

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Week 47: Nov 16-Nov 22, 2025



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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 continues to increase. RSV activity is low and COVID-19 activity is minimal.
- Emergency room visits associated with flu are still low, but are above where they were last year. In particular, the percent of ED visits for flu has doubled in children over the last two weeks.
- Hospital admissions associated with flu surpassed hospital admissions associated with COVID-19 this week.
- RSV associated ED visits are climbing for children under 5. We also have four RSV associated ICU admissions reported so far this season, all in children under 5.
- Wastewater detections for influenza flu A are trending 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. It's not too late to [get vaccinated](#), but 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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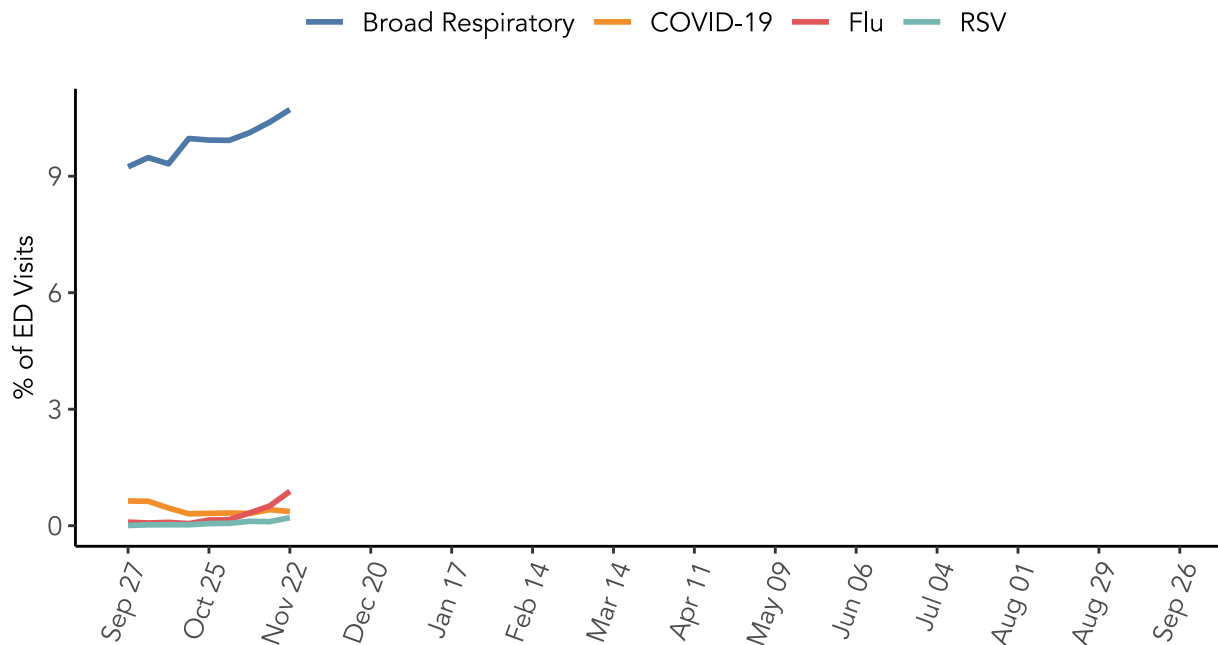
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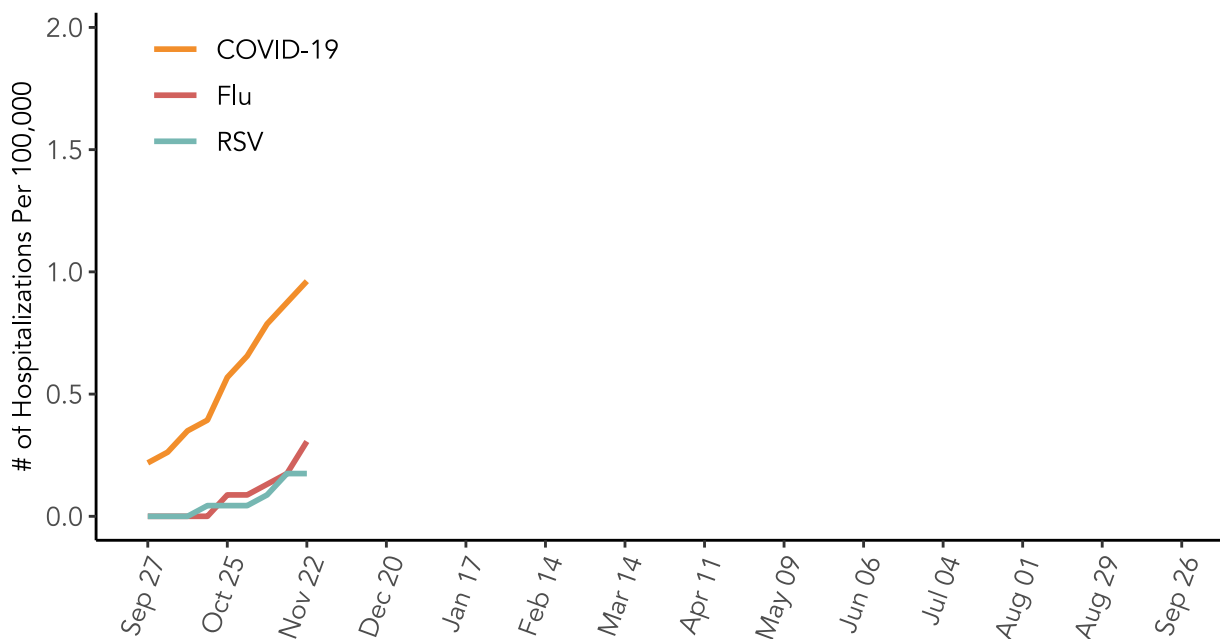
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



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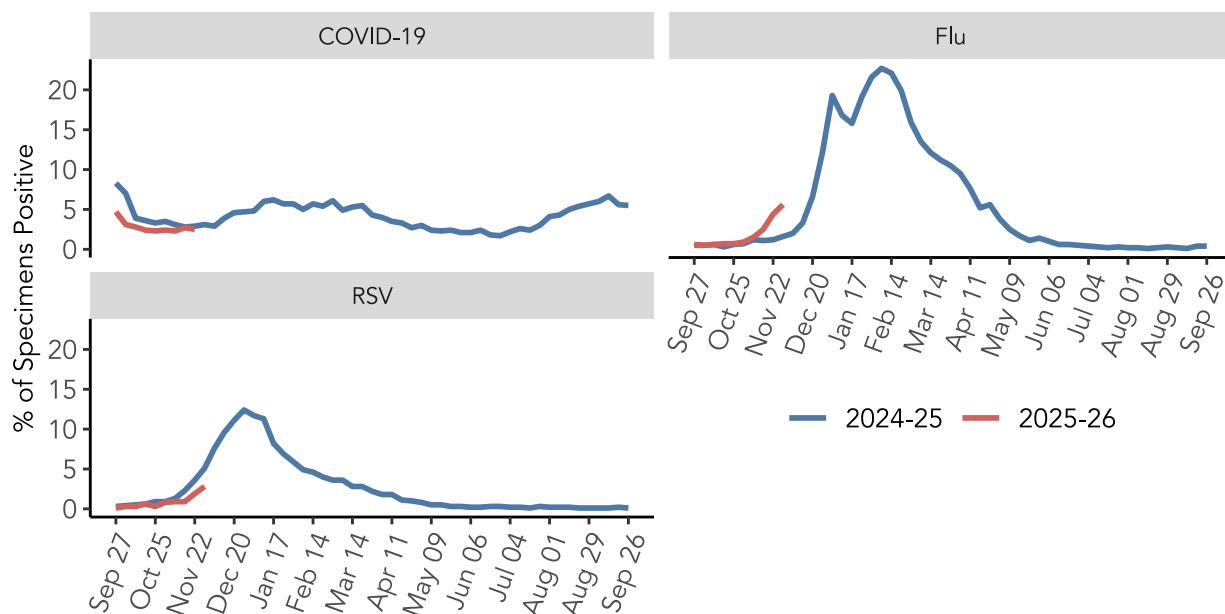


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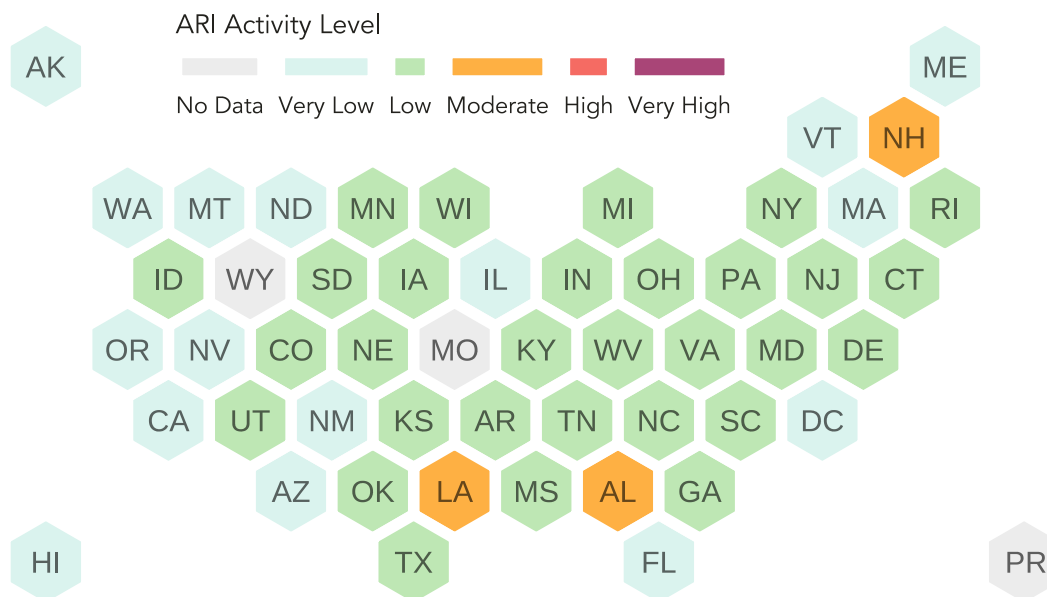
Percent Positivity by Respiratory Virus

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 2025-11-22, most recent CDC data available



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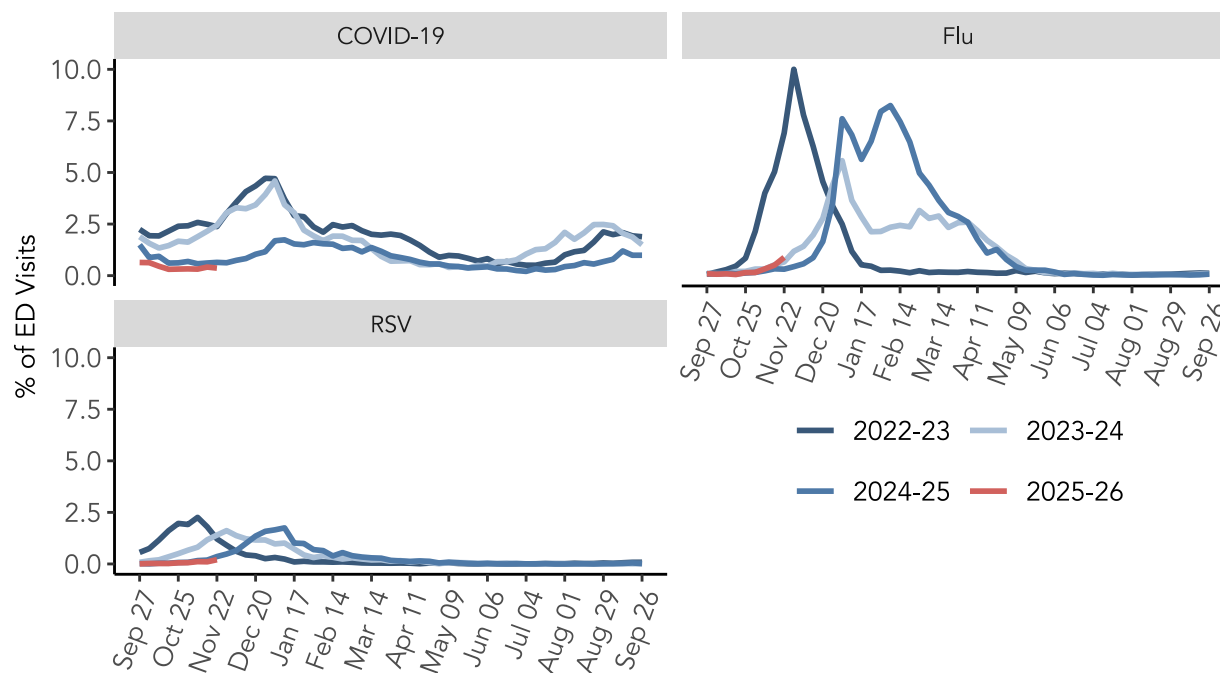
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

