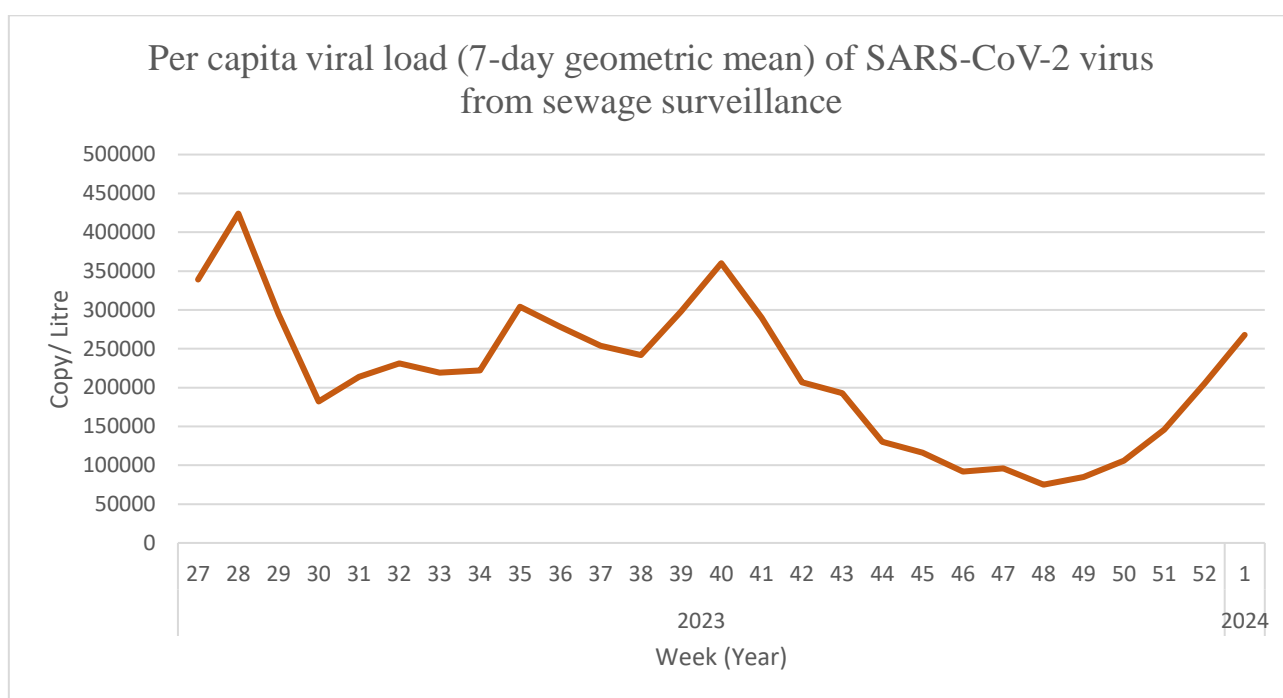


Activity Level of COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza

COVID-19

The activity level of COVID-19 showed a declining trend from July to November last year, with the weekly positive rate of respiratory specimens collected by the Government dropped from 11.67 per cent in July to less than 2 per cent in November. The rate started to rise in mid-December and stood at 6.8 per cent as at 6 January this year. A similar trend was also observed from sewage surveillance (see following graph for details).

**Per capita viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance
(July 2023 – 6 January 2024)**



Seasonal Influenza

The activity level of seasonal influenza increased since July last year, and the active summer influenza season lasted from August to October. It remained at a low level in November and edged higher in early December. In the week ending 6 January this year, the influenza admission rate in public hospitals rose to 0.68 per 10 000 population, and the percentage of positive respiratory specimens collected surged to 11.77 per cent, both above the baseline thresholds, indicating that the winter influenza season has started.