



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 **low** and increasing.

Influenza activity is **low** and increasing.

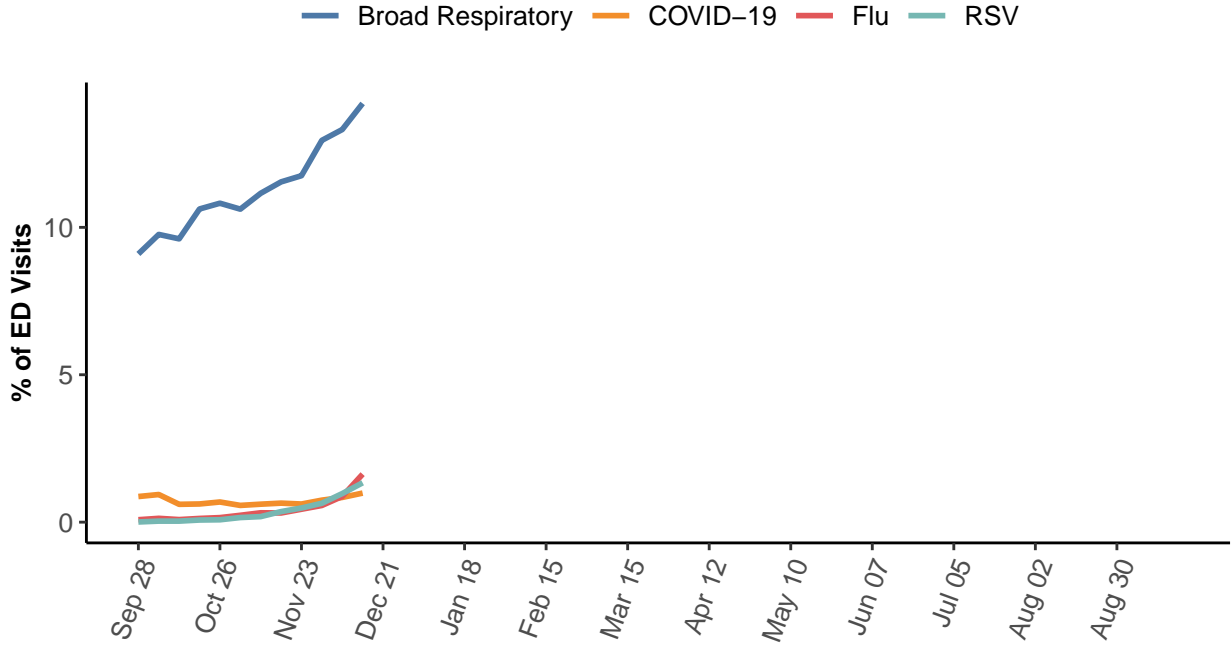
RSV activity is **high** and increasing.

- RSV activity has been elevated to high, and continues to increase. We may be approaching the peak of the RSV season. COVID-19 and flu remain low, but are also increasing.
- Flu and RSV emergency room visits are increasing, particularly among children, and have surpassed those for COVID-19.
- Hospital admissions for all three viruses continue to increase. Admissions for RSV surpassed those for COVID-19 this week, with admissions for children under 5 rising the fastest.
- 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, 5.3% were positive, increasing from 3.3% the previous week. Positivity rose from 9.% to 10.1% for RSV. COVID-19 positivity increased from 5.6% to 7.1%.
- Wastewater detections for RSV and flu are increasing exponentially. Current viral concentrations are similar to the peak of last year’s RSV season. Wastewater detections for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) are also increasing.
- Wastewater sequencing data for SARS-CoV-2 indicate a variety of JN.1 sub-lineages are co-circulating, including XEC, KP.3, and KP.3.1.1.
- 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.
- RSV season is in full swing. Organizations primarily serving children under 5 should review CDC’s core recommendations to reduce transmission. Individuals at risk for severe outcomes from RSV may wish to take additional precautions, such as masking or physical distancing.

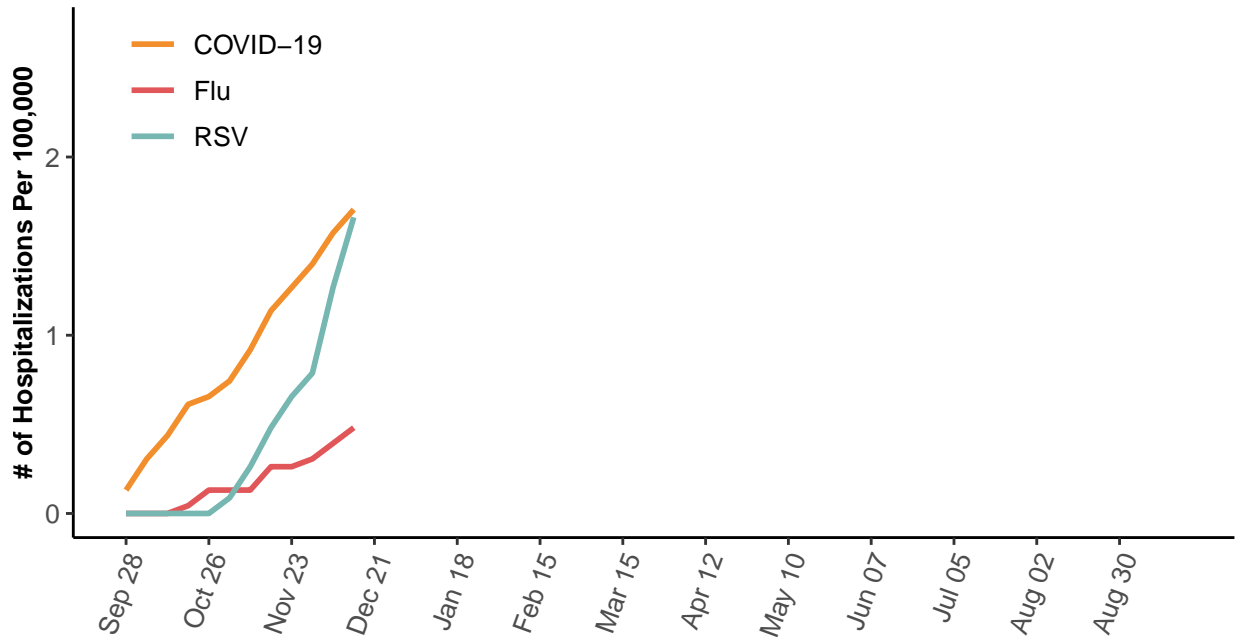
We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! For additional details on our methods, please visit <https://cook-county-department-of-public-health.github.io/documents/cd/respiratory-surveillance-methods.html>



Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



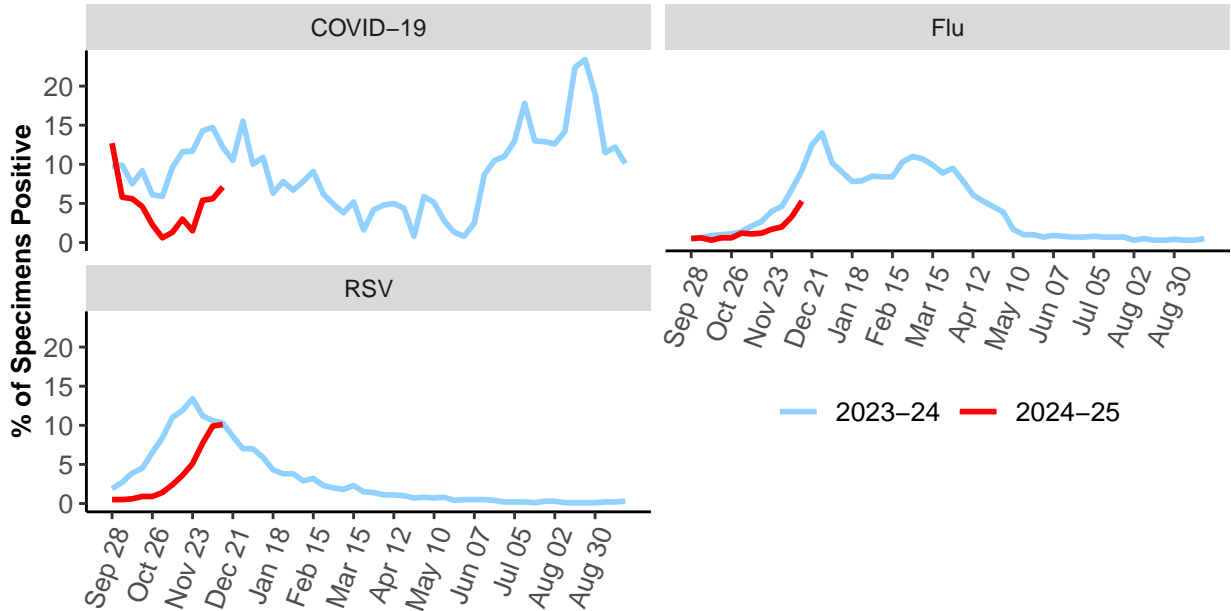
Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses





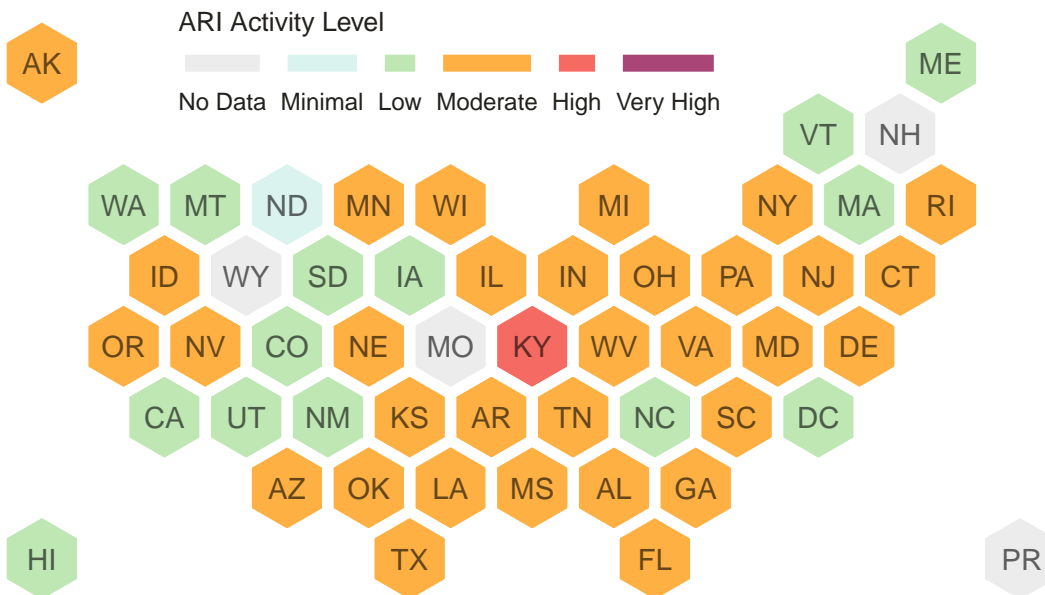
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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.



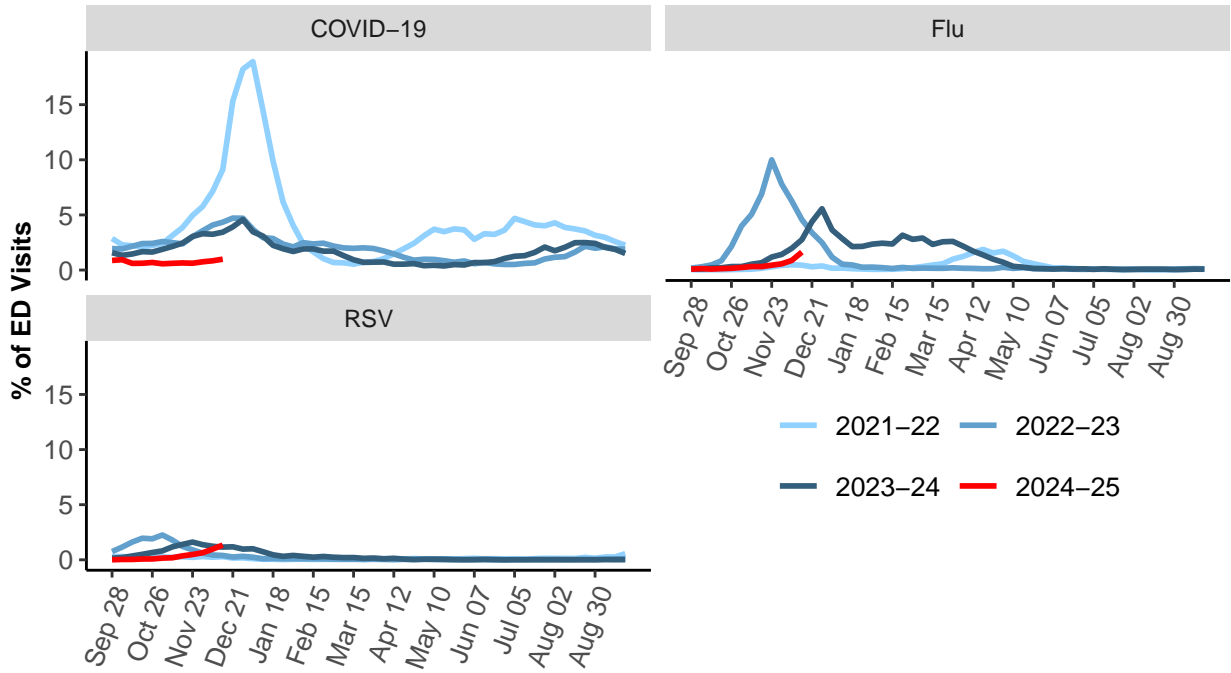
CDC Acute Respiratory Illness Activity Levels by State

Data for the week ending 2024-12-14, most recent CDC data available





Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

