

Yale Campus Health Surveillance Report

ALLERGIES

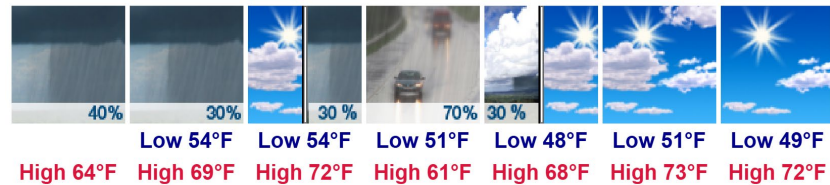
TREE POLLEN	RAGWEED	MOLD	GRASS	DUST AND DANDER
<div><div></div></div> MODERATE	<div><div></div></div> LOW	<div><div></div></div> LOW	<div><div></div></div> LOW	<div><div></div></div> LOW

WEEKLY AQI: **FAIR**

[NEW HAVEN, CT](#)

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

Low
Decreasing ↘

Flu

Low
Decreasing ↘

RSV

Very 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



6 May 2025
As of 1700 Hours EDT

YNHH

COVID

- **8 COVID+ INPATIENTS**
 - **0 N THE ICU**
 - **1 IN THE ED**

RSV

- **3 INPATIENTS**
 - **1 IN THE ICU**

INFLUENZA

- **4 INPATIENTS**
 - **3 IN THE ICU**

Respiratory virus
conditions are **LOW**

based on local/regional public health indicators



Masking is
optional
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. Wastewater levels are low, emergency department visits are very low, and laboratory percent positivity is stable.
- **Connecticut:** Wastewater levels for COVID-19 are **moderate**. Over the past four weeks. There have been:
 - **369** reported cases. This is a slight increase, which was expected based on the wastewater levels.
 - **144** reported cases required hospitalization. Hospitalization numbers show an increase in hospitalizations.
 - **0** deaths during the month of May. (**324** for the season)
- **YNHH:** On May 6, there were **8** 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:
 - **380** reported cases
 - **18** hospitalizations
 - **0** deaths in May (**200** for the season)
- **YNHH:** On May 6, there were **4** hospitalized cases, with **3** in the ICU

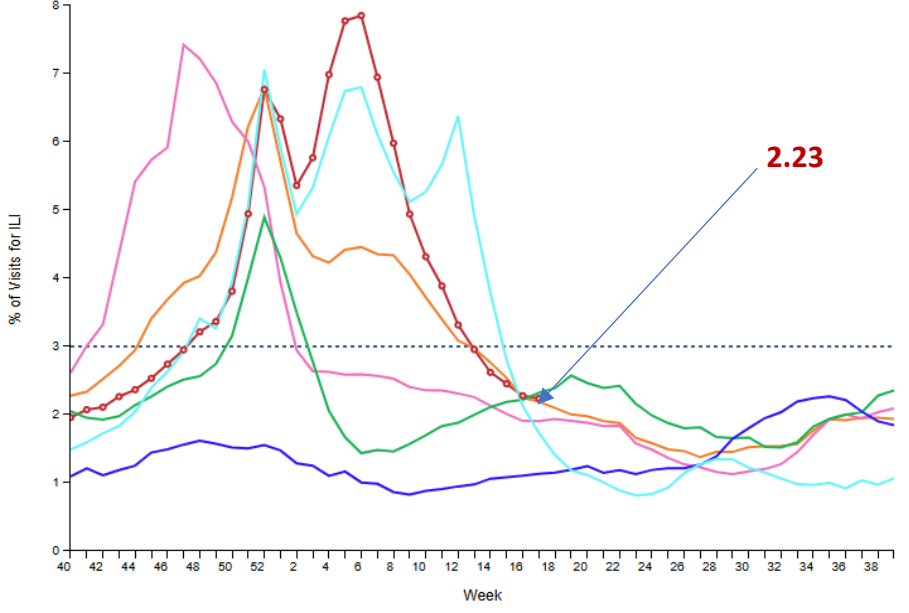
- RSV

- **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:
 - **51** reported cases
 - **5** hospitalizations
 - No deaths
- **YNHH:** On May 6, there were **3** hospital cases, with **1** in the ICU

- **PERTUSSIS** - Reported cases of whooping cough (pertussis) continue to be elevated nationwide but preliminary case reports have been trending downward for the past several months. Whooping cough is very contagious and can spread easily from person to person. Babies younger than 1 year old are at highest risk of severe disease and complications. The best way to prevent complications from whooping cough is to get vaccinated.

- **NOROVIRUS:** Norovirus persists at a high level (12.36% test positivity rate) and is rising again nationwide. In the Northeast, test positivity has declined to 6.82%. ([CDC NREVSS DASHBOARD](#))

Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Respiratory Illness Reported by The U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (Week 17), Ending (4/26/2025)



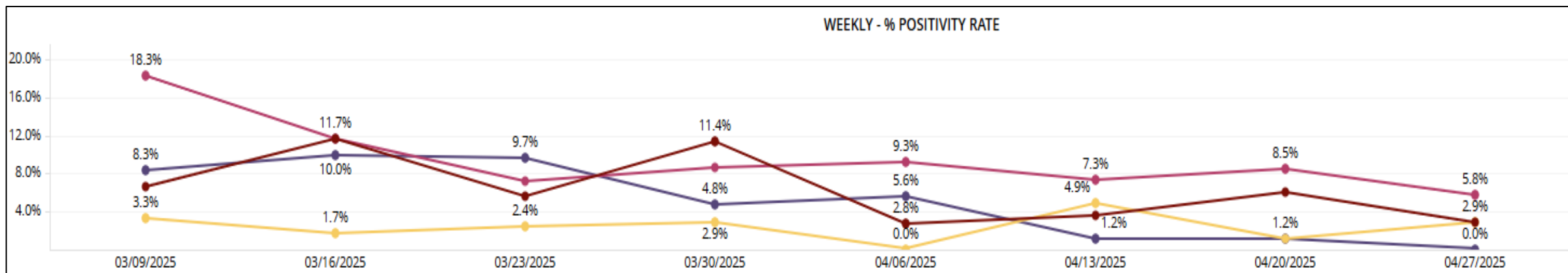
- The CDC has classified the 2024-2025 flu season as a high-severity season for all age groups. This is the first high-severity season since the 2017-2018 season.
- 216 pediatric deaths are associated with seasonal influenza this year. This exceeds the previous high reported for a regular (non-pandemic) season. The previous high of 207 was reported during the 2023-2024 season.

Influenza Season Metrics, CDC, 2024-2025 Season			
Estimated Infections	Estimated Hospitalizations	Estimated Deaths	Pediatric Deaths
47 Million	610,000	26,000	216 (+12)

Yale Health Respiratory Surveillance Data

Yale Health Surveillance Data – February 9, 2025, through April 5, 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

LOW

Recommendations

Masking is optional for all staff and patients. Individuals with respiratory symptoms must still 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 wears one, regardless of their chief complaint.

Connecticut Cases: COVID-19

For the Week Ending 5/3/2025

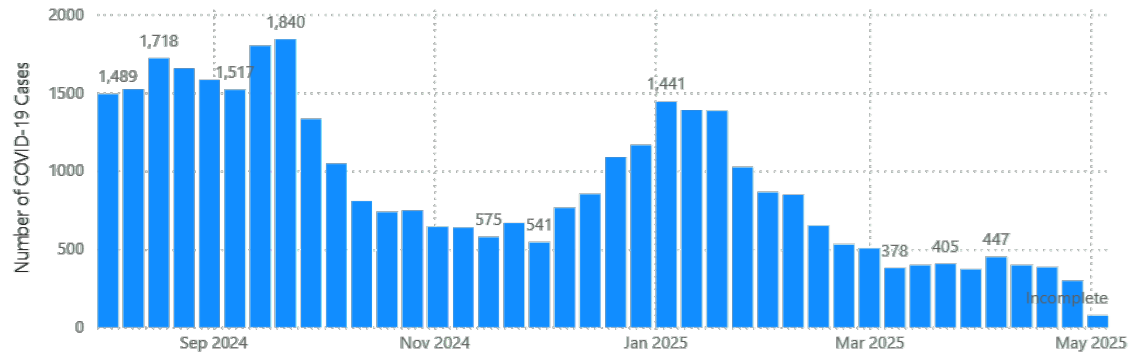
COVID Current Week Case Count (Incomplete)

73

COVID Previous Week Case Count

296

Number of COVID-19 Cases by Week
Current Week is Incomplete



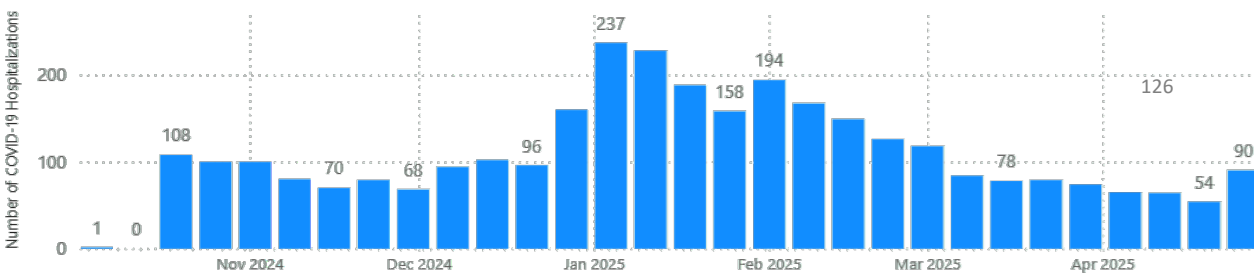
COVID - 19 Hospitalizations

Current Week | Previous Week

90

54

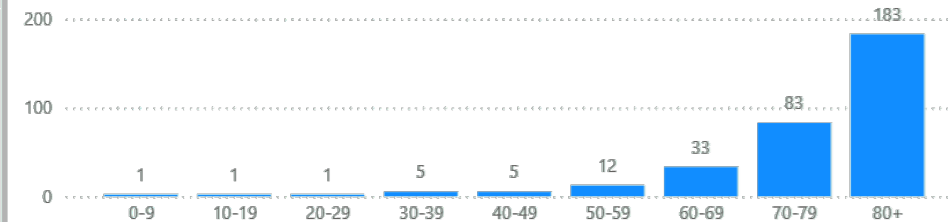
COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations by Week
Current Week is Incomplete



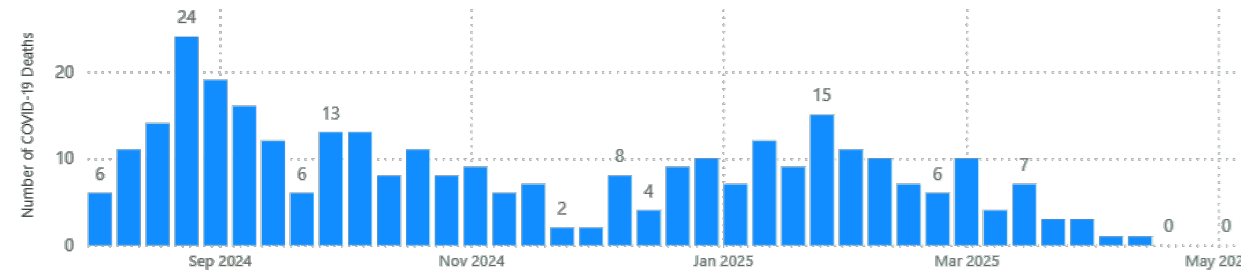
COVID-19 Deaths
For the 2024-2025 Viral Respiratory
Disease Season

324

Number of COVID-19-Associated Deaths by Age Group



COVID-19 Associated Deaths by Week
Current Month is Incomplete



SOURCE: CT DPH

US Cases: COVID-19

For Week Ending 4/26/2025

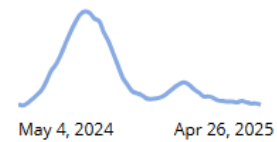
Early Indicators

Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

3.2%

Week ending April 26, 2025
Previous week 3.4%

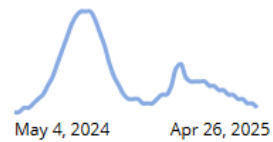


Emergency Department Visits >

% Diagnosed as COVID-19

0.4%

Week ending April 26, 2025
Previous week 0.5%



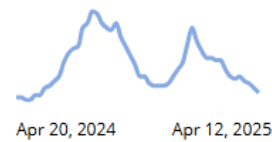
Severity Indicators

Hospitalizations >

Rate per 100,000 population

1.4

Week ending April 12, 2025
Previous week 1.6

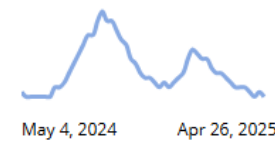


Deaths >

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

0.6%

Week ending April 26, 2025
Previous week 0.7%

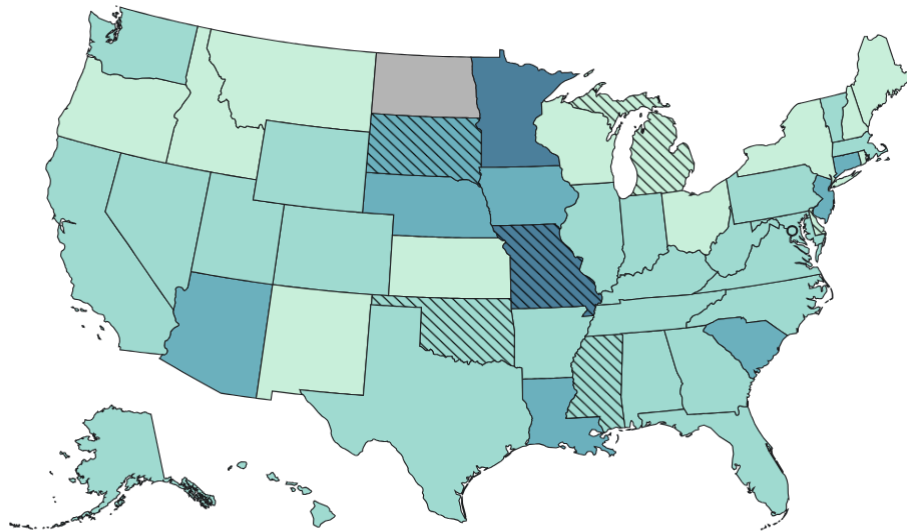


[CDC](#)

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 20 - 26, 2025

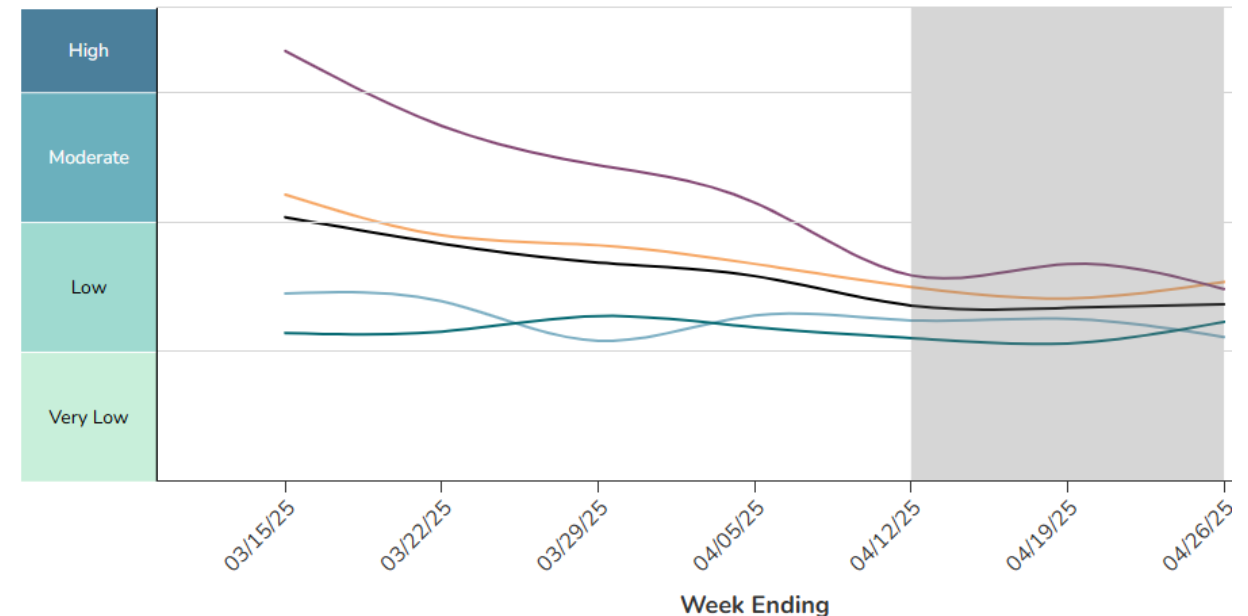


SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Viral Activity Levels

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 5/3/2025

Flu Current Week Case Count (Incomplete)

60

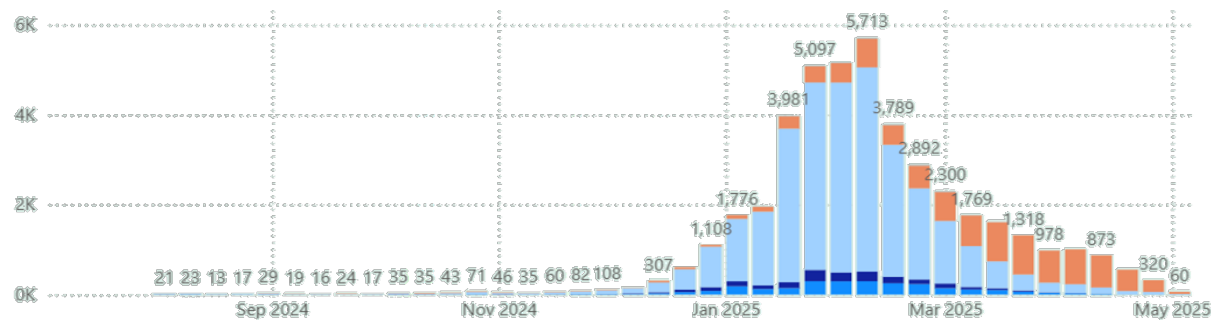
Flu Previous Week Case Count

320

Number of Influenza Cases by Virus Type by Week

Current Week is Incomplete

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



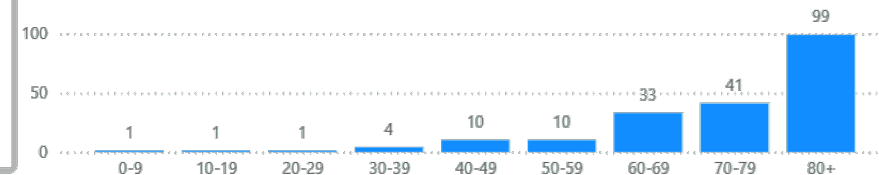
Influenza-Associated Deaths

For the 2024-2025 Viral Respiratory Disease Season

200

Number of Influenza-Associated Deaths by Age Group

● Preliminary Report of Death



Influenza Hospitalizations

Current Week (Incomplete)

1

Previous Week

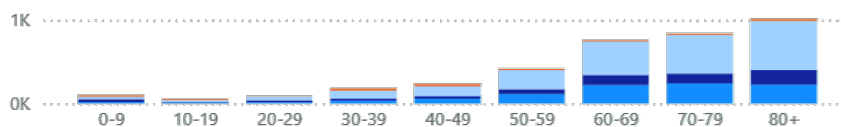
17

Season Total

3,701

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

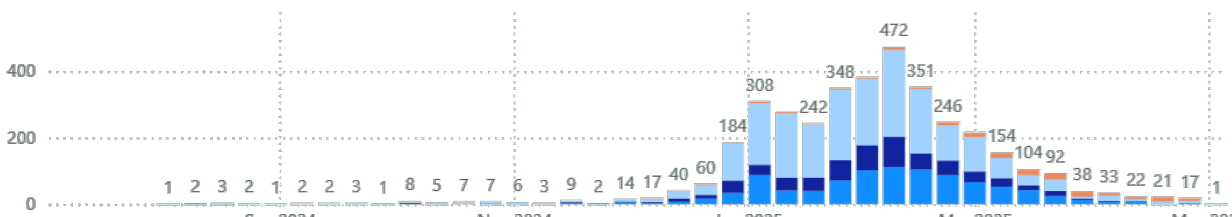
● A H1N1 ● A H3N2 ● A Unspecified ● B Seasonal ● Unknown



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

Current Week is Incomplete

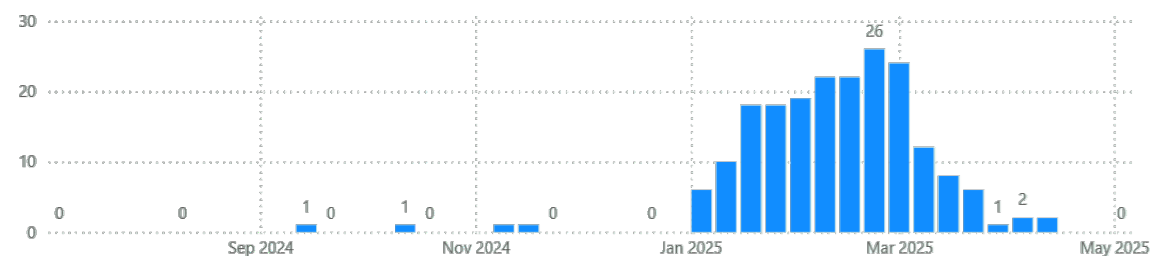
● A H1N1 ● A H3N2 ● A Unspecified ● B Seasonal ● Unknown



Number of Influenza-Associated Deaths per Week

Current Week is Incomplete

● Preliminary Report of Death

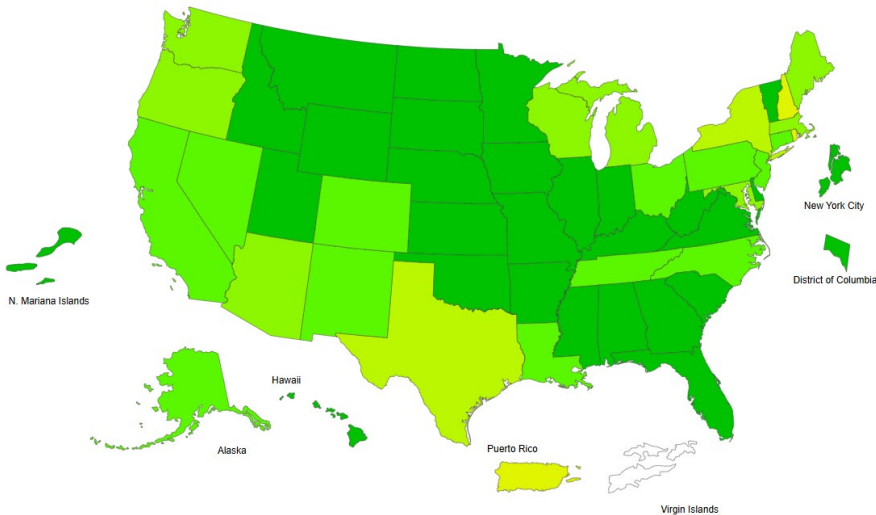
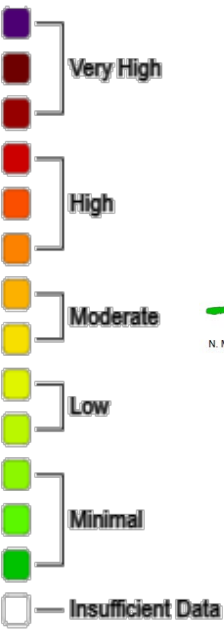


US Cases: Influenza (Week 17)

For the Week Ending 4/26/2025

2024-25 Influenza Season - Week 17 Ending 4/26/2025





ILI Activity Level



[CDC](#)

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 season since the 2017-2018 season.
- During Week 17, of the 347 viruses reported by public health laboratories, 240 were influenza A and 107 were influenza B. Of the 200 influenza A viruses subtyped during Week 17, 135 (67.5%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 65 (32.5%) were A(H3N2), and 0 were A(H5).
- No new influenza A(H5) cases were reported to the 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 remained stable this week and is below baseline. All HHS regions are below their region-specific baselines.
- According to data from FluSurv-NET, this season's cumulative hospitalization rate is the highest since the 2010-2011 season.
- 12 pediatric deaths associated with seasonal influenza virus infection were reported this week, bringing the 2024-2025 season total to 216 pediatric deaths.

Clinical Labs	Public Health Labs
4.6 (Trend  Positive for influenzas this week	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), and B viruses were the predominant viruses reported this week.
Outpatient Respiratory Illness	Outpatient Respiratory Illness
2.2% (Trend  The number of visits to a healthcare provider this week for respiratory illness <i>(above baseline)</i>	0 moderate jurisdiction 0 high or very high jurisdiction
FluSurv-NET	National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Hospital Respiratory Data
127.4 per 100,000 Cumulative hospitalization rate.	2,857 (Trend  Patients admitted to hospitals with influenza this week.
NCHS Mortality	Pediatric Deaths
0.2% (Trend  Deaths attributed to influenza this week	12 Influenza-associated deaths were reported this week, for a total of 216 deaths this season.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

5/3/2025

CONNECTICUT

SOURCE: [CT DPH](#)

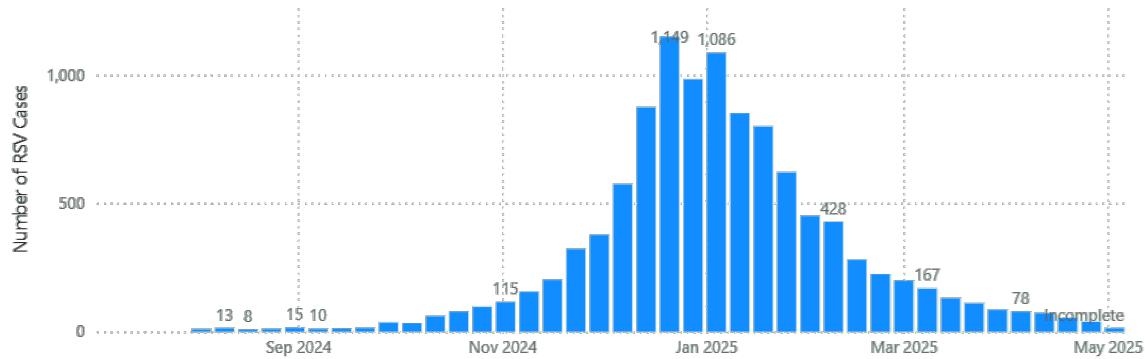
RSV Current Week Case Count (Incomplete)

13

RSV Previous Week Case Count

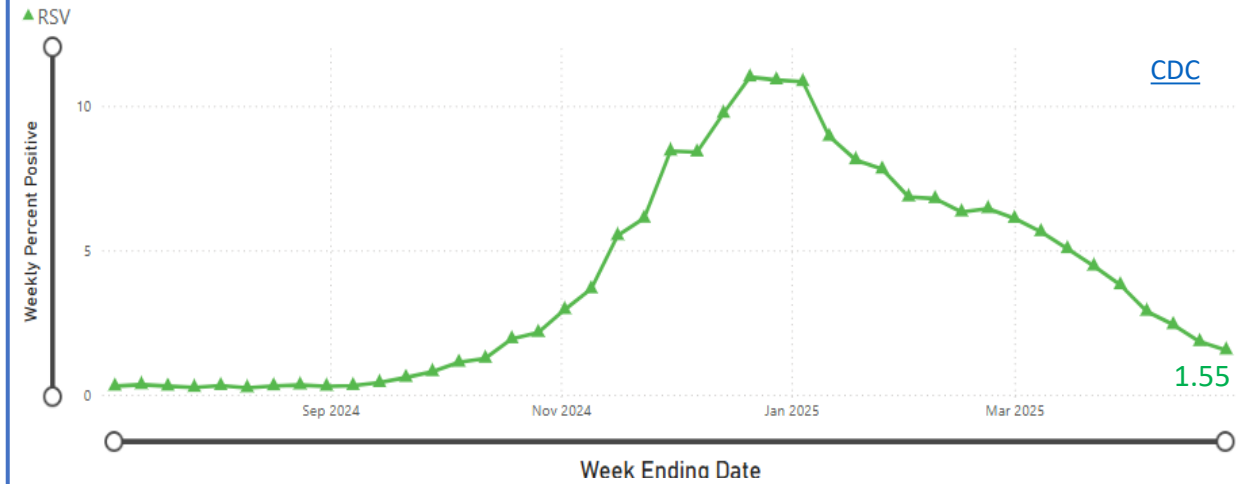
38

Number of RSV Cases by Week
Current Week is Incomplete



NATIONAL

WEEKLY PERCENT OF TEST POSITIVES FOR RSV REPORTED IN NREVSS - WEEK 17



5/3/2025

RSV Hospitalizations

For Week Ending 05/03/2025

For Week Ending 05/03/2025

Current Week (Incomplete)

0

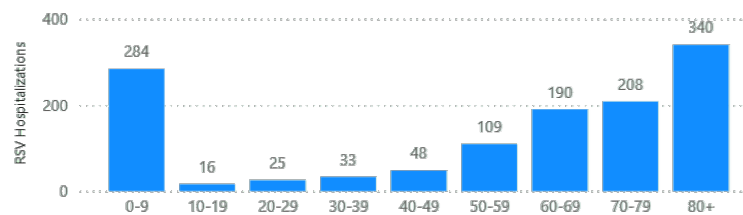
[Previous Week](#)

5

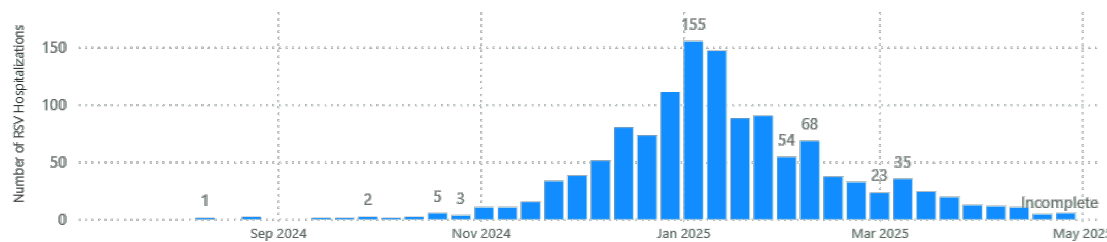
Season Total

1.253

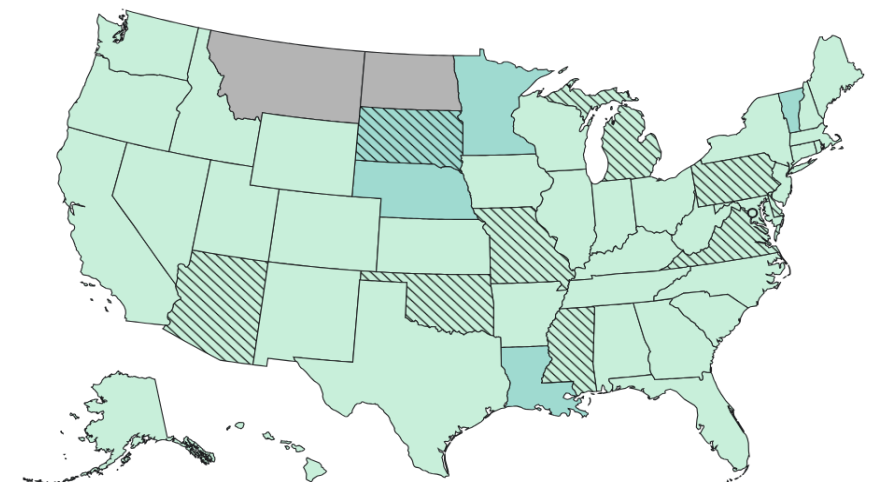
Total Number of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed RSV










Total Number of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed RSV by Week
Current Week is Incomplete



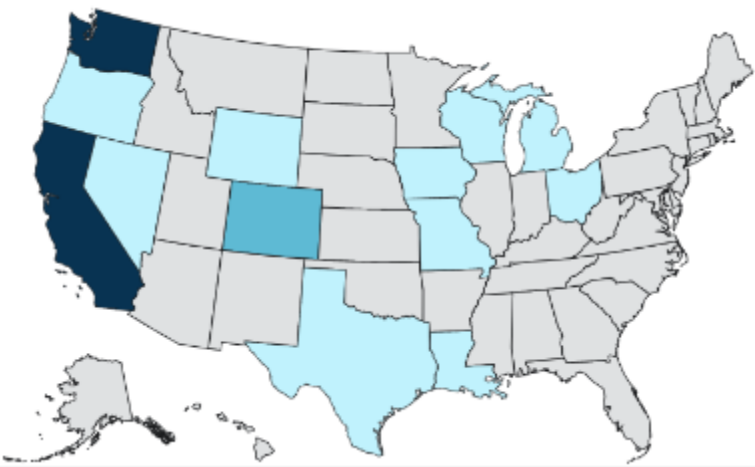
RSV IN WASTEWATER VIRAL ACTIVITY LEVELS



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

H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary

As of 5/1/2025



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 12,879 as of 4/29//2025 Full Report	Poultry Affected 169,325,151 as of 5/1/2025 Full Report	State with Outbreaks om Cattle 17
Jurisdictions Affected 51	Jurisdictions/States Affected 51	Livestock Infected 1048 herds as of 4/30/2025 Full Report, including new cases from CA and ID.

The [Global Virus Network \(GVN\)](#) warned world governments on April 29 to address the threat of the H5N1 outbreak by improving surveillance, implementing biosecurity measures, and preparing for potential human-to-human transmission.

According to GVN, the new virus outbreak has affected nearly 1000 dairy cow herds, resulting in more than 70 human cases and one confirmed death in the U.S., and has caused the loss or culling of more than 168 million poultry since 2022

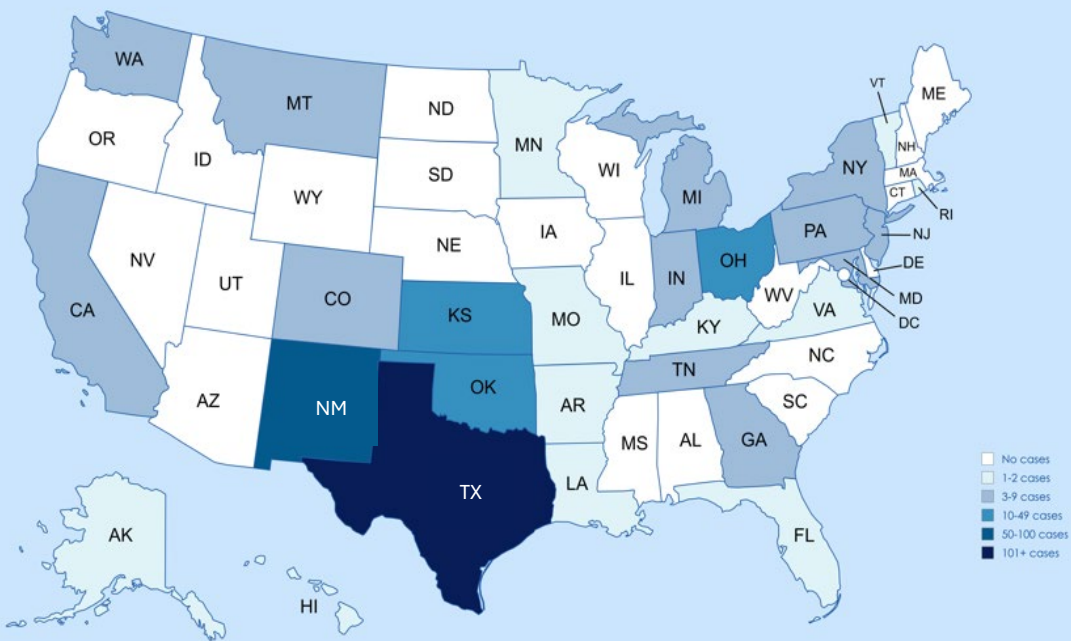
“In the U.S., sporadic human infections with no known contact with infected animals highlight the possibility of viral adaptation for efficient human-to-human transmission,” GVN scientists [said in a report](#). “The virus continues to circulate in wild birds, backyard flocks, and hunted migratory species, further amplifying the risk to humans and domestic animals.”

Recommendations for risk mitigation include enhanced biosecurity measures, improved surveillance, decentralized testing, and targeted public health messaging. The Global Virus Network calls for urgent, proactive measures to prevent widespread outbreaks, leveraging lessons learned from prior pandemics. These measures include targeted vaccination, improved communication strategies to combat vaccine hesitancy, and incorporating social sciences to address barriers to public health interventions.

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 \(CORI\)](#)

998*



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 **	731
NEW MEXICO	67
KANSAS	46
OHIO	38
OKLAHOMA	17
PENNSYLVANIA	13
CALIFORNIA	10
MICHIGAN	9
INDIANA	8
MONTANA	7
TENNESSEE	6
COLORADO	5
WASHINGTON	5
ARKANSAS	4
NEW YORK	4
GEORGIA	3
ILLINOIS	3
MARYLAND	3
NEW JERSEY	3
ALASKA	2
FLORIDA	2
HAWAII	2
LOUISIANA	2
MINNESOTA	2
KENTUCKY	1
MISSOURI	1
NORTH DAKOTA	1
RHODE ISLAND	1
VERMONT	1
VIRGINIA	1
TOTAL	998

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 4/30/2025, 2300 hrs. EDT, there are approximately **998** measles cases (including confirmed and suspected cases) across 30 states.

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

- West Texas, involving [29 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: 14

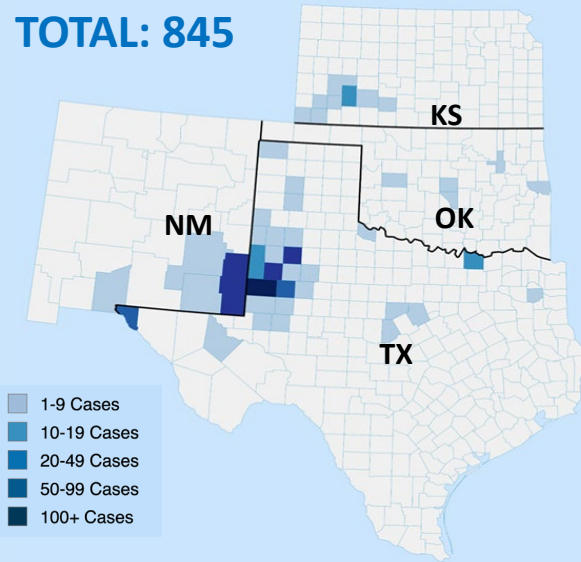
- 1 case – Atascosa County
- 1 case – Brazoria County
- 1 case – Collin County
- 1 case – Adult, Fort Bend (travel-related)
- 4 cases – Harris County
- 2 cases – Adults, Rockwall County (travel-related)
- 1 case - Shackelford
- 2 case – Travis County
- 18 cases – Upshur County

TEXAS CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK: 715




Measles: The Southwest Outbreak

As of 5/6/2025

TOTAL: 845

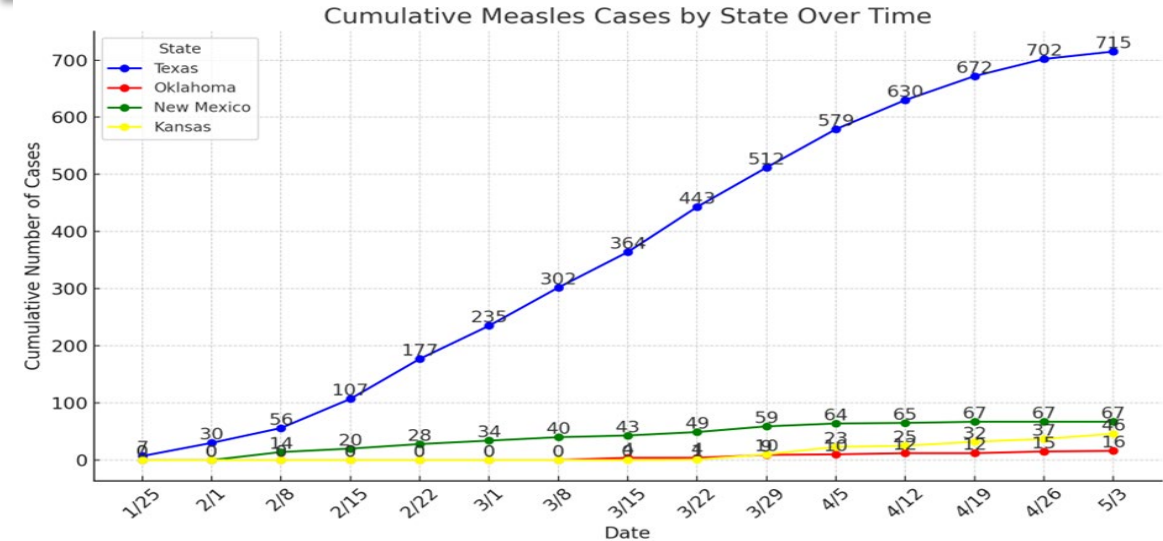


MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

STATE	CASES 	HOSPITALIZATION 	DEATHS 
TX	715	87	2
NM	67	7	1
OK	17	0	0
KS	46	1	0
TOTAL	845	95	3

*This includes El Paso's numbers, which were not included in the TX report..

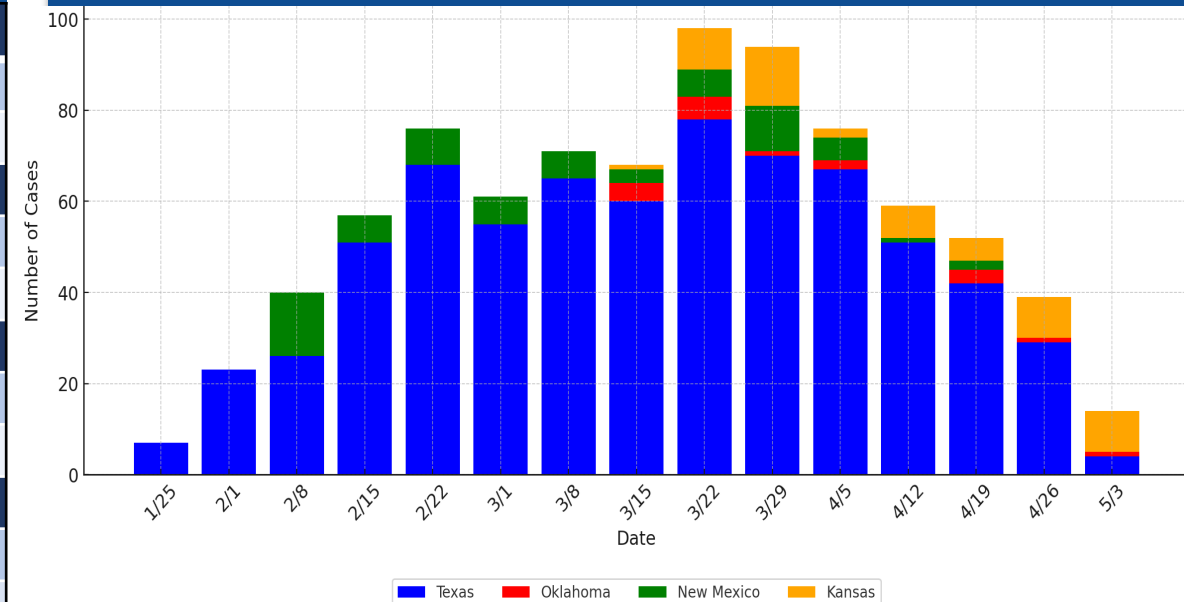
SOUTHWEST MEASLES OUTBREAK – EPI CURVE (WEEK ENDING 5/6/25)



AGE OF CASES

WEST TEXAS OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
213 (+11) (30%)	255 (+6) (37%)	226 (+14) (29%)	21 (4%)	715
NEW MEXICO OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
18 (27%)	19 (28.3%)	30 (+2) (44.7%)	0	67
KANSAS OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
14 (30%)	24 (51%)	8 (19%)	0	46
OKLAHOMA OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
14 Cases Confirmed, 3 Probable – no ages provided			3	17

SOUTHWEST MEASLES OUTBREAK TOTALS OVER TIME (WEEK ENDING 5/6/2025)



News Updates

VACCINES

[HHS TO REQUIRE PLACEBO TESTING OF 'ALL NEW VACCINES,' RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT APPROVAL OF UPDATED COVID-19 SHOTS – CNN:](#)

The US Department of Health and Human Services said it will require that all new vaccines be tested in placebo-controlled trials before they're licensed for use, raising urgent questions about the system used to clear updated Covid-19 boosters each respiratory virus season. "Under Secretary Kennedy's leadership, all new vaccines will undergo safety testing in placebo-controlled trials before licensure — a radical departure from past practices," HHS said in a statement Wednesday, 4/3/2025. (Tirrell, 5/1/2025)

[RFK JR. BETS \\$500 MILLION ON UNIVERSAL VACCINES IN SHIFT FROM COVID-19 FUNDING - THE WALL STREET JOURNAL:](#)

In a shift away from next-generation Covid-19 vaccines, the Trump administration is investing \$500 million in a vaccine project championed by two scientists who were recently tapped to serve in senior roles within the National Institutes of Health, according to emails reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The unusually large sum comes as the nation's health agencies are cutting budgets, shrinking staff and terminating hundreds of active research grants. (Subbaraman, 5/1)

[WORLD'S FIRST VACCINES THAT DON'T NEED REFRIGERATION JUST ENTERED TRIALS –](#)

[BGR:](#) The innovation comes from [Stablepharma](#), a UK-based company working with the government and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). Their first thermostable vaccine is called SPVX02. It's a reformulated version of the tetanus-diphtheria shot and is now undergoing clinical trials at the University Hospital Southampton. Unlike conventional vaccines, SPVX02 can remain stable at temperatures ranging from -20°C to 40°C and has a shelf life of up to 18 months without refrigeration. These unrefrigerated vaccines could dramatically reduce vaccine waste. Currently, as much as 50 percent of vaccines are discarded due to breaks in the "cold chain," the complex, energy-intensive system used to ensure vaccines stay cool from the point of manufacturing to injection. Maintaining that chain in remote areas or developing countries is often impossible, leaving vulnerable populations without protection. (Hawkins, 4/30/2025)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

[TOP VIROLOGISTS URGE WORLD LEADERS TO ACT ON RISING AVIAN FLU THREAT -](#)

[CIDRAP:](#) In a commentary in The Lancet Regional Health–Americas, leading virologists from more than 40 countries are exhorting global leaders to address the increasing threat of H5N1 avian flu by boosting surveillance, enhancing biosecurity, and preparing for potential human-to-human viral transmission. The Global Virus Network (GVN) scientists review the US outbreak status, discuss the importance of robust surveillance systems to detect emerging strains with pandemic potential, spotlight the risks facing the dairy and poultry industries, and recommend risk mitigation strategies. (Van Beusekom, 4/29/2025)

[US CDC CANCELS SCIENCE GROUP WORKSHOP ON PREVENTING HUMAN BIRD](#)

[FLU INFECTIONS - REUTERS:](#) The National Academy of Sciences has canceled a workshop on preventing human bird flu infections after being told to stop work on the event by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to an email sent to one of the workshop presenters and seen by Reuters. (Douglas, 4/29)

MARIJUANA

[MARIJUANA IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO THE FETUS IN THE WOMB, STUDY](#)

[FINDS- CNN:](#) Using marijuana during pregnancy is linked to poor fetal development, low infant birth weight, dangerously early deliveries and even death, according to a new meta-analysis of research. (LaMotte, 5/5)

MENINGITIS

CASE OF VIRAL MENINGITIS REPORTED ON UPTOWN CAMPUS – THE TULANE HULLABALOO: On April 29, Tulane University Campus Health sent out a [health notice](#) announcing that a case of viral meningitis in a member of the university community had been reported on the Uptown campus. Caesar Ross III, assistant vice president of campus health and wellness, stated in the notice that the individual is receiving medical treatment. “We are working closely with local and state public health officials to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of our campus,” Ross said in the notice. “One of the most important things to know about viral meningitis in particular is that it’s almost never life threatening the way that some bacterial meningitis can be,” Kendra LeSar, assistant professor in the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, said. While viral meningitis is typically mild and can resolve on its own, bacterial meningitis is more serious and can be life-threatening. Tulane students are [required](#) to be vaccinated with the meningococcal ACYW vaccine, used to prevent bacterial meningitis. Last month, a [first-year student at the University of Virginia](#) died from bacterial meningitis a week after being diagnosed with meningococcal disease. According to the notice, common symptoms include sudden fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, confusion and sensitivity to light. (Ruhl, 5/1/2025)

TICK-BORN DISEASES

A SPIKE IN TICK-BORNE DISEASES EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER IN CT THIS SUMMER, EXPERTS SAY. HERE’S WHY – HARTFORD COURANT: [The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#) is reporting a significant increase in acorn abundance that occurred last fall as compared to past years, a phenomenon referred to as either a “mast year” or “bumper crop year,” officials said. Nearly 87% of all red oaks in the study were documented with acorns compared to a historical average of 57%. Recent bumper crop years occurred in red oaks in 2016 and 2019, and in 2015 for white oaks. While scientists aren’t quite sure why bumper crop years occur in oak trees, the phenomenon has a direct impact on wildlife such as rodents and deer. Mice, a common carrier of Lyme disease and a well-known host for ticks, can often see their populations multiply with an abundance of acorns. The acorns act as an important food source for them over winter, according to experts at the CAES. Some mice have been found to harbor over 200 ticks, with an average of about 23 ticks per mouse, according to experts. (Underwood, 5/5/2025)

INFLUENZA

Pediatric flu deaths, by year

As of May 2, 2025. Note: Data is lagged so 2024-2025 tally is incomplete

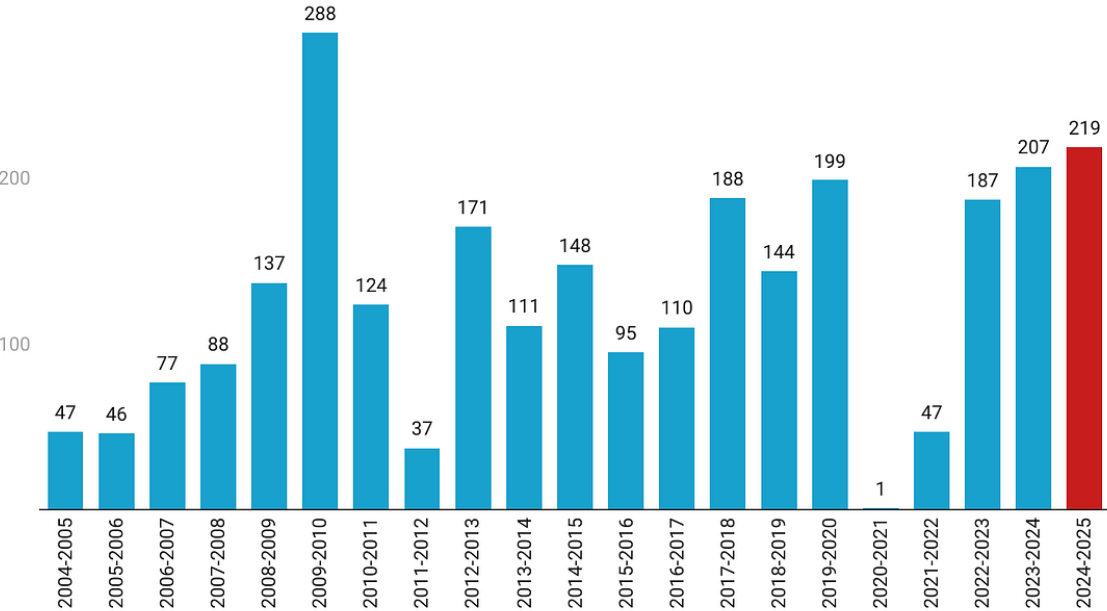


Chart: Your Local Epidemiologist • Source: Helen Branswell • Created with Datawrapper

CDC REPORTS 216 CHILD DEATHS THIS FLU SEASON, THE MOST IN 15 YEARS

– AP: More U.S. children have died this flu season than at any time since the swine flu pandemic 15 years ago, according to a federal report released Friday. The 216 pediatric deaths [reported](#) by the CDC, for the week ending April 26, 2025, eclipse the 207 reported last year. It's the most since the 2009-2010 H1N1 global flu pandemic. There are likely several contributors to this season's severity, but a big one is that fewer children are getting flu shots, added O'Leary, a University of Colorado pediatric infectious diseases specialist. The flu vaccination rate for U.S. children has plummeted from about 64% five years ago to 49% this season. (Stobbe, 5/2/2025)