# Michigan Flu Focus

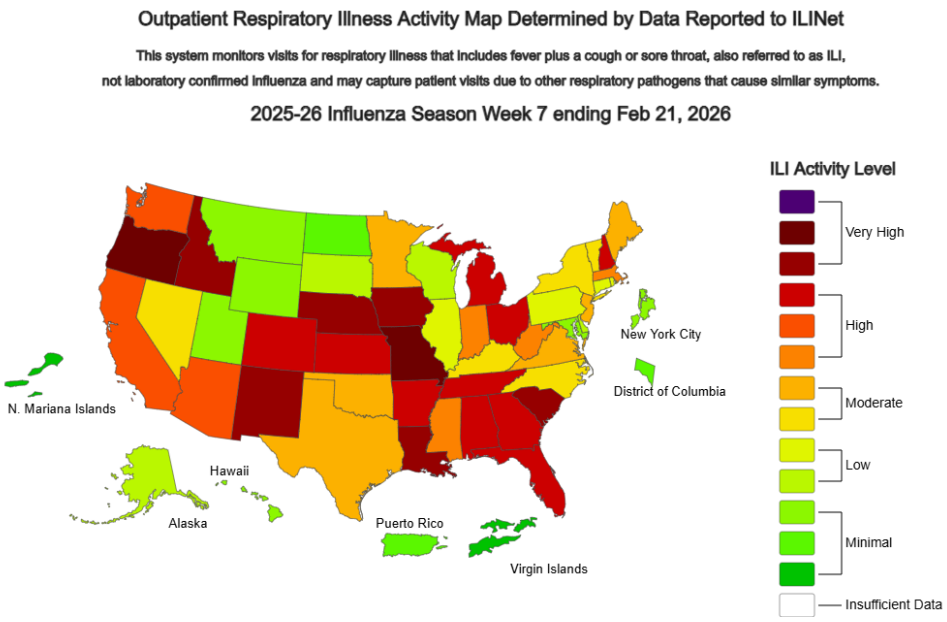
Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

**February 27, 2026** **Vol. 23; No. 21**

## Week Ending February 21, 2026 | WEEK 7

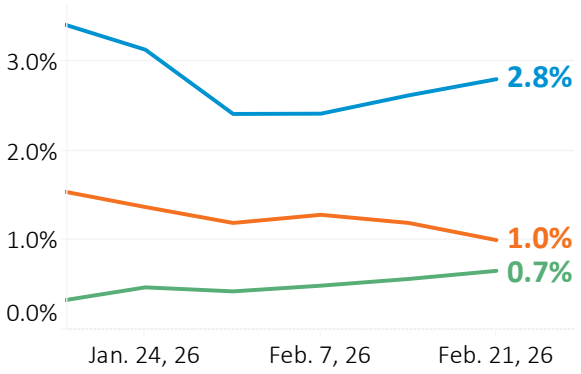
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

*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:

**26.5%** of Michiganders have received an **influenza** vaccine

**9.2%** of Michiganders have received a **COVID-19** vaccine

**35.5%** of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an **RSV** antibody

**44.2%** of Michiganders +75 years old have received an **RSV** vaccine

## Updates of Interest

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has confirmed the first two influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Michigan for the 2025-2026 season. Both of the reported deaths involve children from the Southeast Region. These will be included in the National counts for Week 8.

## 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 21**, a total of **79** influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in the U.S. during the 2025-26 flu season – **90%** 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 |

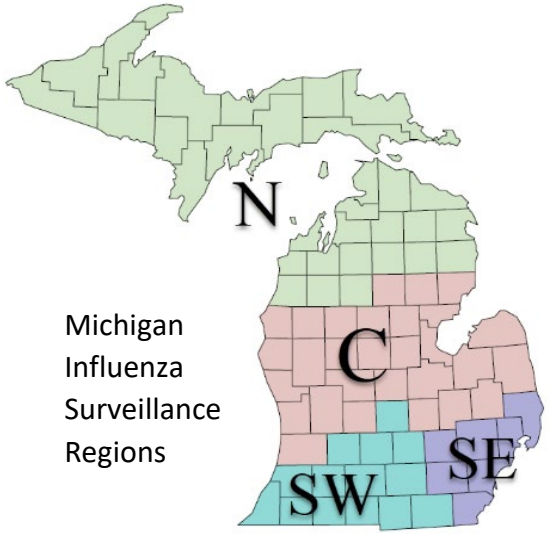
# Influenza-like Illness Outpatient Surveillance

Week Ending Feb 21, 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.*

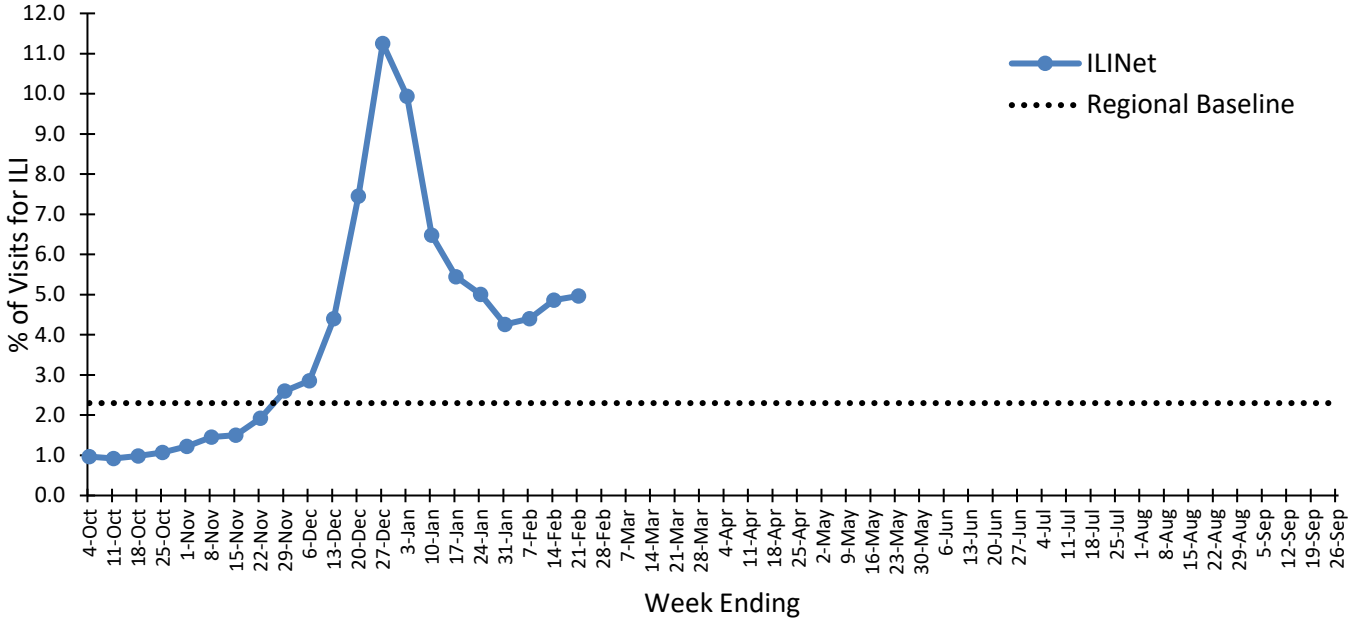



Michigan Influenza Surveillance Regions

### # of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

| | C | N | SE | SW |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| # of Reporters **(255)** | 78 | 32 | 110 | 35 |
| ILI % | 5.4 | 8.7 | 4.0 | 5.5 |

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: 5.0%** ↑

(Last week: 4.9%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **5,503** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **110,711** outpatient visits.

### National Surveillance

In the United States, **4.4**% 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

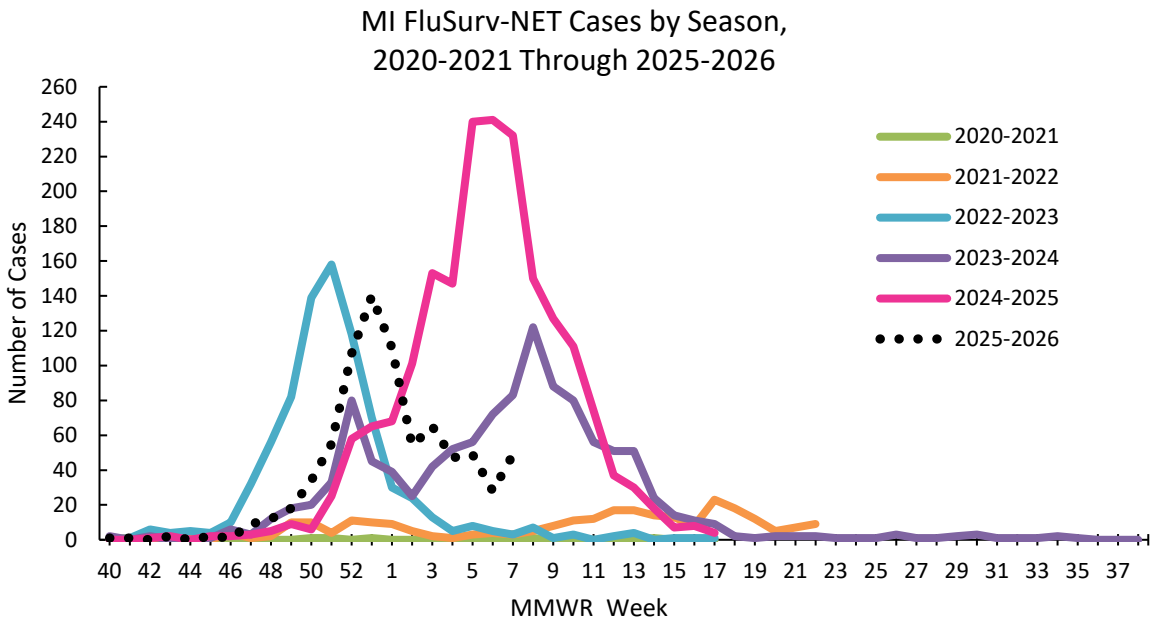
# Influenza-associated Hospitalization Surveillance Week Ending Feb 21, 2026

## 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) | 8 (+0) | 41 (+21) | **49 (+21)** |
| Cumulative Cases | 101 | 683 | **784** |




## Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations

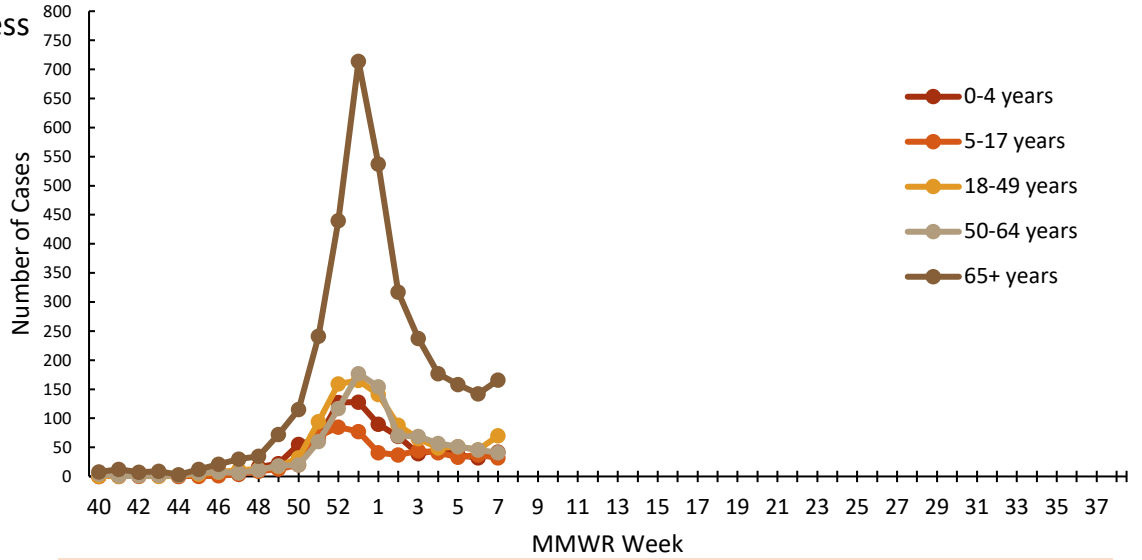
Starting October 2024, acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals (representing 90% of the state) began reporting confirmed influenza cases among hospitalized patients.

**# of Influenza Hospitalizations Reported During this Time Period**

| **Region** | C | N | SE | SW | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hospitalizations | 119 | 13 | 155 | 64 | **351** |

**# of Influenza Hospitalizations by Region**

| **Age Group** | C | N | SE | SW | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0-4 years | 97 | 9 | 638 | 44 | 788 |
| 5-17 years | 63 | 6 | 419 | 57 | 545 |
| 18-49 years | 215 | 51 | 619 | 130 | 1015 |
| 50-64 years | 245 | 55 | 495 | 126 | 921 |
| 65+ years | 1000 | 226 | 1773 | 454 | 3453 |
| **Total** | 1620 | 347 | 3944 | 811 | **6722** |




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

# Laboratory (Virologic) Surveillance

Week Ending Feb 21, 2026

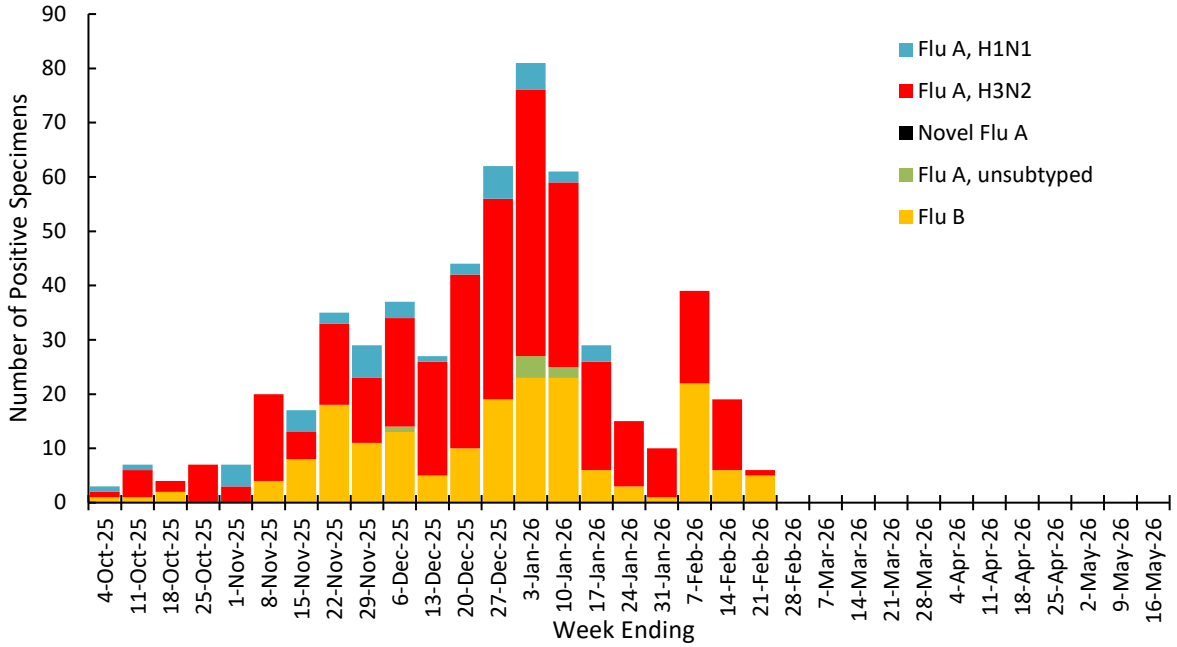
## MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **6** (5C, 0N, 1SE, 0SW) 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 | 13 | **40** |
| Flu A H3N2 | 109 | 18 | 113 | 91 | **331** |
| Novel flu A* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Flu A unsubtyped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | **7** |
| Flu B** | 28 | 2 | 107 | 44 | **181** |
| **Total** | **146** | **22** | **239** | **152** | **559** |

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

Twelve (12) sentinel clinical labs (1SE, 5SW, 5C, 1N) reported during this time period.

| Southeast Region | |
|---|---|
| Influenza A: | Low - moderate → |
| Influenza B: | Low - elevated ↑ |
| SARS-CoV-2: | Elevated ↑ |
| Parainfluenza: | Sporadic - low ↑ |
| RSV: | Elevated - moderate ↓ |
| Adenovirus: | Low → |
| hMPV: | Low ↓ |

↑ = Increase from previous week

↓ = Decrease from previous week

→ = Similar to previous week

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

| Southwest Region | |
|---|---|
| Influenza A: | Elevated ↓ |
| Influenza B: | High - very high ↑ |
| SARS-CoV-2: | Elevated ↓ |
| Parainfluenza: | No activity ↓ |
| RSV: | Elevated ↑ |
| Adenovirus: | Sporadic ↓ |
| hMPV: | Low ↑ |

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

# Congregate Setting Outbreaks

Week Ending Feb 21, 2026

## Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

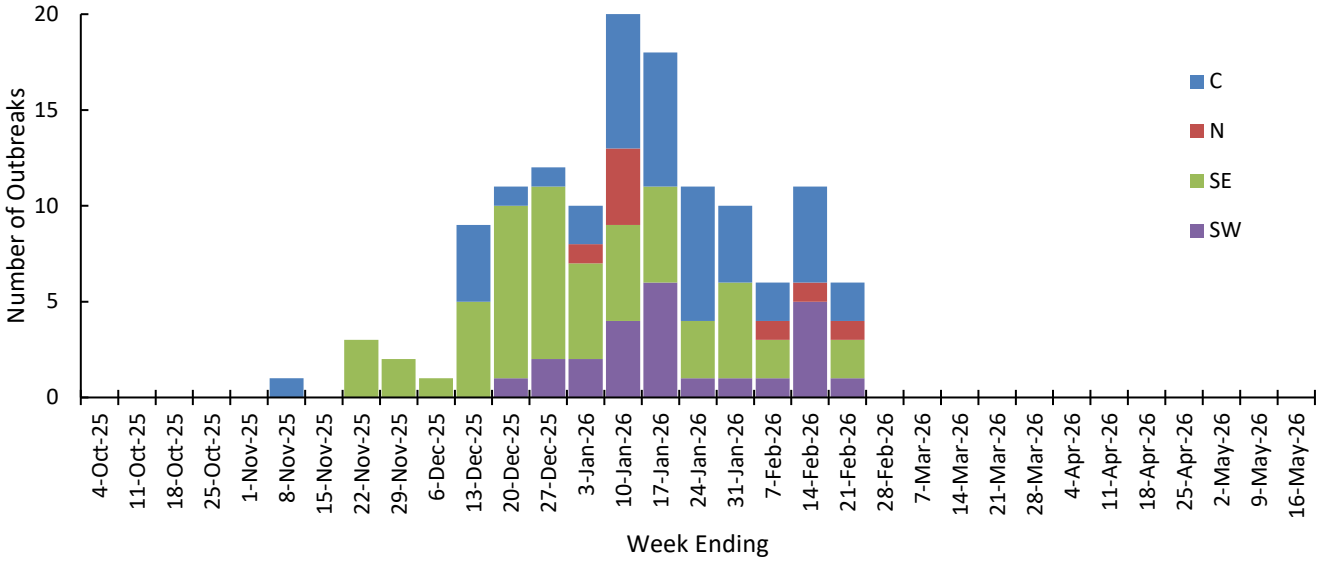
There were **6** (2C, 1N, 2SE, 1SW) confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

**# 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 | 34 | 7 | 32 | 22 | **95** |
| 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** | **44** | **8** | **56** | **24** | **132** |

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 21, 2026

## What's up with this flu season? Experts cite "antigenic drift and antivaccine shift." (New England Journal of Medicine)

The 2025-2026 influenza season has seen substantial activity, with high outpatient visits and pediatric hospitalization rates. A new influenza A(H3N2) virus, subclade K, became predominant due to antigenic drift, thus affecting vaccine effectiveness.

Simultaneously, decreased vaccination rates, fueled by antivaccine sentiment and reduced federal government support, have exacerbated the situation. Even small increases in vaccine effectiveness or vaccine coverage can lead to real reductions in influenza burden: that's **millions** of people saved from illness, **hundreds of thousands** from hospitalization, and **tens of thousands** of deaths in the United States alone.

---

*By increasing surveillance, taking advantage of new technologies to make better vaccines, and improving vaccine coverage, the United States could substantially reduce influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths.*

***We can do better. Will we?***

---

Listen to a conversation with one of the authors, Dr. Sonja Rasmussen.

## Influenza News Blast

- What's Going Around in Metro Detroit: Stomach viruses, flu, infections, RSV, COVID (Click on Detroit)
- Survey finds lagging flu, COVID-19 vaccination rates among older adults (Cadillac News)
- Despite U.S. pull out from WHO, reps were (virtually) at the table for big flu confab (Michigan Public)
- Pennsylvania ramps up bird flu response as officials report over 7 million infections in last month (WHYY)
- Universal vaccine to treat colds, flu and COVID developed – and a new study suggests it just might work (The Conversation)
- Spain informs WHO of possible human swine flu case with low transmission risk (Reuters)
- Long-term brain effects of COVID-19 vs. flu: Study reveals key differences (Tulane University)
- RFK Jr. turns flu-shot skepticism into policy (Washington Post)
- California records avian flu in northern elephant seals (CIDRAP)
- Avian flu outbreak threatens to reverse falling egg prices (Farm Progress)
- Supply Chain Spotlight: How medical distributors and health systems stay ready for late-season flu surges (Cardinal Health)

## 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, V. Tellez Nunez, MPH, E. Urlaub, MPH
**Bureau of Laboratories**: K. Jacob, PhD, K. Margulieux, PhD