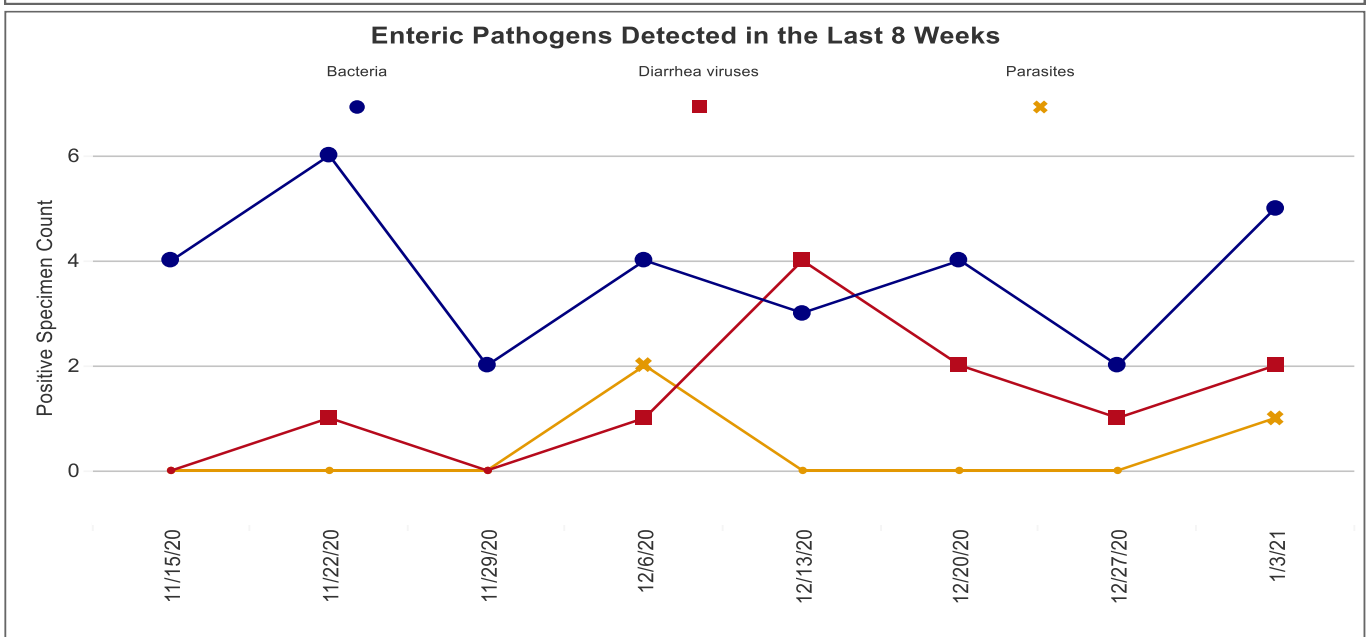
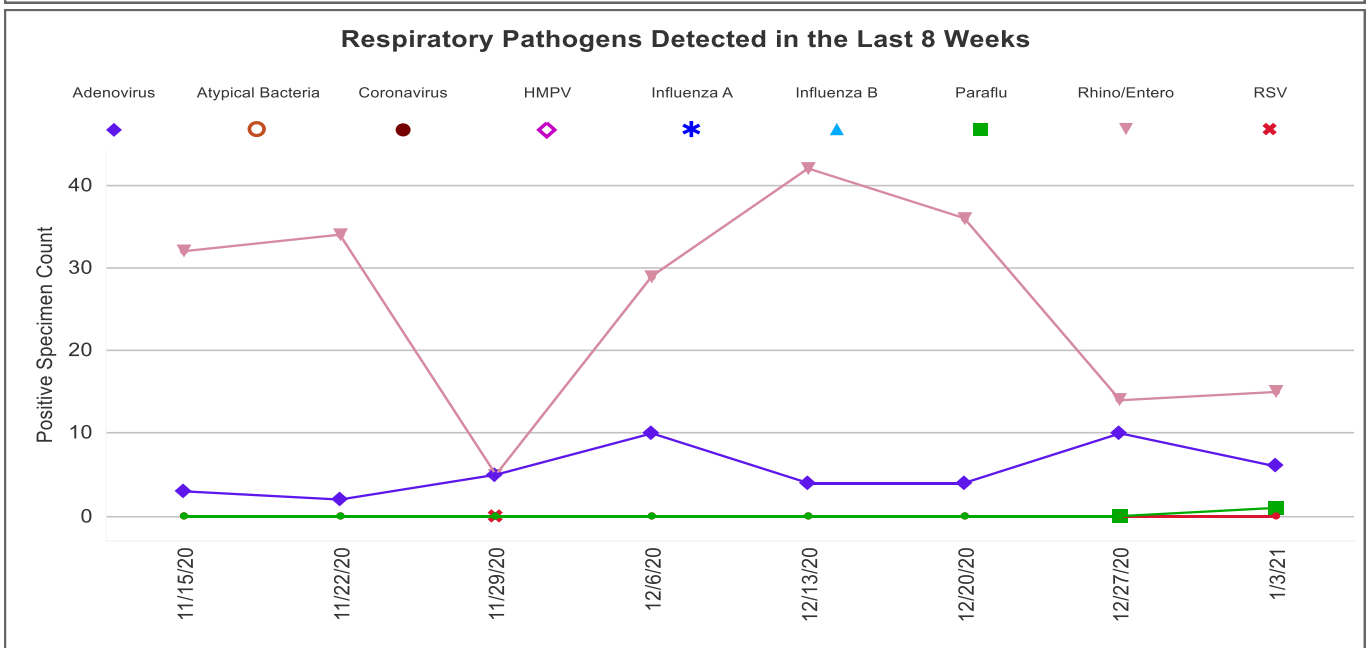
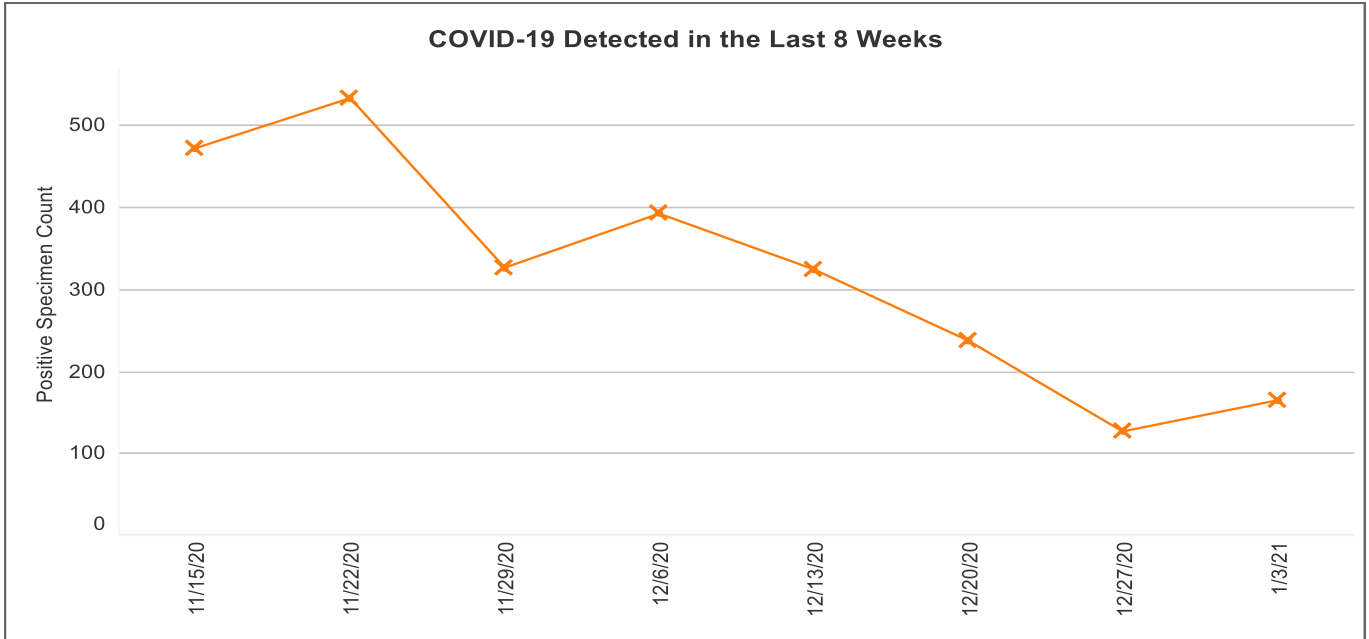


# Bug Watch

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Content Editors: Samuel R Dominguez, MD, PhD ([samuel.dominguez@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:samuel.dominguez@childrenscolorado.org)) & Kelly Pearce ([kelly.pearce@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:kelly.pearce@childrenscolorado.org)); Circulation Editor: Gail Vittitoe ([gail.vittitoe@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:gail.vittitoe@childrenscolorado.org))



Late Breaker: A new variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 (named B.1.1.7 or VOC 202012/01) that was first discovered in the United Kingdom in September of 2020 has recently been identified in three US states, including Colorado. This strain has become the predominant strain circulating in the UK accounting for 60-70% of cases. Preliminary epidemiologic data suggest this strain is likely 50-70% more transmissible than the wild type strain. Importantly, current data suggest this strain does not cause more severe disease. Most experts do not think this strain is able to evade natural or vaccine induced immunity, but more basic science research is needed. All of the PCR assays utilized at CHCO will detect this variant strain. For more information regarding this strain, please see the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-emerging-variant.html>.



Affiliated with  
 University of Colorado  
 Anschutz Medical Campus

13123 E 16th Ave, Aurora, CO 80045  
 720-777-1234 | [childrenscolorado.org](http://childrenscolorado.org)