



The Respiratory Report summarizes influenza, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity in the City of Cleveland during each week of respiratory illness season. Respiratory illness season starts at the beginning of October (MMWR Week 40*) and lasts until mid-May the following year (MMWR Week 20).

Week 7 Summary

- Influenza was not detected at any Cleveland wastewater facility in the most recent testing samples and flu levels are low across the state. COVID levels are low and decreasing across the city.
- Emergency department (ED) visits for upper respiratory illnesses increased by 55% (from 64 to 99 visits) this week. 66% of these visits were for children age 9 and younger.
- There were 15 hospitalizations for influenza, 13 for COVID, and 20 for RSV reported this week. Due to state-level data cleaning this week, a large number of historic cases were transfer out of the Cleveland jurisdiction, lowering the season total for hospitalizations.

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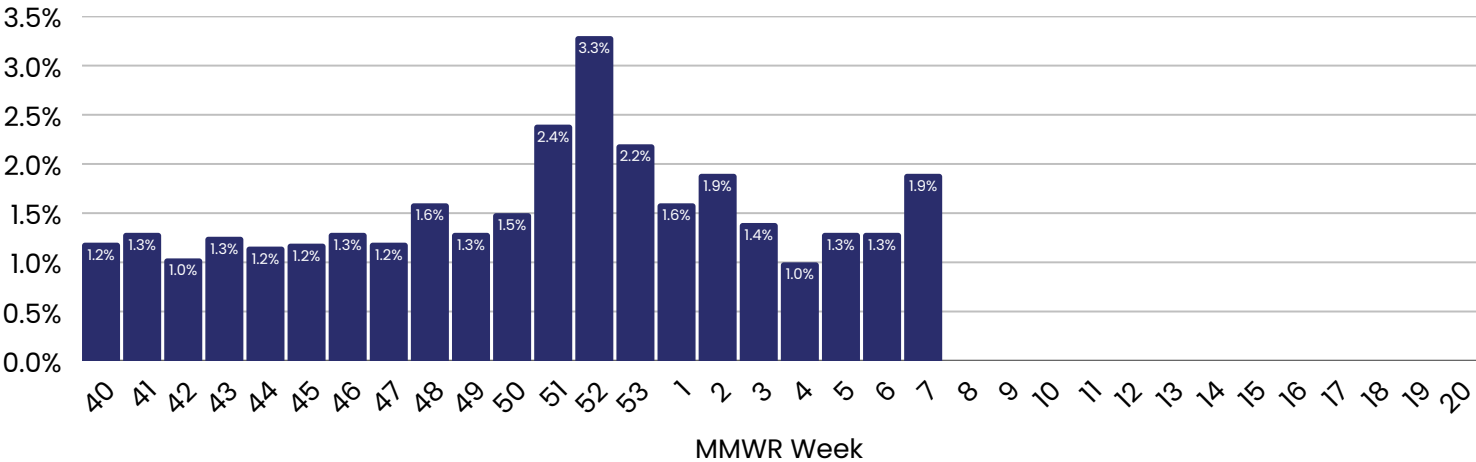
deaths linked to upper respiratory illness this season

Metric	Count This Week (% of total ED visits)	Compared to Last Week	Season Total (% of total)
ED Visits for ILI Symptoms with Fever	99 (1.9%)	+35 (55% increase)	1,682 (1.6%)
Influenza Hospitalizations	15	-2	500
COVID Hospitalizations	13	+1	248
RSV Hospitalizations	20	+9	121

*An MMWR week is the CDC’s standard weekly calendar for tracking health data. Each week runs Sunday to Saturday. Each year, Week 1 is the first week of the year that has at least four days in the calendar year. 2025 contains 53 MMWR weeks. Data extracted on 2/27/2026. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

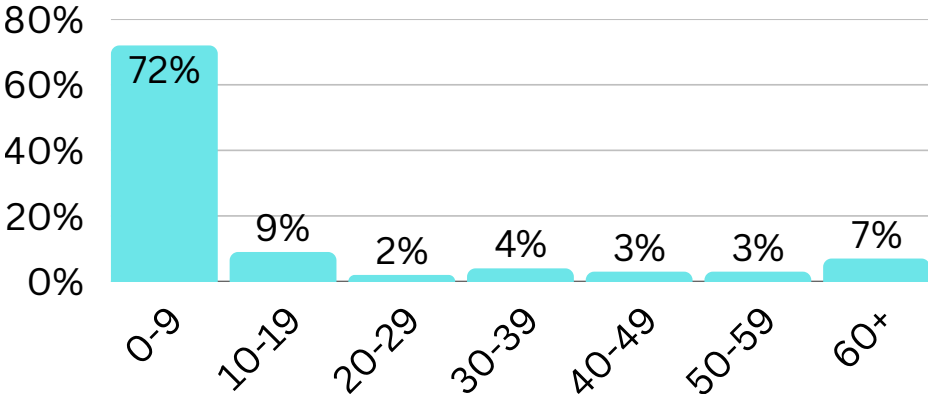
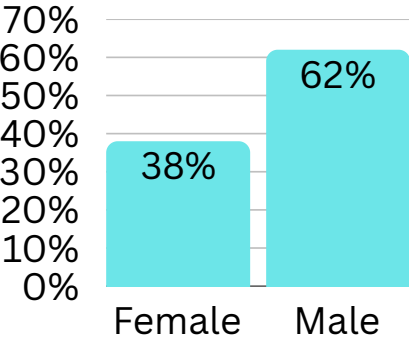
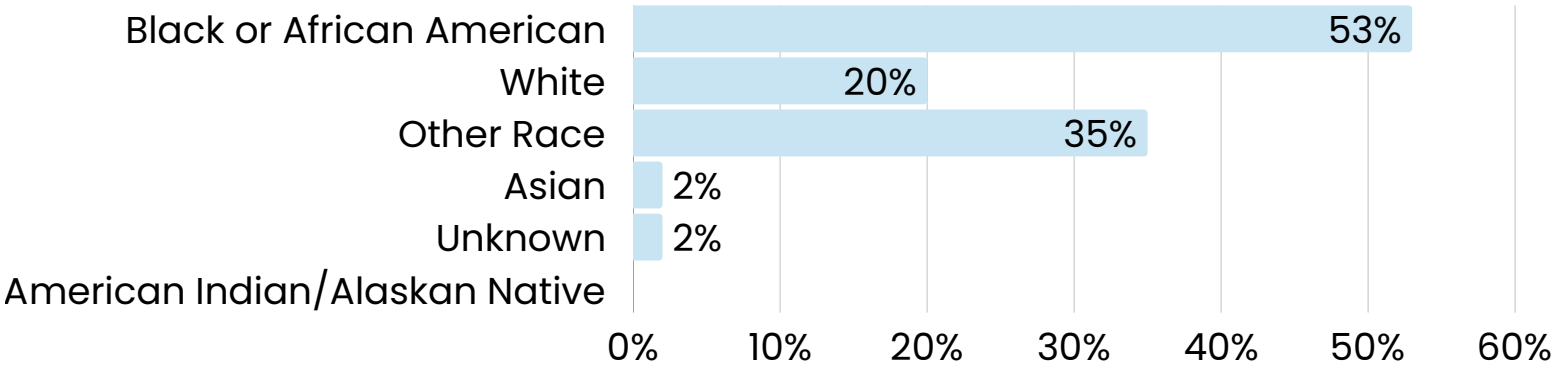
Emergency Department (ED) Visits

Percentage of ED visits for upper respiratory illness symptoms by MMWR Week, 2025-2026



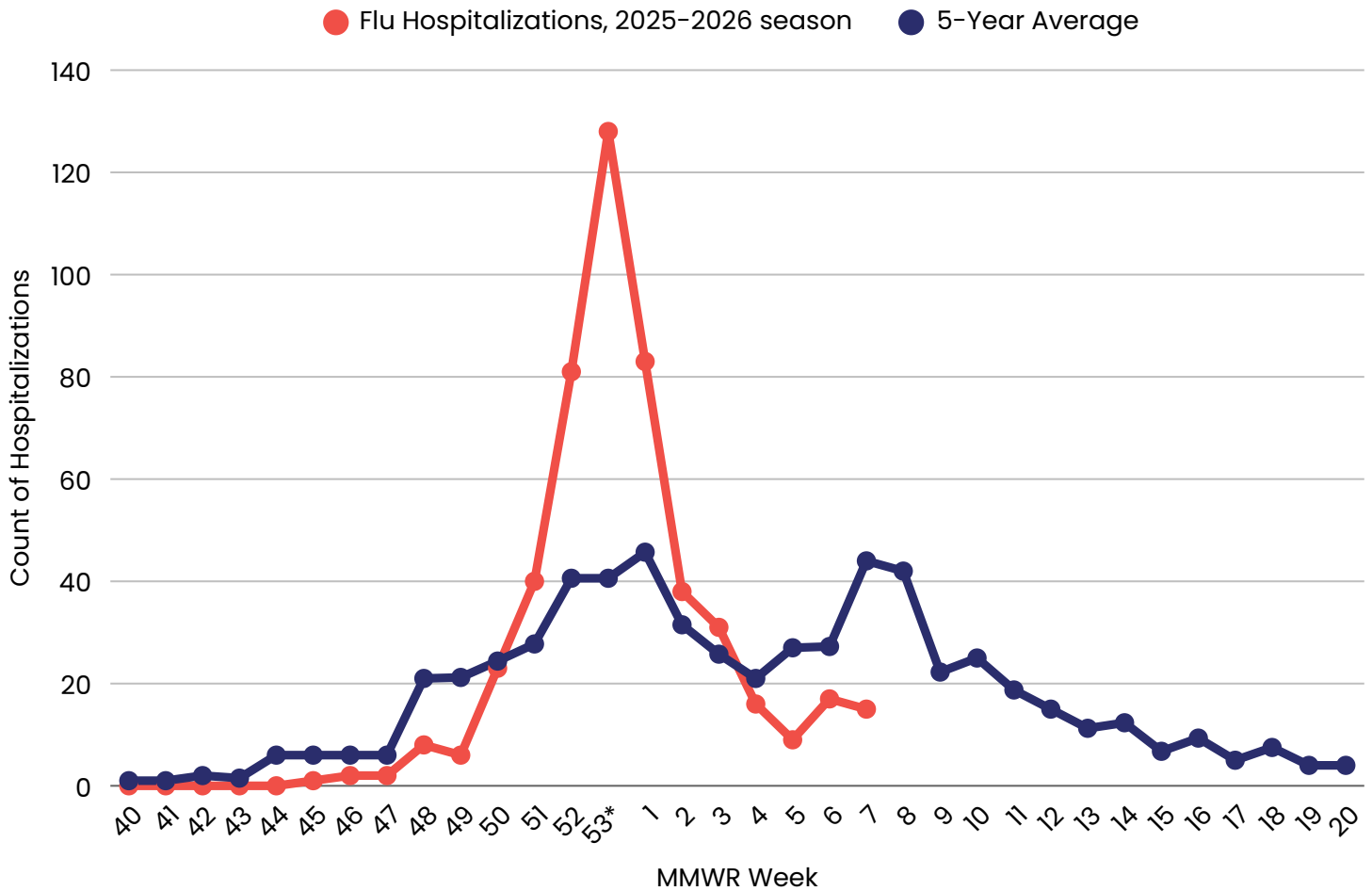
Source: Health Monitoring Systems: EpiCenter 3.5.18. Data extracted on 2/27/2026.

ED visits for upper respiratory illness symptoms by demographic Week 7



Hospitalizations

Number of Flu Hospitalizations by Week, 2025-2026



There were 15 influenza-associated hospitalizations (IAH) this reporting week, bringing the total for the season to 500 since the beginning of October. Following a small increase in cases last week, the number of hospitalizations is expected to trend downward for the remainder of the season.

Influenza A (H3N2) is the predominant strain circulating this season. The median age for flu-associated hospitalization this week is 44 years old, with a range of 3 to 86 years old.

5-year averages for RSV and COVID hospitalizations are not available since these conditions just became reportable this year.

**A 53rd MMWR week occurs periodically to maintain alignment between the MMWR week system and the calendar year. Only one of the prior five seasons included MMWR week 53, during which no hospitalizations were reported. As a result, the comparison value for week 53 is equal to the 5-season average of the final surveillance week.*
Source: Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Disease Reporting System. Data extracted on 2/27/2026. Data are preliminary and subject to change.