Weekly Influenza & Respiratory Illness Activity Report

Week Ending January 18, 2025 | WEEK 3

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators prepared by the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology Prevention & Control. All data are preliminary and may change as more information is received.

Minnesota Influenza Key Statistics					
Percent of molecular laboratory tests positive	32.1%				
Hospitalizations	3,392				
Most common strain	Influenza A/H1N1 (2009)				
School outbreaks	134				
Long-term care outbreaks	52				
Pediatric influenza-associated deaths	0				

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Minnesota Influenza Surveillance (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/stats/)

CDC: FluView Weekly (www.cdc.gov/fluview/)

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Influenza Programme (www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs) Neighboring states' influenza information:

lowa: lowa Influenza Surveillance (https://hhs.iowa.gov/center-acute-disease-epidemiology/iowa-influenza-surveillance)

Wisconsin: Influenza (Flu) (https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/index.htm)

North Dakota: North Dakota Influenza (www.hhs.nd.gov/health/influenza)

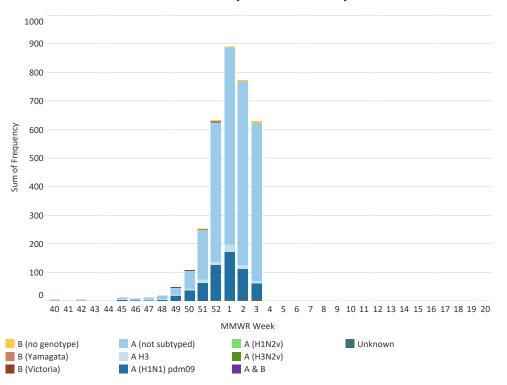
South Dakota: South Dakota Influenza Dashboard (https://doh.sd.gov/health-data-reports/data-dashboards/influenza-dashboard/)



Minnesota Department of Health 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 www.health.state.mn.us

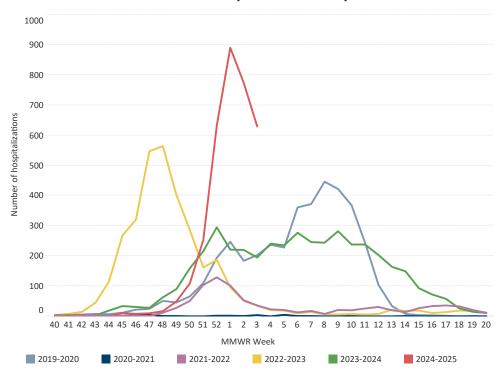
Hospitalized Influenza Surveillance

Hospitalized influenza cases are based on disease reports of laboratory-positive influenza (via DFA, IFA, viral culture, EIA, rapid test, paired serological tests or RT-PCR) and specimens from hospitalized patients with acute respiratory illness submitted to MDH-PHL by hospitals and laboratories. Due to the need to confirm reports and reporting delays, consider current week data preliminary.



Hospitalized Influenza Cases by Type, Minnesota (FluSurv-NET*)

Hospitalized Influenza Cases by Season, Minnesota (FluSurv-NET*)



Hospitalizations this week	Hospitalizations last week	Total hospitalizations (to date)
629	774	3,392

Season	Total hospitalizations (historic)
2019-2020	4022
2020-2021	35
2021-2022	905
2022-2023	3,338
2023-2024	4,375
2024-2025 (to date)	3,392

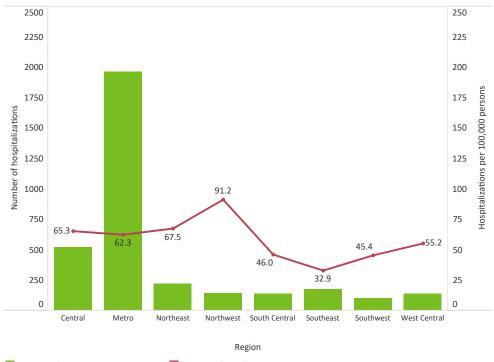
*FluSurv-NET = Influenza Surveillance Network

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Hospitalized Influenza Surveillance (continued)

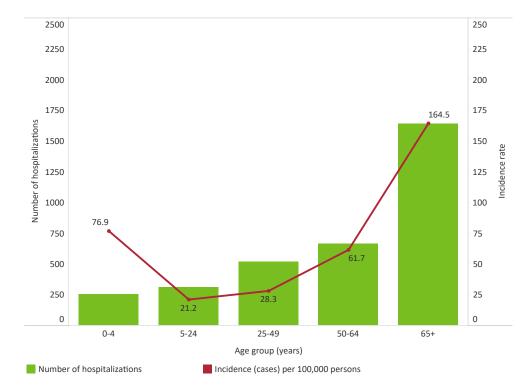
Number of Influenza Hospitalizations and Incidence by Region, Minnesota

Number of Influenza Hospitalizations and Incidence by Age, Minnesota



Number of hospitalizations Incidence (cases) per 100,000 persons

Region	Hospitalizations this week	Total (to date)	% Hospitalizations this week	% Total (to date)
Central	98	521	16%	15%
Metro	374	1,962	59%	58%
Northeast	33	220	5%	6%
Northwest	12	144	2%	4%
South Central	17	137	3%	4%
Southeast	48	171	8%	5%
Southwest	21	99	3%	3%
West Central	26	138	4%	4%

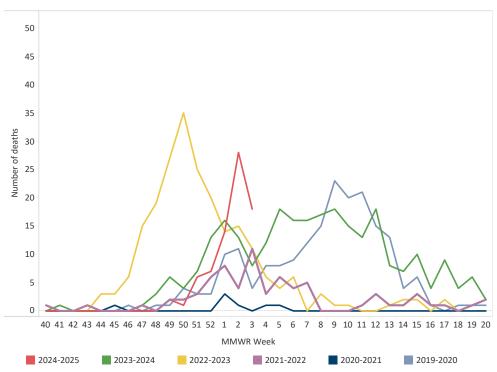


Median	age (years) at time of admission
64	

Influenza-associated Death Surveillance

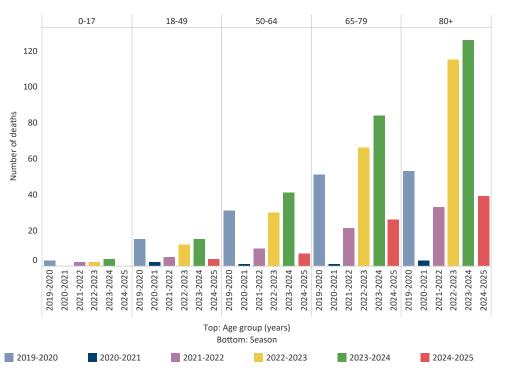
Influenza deaths are collected via reports from Minnesota's death certificate database, hospitals, and long-term care facilities. Decedents with influenza listed as a cause of or contributor to death, have recent laboratory confirmation of influenza, or are part of an ongoing influenza outbreak at a long-term care facility are reported to influenza surveillance. Due to the need to confirm reports and reporting delays, consider current week data preliminary.

Deaths Associated with Influenza by Season, Minnesota



Season	Total deaths	Total pediatric (<18 years) deaths
2019-2020	197	3
2020-2021	7	0
2021-2022	71	2
2022-2023	224	2
2023-2024	270	4
2024-2025 (to date)	79	0

Deaths Associated with Influenza by Age Group and Season, Minnesota



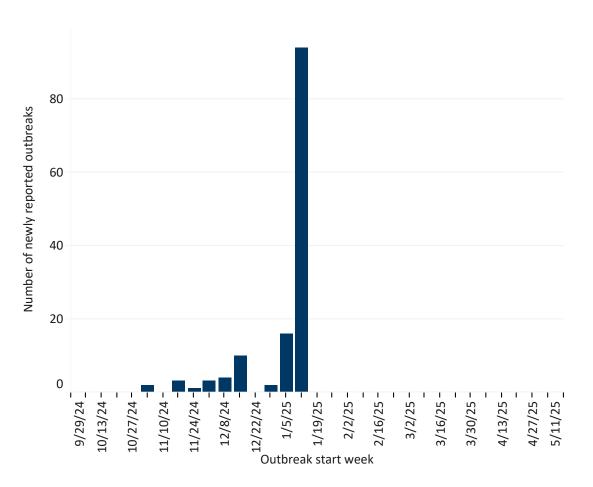
Season	Median age (years) at time of death
2019-2020	73
2020-2021	76
2021-2022	77
2022-2023	80
2023-2024	77
2024-2025 (to date)	80

*FluSurv-NET = Influenza Surveillance Network

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Weekly Acute Respiratory Illness Outbreaks in K-12 Schools

K-12 schools report an outbreak of acute respiratory illness (ARI; e.g. COVID-19, influenza, RSV) when the number of students absent with ARI reaches 10% of the facility's total enrollment.

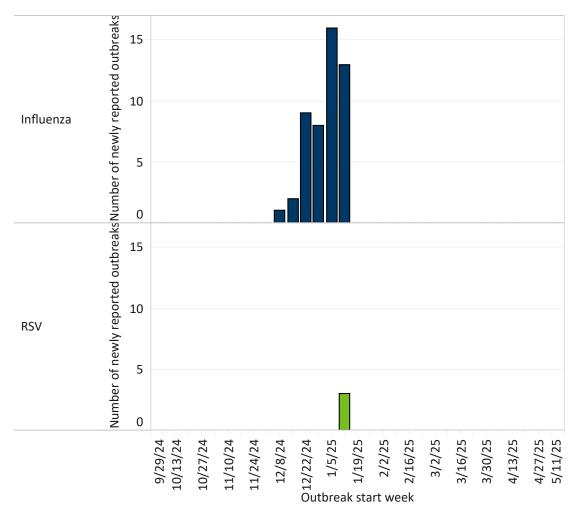


Acute Respiratory Illness Outbreaks in Schools, 2024-2025 season

New school outbreaks this week	New school outbreaks last week	Total this season (to date)		
94	16	134		

Weekly Influenza & RSV Outbreaks in Long-term Care Facilities

Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities report to MDH when they have a lab-confirmed influenza or RSV outbreak in their facility. The definition of an outbreak is at least 2 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza (or RSV) identified within 72 hours of each other in residents on the same unit.

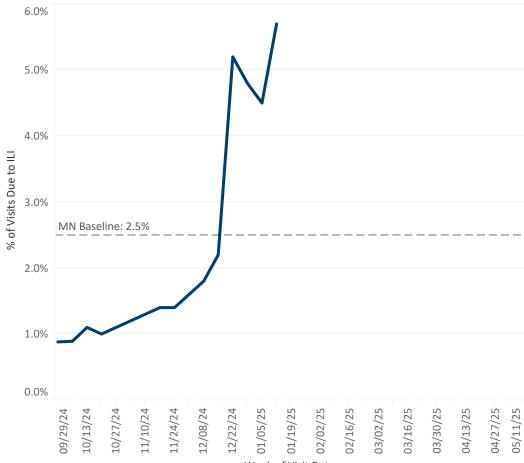


Confirmed Influenza or RSV Outbreaks, 2024-2025 Season

New LTC outbreaks this week	New LTC outbreaks last week	Total this season (to date)		
16	16	52		

Sentinel Provider Surveillance (Outpatients)

MDH collaborates with healthcare providers who report the total number of patients seen and the total number of those patients presenting to outpatient clinics with influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever with a cough and/or sore throat. ILI data may capture visits due to viruses other than influenza.



Percentage of Persons Presenting to Outpatient Clinics with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

Week of Visit Date

* Indicates current week-data may be delayed by 1 or more weeks

MN Baseline valid for 2024-2025 season only, do not compare it with previous flu seasons. The baseline is calculated by averaging the ILI percent for non-influenza weeks over the recent seasons and adding two standard deviations. Non-influenza weeks account for less than 2% of the season's total flu-positive specimens tested at Public Health Labs in HHS Region 5. Weeks where ILI % is above baseline reflect weeks with excess health care visits due to ILI.

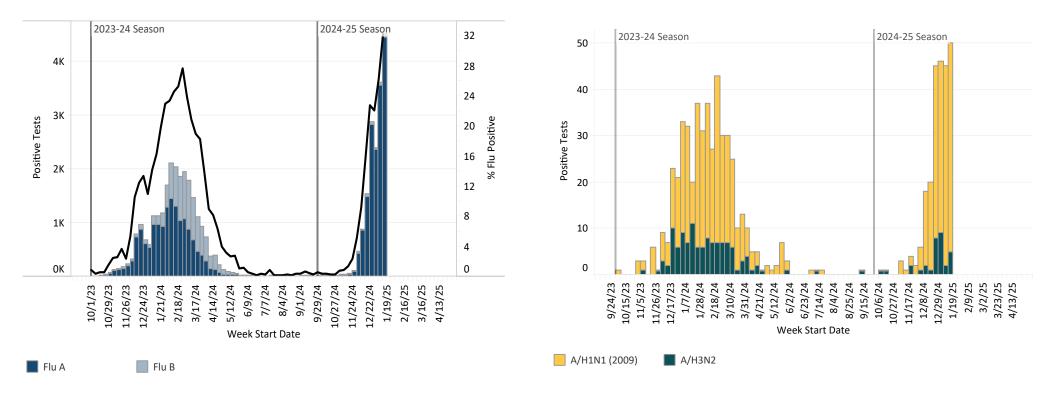
% of outpatients with ILI this week	% of outpatients with ILI last week				
5.7%	4.5%				

Laboratory Surveillance

The MN Lab System (MLS) Laboratory Influenza Surveillance Program is made up of more than 310 clinic- and hospital-based laboratories, voluntarily submitting testing data weekly. These laboratories perform antigen and molecular testing for influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). A subset of labs also performs PCR testing for other respiratory viruses. MDH-PHL provides further characterization of submitted influenza isolates to determine the hemagglutinin serotype to indicate vaccine coverage. Tracking the laboratory results assists healthcare providers with patient diagnosis of influenza-like illness and provides an indicator of the progression of the influenza season as well as prevalence of disease in the community.

Specimens Positive for Influenza by Molecular Testing, by Week

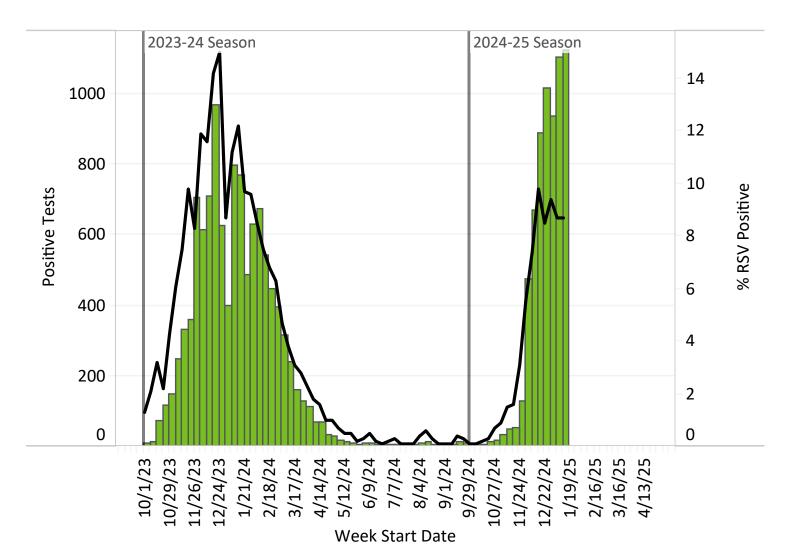
Positive Influenza A Subtypes by Molecular Testing, by Week



Region	Central	Metro	Northeast	Northwest	South Central	Southeast	Southwest	West Central	Statewide (overall)
% molecular influenza tests + this week	34.7%	31.9%	27.5%	28.8%	35.7%	30.8%	34.5%	44.1%	32.2%

Laboratory Surveillance (continued)

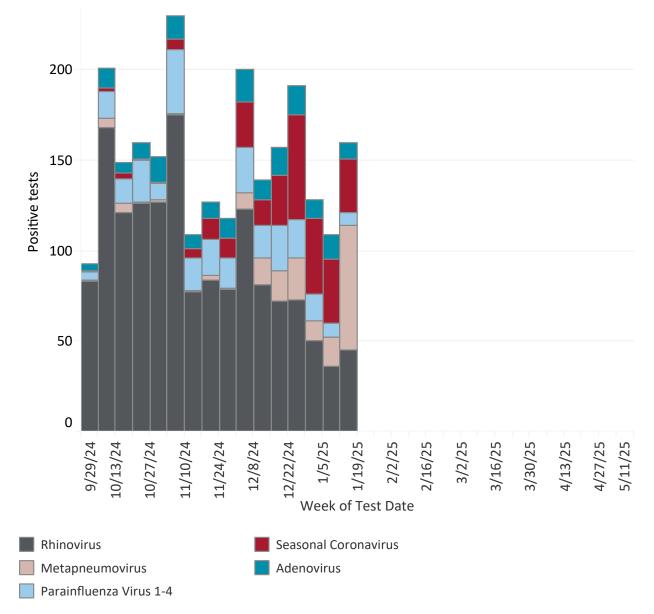
Similar to influenza, some labs in the MN Lab System perform molecular testing for RSV that may be from a standalone PCR test or a respiratory virus PCR panel. Tracking these laboratory results assists with monitoring for RSV viruses that may be circulating and causing influenza-like illness.



Positive RSV Cases by Week

Laboratory Surveillance (continued)

The graph below summarizes the non-influenza, non-COVID, non-RSV viruses detected on respiratory virus PCR panel tests reported by the MN Lab System. Tracking these results assists monitoring for viruses that may be circulating and causing respiratory illness, but are not reportable or regularly tested for.



Other Molecular Testing Results by Virus from MLS Survey

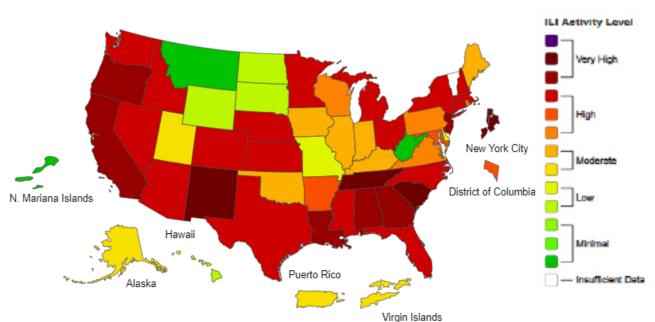
Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

Week 2, ending January 11, 2025

Seasonal influenza activity remains elevated across most of the country.

- Although some indicators have decreased or remained stable this week compared to last, this could be due to changes in healthcare seeking behavior or reporting during the holidays rather than an indication that influenza activity has peaked. The country is still experiencing elevated influenza activity and that is expected to continue for several more weeks.
- During Week 2, of the 1,754 viruses reported by public health laboratories, 1,719 were influenza A and 35 were influenza B. Of the 1,440 influenza A viruses subtyped during Week 2, 621 (43.1%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 818 (56.8%) were A(H3N2), and 1 (<0.1%) was A(H5).
- Outpatient respiratory illness is above baseline nationally for the seventh consecutive week and is above baseline in all 10 HHS regions.
- One new influenza A(H5) case was reported to CDC this week. To date, human-to-human transmission of influenza A(H5) virus has not been identified in the United States.
- Eleven pediatric deaths associated with seasonal influenza virus infection were reported this week, bringing the 2024-2025 season total to 27 pediatric deaths.
- CDC estimates that there have been at least 12 million illnesses, 160,000 hospitalizations, and 6,600 deaths from flu so far this season.
- CDC recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get an annual influenza (flu) vaccine.
- There are prescription flu antiviral drugs that can treat flu illness; those should be started as early as possible and are especially important for patients at higher risk for severe illness.
- Influenza viruses are among several viruses contributing to respiratory disease activity. CDC is providing updated, integrated information about COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity on a weekly basis.

Outpatient Illness: ILINet Activity Map



CDC: FluView Weekly (https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/)