

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Week 40: Sep 28-Oct 04, 2025



Cook County DEPT. of
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Purpose: 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, Influenza, RSV

- Activity for flu and RSV remains minimal. COVID-19 is low, but trending down.
- Emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 have been elevated for children under 5 and adults over 65 throughout the month of September, but are now decreasing. Hospital and ICU admissions are declining as well.
- Test positivity and wastewater detections for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) also peaked in early September. Test positivity for the summer wave reached 6.7%, similar to the winter wave; however, the highest wastewater detections this summer were only about half of the peak observed during the winter.
- All surveillance indicators for flu and RSV remain near baseline.

Is anything else going around?

- Test positivity for [rhinovirus/enterovirus](#), tripled from early August to mid-September, but has now started to decline. These pathogens typically cause mild illness, like the common cold.

Recommendations

- 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.
- CDC is currently [forecasting](#) a respiratory season similar to last year. October is an ideal time to discuss [respiratory immunizations](#) with your physician and 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](#).

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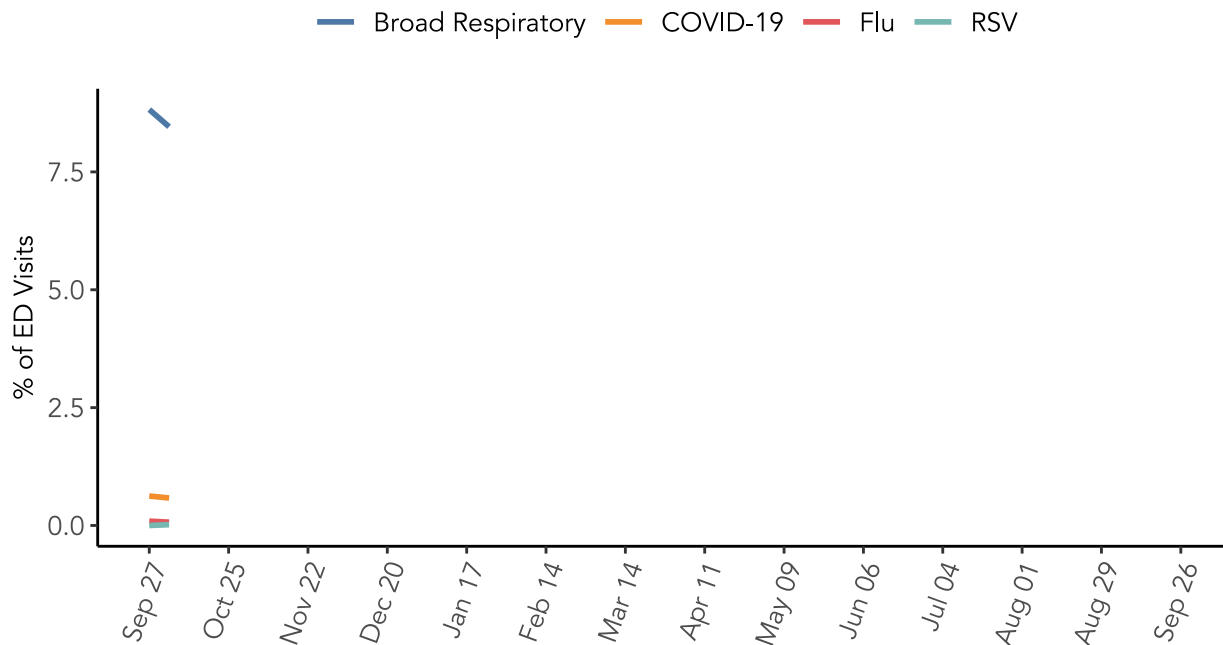
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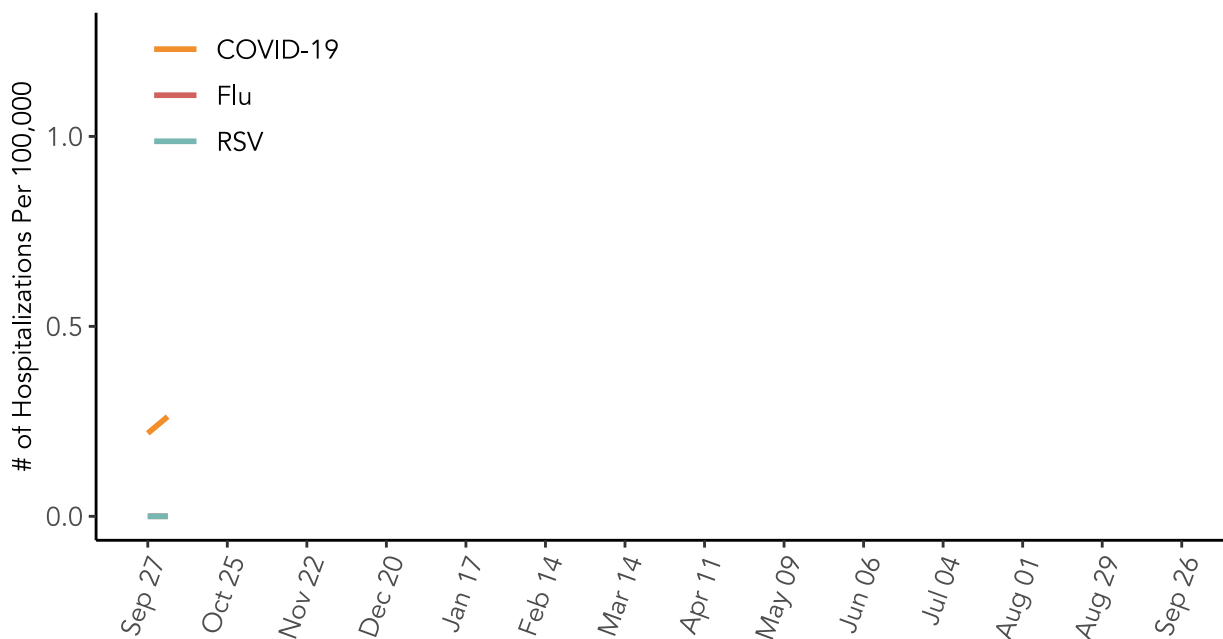
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



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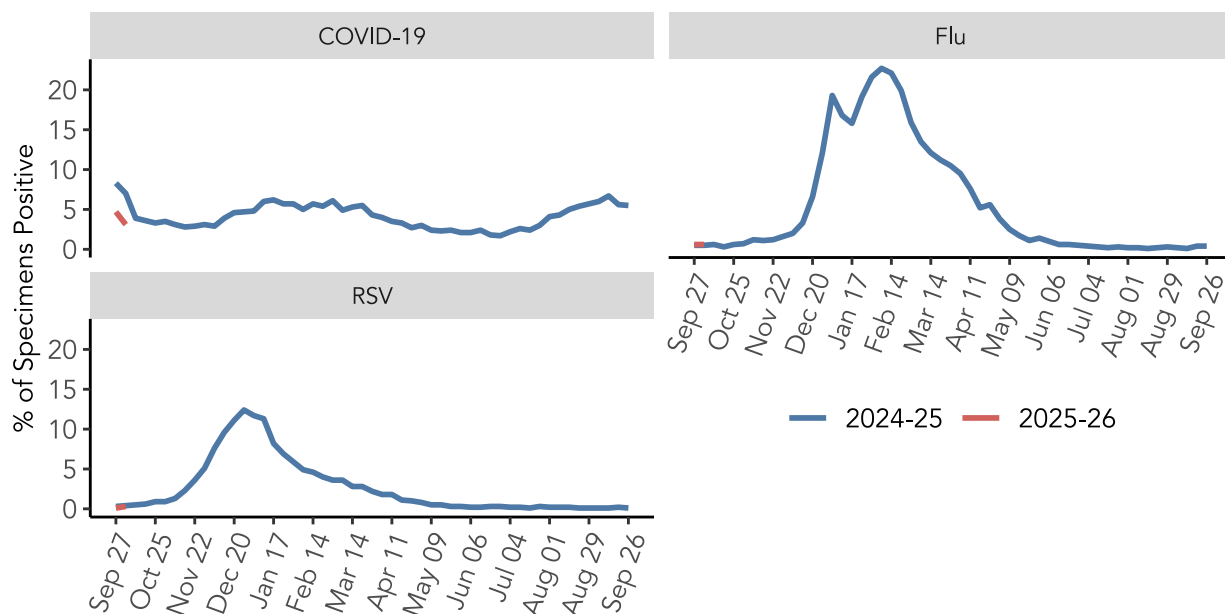


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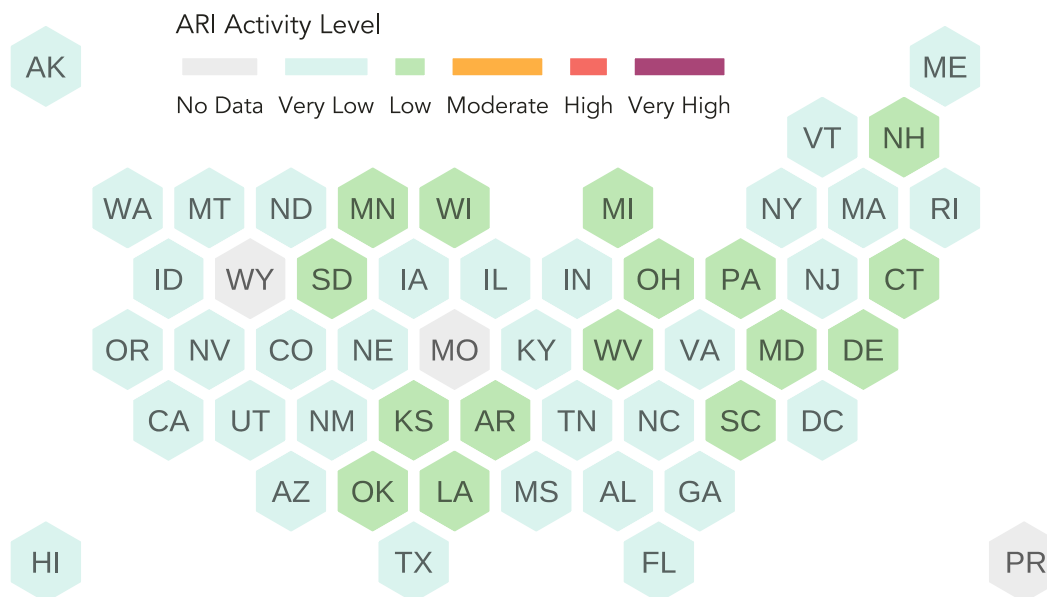
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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 2025-09-20, most recent CDC data available



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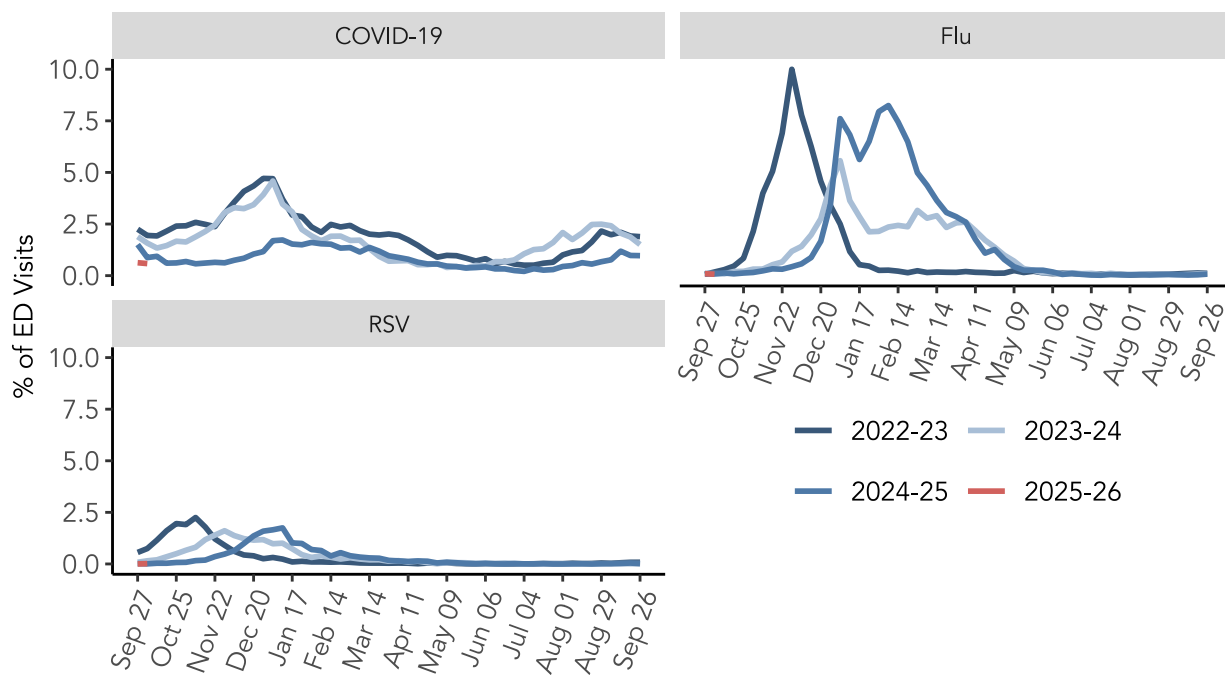
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

