

Viral Respiratory Disease Epidemiology Brief

Office of Epidemiology and Research

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The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting high levels of viral respiratory illnesses across the nation. **Figure 1¹** illustrates acute respiratory illness (ARI) activities in all 50 states, including the US Territories. ARI captures a broad range of diagnoses from emergency department visits for respiratory illnesses ranging from the common cold to infections such as influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. It captures visits that may not present with fever, offering a more complete picture than the previous influenza-like illness metric. Thus, ARI provides a highly sensitive characterization of respiratory illnesses that can guide early alerts and public health action.

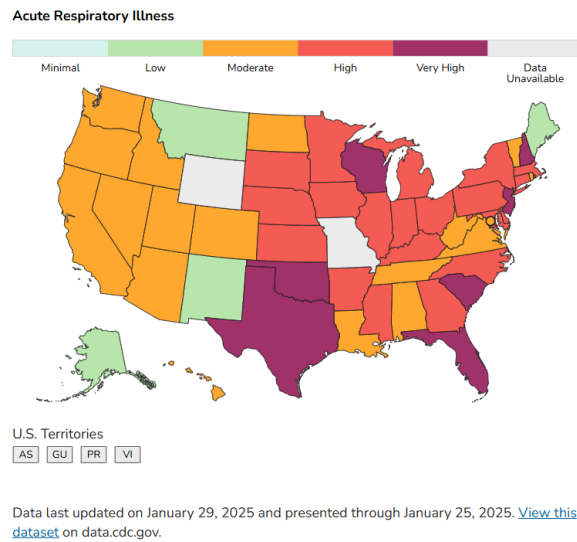


Figure 1 ARI levels as of January 25, 2025

Figure 2¹ represents the proportion of emergency department (ED) visits due to COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV. January 2025 has demonstrated a rise in all three viral illnesses and has seen a more precipitous rise in influenza. In the week ending January 25, 2025, influenza accounted for 7.0% of ED visits in the US, COVID-19 accounted for 1.0%, and RSV accounted for 0.5%.

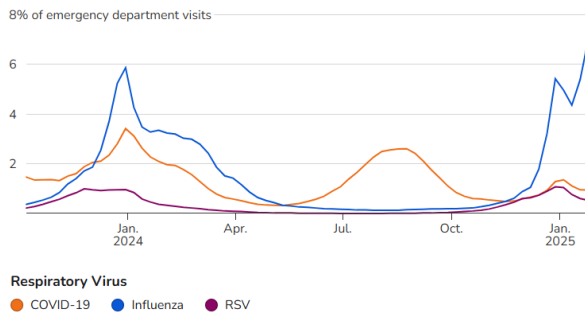


Figure 2 Percent ED visits due to viral respiratory disease

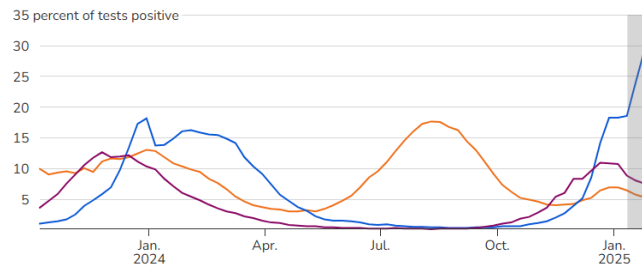
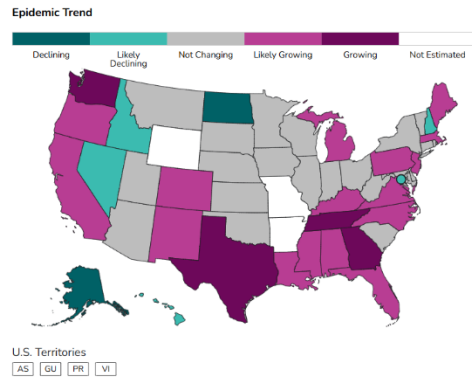


Figure 3 Test positivity for COVID, Influenza, RSV

Likewise, the percent of tests positive for respiratory viruses is increasing (**Figure 3¹**). Note the shaded area in Figure 3 represents preliminary data. In the week ending January 25, 2025, of the total number of viral tests collected, 35.0% detected COVID-19 (5.4%), influenza (29.4%), and RSV (7.6%)

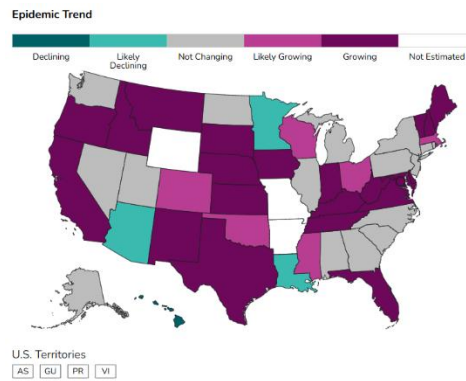
¹ Respiratory Virus Activity Levels. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/activity-levels.html>

Figures 4 and 5¹ model the epidemic trends for COVID-19 and Influenza in the US. New weekly cases of COVID-19 are being detected at a faster rate along the West Coast and Southern states.



Data last updated on January 28, 2025 and presented through January 28, 2025.

Figure 2 Epidemic trend for COVID-19



Data last updated on January 28, 2025 and presented through January 28, 2025.

Figure 5 Epidemic trend for Influenza

While the rate of new weekly cases of Influenza is simultaneously growing, the growing rate of weekly Influenza cases appear to be more dispersed throughout the continental US. Data on RSV is not collected.

Figure 6² depicts the incidence rate of laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations by age group. The rate of hospitalization is highest in individuals 65 years or older, followed by those ages 50 to 64 years and those who are less than 5 years of age.

Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Associations, FluSurv-NET, 2024-25
Preliminary weekly rates as of Jan 25, 2025

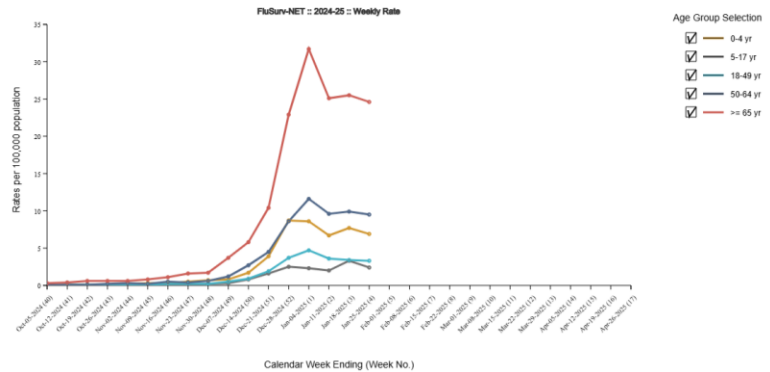


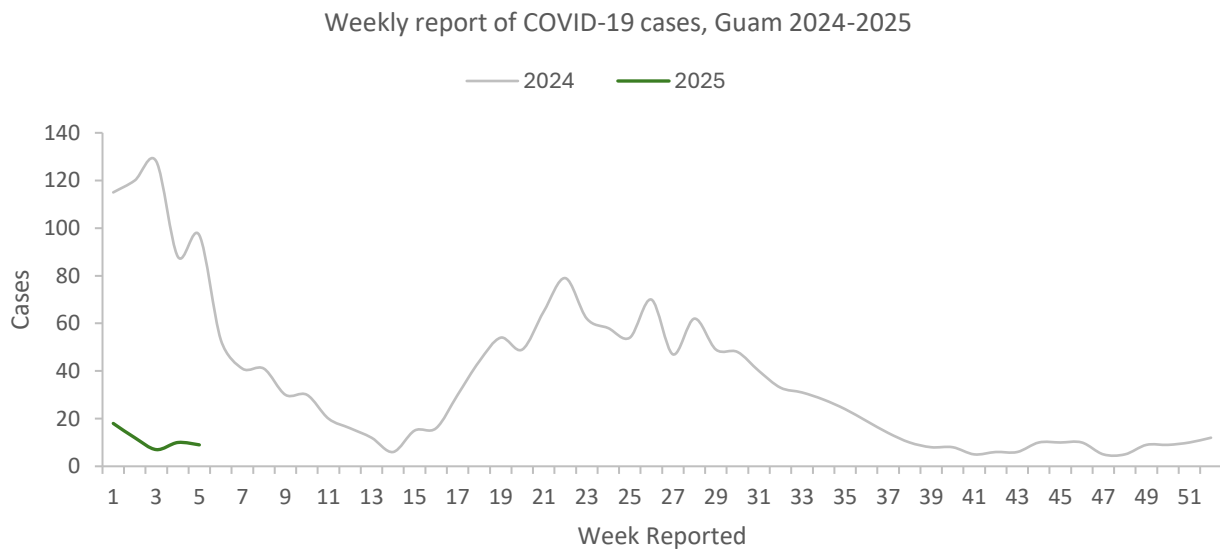
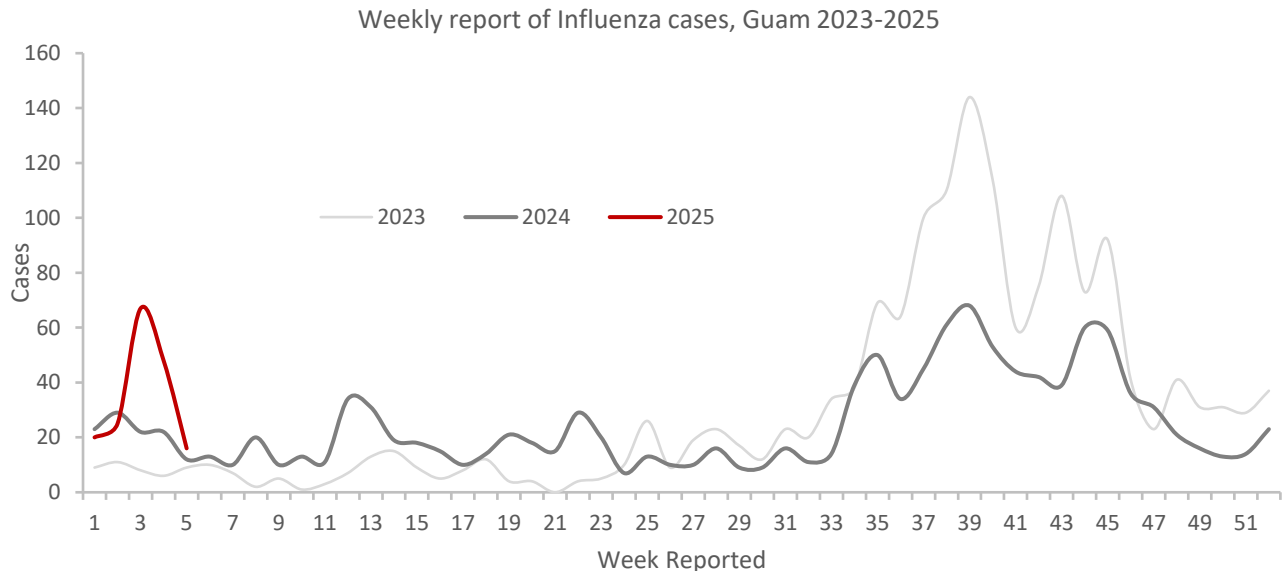
Figure 6 Lab-confirmed influenza hospitalizations

These rates are similarly observed in patients hospitalized with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 result (figure unavailable)³. While the hospitalization rate for both COVID-19 and Influenza decreased in mid-January and appear to stabilize, in consideration of the data presented, the community is urged to be mindful of the growing risk of spread for COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, and other potential respiratory illnesses.

² Rates of influenza hospitalization. CDC. <https://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>

³ COVID-NET Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations. CDC. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#covidnet-hospitalization-network>

Guam⁴ observed a decline in Influenza and COVID-19 reports in mid-January 2025. However, reported Influenza activity continues to remain above activity levels detected in previous years. Although Guam continues to report on COVID-19 cases, data presented may be inaccurate due to lack of reporting of at-home testing. Data retrieved through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Hospital Respiratory Data module indicates low to no hospital admissions in patients with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, Influenza, or RSV result for the year 2025.



⁴ Guam Communicable Disease Dashboard. DPHSS.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/269209cc73ac4743a83f622e146fcb0f>