



This monthly report is meant to share the latest trends and news in communicable disease for Oak Park and our surrounding community. If you have any questions about communicable or emerging diseases, please reach out to the Public Health Department at health@oak-park.us or 708.358.5480.

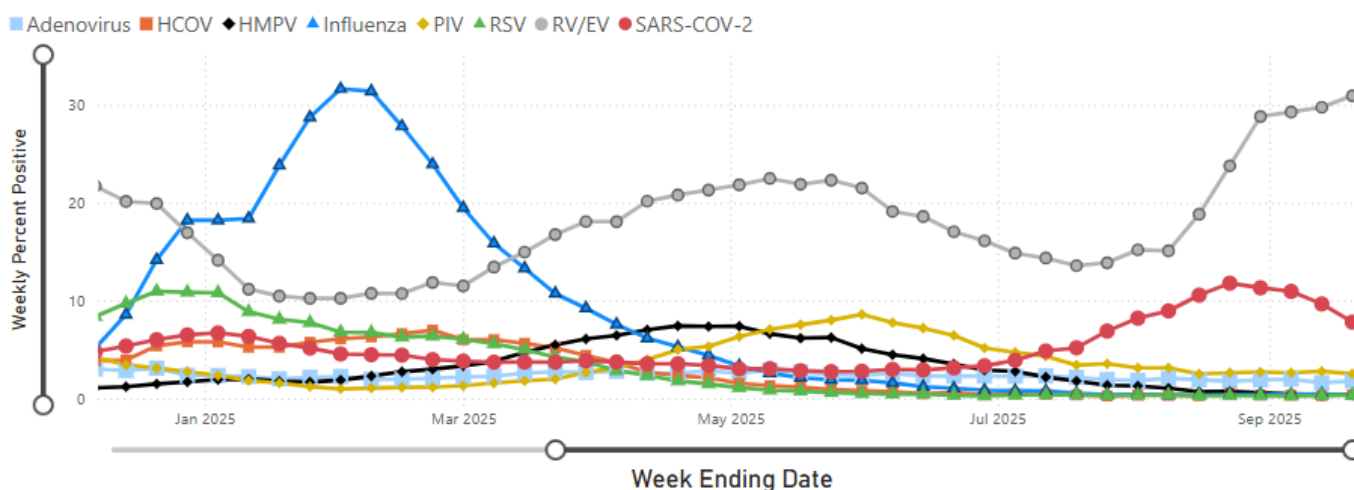
Disease Surveillance Update

Respiratory Virus Season

Nationally, as COVID-19 transmission declines, common cold viruses (RV/EV) continue to rise. If you've experienced respiratory symptoms recently, the most likely culprits are either COVID-19 or a common cold virus. The graph below shows the trends in positive test results for respiratory viruses this year from the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System.

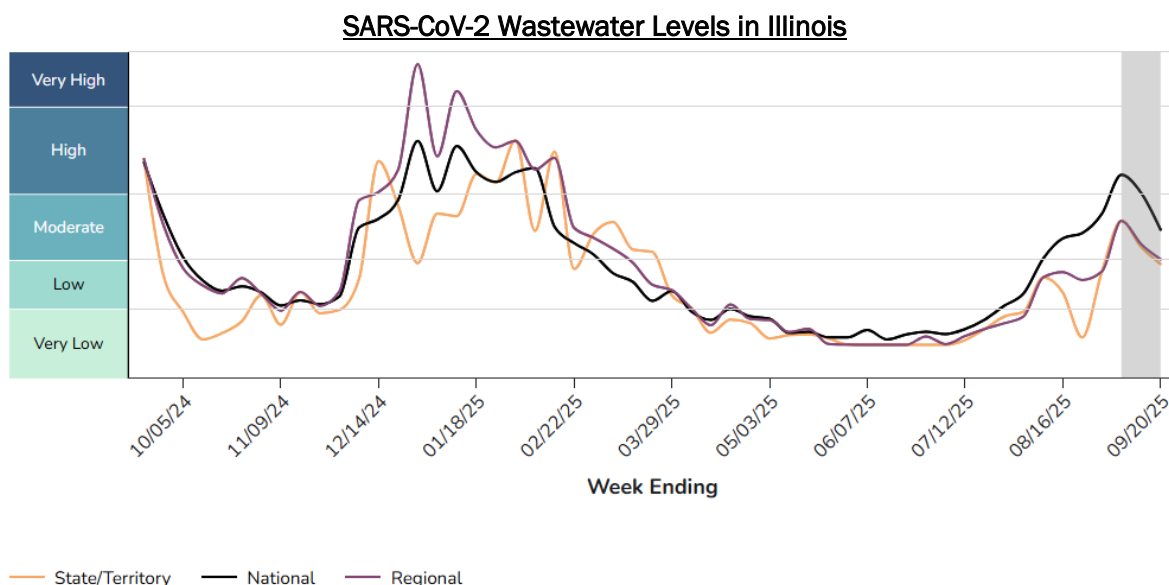
- The dotted red line shows the summer wave of COVID-19, which is now receding.
- The grey dotted line shows common cold viruses, which are currently experiencing a significant spike.
- The blue triangular line represents flu activity, which peaked in late winter last year. This seasonal pattern is why October is an ideal time to get your flu shot—it ensures your immunity lasts through the entire flu season.

Weekly percent of tests positive for respiratory viruses reported to NREVSS



COVID-19

In Illinois's wastewater viral activity, we observe a similar trend to the national one. The summer wave of COVID-19 has finally peaked, with ER visits, wastewater levels, and positive test rates all trending downward after cases steadily rose since June. The current wastewater viral activity in Illinois is considered moderate, but it's expected to continue to come down for the remainder of the month before another wave is anticipated in November. This year's summer wave remained lower than last year's peak, likely due to the absence of a dramatically new variant driving transmission.



Source: [National Wastewater Surveillance System](#)

Vaccination Recommendations

Whether it is a cold or COVID-19, when you're sick, the best steps you can take are to stay home if possible, wash your hands frequently, wear a mask in public if you must go out, and most importantly, get vaccinated when eligible. Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of hospitalization. While recent vaccination guidance in the media may be confusing, Illinois has taken clear action: In September, Governor Pritzker and the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued a [standing order](#) ensuring access to respiratory vaccines for everyone. The IDPH immunization recommendations for the 2025-2026 respiratory season were developed by the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee (IL-IAC), comprised of highly qualified public health and medical experts.

COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations:

- All children ages 6 months through 23 months.
 - Children ages 2 through 17 years who have at least one underlying risk factor, who have weakened immune systems, who have never been previously vaccinated for COVID-19, who live in congregate settings, or live in households with those at risk for severe COVID-19.
- OR
- Children ages 2 through 17 years without underlying risk factors whose parents/guardians want them to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - All pregnant people and those who are planning pregnancy, those who are postpartum (after pregnancy), or during lactation.
 - All adults 18 years and older.

Federal insurance programs, fully-insured plans subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), state-regulated insurance programs, and most private [insurers](#) will cover COVID-19 vaccination. Those who do not have health insurance or whose insurance does not cover vaccines can go to PCC Community Wellness Center at West Suburban Hospital, Cook County Department of Public Health clinic locations, or the Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic.

Flu Vaccination Recommendations:

As in previous years, seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older. October is the ideal time to get your flu shot, ensuring your immunity remains strong throughout the entire flu season, which can extend through May.

RSV Vaccination Recommendations:

- All infants under the age of 8 months whose mothers did not receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy.
- Certain children ages 8-19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease.
- All pregnant people during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy.
- Adults ages 50-74 years at increased risk of severe RSV disease.
- All adults ages 75 years and older.

For more information, please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health's vaccination guidelines at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2025/september/release-20250923.html>. You can also find CDC immunization schedules for routine vaccinations for both adults and children there.

Measles

Illinois has reported [12 measles cases](#) so far this year, while outbreaks and cases continue to rise nationally, [with the highest number of cases seen in over 30 years](#). Of all measles cases reported in 2025, 92% occurred in individuals who were either unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status.

Protection Recommendations

- Know your vaccination status. If you are unsure, talk to your healthcare provider and get your titers drawn or get a booster shot.
- All persons over 12 months should have 2 appropriately spaced doses of the MMR vaccine.
- Population immunity above 95% helps protect vulnerable groups who cannot be vaccinated (infants and immunocompromised individuals).

Bird Flu (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza)

In July, the CDC transitioned to monthly reporting on people monitored and animals tested, reflecting the decline in human cases and animal detections. Outbreaks have slowed during the warmer summer months. Importantly, there has been no documented human-to-human transmission, and the risk to the [general public remains low](#).

Source: [CDC](#)

Situation summary of confirmed and probable human cases since 2024

