



## **Iowa Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report**

**MMWR Week 51**

**December 15, 2024 - December 21, 2024**

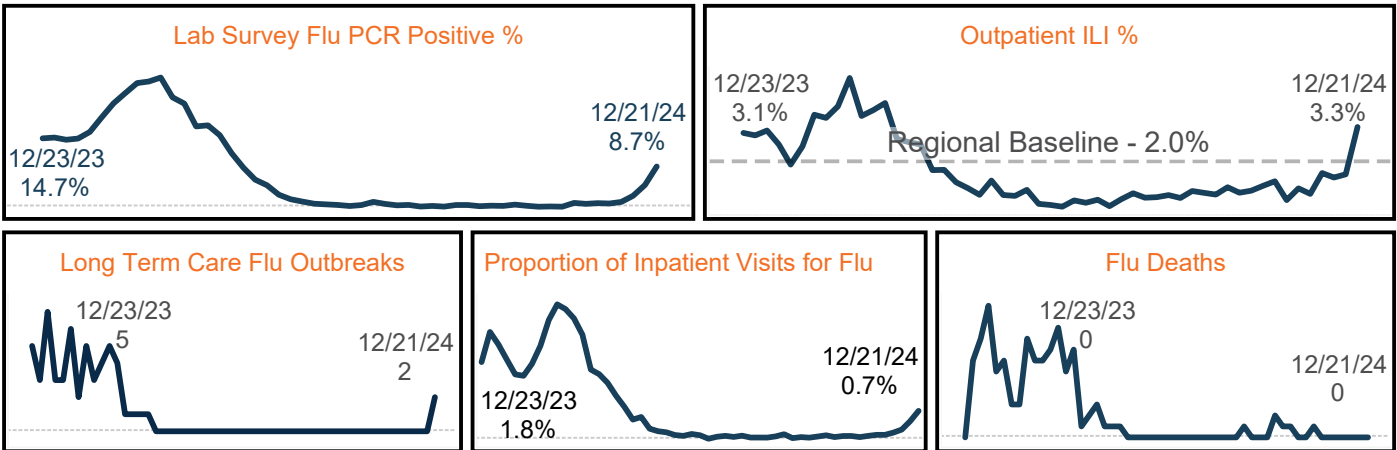
**Date and time of issue: 12/27/2024 10:52:35 AM**



## Quick Stats for Week 51 (12/15/24 - 12/21/24)

### Influenza

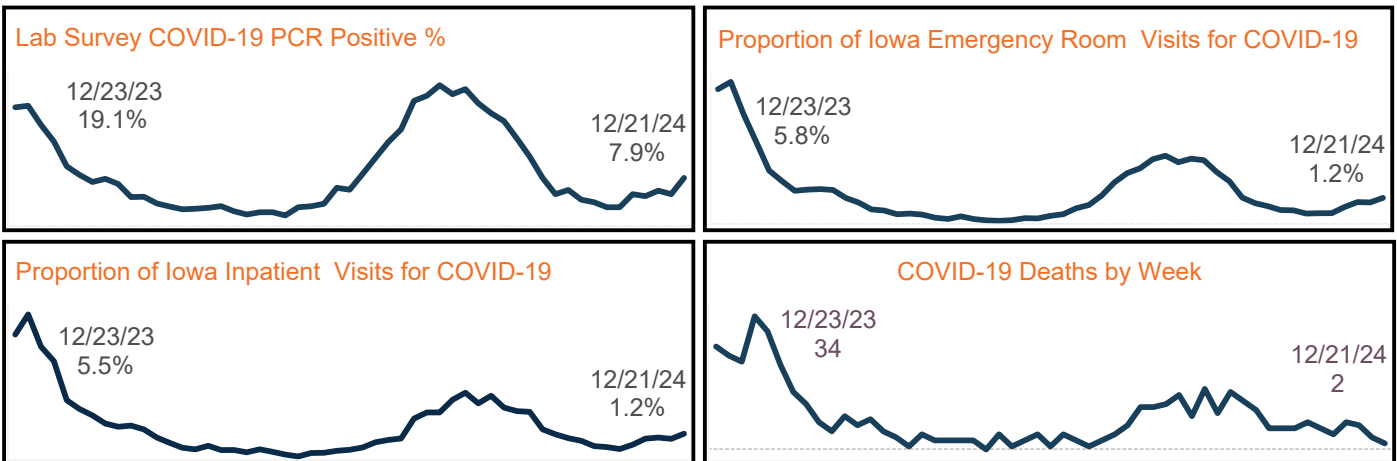
#### Overall Influenza Activity: LOW



NOTE: Line graphs display current week, or most recent available week, and previous 52 weeks

### COVID-19

#### Overall COVID-19 Activity: LOW



NOTE: Line graphs display current week, or most recent available week, and previous 52 weeks

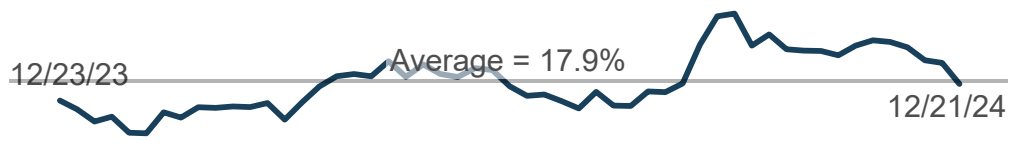
### Other Respiratory Viruses

Top Pathogen Group by Positive Percent on Respiratory Virus Survey - MOLECULAR ONLY  
Current Week and Previous 52 Weeks Trends

Percent Positive for Current Week

Positive Percent by Week

Rhinovirus/Enterovirus  
17.3%



All data presented in this report are provisional and may change as additional reports are received .

See the **Surveillance Methods** page for a detailed description of each component of the Iowa respiratory virus surveillance system including methodology and definitions.

Visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/center-acute-disease-epidemiology/iowa-influenza-surveillance> to subscribe to weekly email reports

## International Influenza Activity Summary

### World Health Organization Influenza Update

Published 24 December 2024 | For reporting Week 50, ending 15 December 2024

#### Influenza

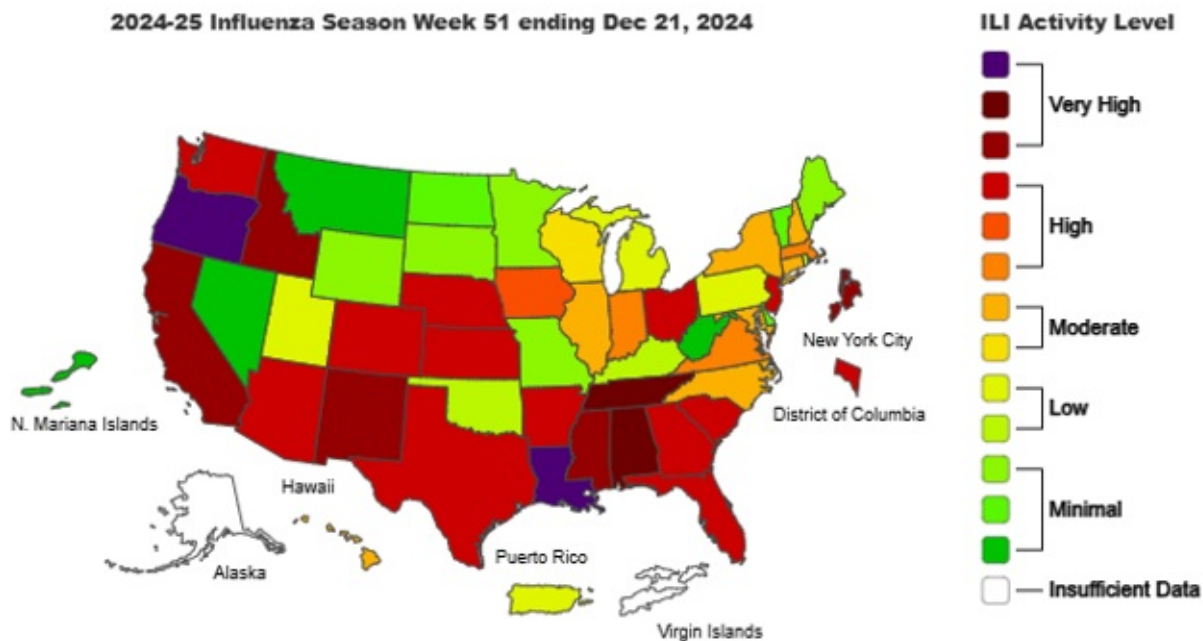
In the Northern hemisphere, influenza activity was elevated in many countries in Europe (mostly A(H1N1)pdm09 detected, with A(H3N2) and B viruses also detected), Central America and the Caribbean (mostly A(H3N2)), Western Africa (mostly A(H3N2) and B), Middle Africa (mostly A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2)), Northern Africa (mostly A(H3N2)), and in many countries in Asia (mostly A(H1N1)pdm09 detected). Activity increased in parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia and in a few countries in the Caribbean. In the Southern hemisphere, influenza activity was elevated and increased in single countries in Tropical South America (mostly B viruses detected) and Eastern Africa (mostly B viruses). Activity increased in a few countries but was similar or declined in most reporting countries.

#### SARS-CoV-2

SARS-CoV-2 activity remained elevated in parts of South America, Europe, Middle and Eastern Africa, and South East Asia. Increased activity was reported from parts of South West Europe and Eastern Africa but was similar or declined in all other reporting countries.

<https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>

### National Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity - CDC

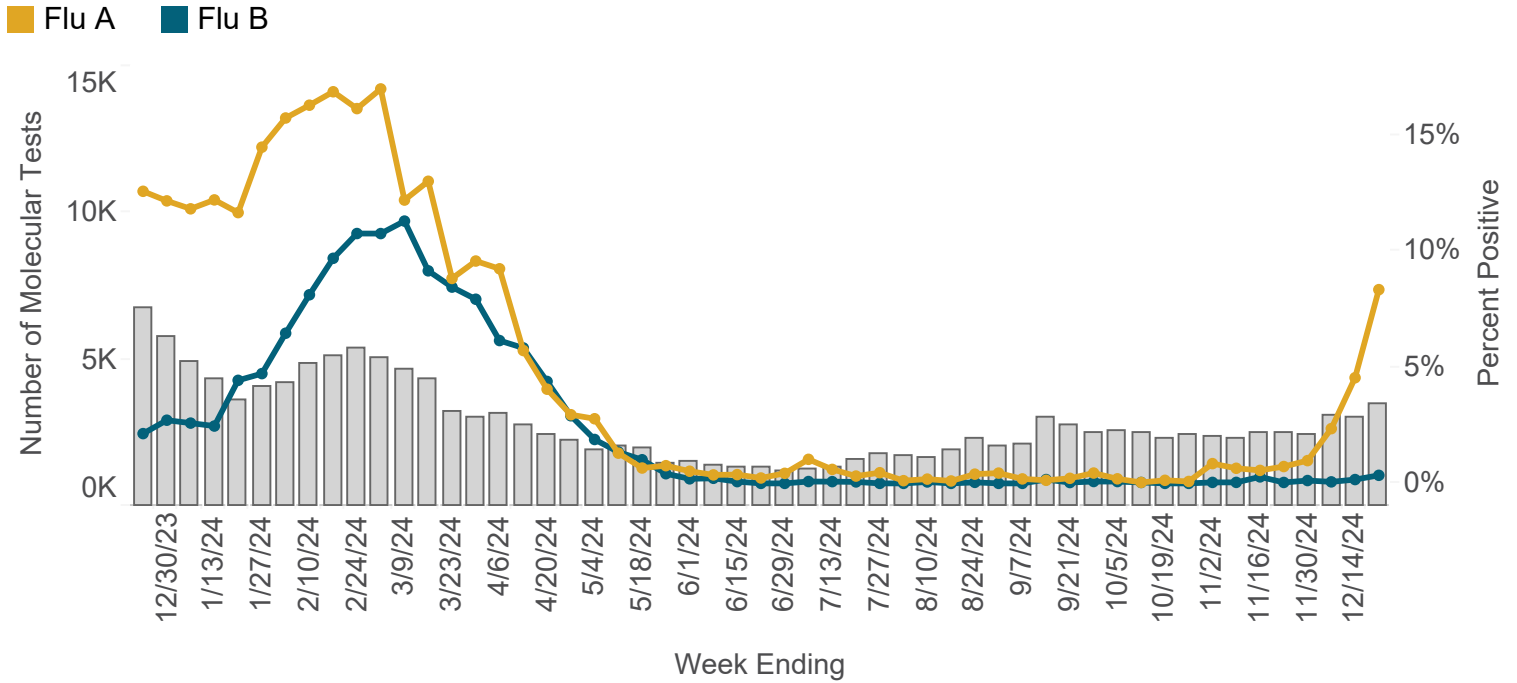


Weekly U.S. influenza surveillance report. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/index.html>

## Iowa Respiratory Survey - Influenza

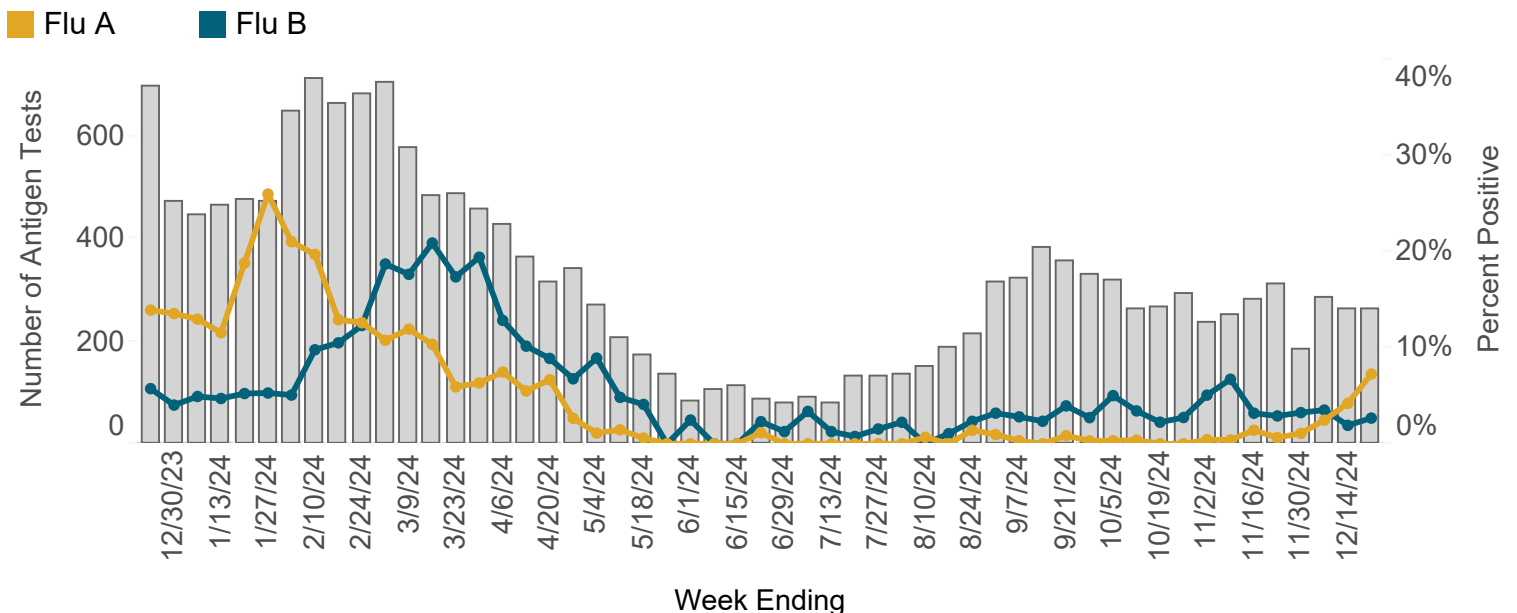
### Number of Influenza Molecular Tests and Positive Percentage - Current and Previous 52 Weeks



### Flu Tests and Positivity by Method - Current Week

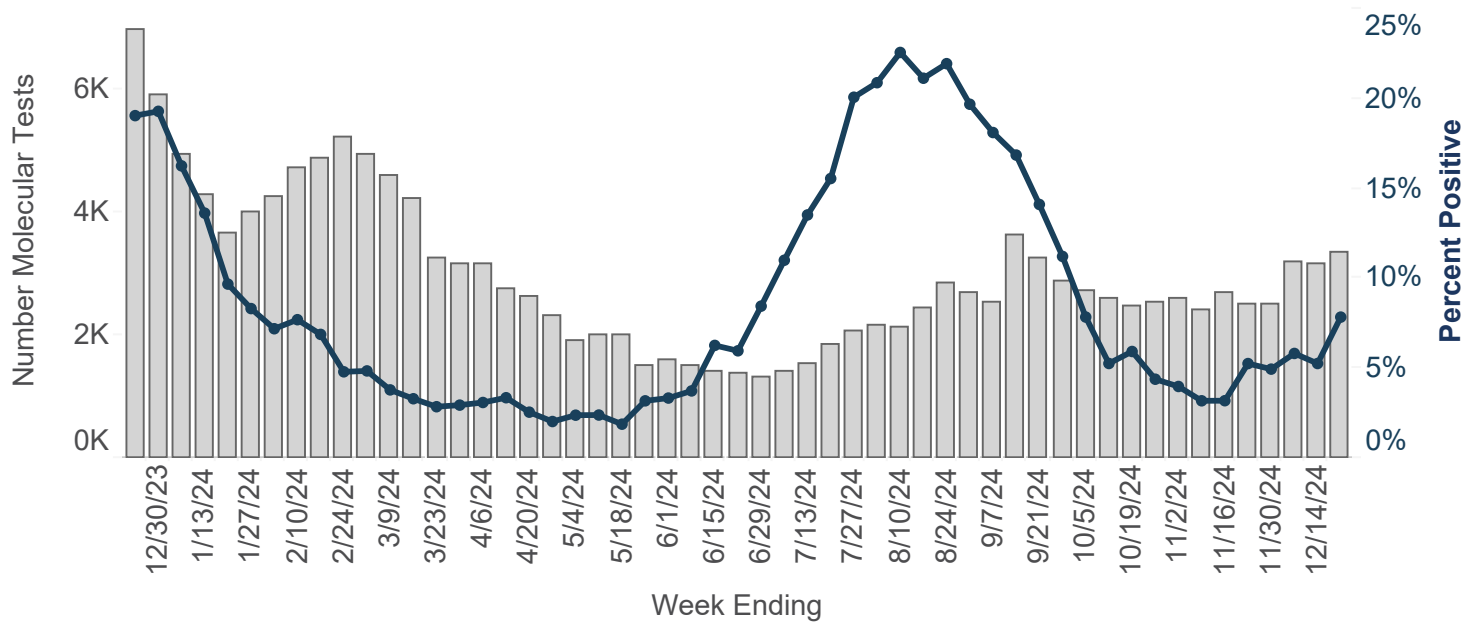
Test Method	Number Positives	Number Tests by Group and Method	Percent Positive across Methods
Molecular	300	3,454	8.7%
Antigen	26	262	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

### Number of Influenza Antigen Tests and Positive Percentage - Current and Previous 52 Weeks



## Iowa Respiratory Survey - COVID-19

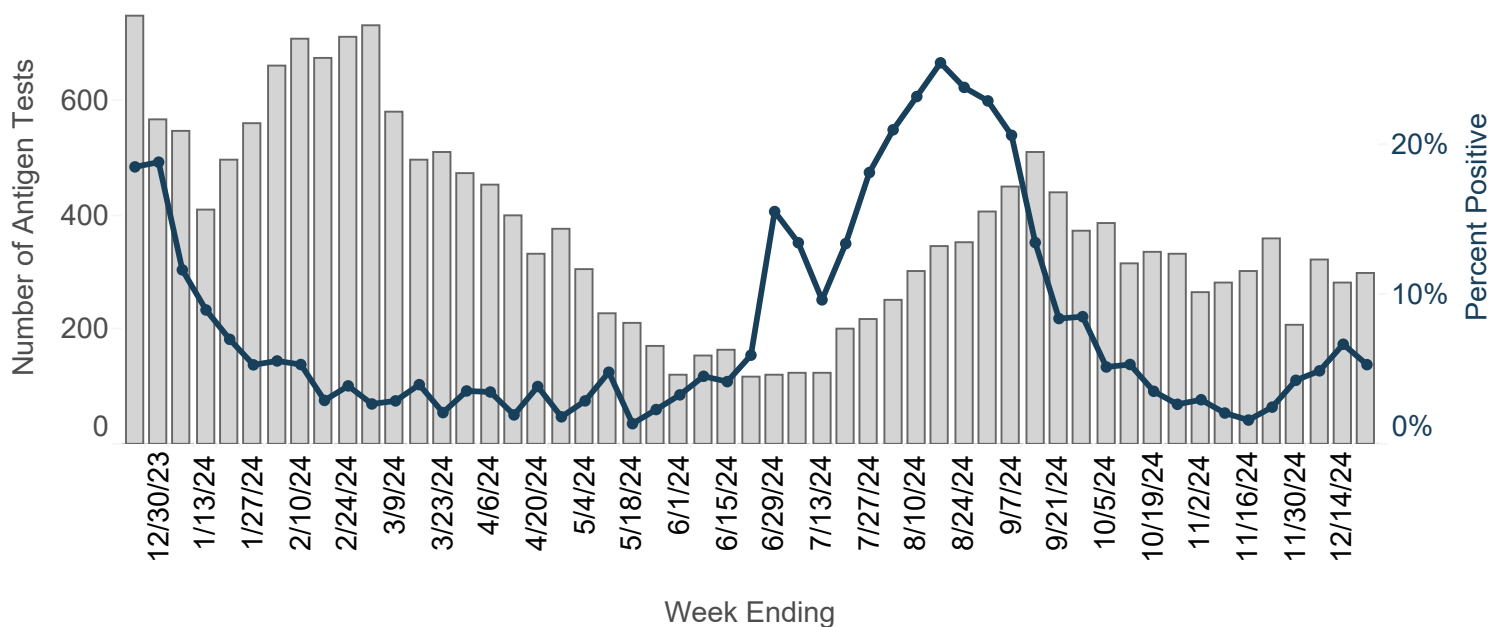
Number of COVID-19 Molecular Tests and Positive Percentage - Current and Previous 52 Weeks



COVID-19 Tests and Positivity by Method - Current Week

Test Method	Percent Positive
Molecular	7.9%
Antigen	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

Number of COVID-19 Antigen Tests and Positive Percentage - Current and Previous 52 Weeks



## Influenza Testing at the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL)

### Cumulative Influenza Viruses Detected by SHL (9/29/2024 - Current Week)

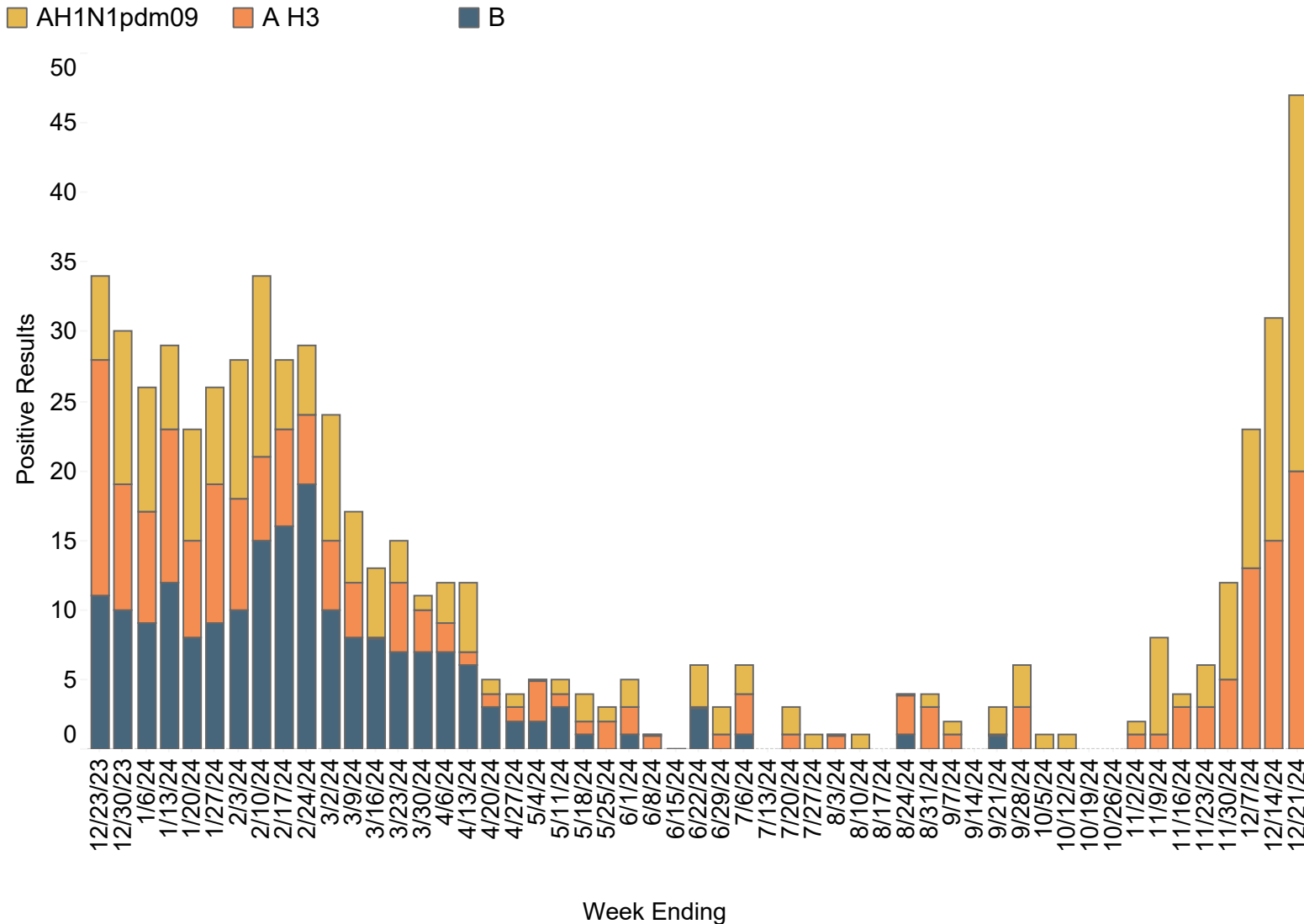
	Flu A		Flu B	Grand Total
	AH1N1pdm09	A H3	B	
Current Positives	27	20	0	47
Cumulative Positives	74	61	0	135

**Table Note:** Only Iowa residents are included.

**Novel Influenza A Note:** SHL detected one human case of avian influenza A(H5) which is not included in the table above or the graph below.

**Influenza B Note:** CDC no longer supplies the public health laboratories with the testing kits to genotype influenza B after not detecting any influenza B Yamagata for over 3 years. SHL will still send a subsample of influenza B positive specimens to CDC for further characterization.

### Influenza Viruses Detected by SHL by Week (Current Week and Previous 52 Weeks)

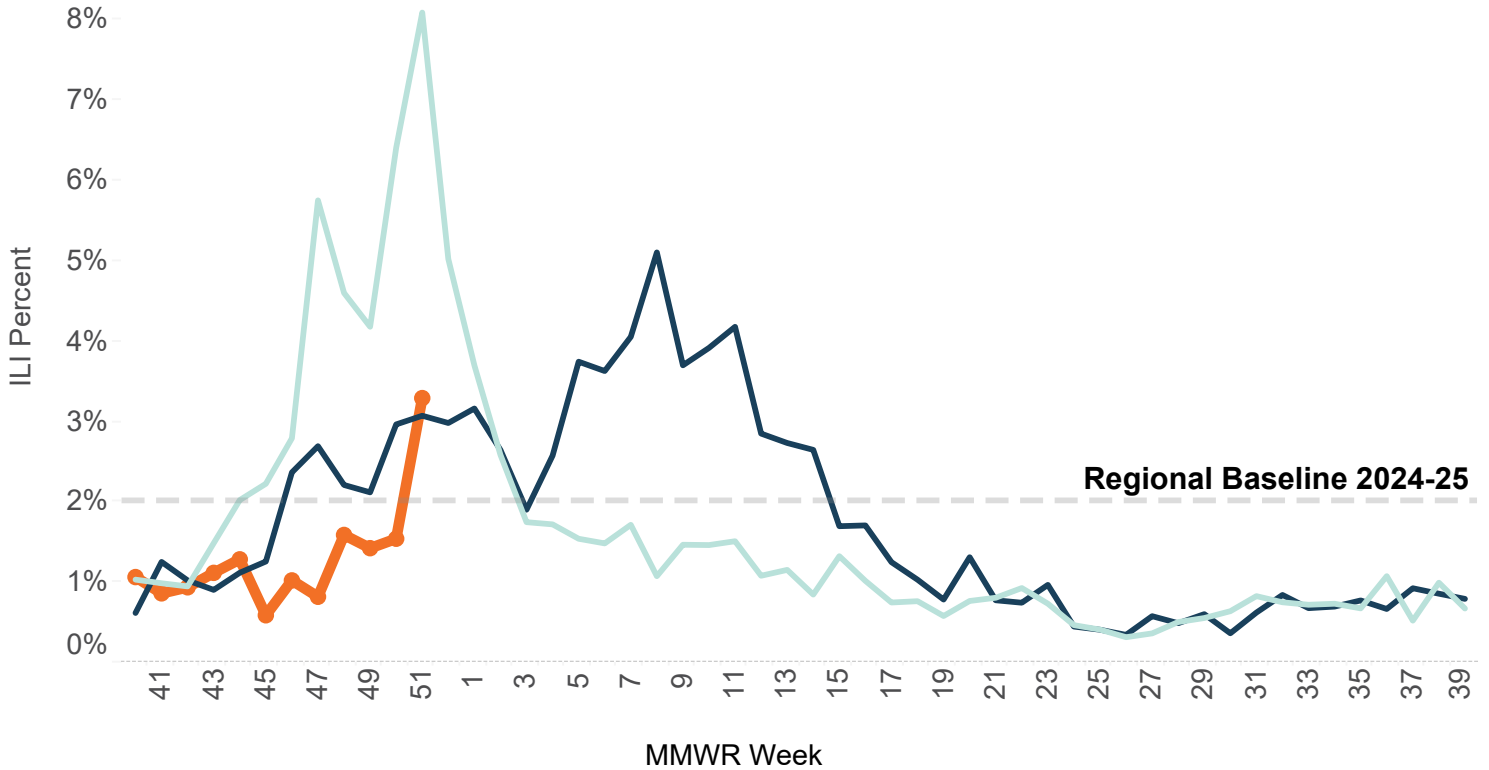


## Outpatient Health Care Provider Surveillance Program (ILINET)

### Percent Of Outpatient Visits with Influenza-like Illness (ILI) as Reported by ILINet Sites

2022-23 2023-24 2024-25

#### ILI Percent by Season and Week



#### ILI by Age Group Past 4 Weeks

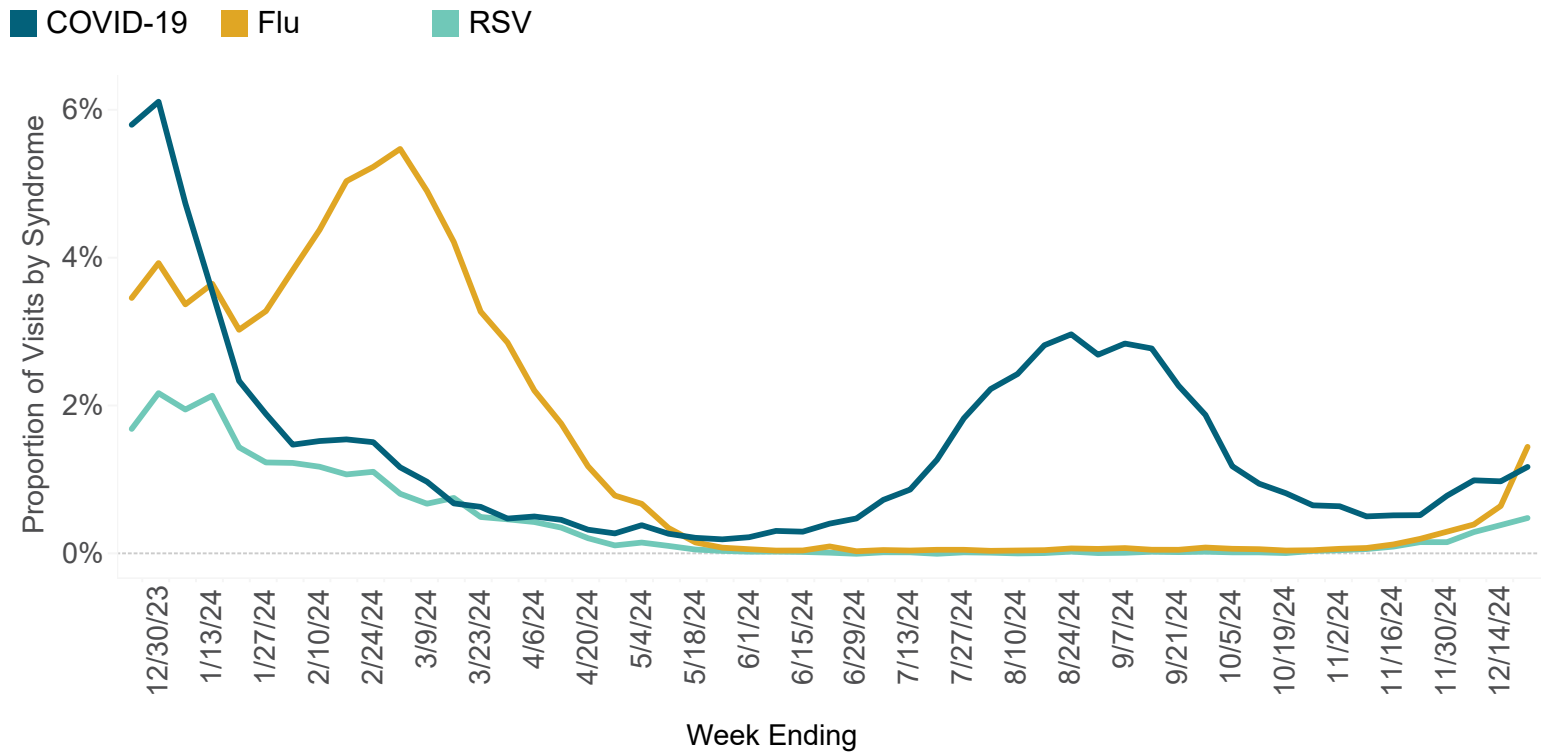
MMWR Week	End Date	Age 0-4	Age 5-24	Age 25-49	Age 50-64	Age 65 and older	Total ILI	ILI Pct
48	11/30/2024	12	17	8	5	6	48	1.59%
49	12/7/2024	13	33	17	5	8	76	1.43%
50	12/14/2024	6	43	10	8	10	77	1.54%
51	12/21/2024	22	75	25	8	15	145	3.29%

**Outpatient ILI Note:** Outpatient health care providers who participate in the ILINet (a national influenza surveillance program) report the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness and the total number of patient visits each week. The ILI Definition changed in 2021-22 so that persons with ILI symptoms (cough, sore throat, fever) will be counted even if positive for other respiratory illness (e.g., COVID-19).

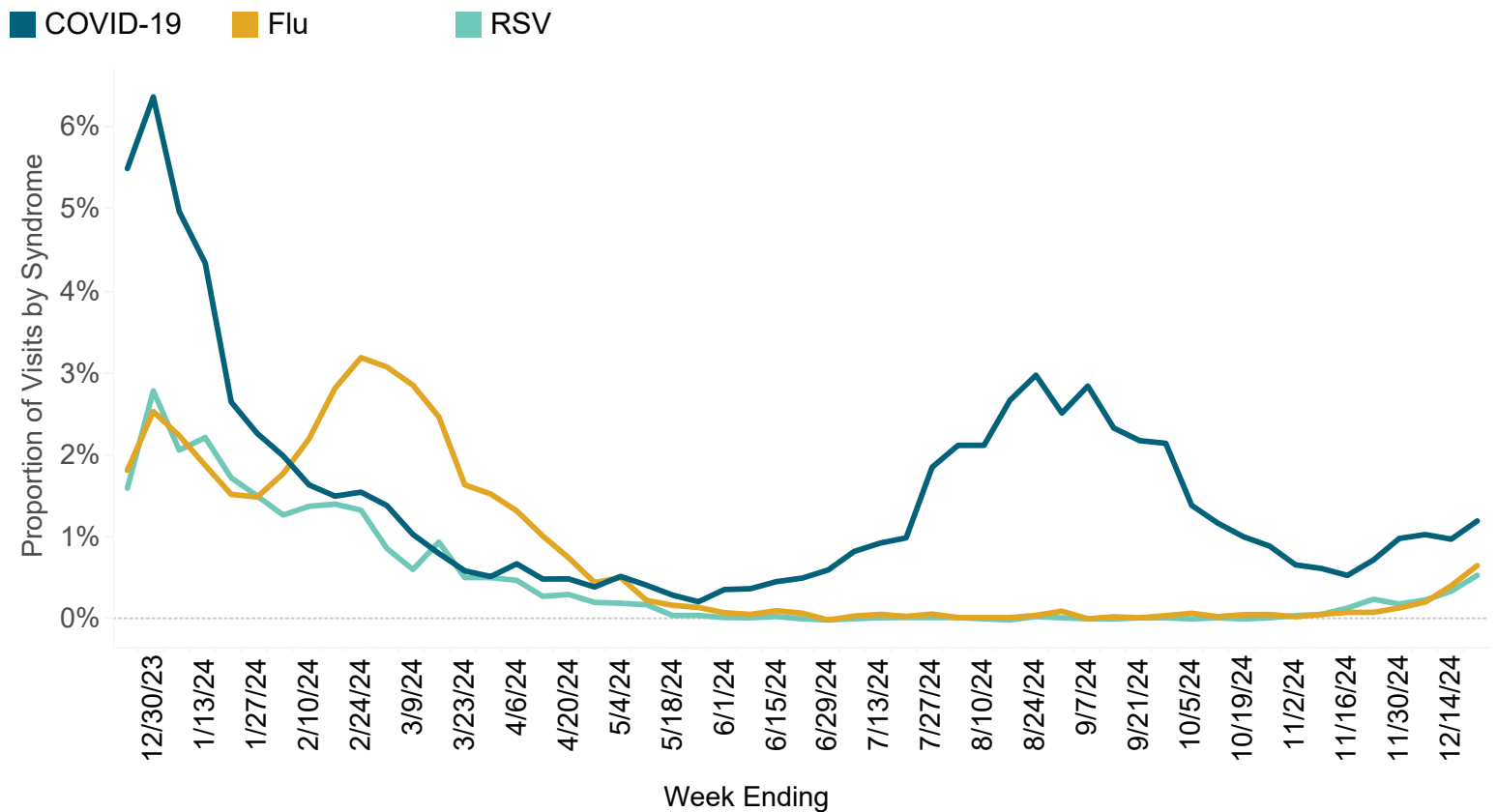


## Iowa Syndromic Surveillance Program

Proportion of Iowa Emergency Room Visits for Respiratory Syndromes - Current and Previous 52 Weeks



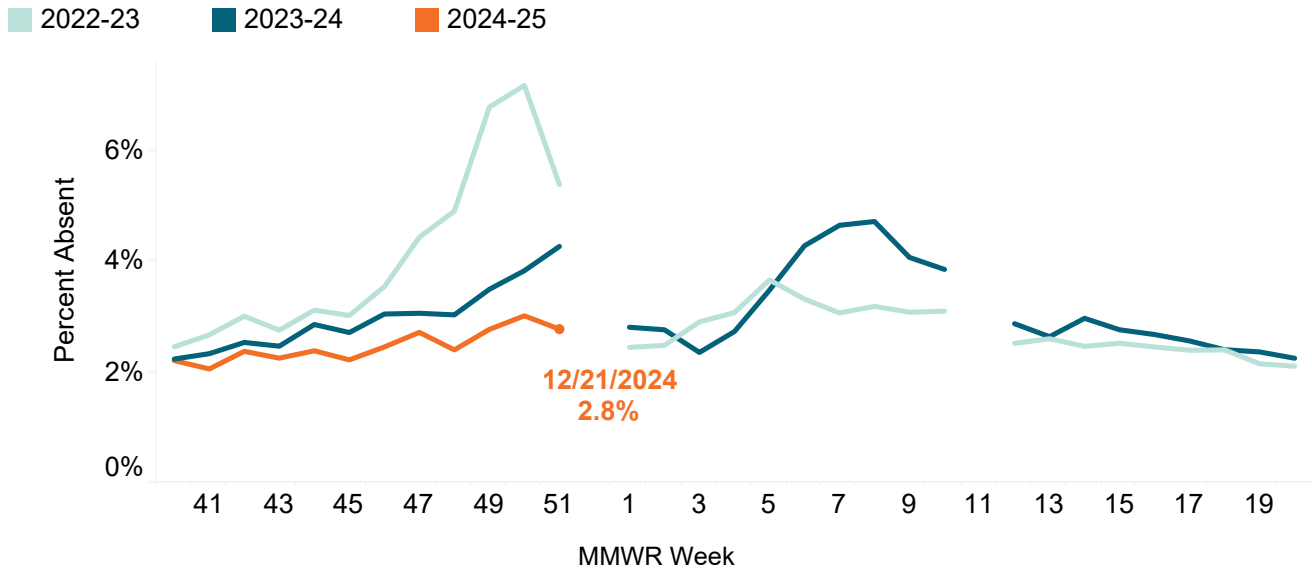
Proportion of Iowa Inpatient Visits for Respiratory Syndromes - Current and Previous 52 Weeks





### School Illness

Percent of Enrolled Students Absent Due to Illness Reported by Sentinel Schools

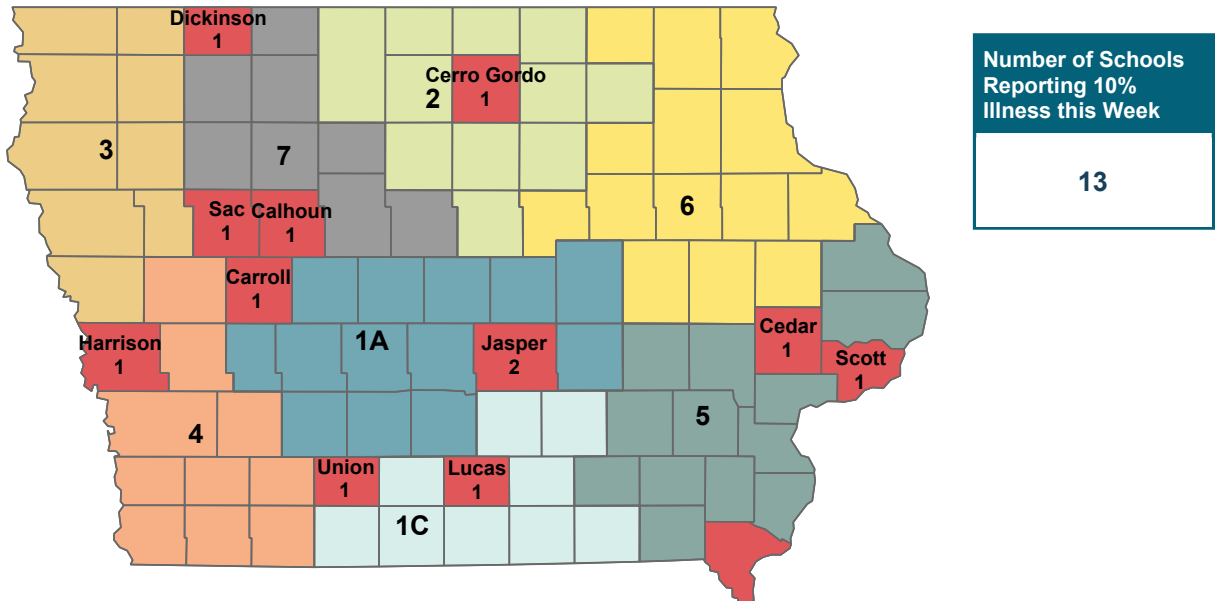


Some weeks are not shown due to large numbers of missing data (e.g., winter and spring breaks)

Number of Schools Reporting 10% Illness by County - Current Week

Preparedness Service Area

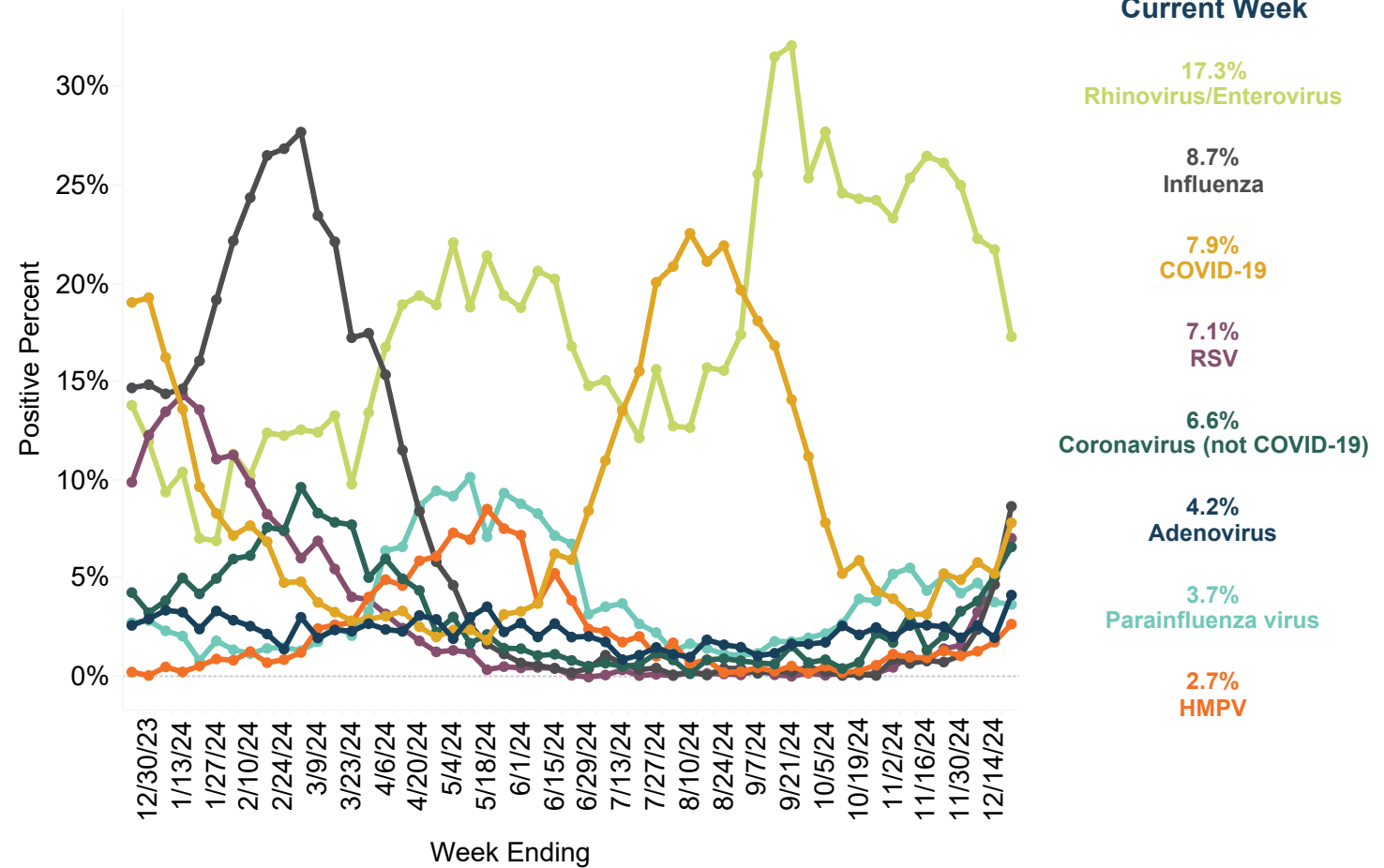
- 1A
- 1C
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7



## Iowa Respiratory Virus Survey

Percent of Positive Respiratory Viruses by Pathogen Group and Week - Molecular Only (Current and Previous 52 Weeks)

Percent Positive by Week

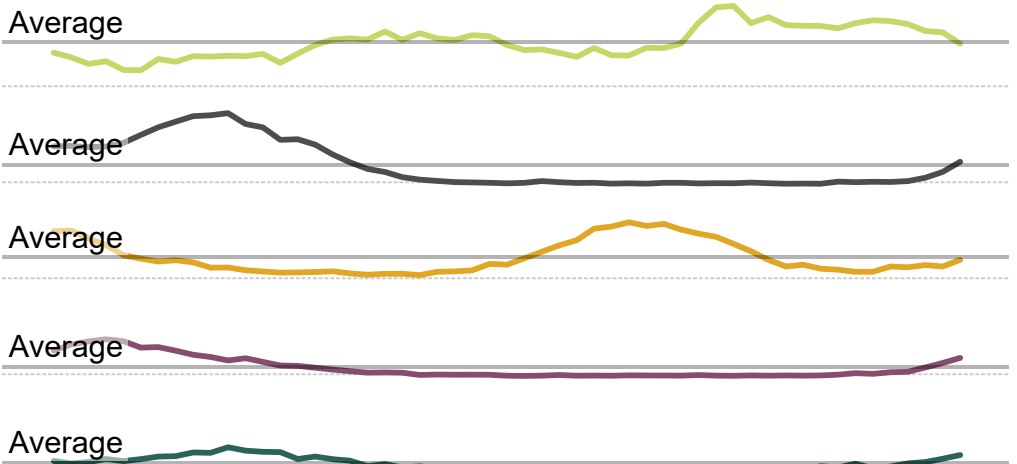


Top 5 Pathogen Groups by Positive Percent on Respiratory Virus Survey - Molecular Only (Current and Previous 52 Weeks)

Percent Positive for Current Week

- 17.3% Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- 8.7% Influenza
- 7.9% COVID-19
- 7.1% RSV
- 6.6% Coronavirus (not COVID-19)

Percent Positive by Week



## Report Methods, Definitions and Data Sources

### **NATIONAL INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) - CDC**

The CDC national ILI map shows influenza-like illness, which is determined by symptoms such as fever, cough, and sore throat that can be caused by a number of pathogens in addition to influenza (e.g., COVID-19). Detailed information can be found online at [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/).

### **IOWA RESPIRATORY SURVEY**

Iowa HHS and SHL run a weekly web-based survey program where laboratorians report the number of influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory virus tests performed, the testing method (molecular, antigen, or virus isolation) and the number of positive tests.

### **INFLUENZA TESTING AT THE STATE HYGIENIC LAB**

The State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) is the primary laboratory in Iowa characterizing specimens for influenza surveillance. SHL reports the number of tests performed and the type and subtype/lineage of positive tests to the influenza surveillance network daily. SHL also sends a portion of specimens to CDC for further characterization.

### **OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM (ILINET)**

Outpatient health care providers who participate in ILINet (a national influenza surveillance program) report the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness and the total number of patient visits each week.

### **INFLUENZA AND COVID-19 DEATHS**

The Iowa HHS Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology works with the Bureau of Health Statistics to monitor mortality among Iowa residents related to Influenza and COVID-19. Deaths are considered to be influenza-associated when influenza is listed on the death certificate. COVID-associated deaths are determined by diagnosis codes listed on the death certificate.

Both Influenza and COVID-19 death totals are cumulative from the start of the flu season (approximately October 1 each year through the end of the current reporting week).

### **LONG TERM CARE FACILITY INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS**

A confirmed influenza outbreak in a care facility is defined as at least two residents with lab-confirmed influenza in the same area of a facility having an illness onset within 72 hours of each other.

### **IOWA SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE**

Iowa HHS, CyncHealth Iowa and CDC started implementing syndromic surveillance for the state of Iowa in May 2021. Iowa continues to enroll hospitals to participate and currently has over 90 hospitals participating. Syndromic surveillance provides public health with a near real time system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health events based on symptoms and diagnoses of patients visiting participating hospitals.

### **SCHOOL ILLNESS REPORTING**

Iowa HHS works with Iowa schools, local public health and the Iowa Department of Education to track and respond to reports of illness in school in two main groups: 10% daily student absences and sentinel school weekly illness totals. All K-12 schools are asked to report all days where student absences due to illness are at least 10% of expected enrollment. Weekly illness data is from a subset of schools that voluntarily report weekly totals of students ill throughout the school year regardless of the level of illness.