

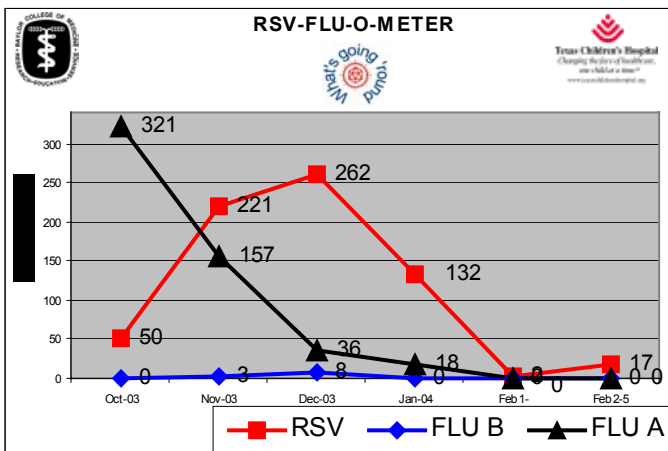


Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was the most common virus detected in January by rapid testing and by virus isolation. Other respiratory viruses, such as adenovirus, influenza A virus, and parainfluenza virus types 1 and 3 were isolated in small numbers.

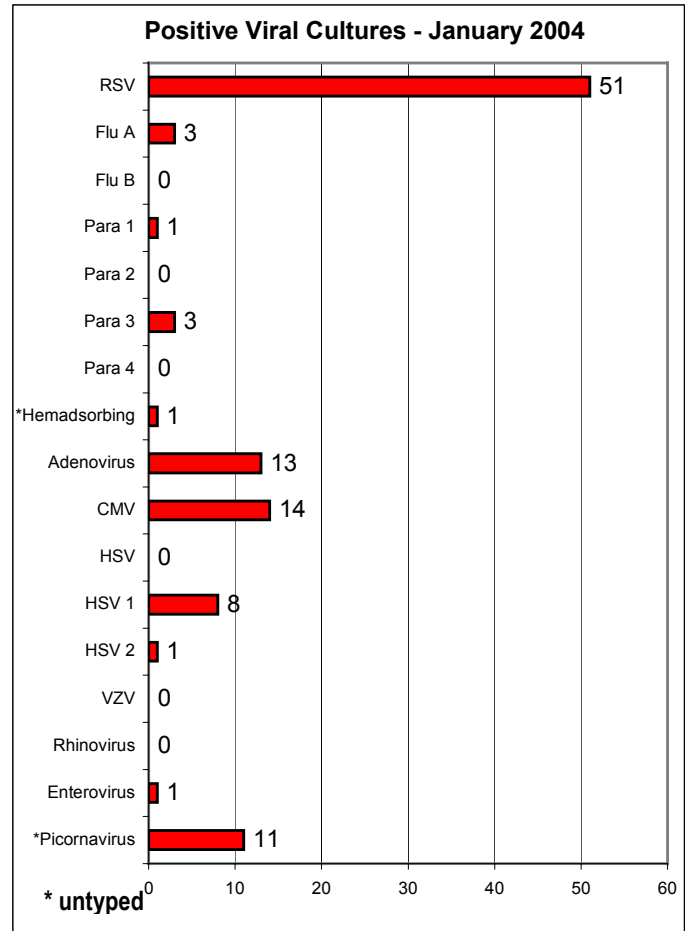
## Virology Question of the Month

*Was the recent RSV/FLU season unusual?*

Yes! In Houston, RSV usually peaks in November and December, and influenza virus usually peaks in January and February. This season the two viruses reversed their usual order of appearance. Also unusual this season was the re-emergence of H5N1 strain of influenza A (a.k.a. "bird or avian flu") in Asia. Because this strain has the potential to cause a global pandemic, keep updated at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.who.int](http://www.who.int). And, as always stay tuned to our own **RSV-FLU-O-Meter** [http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER\(combined\).pdf](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER(combined).pdf) for the most up-to-date readings in Houston!



## Positive Viral Cultures – January 2004



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Total	1073
Positive	107
% Positive	10

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[www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl)

## EIA Rapid Test Results – January 2004

	RSV	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	734	723	723
Positive	132	18	0
% Positive	18	2.4	0