

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Week 48: Nov 23-Nov 29, 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 continues to increase. RSV activity is low and COVID-19 activity is minimal.
- Emergency room visits associated with flu remain low overall but are higher than this time last year and continue to rise, particularly among children. Emergency room visits for COVID-19 are increasing.
- Hospital admissions associated with flu continue to increase.
- This week we saw the first RSV related ICU admission in a child aged 5-17. There have been five ICU admissions for RSV this season so far, compared 21 during the same time period last season.
- Wastewater detections for all three monitored pathogens are trending up; detections for influenza A and COVID-19 are increasing the fastest.

Is anything else going around?

- Test positivity for [rhinovirus/enterovirus](#), as well as [human parainfluenza viruses](#) are elevated above baseline but below their peaks in October. 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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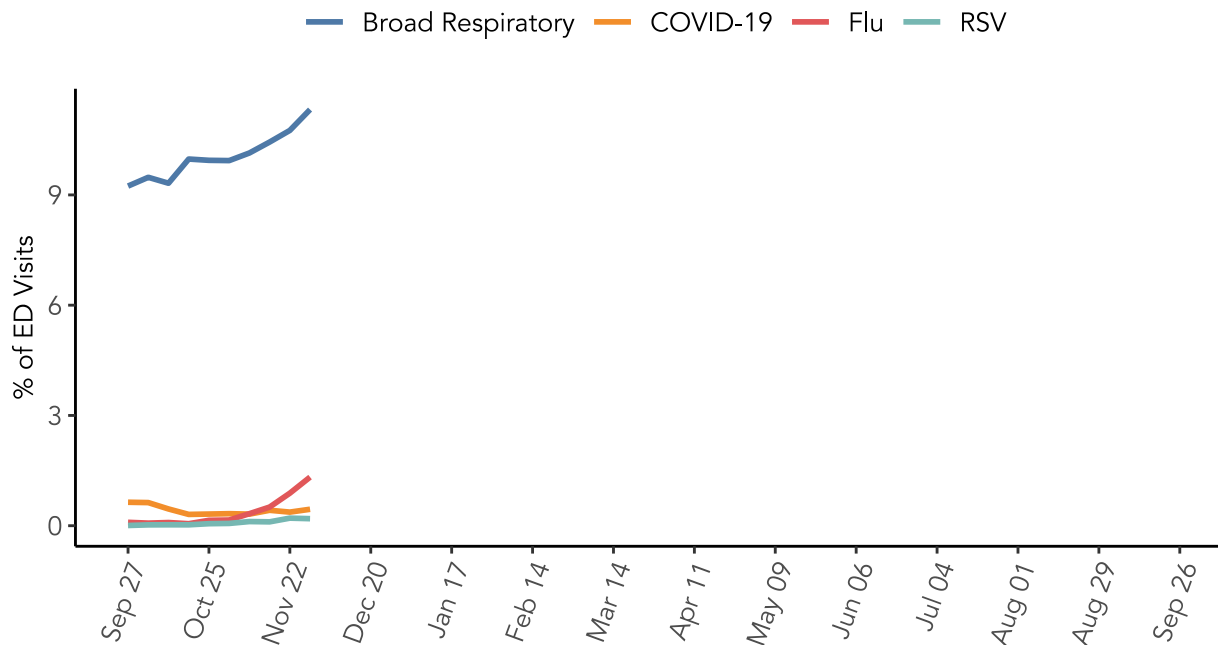
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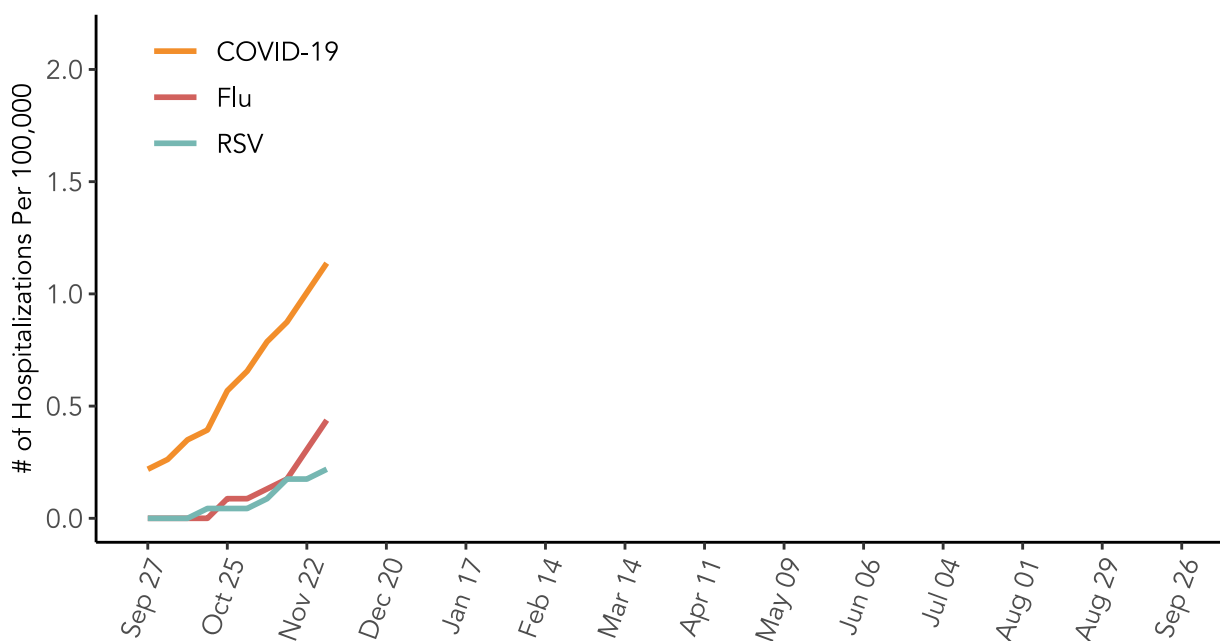
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Respiratory Diagnosis



Cumulative ICU Admission Rate for Reportable Respiratory Viruses



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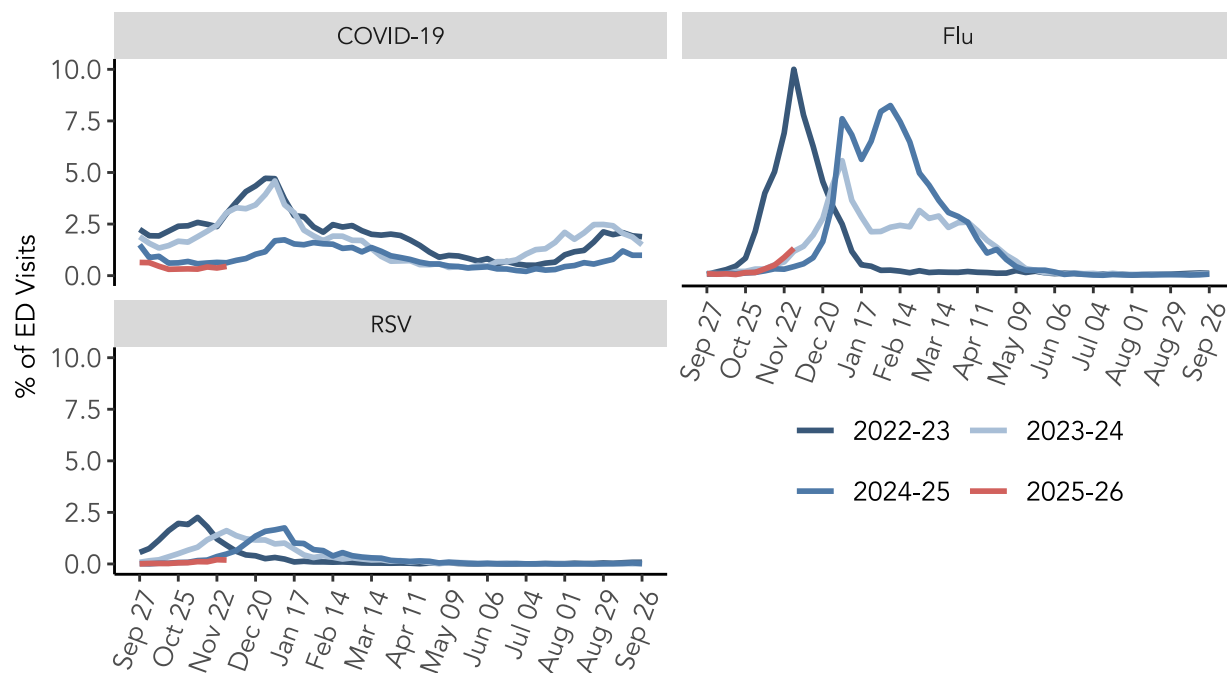
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Emergency Rooms Visits by Season and Diagnosis



Emergency Room Visits by Age and Diagnosis

