Michigan Flu Focus

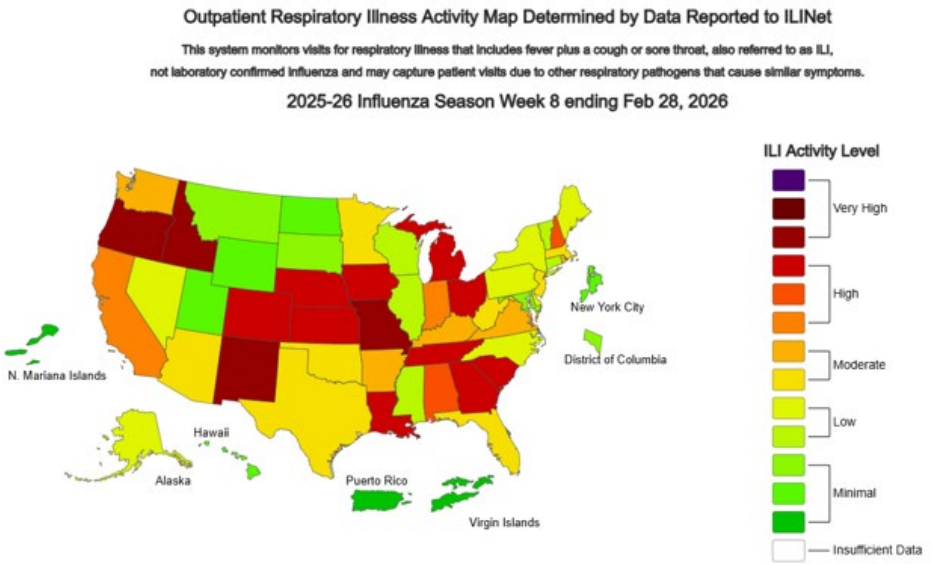
Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

March 6, 2026 **Vol. 23; No. 22**

Week Ending February 28, 2026 | WEEK 8

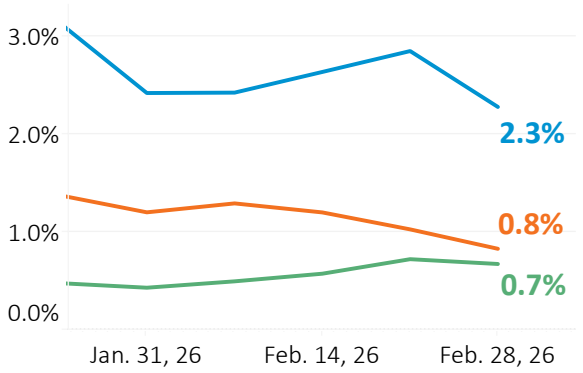
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

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



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:

26.7% of Michiganders have received an **influenza** vaccine

9.3% of Michiganders have received a **COVID-19** vaccine

35.3% of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an **RSV** antibody

44.4% of Michiganders +75 years old have received an **RSV** vaccine

Updates of Interest

Nationally, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated.

CDC estimates that there have been at least 23,000,000 illnesses, 300,000 hospitalizations, and 19,000 deaths from flu so far this season.

Please see CDC's latest FluView report for more information.

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 **February 28**, a total of **90** 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
	0	0	2	0	2

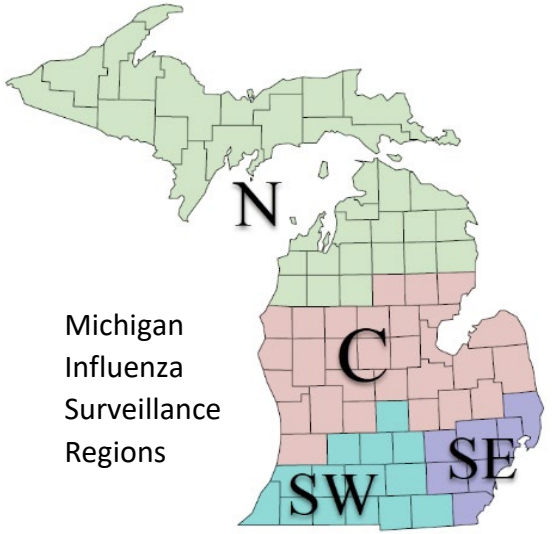
Influenza-like Illness Outpatient Surveillance

Week Ending Feb 28, 2026

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.*

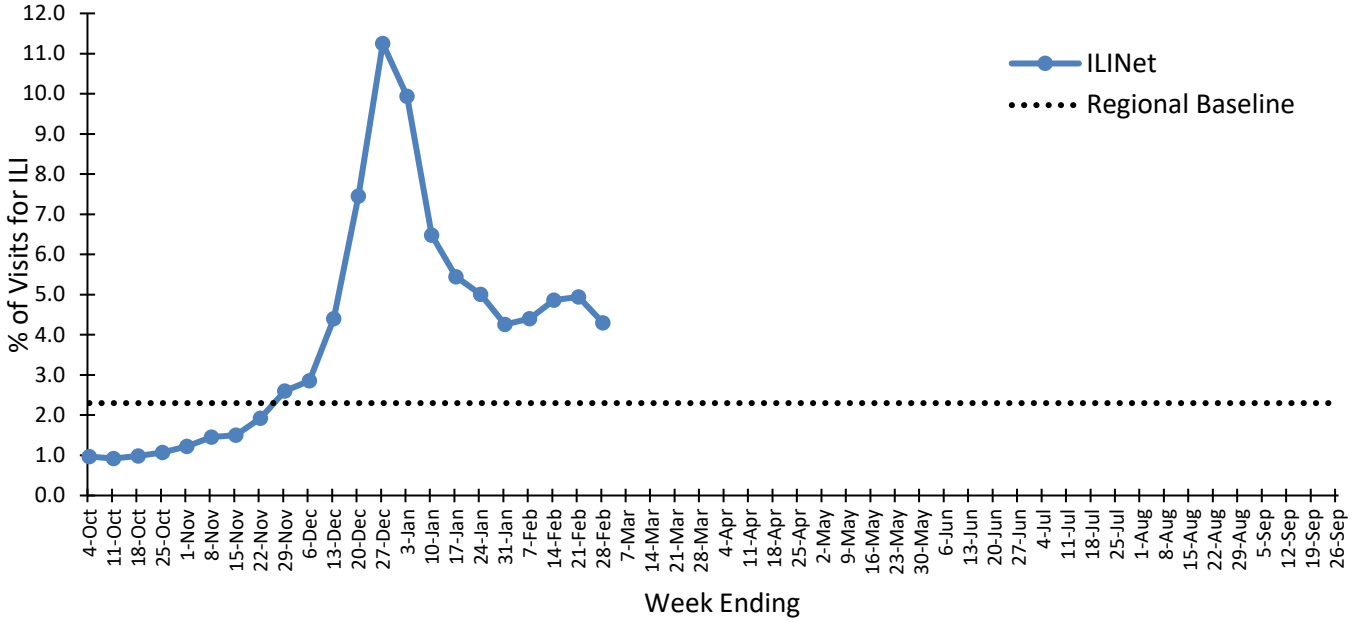


Michigan Influenza Surveillance Regions

of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

	C	N	SE	SW
# of Reporters **(256)**	77	32	113	34
ILI %	4.7	7.9	3.4	4.8

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: 4.3% ↓

(Last week: 4.9%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **4,749** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **110,437** outpatient visits.

National Surveillance

In the United States, **3.9**% of outpatient visits were due to ILI.
This is **above** the national baseline of 3.1%

Become an ILINET provider!

Contact Arieanna Eaton at eatona4@michigan.gov

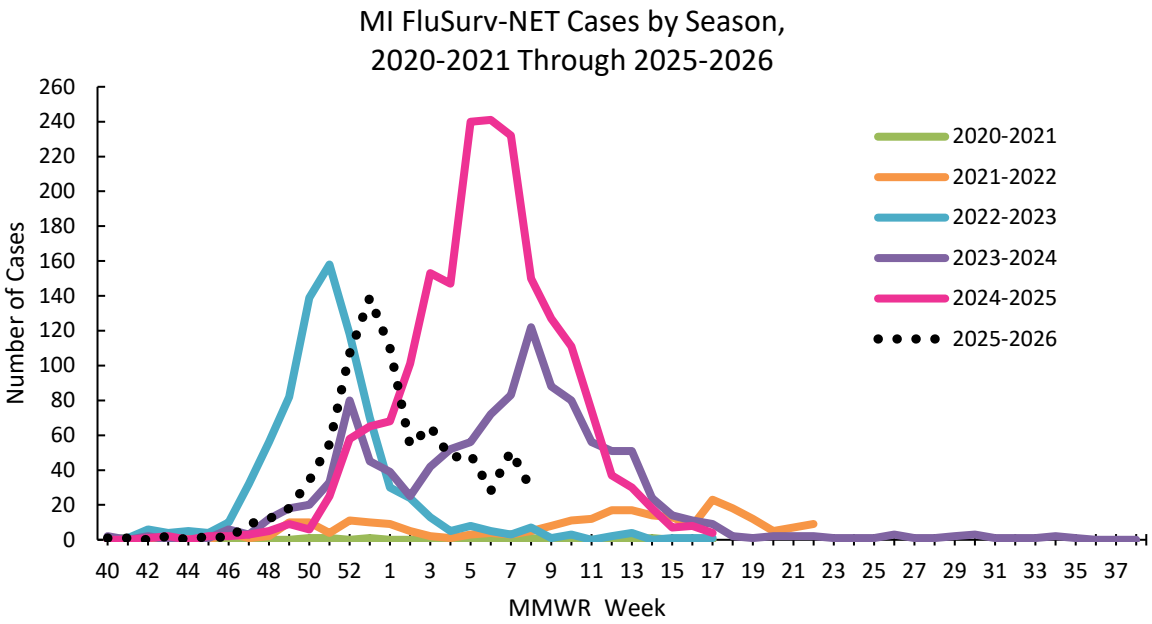
Influenza-associated Hospitalization Surveillance Week Ending Feb 28, 2026

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)	7 (-1)	22 (-21)	**29 (-22)**
Cumulative Cases	108	706	**814**



Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations

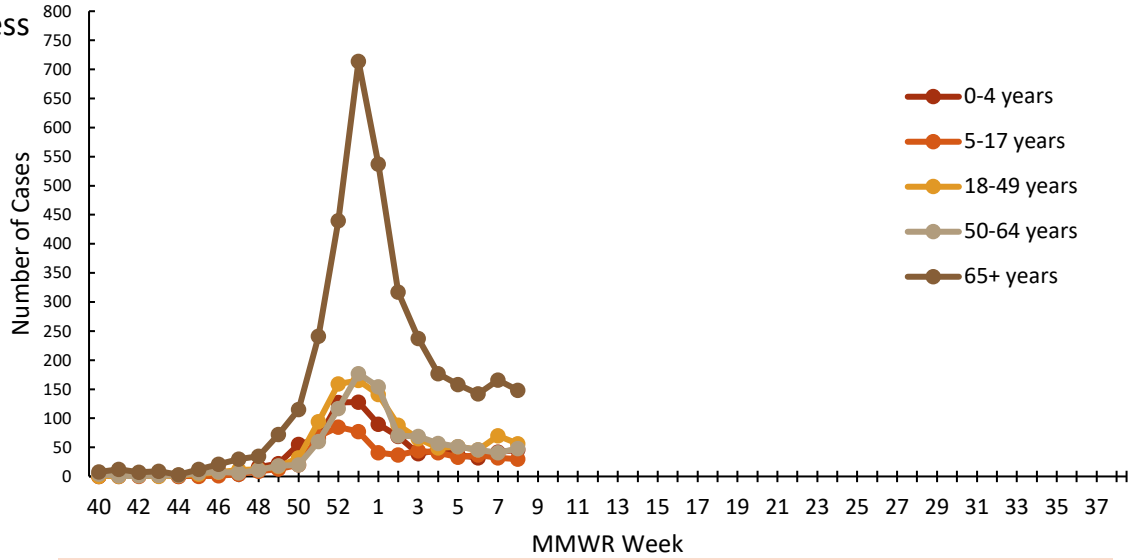
Starting October 2024, acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals (representing 90% of the state) began reporting confirmed influenza cases among hospitalized patients.

# of Influenza Hospitalizations Reported During this Time Period

Region	C	N	SE	SW	**Total**
Hospitalizations	98	17	135	78	**328**

# of Influenza Hospitalizations by Region

Age Group	C	N	SE	SW	**Total**
0-4 years	103	11	673	47	834
5-17 years	71	6	437	61	575
18-49 years	228	53	638	152	1071
50-64 years	265	60	508	136	969
65+ years	1051	234	1823	493	889
Total	1718	364	4079	889	**7050**



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

Laboratory (Virologic) Surveillance

Week Ending Feb 28, 2026

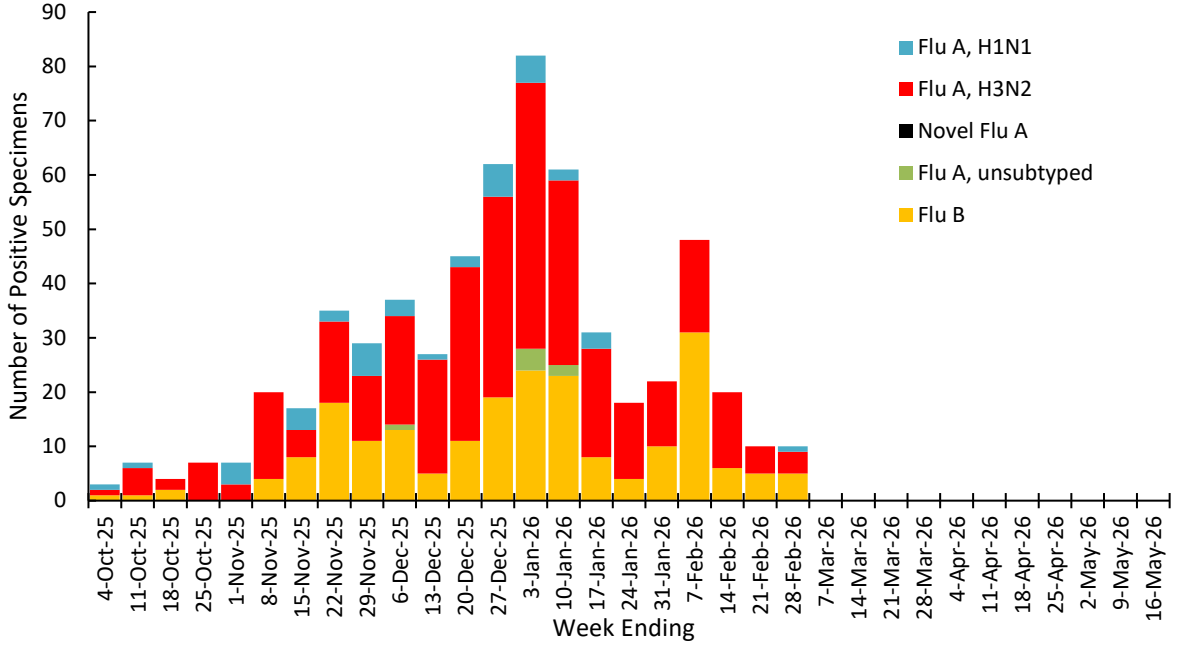
MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **10** (2C, 0N, 4SE, 4SW) 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	8	1	18	14	**41**
Flu A H3N2	116	18	115	96	**345**
Novel flu A*	0	0	0	0	**0**
Flu A unsubtyped	1	1	1	4	**7**
Flu B**	36	2	117	54	**209**
Total	**161**	**22**	**251**	**168**	**602**

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 by genotyped at MDHHS BOL but will continue being sent to CDC for surveillance.

Michigan Sentinel Clinical Lab Network Respiratory Virus Data

Eleven (11) sentinel clinical labs (1SE, 5SW, 4C, 1N) reported during this time period.

Southeast Region	
Influenza A:	Low - moderate ↓
Influenza B:	Low - slightly elevated ↓
SARS-CoV-2:	Low - elevated ↓
Parainfluenza:	Low - moderate ↑
RSV:	Moderate - high ↑
Adenovirus:	Low →
hMPV:	Low ↑

↑ = Increase from previous week

↓ = Decrease from previous week

→ = Similar to previous week

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

Southwest Region	
Influenza A:	Moderate - high ↑
Influenza B:	High →
SARS-CoV-2:	Elevated ↑
Parainfluenza:	Sporadic ↑
RSV:	Slightly elevated ↓
Adenovirus:	Sporadic ↑
hMPV:	Low ↓

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

Congregate Setting Outbreaks

Week Ending Feb 28, 2026

Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

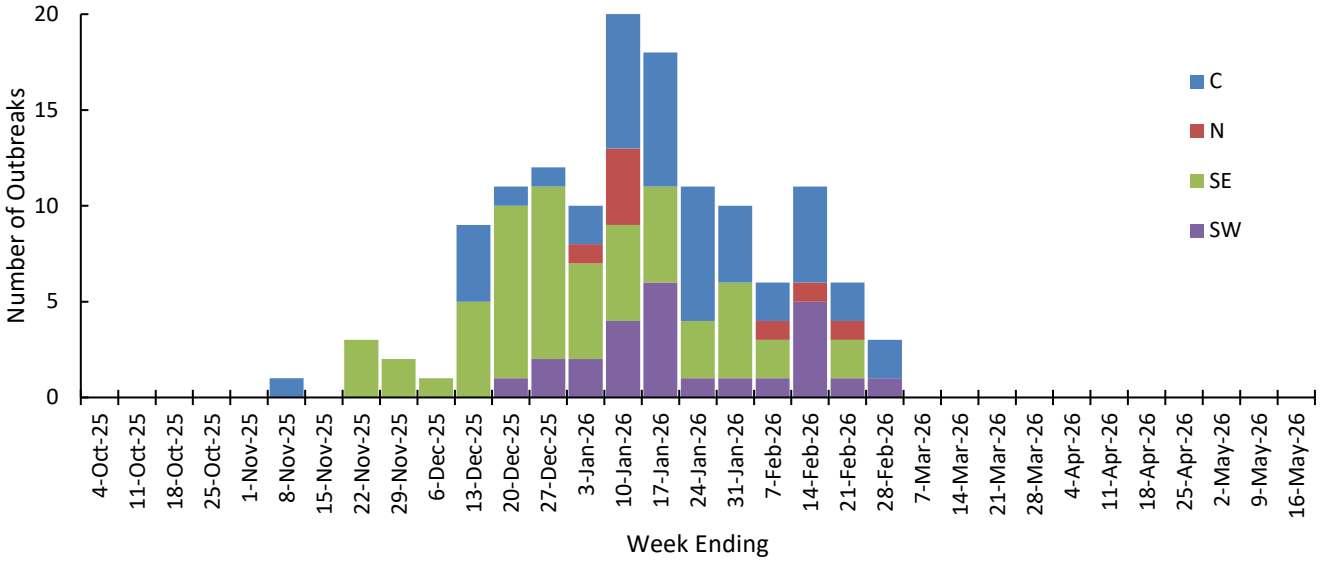
There were **3** (2C, 0N, 0SE, 1SW) confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

# of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Region

Facility Type	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Schools: K-12 & College	5	0	16	2	**23**
Long-term Care / Assisted Living Facility	36	7	32	23	**98**
Healthcare Facility	3	1	2	0	**6**
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	**46**	**8**	**56**	**25**	**135**

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

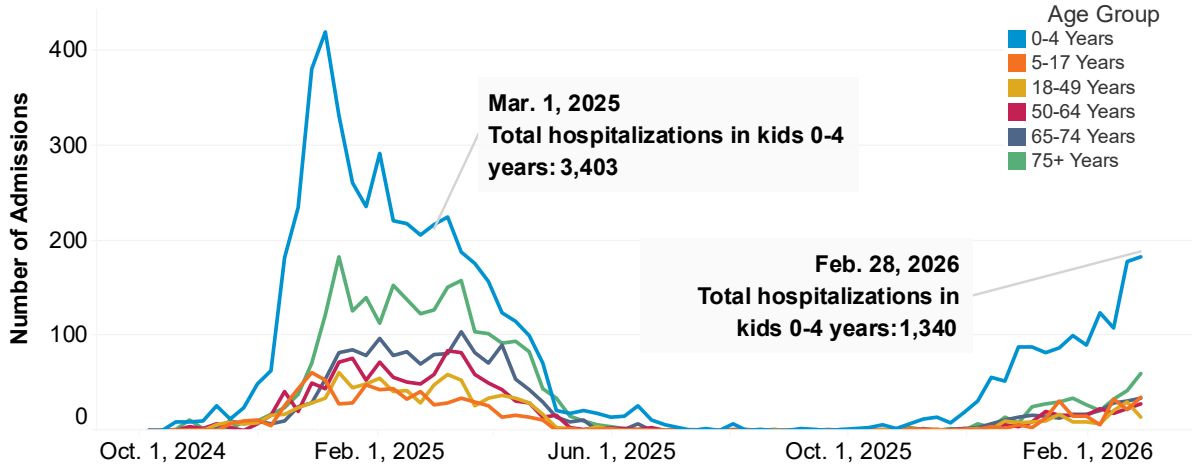
For more information on outbreaks please visit the Michigan Respiratory Virus Dashboard.

Flu Bytes

Week Ending Feb 28, 2026

RSV is getting a late start this year – what can we do about it?

Weekly Counts of Hospital Admissions Associated With RSV



RSV: The 'Really Stinky Virus'– What Parents Must Know

The American Academy of Pediatrics

While RSV activity typically peaks in late fall and early winter, this season has looked a bit different. Activity began later than usual and is now expected to taper off sometime this spring. The good news: immunizations continue to offer the best protection. In fact, some experts credit the delayed start and lower hospitalization rates to increased use of RSV immunizations (WPR).

Monoclonal antibodies remain recommended for all infants under 8 months of age, with special emphasis on newborns during their first week of life.

Influenza News Blast

- What's Going Around in Metro Detroit: RSV, stomach viruses, strep throat, COVID (Click on Detroit)
- WHO updates all 3 viral strains to be included in fall flu shots (CIDRAP)
- Avian Flu outbreak threatens rising egg prices again (Farm Progress)
- Bird flu vaccine trials 'momentous' for farmers (BBC)
- Doctors Are Seeing a Bizarre New COVID Symptom Right Now (Parade)
- Babies with COVID-19 develop more serious disease than those with RSV, US data reveal (CIDRAP)
- Flu was again worse than covid this winter. Is that pattern here to stay? (Washington Post)
- Why is Europe Beating the FDA? The Continent green-lights Moderna's combo flu and Covid shot (Wall Street Journal)
- Up to 56,000 people died from COVID-19 or RSV last year (CIDRAP)
- Annual COVID Vaccines Protect People against Severe Disease, Even with Prior Immunity (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.

MDHHS Contributors

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