

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Week 43: Oct 19-Oct 25, 2025



Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

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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

- RSV activity has been elevated from minimal to low. Activity levels for flu and COVID-19 remain minimal.
- Emergency room visits and hospital admissions associated with RSV have started to pick up, especially in children under 18.
- The first ICU admissions associated with influenza for the 2025-26 season were reported this week. ICU admissions associated with COVID-19 continue to be reported weekly, primarily in those over 65.
- Wastewater detections for all monitored pathogens remain low.

Is anything else going around?

- Test positivity for [rhinovirus/enterovirus](#), is still elevated above baseline, which is typical for this time of year. 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.
- Now is an ideal time to discuss [respiratory immunizations](#) with your physician and get vaccinated if you haven't already. It can take a few weeks for protection to build after receiving a vaccine. Get protected before the holiday season begins.

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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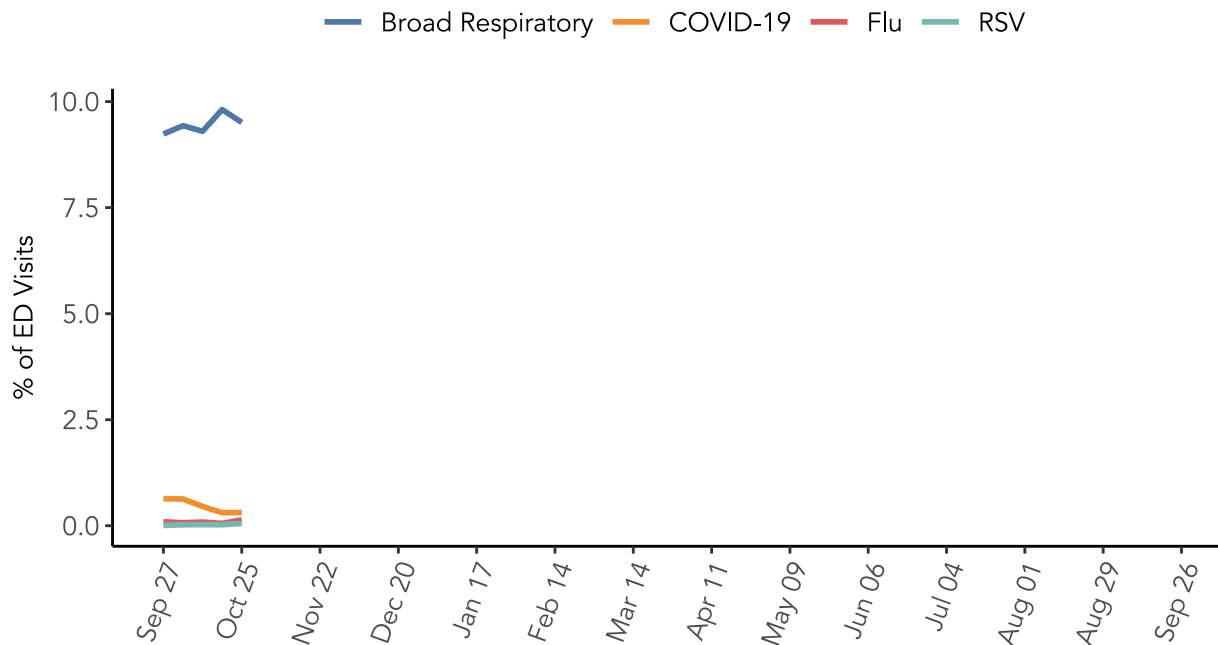
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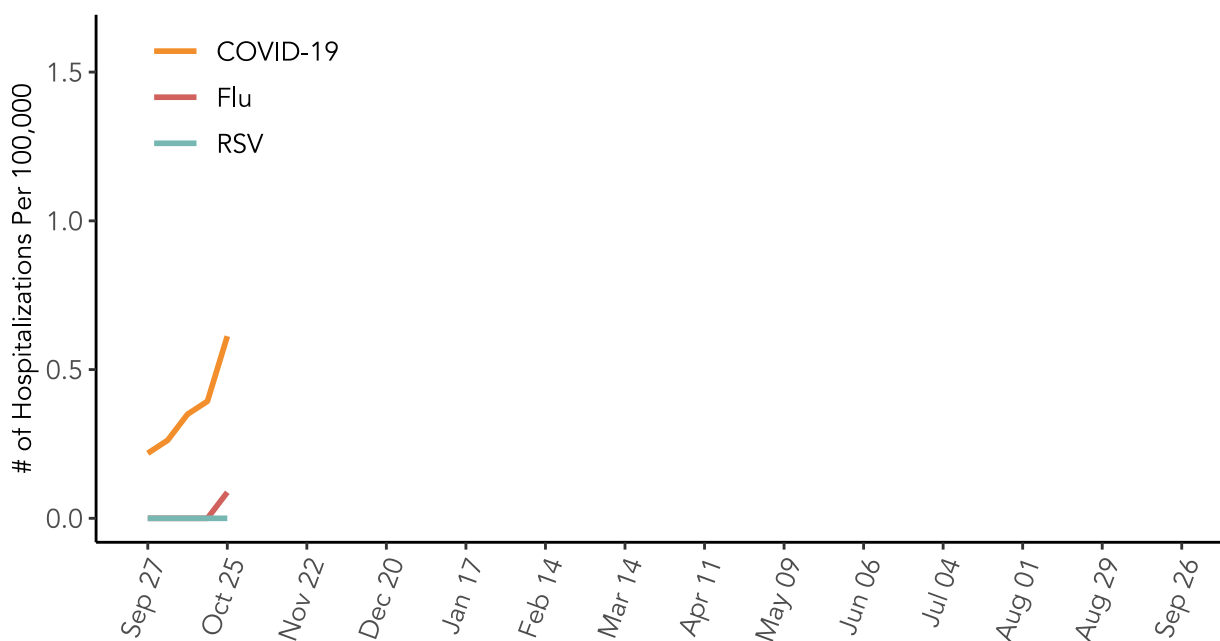
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



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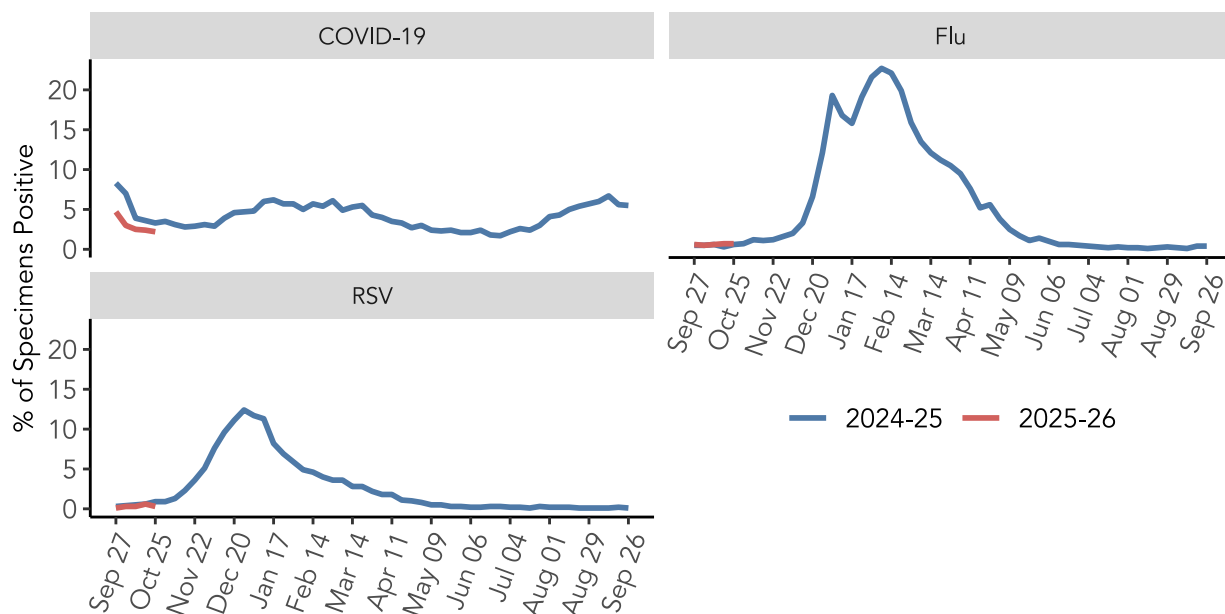


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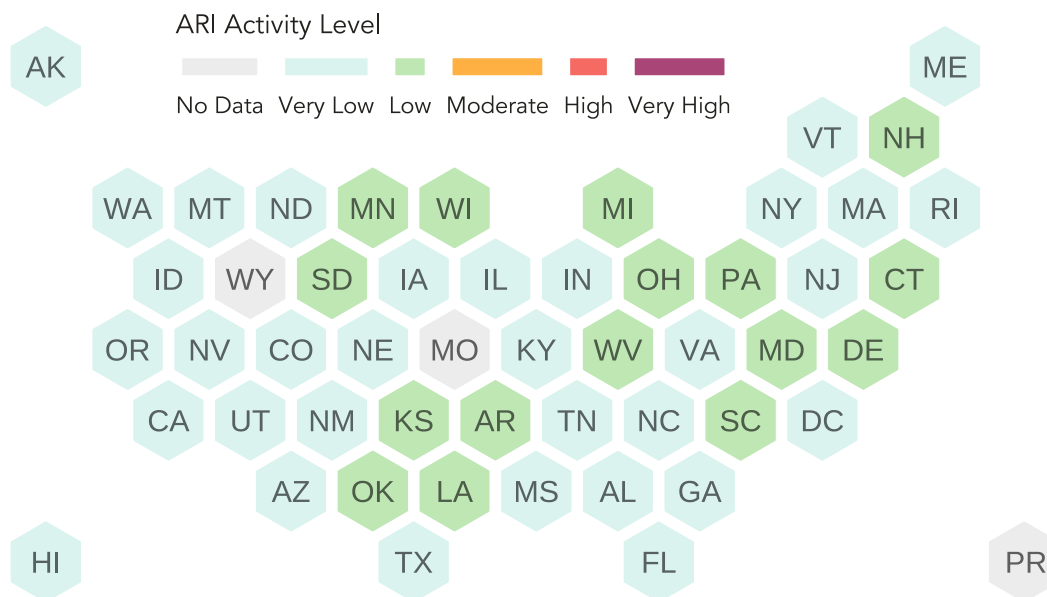
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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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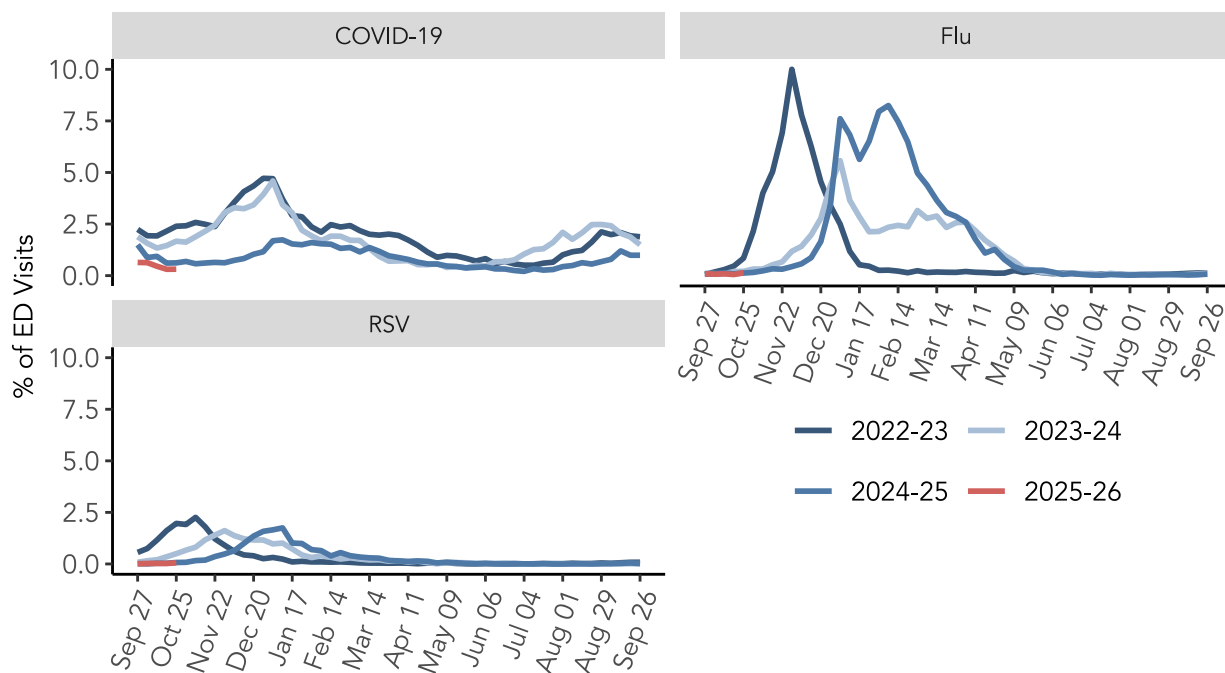
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

