



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

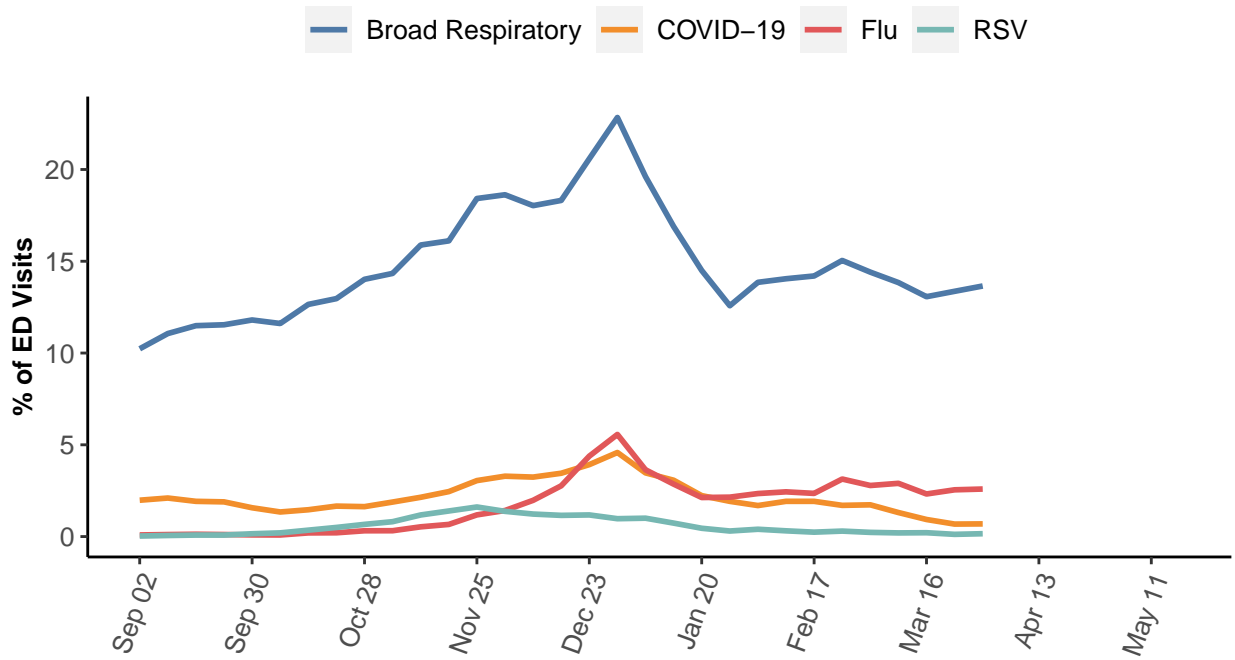
Overall, influenza activity is **Low** and stable.

- The percent of ED visits for influenza remain elevated for children compared to other age groups. Hospitalizations for school-aged children have increased.
- **COVID-19** emergency visits and hospitalizations are decreasing and remain below last year’s levels.
- RSV remains elevated for children under 5; however, activity has peaked for the season and continues to steadily decline.
- Flu-related ICU admissions have been trending down but remain above last year’s levels at this point in the season. ICU admission rates are the highest among adults over 65 and non-Hispanic Black residents.
- After trending down in January, the percent of deaths associated with pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 plateaued in mid-February and remained flat in March.
- Of specimens tested for influenza, 11.3% are positive. 1.6% of RSV and 4.2% of COVID-19 specimens tested are positive.
- Of specimens positive for influenza, 77% have been influenza A. 840 influenza A specimens have subtype available. Of these, 59% were pandemic 2009 H1N1 and 41% were H3N2. Influenza B detections surpassed influenza A detections starting in mid-March.
- Wastewater detections for all respiratory viruses are decreasing.
- 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 until 24 hours fever-free and symptoms have improved.

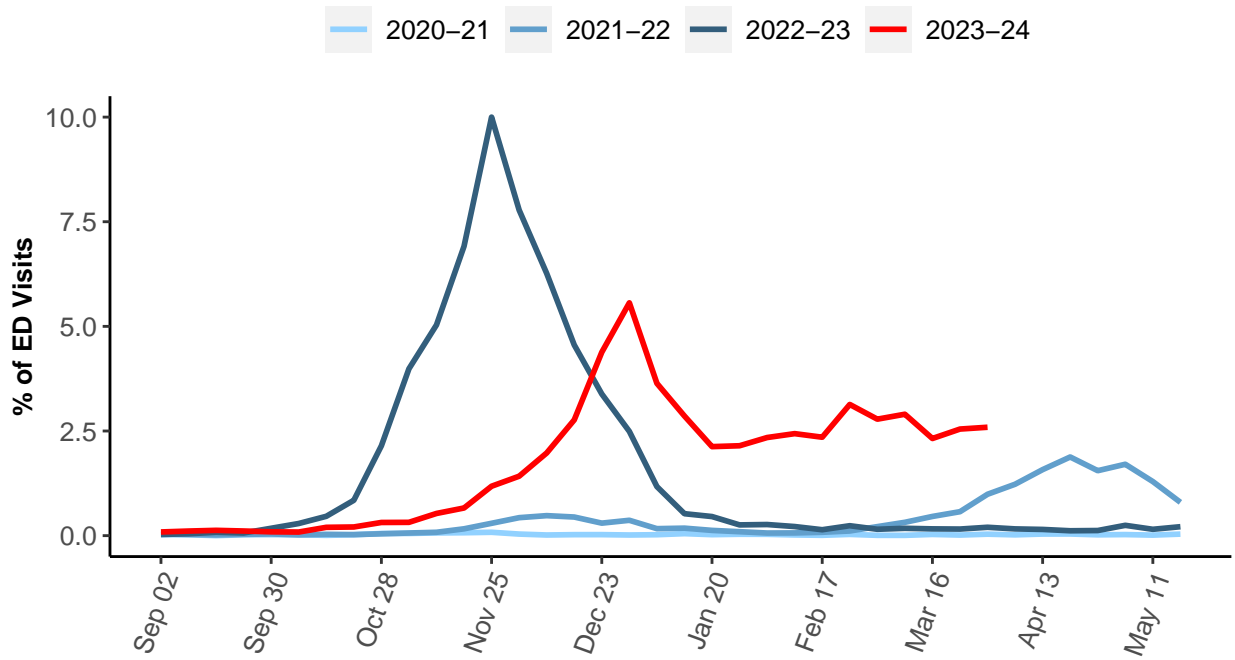
We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>



Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Virus

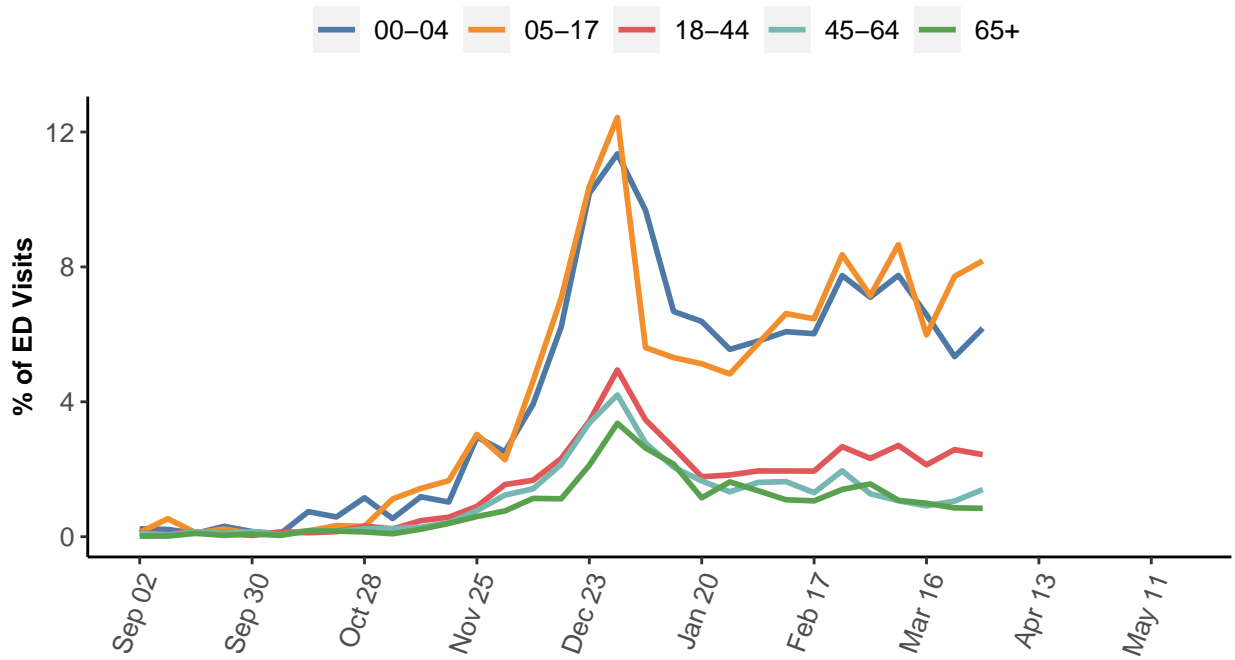


Emergency Rooms Visits for Flu By Season





Emergency Room Visits for Flu by Age



Percent of Respiratory Specimens Positive for Flu

