



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 [respiratory dashboard](#).

Key Points

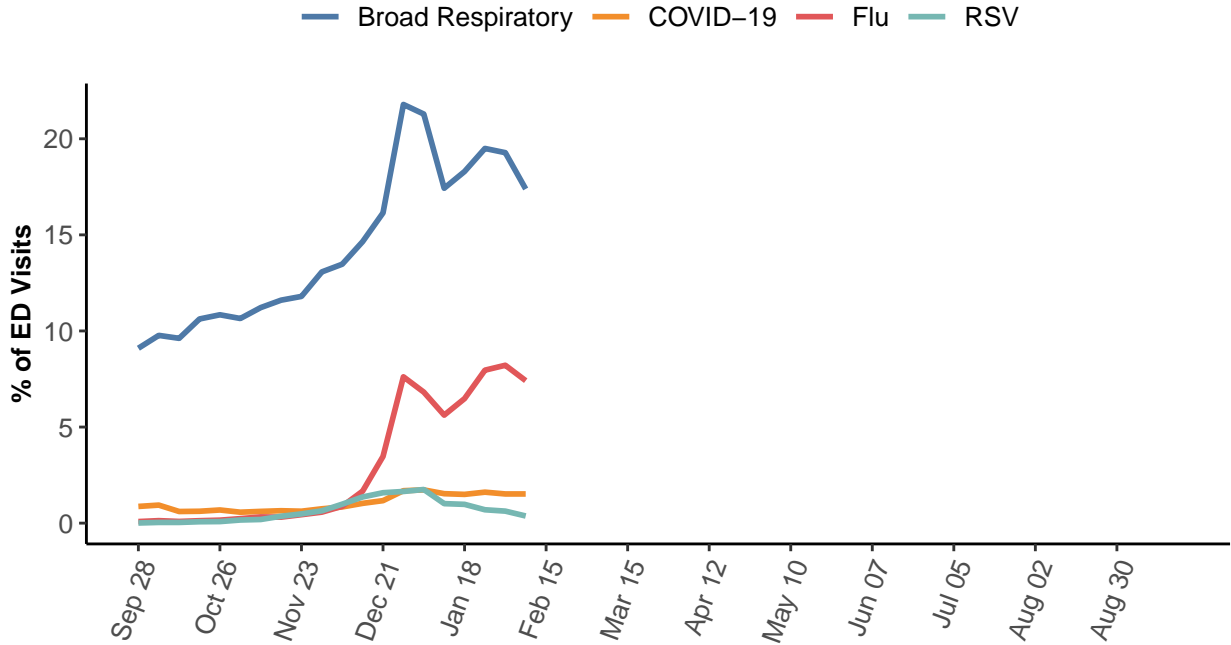
COVID-19 activity is **low** and stable. **Influenza** activity is **high** and stable. **RSV** activity is **low** and stable.

- Flu activity is still high, but RSV and COVID-19 activity remains low.
- Emergency room visits and hospital admissions for flu remain higher than last year's peak, and are the highest of the three monitored respiratory viruses. ER visits and hospital admissions for RSV continue to trend down while COVID-19 visits and admissions remain low and stable.
- ICU admissions are by far the highest for flu, followed by COVID-19 and then RSV. The vast majority of RSV ICU admissions have been in children under 5, but ICU admissions for flu are affecting all age groups with the majority in those over the age of 45.
- The percent of deaths associated with pneumonia, influenza, and/or COVID-19 has plateaued since the beginning of the year, and the second pediatric flu death of this season was reported this week.
- Percent positivity for flu increased from 22.7% last week to 24.1% this week. Of specimens tested for RSV, 4.9% were positive. COVID-19 positivity remains 5.1%.
- So far this season, among positive flu A specimens with influenza subtype available, 62% were pandemic 2009 H1N1 and 38% were H3N2. We have begun to see more influenza B over the past few weeks.
- Wastewater detections for flu A, flu B, and RSV are still increasing, but detections for COVID-19 remain stable.
- Wastewater sequencing data for SARS-CoV-2 indicate a variety of JN.1 sub-lineages are co-circulating, with XEC dominating in January and LP.8.1 increasing over the past few weeks.
- 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.
- Overall respiratory activity remains high, especially for flu. Individuals at risk for severe outcomes may wish to take additional precautions, such as masking or physical distancing, and seek treatment quickly for respiratory symptoms. It's not too late to get vaccinated.

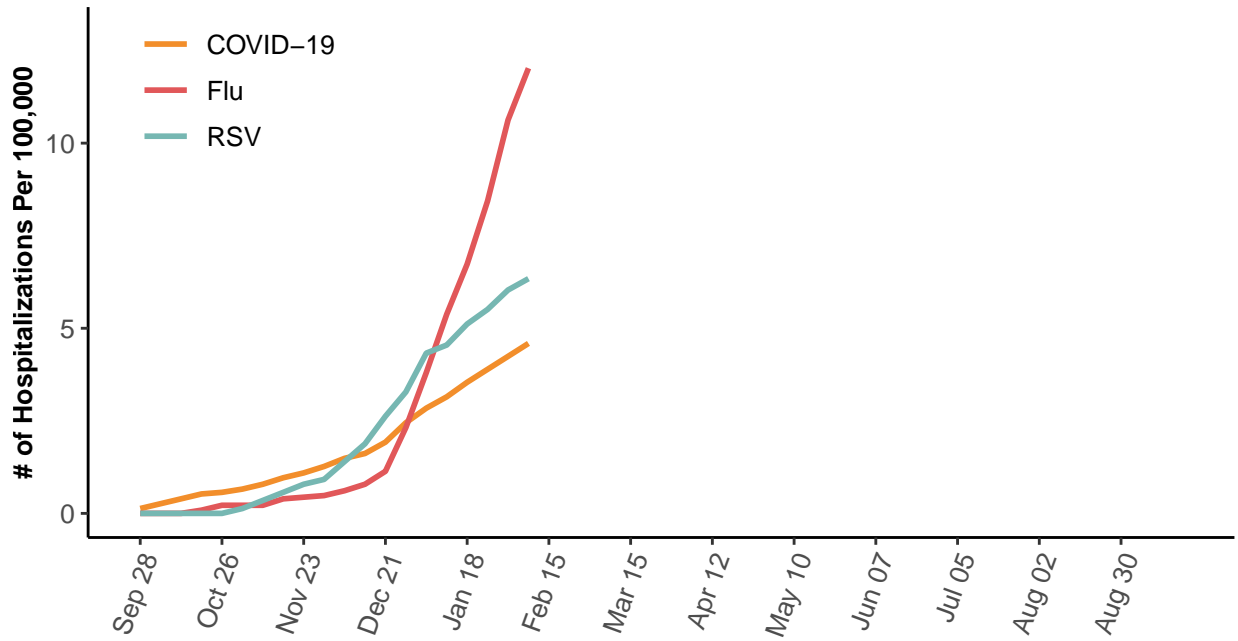
We would like to thank all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information! Additional details on our methods can be found [here](#)



Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis

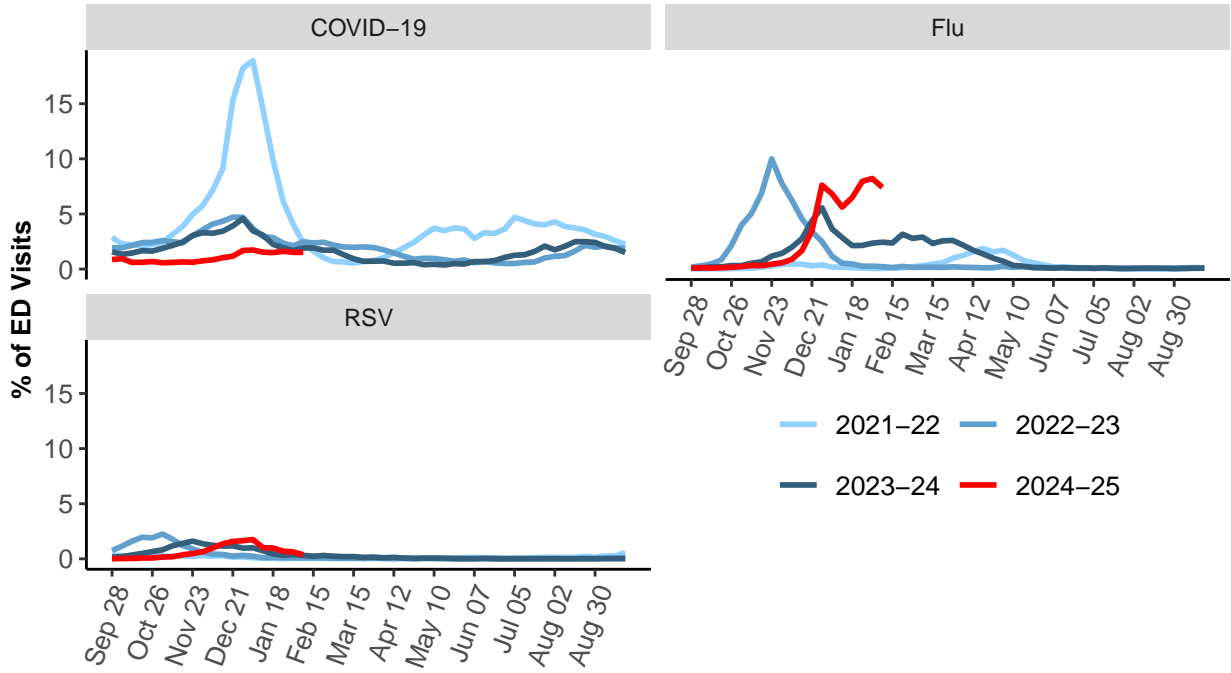


Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses





Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

