



Michigan Flu Focus

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

March 20, 2026

Vol. 23; No. 24

Week Ending March 14, 2026 | WEEK 10

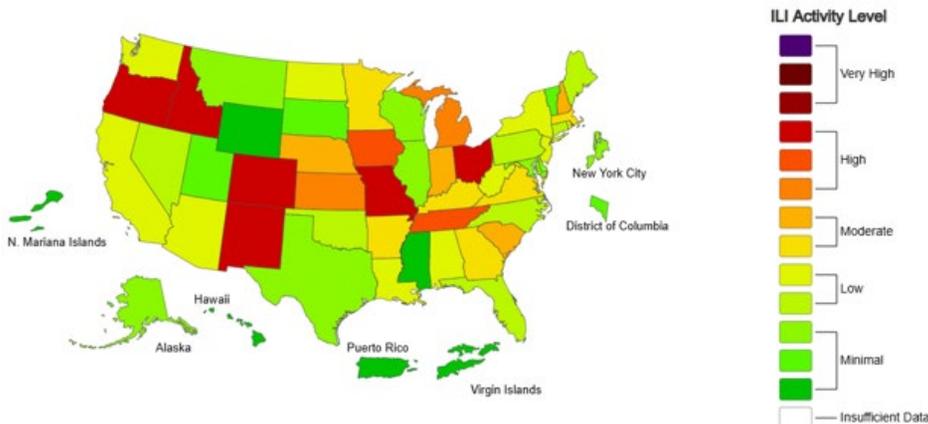
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

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

Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity Map Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

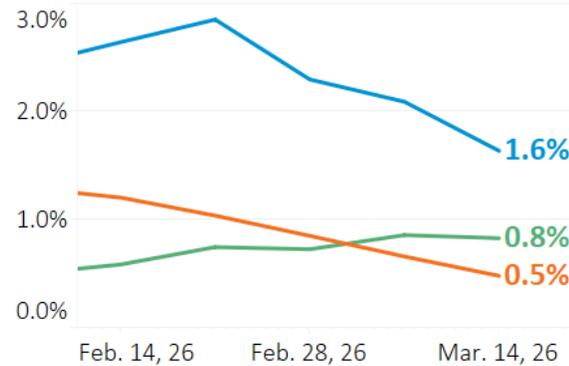
This system monitors visits for respiratory illness that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI, not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

2025-26 Influenza Season Week 10 ending Mar 14, 2026



Source: [CDC FluView](#) | [MDHHS Respiratory Disease Reports](#)

Percent of Emergency Department Visits Associated with COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV



For the 2025-26 respiratory season:

26.8% of Michiganders have received an influenza vaccine	9.4% of Michiganders have received a COVID-19 vaccine
35.1% of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an RSV antibody	44.6% of Michiganders +75 years old have received an RSV vaccine

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 **March 14th**, a total of **115** influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in the U.S. during the 2025-26 flu season – **85%** among children who were not fully vaccinated against influenza.

Michigan Pediatric Flu Deaths by Region, 2025-2026

Region	C	N	SE	SW	Total
	1	0	2	0	3

Updates of Interest

CDC classifies severity of important influenza indicators to understand the impact of influenza virus activity throughout the season on the population and health care system. CDC's in-season [severity assessment](#) framework classified the season as moderate across all ages. By age group, at this point in the season:

- Pediatric (0-17 years): high severity.
- Adult (18-64 years) & older adult (≥65 years): moderate severity.

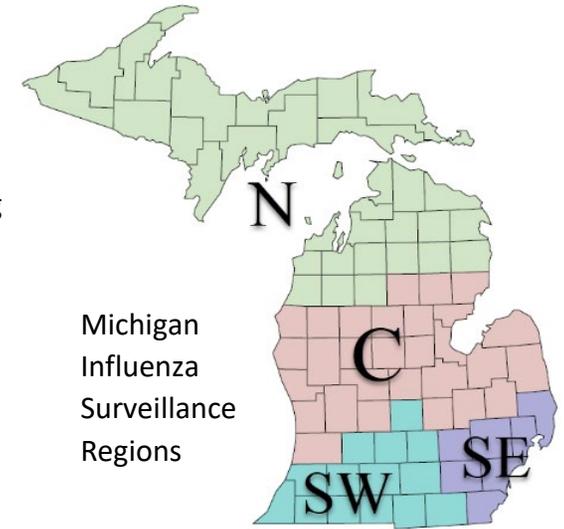
U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Michigan participates in ILINet, a collaborative effort between the CDC, state and 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, including family medicine, internal medicine, and student health clinics. It also incorporates syndromic surveillance data submitted by urgent care and emergency departments through the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE).

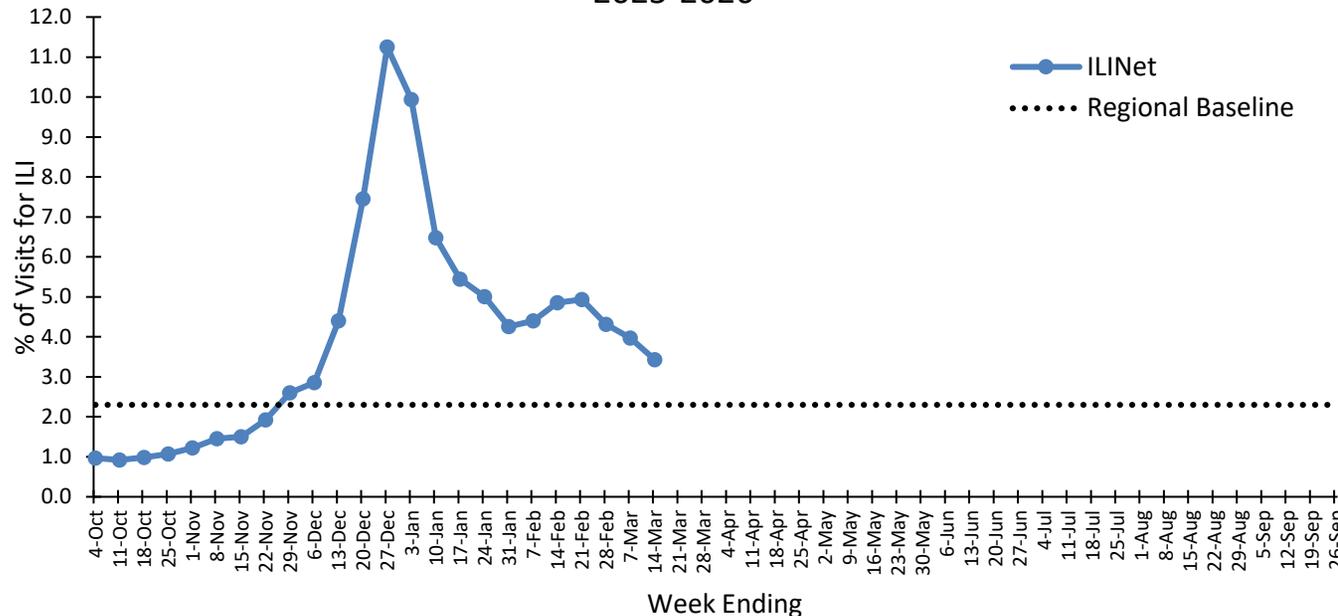
[‡]ILI is defined as fever (>100°F) and a cough and/or a sore throat.

of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

	C	N	SE	SW
# of Reporters (257)	78	31	114	34
ILI %	4.3	6.6	2.6	2.9



Percentage of Visits for ILI in Michigan Reported by ILINet, 2025-2026



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: 3.4% ↓

(Last week: 4.0%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **3,805** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **110,994** outpatient visits.

National Surveillance

In the United States, **3.3%** of outpatient visits were due to ILI. This is **above** the national baseline of 3.1%

Become an ILINET provider!

Contact Arianna Eaton at

eatona4@michigan.gov

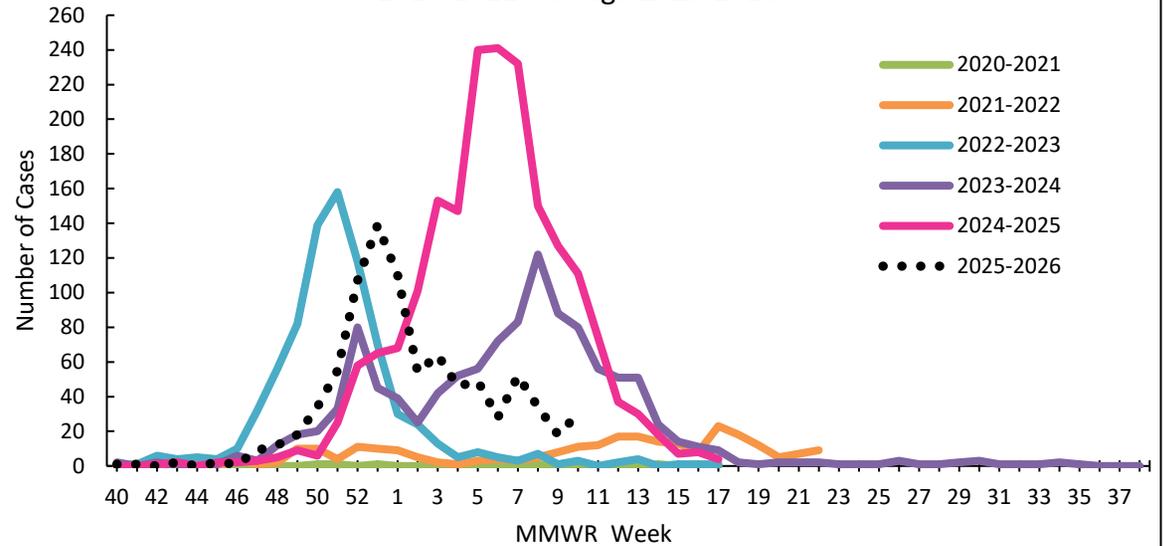
Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET)

The 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)	8 (+4)	22 (+8)	30 (+12)
Cumulative Cases	119	747	866

MI FluSurv-NET Cases by Season, 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026



Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations

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

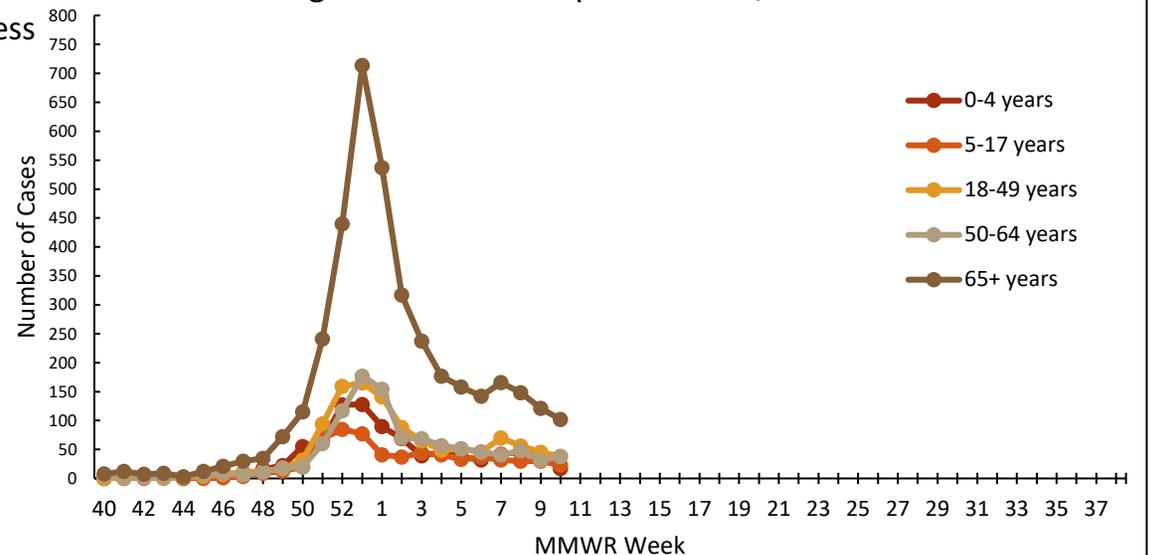
of Influenza Hospitalizations Reported During this Time Period

Region	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Hospitalizations	69	12	86	51	218

of Influenza Hospitalizations by Region

Age Group	C	N	SE	SW	Total
0-4 years	111	11	718	50	890
5-17 years	78	7	463	80	628
18-49 years	259	58	670	167	1154
50-64 years	289	63	530	156	1038
65+ years	1134	244	1897	549	3824
Total	1871	383	4278	1002	7534

Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations, 2025-2026



If you have any questions about this data, please contact

MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov

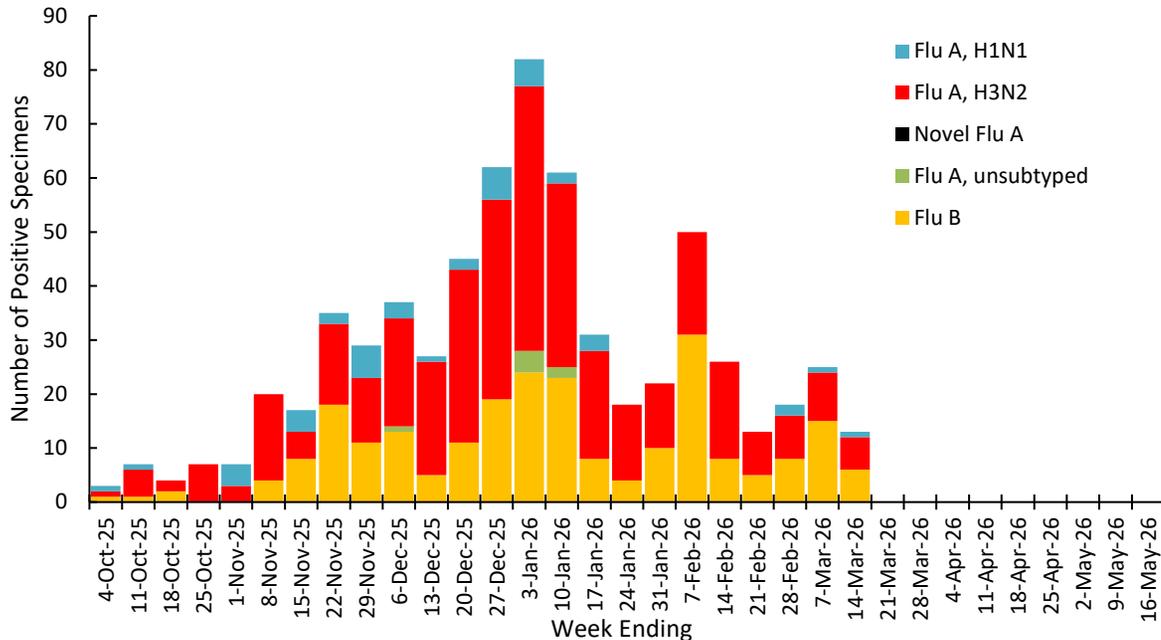
MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **13** (9C, 0N, 2SE, 2SW) positive influenza results reported by the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) during this time period. Positive flu results for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

of Positive Influenza Virus Results by Region

	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Flu A H1N1	10	1	18	15	44
Flu A H3N2	132	18	121	102	373
Novel flu A*	0	0	0	0	0
Flu A unsubtype	1	1	1	4	7
Flu B**	48	2	124	61	235
Total	191	22	264	182	659

Influenza Positive Test Results, 2025-2026



Note: results are based on specimen collection date

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

**Flu B specimens will no longer be genotyped at MDHHS BOL but will continue being sent to CDC for surveillance.

Michigan Sentinel Clinical Lab Network

Respiratory Virus Data

Ten (10) sentinel clinical labs (1SE, 5SW, 4C, 0N) reported during this time period.

Southeast Region

Influenza A:	Low - slightly elevated ↑	↑ = Increase from previous week ↓ = Decrease from previous week → = Similar to previous week
Influenza B:	Low ↓	
SARS-CoV-2:	Low - slightly elevated ↓	
Parainfluenza:	Sporadic ↓	
RSV:	Moderate ↑	
Adenovirus:	Low ↑	
hMPV:	Low - slightly elevated ↑	

Central Region

Influenza A:	Slightly elevated ↓
Influenza B:	Moderate - very high ↑
SARS-CoV-2:	Low ↓
Parainfluenza:	Low ↓
RSV:	High ↑
Adenovirus:	Low ↓
hMPV:	Slightly elevated ↑

Southwest Region

Influenza A:	Low - moderate ↓
Influenza B:	Moderate - high ↓
SARS-CoV-2:	Low - slightly elevated ↓
Parainfluenza:	No activity ↓
RSV:	Slightly elevated ↑
Adenovirus:	Sporadic →
hMPV:	Sporadic - low →

North Region

Influenza A:	No data available
Influenza B:	No data available
SARS-CoV-2:	No data available
Parainfluenza:	No data available
RSV:	No data available
Adenovirus:	No data available
hMPV:	No data available

Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

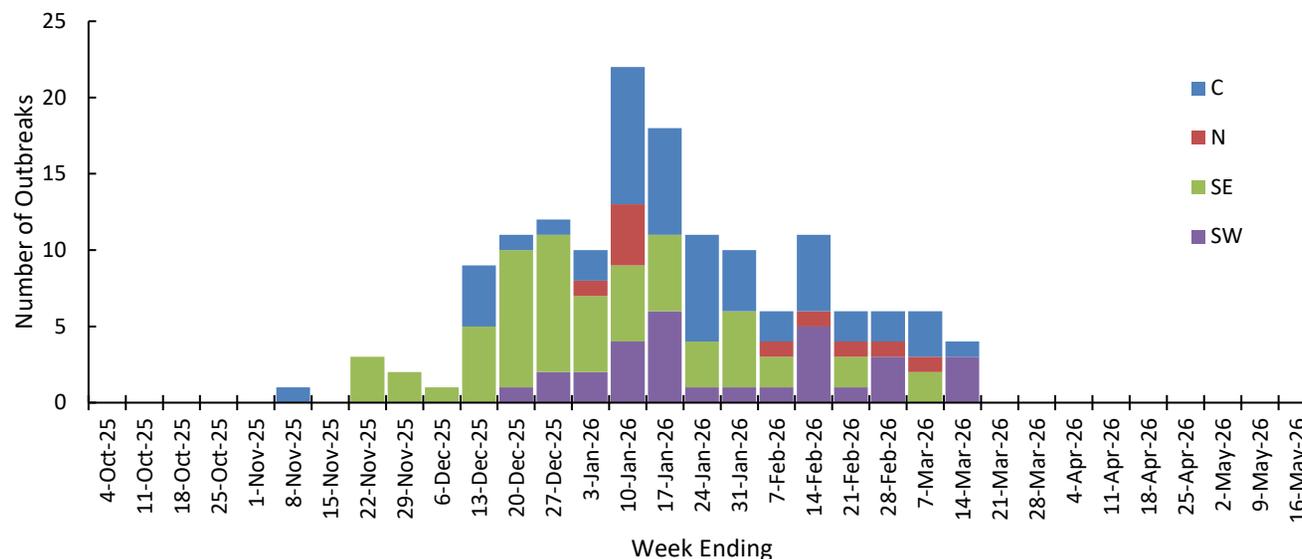
There were **4** (1C, 0N, 0SE, 3SW) confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Region

Facility Type	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Schools: K-12 & College	7	1	16	3	27
Long-term Care / Assisted Living Facility	39	8	34	26	107
Healthcare Facility	3	1	2	1	7
Daycare	1	0	4	0	5
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0	0
Correctional Facility	0	0	2	0	2
Other	1	0	0	0	1
Total	51	10	58	30	149

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

Influenza Outbreaks in Congregate Settings by Region, 2025-2026



Did you know?

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

Outbreak Response Resources:

- [MDHHS Guidelines for Influenza and Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [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](#).

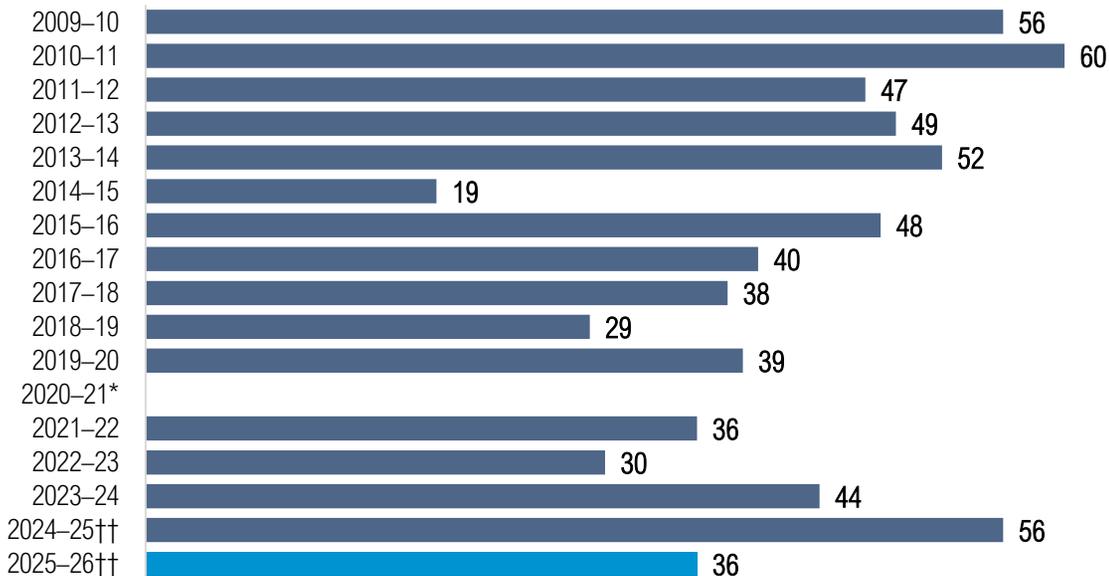
Flu Vaccine Effectiveness: What to Know for Next Season

Recent headlines about lower flu vaccine effectiveness have raised questions, but this season’s results aren’t unusual. A [national study](#) estimated the 2025-2026 flu vaccine was 36% effective at preventing flu-related doctor visits. Here’s what to keep in mind as you consider your options next season:

- **The FDA and WHO revised all strains in the upcoming formulation**, including adding the H3N2 Subclade K that dominated this season, which should improve protection.
- Even when illness occurs, **vaccination lowers the risk of emergency visits and hospitalization**. Among children, effectiveness against flu-related hospitalization reached 41% this year.
- **Think of it like a seatbelt**. A flu shot adds another layer of protection alongside your everyday healthy habits – helping reduce the impact if you do get sick.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Effectiveness Against Outpatient Visits

The adjusted overall vaccine effectiveness (%) typically ranges between 30-60%.



* 2020-2021 flu vaccine effectiveness was not estimated due to low influenza virus circulation during the 2020-2021 flu season.

†† VE estimates for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 flu seasons are preliminary.

Source: [CDC Seasonal Flu Vaccine Effectiveness Studies](#)

Influenza News Blast

- What’s Going Around in Metro Detroit: Stomach viruses, strep throat, fever-causing illnesses, influenza ([Click on Detroit](#))
- Second outbreak of bird flu confirmed in Kent County flock ([WOOD TV](#))
- Avian flu hits farms in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana ([CIDRAP](#))
- FDA approves use of RSV vaccine in at-risk younger adults ([CIDRAP](#))
- Students say flu feels normalized on campus as experts warn of serious risks ([MN Daily](#))
- ‘Her whole life has changed’: Teenager loses 3 limbs after flu and strep complications ([WWNY](#))
- Covid-19 six years later ([Your Local Epidemiologist](#))
- Three Lessons the Flu Taught Me This Week ([Unbiased Science](#))
- COVID probably killed 150,000 more people in its first two years than official U.S. tolls show ([Scientific American](#))

Additional Resources

- [MDHHS Influenza Webpage](#) and [Influenza Surveillance in MI](#)
- **NEW!** [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](#).

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