



This report describes current trends in suburban Cook County for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. Selected graphics are presented on pages 2-4. For complete surveillance data on these pathogens, please visit our dashboard at <https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/respiratory/>. 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

COVID-19 activity is **at baseline** and stable.

Influenza activity is **at baseline** and increasing.

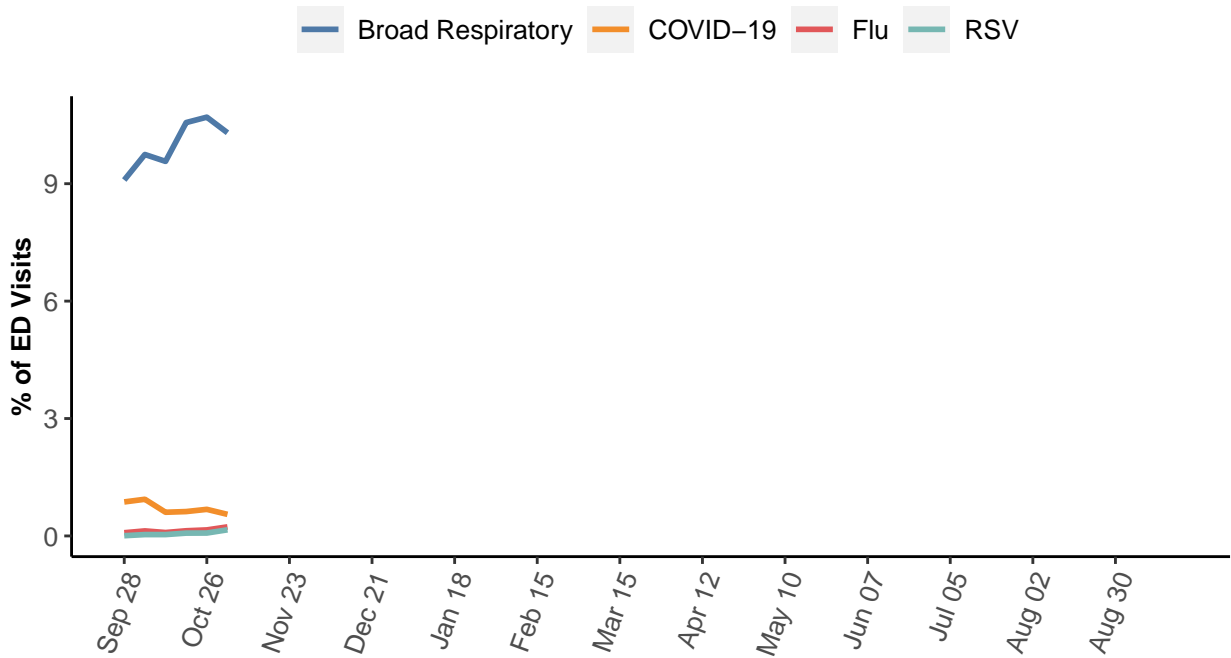
RSV activity is **at baseline** and increasing.

- All three monitored pathogens are currently at baseline, but metrics for flu and RSV are trending up.
- Flu and RSV emergency room visits are starting to increase, particularly among children under 18, but COVID-19 emergency room visits and hospital admissions have leveled off after decreasing from this summer’s wave.
- Hospital admissions for RSV and flu remain low, but are also starting to trend up.
- The first RSV-associated ICU admissions of the season were reported this week, but there were no flu admissions. All RSV and flu ICU admissions reported since the start of the season have been in children under 5. ICU admissions associated with COVID-19 continue to be reported each week.
- Of specimens tested for flu, 1.2% were positive. Positivity also increased for RSV, from 1% to 1.4%. COVID-19 positivity fell below 1% for the first time since May of 2024.
- Wastewater detections for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) continue trending down after increasing through August and early September. Wastewater detections for influenza and RSV are minimal.
- Wastewater sequencing data for SARS-CoV-2 indicate a variety of JN.1 sub-lineages are co-circulating, predominantly KP.2 and KP.3 (sometimes referred to as the FLiRT strains).
- CDC’s [core recommendations](#) for *individuals* include staying up to date with all recommended respiratory virus [vaccines](#), practicing good respiratory hygiene (covering your cough, washing your hands), taking steps for cleaner air, and using precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses when you are sick. This means staying home until you’ve been fever-free for 24 hours and your symptoms are getting better. CDC also recommends individuals are familiar with treatment options for flu and COVID-19, especially if you are at [high risk](#) for severe outcomes.
- CDC’s [core recommendations](#) for *organizations* include supporting vaccination efforts (like hosting a clinic or providing time off for vaccination and recovery), encouraging good respiratory hygiene with posters and adequate hand-washing supplies, taking steps for cleaner air, and supporting time off for individuals to stay home when sick or to seek treatment.
- Respiratory activity is still minimal in suburban Cook, but we anticipate increases in the coming weeks. Now is a great time to get vaccinated if you haven’t already.



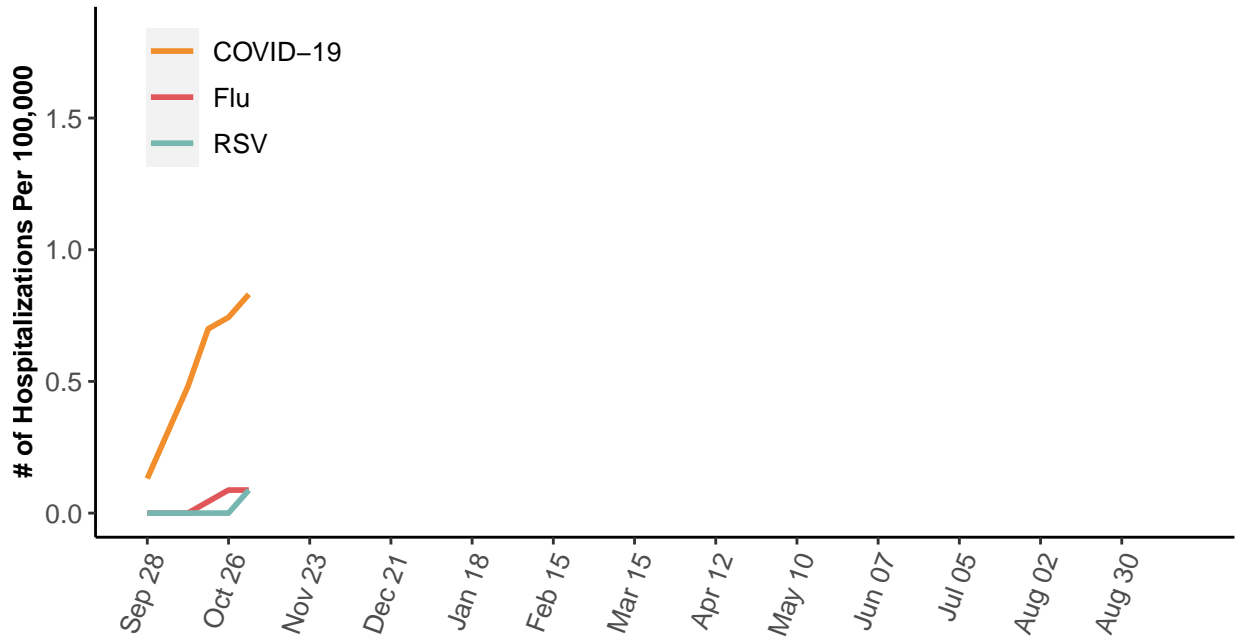
We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cook-county-department-of-public-health.github.io/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>

Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



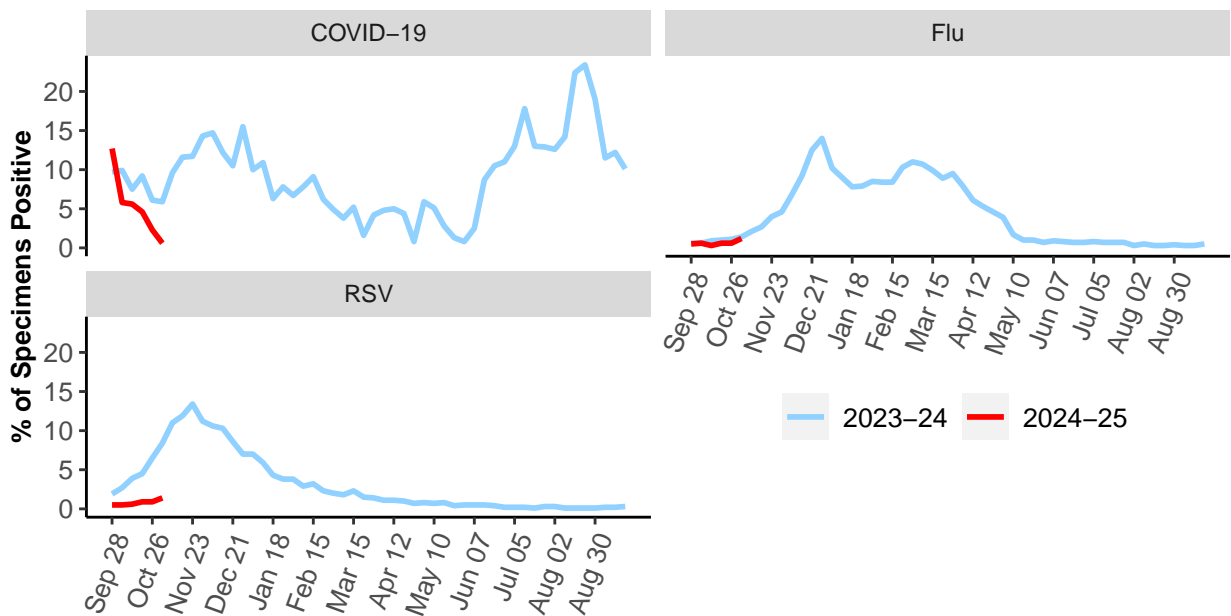


Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

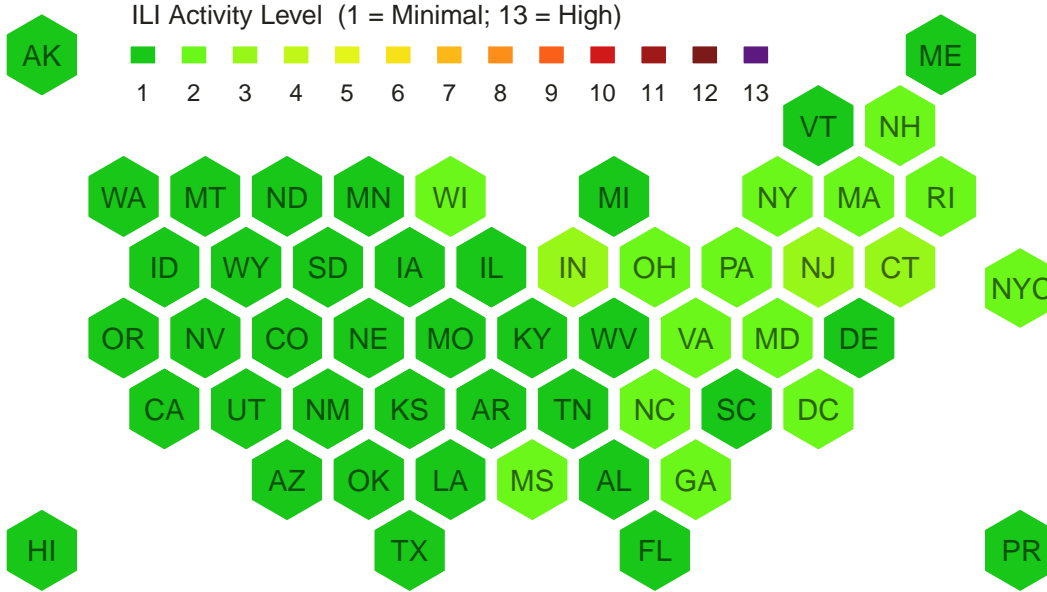
Laboratories contributing data differ by pathogen. Lab data may not be comparable between viruses. Graphics are better used to look at trajectory for a given virus over time.



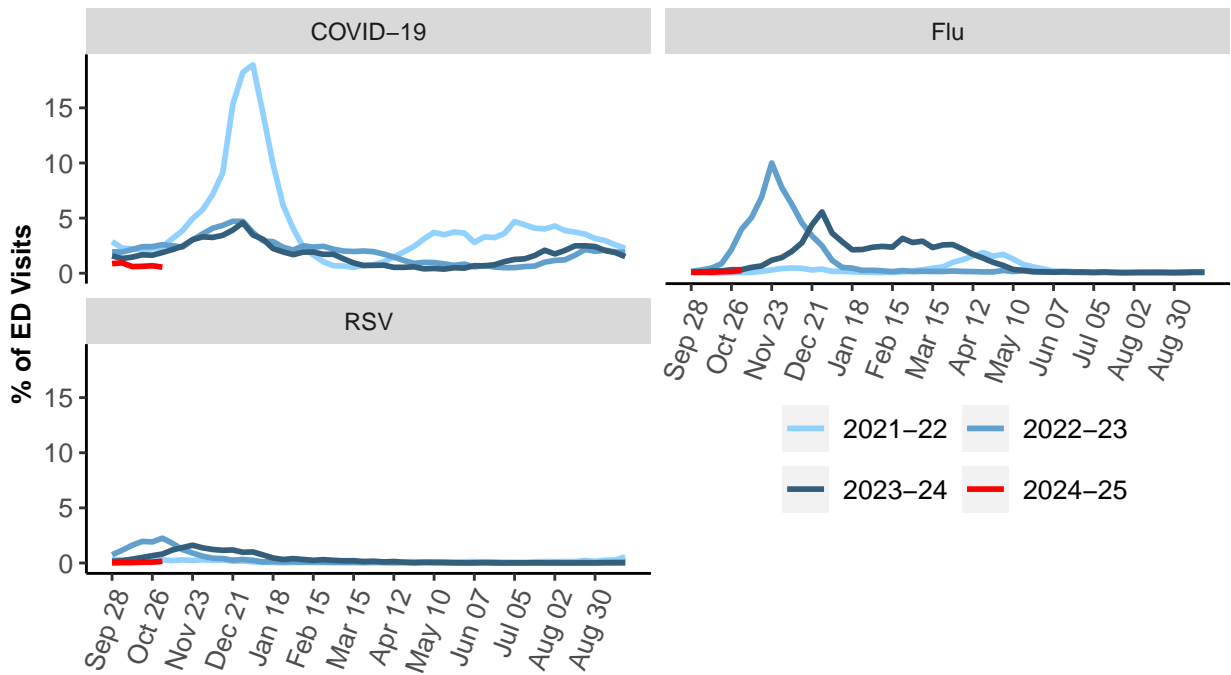


CDC Respiratory Illness (ILI-NET) Activity Levels by State

Data for the week ending 2024-10-05, most recent CDC data available



Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis





Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

