



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 decreasing.

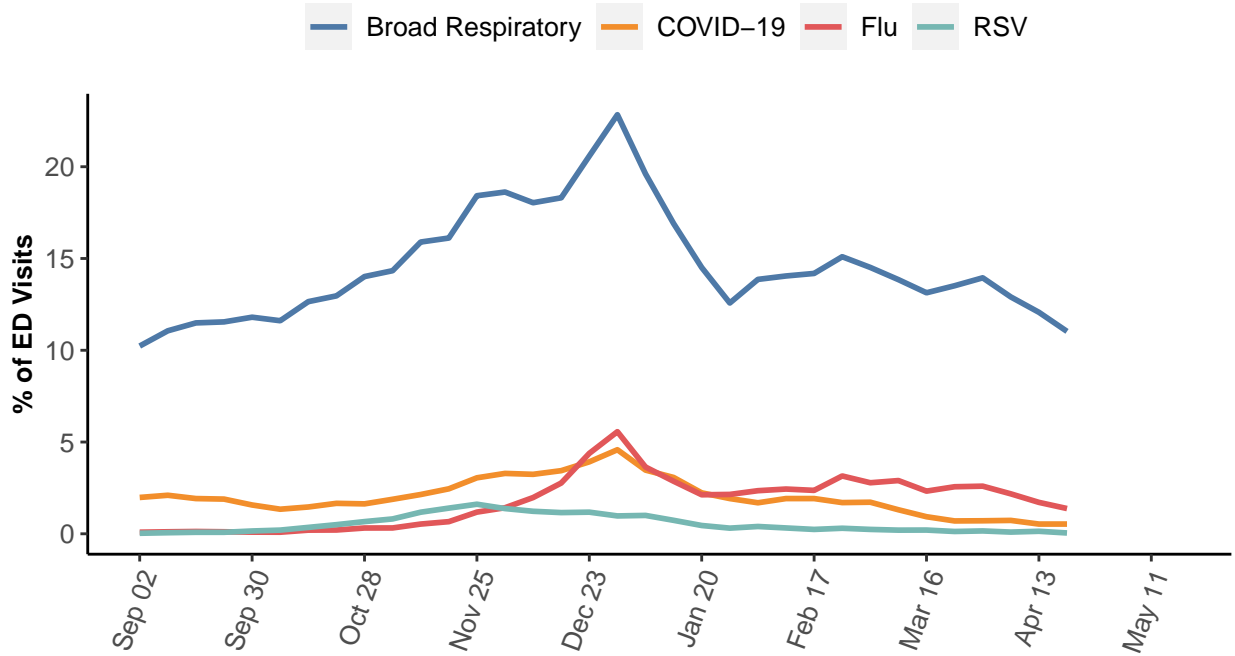
- The percent of ED visits and hospitalizations for influenza remain elevated compared to this time last year but continue to trend steadily downward.
- **COVID-19** emergency visits and hospitalizations are decreasing and remain below last year’s levels.
- RSV activity has peaked for the season. Metrics are now near out-of-season baseline levels.
- No flu-related ICU admissions were reported last week for the first time since late November. ICU admission rates for the season have been the highest among adults over 65 and non-Hispanic Black residents.
- Of specimens tested for influenza, 6.2% are positive. 1.1% of RSV and 4.4% of COVID-19 specimens tested are positive.
- Of specimens positive for influenza, 77% have been influenza A. 899 influenza A specimens have sub-type available. Of these, 58% were pandemic 2009 H1N1 and 42% were H3N2. Influenza B detections surpassed influenza A detections starting in mid-March.
- Wastewater detections for influenza and RSV are decreasing. Wastewater detections for COVID-19 have increased slightly, but remain low.
- 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



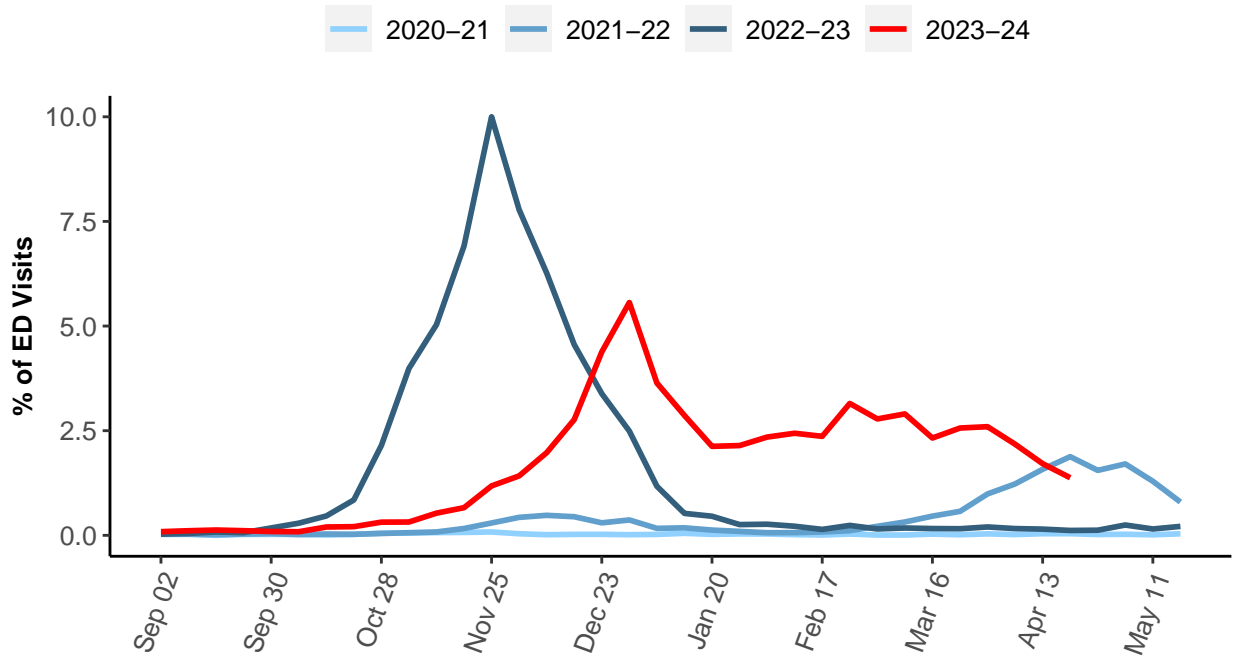
information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>

Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Virus

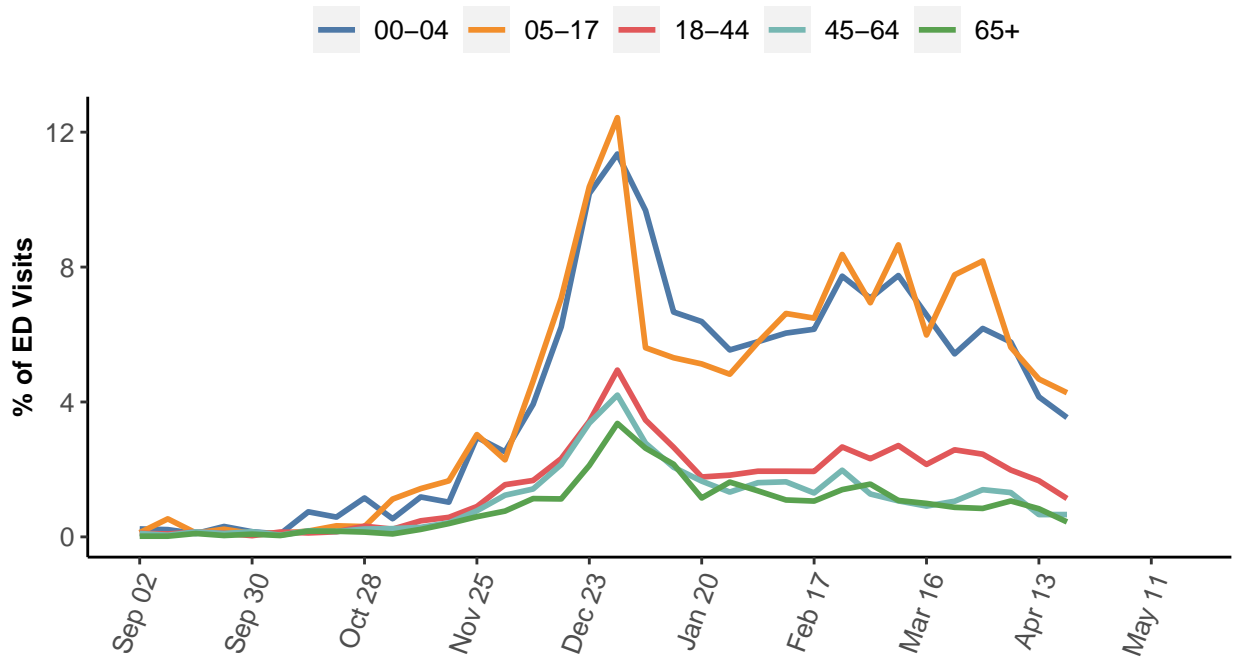




Emergency Rooms Visits for Flu By Season

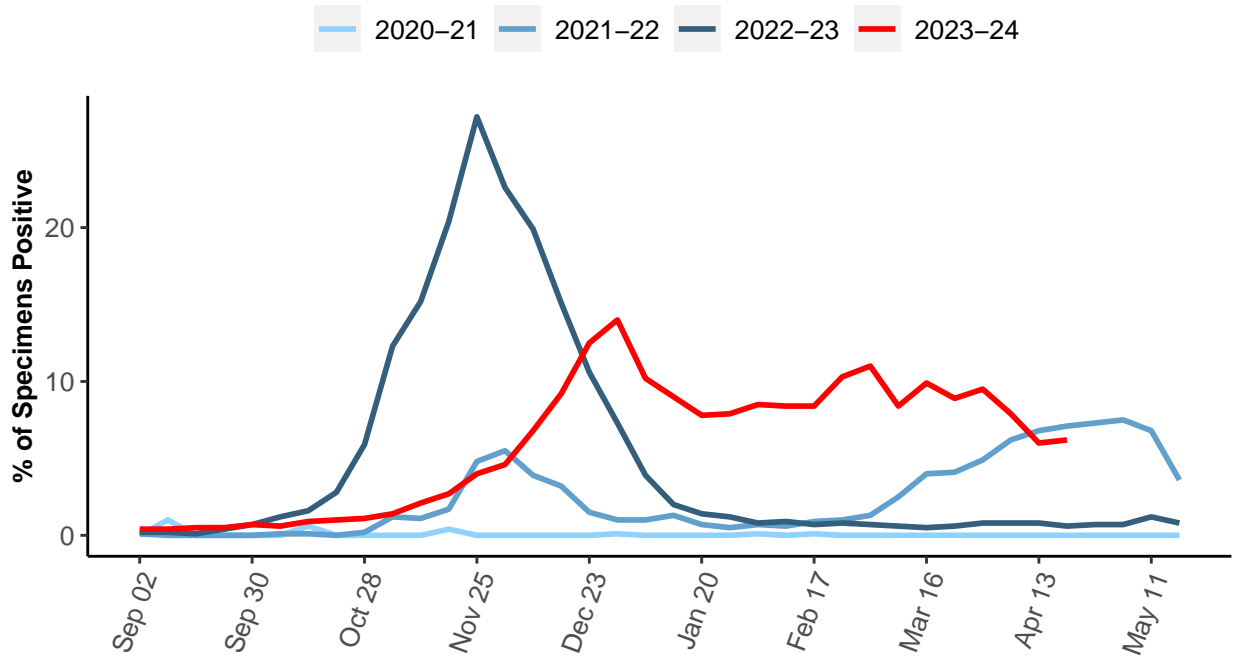


Emergency Room Visits for Flu by Age

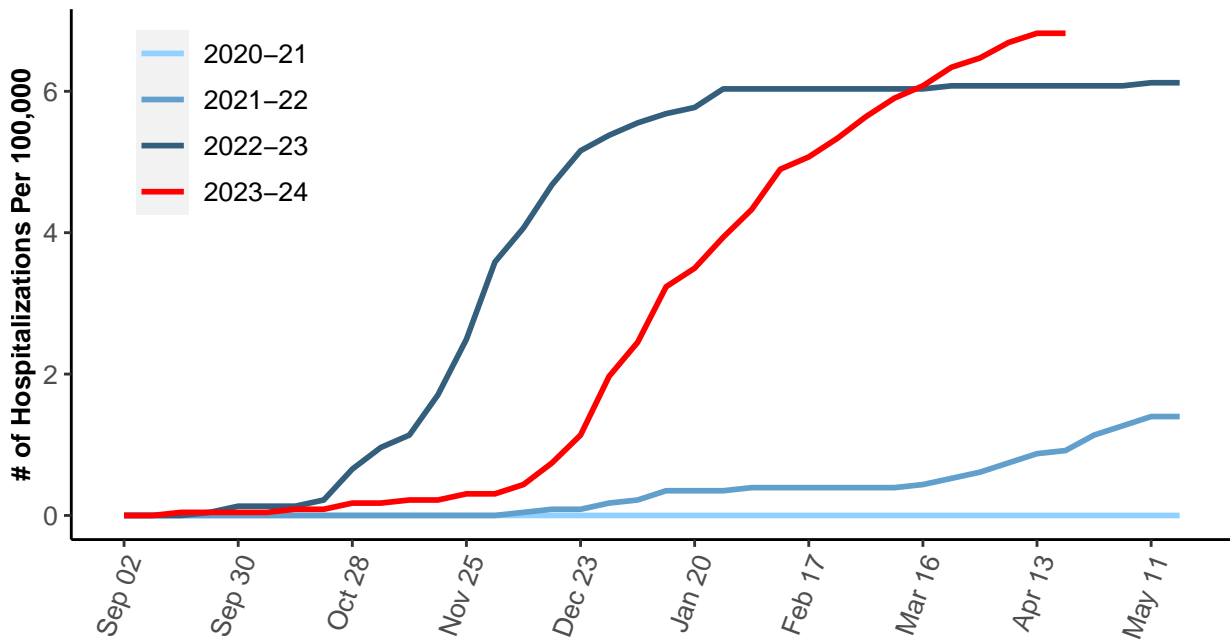




Percent of Respiratory Specimens Positive for Flu



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Flu





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

