



## Respiratory Viruses

# Weekly Viral Respiratory Illness Snapshot

Provides a summary of the key viral respiratory illness findings for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV from the past week and access to additional information and figures.

*Reported on Friday, December 8th, 2023.*

*Note: data summaries are based on CDC subject matter expert interpretation of publicly available findings across multiple data systems, some of which are not included in the data visualizations on these web pages.*

The amount of respiratory illness (fever plus cough or sore throat) causing people to seek healthcare is elevated or increasing across most areas of the country.

The U.S. is experiencing elevated RSV activity, particularly among young children. COVID-19 activity has continued to increase, especially in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Influenza activity continues to increase in most of the country with the southeast and south-central areas of the country reporting the highest levels of activity. Hospital bed occupancy for all patients, including within intensive care units, remains stable nationally. Vaccines are available and [can help protect people](#) from the most serious health effects of fall and winter viruses.

- COVID-19 test positivity (percentage of tests conducted that were positive), emergency department visits, and hospitalizations remained elevated nationally. Emergency department visits for COVID-19 are highest among infants and older adults but are also elevated for young children. A group of Omicron variants (XBB and its sublineages) are the predominant lineages detected in the U.S., with HV.1 being most common. The prevalence of a new BA.2.86 sub-lineage, JN.1, is projected to account for [15-29% of currently circulating variants](#). CDC continues to [monitor](#) HV.1, BA.2.86, and all other lineages.
- National test positivity, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations for influenza continue to increase. Influenza A(H1N1) is the predominant influenza virus circulating although influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses are also being reported.
- RSV-associated hospitalization rates remain elevated among young children and are increasing among older adults; of note, only 15.9% of adults 60+ report having received an RSV vaccine.
- National vaccination coverage for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines increased slightly for children and adults compared to the previous week and remains low for both groups.
- CDC has continued to monitor increases in respiratory illness reported recently among children, including potential elevated rates of pediatric pneumonia. These reported increases do not appear to be due to a new virus or other pathogen but to multiple viral or bacterial causes that we expect to see during the respiratory illness season. CDC will continue to work closely with our state and local public health partners to maintain strong situational awareness and will [provide updates](#), as needed.



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Respiratory Illness

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