



This report describes current trends in suburban Cook County for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. A selection of graphs are included. For complete surveillance data on these pathogens, please visit our dashboard at <https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/respiratory/>.

Key Points

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

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

RSV activity is **low** and increasing.

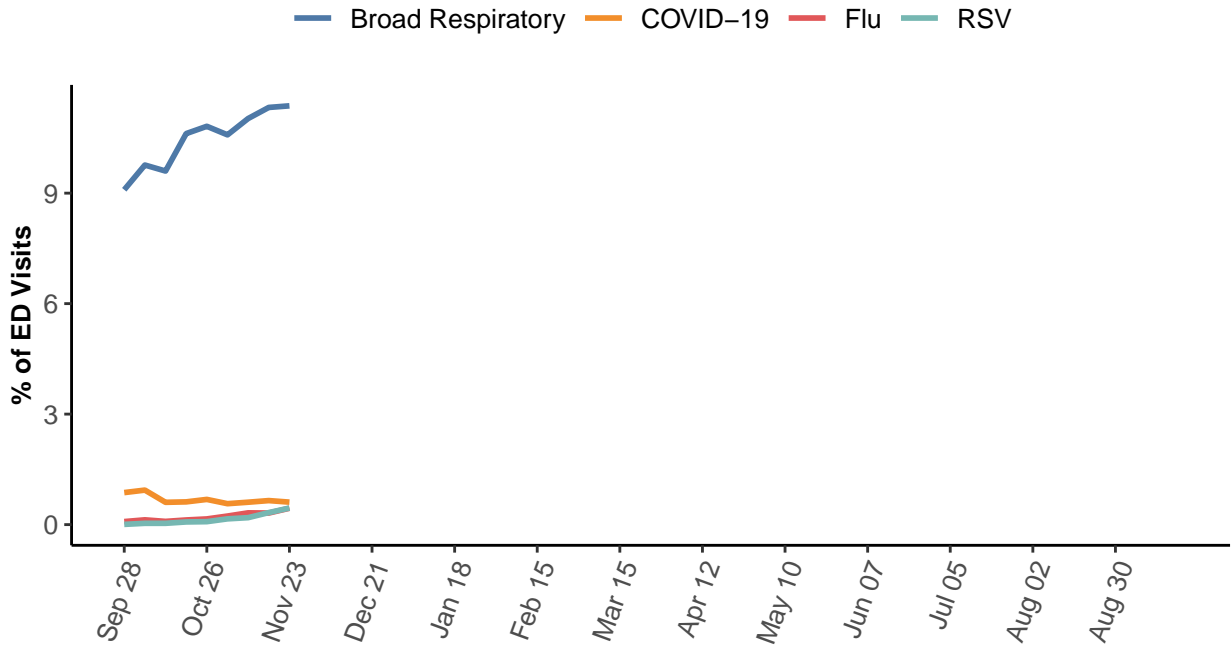
- COVID-19 and flu remain at baseline, but RSV is elevated to low as metrics continue to trend up.
- Flu and RSV emergency room visits are increasing, particularly among children under 18, but COVID-19 emergency room visits and hospital admissions have leveled off after decreasing from this summer's wave.
- Hospital admissions for flu remain low, but admissions for RSV are increasing, particularly in children under 5.
- The vast majority of RSV 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 and largely occur among those 65 and older. ICU admissions for flu remain low.
- Of specimens tested for flu, 1.9% were positive. Positivity rose from 3.6% to 4.9% for RSV. COVID-19 positivity was 1.5%.
- Wastewater detections for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), influenza, and RSV are all starting to increase.
- Wastewater sequencing data for SARS-CoV-2 indicate a variety of JN.1 sub-lineages are co-circulating. XEC was introduced in September, but the most common variant remains KP.3.
- 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. Organizations primarily serving children under 5 should be aware of increasing RSV activity and review CDC's core recommendations to reduce transmission.

We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information!

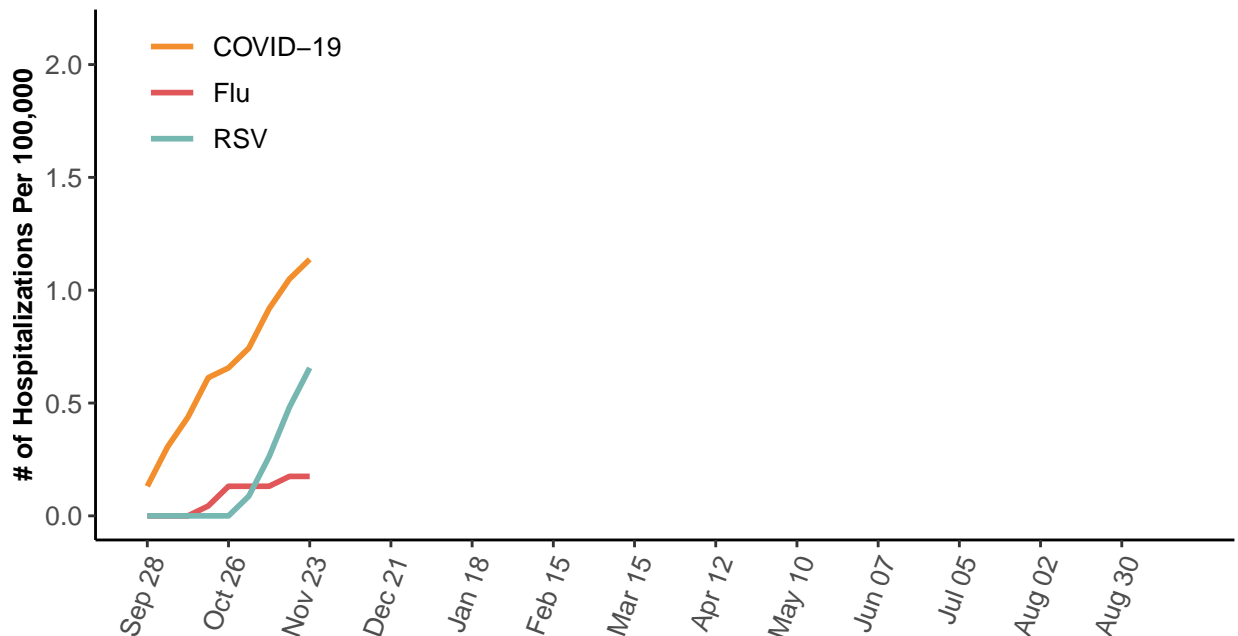


For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cook-county-department-of-public-health.github.io/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>

Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



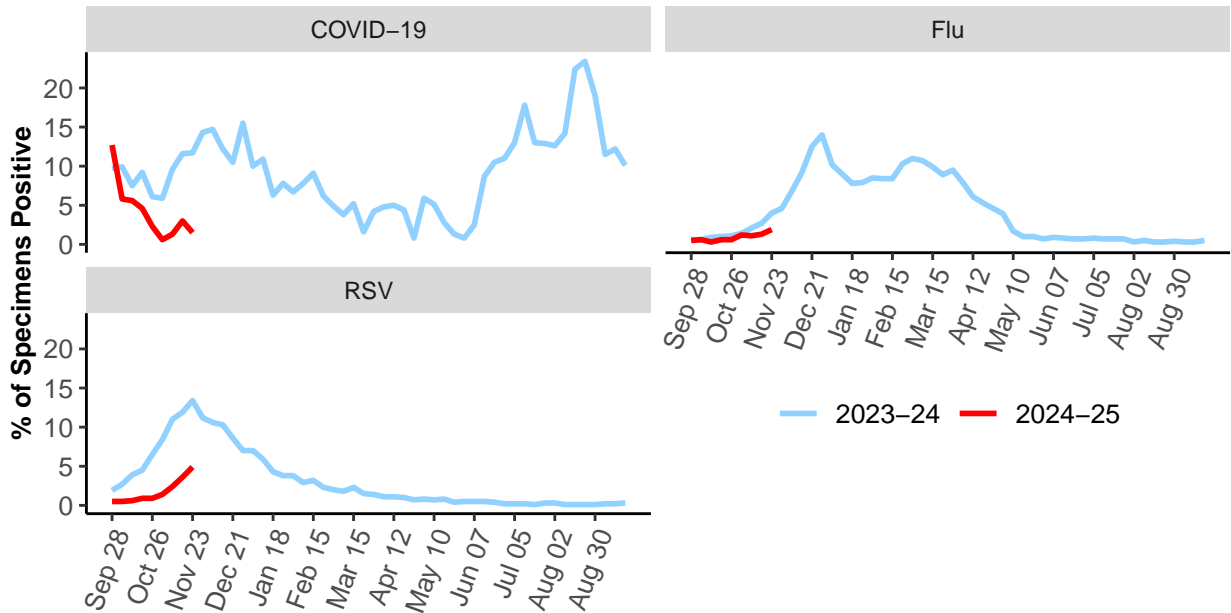
Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses





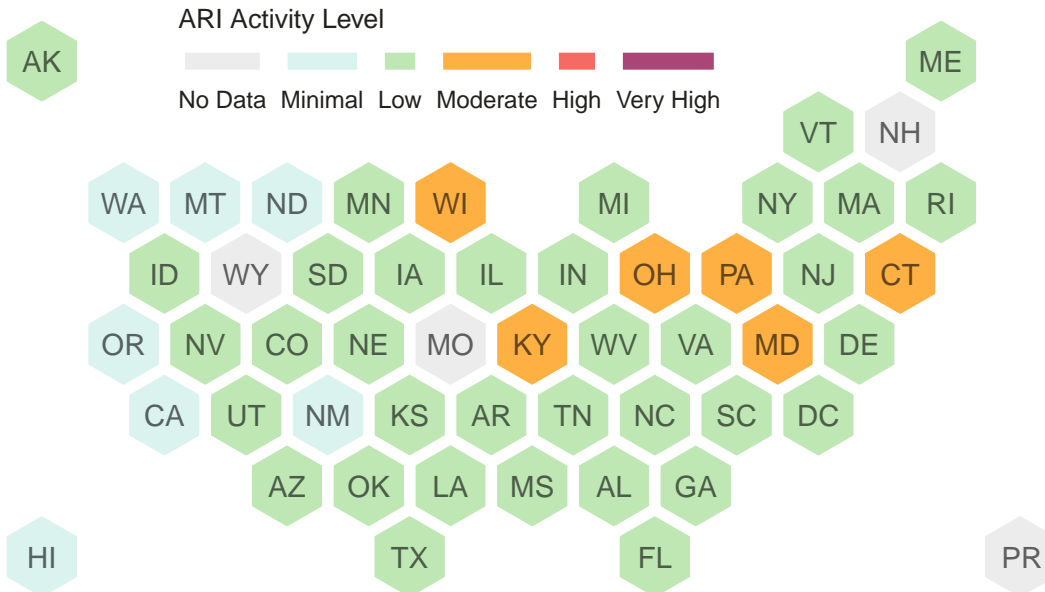
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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.



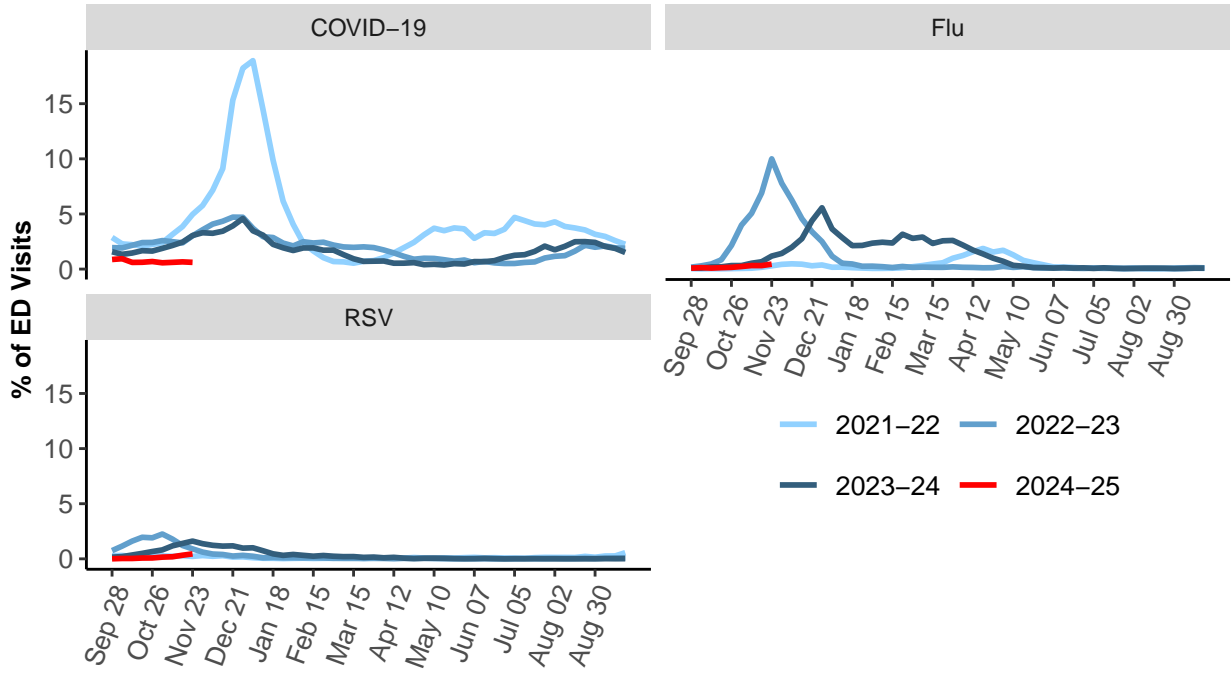
CDC Acute Respiratory Illness Activity Levels by State

Data for the week ending 2024-11-16, most recent CDC data available





Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

