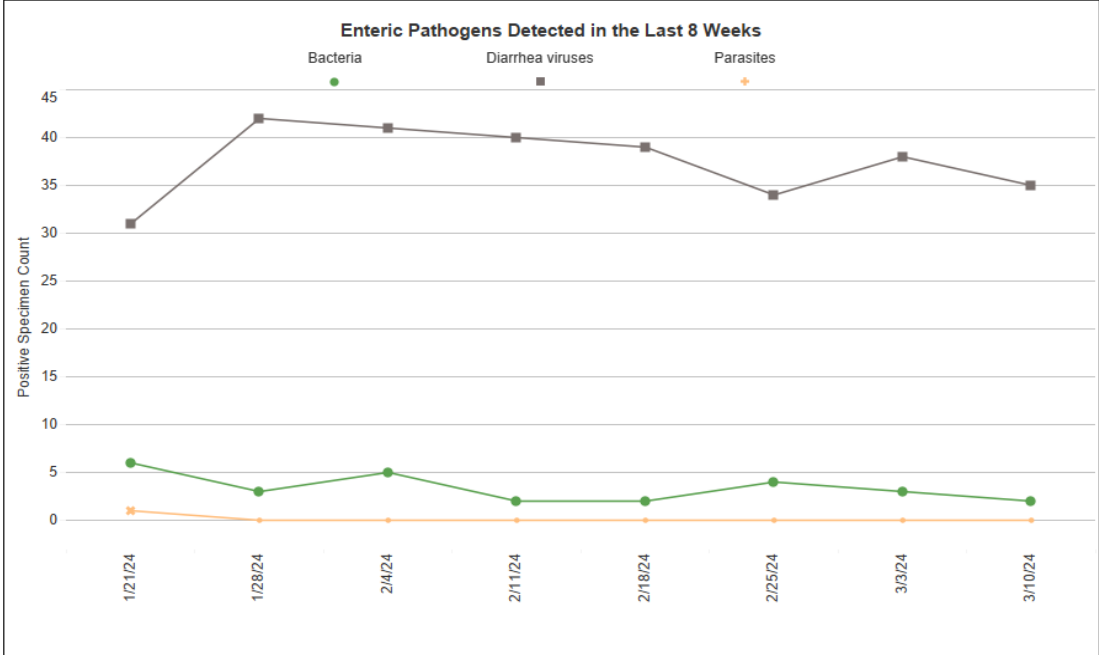
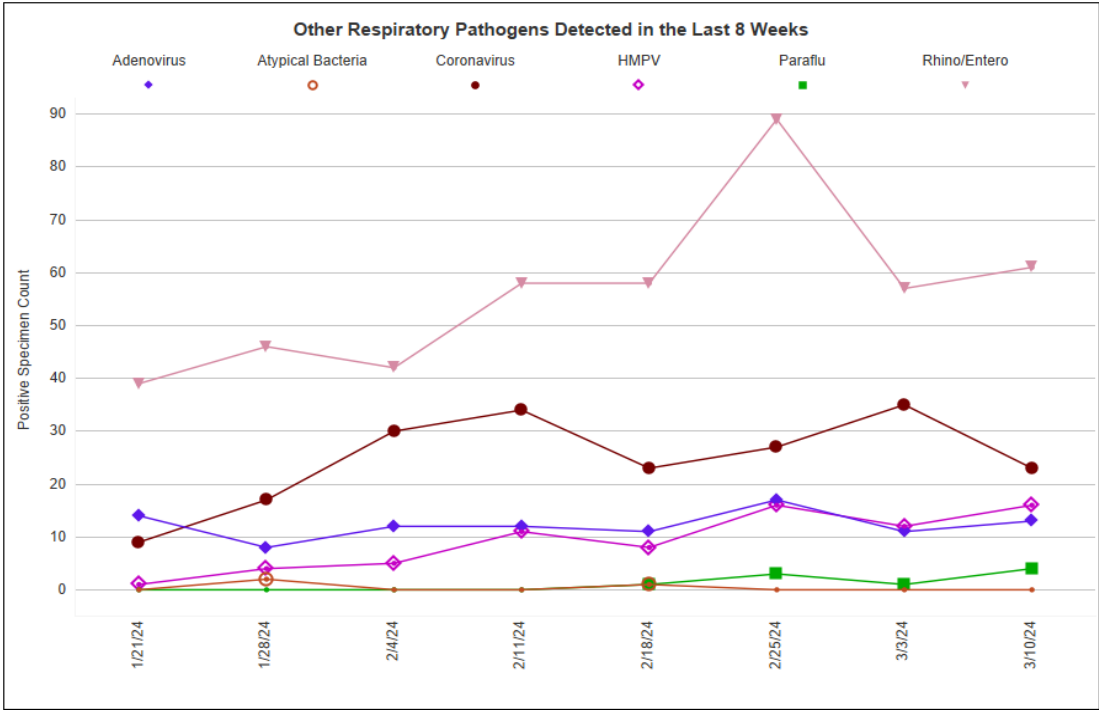
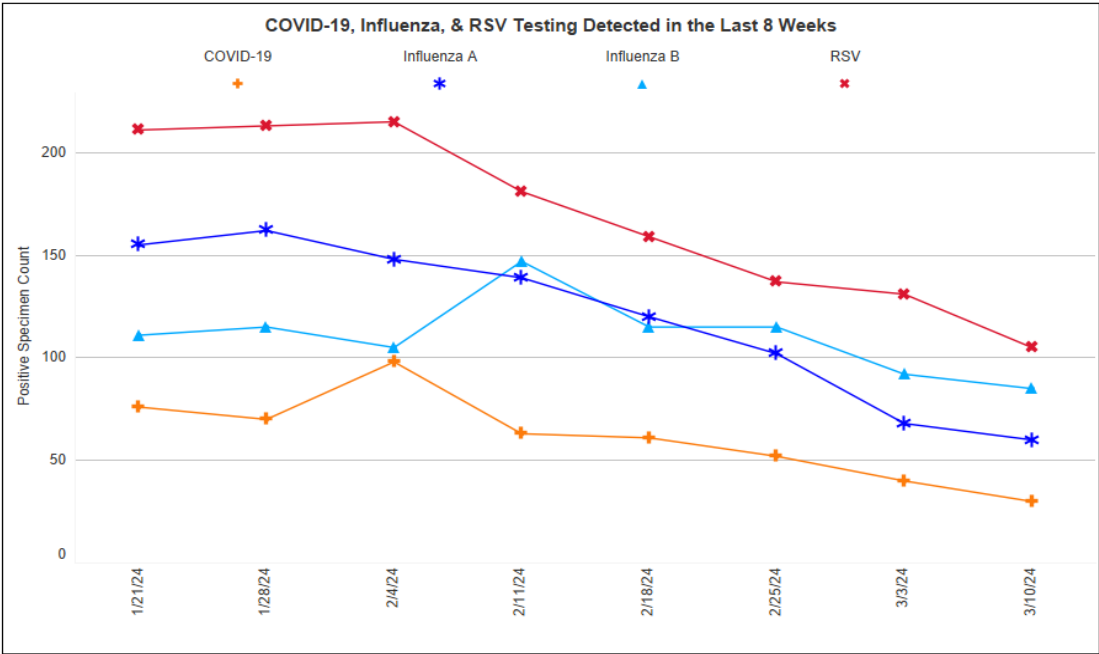


# Bug Watch

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**Late Breaker:** Four years ago, this week the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Worldwide there have been over 7 million confirmed deaths due to SARS-CoV-2, but with an estimated excess mortality close to 30 million deaths (<https://ourworldindata.org/excess-mortality-covid#excess-mortality-using-raw-death-counts>). As we contemplate this landmark, it is important to acknowledge the many successes and challenges over the past few years. In particular, we celebrate the tremendous success of COVID-19 vaccines (95% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 in 2023-24 had not received the latest vaccine), but acknowledge the erosion of trust in public health that we now need to work together to rebuild (<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/background/index.html>).