

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Week 46: Nov 09-Nov 15, 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

- Flu activity remains low this week, but the trend is now increasing. RSV activity is low and COVID-19 activity is minimal.
- Emergency room visits associated with flu are still low, but have risen above visits associated with COVID-19 and are above where they were last year. In particular, the percent of ED visits for flu has tripled in school-aged children over the last two weeks.
- RSV associated ED visits are climbing for children under 5. We also have three RSV associated ICU admissions reported so far this season, all in children under 5.
- Wastewater detections for influenza flu A have started to trend up.

Is anything else going around?

- Test positivity for [rhinovirus/enterovirus](#), as well as [human parainfluenza viruses](#) are elevated above baseline, but trending down. These pathogens typically cause mild illness, like the common cold.
- Laboratory detections of [Mycoplasma pneumoniae](#) have picked up. This respiratory illness is typically mild (sometimes called "walking pneumonia"), but occasionally can cause more severe symptoms that require antibiotic treatment. You can read more about *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* [here](#).

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.
- Respiratory seasonal activity is beginning to pick up. If you haven't already made a plan to [get vaccinated](#), now is the time. 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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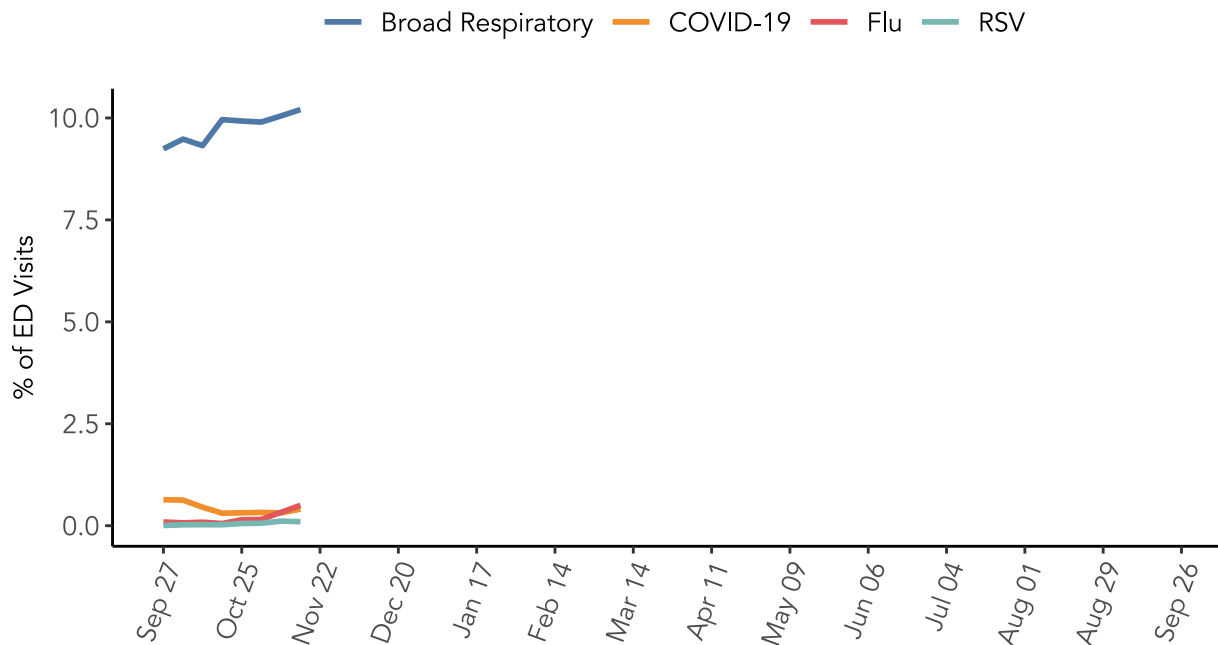
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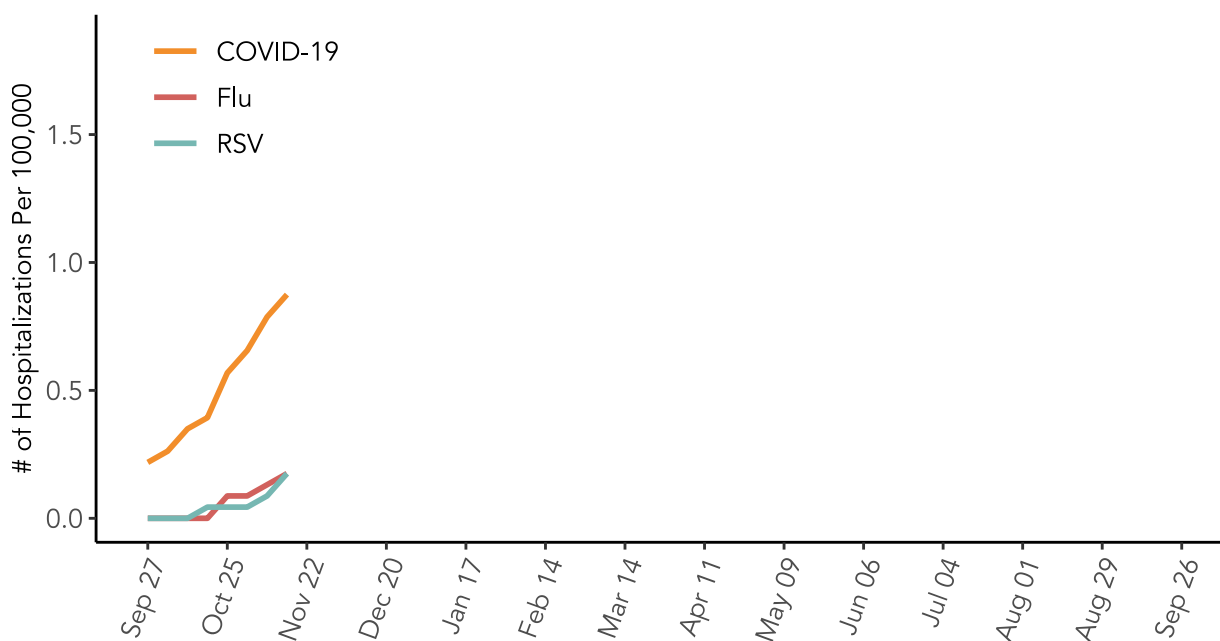
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



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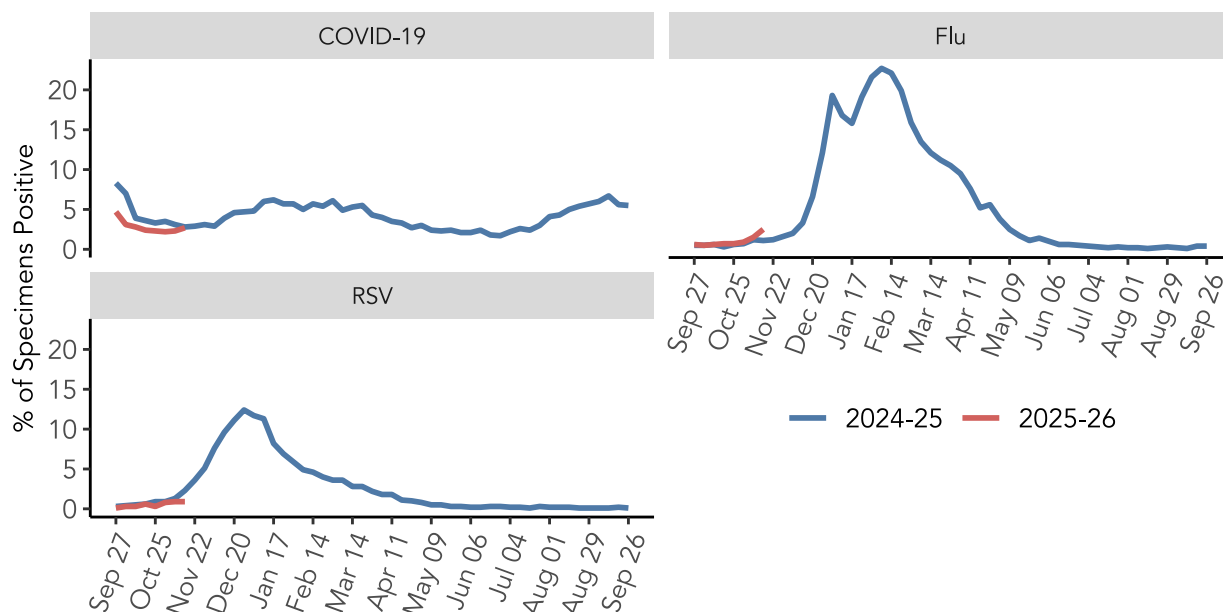


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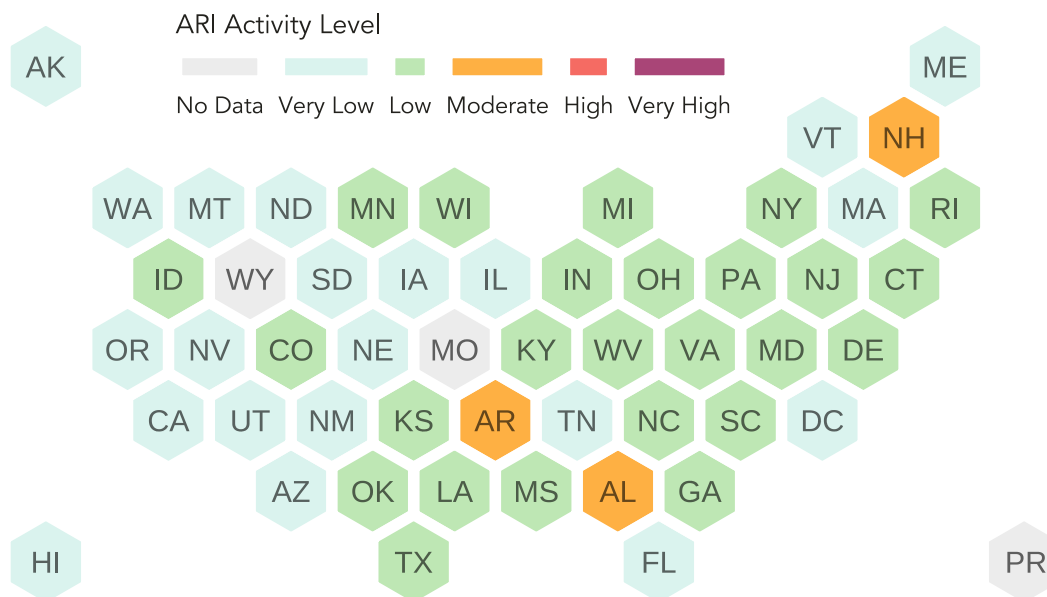
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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 2025-11-15, most recent CDC data available



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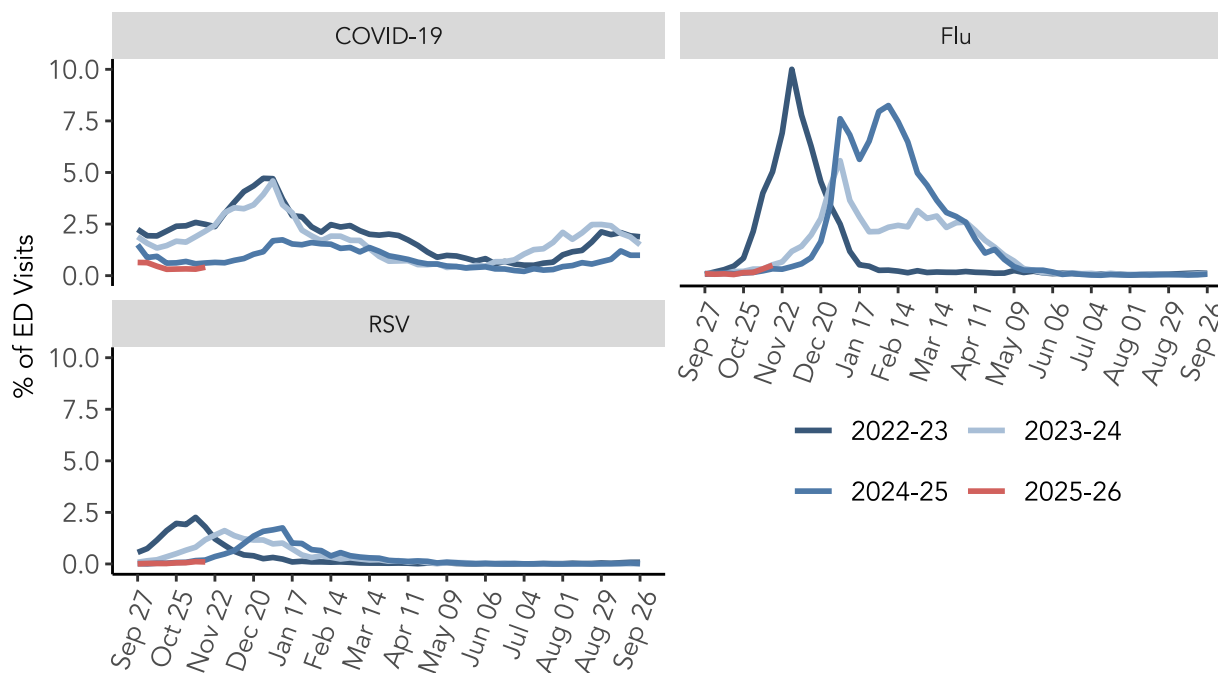
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

