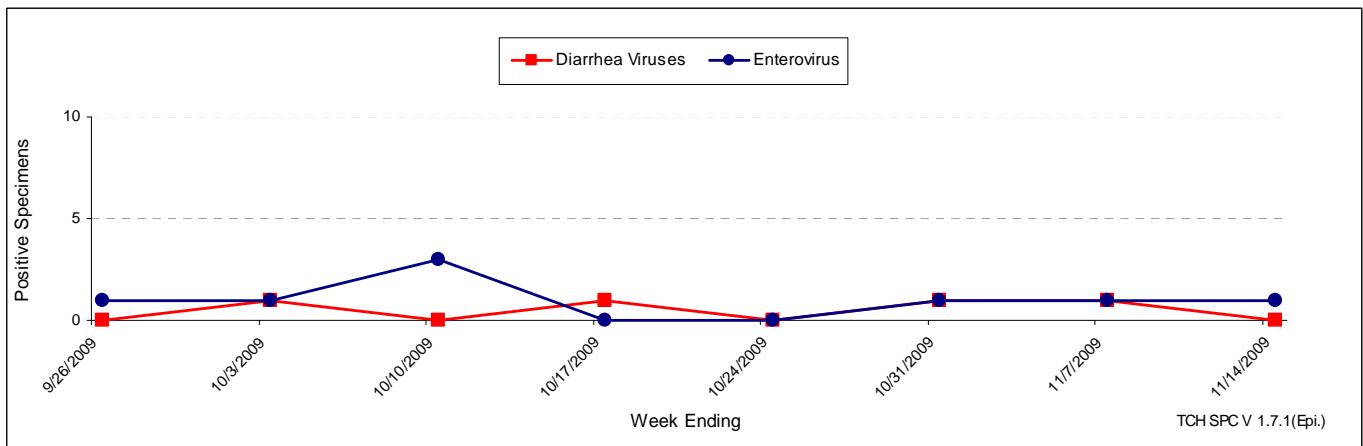
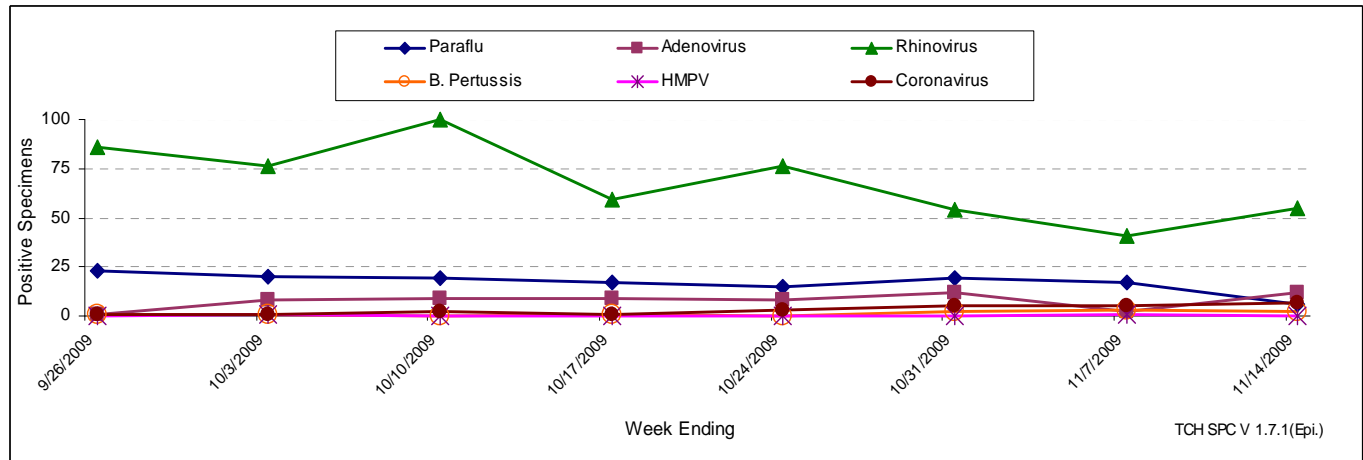
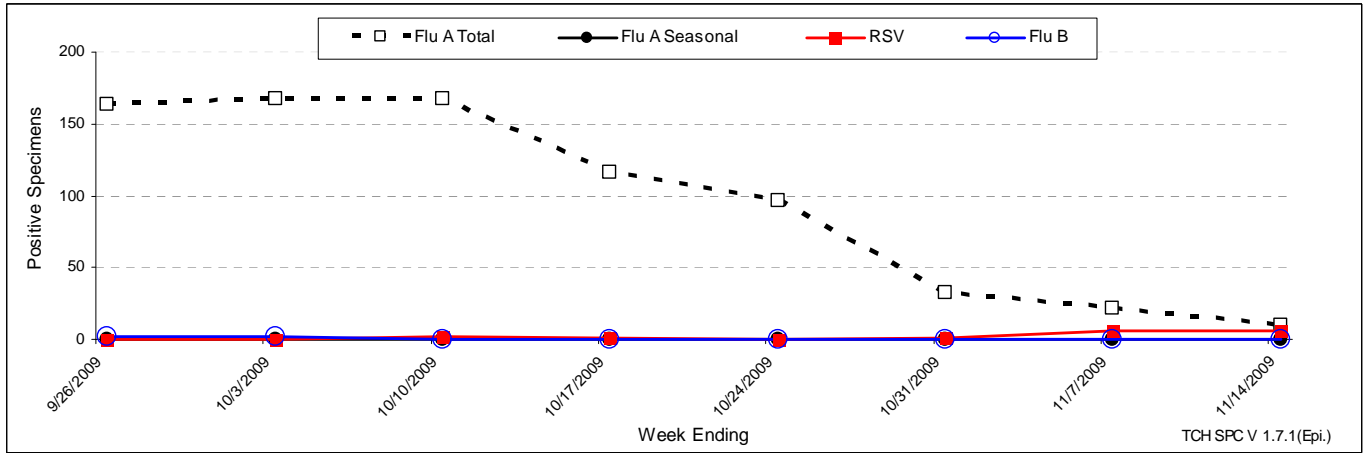


BUG WATCH

Department of Pathology (Microbiology)



LATE BREAKER: Collectively the rhinovirus/enterovirus group, the parainfluenza viruses, and the coronaviruses are now being identified in more respiratory specimens than influenza A virus and we expect more RSV and HMPV soon. For TCH system patients who may benefit from a specific respiratory viral diagnosis, we currently recommend the direct stain as a rapid screening test. The respiratory virus direct stain (DFA) detects RSV, influenza A and B, parainfluenza, HMPV, and adenovirus, and should be ordered with backup respiratory virus PCR on stain-negative specimens. The rapid influenza test will still be available, however, in case seasonal influenza A arrives soon. The direct stain (DFA) is the preferred screening test for influenza due to its inclusiveness, higher sensitivity and specificity, but should be used only when it will change your management.