

Yale Campus Health Surveillance Report

ALLERGIES

TREE POLLEN	RAGWEED	MOLD	GRASS	DUST AND DANDER
HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	HIGH

WEEKLY AQI: **FAIR**

[NEW HAVEN, CT](#)

Potential Heat Risks:

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
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NWS Forecast:



NEW HAVEN COUNTY

Respiratory illness
causing people to seek healthcare is

LOW

WASTEWATER VIRAL ACTIVITY LEVEL IN CONNECTICUT

COVID-19

Moderate

Flu

Very Low

RSV

Very Low

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN NEW HAVEN COUNTY

COVID-19

Very Low
Decreasing ↘

Flu

Low
Decreasing ↘

RSV

Low
No Change

Current Health Risks

CT COVID-19

US COVID-19

CT - Influenza

US - Influenza

CT - RSV

H5N1

US Measles Cases

Southwest Measles Outbreak

News and Updates



29 April 2025
As of 1500 Hours EDT

YNHH

COVID

- 6 COVID+ INPATIENTS
 - 0 IN THE ICU
 - 0 IN THE ED

RSV

- 1 INPATIENTS
 - 0 IN THE ICU

INFLUENZA

- 6 INPATIENTS
 - 2 IN THE ICU

Respiratory virus
conditions are **MODERATE**

based on local/regional public health indicators



Masking is
recommended
for all staff
and patients.

Masking is
required for
those with
respiratory
symptoms.

Yale HEALTH

LINKS

US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CDC

- [CDC – COVID-19](#)
- [CDC A\(H5N1\) BIRD FLU RESPONSE UPDATE](#)
- [CDC- TICKS](#)
- [CDC HEALTH RISKS](#)
- [CDC HEAT AND HEALTH TRACKER](#)
- [CDC MEASLES](#)
- [CDC MPOX](#)
- [CDC STACKS REPORTS](#)
- [CDC RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES DATA CHANNEL](#)

USDA AVIAN INFLUENZAS

FEMA – FEMA

NWS – HEATRISK HEAT.GOV

JOURNALS AND ONLINE LIBRARIES

- [JAMA NETWORK](#)
- [THE LANCET COVID -19 RESOURCE CENTRE](#)
- [NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE](#)

PORTALS, BLOGS, AND RESOURCES

- [CIDRAP](#)
- [FORCE OF INFECTION](#)
- [KHN](#)
- [MEDPAGE TODAY](#)
- [OUTBREAK](#)
- [GCHS](#)
- [CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF TRAUMATIC STRESS](#)
- [YLE](#)
- [NYS GLOBAL HEALTH UPDATE REPORT](#)

NEWS SOURCES

- [NEW YORK TIMES](#)
- [WASHINGTON POST](#)
- [REUTERS](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [NBC CT](#)
- [INSIDE HIGHER ED](#)
- [OUTBREAK NEWS TODAY](#)

Current Health Risks

COVID

- **Nationally:** COVID-19 activity continues to decline nationally. Wastewater levels are at low levels, emergency department visits are at very low levels, and laboratory percent positivity is stable
- **Connecticut:** Wastewater levels for COVID-19 are **moderate**. Over the past four weeks. There have been:
 - **415** reported cases. This is a slight increase, which was expected based on the wastewater levels.
 - **118** reported cases required hospitalization. Hospitalization numbers continue to decline steadily.
 - **2** deaths during the month of April. (**322** for the season)
- **YNHH:** On April 29, there were **6** hospitalized cases, with **0** in the ICU

INFLUENZA

- **Nationally:** Seasonal influenza activity continues to decline.
- **Connecticut:** Levels of influenza in wastewater are **very low** and decreasing. Over the past two weeks, there have been:
 - **557** reported cases
 - **14** hospitalizations
 - **3** deaths in April (**196** for the season)
- **YNHH:** On April 29, there were **6** hospitalized cases, with **2** in the ICU

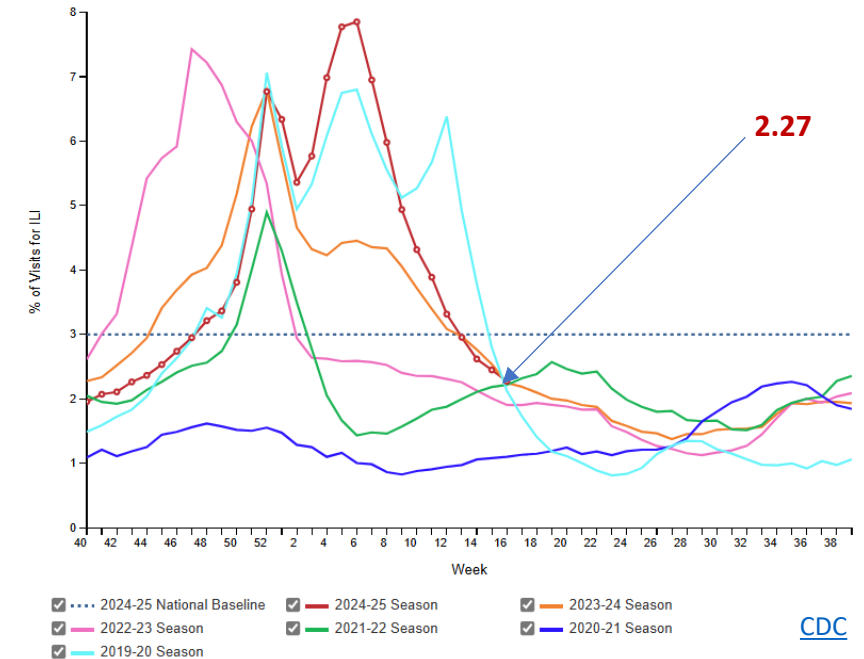
RSV

- **Nationally:** RSV activity is declining in most areas of the country
- **Connecticut:** Wastewater levels for RSV are **very low** and declining. Over the past two weeks, there have been:
 - **65** reported cases
 - **2** hospitalizations
 - No deaths
- **YNHH:** On April 29, there was **1** hospitalized case, with **0** in the ICU

• **PERTUSSIS: Reported** cases of whooping cough (pertussis) continue to be elevated nationwide. In 2025, the U.S. had 8,077 cases of whooping cough. Much of this is due to declining vaccination rates.

• **NOROVIRUS:** Norovirus persists at a high level (11.85% test positivity rate) but is declining nationwide. In the Northeast, test positivity has declined to 8.31%. ([CDC NREVSS DASHBOARD](#))

Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Respiratory Illness Reported by The U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (Week 16), Ending (4/19/2025)



- The CDC has classified the current 2024-2025 flu season as a high-severity season for all age groups. This is the first high-severity season since the 2017-2018 season.
- This week's percentage remained stable (change of ≤ 0.1 percentage points) compared to Week 12 and remains above the national baseline of 3.0% for the eighteenth consecutive week.

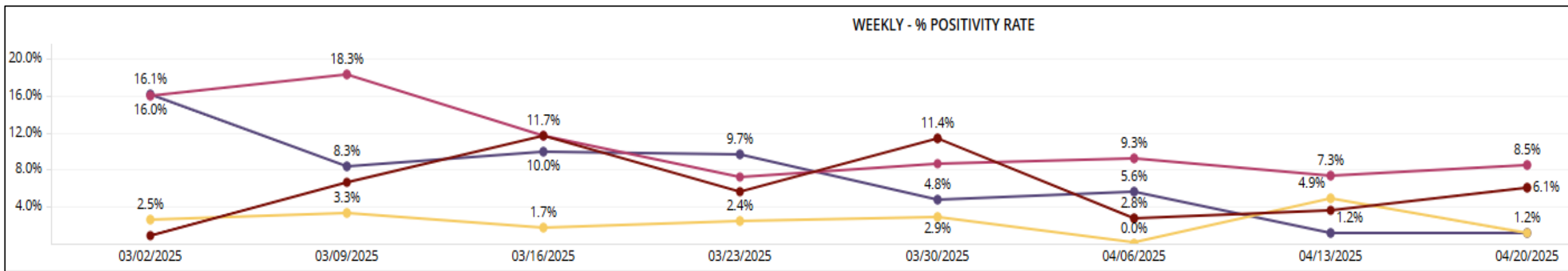
Influenza Season Metrics, CDC, 2024-2025 Season

Estimated Infections	Estimated Hospitalizations	Estimated Deaths	Pediatric Deaths
47 Million	610,000	26,000	204 (+6)

Yale Health Respiratory Surveillance Data

Yale Health Surveillance Data – March 2, 2025, through April 26, 2025

The following test positivity data represents trends for patients seen at Yale Health in the past 8 weeks and may not reflect trends and positivity rates of the general population outside of Yale Health. Data for the current week are incomplete and subject to change.



POC CHPHEID Components: ■ SARS COV-1 (Covid-19) | ■ RSV | ■ Influenza A | ■ Influenza B

What to Know for the Spring Virus Season

Respiratory viruses like flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), remain important public health threats. CDC estimates that there have been at least 40 million illnesses, 520,000 hospitalizations, and 22,000 deaths from flu so far this season. Additionally, RSV is a leading cause of infant hospitalization in the United States.

Vaccination is a core strategy for lowering your risk of hospitalization, long-term health impacts, and death from these viruses. The good news is that you can get these vaccines at the same time.

Home tests for both COVID-19 and flu are available, including some that can test for both flu and COVID-19. Treatments for flu and for COVID-19 can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you are sick

Contact your primary health care provider to ask about available vaccinations or treatment options.

Yale Health

Respiratory Virus Conditions

Based on local/regional public health indicators

Moderate

Recommendations

Masking is recommended but not required. Individuals with respiratory symptoms are still required to wear a mask and may be asked to do so.

Employees in all departments are still required to wear masks when interacting directly with patients who have respiratory symptoms or a chief complaint. Masking is recommended but not required for other patient-facing interactions. Staff should also consider wearing masks if the patient is wearing one, regardless of their chief complaint.

Connecticut Cases: COVID-19

For the Week Ending 4/19/2025

COVID Current Week Case Count (Incomplete)

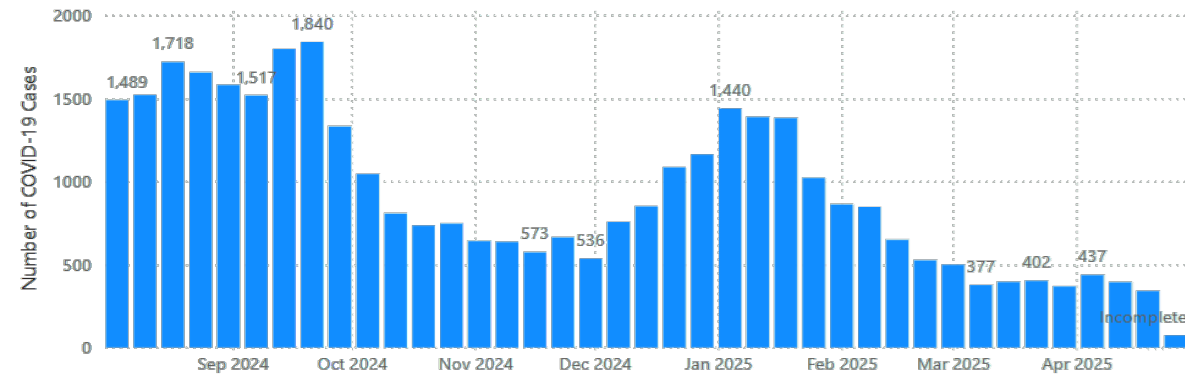
74

COVID Previous Week Case Count

341

Number of COVID-19 Cases by Week

Current Week is Incomplete

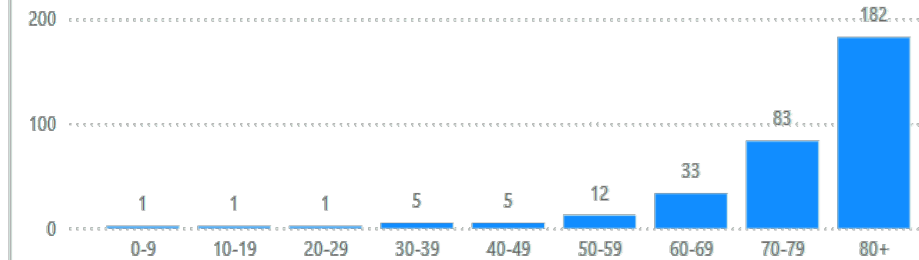


COVID-19 Deaths

For the 2024-2025 Viral Respiratory Disease Season

323

Number of COVID-19-Associated Deaths by Age Group



COVID - 19 Hospitalizations

Current Week

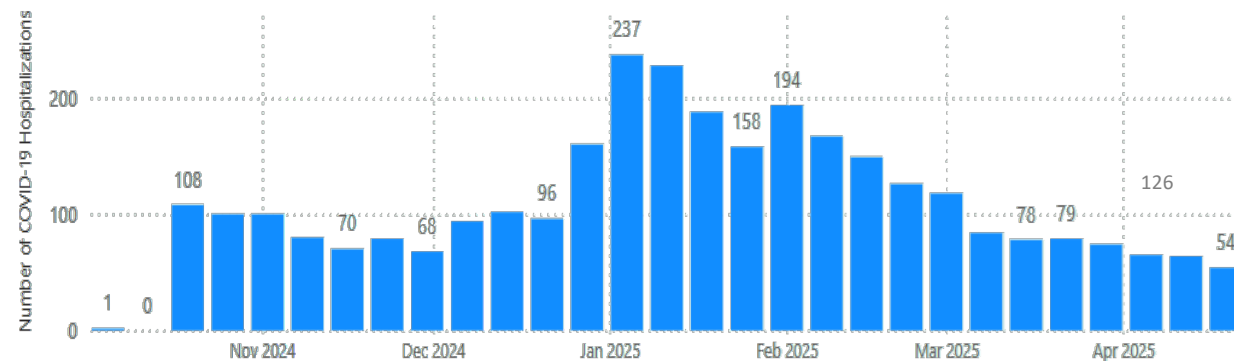
54

Previous Week

64

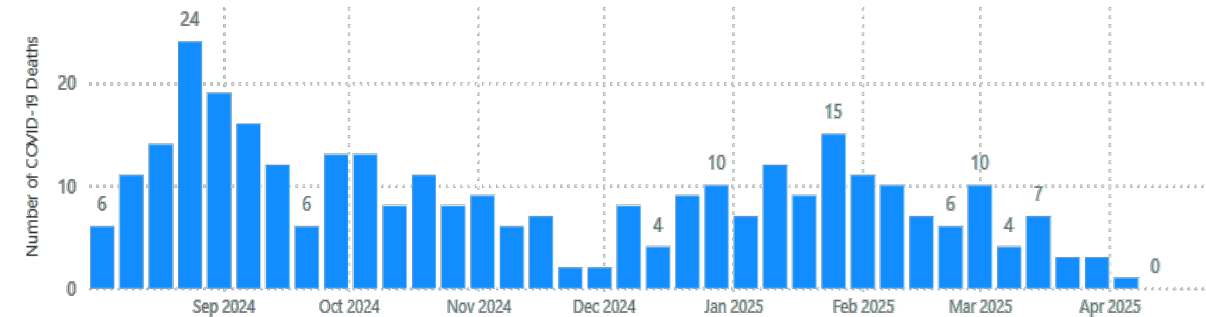
COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations by Week

Current Week is Incomplete



COVID-19 Associated Deaths by Week

Current Month is Incomplete



US Cases: COVID-19

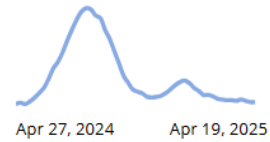
For Week Ending 4/19/2025

Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

3.4%

Week ending April 19, 2025
Previous week 3.4%

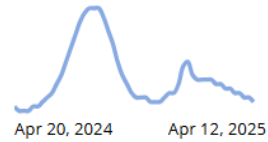


Emergency Department Visits >

% Diagnosed as COVID-19

0.5%

Week ending April 12, 2025
Previous week 0.6%

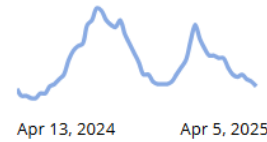


Hospitalizations >

Rate per 100,000 population

1.6

Week ending April 5, 2025
Previous week 1.8

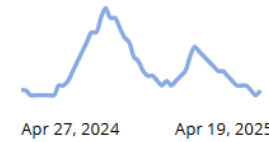


Deaths >

% of All Deaths in U.S. Due to COVID-19

0.7%

Week ending April 19, 2025
Previous week 0.6%



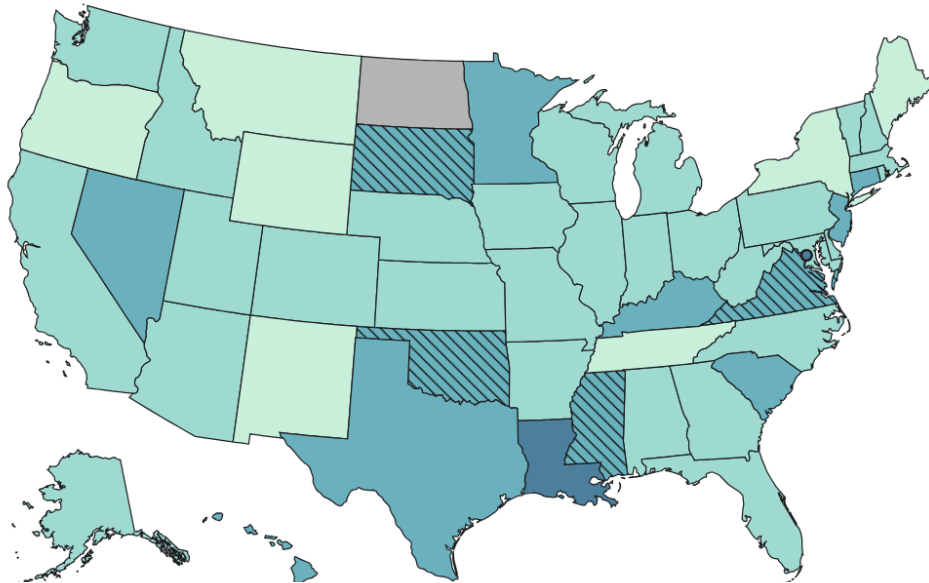
[CDC](#)

Variants

USA

WHO label	Lineage #	%Total	95%PI	
Omicron	LP.8.1	69%	62–75%	
	XEC	10%	7–14%	
	LF.7.7.2	6%	1–24%	
	LB.1.3.1	2%	1–4%	
	MC.10.1	2%	1–4%	
	LF.7.7.1	2%	1–3%	

COVID-19 CURRENT WASTEWATER VIRAL ACTIVITY LEVELS MAP APRIL 13-19, 2025

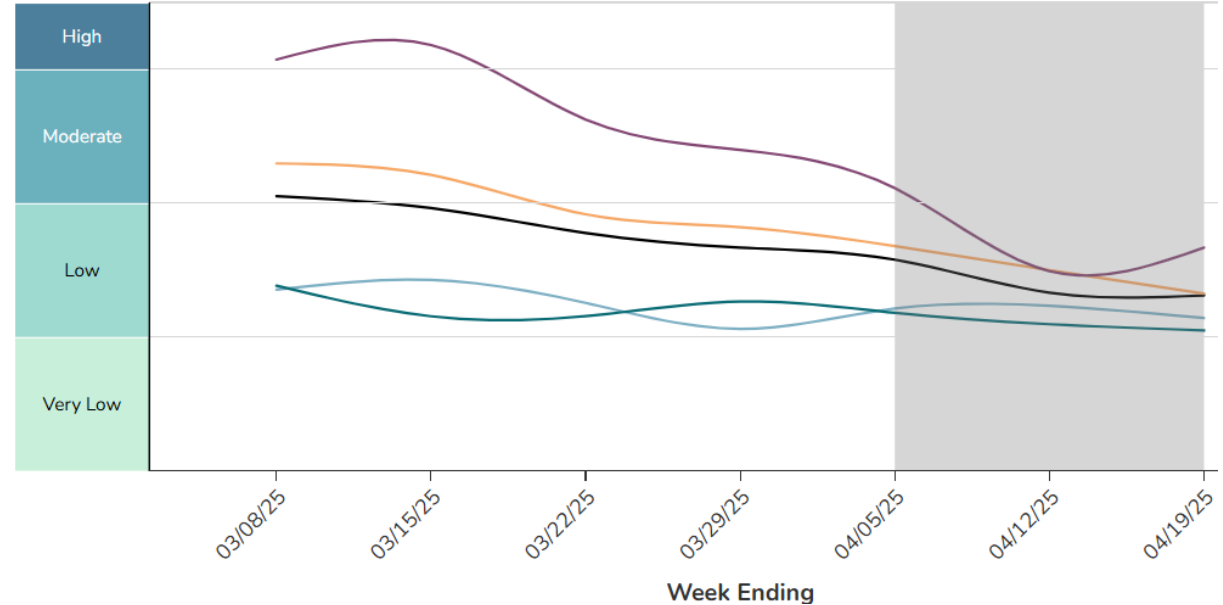


SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Viral Activity Levels

Select a level to add or remove from map.

● Very High ● High ● Moderate ● Low ● Minimal ● No Data ● *Limited Coverage

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS OF WASTEWATER VIRAL ACTIVITY LEVELS OF SARS-COV-2 (THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19)



Select a geography to add or remove it from the visualization.

● National ● Midwest ● South ● Northeast ● West

Connecticut Cases: Influenza

For the Week Ending 4/26/2025

Flu Current Week Case Count (Incomplete)

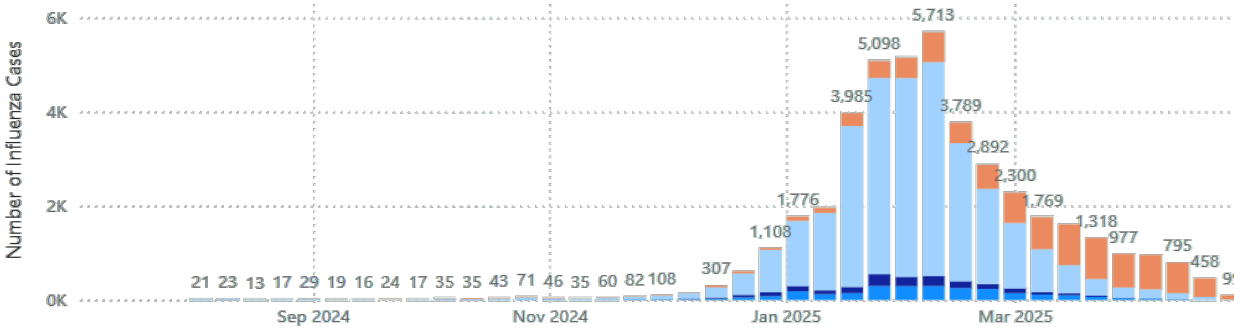
99

Flu Previous Week Case Count

458

Number of Influenza Cases by Virus Type by Week
Current Week is Incomplete

● A H1N1 ● A H3N2 ● A Unspecified ● B Seasonal ● Unknown



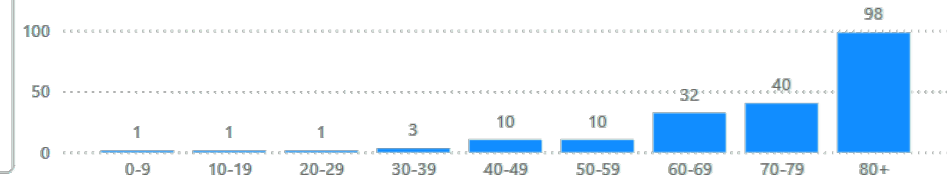
Influenza-Associated Deaths

For the 2024-2025 Viral Respiratory Disease Season

196

Number of Influenza-Associated Deaths by Age Group

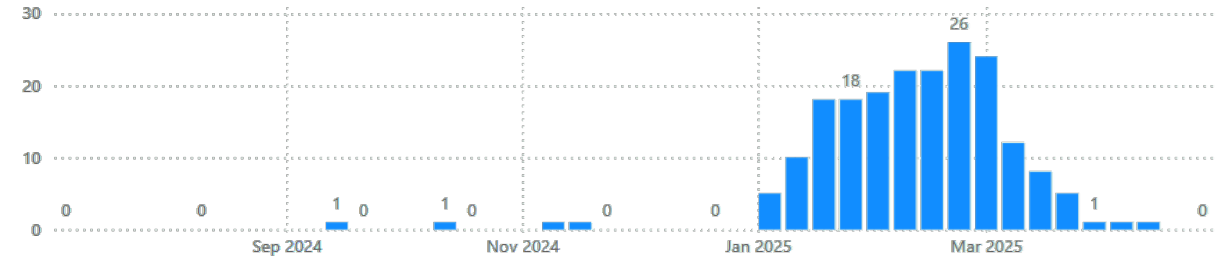
● Preliminary Report of Death



Number of Influenza-Associated Deaths per Week

Current Week is Incomplete

● Preliminary Report of Death



Influenza Hospitalizations

Current Week (Incomplete)

2

Previous Week

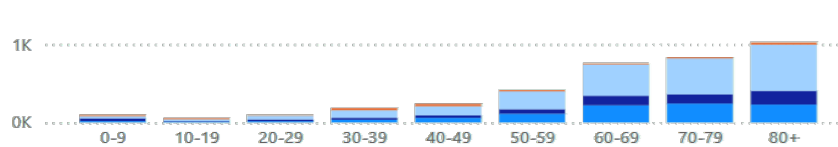
12

Season Total

3,692

Number of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza by Age Group and Virus Type

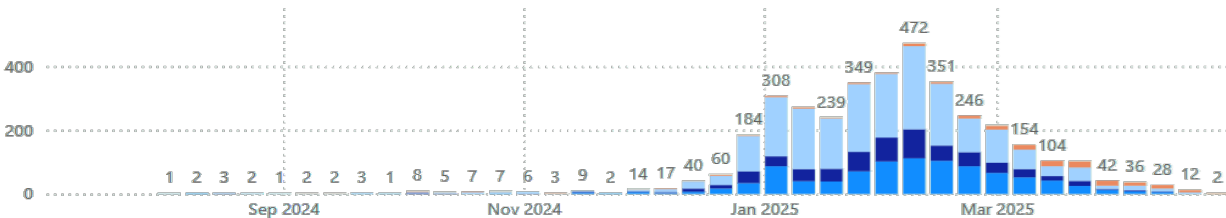
● A H1N1 ● A H3N2 ● A Unspecified ● B Seasonal ● Unknown



Number of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Virus by Type per Week

Current Week is Incomplete

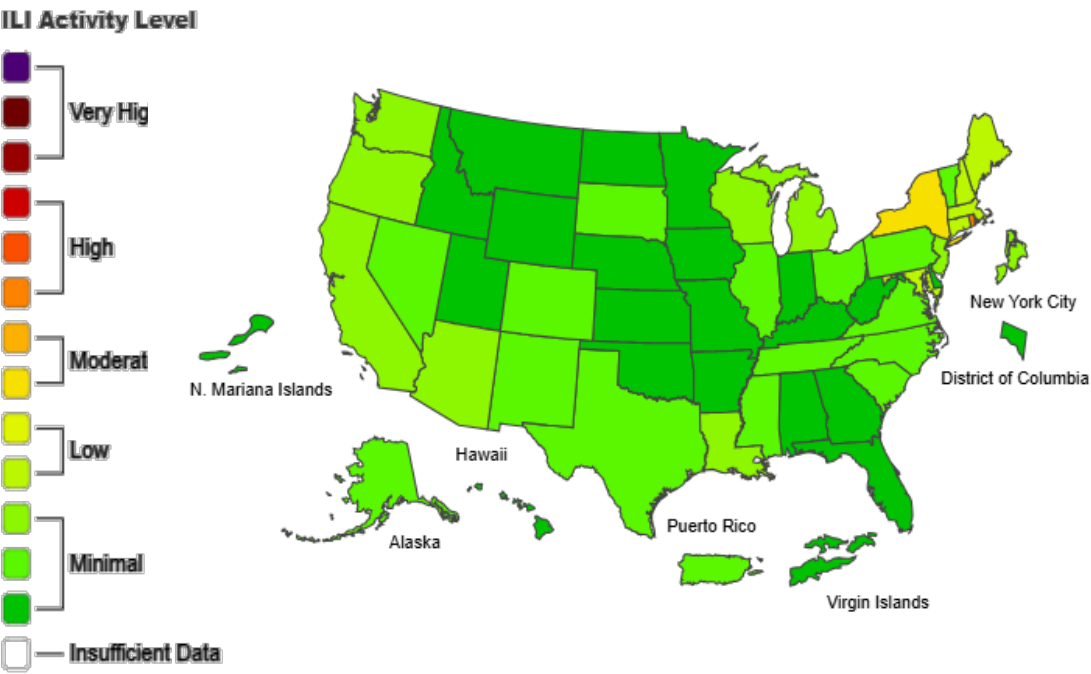
● A H1N1 ● A H3N2 ● A Unspecified ● B Seasonal ● Unknown



US Cases: Influenza (Week 16)

For the Week Ending 4/19/2025

2024-25 Influenza Season - Week 15 Ending 4/19/2025



[CDC](#)

Clinical Labs

5.6 (Trend ↓)

Positive for influenzas this week

Public Health Labs

Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), and B viruses were the predominant viruses reported this week.

Outpatient Respiratory Illness

2.3% (Trend ↓)

of visits to a healthcare provider this week were for reparatory illness (*above baseline*)

Outpatient Respiratory Illness

1 moderate jurisdictions
1 high or very high jurisdictions

FluSurv-NET

126.6per 100,000

Cumulative hospitalization rate.

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Hospital Respiratory Data

3,601 (Trend ↓)

Patients admitted to hospitals with influenza this week.

NCHS Mortality

0.3% (Trend ↓)

Deaths attributed to influenza this week

Pediatric Deaths

6

Influenza-associated deaths were reported this week, for a total of **204 deaths this season.**

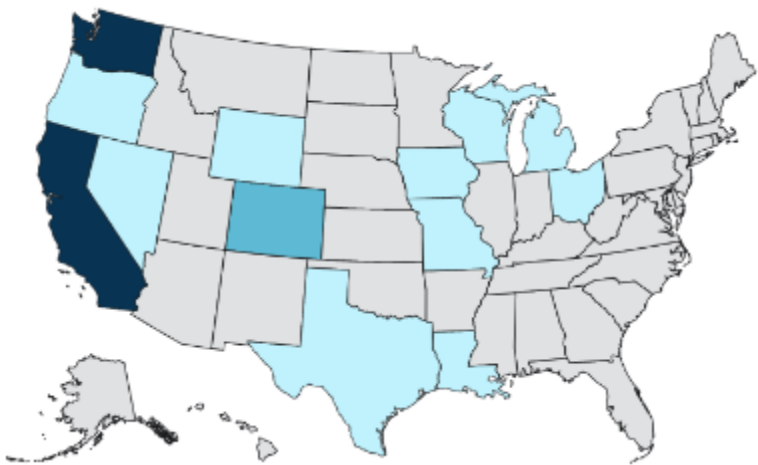
Key Points

- Seasonal influenza (flu) activity continues to decline; however, the CDC expects several more weeks of flu activity.
- This season is classified as a high-severity season overall, affecting all age groups (children, adults, and older adults), marking the first such season since the 2017-2018 season.
- During Week 16, of the 337 viruses reported by public health laboratories, 210 were influenza A and 127 were influenza B. Of the 187 influenza A viruses subtyped during Week 16, 128 (68.4%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 59 (31.6%) were A(H3N2), and 0 were A(H5).
- No new influenza A(H5) cases were reported to CDC this week. To date, human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A(H5) virus (H5 bird flu) has not been identified in the United States.
- Nationally, outpatient respiratory illness decreased this week and is below baseline for the third consecutive week. HHS Regions 2 through 9 are below their respective baselines, but Region 1 remains above its region-specific baseline.
- According to data from FluSurv-NET, this season's cumulative hospitalization rate is the highest since the 2010-2011 season.
- Six pediatric deaths associated with seasonal influenza virus infection were reported this week, bringing the 2024-2025 season total to 204 pediatric deaths.

CDC

H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary

As of 4/28/2025



NATIONAL HUMAN CASES
70 | 1 DEATH



[CDC](#)

State	Dairy Herds	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations	Other Animal Exposure	Exposure Source Unknown	State Total Human cases
California	36	0	0	2	38
Colorado	1	9	0	0	10
Iowa	0	1	0	0	1
Louisiana	0	0	1	0	1
Michigan	2	0	0	0	2
Missouri	0	0	0	1	1
Nevada	1	0	0	0	1
Ohio	0	1	0	0	1
Oregon	0	1	0	0	1
Texas	1	0	0	0	1
Washington	0	11	0	0	11
Wisconsin	0	1	0	0	1
Wyoming	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	41	24	2	3	70

Wild Birds	Poultry	Livestock Herds
Wild Birds Detected 12,875 as of 4/23//2025 Full Report	Poultry Affected 168,624,221 as of 4/28/2025 Full Report	State with Outbreaks om Cattle 17
Jurisdictions Affected 51	Jurisdictions/States Affected 51	Livestock Infected 1021 herds as of 4/28/2025 Full Report, including new cases from CA and ID.

As of April 28, 2025, the H5N1 avian influenza outbreak in the United States continues to impact both animal and human health, though the general public risk remains low.

WILD BIRDS AND POULTRY: H5N1 is widespread among wild birds across all 51 U.S. jurisdictions. Over 168 million poultry birds have been affected, leading to significant disruptions in egg and poultry supplies.

DAIRY COWS: Since its first detection in dairy cows in March 2024, the virus has spread to over 1,000 herds in 17 states. Experts now consider H5N1 endemic in cattle, making containment challenging.

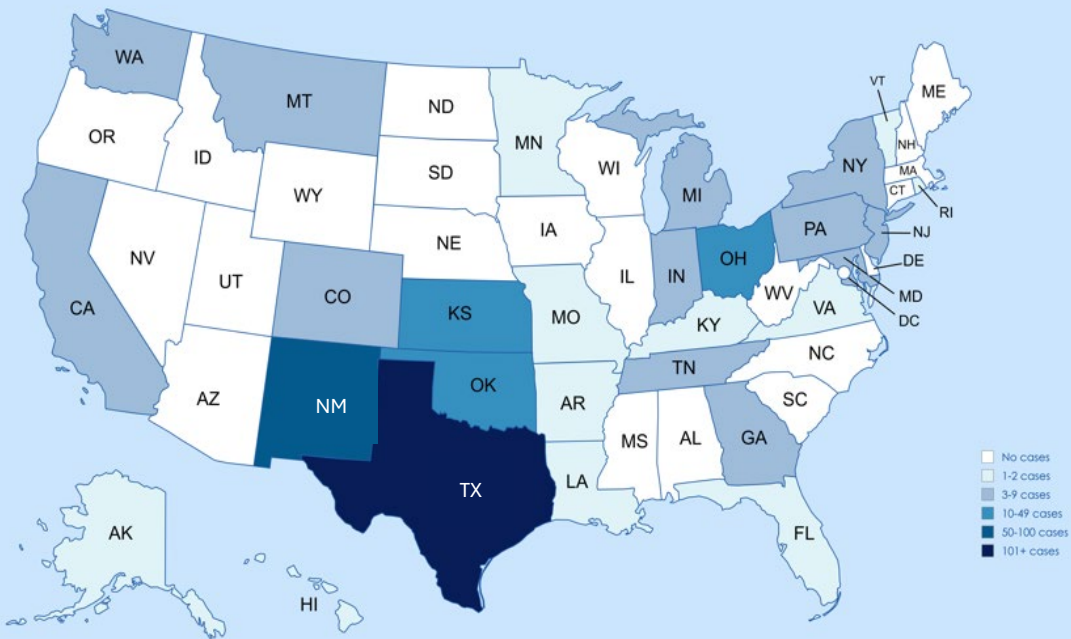
HUMAN CASES:

- There have been 70 confirmed human cases of H5N1 in the U.S. since 2024, primarily among individuals with direct exposure to infected animals. The first U.S. fatality occurred in January 2025 in Louisiana, involving an individual with underlying health conditions and exposure to infected backyard birds.
- Health officials in Vietnam have reported a severe H5N1 avian flu infection in an 8-year-old girl who is experiencing encephalitis symptoms, which appears to mark the country's first human case of 2025. ([CIDRAP](#))

US Measles Outlook

* **NOTE:** The information on this page has been gathered by reviewing data from state and local health departments, news media sources, and the [Center for Outbreak Response Innovation \(CORI\)](#)

936*



The increase in measles cases can be attributed to falling vaccination rates and increased importation of travel-related cases, which occur when unvaccinated people acquire measles abroad and bring it back to the U.S.

STATE	CASES
TEXAS **	694
NEW MEXICO	66
KANSAS	37
OHIO	32
OKLAHOMA	15
PENNSYLVANIA	13
CALIFORNIA	10
MICHIGAN	9
INDIANA	8
TENNESSEE	6
MONTANA	5
WASHINGTON	5
COLORADO	4
NEW YORK	4
ARKANSAS	3
GEORGIA	3
MARYLAND	3
NEW JERSEY	3
ALASKA	2
FLORIDA	2
HAWAII	2
LOUISIANA	2
MINNESOTA	2
ILLINOIS	1
KENTUCKY	1
MISSOURI	1
RHODE ISLAND	1
VERMONT	1
VIRGINIA	1
TOTAL	936

OUTBREAKS

- SMALL OUTBREAK (3-9)**
- MEDIUM OUTBREAK (10 - 49)**
- LARGE OUTBREAK (50 OR MORE)**

An outbreak of measles is defined as three or more laboratory-confirmed cases that are temporally related and epidemiologically or virologically linked.

As of 4/26/2025, 2300 hrs. EDT, there are approximately **923** measles cases (including confirmed and suspected cases) across 21 states.

Currently, there are **eleven measles outbreaks**:

- West Texas, involving [26 counties](#) in **Texas**, [4 counties](#) in **New Mexico**, [2 counties](#) in **Oklahoma**, and the [Cherokee Nation](#) in Oklahoma
- [8 counties](#) in **Kansas**
- Ashtabula and Knox Counties, **Ohio**
- Erie County, **Pennsylvania**
- Allen County, **Indiana**
- Bergen County, **New Jersey**
- metro Atlanta, **Georgia**
- Gallatin County, **Montana**
- Montcalm County, **Michigan** (linked to Ontario Outbreak)
- Upper Cumberland region - **Tennessee**

** TEXAS CASES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH OUTBREAK: 31

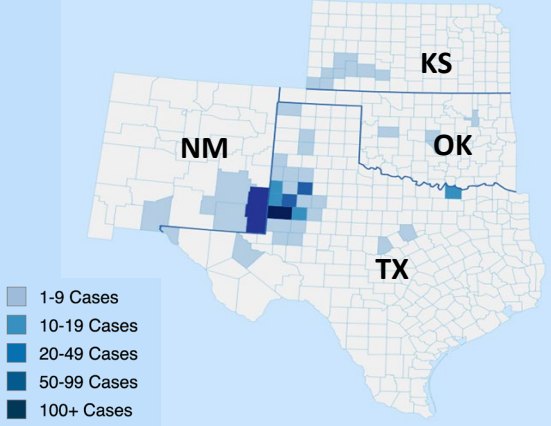
- 1 case – Atascosa County
- 1 case – Brazoria County
- 1 case – Collin County
- 1 case – Adult, Fort Bend (travel-related)
- 4 cases – Harris County
- 2 cases – Adults, Rockwall County (travel-related)
- 1 case – Shackelford
- 2 case – Travis County
- 18 cases – Upshur County

TEXAS CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK: 663




Measles: The Texas/New Mexico Outbreak

As of 4/29/2025

TOTAL: 739



MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

STATE	CASES 	HOSPITALIZATIONS 	DEATHS 
TX	663	87	2
NM	66	7	1
OK	25	0	0
KS	37	1	0
TOTAL	782	95	3

*The situation is still developing. Numbers are expected to increase.

A second child has died of measles. On Thursday, 4/3/2025 an 8-year-old girl died of, “measles pulmonary failure” The death is under investigation. UMC Health System reported the girl was unvaccinated and had no underlying health conditions

AGES OF CASES: (AS OF 4/29/2025)

WEST TEXAS OUTBREAK

0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
200 (5) (30%)	245 (2) (37%)	194 (4) (29%)	24 (-1) (4%)	663 (+10)

NEW MEXICO OUTBREAK

0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
18 (+1) (28%)	19 (29%)	28 (+1) (43%)	0	65 (+2)

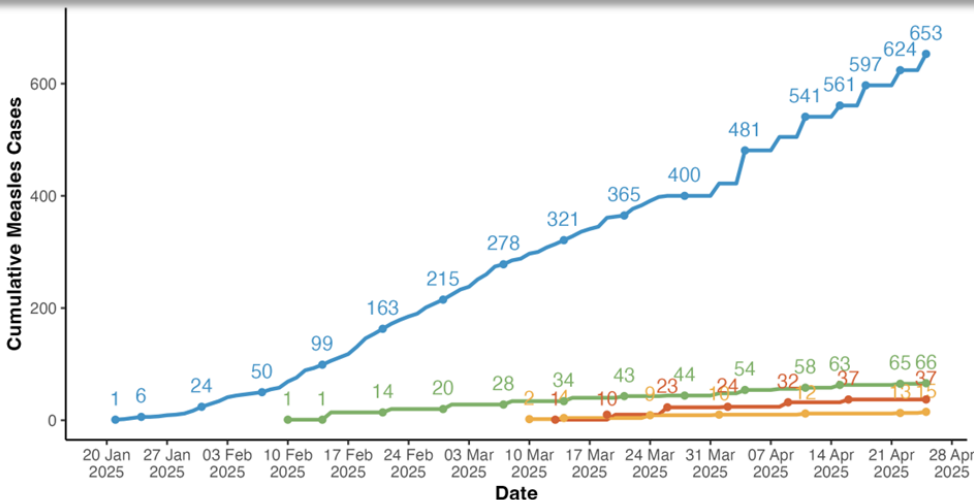
KANSAS OUTBREAK

0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
11 (30%)	19 (51%)	7 (19%)	0	37

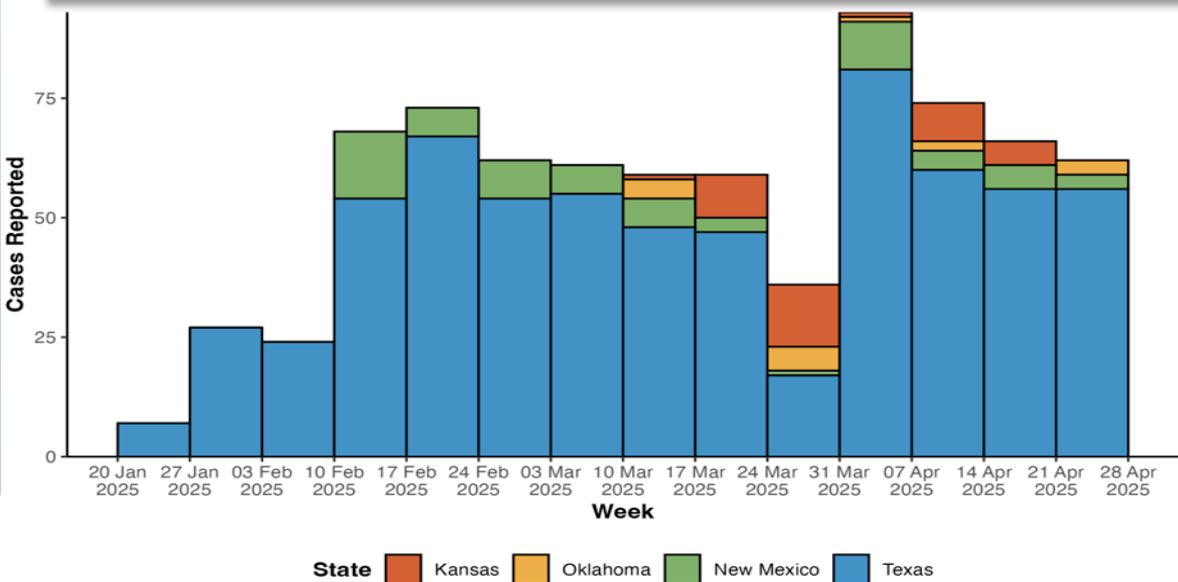
OKLAHOMA OUTBREAK

0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
12 Cases Confirmed, 3 Probable – no ages provided			3	15

SOUTHWEST MEASLES OUTBREAK – EPI CURVE (WEEK ENDING 4/26/25)



SOUTHWEST MEASLES OUTBREAK TOTALS OVER TIME (WEEK ENDING 4/26/2025)



News Updates

COVID

[FDA SCRUTINY OF NOVAVAX COVID-19 VACCINE SPARKS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT OTHER SHOTS – AP:](#)

The Trump administration's [effort to impose](#) new requirements on [Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine](#) — the nation's only [traditional protein-based option](#) for the coronavirus — is sowing uncertainty about updates to other vaccines, too. Novavax said Monday that the Food and Drug Administration had asked the company to run a new clinical trial of its vaccine after the agency granted full approval. The company said it had responded and believed its shot remains “approvable.” However, a weekend [post](#) on social media by [FDA Commissioner Marty Makary](#) suggested the prospect of needing a new trial before the shots' yearly strain update — something unlikely to be possible before fall. That's raised questions about whether [other vaccines](#) will be caught in the turmoil. (Neergaard, Perrone, 4/28/2025)

[COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ARE METABOLICALLY SAFE, ACCORDING TO A STUDY –](#)

[MEDICAL XPRESS:](#) New research from Murdoch University's Australian National Phenome Center confirms that multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines do not cause significant metabolic changes. Published in the *Journal of Molecular Medicine*, the [study](#) monitored 167 metabolic markers in 33 participants for 480 days post-vaccination across 28 time points. Lead author Associate Professor Ruey Leng Loo said the findings reassure those concerned about potential long-term side effects of vaccination. "This real-world study shows that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and don't cause significant metabolic changes. Our findings help counter misinformation and support confidence in vaccination," Associate Professor Loo said. (4/28/2025)

[DRIVING WITH COVID LINKED TO HIGHER CRASH RISK –AXIOS:](#) Driving with a case of COVID raised the odds of having a car crash about as much as being at the legal threshold of DUI or running a red light, according to an analysis of pandemic-era public health and transportation records from seven states. (Bettelheim, 4/24/2025)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

[VIROLOGISTS ISSUE URGENT CALL TO GLOBAL ACTION AS H5N1 AVIAN FLU](#)

[THREAT RISES - MEDICAL XPRESS:](#) The Global Virus Network (GVN), representing eminent human and animal virologists from 80+ Centers of Excellence and Affiliates in 40+ countries, has published a comprehensive analysis and call-to-action in [The Lancet Regional Health—Americas](#) on the North American avian influenza virus, or H5N1, outbreak. The GVN calls on world governments to address the threat of H5N1 avian influenza by enhancing surveillance, implementing biosecurity measures, and preparing for potential human-to-human transmission. (The Global Virus Network, 4/28/2025)

INFLUENZA

[ANTIVIRAL REDUCED TRANSMISSION OF INFLUENZA TO CLOSE CONTACTS –](#)

[MEDPAGE TODAY:](#) A single dose of the antiviral baloxavir marboxil (Xofluza) led to a lower incidence of influenza virus transmission to household contacts compared with placebo, a phase IIIb randomized trial showed. Five days after receiving the intervention, the adjusted incidence of transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza was 9.5% with baloxavir compared with 13.4% with placebo (adjusted OR 0.68, 95.38% CI 0.50-0.93, $P=0.01$), resulting in an adjusted relative risk reduction of 29%, reported Arnold Monto, MD, of the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, and colleagues in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). (Haelle, 4/23/2025)

[NEW AGREEMENT GEARED TOWARD UNIVERSAL AVIAN FLU VACCINE -](#)

[CIDRAP:](#) The University of Cambridge–based DioSynVax and Singapore's ACM Biolabs have signed a deal to jointly develop a next-generation universal avian flu vaccine with the potential for mucosal delivery. The mRNA vaccine targets all major clades of the H5 avian flu subtype and is scalable for rapid, global distribution, according to a press release from DioSynVax. Delivery via a nasal spray could help increase uptake of the vaccine. (Soucheray, 4/22)

WHOOPIING COUGH / PERTUSIS

WHOOPING COUGH CASES SURGE AS VACCINE RATES FALL - THE WASHINGTON

POST: Whooping cough cases are soaring in the United States, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as the Trump administration's cuts to federal health agencies and funding destabilize programs that monitor disease and promote vaccination. The CDC's data shows that the **U.S. has tallied 8,077 cases of whooping cough in 2025**, compared with 3,847 cases in the same period last year. The bacterial illness, formally known as pertussis, spreads easily and is especially dangerous for infants. (Bellware, 4/22/2025)

TICKS

TICK-BORNE MEAT ALLERGY MAY BE RELATED TO URBANIZATION IN MID-ATLANTIC

USA - CIDRAP: University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill modeling study suggests that wild-habitat disruption may be contributing to the increasing US prevalence of Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), a tick-borne allergy to animal meat. The study team used a dataset of 462 AGS patients with confirmed AGS from UNC Health and models based on environmental factors, such as landcover and topography, to assess whether the risk of AGS is linked to the habitat fragmentation often seen in open spaces and areas of low-density development in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. (Van Beusekom, 4/25/2025)

NEW STRAIN OF BACTERIA IN TICK DISCOVERED AT UMASS AMHERST – WWLP: A lab at the University of Massachusetts Amherst discovered a new strain of bacteria in a tick last week. Researchers found that this has the potential to infect people with Spotted Fever, and now, with the warmer weather and more people outside, officials are sounding the alarm. This finding came from testing in someone's backyard, but now researchers hope this was an exception and not the expectation. Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis is the main danger of bacteria found in this new strain of Rickettsia. This new strain was collected in New England by the University of Maine. (Wu, 4/28/2025)

TB

MAJOR TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE TRIAL FINISHES ENROLLMENT FASTER THAN

EXPECTED - STAT: A closely watched clinical trial testing what could be the world's first new tuberculosis vaccine in a century has hit its enrollment target, ahead of expectations. (Joseph, 4/28)

RSV

TRIAL SHOWS WANING EFFICACY OF RSV VACCINE ACROSS 3 SEASONS IN OLDER ADULTS - CIDRAP:

A study of the single-dose respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine in older adults shows that vaccine efficacy waned across three RSV seasons but suggests a booster vaccination dose 1 year after initial vaccination did little to provide additional efficacy. The phase 3 clinical trial on GSK's Arexvy (adjuvanted RSV prefusion F protein-based vaccine [RSVPreF3 OA]), was published last week in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine. (Soucheray, 4/22/2025)

MEASLES

US MEASLES CASES CLIMB HIGHER, APPROACH 900 - CIDRAP:

THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today reported 84 more measles cases, boosting the national total to 884, keeping the nation on pace to experience its worst year since the nation eliminated the disease in 2000. So far, 30 jurisdictions have reported cases, up 5 from the previous week. One more outbreak was reported, bringing that total to 11, the largest one centered in West Texas. The CDC said 820 (83%) of the cases so far are part of outbreaks. (Schnirring, 4/25/2025)

US AT TIPPING POINT FOR RETURN OF ENDEMIC MEASLES-REUTERS The United States is at a tipping point for the return of endemic measles a quarter century after the disease was declared eradicated in the country, researchers warned on Thursday. At current U.S. childhood vaccination rates, measles could return to spreading regularly at high levels, with an estimated 851,300 cases over the next 25 years, computer models used by the researchers suggest. (Lapid, 4/24/2025)

MEASLES MISINFORMATION IS ON THE RISE — AND AMERICANS ARE HEARING IT, SURVEY FINDS - KFF HEALTH NEWS:

While the most serious measles epidemic in a decade has led to the deaths of two children and spread to 27 states with no signs of letting up, beliefs about the safety of the measles vaccine and the threat of the disease are sharply polarized, fed by the anti-vaccine views of the country's seniormost health official. About two-thirds of Republican-leaning parents are unaware of an uptick in measles cases this year while about two-thirds of Democratic ones knew about it, according to a KFF survey released Wednesday. (Allen, 4/23/2025)