



Chicago Respiratory Virus Weekly Surveillance Report



Brandon Johnson, Mayor

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This report summarizes key respiratory virus surveillance indicators. The indicators are compiled from laboratory-based data as well emergency department visit data. This report is meant to provide more context for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as co-circulation of respiratory viruses increases. More detailed information on [influenza](#) and [COVID-19](#) activity can be found on their respective online dashboards. All data are preliminary and may change as additional reports are received.

Weekly Surveillance Key Points

CDC’s Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics published their first [respiratory disease season outlook](#) on 9/14/23. CDC expects the upcoming fall and winter respiratory disease season will likely have a similar number of total hospitalizations compared to last year. As with last year, the number of hospitalizations is expected to be higher than that experienced prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. See the report for full details including key uncertainties that may impact this assessment.

COVID-19:

- Cook County’s [COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level](#) is low.
- The number of new hospitalizations per 100,000 population for Cook County has decreased from 4.6 to 4.5.
- The test positivity for SARS-CoV-2 has increased from 7.3% to 8.0%.

Influenza:

- The risk of influenza infection is low.
- Thirteen of 3,609 (<1%) reported specimens tested for influenza were positive. Since October 2, 2022, 12,729 of 207,189 (6.1%) reported specimens tested for influenza were positive.
- The proportion of emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) and the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI are below local thresholds.

Other Respiratory Viruses:

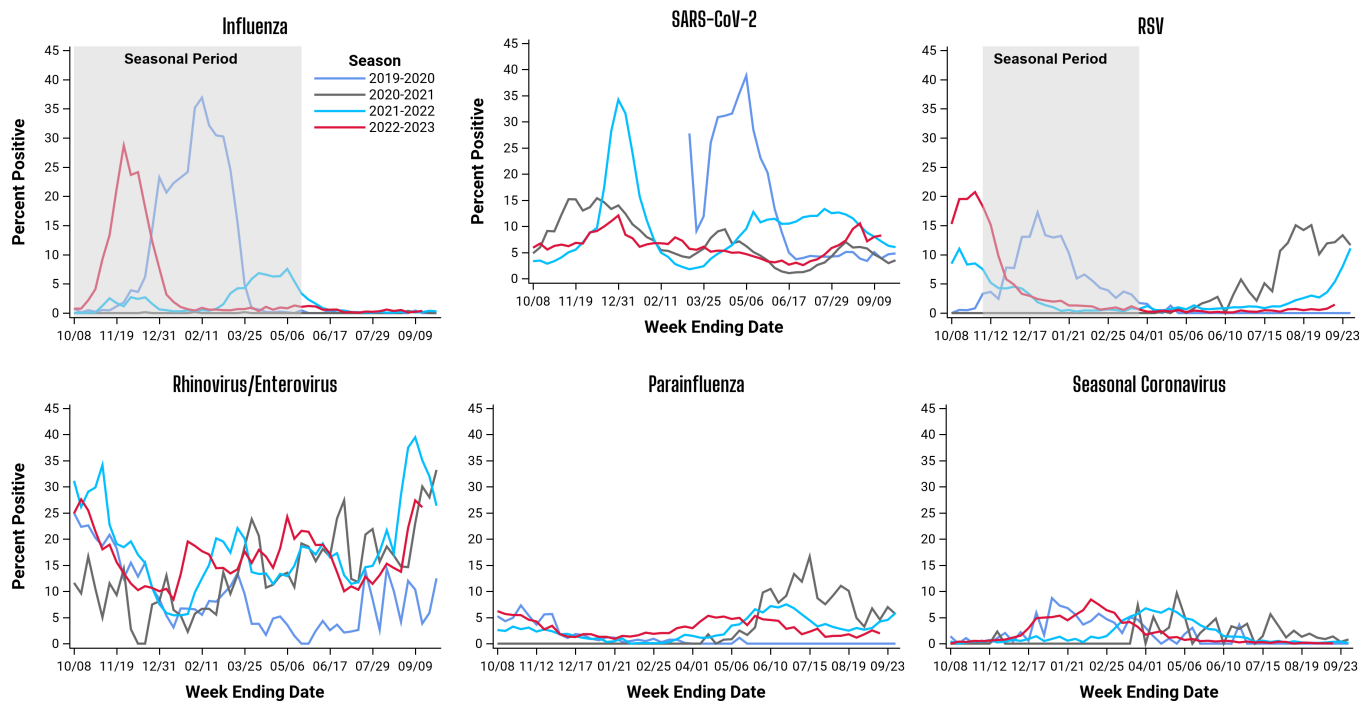
- The percent of emergency department visits in children <5 years old due to RSV remains at <1%.
- The test positivity for RSV is 1.4%.
- The test positivity for parainfluenza has decreased from 2.5% to 2.0%.
- The test positivity for rhinovirus/enterovirus has decreased from 27.4% to 26.1% .

Respiratory Virus Laboratory Surveillance - Current Week and Cumulative *The table below includes respiratory viral PCR tests performed by several hospital laboratories in Chicago as well as two commercial laboratories serving Chicago facilities. Reporting facilities represent nearly half of all acute care hospitals in the city. Data reported include Chicago and non-Chicago residents.*

Respiratory Pathogen	Week Ending September 16, 2023		Since October 2, 2022	
	# Tested	% Positive	# Tested	% Positive
Influenza	3,609	0.4	207,189	6.1
RSV	2,276	1.4	145,375	4.6
SARS-CoV-2	2,652	8.3	221,422	6.9
Parainfluenza	1,481	2.0	76,945	3.0
Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	736	26.1	48,468	16.4
Adenovirus	737	2.3	48,402	3.8
Human Metapneumovirus	737	0.3	48,790	3.0
Seasonal Coronaviruses	1,480	0.1	77,313	2.1

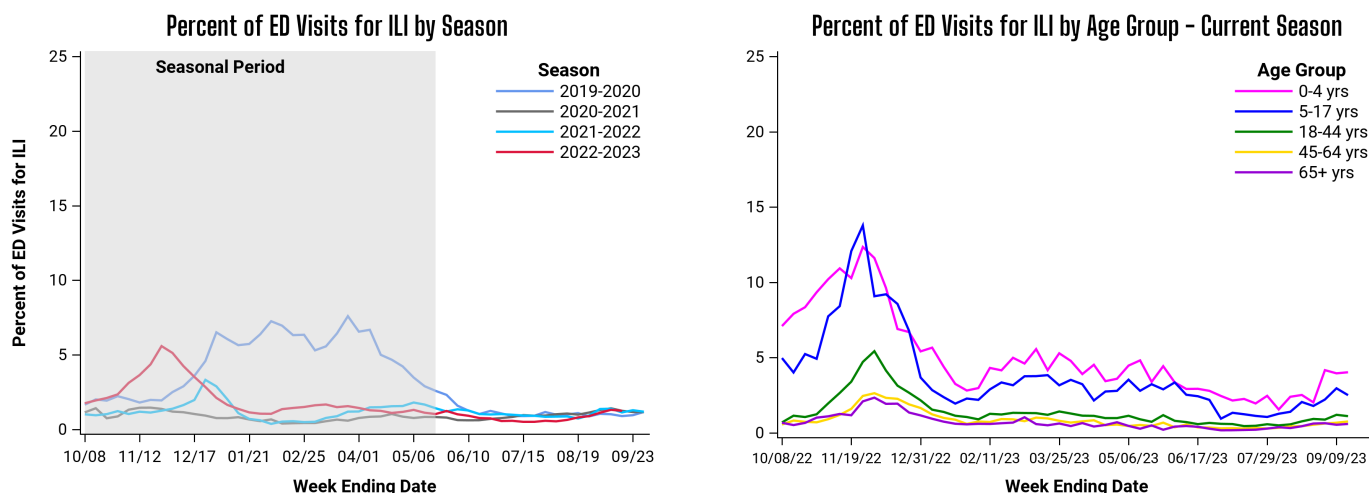
*Represents both dualplex and multiplex PCR data. All other data represents only multiplex panels that include the specified pathogens;† Four seasonal coronavirus strains include 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1.

Respiratory Virus Laboratory Surveillance - Seasonal Trends These graphs show seasonal trends of selected respiratory virus testing data presented in the previous table. Typical seasonal periods when activity tends to increase for influenza and RSV are indicated by shaded areas. Elevated test positivity outside of typical seasonal periods suggests atypical activity, and increased clinician awareness and testing may be warranted. Yearly data can also be used to compare the timing and intensity of viral activity, although changes in testing patterns also influence yearly trends, and data should be interpreted in the context of other surveillance indicators.

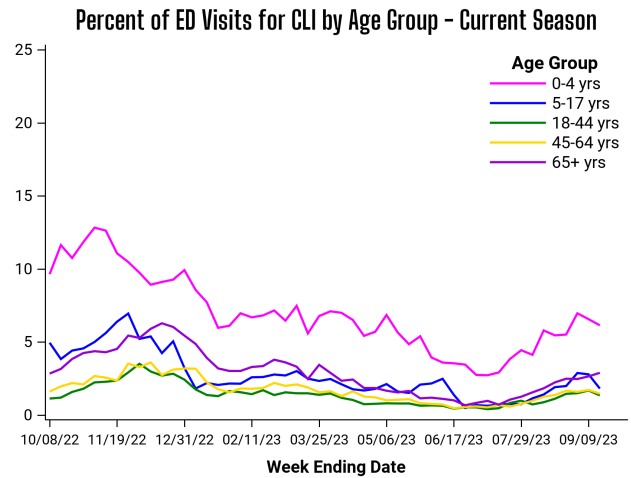
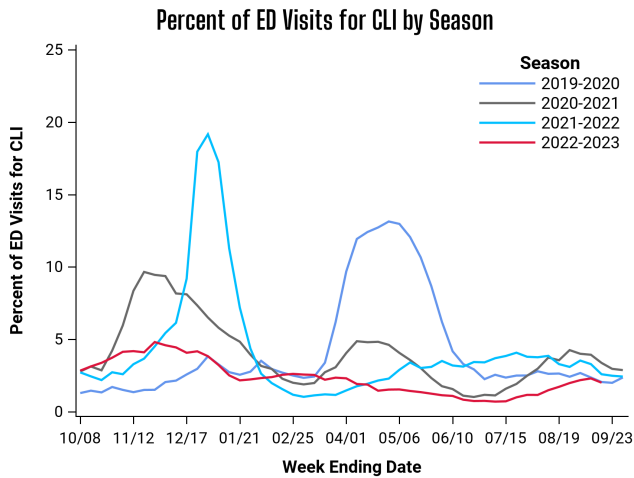


Emergency Department Illness Surveillance In [Illinois](#), all 185 acute-care hospitals report emergency department visit data in near-real time to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). By tracking symptoms (or chief complaints) of patients in emergency departments, public health can promptly detect unusual levels of illness to determine whether a response is warranted. A [map of influenza-like illness \(ILI\) activity levels](#) by patient zip code determined by the emergency department chief complaint data can be found on the [influenza dashboard](#).

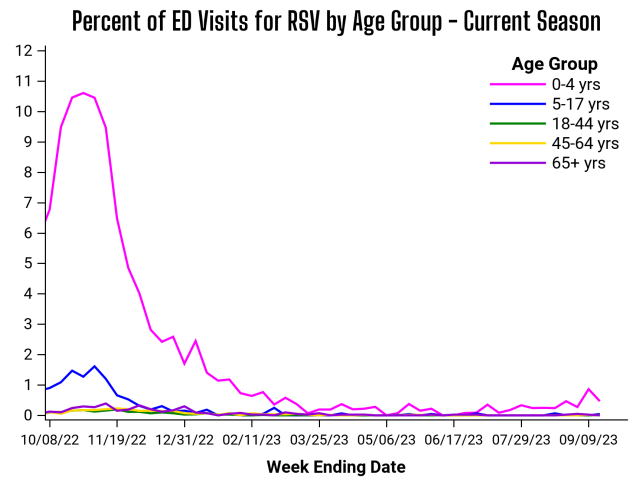
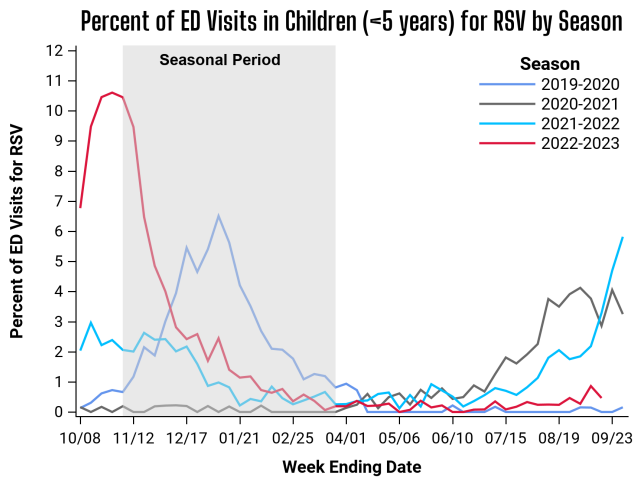
Percent of emergency department visits attributed to **influenza-like illness (ILI)** for residents of Chicago zip codes based on chief complaint data.



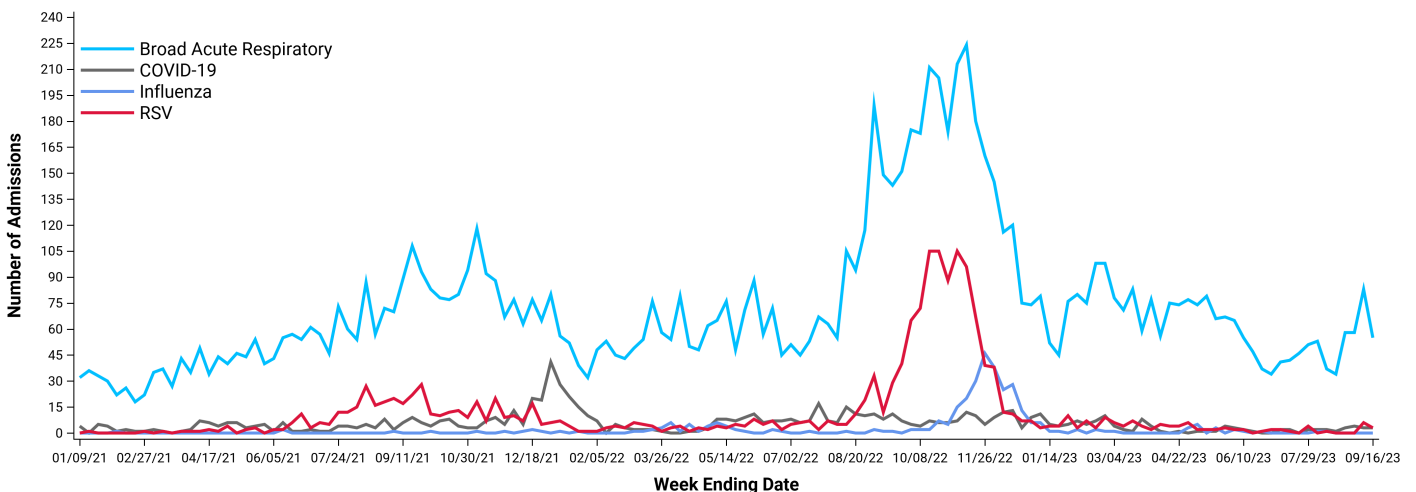
Percent of emergency department visits attributed to **COVID-like illness (CLI)** for residents of Chicago zip codes based on chief complaint data.



Percent of emergency department visits attributed to **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** diagnoses for residents of Chicago zip codes based on chief complaint data. Seasonal trends are displayed for children younger than 5 years old who are most impacted by RSV.



Weekly Pediatric Admissions Emergency department visit data includes information on whether the visit resulted in a hospital admission at any time during the course of the clinical encounter. The syndromes or disease associated with the hospitalization are based on chief complaint and discharge diagnosis codes and do not necessarily represent lab-confirmed cases. The chart below represents hospital admissions among children <18 years-old at Chicago hospitals due to acute respiratory illnesses.



National and State Respiratory Virus Surveillance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView report](#) provides national updates and trends related to influenza activity across the United States, and the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System ([NREVSS](#)) is a voluntary laboratory-based system that monitors temporal and geographic circulation patterns of several respiratory viruses in the U.S. The Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Hospitalization Surveillance Network ([RSV-NET](#)) is a CDC population-based surveillance system that collects data on severe RSV hospitalizations, including those resulting in ICU admission or death, among children and adults. The Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network ([RESP-NET](#)) comprises three platforms that conduct population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed hospitalizations associated with COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) among children and adults. CDC is tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in a weekly publication called [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#). The [Illinois](#) and [Suburban Cook County](#) influenza surveillance reports are also available online. Current and archived issues of the *Chicago Influenza and Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report* can be found on the CDPH website section [Current Flu Situation in Chicago](#).