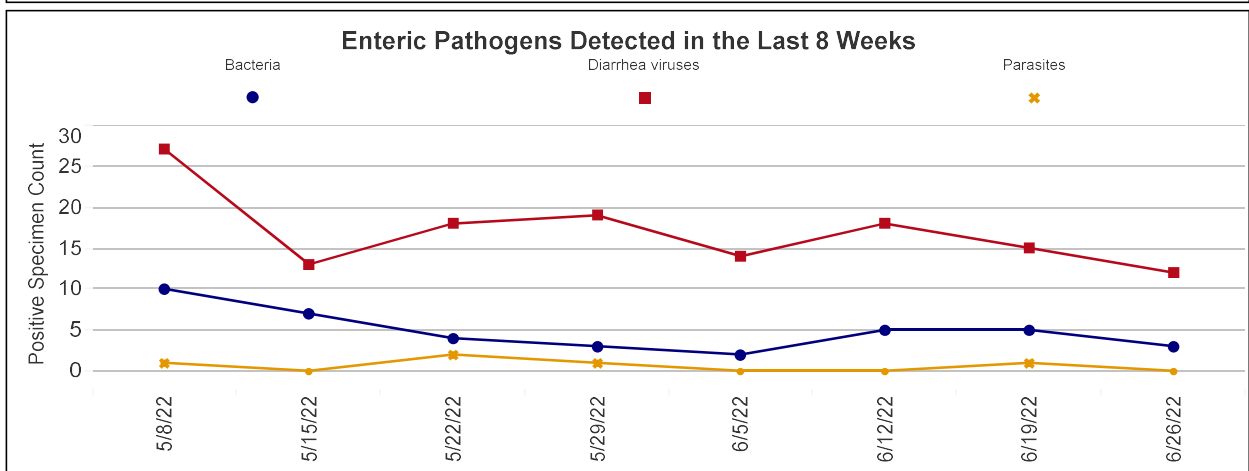
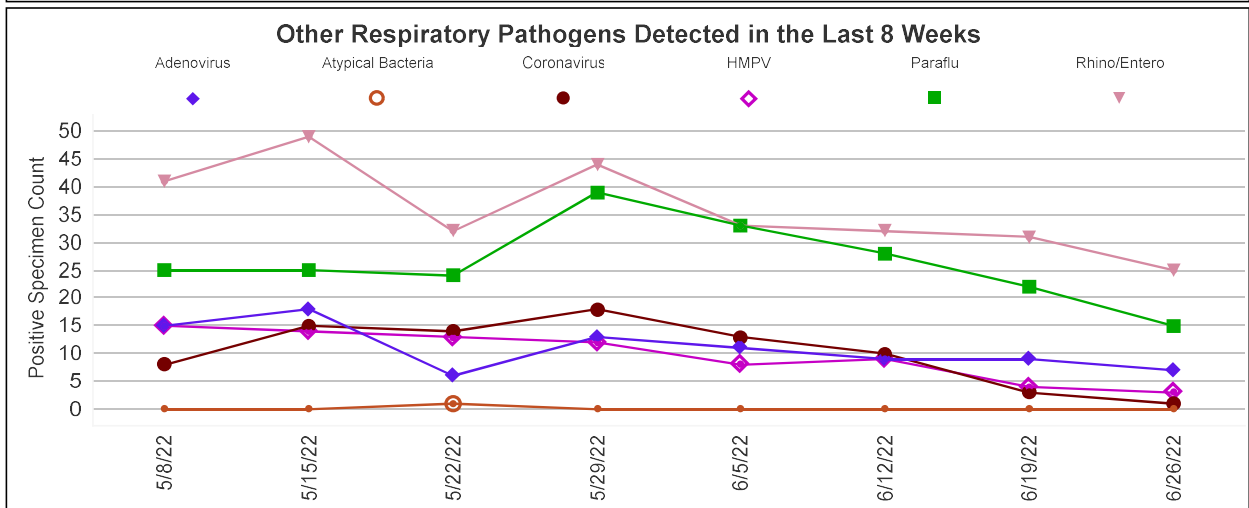
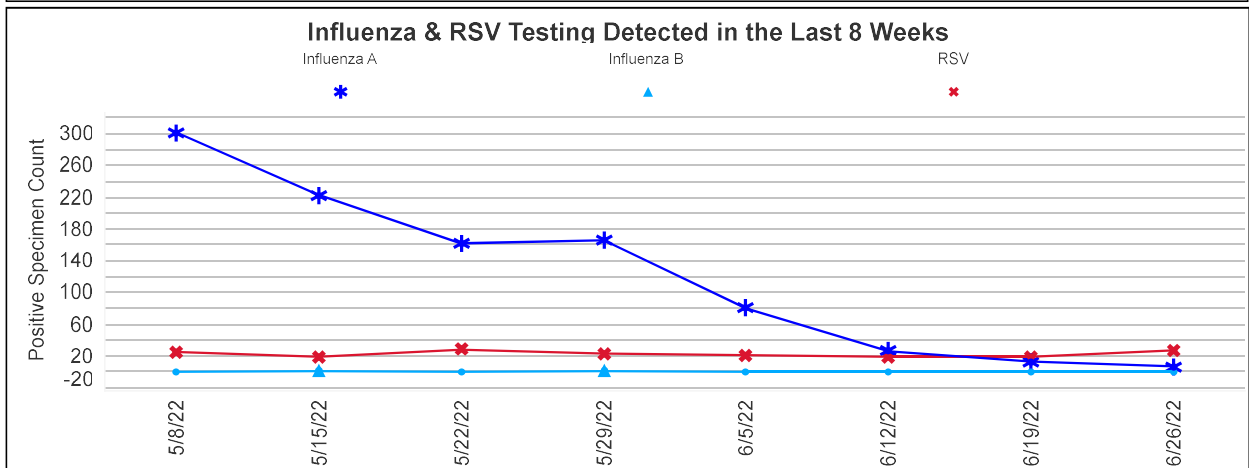
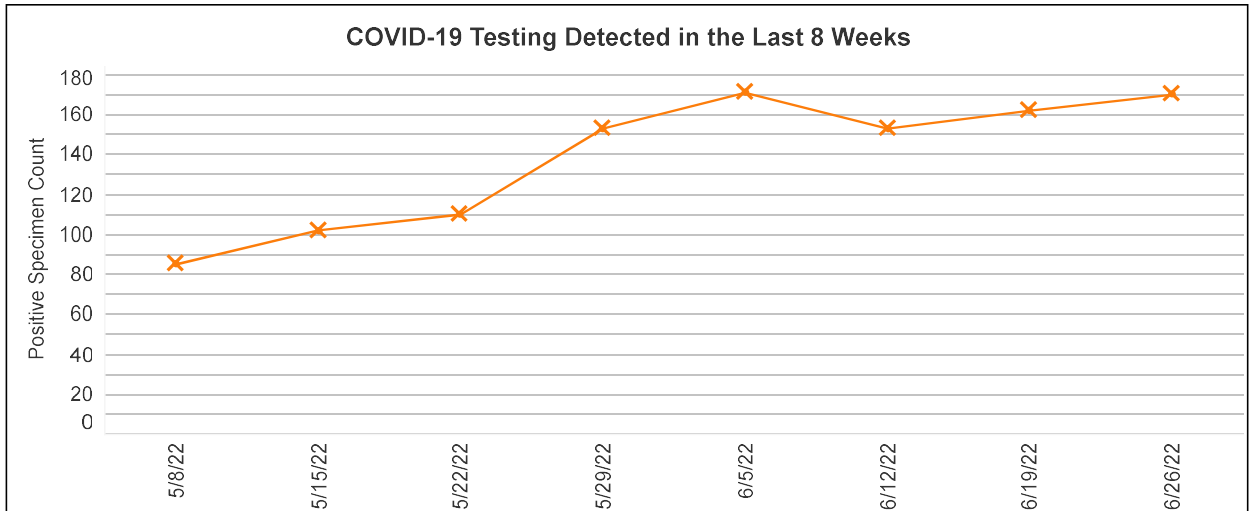


Bug Watch

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Late Breaker: COVID-19 cases remain high with a statewide test percent positivity of 11.4%. Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 continue to rise, representing 35% of cases nationwide. Recent data suggest that BA.4 and BA.5 have increased ability to evade antibody responses induced by vaccination or prior infection compared to previous omicron subvariants (3-fold lower compared to BA.1 and BA.2) [[Neutralization Escape by SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Subvariants BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 | NEJM](#)]. Similar recent data from public health England also demonstrate that BA.4 and BA.5 have a significant growth advantage over BA.2 which could lead to increased community transmission [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-sars-cov-2-variants-technical-briefings>]