



Michigan Flu Focus

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

May 29, 2026

Vol. 23; No. 34

Week Ending May 23, 2026 | WEEK 20

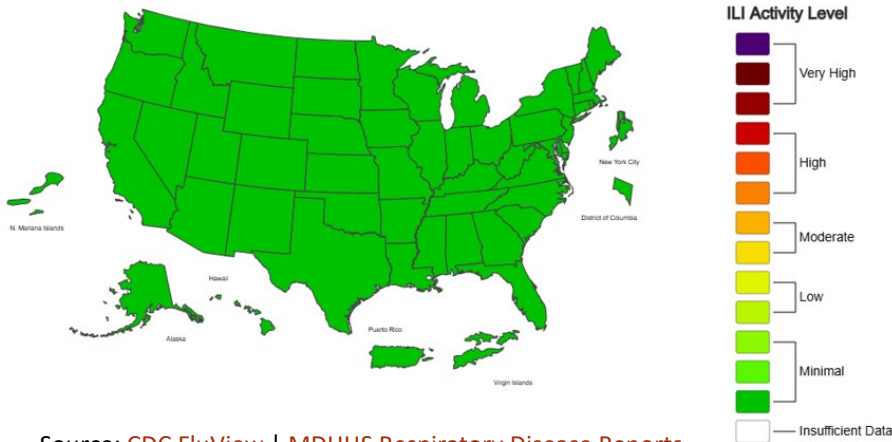
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

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 20 ending May 23, 2026

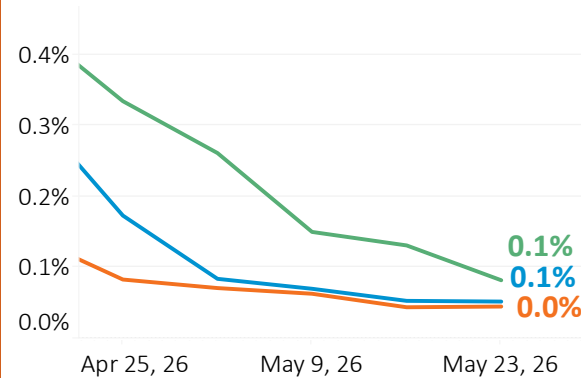


Source: [CDC FluView](#) | [MDHHS Respiratory Disease Reports](#)

Updates of Interest

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has confirmed two additional influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Michigan for the 2025-2026 season. The reported deaths involve a child from the Southeast Region and a child from the Central Region and occurred during Week 4 and Week 6, respectively. This brings the current confirmed total to 11 Michigan pediatric influenza-associated deaths for the 2025-2026 season.

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



For the 2025-2026 respiratory season:

| | |
|---|---|
| 27.0% of Michiganders have received an influenza vaccine | 9.6% of Michiganders have received a COVID-19 vaccine |
| 34.6% of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an RSV antibody | 45.6% 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 **May 23rd**, a total of **174** influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in the U.S. during the 2025–2026 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 |
|--------|---|---|----|----|-------|
| | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 11 |

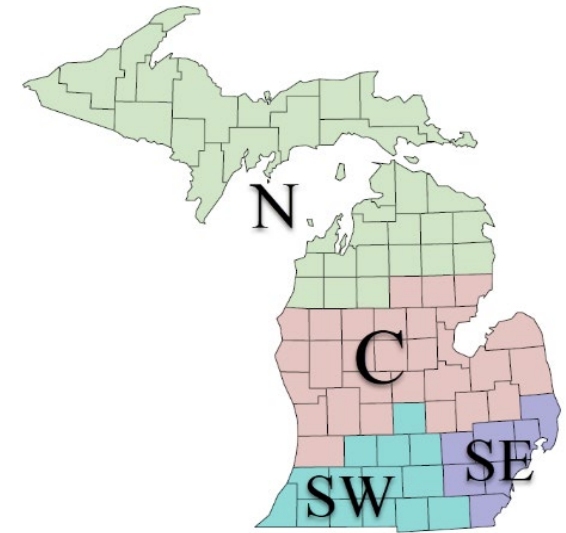
U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

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 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).

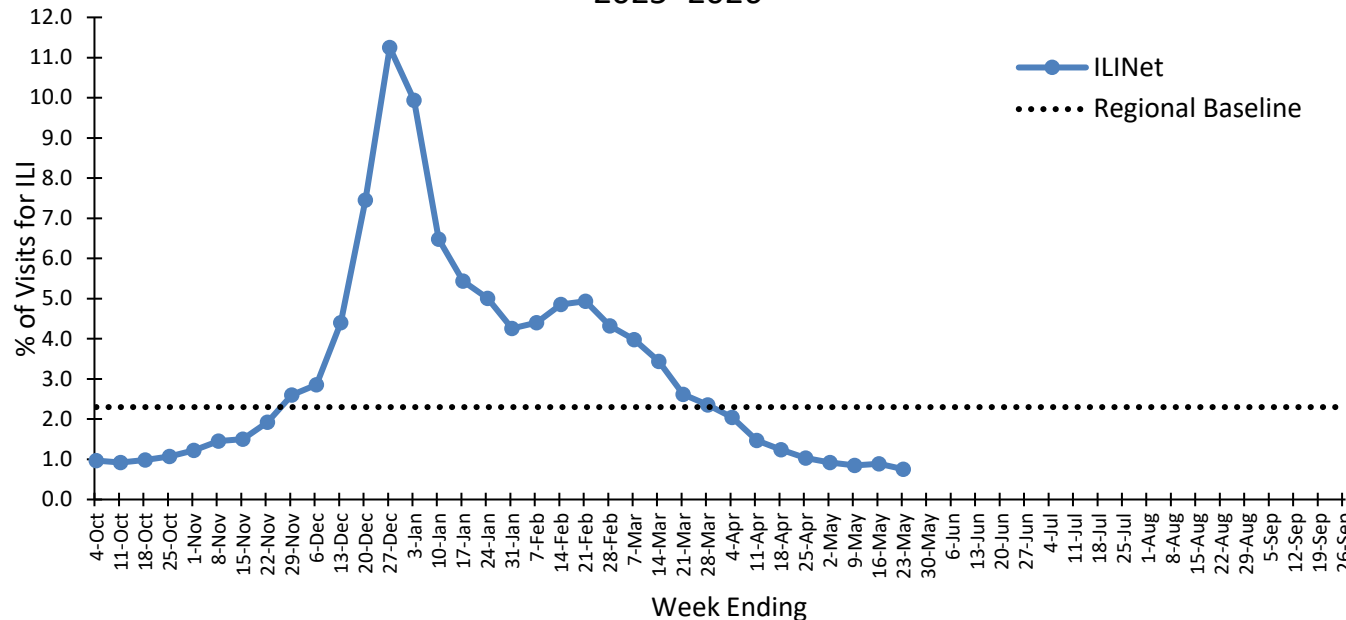
[†]ILI is defined as fever (>100°F) and a cough and/or a sore throat.

of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

| | C | N | SE | SW |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| # of Reporters (251) | 77 | 31 | 109 | 34 |
| ILI % | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.5 |



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: 0.8% ↓

(Last week: 0.9%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **849** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **112,253** outpatient visits.

National Surveillance

In the United States, **1.6%** of outpatient visits were due to ILI. This is **below** the national baseline of 3.1%.

Become an ILINET provider!

Contact Arianna Eaton at

eatona4@michigan.gov

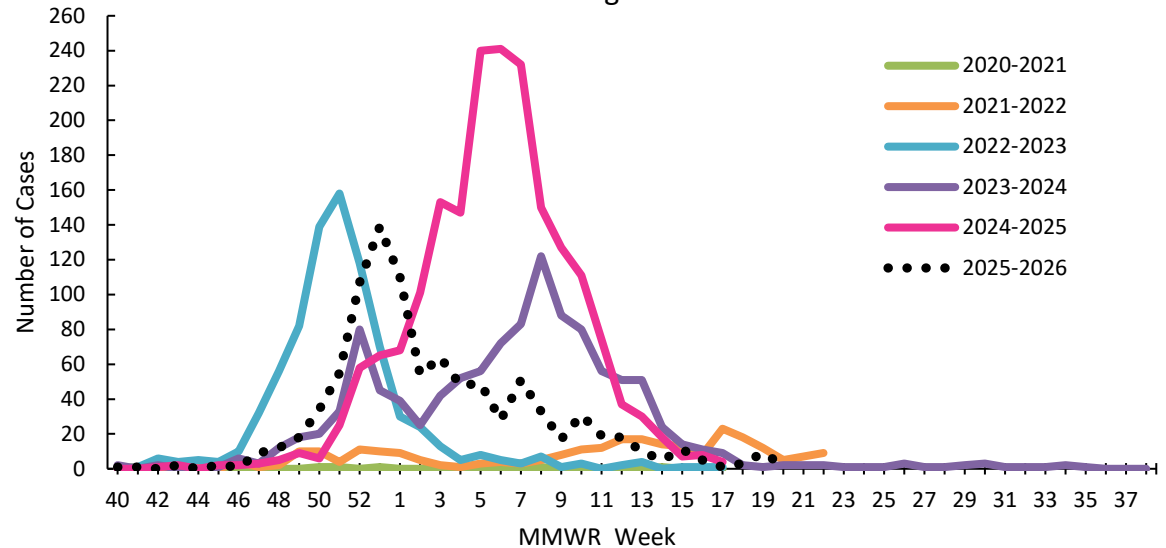
Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET)

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) | 0 (-1) | 2 (-6) | 2 (-7) |
| Cumulative Cases | 128 | 821 | 949 |

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



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.

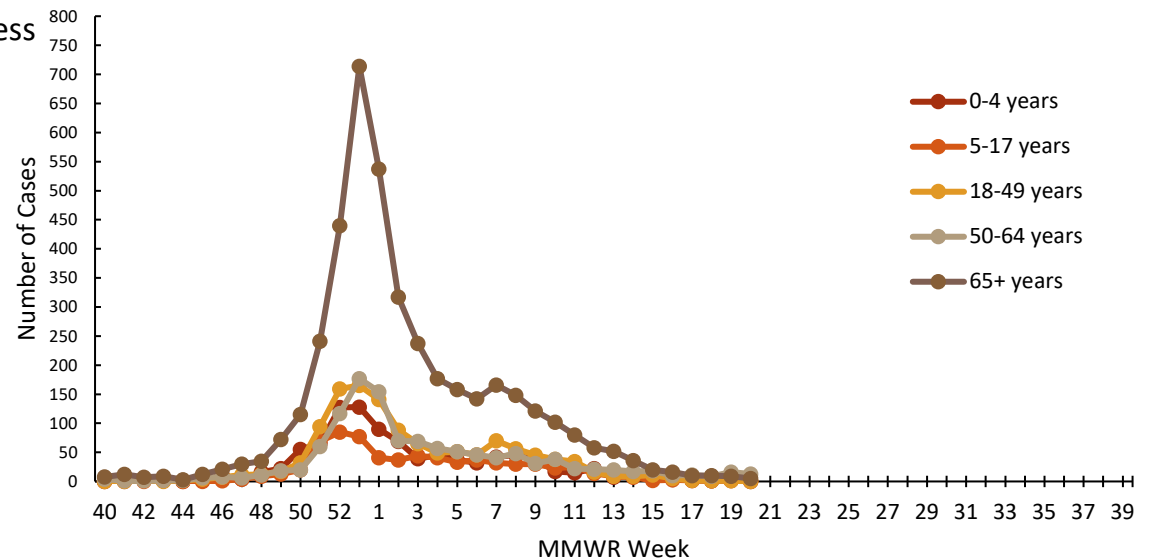
of Influenza Hospital Admissions Reported During this Time Period

| Region | C | N | SE | SW | Total |
|------------------|---|---|----|----|-------|
| Hospitalizations | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |

of Influenza Hospital Admissions by Region

| Age Group | C | N | SE | SW | Total |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0-4 years | 121 | 13 | 779 | 50 | 963 |
| 5-17 years | 99 | 8 | 494 | 92 | 693 |
| 18-49 years | 291 | 61 | 700 | 190 | 1242 |
| 50-64 years | 317 | 67 | 645 | 166 | 1195 |
| 65+ years | 1260 | 262 | 2013 | 585 | 4120 |
| Total | 2088 | 411 | 4631 | 1083 | 8213 |

Michigan Influenza Hospital Admissions by Week, 2025-2026



If you have any questions about this data, please contact

MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov

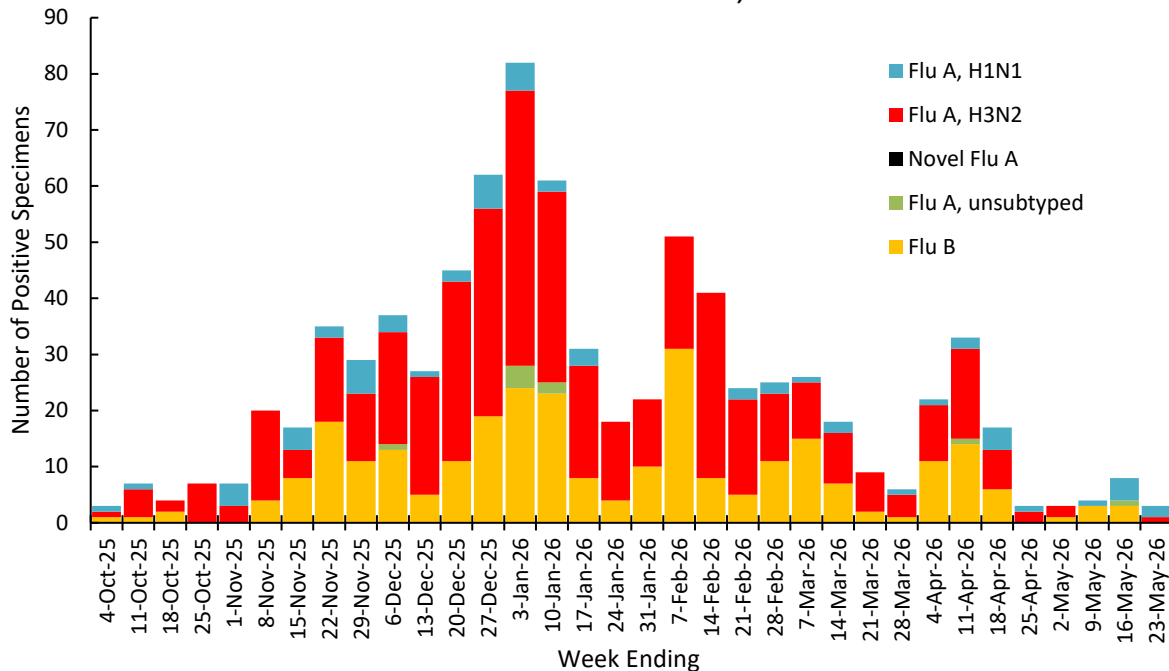
MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **3** (0C, 0N, 2SE, 1SW) 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 | 16 | 1 | 24 | 22 | 63 |
| Flu A H3N2 | 188 | 19 | 143 | 105 | 455 |
| Novel flu A* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Flu A unsubtype | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| Flu B** | 69 | 2 | 140 | 69 | 280 |
| Total | 274 | 23 | 309 | 201 | 807 |

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

Eight (8) sentinel clinical labs (3C, 1N, 0SE, 4SW) reported during this time period.

Central Region

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

North Region

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Influenza A: | No activity → |
| Influenza B: | No activity → |
| SARS-CoV-2: | Sporadic ↓ |
| Parainfluenza: | No activity → |
| RSV: | Low ↑ |
| Adenovirus: | No activity → |
| hMPV: | No activity ↓ |

Southeast 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 |

Southwest Region

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Influenza A: | Sporadic ↑ |
| Influenza B: | No activity → |
| SARS-CoV-2: | No activity → |
| Parainfluenza: | Sporadic ↓ |
| RSV: | Sporadic ↓ |
| Adenovirus: | No activity ↓ |
| hMPV: | No activity ↓ |

Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

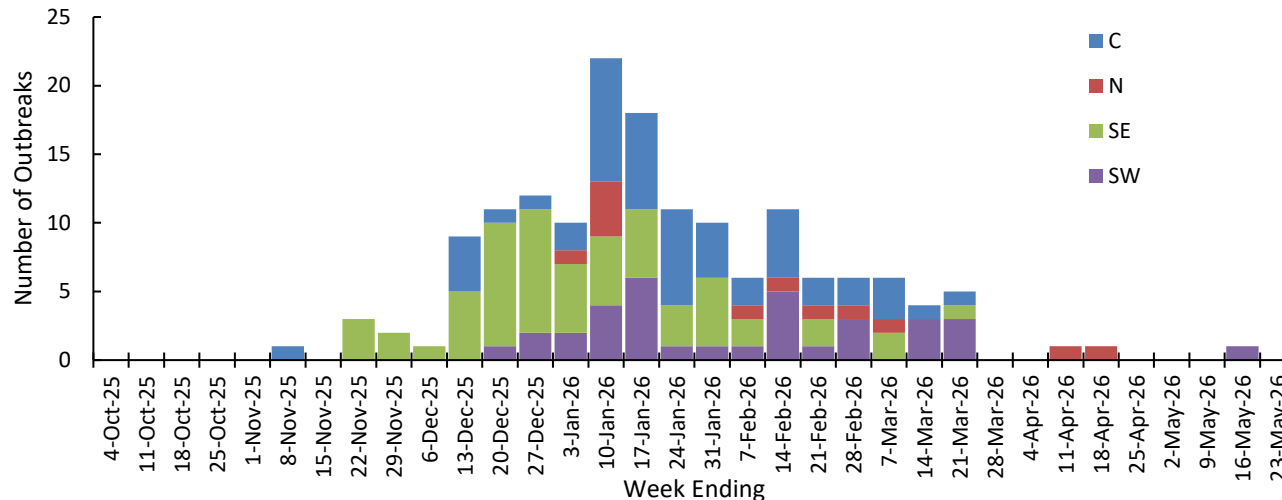
There were **0** confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025–2026 season are summarized below.

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 | 40 | 10 | 35 | 30 | 115 |
| 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 | 52 | 12 | 59 | 34 | 157 |

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

Number of Influneza 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](#).

Could a seasonal flu shot help protect against bird flu? International study points to a surprising possibility ([USF Health](#))

In a [study published April 15](#) in *Emerging Microbes & Infections*, researchers found that seasonal influenza vaccines in routine global use may significantly reduce the risk of death from H5N1 infection. The results are based on a systematic review and analysis of ferret studies, widely considered the gold standard animal model for human influenza.

The study also revealed something unexpected. The seasonal vaccines did not produce detectable antibodies against H5N1 using standard tests. Instead, the protection appears to come from more complex immune mechanisms likely involving cross-reactive cellular responses that are not captured by traditional measures of immunity, suggesting protection may exist even when it is not detectable through standard laboratory markers.

These findings arrive at a critical moment, as H5N1 continues to spread among mammals while limited amounts of vaccine are available globally. This leaves health systems vulnerable in the early stages of an outbreak. While not a substitute for targeted vaccines, extensive adoption of seasonal flu vaccines could buy time by reducing deaths, easing strain on health systems and slowing the impact of a rapidly spreading virus.

The researchers caution that the findings are based on animal models and must be validated in humans, but they also point to an important next step in understanding how existing immunity built through routine vaccination may shape responses to emerging infectious diseases.

Influenza News Blast

- NASCAR star's death shows how sepsis can kill anyone if not caught ([Michigan Medicine](#))
- More bird flu cases found in Idaho dairy cattle ([Capital Press](#))
- Vietnam Destroys Thousands of Poultry Following H5N1 Bird Flu Outbreaks ([University of Nebraska Medical Center](#))
- STUDY: Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Adults, Georgia, USA, 2024–2025 ([Emerging Infectious Diseases](#))
- No child deaths definitively linked to Covid shots, FDA says ([NBC News](#))
- What the FDA's COVID vaccine pediatric death review actually says ([CIDRAP](#))
- Why Do I Still Feel Different After the COVID-19 Pandemic? ([University of Colorado](#))
- Did heart health impact the risk of severe COVID-19 infection during the pandemic? ([American Heart Association](#))
- Here's how Alberta zoos are protecting birds from avian flu ([CBC](#))

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](#).

MDHHS Contributors

Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention: A. Eaton, MPH, S. Kim, MPH, L. Leegwater, MPH, S. Rojewski, MPH, E. Urlaub, MPH

Bureau of Laboratories: K. Jacob, PhD, K. Margulieux, PhD