Michigan Flu Focus

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

November 6, 2026 **Vol. 24; No. 04**

Week Ending October 31, 2026 | WEEK 43

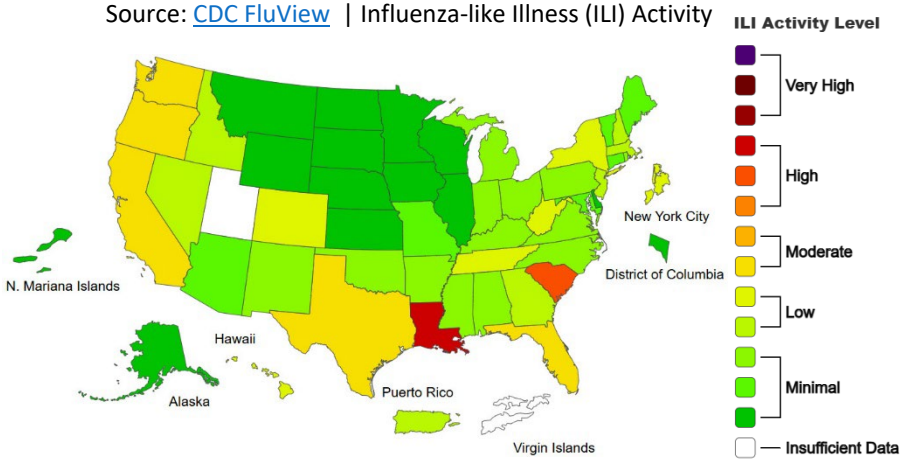
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

Data provided in this report are preliminary and will be updated as additional data are received

Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity

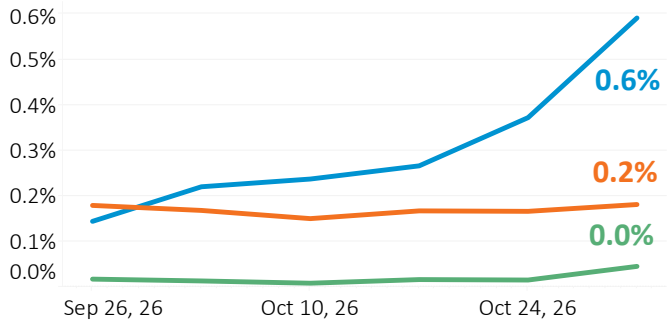
2026–2027 Influenza Season Week 43 ending Oct 31, 2026

Source: CDC FluView | Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity



Emergency Department Visits

Percent Associated with COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV



Source: MDHHS Respiratory Disease Reports

Immunizations

13.8% of Michiganders have received an **influenza** vaccine

4.8% of Michiganders have received a **COVID-19** vaccine

22.0% of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an **RSV** antibody

44.8% of Michiganders +75 years old have received an **RSV** vaccine

Updates of Interest

CDC has posted Preliminary In-Season Severity Assessment which assesses the severity of weekly influenza activity in the U.S. using information on influenza-like illness, flu-related hospitalizations, and flu-coded deaths. The preliminary in-season severity assessment has classified the severity of influenza activity at this point in the season as low across all ages but may change as flu activity is currently increasing.

Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality

Regional-level data on pediatric flu deaths of Michigan residents will be shared in the Michigan Flu Focus. Information on age group, sex, vaccination status or more specific geography will not be shared in order to protect the privacy of the children and their families.

As of **October 31**, three influenza-associated pediatric death have been reported in the U.S. for the 2026-2027 season. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Michigan have been confirmed by MDHHS for the 2026-2027 season.

Michigan Pediatric Flu Deaths by Region, 2026–2027

Region	C	N	SE	SW	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

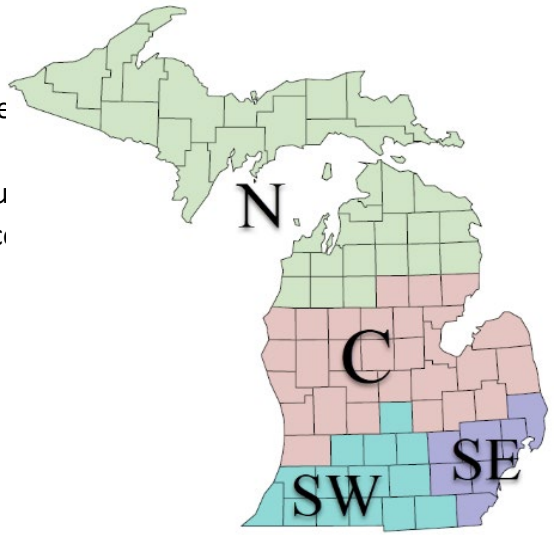
Influenza-like Illness Outpatient Surveillance

Week Ending Oct 31, 2026

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Michigan participates in ILINet, a collaborative effort between the CDC, state, local health departments and volunteer sentinel clinicians as part of Michigan's influenza surveillance. ILINet provides data on the total number of outpatient visits to health care providers seen for any reason and the number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI‡). ILINet data is collected from a range of healthcare settings inclu family medicine, internal medicine and student health clinics. It also incorporates syndromic surveillanc data submitted by urgent care and emergency departments through the Electronic Surveillance System the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE).

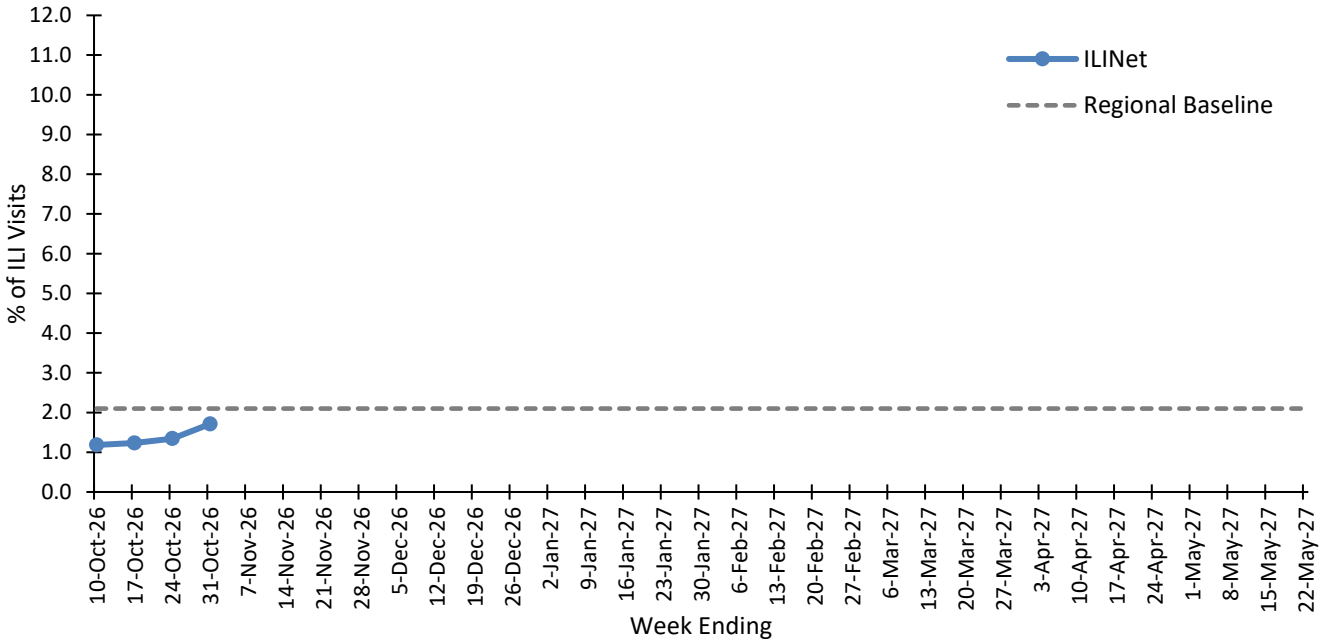
‡*ILI is defined as fever (>100°F) and a cough and/or a sore throat.*



of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

	C	N	SE	SW
# of Reporters **(253)**	77	32	110	34
ILI %	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.2

Percet of Outpatient ILI Visits in Michigan Reported by ILINet, 2026–2027



Note: ILINet monitors visits for ILI (fever and cough and/or sore throat) and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

Michigan ILI Activity: 1.7% ↑

(Last week: 1.3%)

Regional Baseline: 2.1%

A total of **1,944** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **113,580** outpatient visits.

National Surveillance

In the United States, **2.8%** of outpatient visits were due to ILI.
This is **below** the national baseline of 2.9%.

Become an ILINET provider!
Contact Arieanna Eaton at
eatona4@michigan.gov

Influenza-associated Hospitalization Surveillance Week Ending Oct 31, 2026

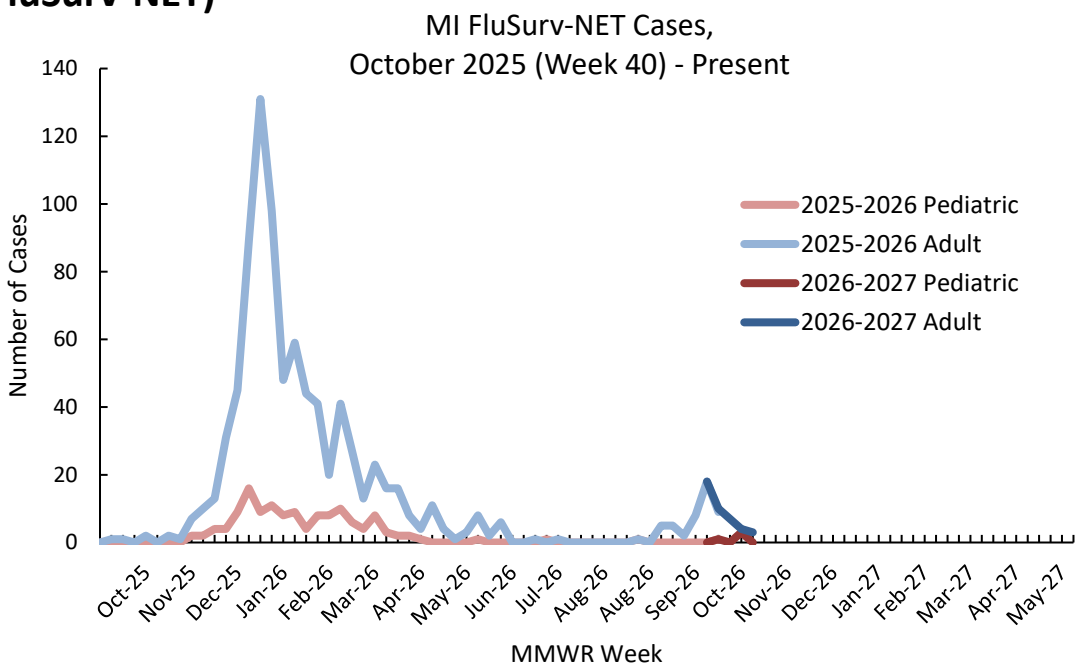
Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET)

CDC's Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) provides population-based rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations beginning October 1st of each year. Michigan participates for Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties.

# of MI FluSurv-NET Cases Reported During this Time Period

	Pediatric	Adult	**Total**
Cases (Change from Previous Week)	0 (-1)	3 (-3)	**3 (-4)**
Cumulative Cases	4	24	**28**

For historical Michigan FluSurv-NET data, please see CDC's RESP-NET Dashboard.



Michigan Influenza Hospital Admissions

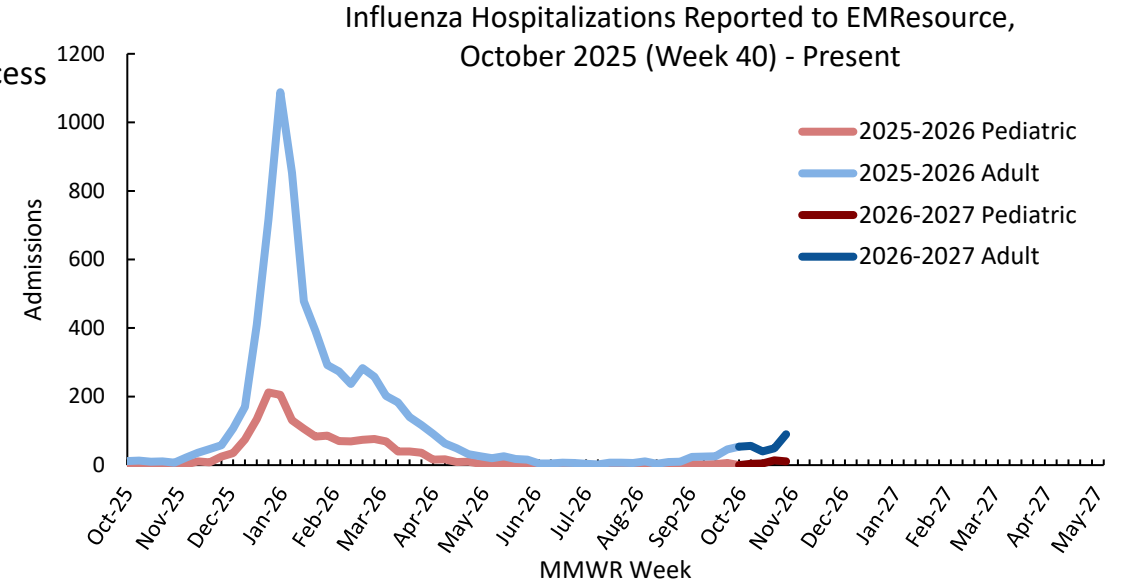
Starting October 2024, acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals (representing 90% of the state) began reporting confirmed influenza cases among admitted patients.

# of Influenza Hospital Admissions Reported During this Time Period

Region	C	N	SE	SW	**Total**
Hospitalizations	17	9	61	11	**98**

# of Influenza Hospital Admissions by Region Since MMWR Week 40

Age Group	C	N	SE	SW	**Total**
0-4 years	3	0	13	1	17
5-17 years	0	0	15	2	17
18-49 years	10	0	16	2	28
50-64 years	8	1	23	4	36
65+ years	43	16	91	28	178
Total	64	17	158	37	**276**



If you have any questions about this data, please contact
MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov

Laboratory (Virologic) Surveillance

Week Ending Oct 31, 2026

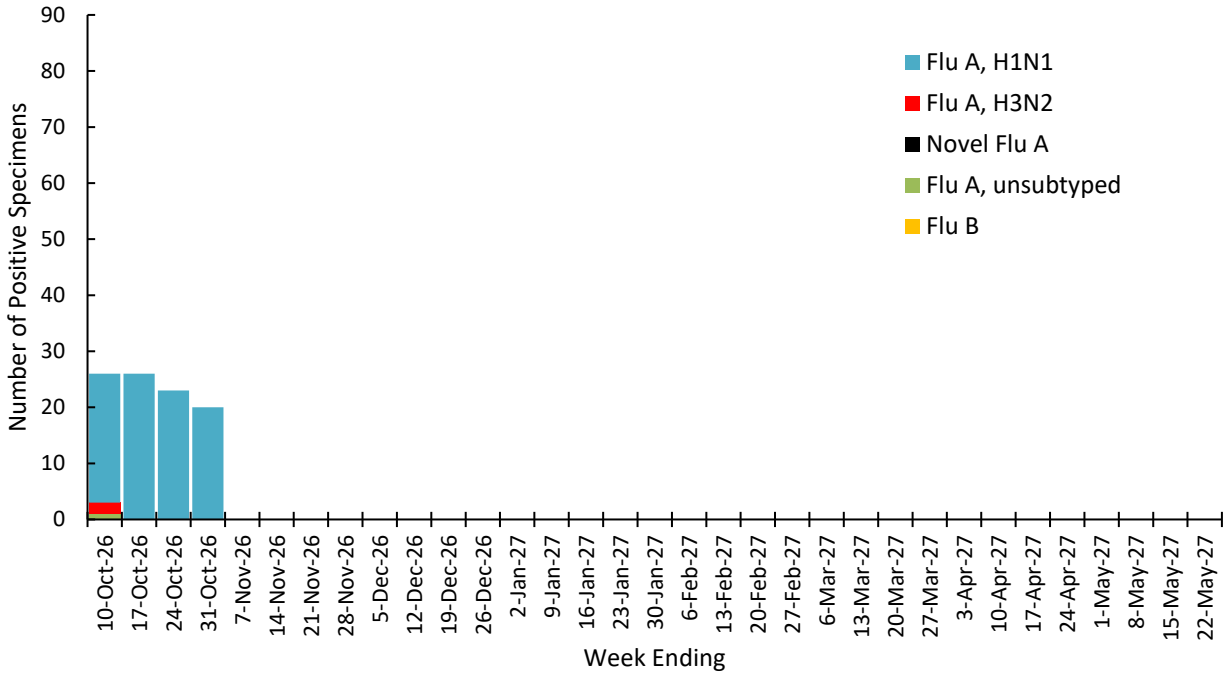
MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **20** (2C, 0N, 15SE, 3SW) positive influenza results reported by the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) during this time period. Positive influenza results for the 2026–2027 season are summarized below.

of Positive Influenza Virus Results by Region

	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Flu A H1N1	12	0	52	28	**92**
Flu A H3N2	1	0	1	21	**23**
Novel flu A*	0	0	0	13	**13**
Flu A unsubtyped	0	0	1	3	**4**
Flu B**	0	0	1	0	**1**
Total	**13**	**0**	**55**	**65**	**133**

Influenza Positive Test Results, 2026–2027



Note: results are based on specimen collection date

*Novel influenza A results include: H5, H1N1v, H1N2v, H7N2v, H1v, H3v

Michigan Sentinel Clinical Lab Network Respiratory Virus Data

Ten (10) sentinel clinical labs (4C, 1N, 1SE, 4SW) reported during this time period.

Central Region	
Influenza A:	Low ↑
Influenza B:	No activity →
SARS-CoV-2:	Low →
RSV:	Low →
Parainfluenza:	Low ↓
Adenovirus:	Low ↓
hMPV:	Very Low ↓

↑ = Increase from previous week

↓ = Decrease from previous week

→ = Similar to previous week

North Region	
Influenza A:	No activity ↓
Influenza B:	No activity →
SARS-CoV-2:	No activity →
RSV:	No activity →
Parainfluenza:	Very Low ↑
Adenovirus:	No activity →
hMPV:	No activity →

Southeast Region	
Influenza A:	Low ↑
Influenza B:	No activity →
SARS-CoV-2:	Low ↓
RSV:	Very Low →
Parainfluenza:	Low ↓
Adenovirus:	Low ↑
hMPV:	No activity ↓

Southwest Region	
Influenza A:	Low ↑
Influenza B:	No activity →
SARS-CoV-2:	Low ↑
RSV:	Low ↑
Parainfluenza:	Low ↓
Adenovirus:	Very Low →
hMPV:	No activity →

Congregate Setting Outbreaks

Week Ending Oct 31, 2026

Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

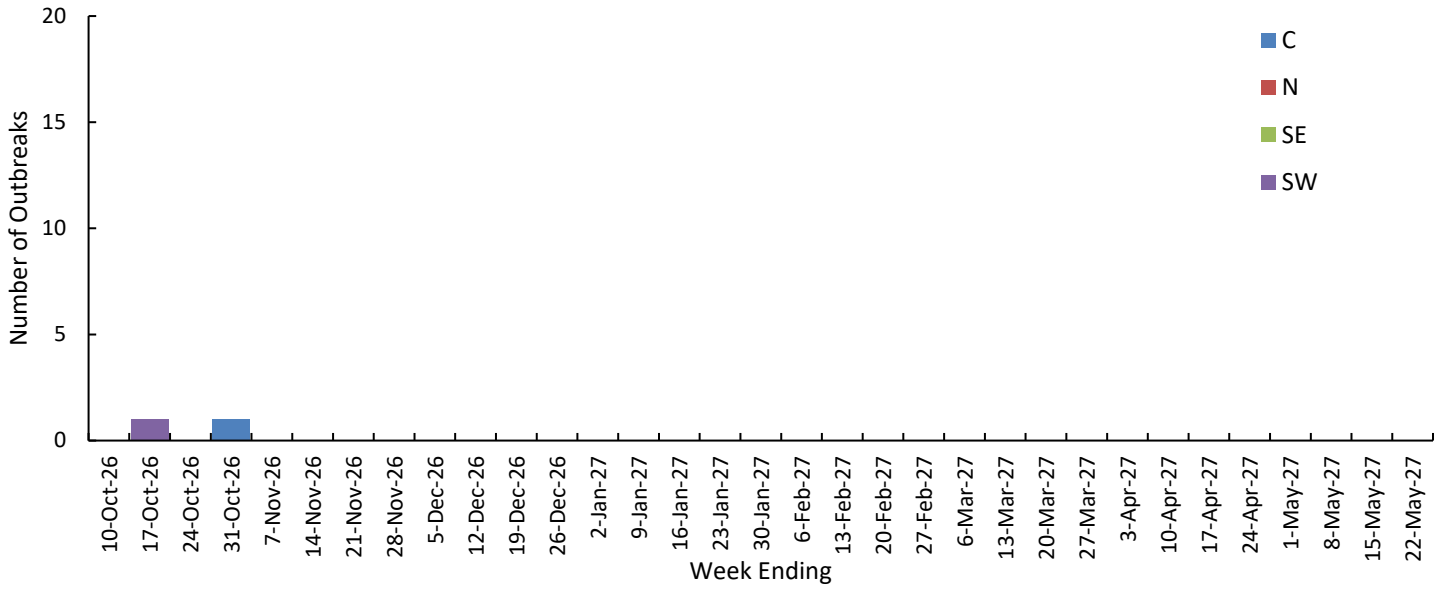
There was **1** (SW) confirmed influenza outbreak reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2026–2027 season are summarized below.

# of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Region

Facility Type	C	N	SE	SW	**Total**
Schools: K-12 & College	0	0	0	0	**0**
Long-term Care / Assisted Living Facility	1	0	0	1	**2**
Healthcare Facility	0	0	0	0	**0**
Daycare	0	0	0	0	**0**
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0	**0**
Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0	**0**
Other	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**

Note: Data are reported on outbreaks with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

Influenza Outbreaks by Region, 2026–2027



Did you know?

Congregate setting outbreaks of viral respiratory illness are **required** to be reported to your local health department.

Outbreak Response Resources:

- Guidelines for Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities And Other Congregate Settings.
- MDHHS Respiratory Illness Outbreak Response Tool for use in Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- CDC Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes.

For more information on outbreaks please visit the Michigan Respiratory Virus Dashboard.

Flu Bytes

Week Ending Oct 31, 2026

‘Shocking and eye-opening’: Mom who lost young daughter to flu hopes others choose vaccination | CIDRAP



When three-year-old Cayden Smith developed a low-grade fever and congestion, her family assumed it was a cold. She missed her flu shot weeks earlier because of an ear infection. Her mother, Jessica Richman, didn’t realize how dangerous flu could be: “At the time, I felt like flu was similar to a cold. In no way did I believe that it would take someone’s life, not a small, healthy child. My child had no immune issues. She didn’t have any medical issues.” When her family took her to urgent care they told the staff she was unvaccinated, but they never tested for influenza. Just a few days later, her breathing was labored and she was lethargic. Her father called 911, but Cayden died at home. The autopsy found influenza A had caused pneumonia.

Jennifer Duchon, MD, MPH of Mount Sinai explained that flu is far more severe than a cold, typically strikes suddenly, and kills mainly through complications such as pneumonia, MRSA infections, and encephalitis. “We all know that people still get the flu even though they’ve been vaccinated,” Duchon said. “It’s still highly recommended and one of the best tools that we have to prevent people from dying or going to the hospital.”

This year’s flu season got an early start, with more than 6,100 hospitalizations and three child deaths reported nationally by October 30. In Michigan, there were 101 influenza-associated hospitalizations last week – a milestone not normally reached until December. The dominant strain is an H1N1 subvariant (G155E) that is not a good match for this season’s vaccine, but it still reduces severe outcomes and protects against other flu variants that could appear later.

When Richman’s daughter Layla got sick at 3 years old, Richman insisted on a flu test, which came back positive. She recovered quickly thanks to Tamiflu and being vaccinated.

FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU™

More stories and resources are available from Families Fighting Flu.

Influenza News Blast

- Berrien County Health Department urges vaccinations as Michigan flu hospitalizations rise | WNDU
- Washington state resident dies from bird flu following exposure to infected cattle | Click on Detroit
- How long does flu shot last? What experts say as flu season begins | Detroit Free Press
- Most women opt for maternal RSV vaccination, prefer it to infant immunization, international study finds | CIDRAP
- New evidence affirms COVID vaccine is safe during pregnancy | CIDRAP
- What doctors want patients to know about RSV infection | American Medical Association
- Bird Flu Could Become a Terrible Feature of Fall | The Atlantic
- Without Flu Vaccination, the US Could See Substantially More Deaths and Hospitalizations Annually | Medscape
- QB Tommy Carr fights through the flu to power Michigan past Rutgers | MLive

Additional Resources

- Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations.
- Michigan Flu Vaccine Recommendations.
- Michigan RSV Vaccine Recommendations.
- MDHHS Influenza Webpage and Influenza Surveillance in Michigan.
- MDHHS Seasonal Respiratory Viruses Surveillance and Immunizations Dashboard.
- MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Webpage.
  - Test Request Forms.
- Immunization Action Coalition: Ask the Experts - Flu.
- CDC FluView Report.

View Michigan Flu Focus Report archives here.

MDHHS Contributors

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