



# Michigan Flu Focus

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 20, 2026

Vol. 23; No. 20

## Week Ending February 14, 2026 | WEEK 6

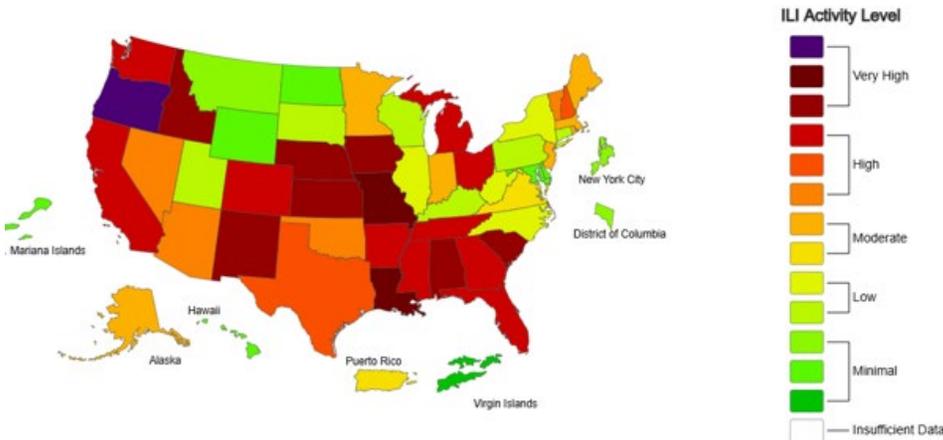
Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

*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

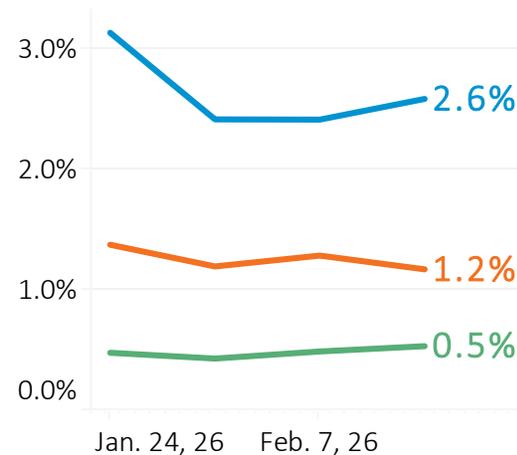
This system monitors visits for respiratory illnesses that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI, not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

2025-26 Influenza Season Week 6 ending Feb 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:

<b>26.3%</b> of Michiganders have received an <b>Influenza</b> vaccine	<b>9.1%</b> of Michiganders have received a <b>COVID-19</b> vaccine
<b>35.0%</b> of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an <b>RSV</b> antibody	<b>44.1%</b> of Michiganders +75 years old have received an <b>RSV</b> vaccine

## Updates of Interest

Nationally, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated. CDC [estimates](#) that there have been at least 24,000,000 illnesses, 310,000 hospitalizations, and 20,000 deaths from flu so far this season. Please see CDC's latest [FluView report](#) for more information.

## Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality

Nationally, seventy-one (71) influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2025-2026 flu season. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Michigan have been confirmed by MDHHS for the 2025-2026 season.

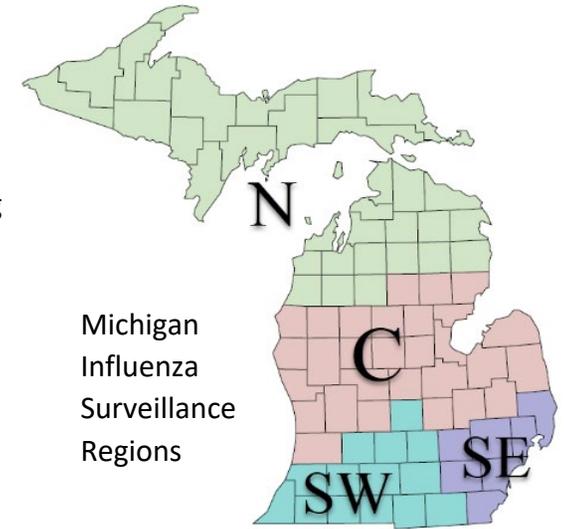
## U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

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<sup>†</sup>). 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).

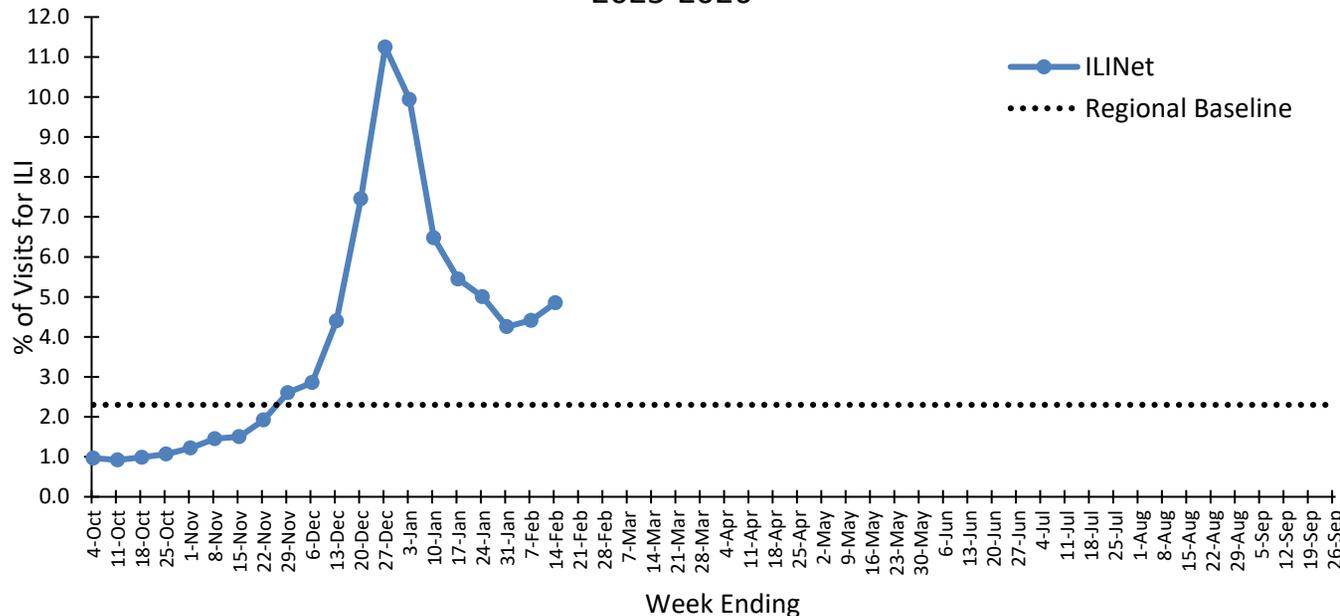
<sup>†</sup>ILI is defined as fever (>100°F) and a cough and/or a sore throat.

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

	C	N	SE	SW
# of Reporters ( <b>257</b> )	78	32	112	35
ILI %	5.6	8.1	3.8	5.1



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: 4.9% ↑**

(Last week: 4.4%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **5,306** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **109,375** outpatient visits.

### National Surveillance

In the United States, **4.5%** 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](mailto:eatona4@michigan.gov)

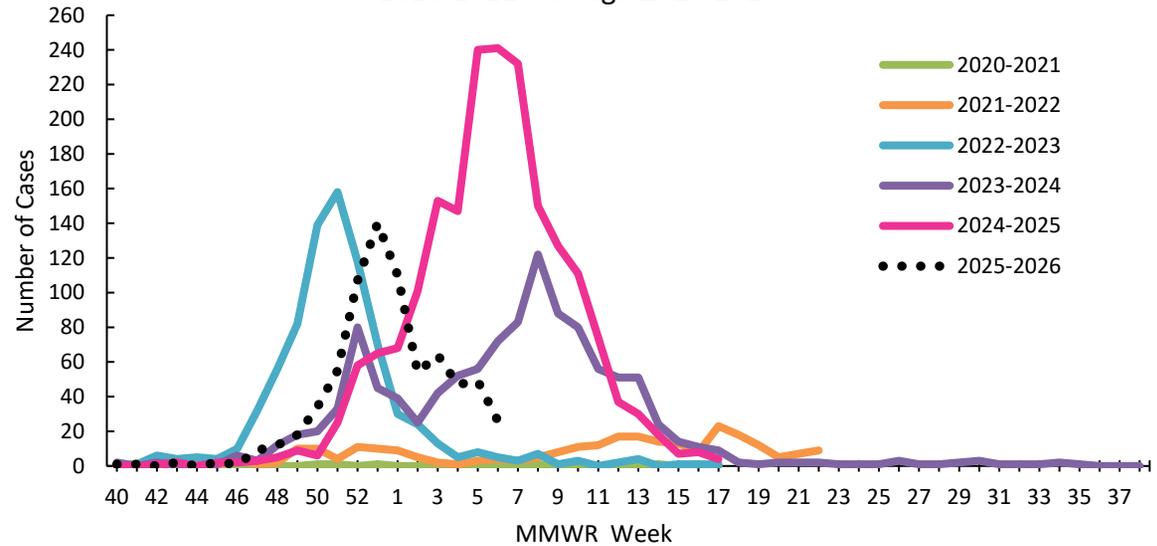
## Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET)

The CDC's Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) provides population-based rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> 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)	18 (-23)	26 (-23)
Cumulative Cases	93	639	732

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.

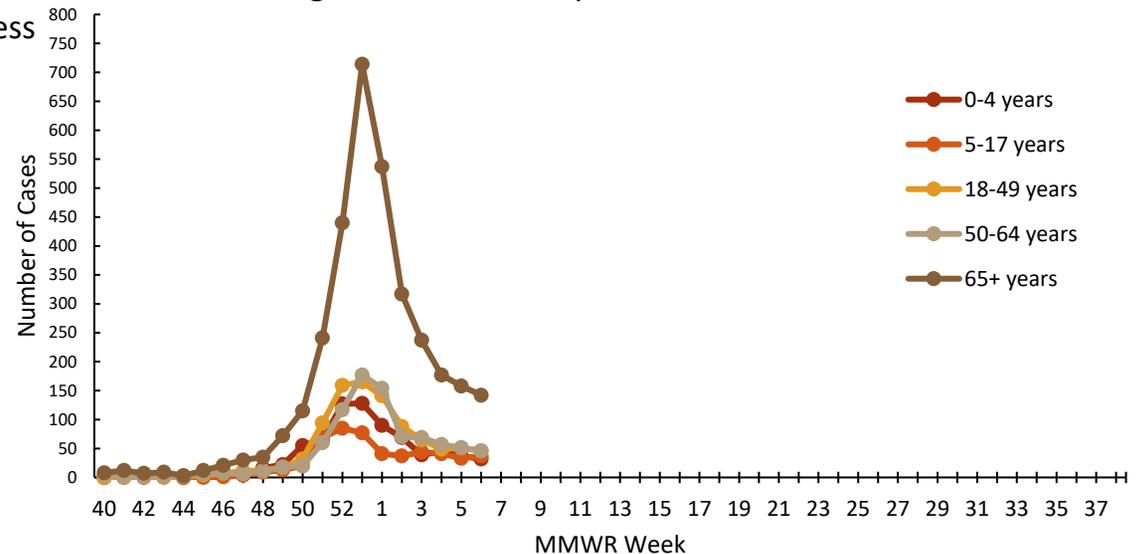
### # of Influenza Hospitalizations Reported During this Time Period

Region	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Hospitalizations	92	18	127	66	303

### # of Influenza Hospitalizations by Region

Age Group	C	N	SE	SW	Total
0-4 years	84	9	613	40	746
5-17 years	56	6	401	50	513
18-49 years	196	50	583	116	945
50-64 years	235	54	479	112	880
65+ years	930	215	1713	429	3287
<b>Total</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>3789</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>6371</b>

Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations, 2025-2026



If you have any questions about this data, please contact

[MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov)

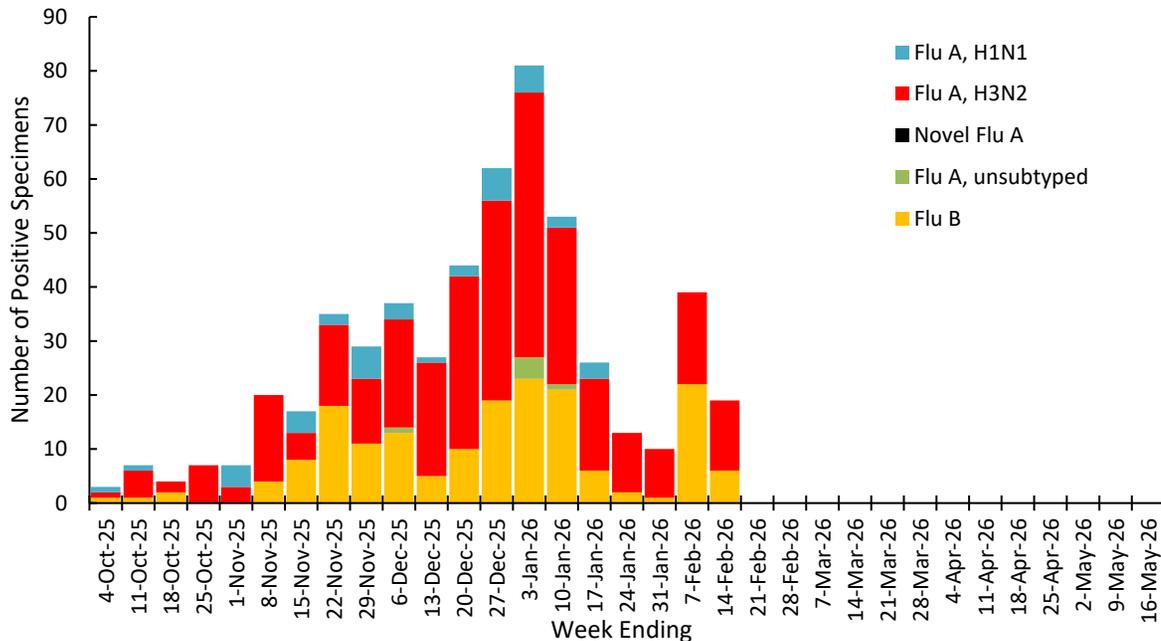
## MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **19** (9C, 1N, 8SE, 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	8	1	18	13	<b>40</b>
Flu A H3N2	99	18	113	91	<b>321</b>
Novel flu A*	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Flu A unsubtype	0	1	1	4	<b>6</b>
Flu B**	21	2	106	44	<b>173</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>540</b>

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

Five (5) sentinel clinical labs (1SE, 1SW, 3C, 0N) reported during this time period.

### Southeast Region

Influenza A:	Slightly elevated ↓	↑ = Increase from previous week ↓ = Decrease from previous week → = Similar to previous week
Influenza B:	Low - slightly elevated ↑	
SARS-CoV-2:	Low - elevated →	
Parainfluenza:	No activity ↓	
RSV:	Moderate ↑	
Adenovirus:	Low ↑	
hMPV:	Low ↑	

### Central Region

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

### Southwest Region

Influenza A:	Elevated - moderate ↓
Influenza B:	High ↑
SARS-CoV-2:	Elevated - moderate →
Parainfluenza:	Sporadic ↑
RSV:	Slightly elevated ↑
Adenovirus:	Sporadic →
hMPV:	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

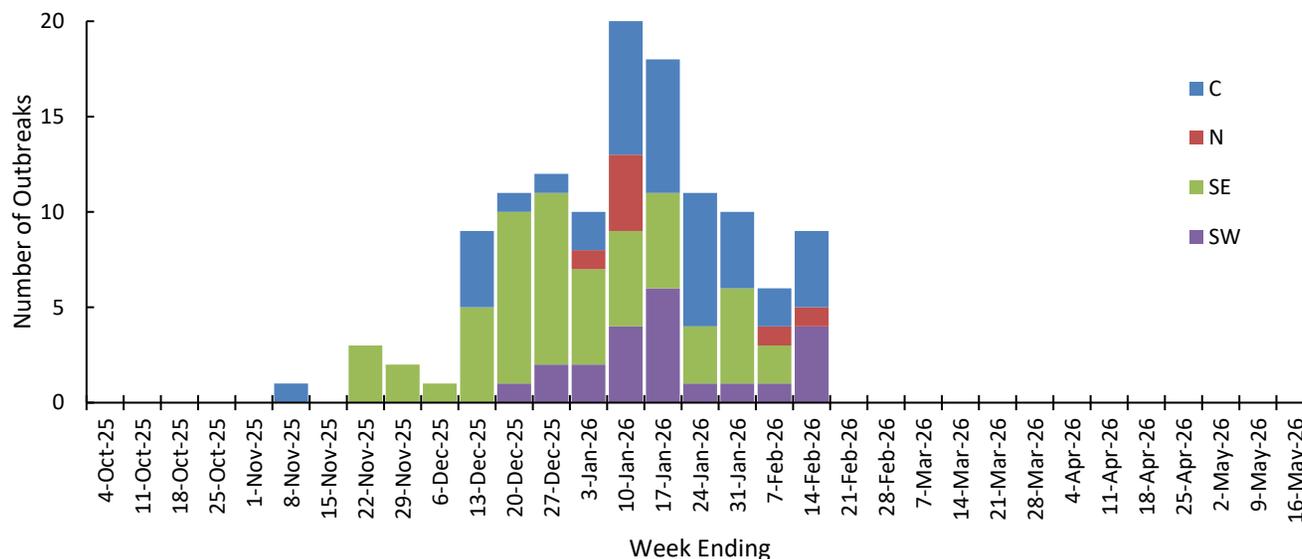
There were **9** (4C, 1N, 0SE, 4SW) confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

# of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Region

Facility Type	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Schools: K-12 & College	5	0	16	2	<b>23</b>
Long-term Care / Assisted Living Facility	32	6	30	20	<b>88</b>
Healthcare Facility	3	1	2	0	<b>6</b>
Daycare	0	0	4	0	<b>4</b>
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Correctional Facility	0	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Other	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>124</b>

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](#).

## What's the deal with Moderna's mRNA flu shot and the FDA? Here's what the experts say:



HALTING VACCINE INNOVATION, YOUNGER COLORECTAL CANCER DEATHS, LINGERING FLU, AND GOOD NEWS ([KATELYN JETELINA & HANNAH TOTTE](#))

Flu vaccines help, but they're far from perfect. In most years, they reduce the risk of hospitalization by roughly 40–60%. (To compare, the measles vaccine is 97% effectiveness against severe disease). Flu changes quickly, which means innovative vaccines are needed. [...] So, *Moderna invested an estimated \$500–700 million* to develop a new mRNA flu vaccine candidate. *Results showed 26% better protection in adults over 50* with the mRNA flu vaccine than with standard flu shots, a meaningful gain. Side effects such as fatigue and chills were more common (as they are with mRNA Covid-19 vaccines).

### THE CONVERSATION

FDA'S ABRUPT FLIP-FLOP ON MODERNA'S MRNA FLU SHOT HIGHLIGHTS GROWING RISKS TO DRUG-MAKERS OF INVESTING IN VACCINES ([ANA SANTOS RUTSCHMAN](#))

With so many areas in vaccine law and policy in turmoil, *incentives for vaccine manufacturers to bring vaccines to market are shrinking*. Recent changes in the FDA's approach, *including proposals on new standards for testing vaccines that many vaccine experts have called impossible to achieve*, have raised major concerns. Already, multiple vaccine manufacturers, including Moderna, have announced plans to *scale back their investment in vaccine research and cut jobs*.

### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

HOW FLU VACCINE POLICIES AFFECT THE ECONOMY ([MICHAEL W. HODIN](#))

Investment in preventive health is critical as our population ages. [...] Healthy aging affects labor markets. We can expect labor shortages unless older adults can continue to work. *The [International Monetary Fund] report recognizes that to ensure a robust 21st-century workforce and fuel economic activity generally, those of us over 55 must be able to play a part. We can't do so if we're not given the tools for healthier longevity.*

### Influenza News Blast

- Experts Warn of Rising Flu Cases—Here's Where to Get Home Tests ([Prevention](#))
- Epi Minute 23: Looking at Influenza A and B ([City of St. Louis](#))
- After a Devastating Bird Flu Outbreak, Scotland's Seabirds Are Slowly Recovering—and So Are the Scientists Who Witnessed Their Decline ([Smithsonian Magazine](#))
- Bird flu strain hits two Indiana counties for first time. What to know ([Indy Star](#))
- N.J. reports 1,100+ dead birds, Pa. dealing with millions affected by bird flu ([WHYY](#))
- Novel flu nasal spray may provide short-term protection in pandemic, researchers say ([CIDRAP](#))
- Health Rounds: Moderna combo flu/COVID vaccine succeeds in mid-stage trial ([Reuters](#))

### 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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