Health Officer Report

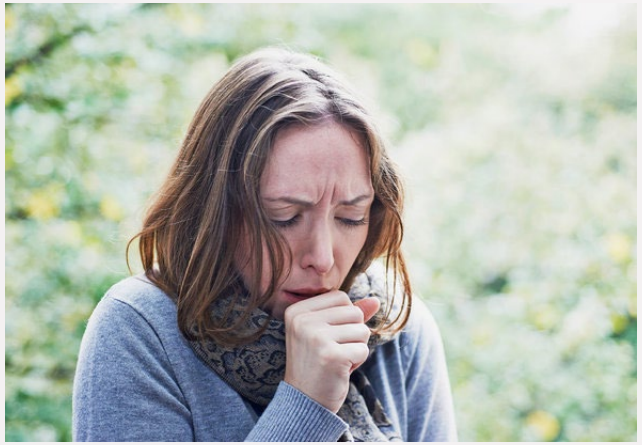
01.03.24

DR. TRACIE NEWMAN

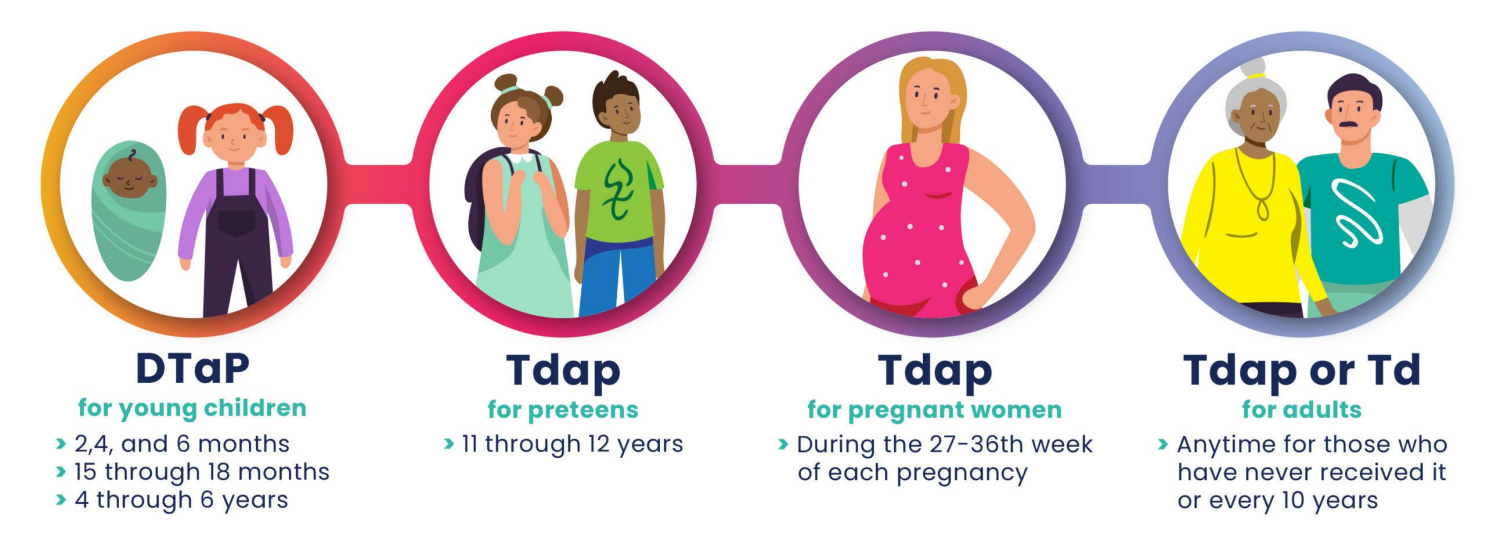
THE CITY OF Fargo FAR MORE

Fargo Cass Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Pertussis Outbreak



- The state of North Dakota had 15 confirmed cases for 2023
- All 15 cases were in Cass County from October 1st- December 31st
  - Cass County reports an average of 8 cases per *year*
- Pertussis (whooping cough) is highly contagious and can cause very serious illness, especially for infants
- Ensuring you are up to date with pertussis vaccines is the best way to protect yourself, family, and community



Food Safety Alert

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes

CDC is concerned about this outbreak because the illnesses are severe and people in long-term care facilities and childcare centers have gotten sick. While the investigation is ongoing, do not eat pre-cut cantaloupes if you don't know whether Malichita or Rudy brand cantaloupes were used.

Fast Facts

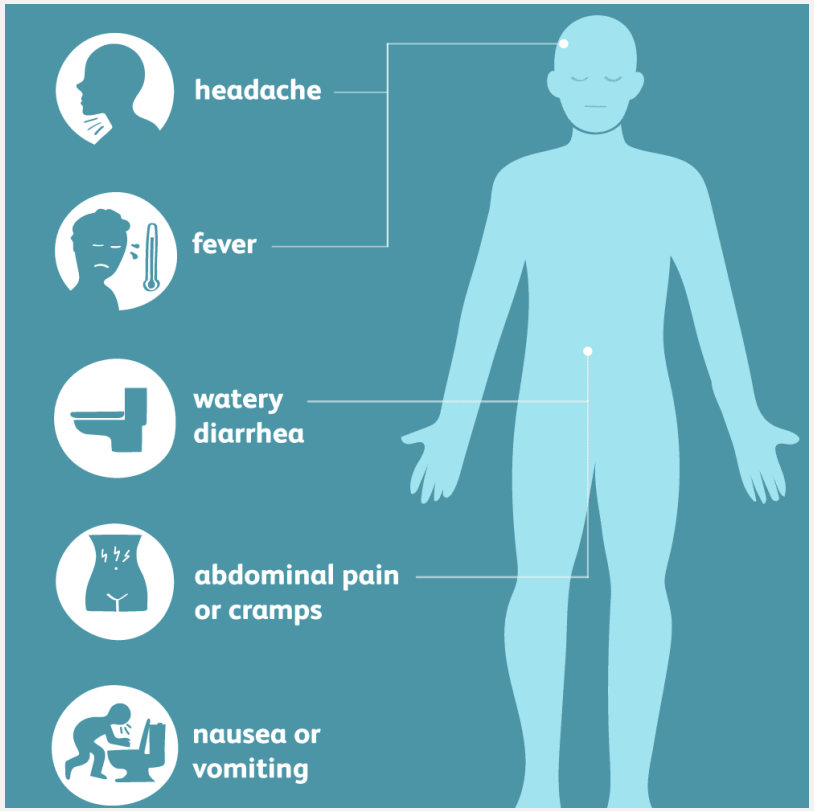
- Illnesses: 302 (72 new)
- Hospitalizations: 129 (33 new)
- Deaths: 4 (1 new)
- States: 42 (4 new)
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Active (first posted on November 17, 2023)

Rudy 4050 PRODUCT OF MEXICO / PRODUIT DU MEXIQUE

Malichita 4050 Product of Mexico/ produit du Mexique

Salmonella Symptoms

- Most people experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps
  - Symptoms usually start within 6 hours – 6 days
  - Self-limiting illness; most people recover after 4 – 7 days
- Groups at risk for more severe disease (requiring treatment or hospitalization):
  - Children < 5 years
  - Adults 65 years +
  - Immunocompromised
- Find more info from the CDC here: *Salmonella* Questions and Answers page



This is an official CDC HEALTH ADVISORY

"Urgent Need to Increase Immunization Coverage for Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV and Use of Authorized Therapeutics in the Setting of Increased Respiratory Disease Activity During the 2023 – 2024 Winter Season"

- CDC issued a Health Alert Network Health Advisory to alert healthcare providers of low vaccination rates against flu, COVID, and RSV
- Low rates + ongoing increases in respiratory illness activity could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in coming weeks
  - In past 4 weeks, hospitalizations for all ages increased:
    - 200% for flu
    - 51% for COVID
    - 60% for RSV
  - Recent increase in MIS-C cases reported in U.S.

Table 1. Influenza Vaccination Coverage Estimates, United States

Population	2022–2023	2023–2024
Age 6 months–17 years (as of November 11)	39.1%	35.9%
Age ≥18 years (as of November 11)	38.4%	36.1%
Age ≥65 years (as of November 11)	61.3%	58.6%
Pregnant people (as of December 2)	36.0%	33.6%

N.D. Influenza Weekly Summary (12/28/23)

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

Weekly case count

930

Large increase from prior week

Hospitalizations for season

75

Increase from prior week

Seasonal case count

2,369

Increase from prior week

Activity level

Widespread

Increase

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

2023-2024 Influenza Weekly Report

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

Week 51

Ending Saturday, December 23, 2023

Last updated 12/28/2023

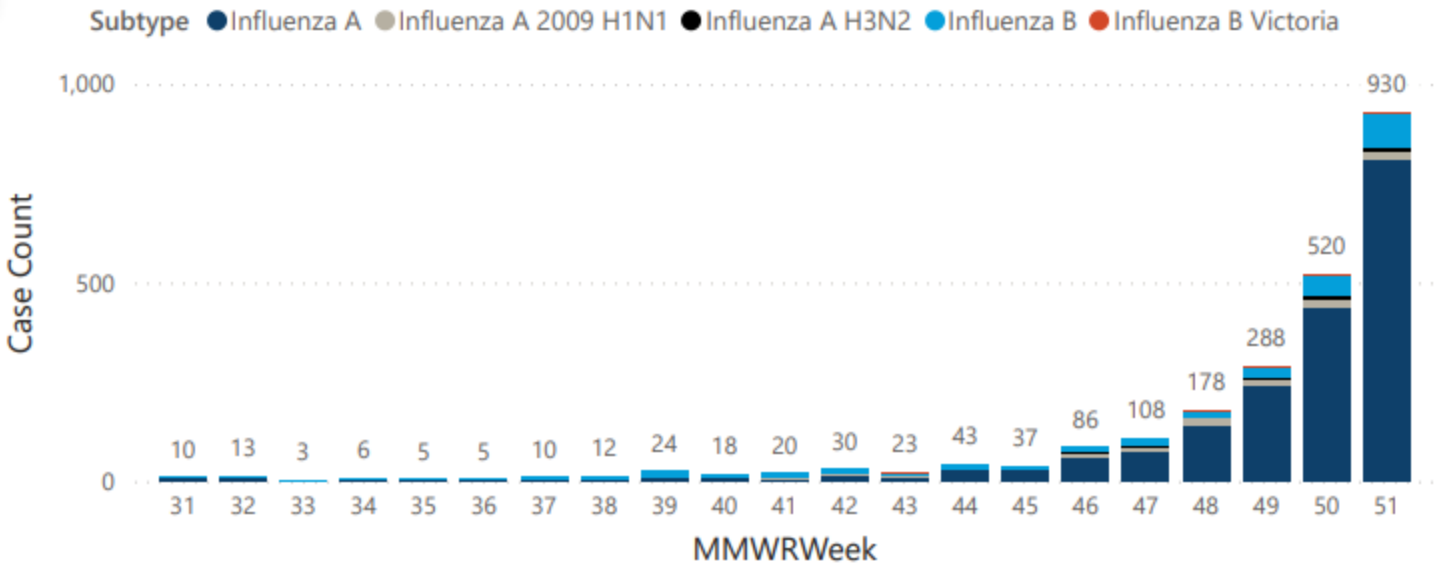
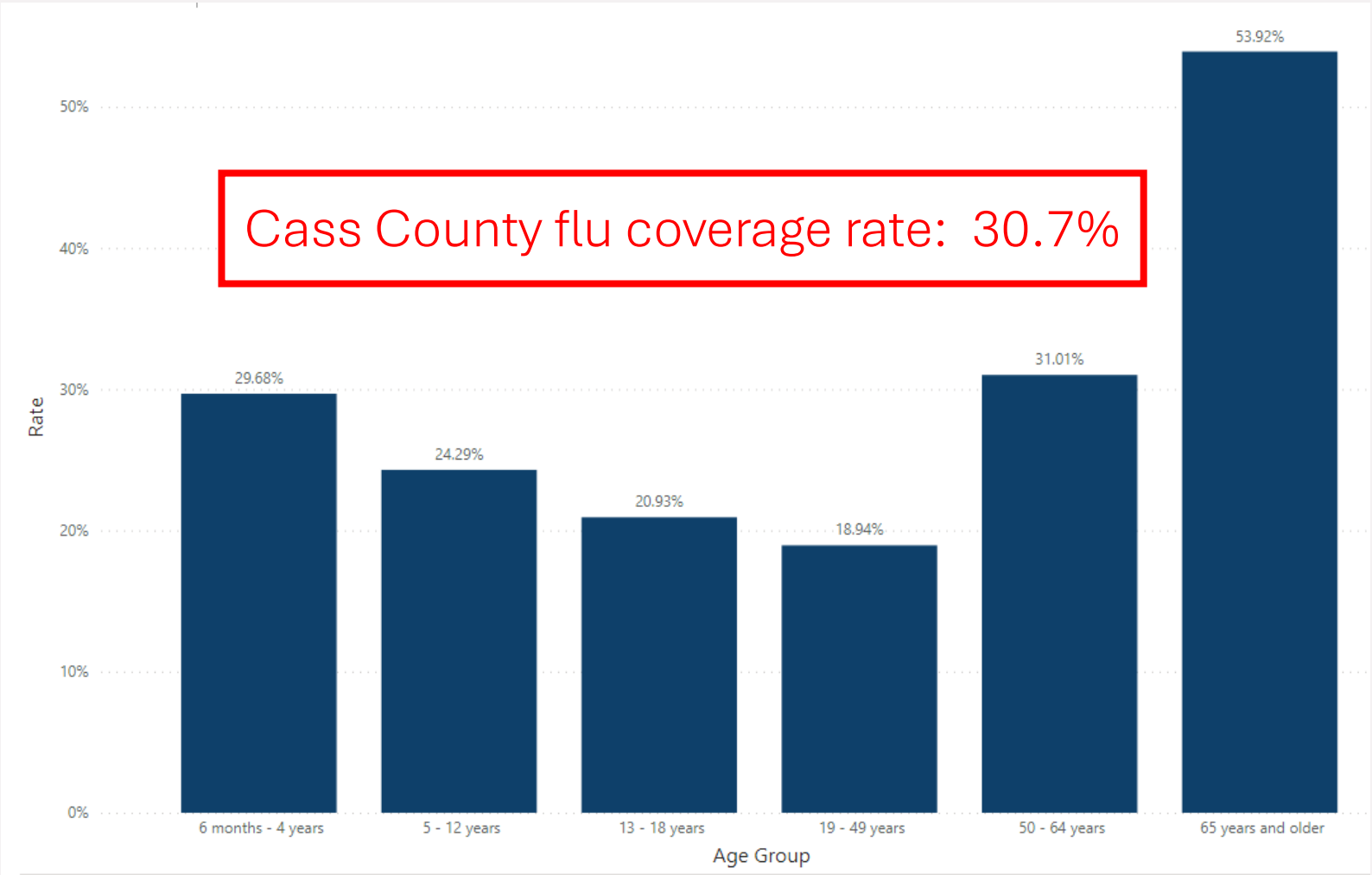
Influenza activity in North Dakota again has increased significantly from the previous week, with 930 new laboratory-confirmed cases of flu in ND. Aggregate laboratory positivity for flu now surpasses both RSV and COVID-19, and outpatient influenza-like illness visits reaches it's highest weekly rate of the season at 8.8%. NDHHS has also received reports of ILI outbreaks in schools, childcares, and long-term care facilities across the state.

Everyday preventative actions, including frequent handwashing and covering coughs/sneezes, are easy and effective methods at reducing the spread of influenza and other respiratory diseases this fall. For more information regarding these and more, visit ndflu.com.

	Last Week	Season Total
New Influenza Cases:	930	2,369
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness:	8.80%	3.29%
Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:	22.21%	8.25%
Percentage of Students Absent from School:	16.74%	3.04%
New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:	12	75
New Deaths due to Influenza:	0	4

Subtype	Cases in Previous Week	Total for Season
Influenza A	810	1,906
Influenza A 2009 H1N1	21	122
Influenza A H3N2	8	22
Influenza B	88	306
Influenza B Victoria	3	13
Total	930	2,369

Influenza Cases by Week Number



N.D. Statewide Flu Vaccine Rates for 2023-24 Season