

Media briefing: Respiratory Virus Update

November 9, 2022

Moderator: Brian Spencer, CDPHE



In collaboration with
Children's Hospital Colorado



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Participants



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Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)



What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

- Usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.
 - Can include:
 - Runny nose.
 - Decrease in appetite.
 - Coughing.
 - Sneezing.
 - Fever.
 - Wheezing.
- Can be serious, especially for infants to children below age two, and older adults.



RSV-associated hospitalizations and outbreaks are increasing rapidly.

RSV (through the week ending Nov. 5, 2022)

554 hospitalizations (metro-Denver only)

- 525 (95%) pediatric
- 29 (5%) adult

144 school/childcare outbreaks (statewide)



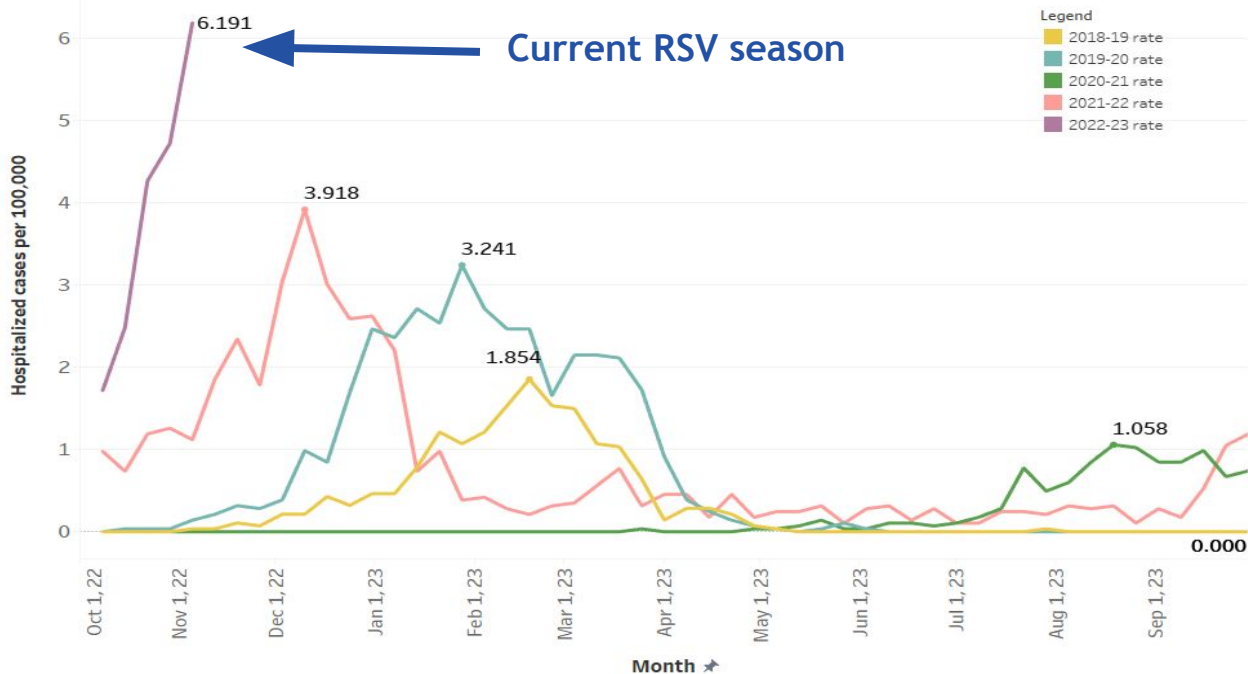
RSV percent positivity is increasing.

RSV Positivity



RSV hospitalizations are increasing faster and earlier than usual.

RSV-Associated Hospitalizations by MMWR Week: Rates by Season, 2018-19 to 2022-23



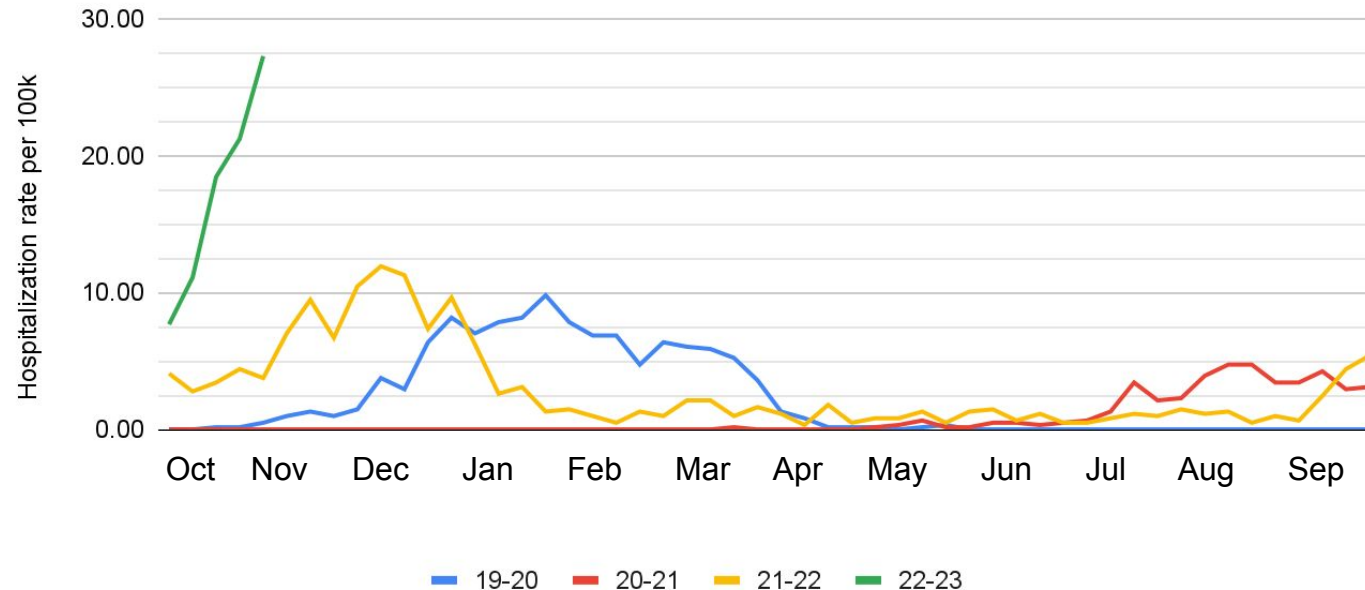
The graph above shows hospitalization rates for RSV cases occurring within the five county Denver metro area. For the 2018-19 season, data were only collected from University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital of Colorado. Starting in the 2019-20 season, data were collected from all hospitals in the five-county Denver metro area. It should be noted that changes in testing practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may affect rates for the 2022-23 season.



Pediatric hospitalization rates are higher than previous years.

Pediatric RSV Hospitalization Rates by MMWR Week

Colorado EIP data from Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties



- In 2021-22, RSV activity increased in the summer and peaked in late December.
- Current increase in hospitalization rate is earlier and faster than past seasons.



Pediatric RSV hospitalization rates are highest among youngest age groups.

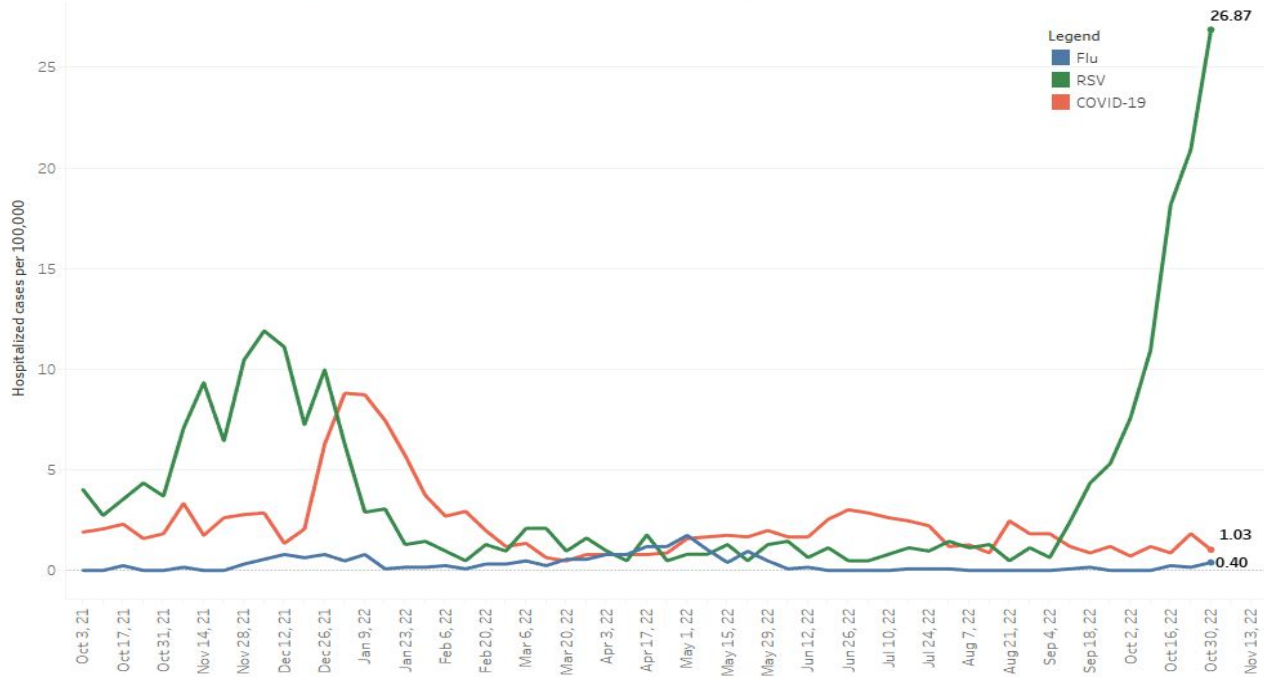
Age Group	Number of pediatric Hospitalizations	Rate per 100,000 children
0 to <6 months	116	711.0
6 mo to <2 yr	171	354.4
2 to <5	182	184.9
5 to <12	54	23.1
12 to <18	2	0.93
Total (children <18)	525	85.7

Data from the 5-county metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties) through Saturday, November 5, 2022



RSV hospitalizations for children under 18 are far outpacing flu or COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Rates of Pediatric Hospitalizations Due to Influenza, RSV, & COVID-19: October 2021 - Present



Source: Colorado Patient Hospital Surveillance data (COVID-19) and Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (Influenza & RSV). COVID-19 and influenza cases are reported statewide, while RSV is reported from Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. Data is lagged by one week. Graph depicts data through November 5, 2022. Updated November 8, 2022.
Note: COVID-19 cases are displayed by date of admission and influenza and RSV rates are displayed by date of specimen collection.

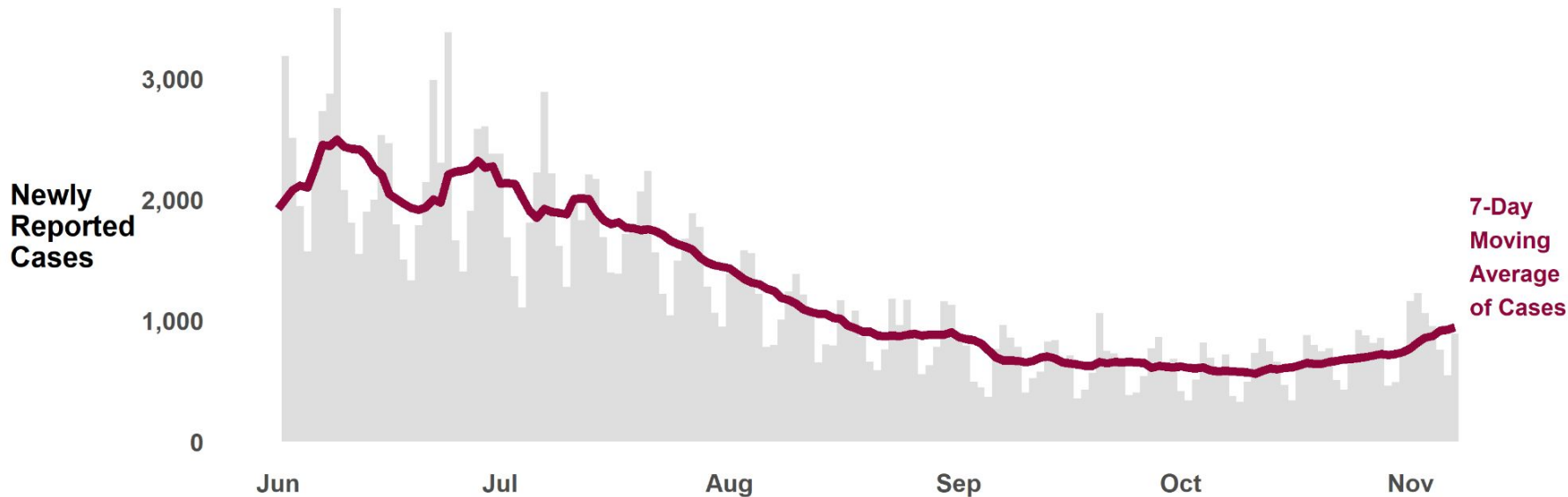


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COVID-19



Colorado's COVID-19 cases are trending up.

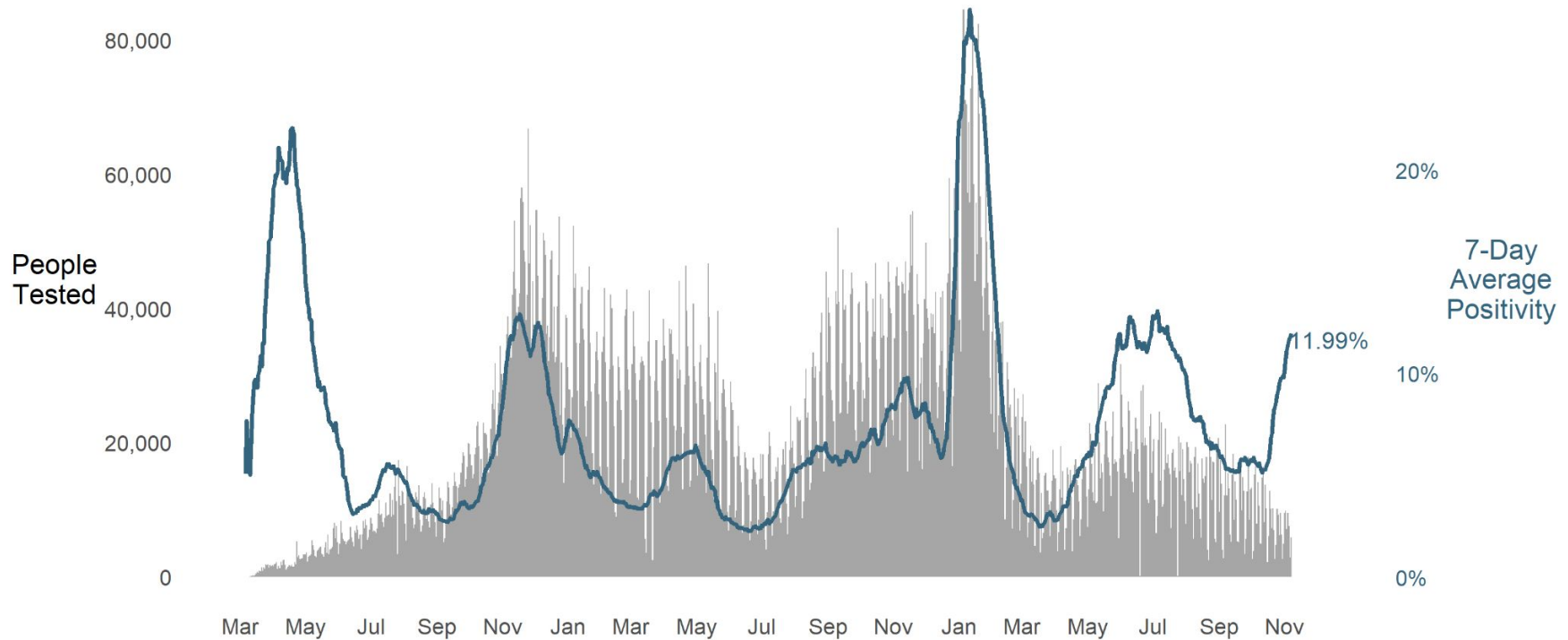


Updated Nov 08, 2022

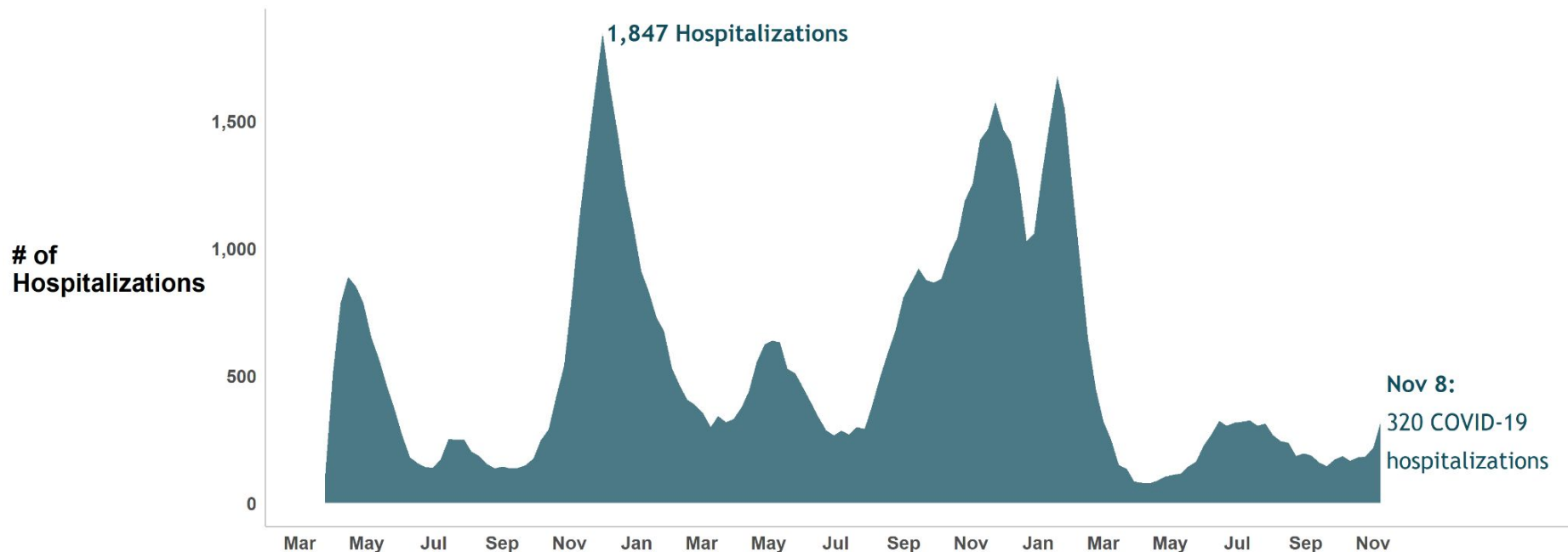


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Percent positivity is also increasing in Colorado.

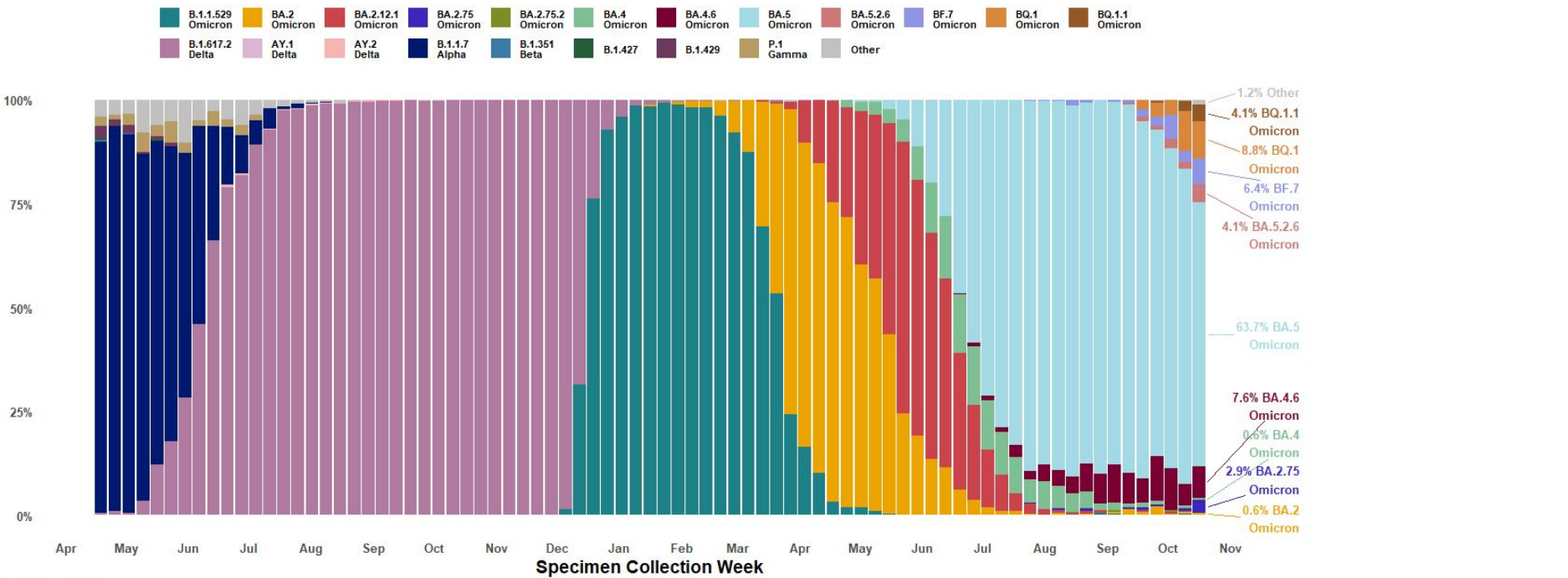


COVID-19 hospitalizations are increasing.



Omicron subvariants remain predominant, and new subvariants could accelerate transmission.

Percent of Sequenced Specimens



Updated Nov 09, 2022
A graph with the full sentinel surveillance timeline is available on the CDPHE COVID website.

Influenza



Influenza-associated hospitalizations and outbreaks are increasing as expected.

Influenza (through the week ending Nov.5, 2022)

92 hospitalizations (statewide)

- Age 65+: 45
- Age 18-64: 37
- Age 5-17: 8
- Under age 5: 2

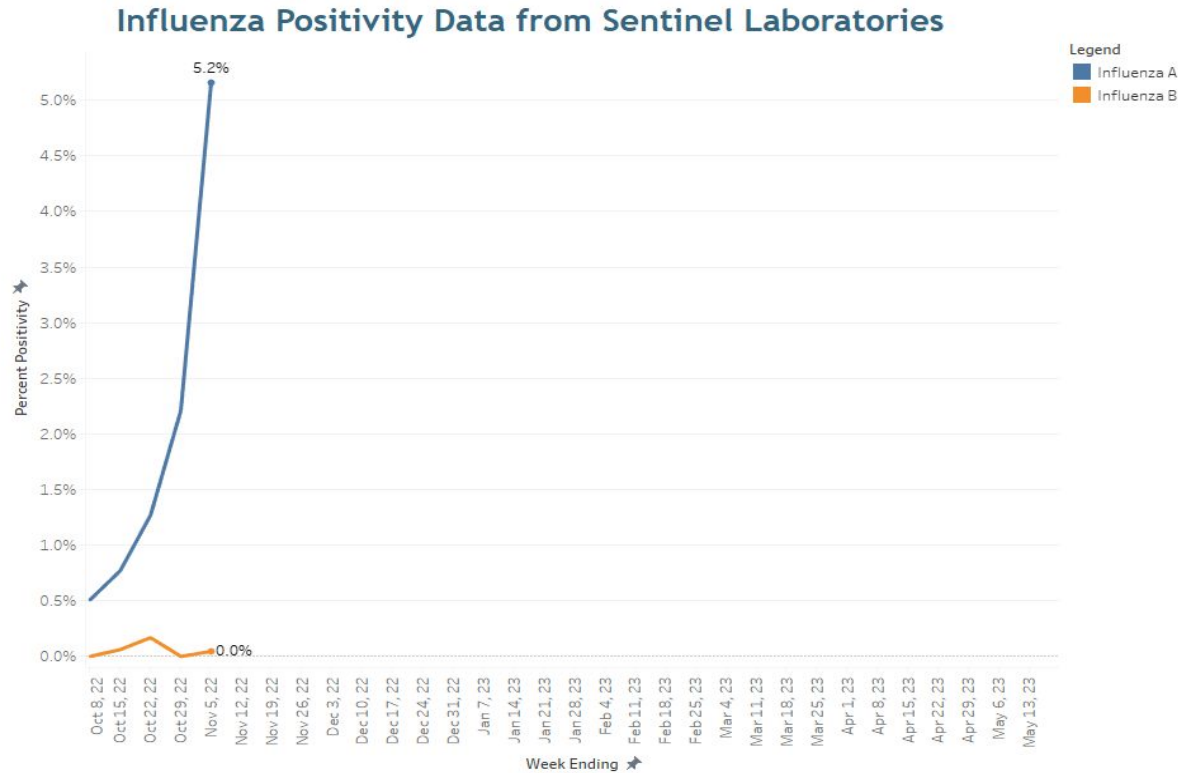
3 outbreaks

0 pediatric deaths



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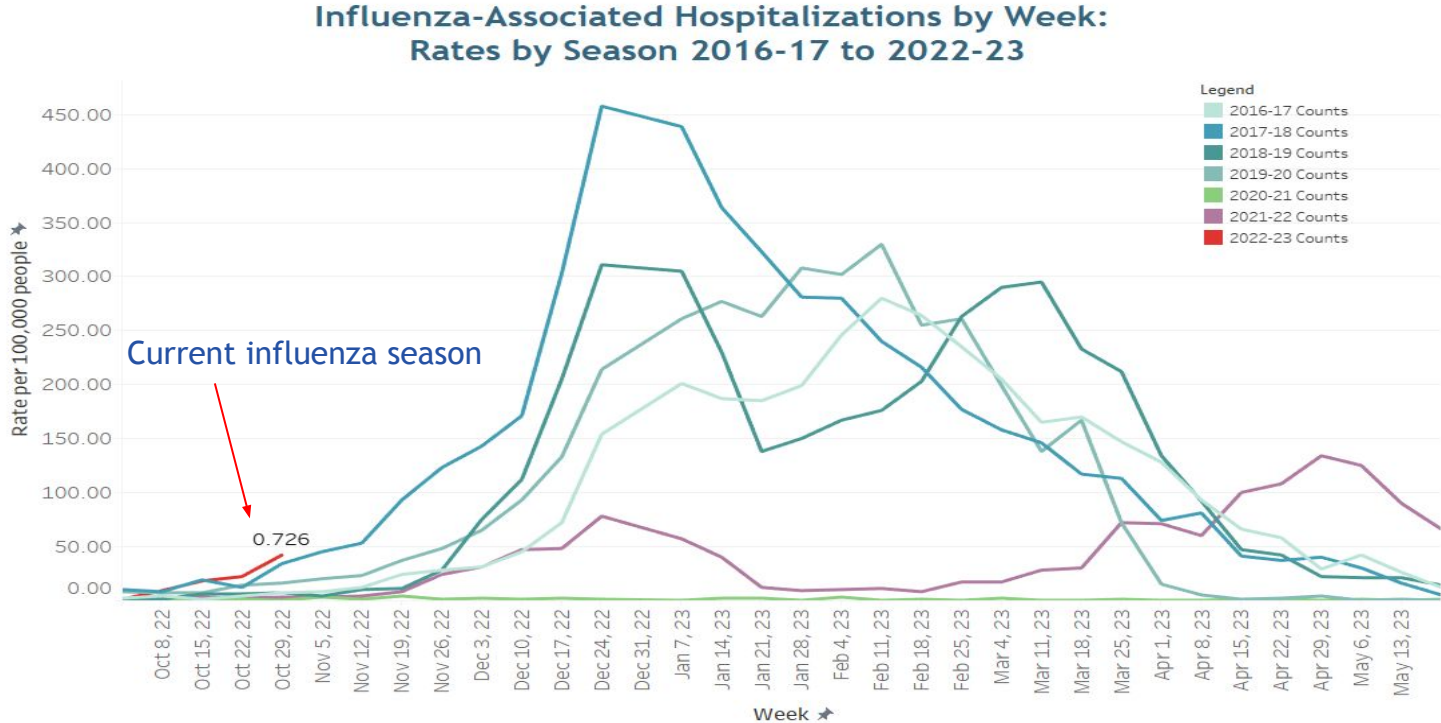
Rates of positive influenza tests are increasing in Colorado.



Influenza test positivity data is collected from sentinel clinical laboratories across the state of Colorado. These laboratories provide data on all influenza tests performed Sunday through Saturday of each week. The figure above shows the percentage of tests positive for influenza (A and B) across all sentinel laboratories.



Influenza-associated hospitalizations have started to increase.



How can I help prevent transmission of respiratory illnesses?

- **Get vaccinated.** Both flu and COVID-19 have effective, safe vaccines. Anyone 6 months and older can get vaccinated for flu and COVID-19. It is safe to get the vaccines together.
- Stay home when you are sick with respiratory symptoms, including not visiting or interacting with people who may be immunocompromised or at higher risk, including older adults, young children, and infants.
- Encourage frequent handwashing and proper hand-hygiene techniques. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



How can I help prevent transmission of respiratory illnesses?

- Encourage children to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or upper arm sleeve when they cough or sneeze, and throw away the tissue after they use it.
- Clean potentially contaminated surfaces, like doorknobs, tables, handrails, etc.
- Avoid sharing cups and eating utensils and touching face with unwashed hands.



Dr. Kevin Carney
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Children's Hospital Colorado



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Children's Hospital Colorado is seeing high demand early in respiratory virus season.

- Children's Colorado is seeing an early and intense start to both the RSV and flu seasons.
- Inpatient units and ICUs across the Children's Colorado system are consistently operating at - or above - maximum capacity.
- The number of patients seeking emergency and urgent care has been, on average, 30% higher than the busiest of days in a normal respiratory season, which are historically January to March.
- Visit childrenscolorado.org/RSVInfo.



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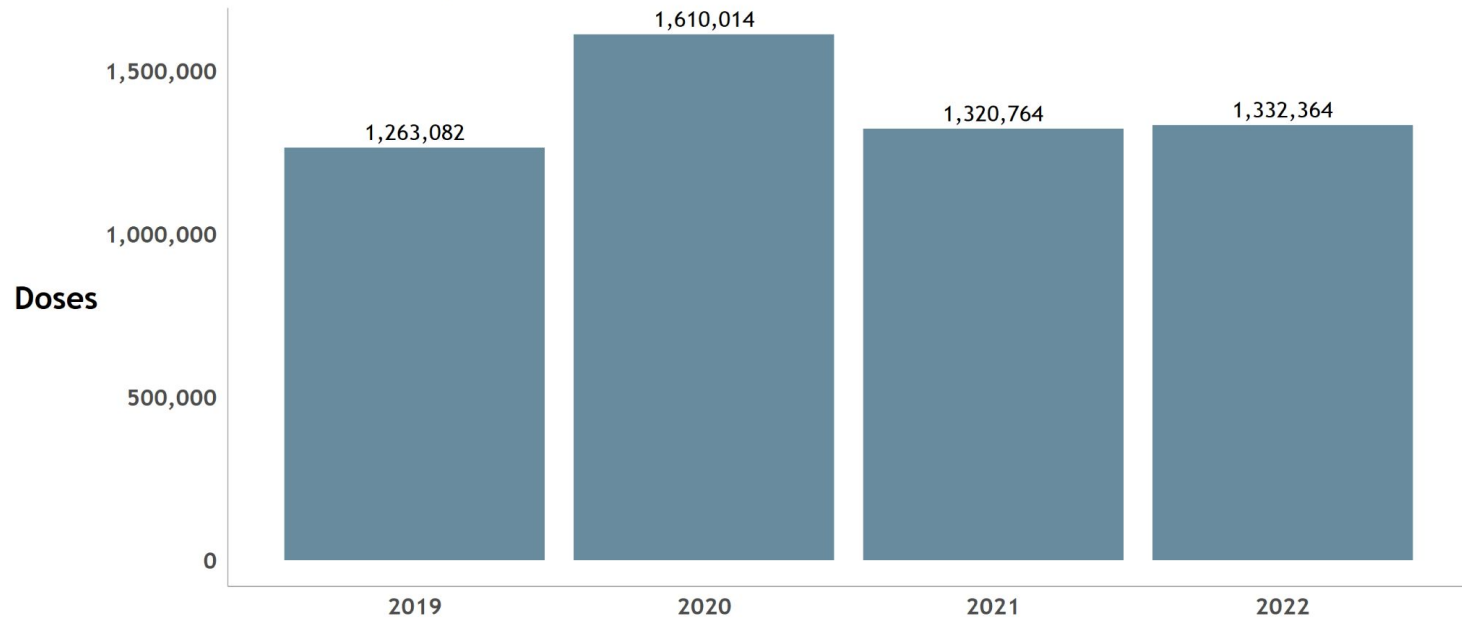
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Response



Flu doses administered in Colorado are comparable to last year, but remain behind 2020 rates.

Flu Doses Administered by November 9

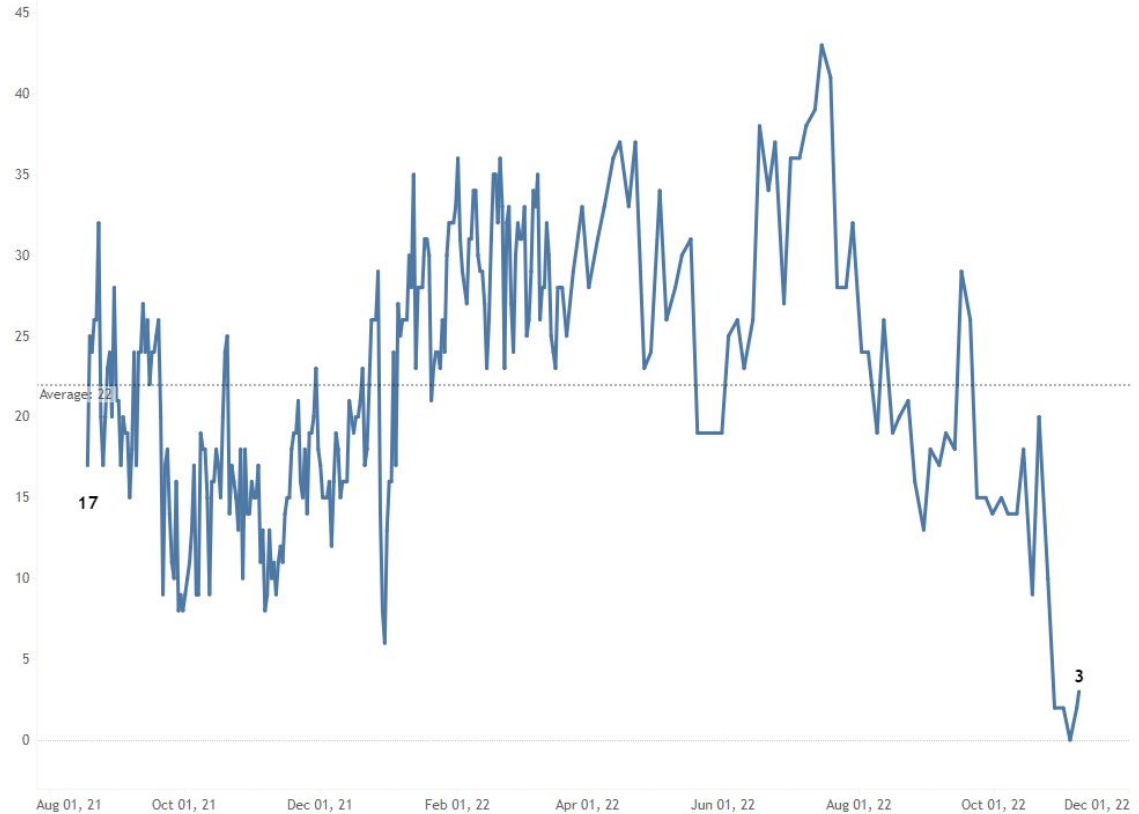


Source: Colorado Immunization Information System. Updated Nov. 9, 2022.
To account for reporting delays, 2019 data entered into CIIS after Nov. 9, 2019 is not included, 2020 data entered into CIIS after Nov. 9, 2020 is not included, and 2021 data entered into CIIS after Nov. 9, 2021 is not included.



Pediatric ICU bed availability

PICU beds available - 08/18/2021 to 11/8/2022 10:00:00 AM
Please note, effective November 7th, 2022, we are pulling data for this product Monday through Friday
in an effort to more closely monitor pediatric capability across the state.



**CDPHE is
coordinating
with
hospitals,
K-12 schools,
preschools,
and
childcare
centers.**

Coordinating across hospitals statewide.

Communicating with K-12 schools, preschool programs, and child care facilities.

Consulting with schools, child care providers, and our local public health partners to discuss resources and mitigation strategies for RSV and other infectious diseases.

Communicating to health care providers through Health Alert Network messages to raise awareness among these providers about the rise in RSV and what symptoms may be associated with an RSV infection.



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What can Coloradans do?

Get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19, including getting an omicron dose of COVID-19 vaccine when recommended.

Stay home when sick. What can be a mild cold for one person can be very serious for another person.

Call a doctor if your child is experiencing early symptoms of a respiratory illness – ***call or see your pediatrician or other provider before going to the emergency department.*** If it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.



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Media Q&A



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