific ICD-10 diagnosis codes, which indicate a positive laboratory test for COVID-19, influenza, or RSV. The ILI classified and ICD-10 coded ED visits for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV are analyzed weekly and year-round and shown for all ages and by age group. The ILI and ICD-10 coded categories for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV are not mutually exclusive.

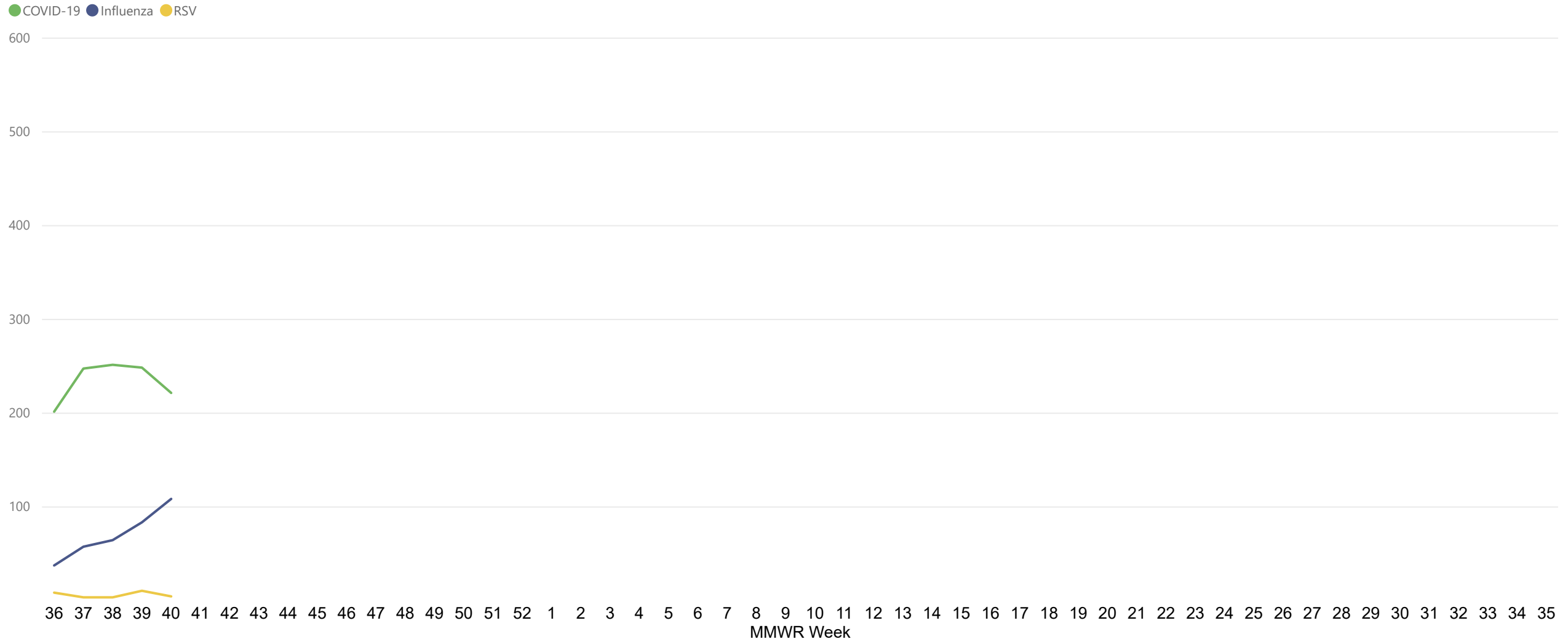
Figure 12. Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness and ICD-10 Coded Visits by Respiratory Virus: Season 2026-2027



**The grey bar in figures represents a two-week period when syndrome classifications (e.g. for COVID, ILI, etc.) are in flux due to delayed diagnosis information. These percentages are preliminary and subject to changes.*

COVID-19, influenza, and RSV hospitalizations are reported weekly by hospitals through the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The data shows the number of current COVID-19, influenza, and RSV hospitalizations in Los Angeles County. Additional data available on the online version of RESPWatch.

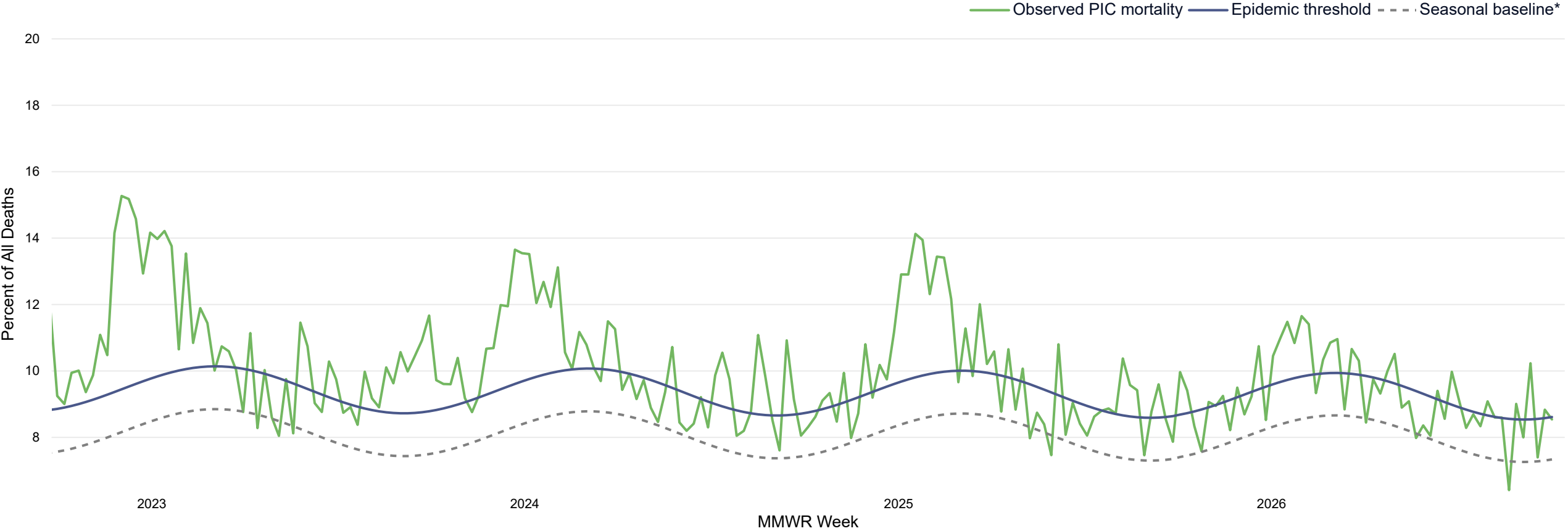
Figure 13. Weekly Total of Currently Hospitalized COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Positive Patients, Los Angeles County, 2026-2027 Respiratory Season



Severity - Deaths

Each week, Public Health reports the total number of death certificates received and the number of those for which pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC) was listed as the underlying or contributing cause of death by age group. **Technical note:** the number of deaths reported in recent weeks does not represent all deaths that occurred in the reporting period. Data may be incomplete due to a lag between when the death occurred and when the death was registered. Previous weeks' counts or percentages may change as vital records are updated with lagged death certificates. This analysis includes all certificates of death (excluding fetal deaths) occurring in the County of Los Angeles (excluding Long Beach and Pasadena) regardless of the residence of the deceased.

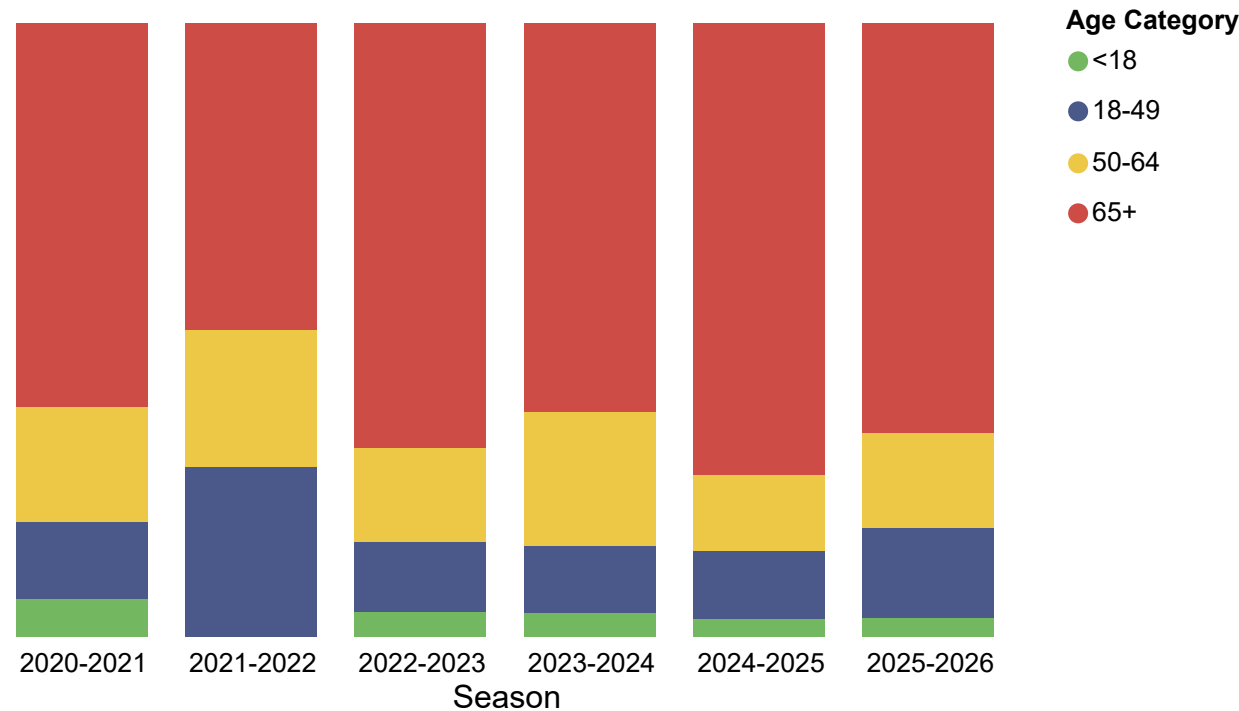
Figure 14. Los Angeles County Pneumonia, Influenza, and COVID-19 Mortality



**The seasonal baseline of pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19 (PIC) deaths is calculated using a periodic regression model that incorporates a robust regression procedure applied to data from the previous 5 years. An increase of 1.645 standard deviations above the seasonal baseline of PIC deaths is considered the “epidemic threshold,” i.e., the point at which the observed proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia, influenza or COVID-19 was significantly higher than would be expected at that time of the year in the absence of substantial virus-related mortality.*

Severity - Influenza Associated Deaths

Figure 15. Influenza Coded Death Certificates by Age Category and Season: Influenza Seasons 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026

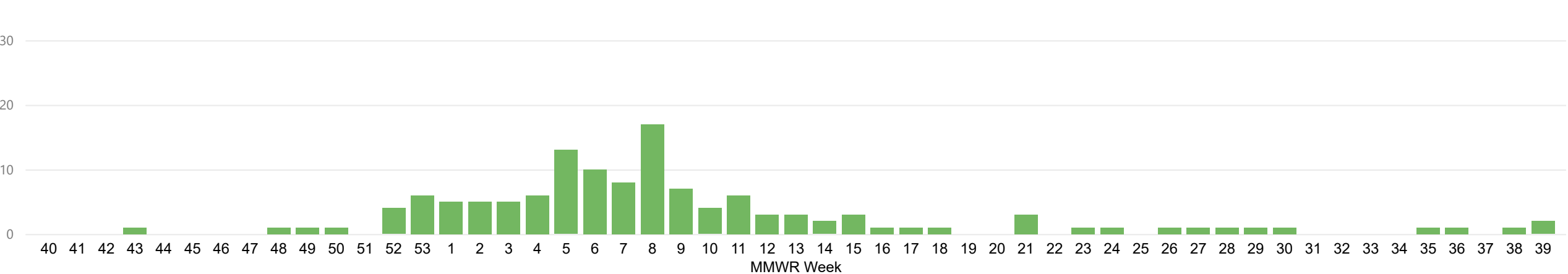


**Influenza deaths reported here are from death certificate data and based on ICD-10 codes in which influenza was listed as a primary or contributing cause of death. ICD-10 coded death certificates are not necessarily laboratory confirmed. Influenza deaths are likely an undercount.*

Table 7. Influenza Coded Deaths by Season: Influenza Seasons 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026

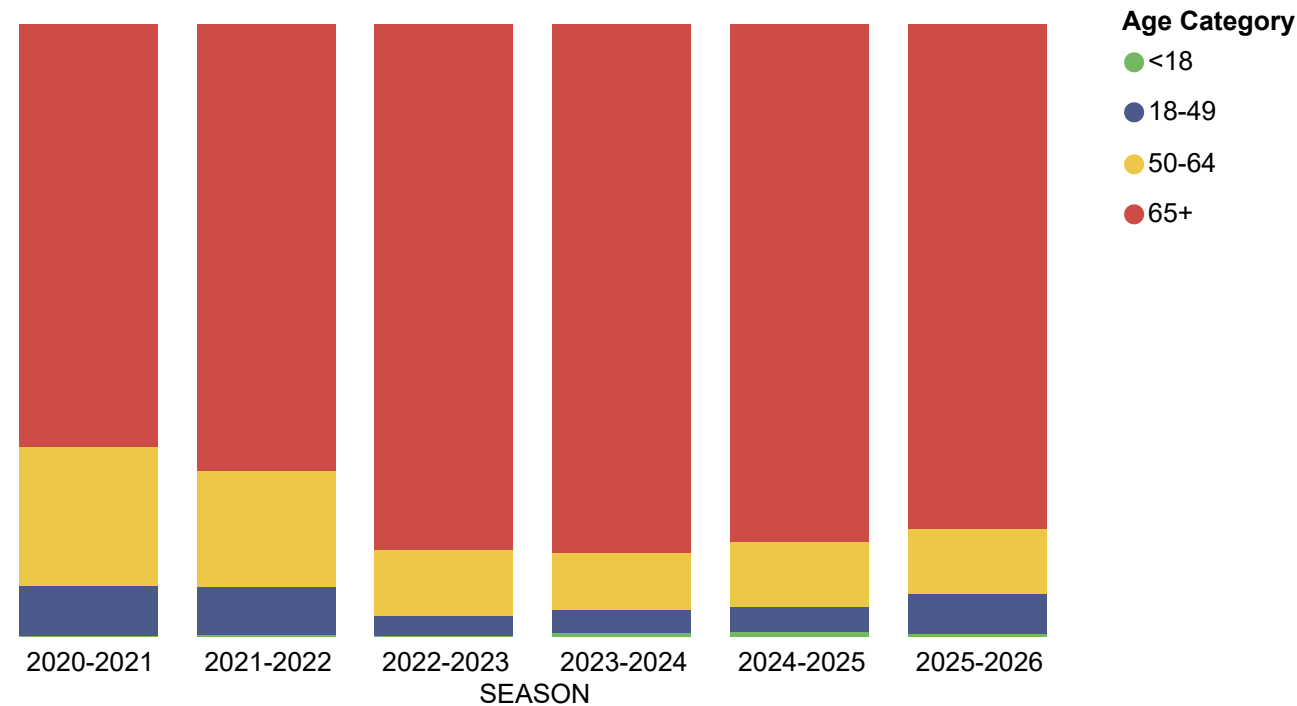
Season	Total
2020-2021	16
2021-2022	18
2022-2023	97
2023-2024	128
2024-2025	336
2025-2026	129

Figure 16. Number of Influenza Coded Death Certificates By MMWR Week: 2025-2026 Season



Severity - COVID-19 Associated Deaths

Figure 17. COVID-19 Coded Death Certificates by Age Category and Season: Influenza Seasons 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026

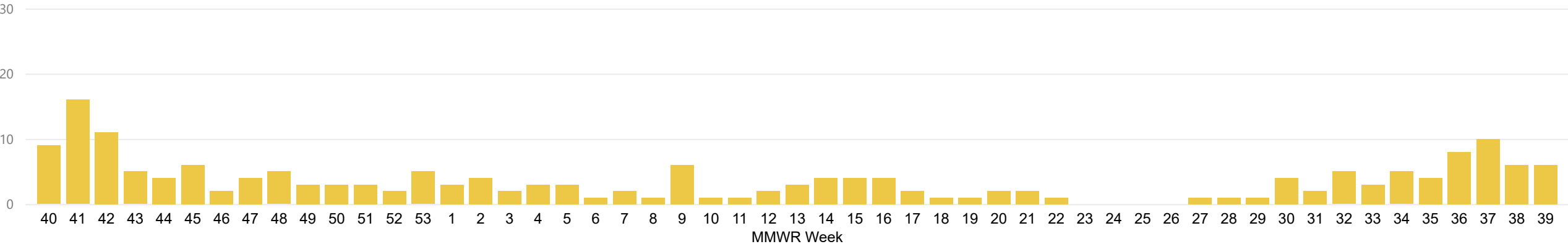


*COVID-19 deaths reported here are from death certificate data and based on ICD-10 codes in which COVID-19 was listed as a primary or contributing cause of death. ICD-10 coded death certificates are not necessarily laboratory confirmed. COVID-19 deaths reported here are not expected to match COVID-19 deaths reported elsewhere due to differing definitions and data sources.

Table 8. COVID-19 Coded Deaths by Season: Influenza Seasons 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026

SEASON	Total
2020-2021	18,164
2021-2022	5,896
2022-2023	1,876
2023-2024	1,108
2024-2025	452
2025-2026	187

Figure 18. Number of COVID-19 Coded Death Certificates By MMWR Week: 2025-2026 Season





Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare inflammatory condition in children following infection with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Public Health tracks cases of MIS-C in LA County. MIS-C cases are reported to Public Health by providers. Cases are confirmed by Public Health following medical record review using the relevant Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) case definition. Data presented is for confirmed MIS-C cases; additional cases may be under investigation that are not presented here. Public Health continues to receive reports from earlier in the pandemic; historic case counts may be revised as new reports are confirmed.

Figure 19. Confirmed MIS-C Cases in LA County by Month: October 2021- Present

