



### HEALTH SURVEILLANCE BULLETIN

Week 45, 2024

#### Acute Flaccid Paralysis

0

#### Fever & Rash

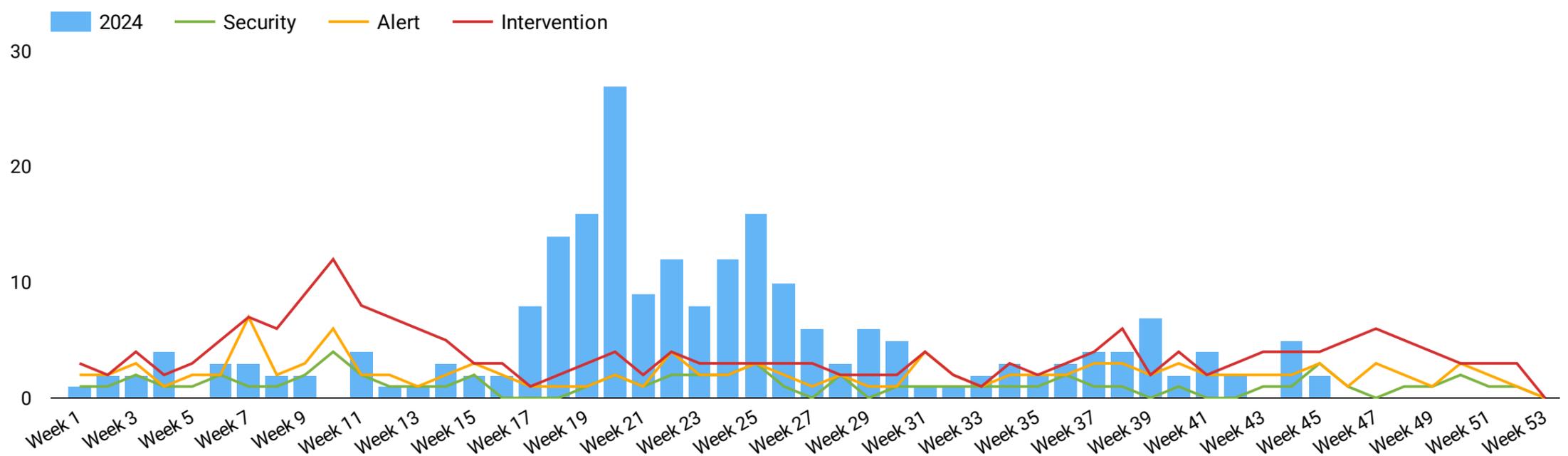
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#### Fever & Neurological Symptoms

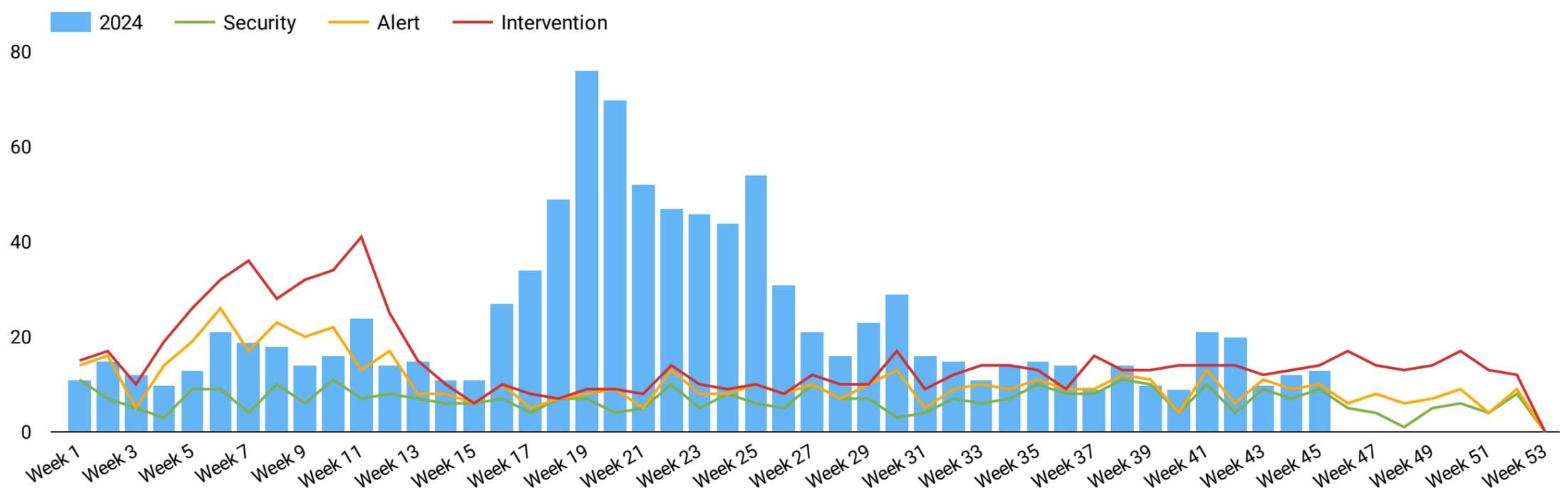
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Syndromic surveillance in primary care and hospitals indicates that fever and respiratory activity remains of concern. We therefore continue to emphasize the importance of good hygiene practices.

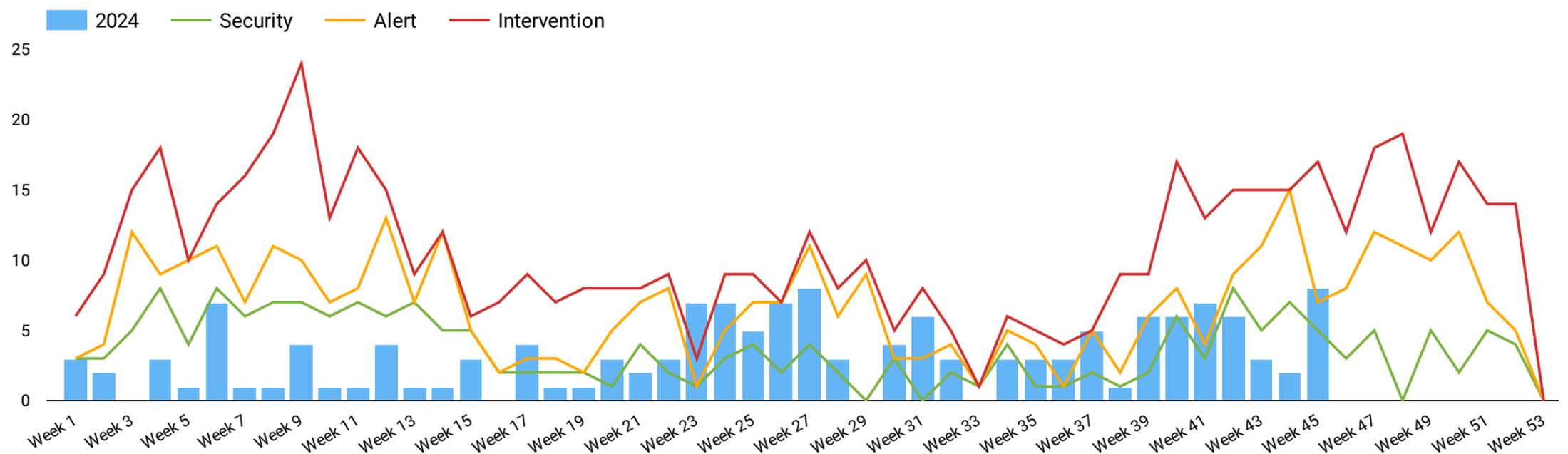
### Gastroenteritis in <5 years old by Epidemiological Week



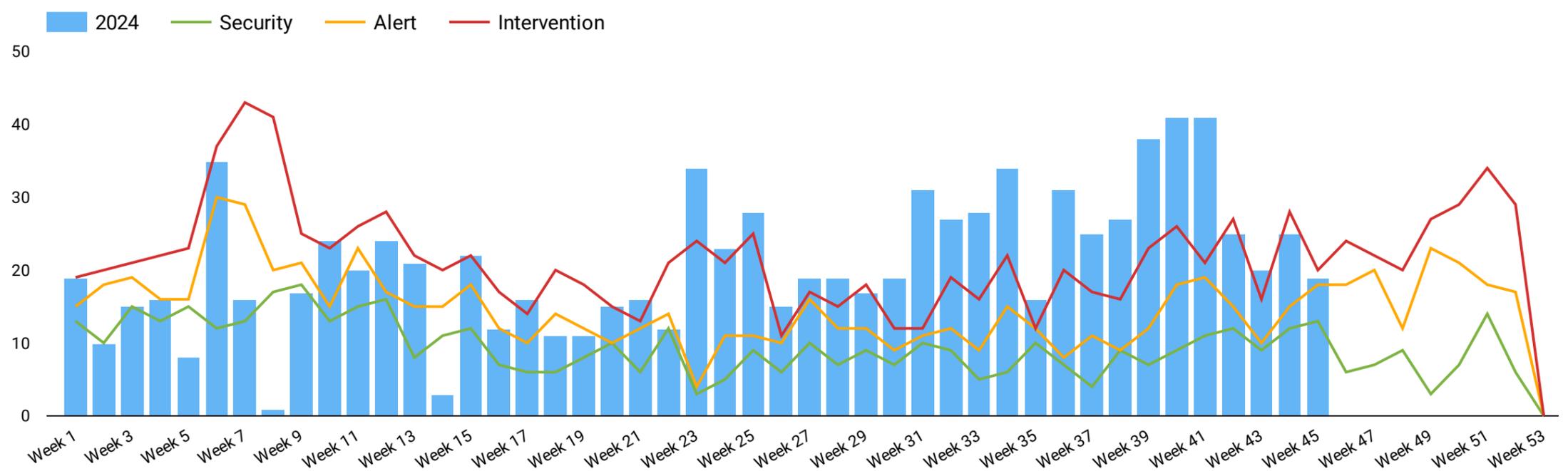
### Gastroenteritis in 5 years and older by Epidemiological Week



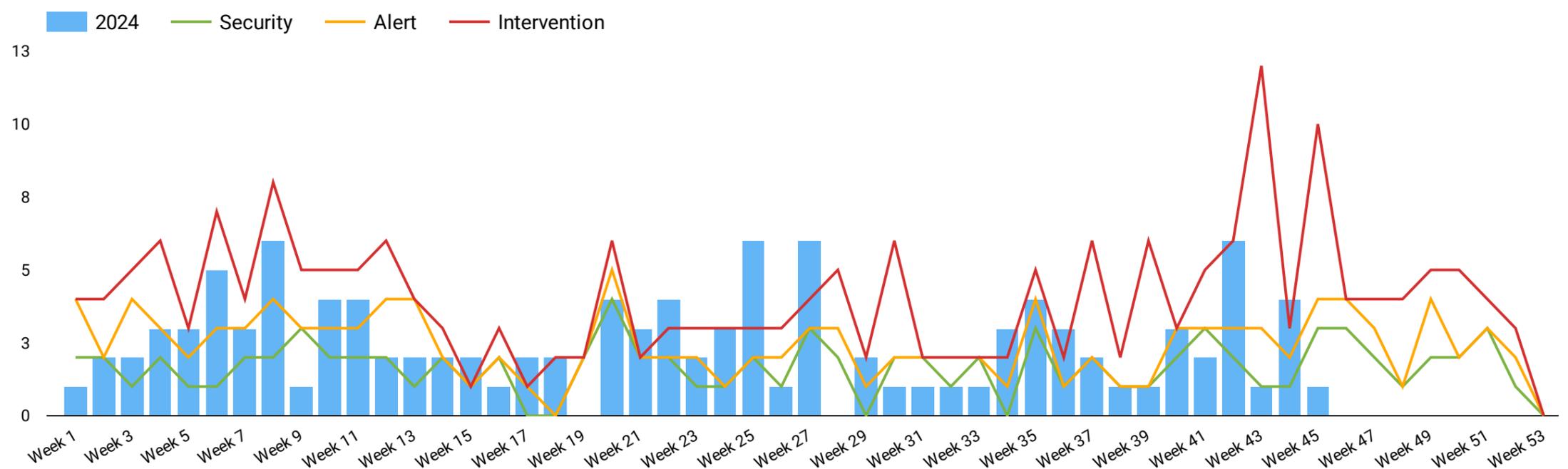
## Fever & Respiratory symptoms in <5 years old by Epidemiological Week



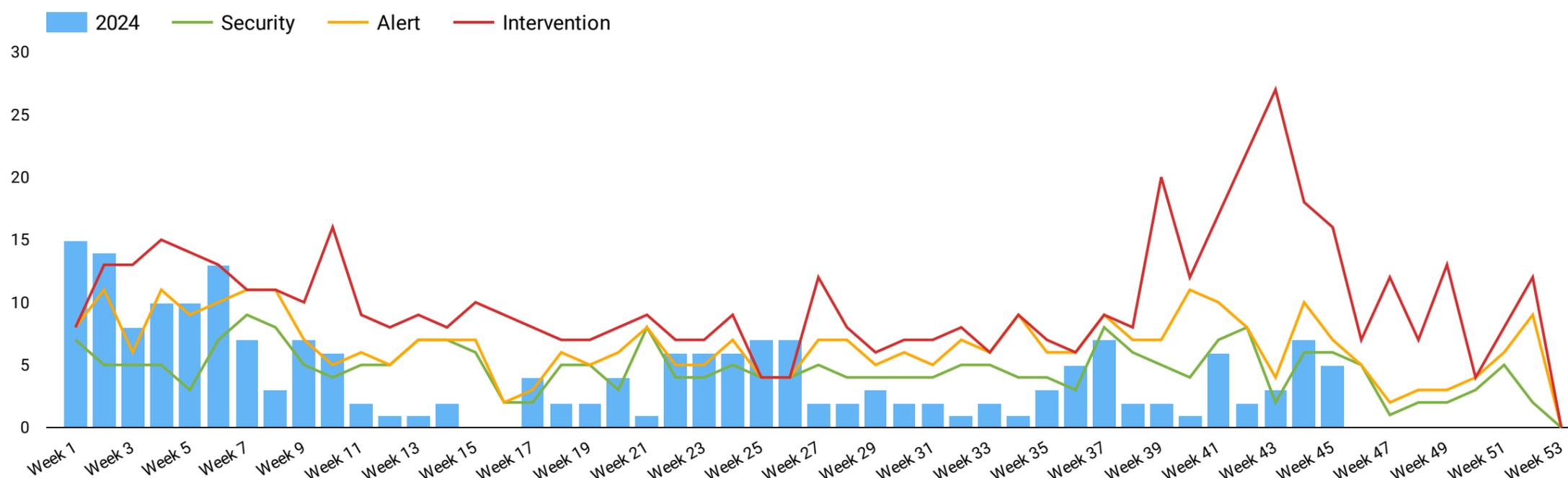
## Fever & Respiratory symptoms in 5 years and older by Epidemiological Week



## Undifferentiated Fever <5 years old by Epidemiological Week



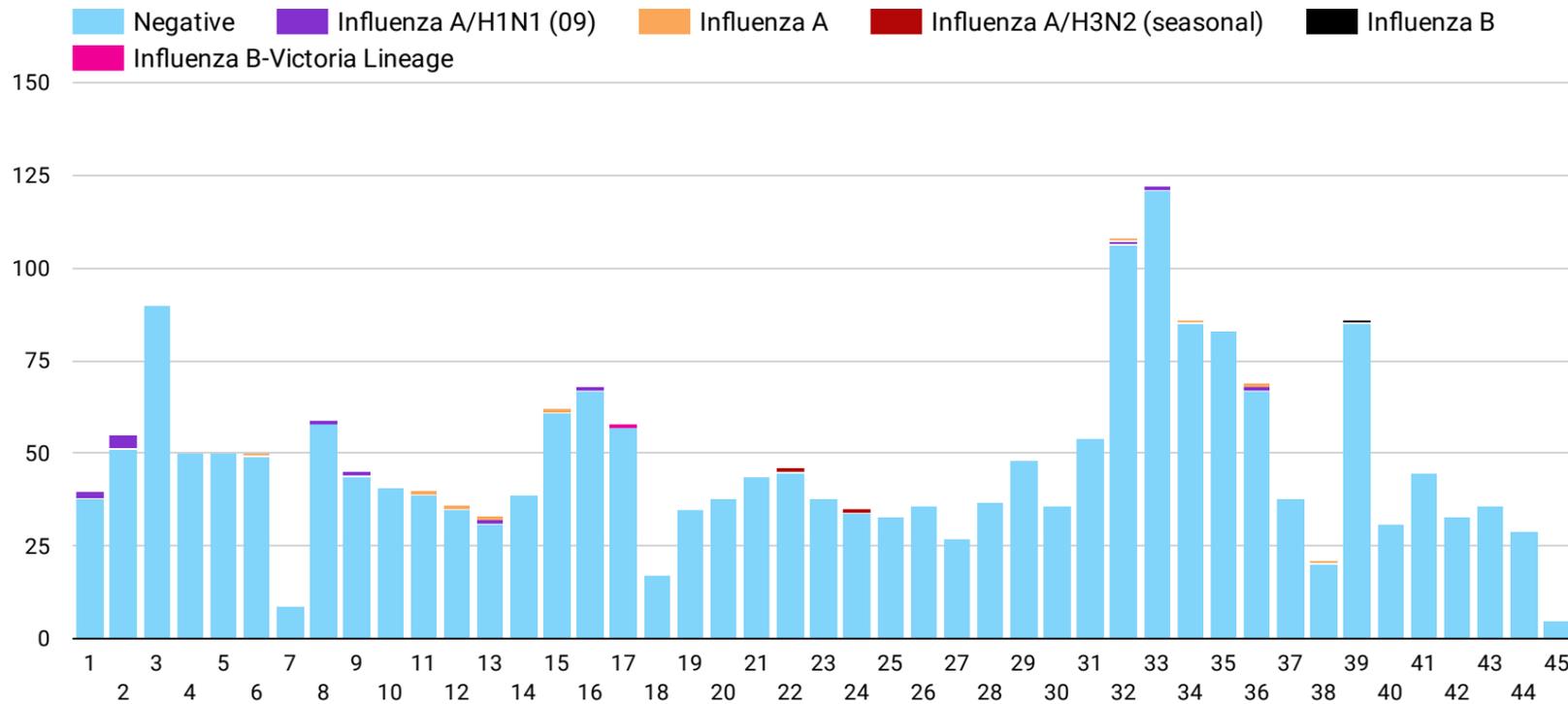
# Undifferentiated Fever in 5 years and older by Epidemiological Week



## Distribution of syndromes under surveillance by relative periods

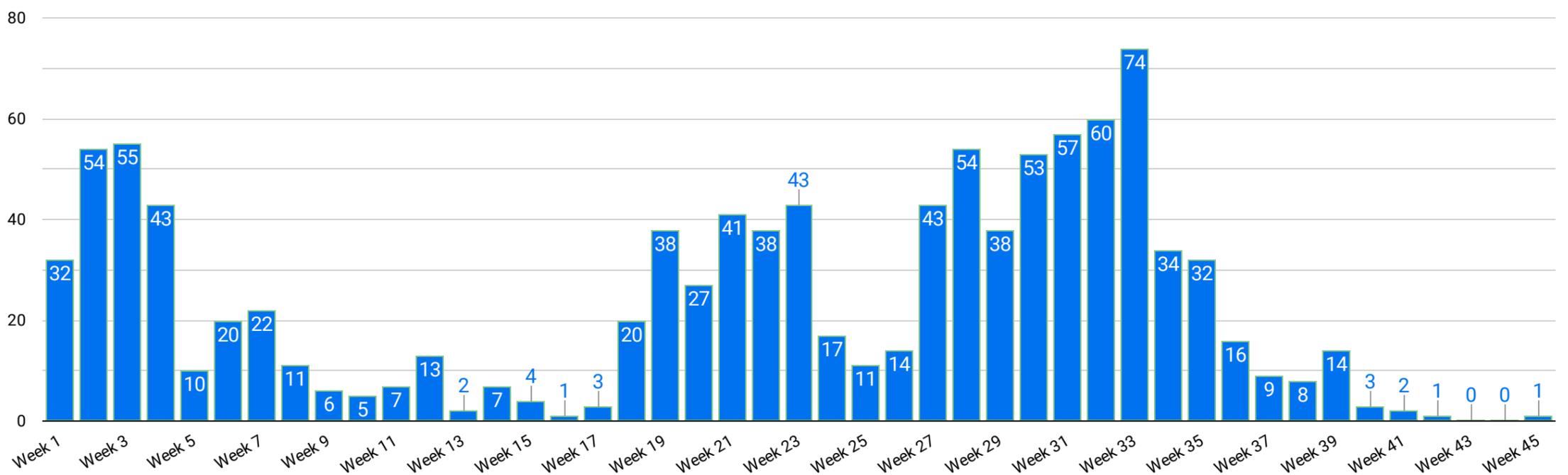
Syndrome ^	Current Week (CW)	Last Week	2024 till CW	2023 till CW	2022 till CW
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	2	1	0
Chicken Pox	0	0	9	8	1
Conjunctivitis	20	14	451	440	144
Fever and Haemorrhagic symptoms	0	0	2	5	0
Fever and Jaundice	0	0	2	1	1
Fever and Myalgia	1	0	37	10	5
Fever and Neurological symptoms	0	0	5	8	7
Fever and Rash	0	0	22	77	5
Fever and Respiratory	27	27	1,097	541	525
Gastroenteritis	15	17	1,272	984	295
Influenza like Illness	0	3	113	0	0
Injuries	64	67	2,895	3,518	3,090
Undifferentiated Fever	6	11	315	747	337

# Respiratory Viruses by Epidemiological Week, 2024

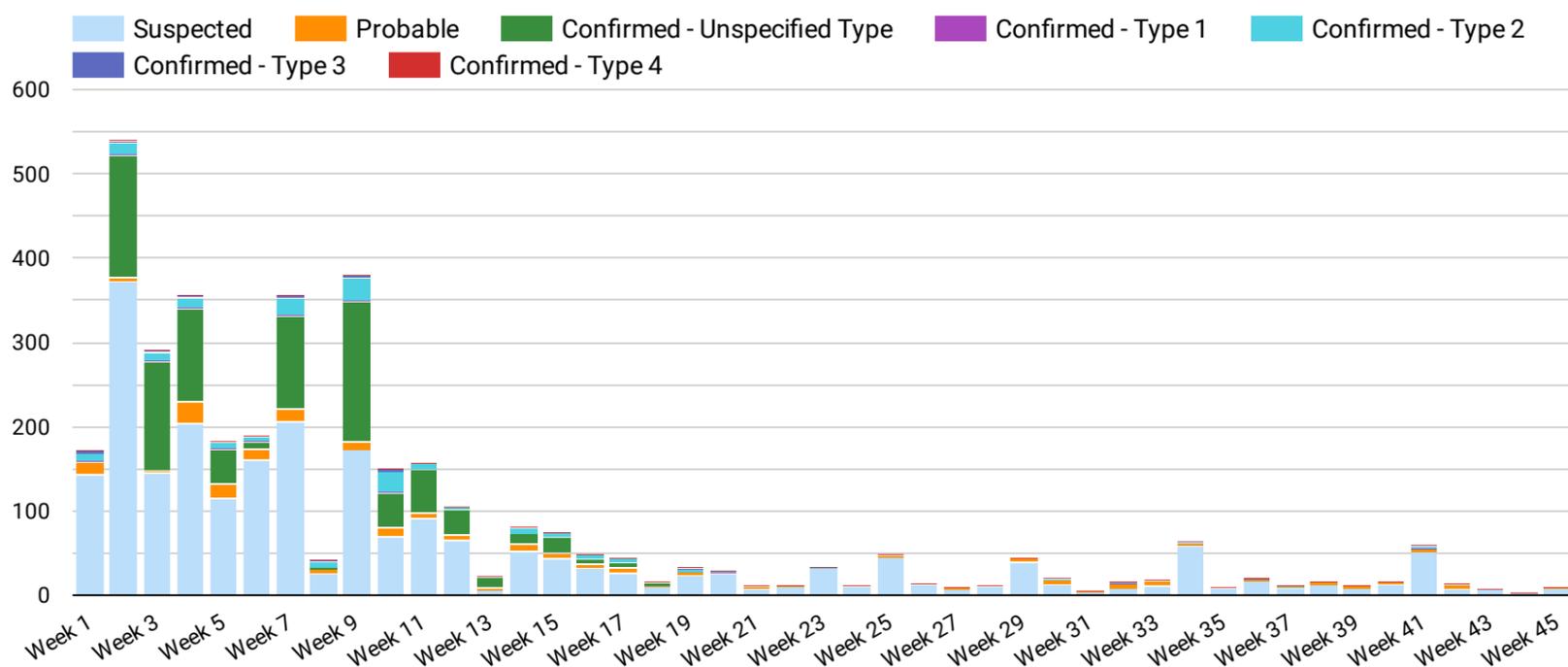


FINAL RESULT	Number
Negative	2,115
Influenza A/H1...	13
Influenza A	9
Influenza A/H3...	2
Influenza B	1
Influenza B-Vict...	1

# COVID-19 by Epidemiological Week, 2024



# Dengue by Epidemiological Week, 2024



Variable	Cases
Dengue Confirmed - 1	0
Dengue Confirmed - 2	194
Dengue Confirmed - 3	21
Dengue Confirmed - 4	0
Dengue Confirmed - Un...	901
Dengue Probable	219
Dengue Suspected	2,405

**Grand total** 3,740

## Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses

### Background

Temperate countries often see peaks of respiratory illness in their winter seasons as persons spend more time in enclosed spaces. The USA CDC is expecting an increase in numbers of cases of respiratory infections compared to summer levels due to Influenza and RSV and some Covid-19 and other respiratory viruses. However, an increase in hospitalisations should be tempered by adequate uptake of the appropriate vaccines. Barbados usually sees an uptick in Influenza cases in the latter part of the year with hospitalisations of children and the elderly.

### Transmission

Respiratory viruses are easily passed from person to person via droplets and/or aerosols especially in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation. They may also be passed via contaminated hands from surfaces, infected pets and fomites such as washcloths and toys.

### Symptoms

Time to symptoms after infection usually ranges from **1-4 days** and persons may complain of runny nose, sore throat, sneezing, cough, and ear pain, with body aches and fever more likely with Influenza infection. Infection is usually **self-limited** resolving in 1-2 weeks unless complications occur. Signs of bronchitis or pneumonia are more likely in the very young and very old as well as those with underlying respiratory conditions such as Asthma or COPD. In those with lowered immunity, including persons with Diabetes Mellitus and Alzheimers Disease, these viral infections can also trigger inflammation in other systems resulting in myocarditis or multi-organ failure and death.

### Treatment

Treatment is usually supportive with rest and adequate fluids and directed at the alleviation of symptoms. Specific antiviral therapies are available for Influenza but these are not routinely used in mild to moderate Influenza. Treatment of superinfection with bacteria or triggering of an asthma attack may also be necessary.

### Diagnosis

Respiratory infection can be assessed by the occurrence of symptoms with or without fever at the time of presentation. Diagnosis of the particular agent is determined by analysis on a dacro **nasopharyngeal swab** submitted in the appropriate viral transport medium. The Best dos Santos Public Health Lab is able to obtain **PCR results** for the majority of viral agents encountered in Barbados. **Swabbing for PCR analysis is necessary to identify any new Covid-19 or Influenza virus variants**

### Prevention

Prevention of infection is via measures used to impede transmission or by strengthening immunity. Avoiding close contact with ill persons, washing hands prior to touching eyes, nose or mouth and congregating in the open air or large well ventilated places are good prevention of transmission measure for anyone. Persons at risk of severe disease are also encouraged to wear well-fitting masks in public places and have ill persons in their homes wear masks. Vaccination with Seasonal Influenza Vaccine is also recommended for persons at risk of severe disease and health care workers who will be at higher exposure risk.



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