



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

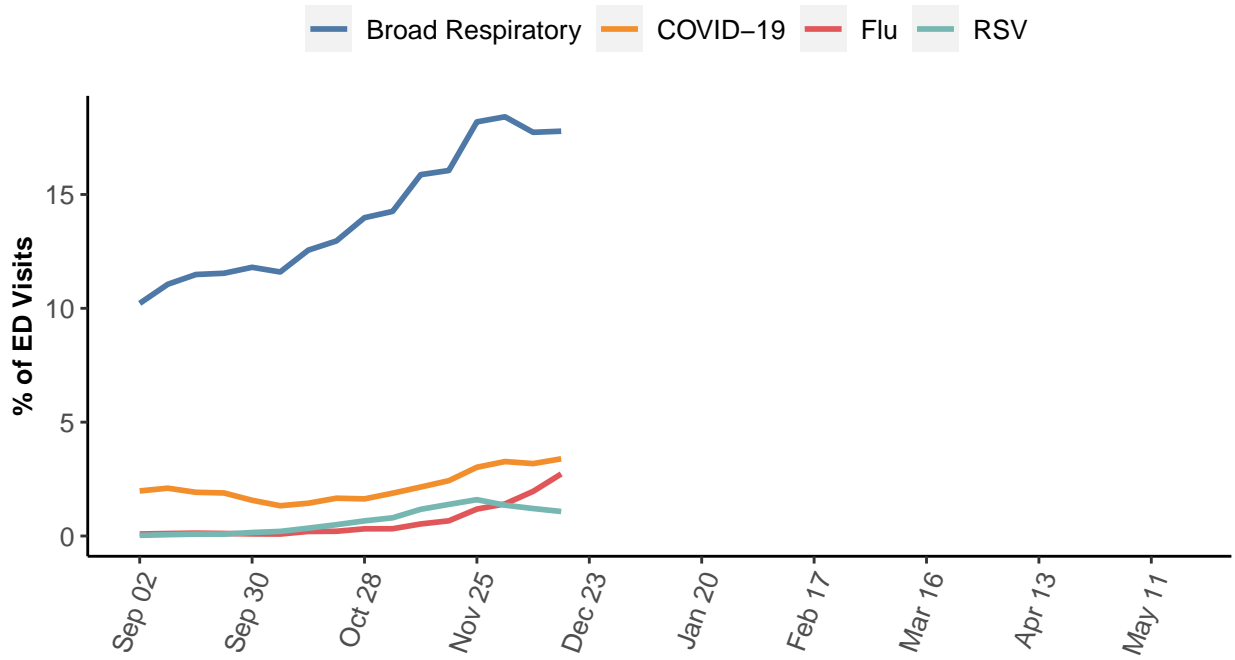
- Of the three monitored respiratory pathogens (flu, RSV, and **COVID-19**), influenza is increasing the fastest, especially among children.
- Clusters of influenza-like illness have begun being reported by suburban Cook County schools.
- RSV remains elevated, especially in children under 5, but activity has likely peaked for the season.
- Of specimens tested for influenza, 10.4% are positive. 9% of RSV and 12.2% of COVID-19 specimens tested are positive.
- Of specimens positive for influenza, 92% have been influenza A. Nineteen influenza A specimens have sub-type available; 14 were sub-typed as pandemic 2009 H1N1, 5 were sub-typed as H3N2. Influenza B detection is also increasing.
- Wastewater detections for influenza A are rising.
- 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. On December 14th, CDC released a **Health Advisory** urging for increased uptake of respiratory vaccines and antiviral treatment for those eligible.

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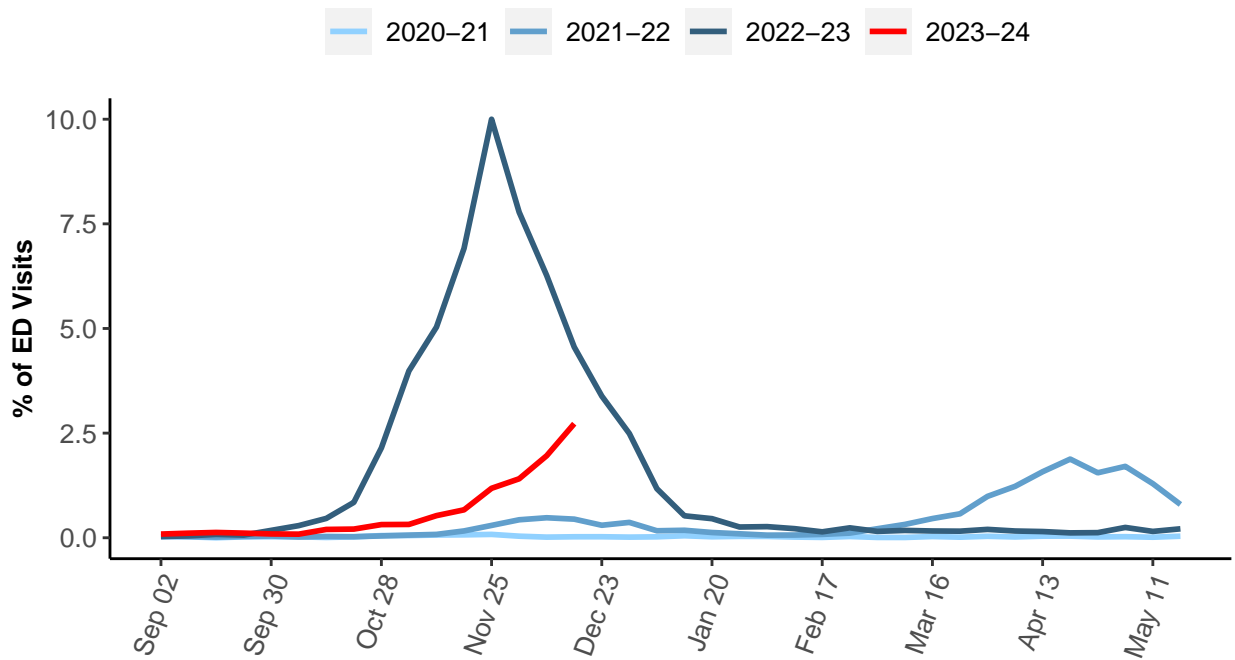
*We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>*



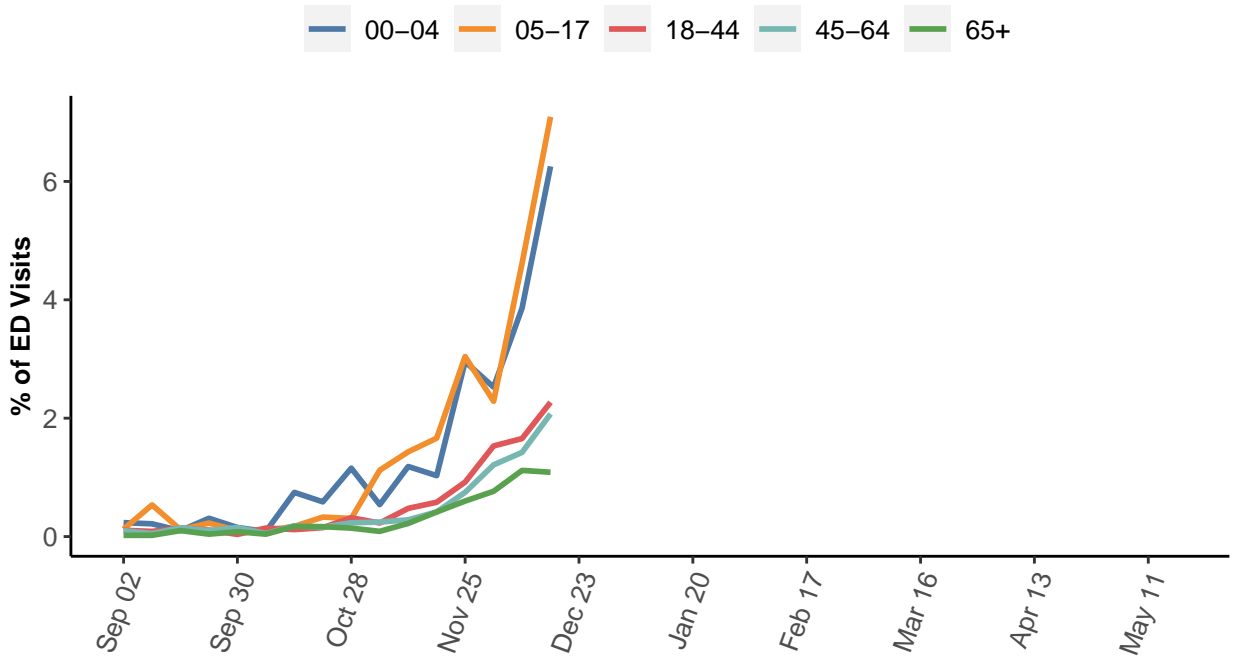
**Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Virus**



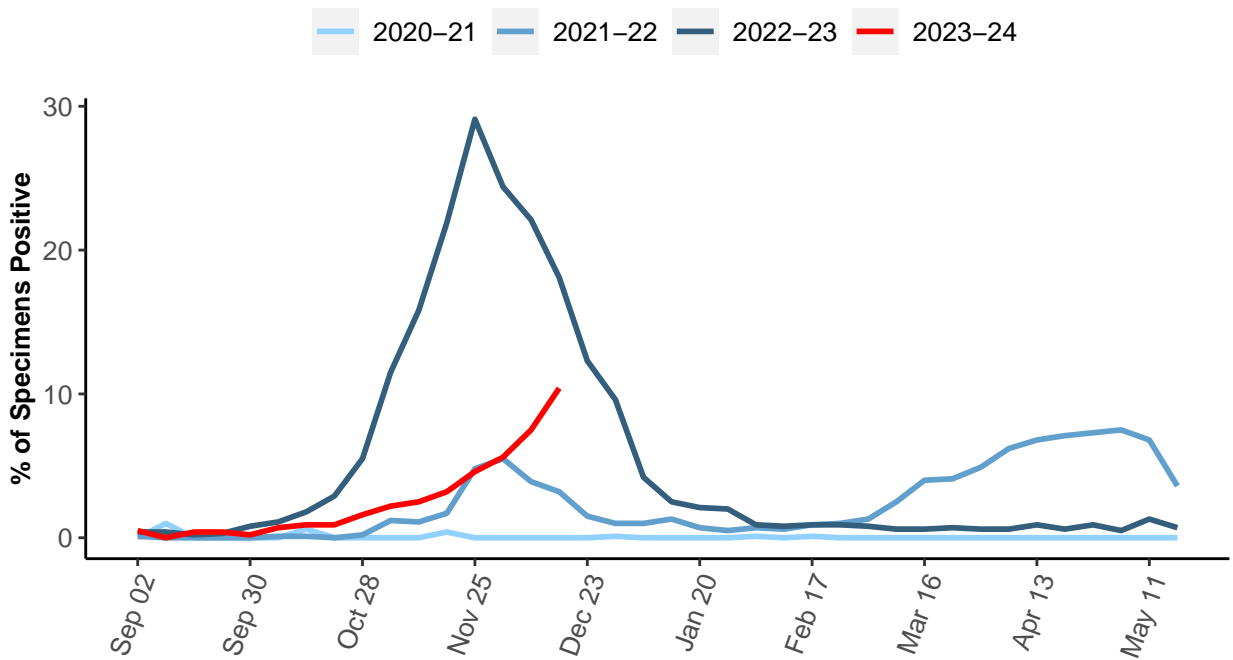
**Emergency Rooms Visits for Flu By Season**



**Emergency Room Visits for Flu by Age**

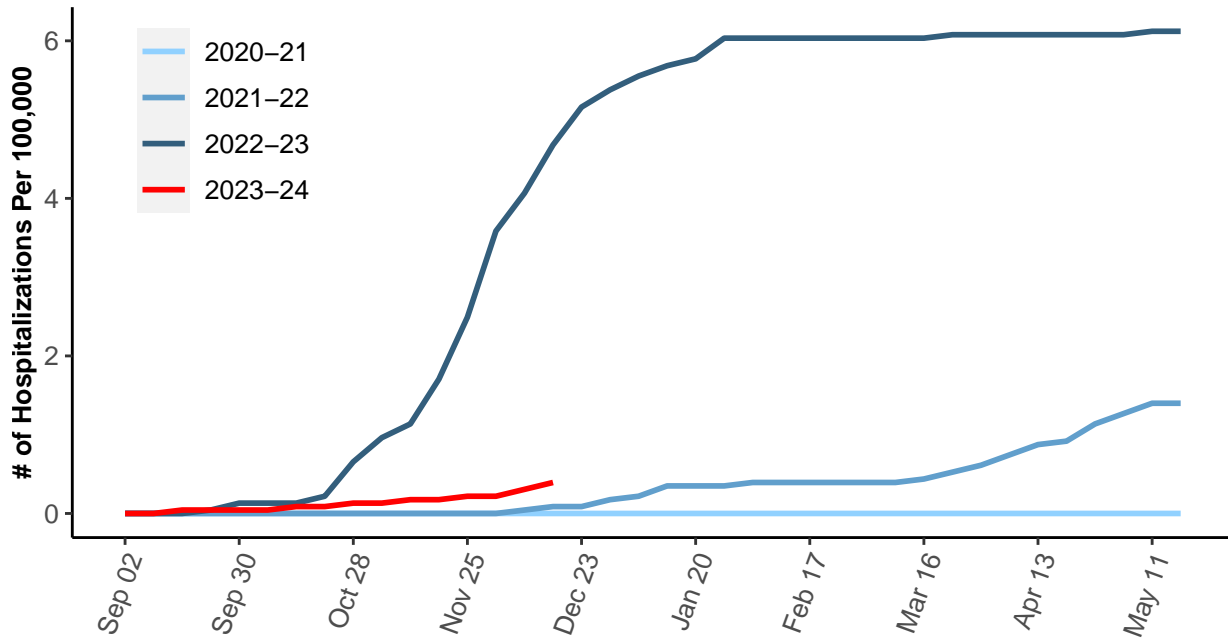


**Percent of Respiratory Specimens Positive for Flu**





**Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Flu**



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

