BI-WEEKLY INFLUENZA EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORT

01 OCTOBER 2025

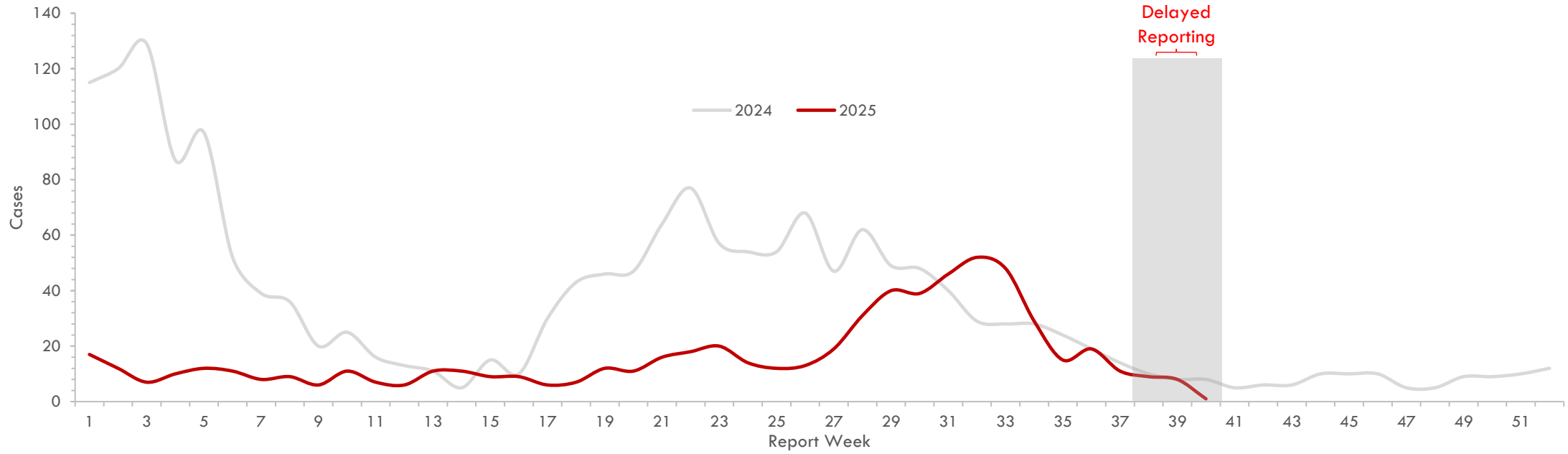
Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health || Office of Epidemiology and Research
155 Hesler Pl || Hagatna, GU 96910

COVID-19 || Special Report

Key Points

- **Figure SR1**[3] illustrates the number of COVID-19 cases detected by the DPHSS for the year 2024 and 2025.
- COVID-19 has yet to demonstrate predictability in Guam, but in late July to early August, DPHSS observed activity levels that aligned with the prior year (2024).
- This continued alignment with prior years is seen as well, with recent indication of decreasing in COVID-19 cases.
- Regardless, this activity has been expected and viral respiratory guidance and prevention measures have been encouraged.

Figure SR1. Weekly COVID-19 case detections in Guam, 2024-2025.



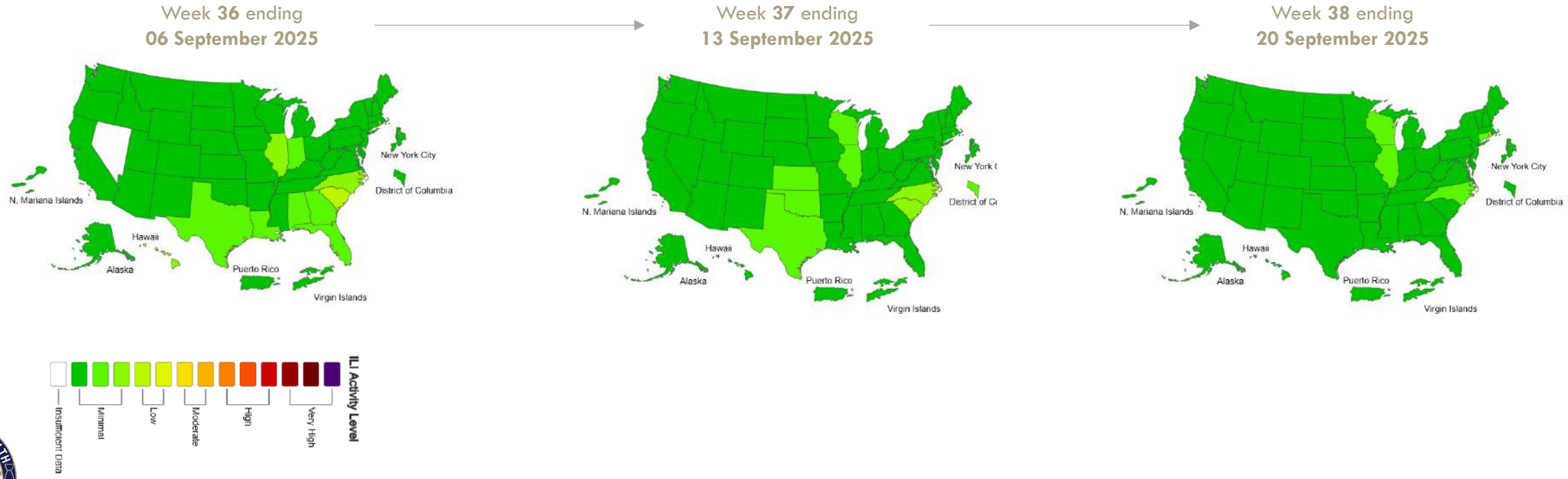
[2]CDC COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Levels; [3]Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard

Influenza || Nationwide ILI Situation

KEY POINTS

- Majority of jurisdictions nationwide continue to report very minimal influenza-like illness (ILI) activity (**Figure 1**).
- In recent weeks, however, there have been fluctuations in ILI activity with indication of increasing ILI activity starting in mid-August, but has since then decreased in mid-September

Figure 1. ILI activity map for MMWR weeks 36-38.[1]



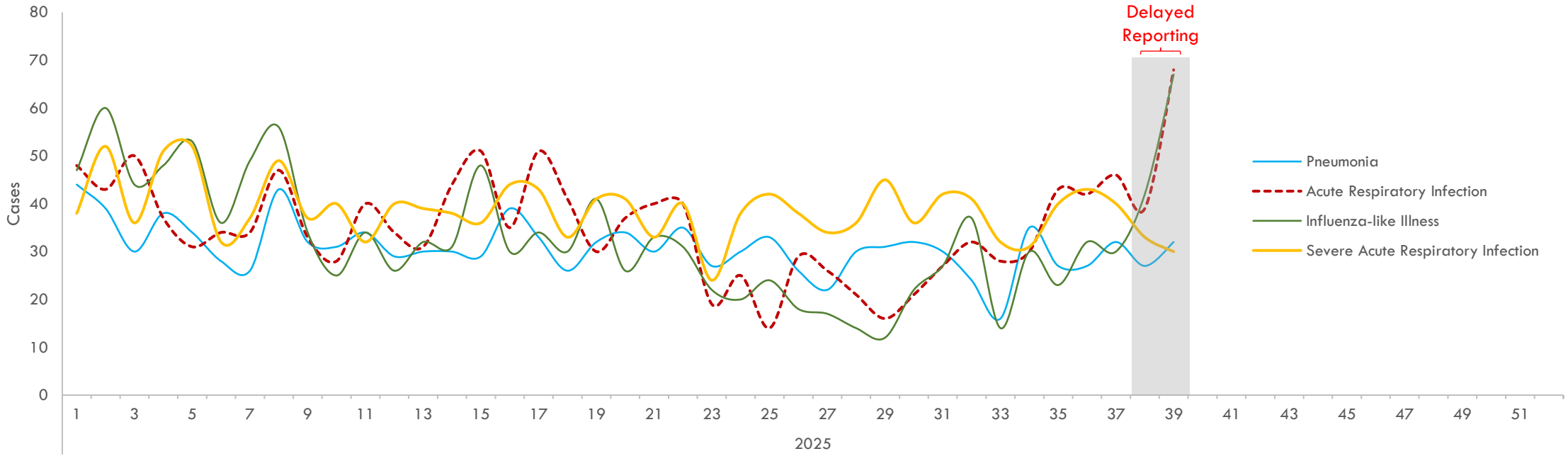
[1]Outpatient respiratory illness activity map determined by data reported to ILINet (CDC)

Influenza || Guam Syndromic Surveillance

Key Points

- Pneumonia (PN), severe-/acute respiratory infection (S-/ARI) , and influenza-like illness (ILI), **Figure 2,** are syndromic surveillance indicators that provide an early warning signal for potential viral respiratory illness epidemics (e.g., COVID-19, Influenza, RSV).
- **Figure 2** illustrates encounters at the emergency rooms of GMHA and GRMC.
- As seen in **Figure 2,** weekly reports of each indicator have remained consistent throughout 2025.
- However, in the past 2 weeks there were signs of elevated reports of ILI and ARI, signaling entry into Guam's viral respiratory season.

Figure 2. Weekly Emergency Room visits for pneumonia, (severe) acute respiratory infection, and influenza-like illness in 2025.



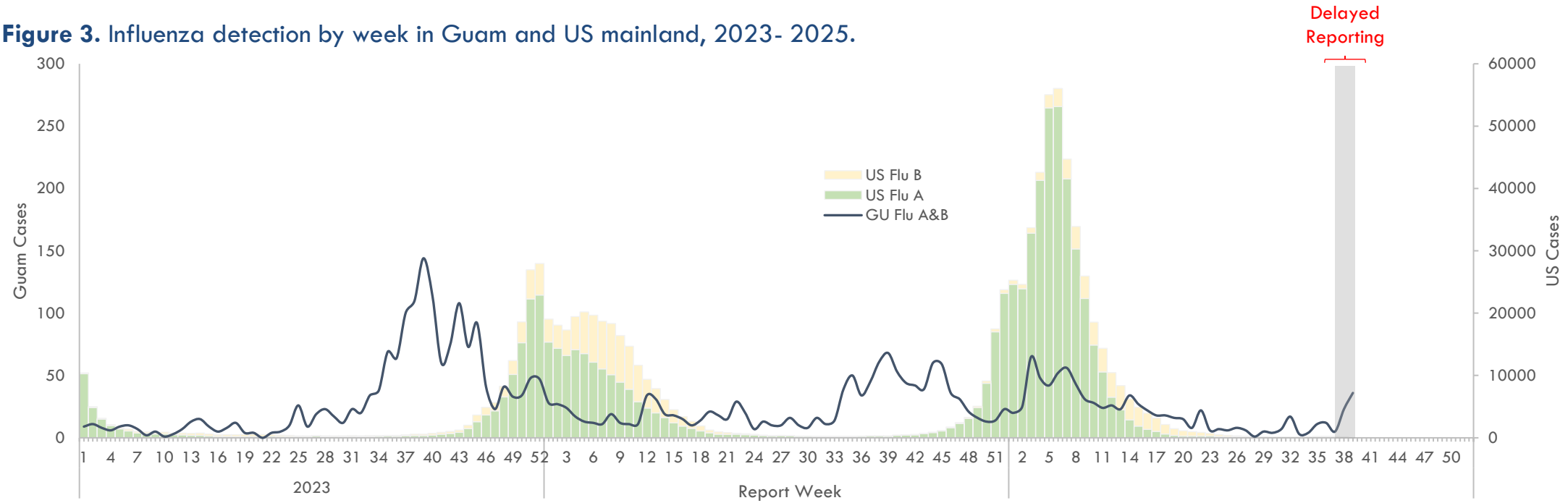
[2]CDC Influenza Results by Clinical Laboratories, National Summary; [3]Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard

Influenza || Guam vs Nationwide comparison

KEY POINTS

- Guam's influenza season precedes the mainland US (**Figure 3**)[2-3], however, early 2025 demonstrated a degree of agreement in trends.
- Influenza continues to remain minimal in the mainland US.
- However, as seen in **Figure 3,** Guam continues to detect influenza cases, with a notable increase in the past 2 weeks.
- This increase was anticipated, and it continues to align with what has been observed historically, falling well within the expected range (**Figure 4**).

Figure 3. Influenza detection by week in Guam and US mainland, 2023- 2025.



[2]CDC Influenza Results by Clinical Laboratories, National Summary; [3]Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard

Influenza || Local trend

KEY POINTS

- **Figure 4**[3] represents all influenza cases by week in Guam from 2023-present, including the 2yr average and bounds.
- Influenza case detection continues to align with the 2yr average.
- There has been a recent uptick in influenza cases, and its continued rise is expected in the coming weeks. As previously mentioned, this sudden rise was anticipated compared to the previous 2-yr average.

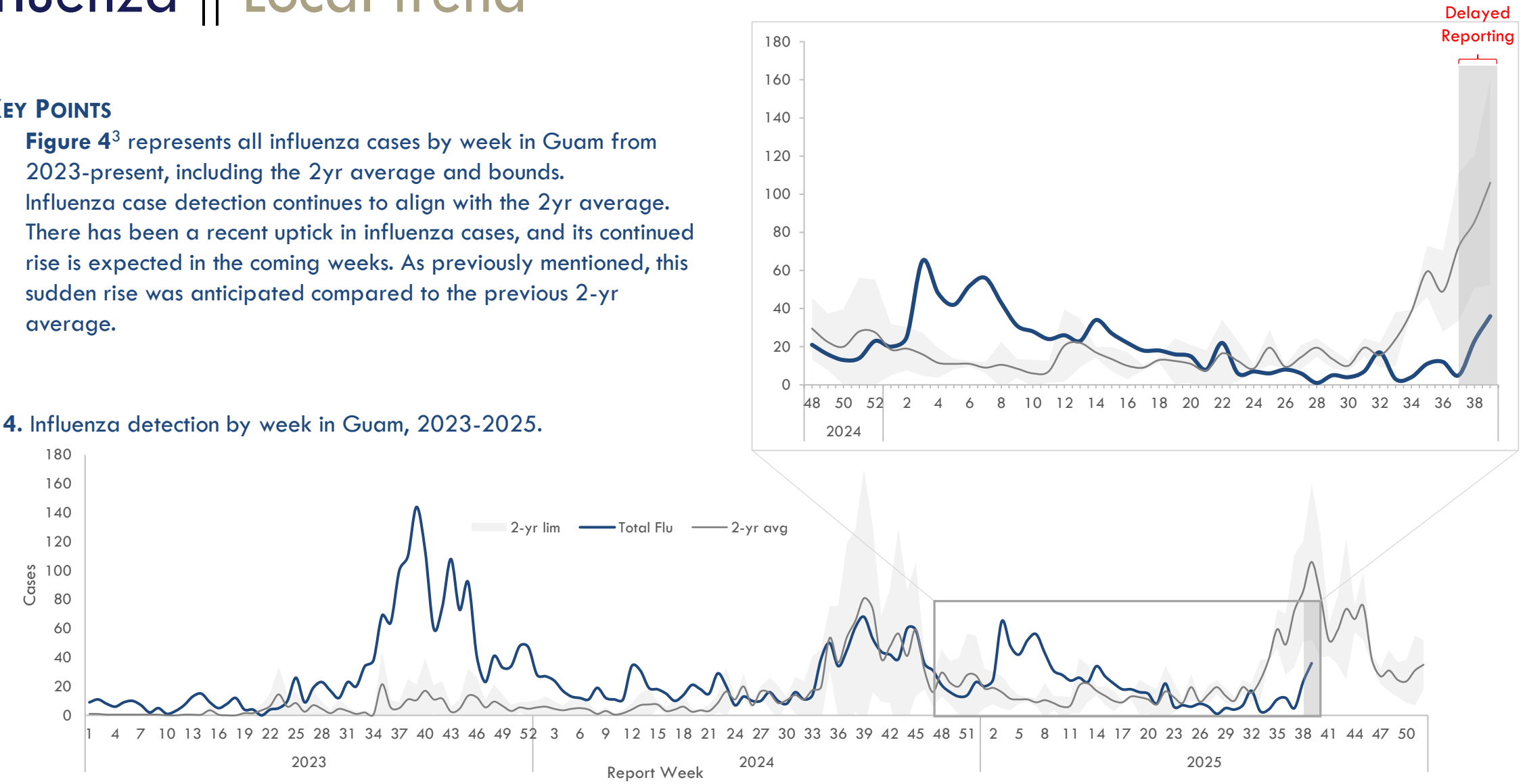


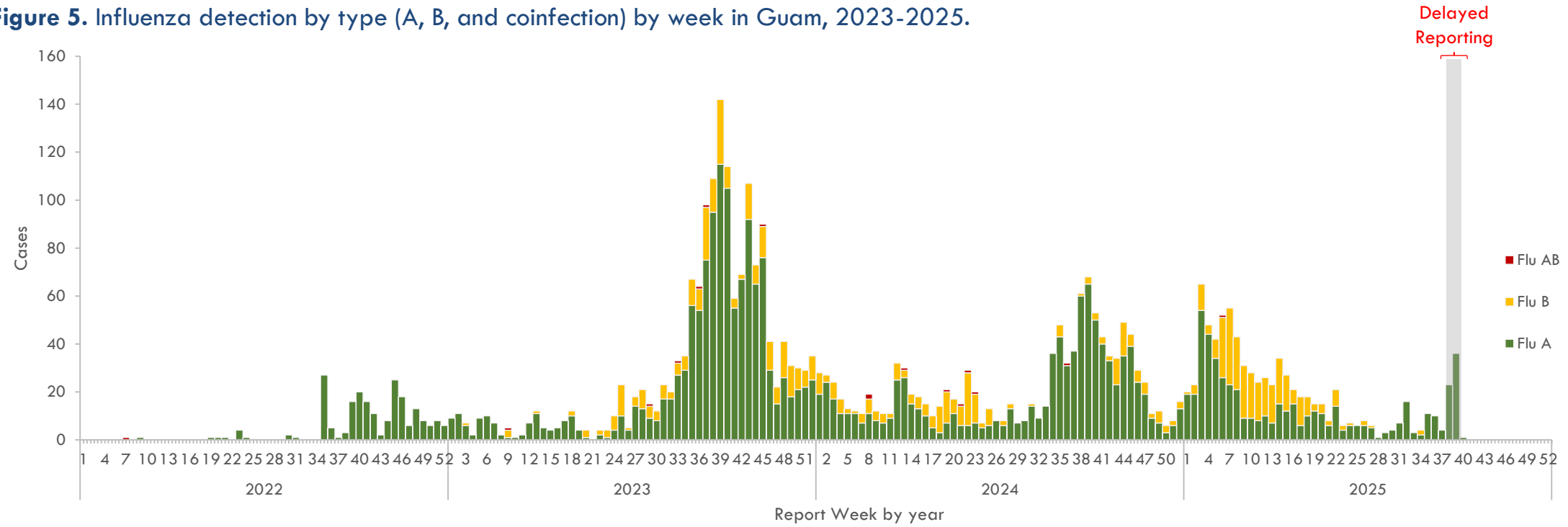
Figure 4. Influenza detection by week in Guam, 2023-2025.

Influenza || Local trend (continued)

KEY POINTS

- Influenza A continues to make up the majority influenza type in circulation (**Figure 5**).[3]
- Preliminary wastewater surveillance data for Guam also provides supporting evidence that Influenza A is the dominant type observed in the community.

Figure 5. Influenza detection by type (A, B, and coinfection) by week in Guam, 2023-2025.



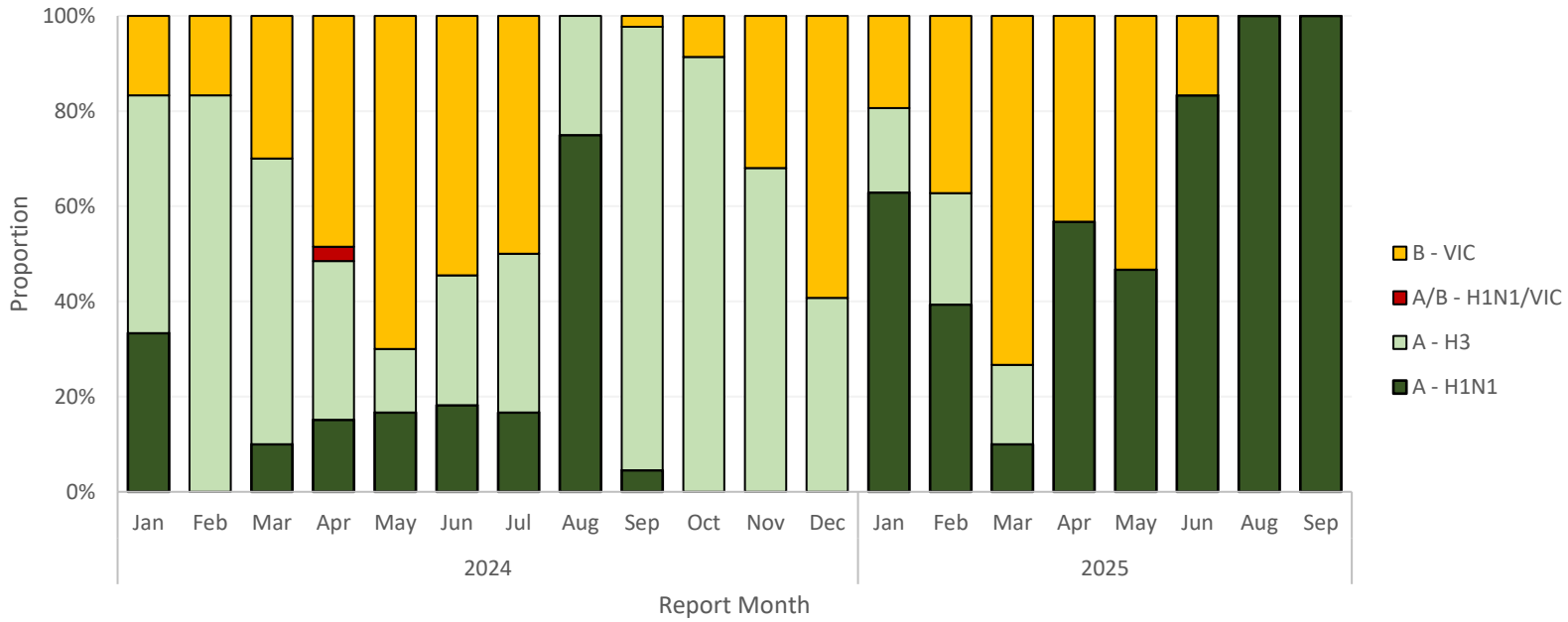
Influenza || Local trend (continued)

KEY POINTS

- Influenza A/H1N1 remained the dominant subtype detected in Guam and reported in September 2025.
- This is in stark contrast to what has been reported in September 2024, with the dominant subtype being H3.
- *Note, the figure below presents the date of subtype, not the date of sample collection. The number of samples subtyped for September 2024 are also small. Providers are encouraged to continue submitting samples for subtyping at the Guam Public Health Laboratory.*

Providers are encouraged to submit influenza samples for further subtyping to Guam Public Health Laboratory

Figure 6. Proportion of influenza subtype by month in Guam, 2024-2025.



[4]Data provided by the Guam Public Health Laboratory

Influenza || Local trend (continued)

KEY POINTS

- Providers are encouraged to submit influenza samples for subtyping by Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL).
- GPHL continues to receive antigen characteristic results from the CDC, which determine whether circulating influenza strains in Guam are captured by the virus component used in the influenza vaccine formulations.
- To date, for 2025, GPHL received confirmation of **4** local influenza isolates antigenically characterized and confirmed for being antigenically related to A/WISCONSIN/67/2022-LIKE (H1N1)pdm09 virus.
  - This reference virus component is used in the 2024-2025 northern hemisphere and 2025 southern hemisphere cell-based influenza-vaccine formulations.[5]

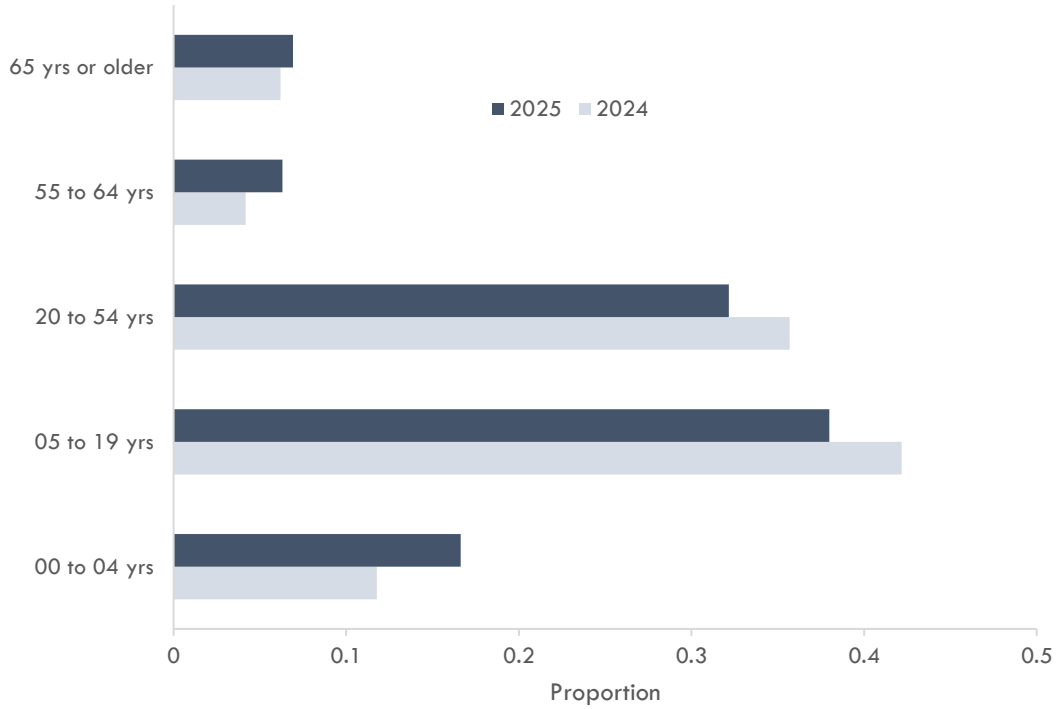
[5]Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines, WHO

Influenza || Local trend (continued)

KEY POINTS

- Majority of those reported with influenza consist of the school-age children (05 to 19 years) and those ages 19 to 54 years) (**Figure 7**).[3]
- The proportion of age groups remains relatively consistent between 2024 and 2025.
- Hospitalizations associated with influenza continue to remain minimal based off on NHSN hospital respiratory data reporting.

Figure 7. Proportion of age groups diagnosed with influenza in Guam, 2024 and 2025.



[3]Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard

Additional Information

Scan the QR Code to visit
the Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard.

For additional information or for general inquiries, please contact dphss.surveillance@dphss.guam.gov.

Surveillance data are compiled by one or more of the following members of the Surveillance team: Angelika Argao, Aaron Arizala.
Influenza viral characteristics are provided by one or more of the following Guam Public Health Laboratory team: Raven Aguon, Keno Hsueh, Michael O'Mallan, Alan Mallari, Anne Marie Santos.