
Health Officer Report



**Fargo Cass
Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

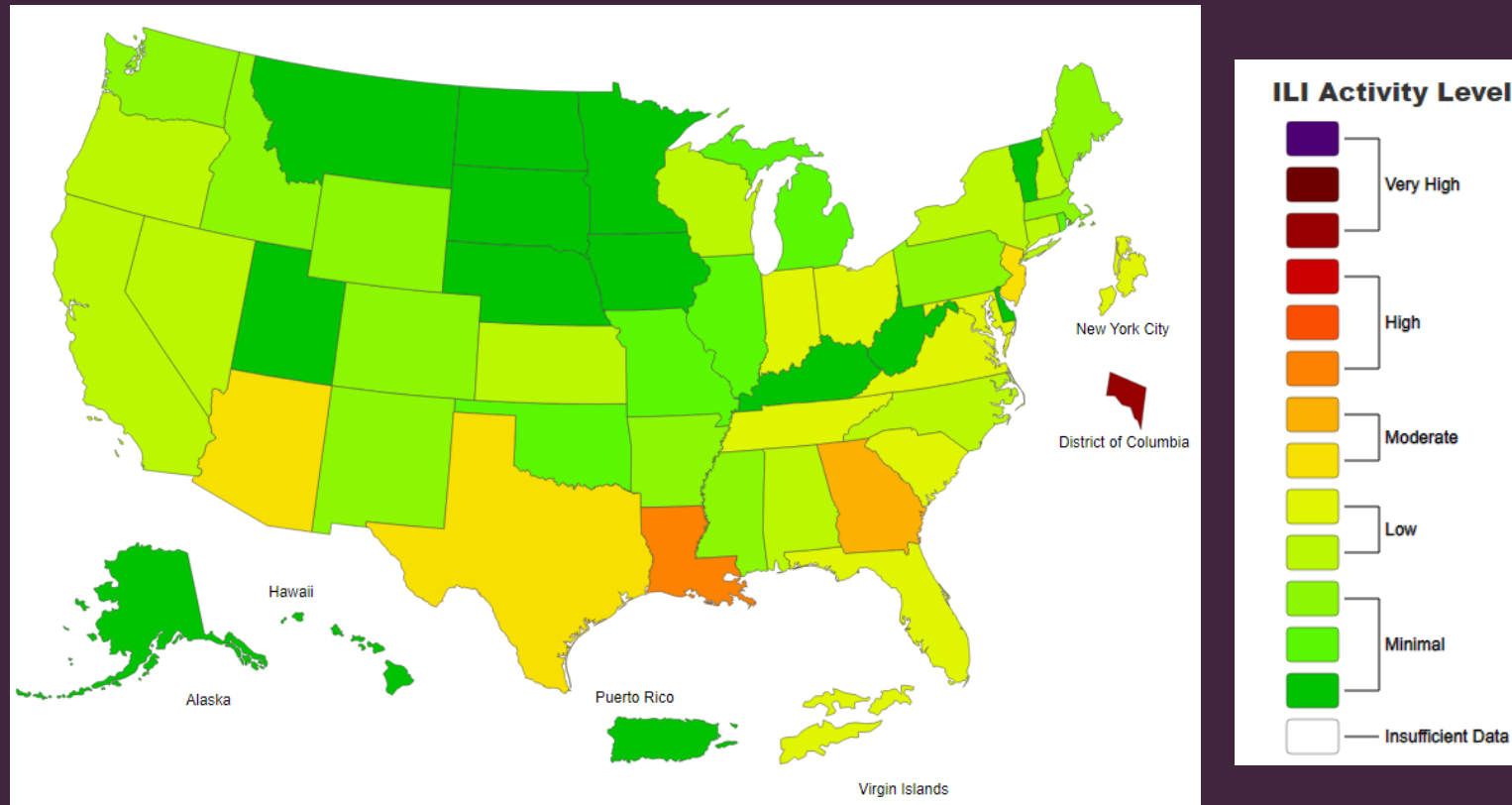
December 6, 2024

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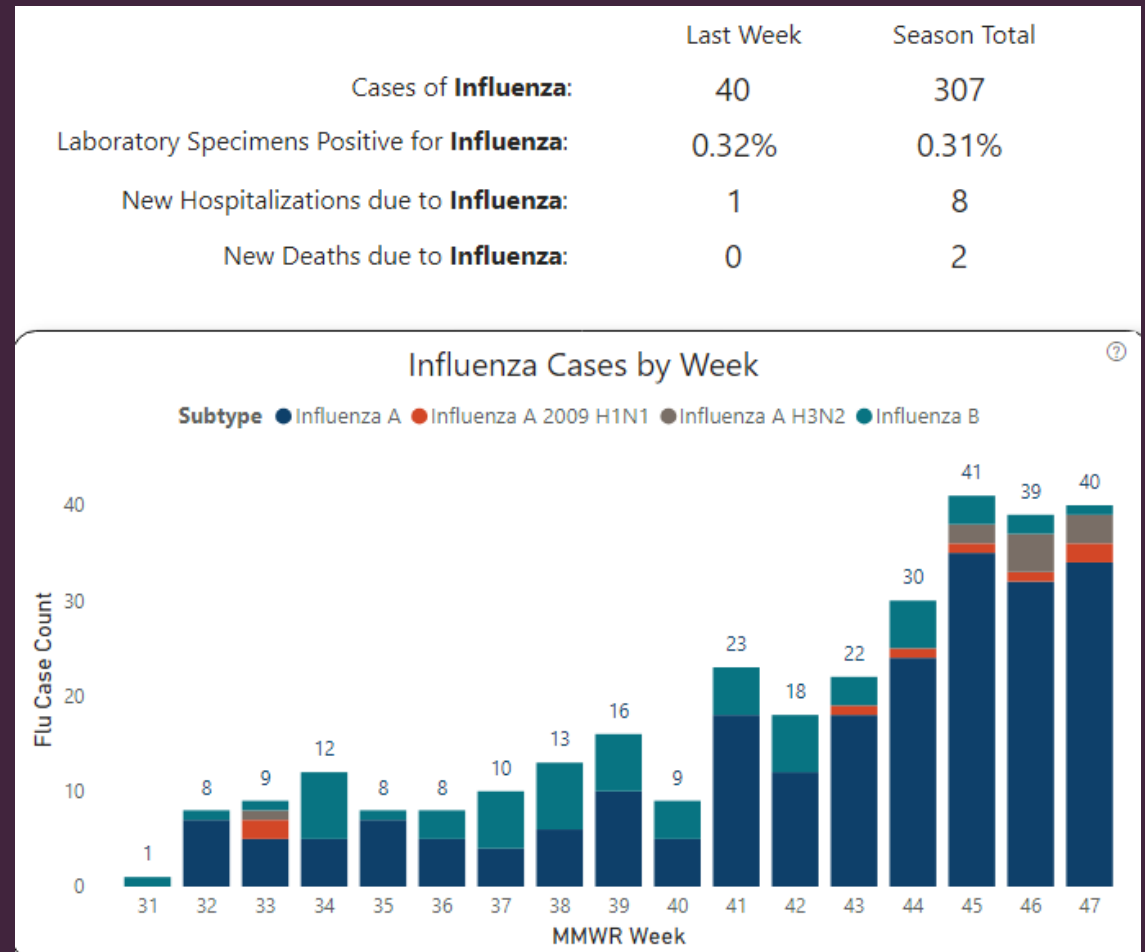


2024-25 Influenza Season Week 47 ending Nov 23, 2024

- Influenza-like illness remains low, but is increasing in many parts of the US
- Patterns have returned to pre-pandemic respiratory seasons
- Pediatric flu rates increasing; 1 death already reported this season
- 80% of pediatric flu deaths occur in unvaccinated children

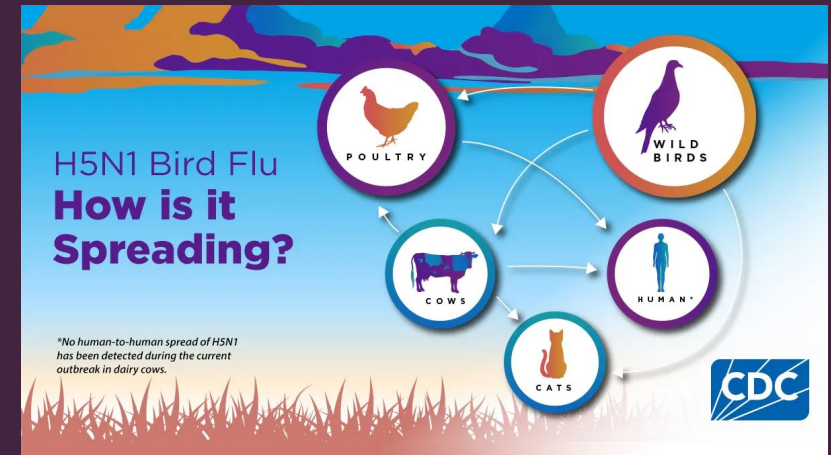


- In ND, influenza activity remains low and stable
- The majority of cases in ND are influenza A
- The highest number of cases are occurring in young children
- Influenza vaccines are the best form of protection, and it is not too late to get a flu vaccine



H5N1 Bird Flu

- H5N1 is widespread in wild birds around the world
- There are current outbreaks in U.S. dairy cows and poultry
- As of 12/2/24, 57 human cases in the US
 - No cases in ND or MN
- Batches of raw milk have tested positive for H5N1
- A recent case in a US pig has experts concerned, because pigs have served as mixing vessels (genetic reassortment of the virus) in previous large flu outbreaks and pandemics
- CDC currently deems the public health risk low but is monitoring carefully



Respiratory Virus Vaccine Rates Low in US

- Respiratory viruses typically peak seasonally December – February
- Upcoming holiday travel and gatherings
- Vaccine preventable respiratory viruses cause millions of illnesses and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths annually in the US
- As of 11/24:
 - ~ 37% of US adults have gotten a flu vaccine
 - 19% of US adults have received an updated COVID-19 vaccine
 - 40% of US adults 75+ have gotten an RSV vaccine (highest risk group)



Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot



Core Prevention Strategies

Immunizations



Hygiene



Steps for Cleaner Air



Treatment



Stay Home and Prevent Spread*



Additional Prevention Strategies

Masks



Distancing



Tests



*Stay home and away from others until,



and



Your symptoms are getting better

You are fever-free (without meds)

for 24 hrs



Then take added precaution for the next 5 days

Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering



Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States, 2023

Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance, 2023



While more than 2.4 million STIs were reported in the U.S., CDC data suggest the epidemic may be slowing.

- A newly released CDC report shows STIs are down nationwide, after many years of steadily increasing
- From 2022 to 2023, US STIs decreased 1.8%
 - Gonorrhea decreased 7%
 - Chlamydia remained steady (<1% change)
 - *However, syphilis increased 1% with > 3800 congenital syphilis cases (almost 280 deaths)
- Disparities persist
 - Higher rates in adolescents / young adults, MSM, and African Americans