



This report describes current trends in suburban Cook County for influenza and other respiratory viruses. Selected graphics are presented on pages 2-4. For complete surveillance data on flu, COVID-19, and RSV, please visit our dashboard at <https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/influenza/>. CCDPH is also now tracking “Broad Respiratory” illness in our hospitalization data. This CDC-defined syndrome includes a wide array of specific and non-specific respiratory diagnoses and complications, such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

Key Points

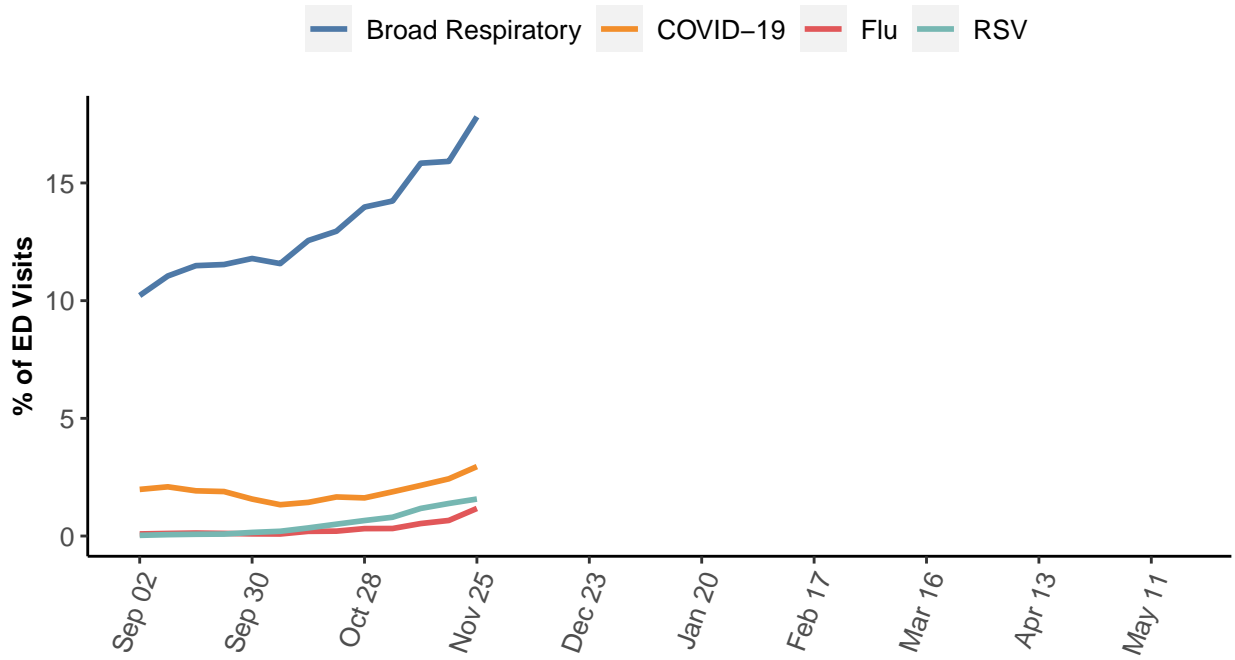
Influenza activity is currently **Low** but is increasing across multiple metrics.

- **COVID-19** is likely the primary driver of respiratory illness at this time; however, all three monitored pathogens (COVID-19, flu, and RSV) have increased considerably since early October.
- Among children under five and school-aged children, ED visits for flu have quadrupled in the last three weeks and are the highest of any age group. Flu hospitalizations for these age groups are also increasing.
- Among children under five, visits for RSV remain above pre-pandemic highs; however, we are likely approaching the seasonal peak.
- Of specimens tested for influenza, 4.6% are positive. 12.5% of RSV and 11.7% of COVID-19 specimens tested are positive.
- Of specimens positive for influenza, 90% have been influenza A. Ten influenza A specimens have sub-type available; 6 were sub-typed as pandemic 2009 H1N1, 4 was sub-typed as H3N2. Influenza B detection is also increasing.
- Wastewater detections for influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 are increasing rapidly.
- Recommendations for individuals include staying up-to-date with all **recommended respiratory vaccines**. The CDC recommends everyone six months and older get both an annual flu shot (ideally by the end of October) and an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 shot. New vaccines are also available for RSV this season. Talk to your health care provider about the RSV vaccine or RSV antibody shot if you have a child under 2, are over 60 years old, or are pregnant. Recommendations also include staying home when sick, avoiding contact with others who might be sick, and practicing good respiratory hygiene like washing your hands and covering your cough.
- Recommendations for communities and healthcare organizations include promoting equitable access to respiratory vaccines and tests, masks, medications, and support services. Support individuals to stay home when sick with respiratory symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19.

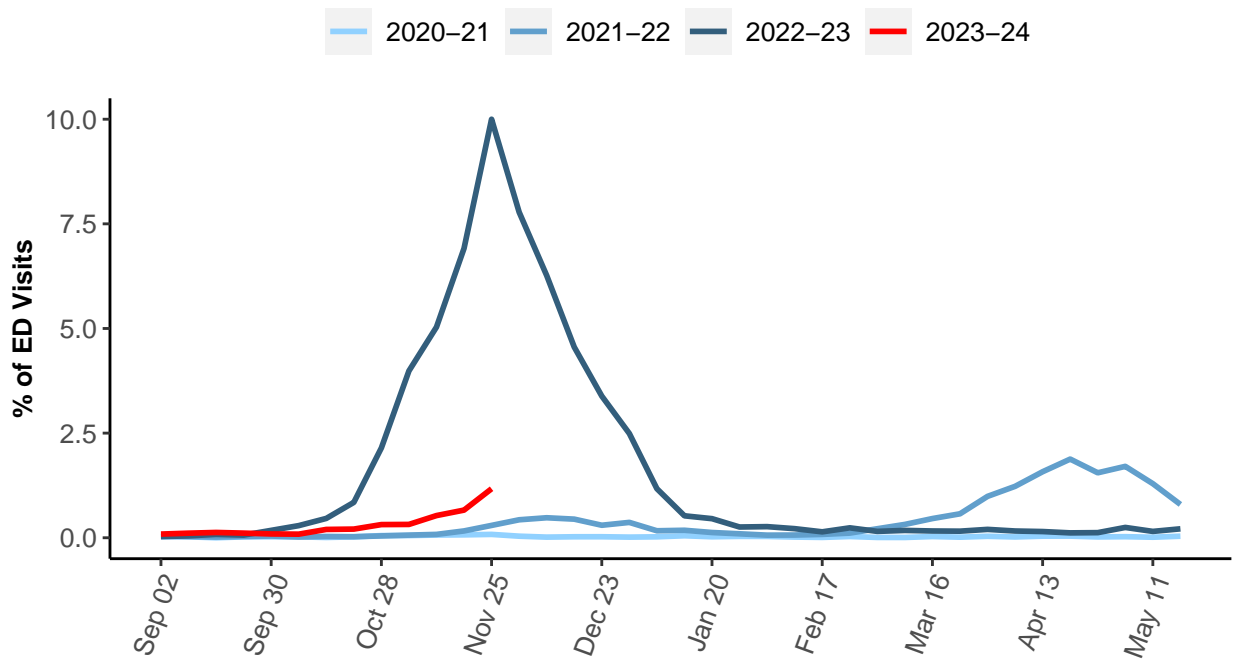
We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>



Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Virus

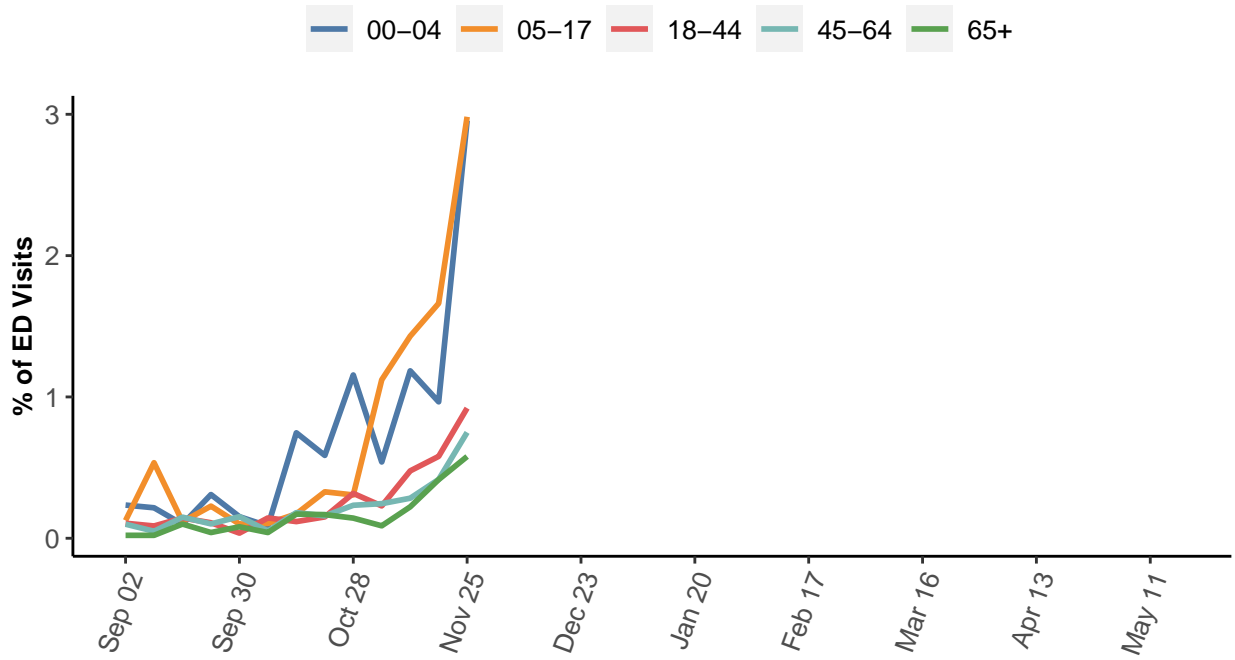


Emergency Rooms Visits for Flu By Season

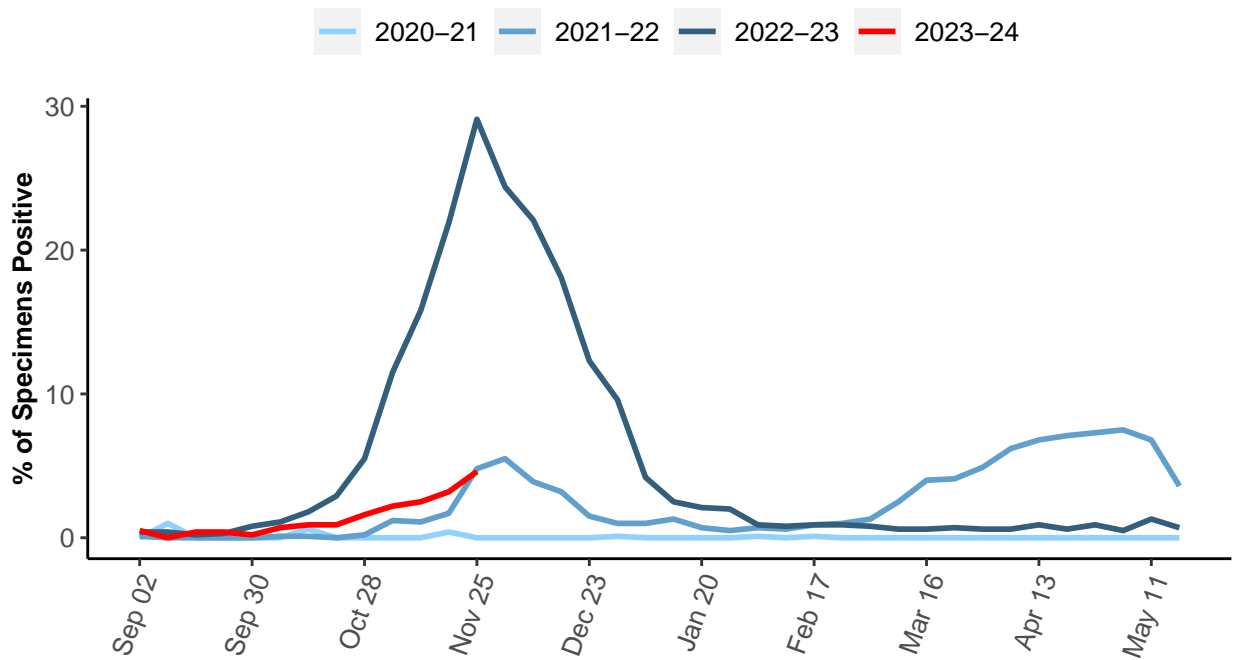




Emergency Room Visits for Flu by Age

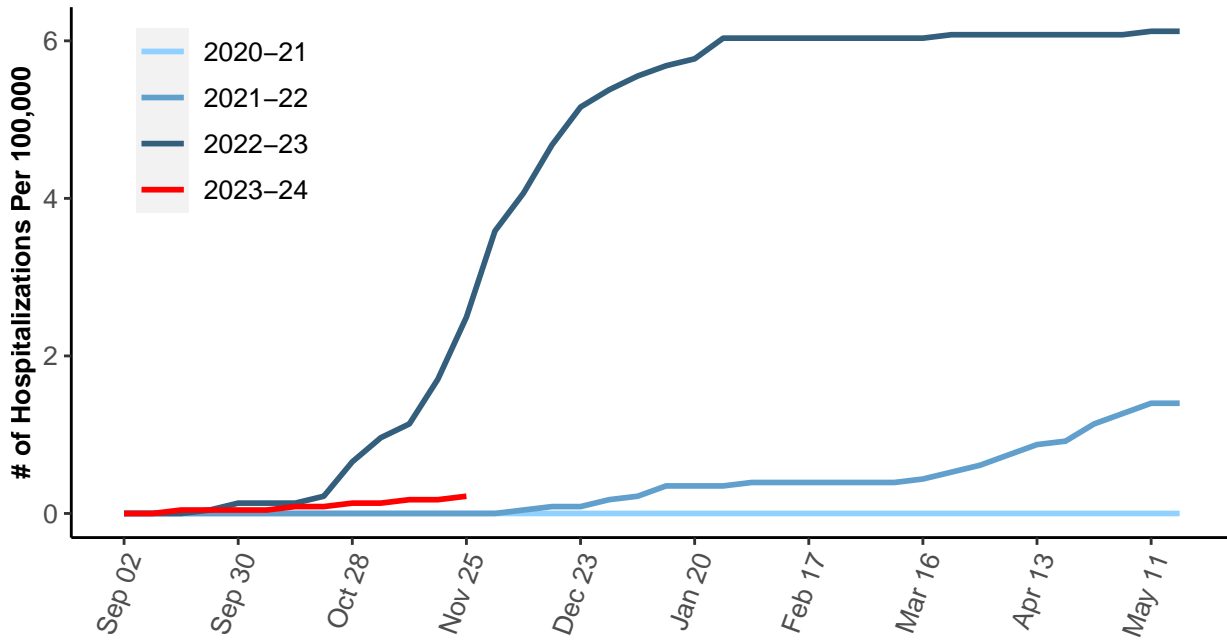


Percent of Respiratory Specimens Positive for Flu





Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Flu



CDC Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity Levels by State

