



# Health Officer Report Infectious Disease Update

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

# Pertussis Outbreak



- Since October, 39 cases in Cass County (1 border case) and increasing; **since Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 19 cases**
- Cass County averages 5-8 pertussis cases/year
- Ensure you are up to date on pertussis vaccine
- Prophylactic antibiotics
- Suspected and confirmed pertussis cases should exclude from work/school/childcare for 5 days after start of meds or 21 days after onset of cough
- See detailed recommendations in our recent FCPH News Release: [The City of Fargo - News Detail \(fargond.gov\)](https://www.fargond.gov/news-detail/the-city-of-fargo-news-detail)

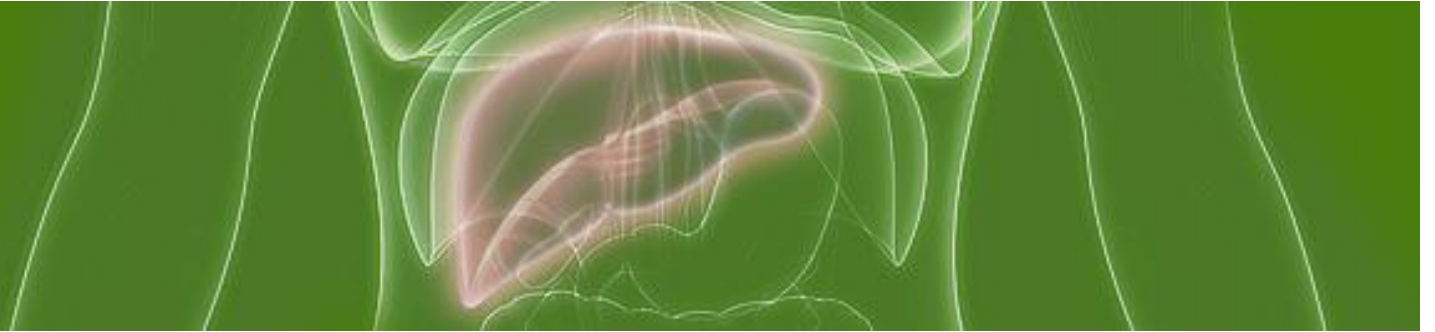
# Hepatitis A Case in Grand Forks, ND

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- Food worker at Chick-fil-A (UND Memorial Union) likely exposed from travel out of state
- People potentially exposed recommended to receive hep A vaccine / be seen if experiencing symptoms
- NDHHS Health Alert Network Health Advisory sent to providers
- GFPH hosted free hep A vaccine clinic
- To date, no additional cases reported



# Hepatitis A



Vaccine-preventable liver infection

Very infectious, caused by hepatitis A virus

Transmission: eating contaminated food/water, person-to-person contact, other high-risk exposures

15-50 days for symptoms to develop

Symptoms can last up to 2 months and include:

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Stomach pain
- Jaundice

Best prevention = hep A vaccine ASAP (people with 2 doses of hep A vaccine or who have had disease, do not need to vaccinate)

# Measles Outbreaks Increasing in U.S.

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**To date, in 2024, 41 cases in 16 jurisdictions (including MN)**



**Concerning outbreak in Florida elementary school (at least 8 cases)**

Florida State Health Department not upholding standard of practice public health guidelines – allowing unvaccinated exposed children to not isolate for 21 days and not recommending those without immunity receive MMR vaccine



# North Dakota Immunization Rates

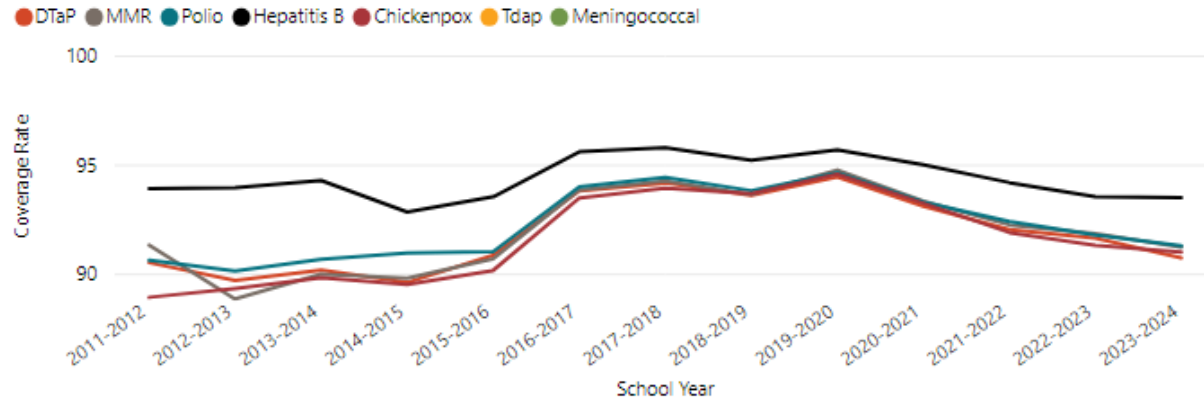
Choose grade to display Statewide immunization and exemption rates by grade.

\*Exemption rates are reported as overall exemption rates for kindergarten and MMR exemption rates for seventh and eleventh.

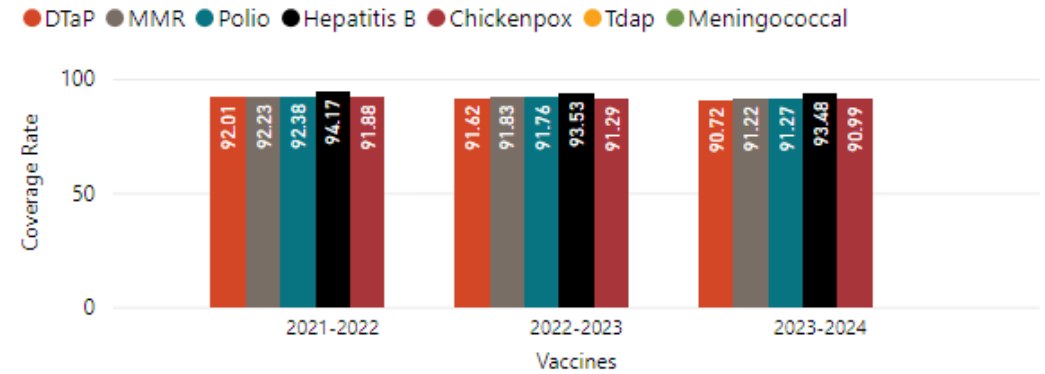
Select a Grade:

Kindergarten

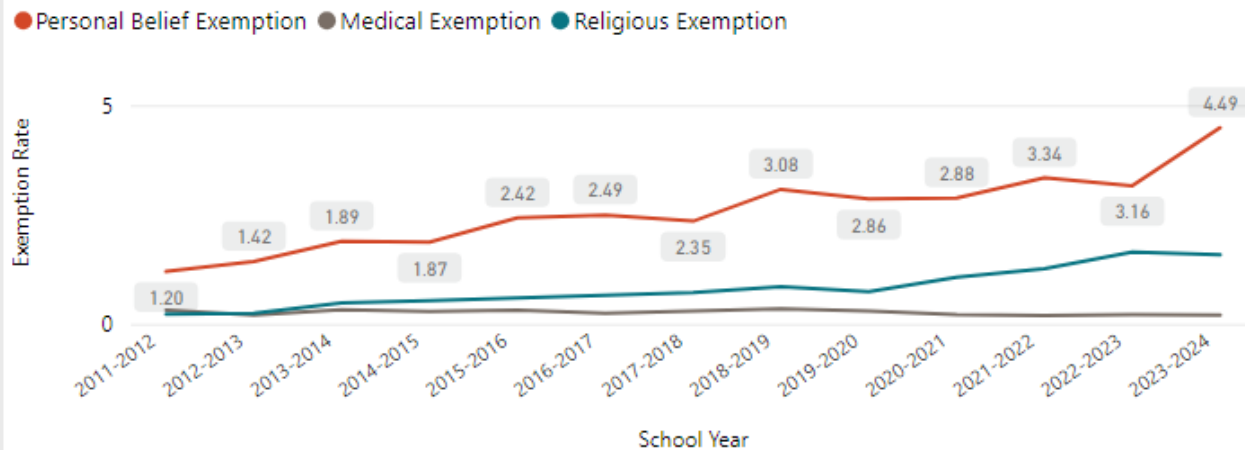
## Coverage Rates for all Required Vaccines



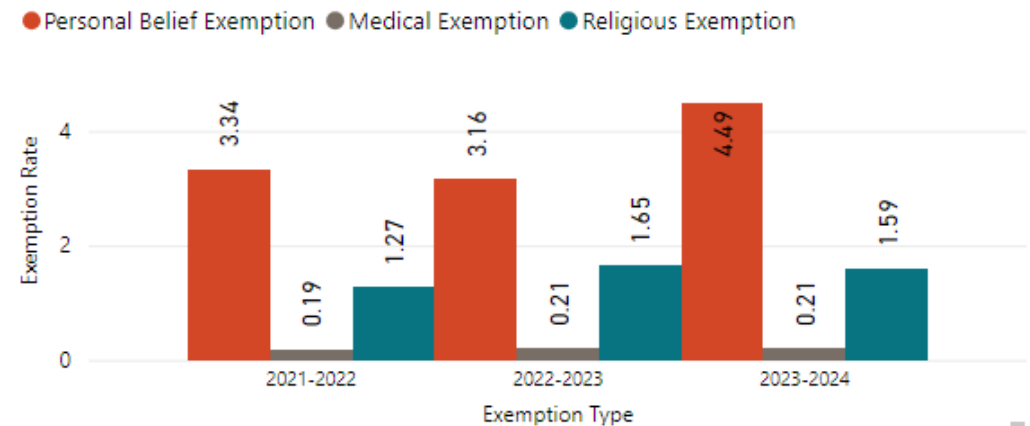
## Coverage Rates for all Required Vaccines



## State Level Exemption Rates\*



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Source: NDHHS Disease Control Section

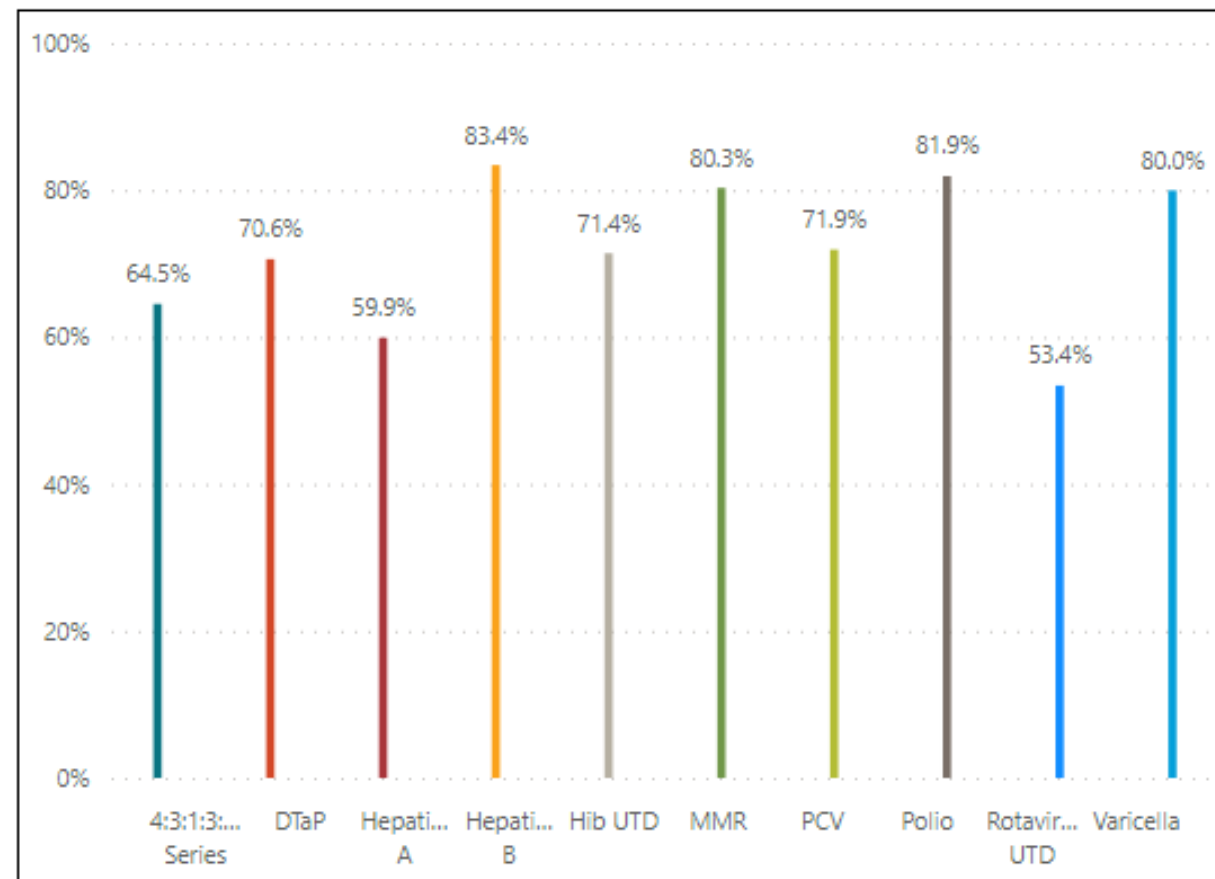
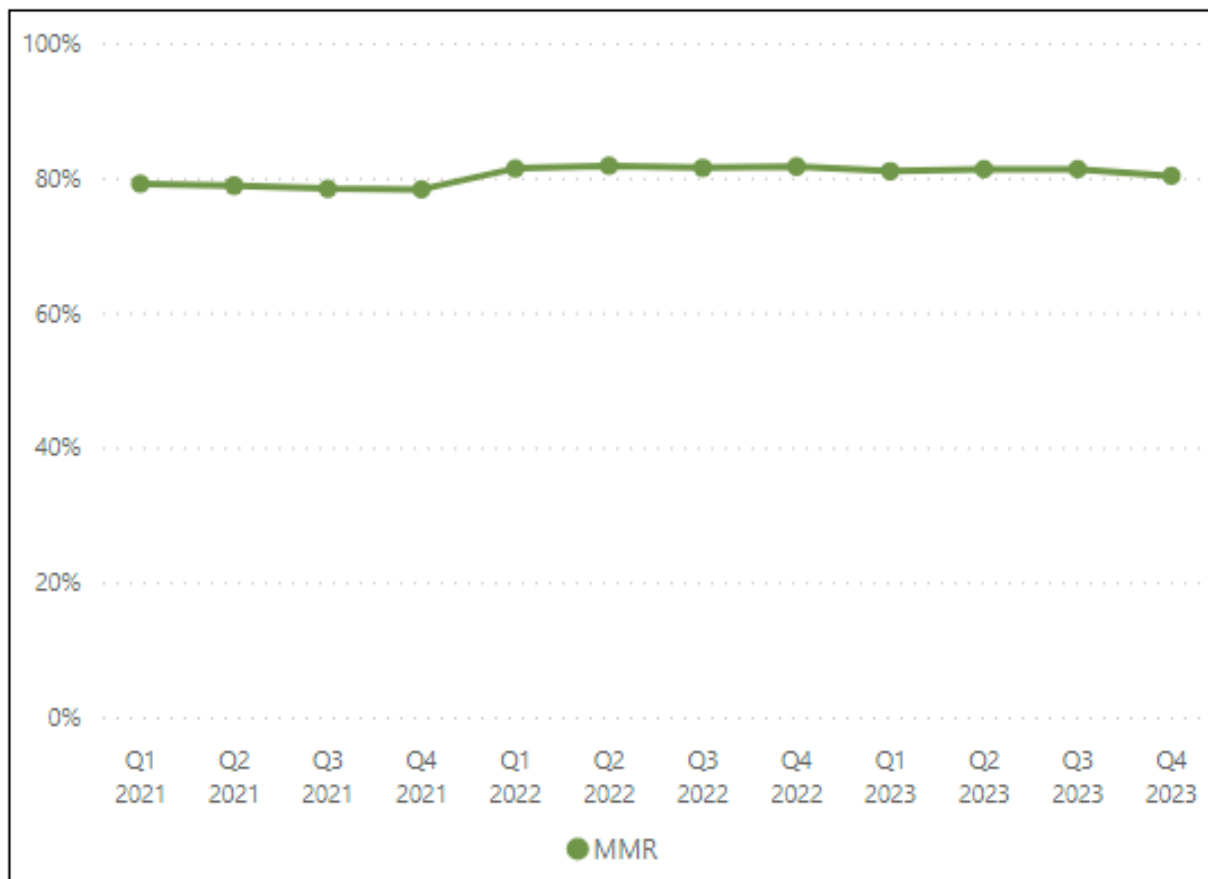
Vaccine

MMR



Quarter Year

Q4 2023



**Percent of North Dakota children 19 - 35 months of age by the last day of the quarter who are up-to-date with the selected vaccine by the end of the quarter\***

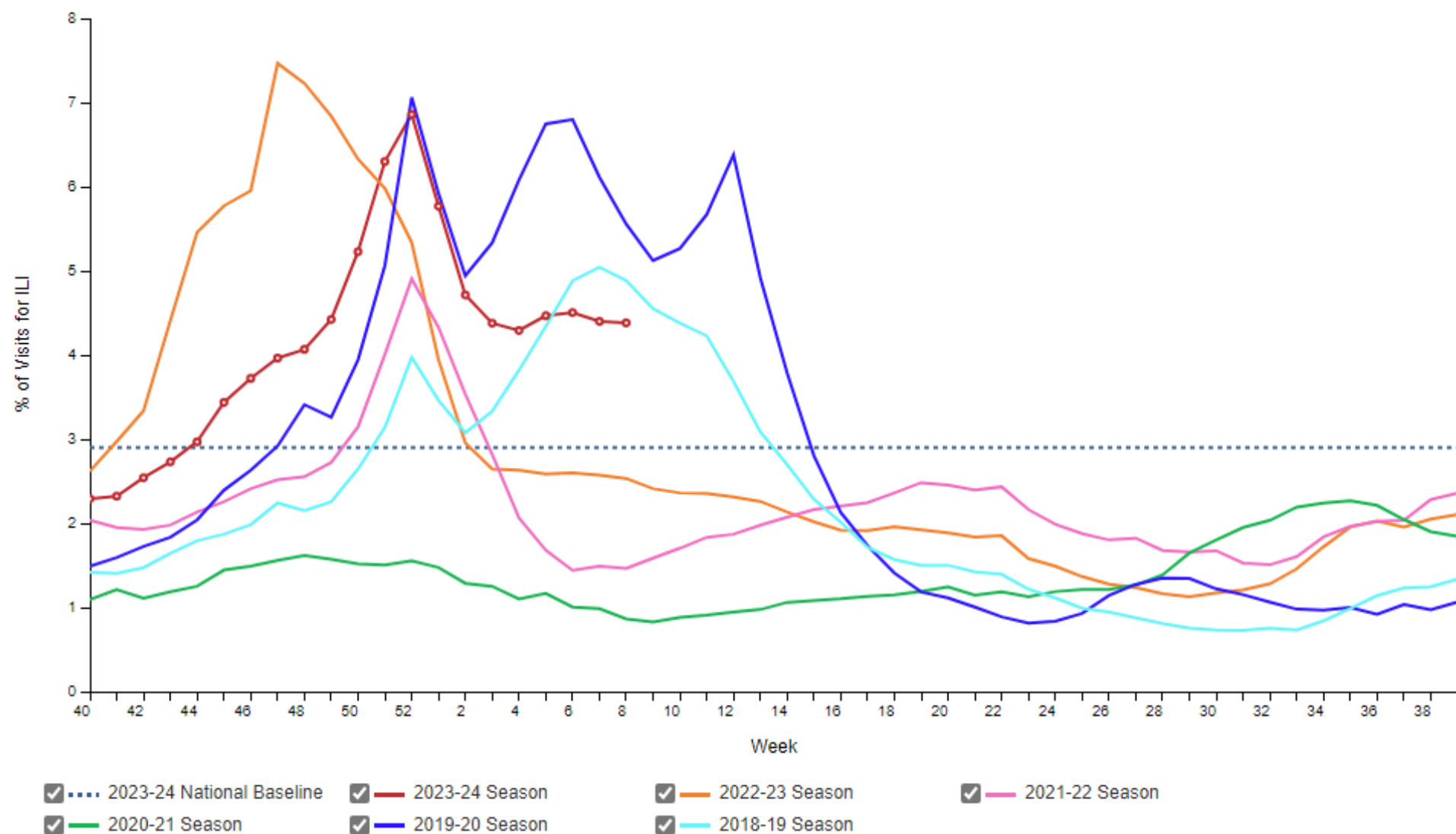


Flu Increasing;  
COVID-19, RSV  
Decreasing



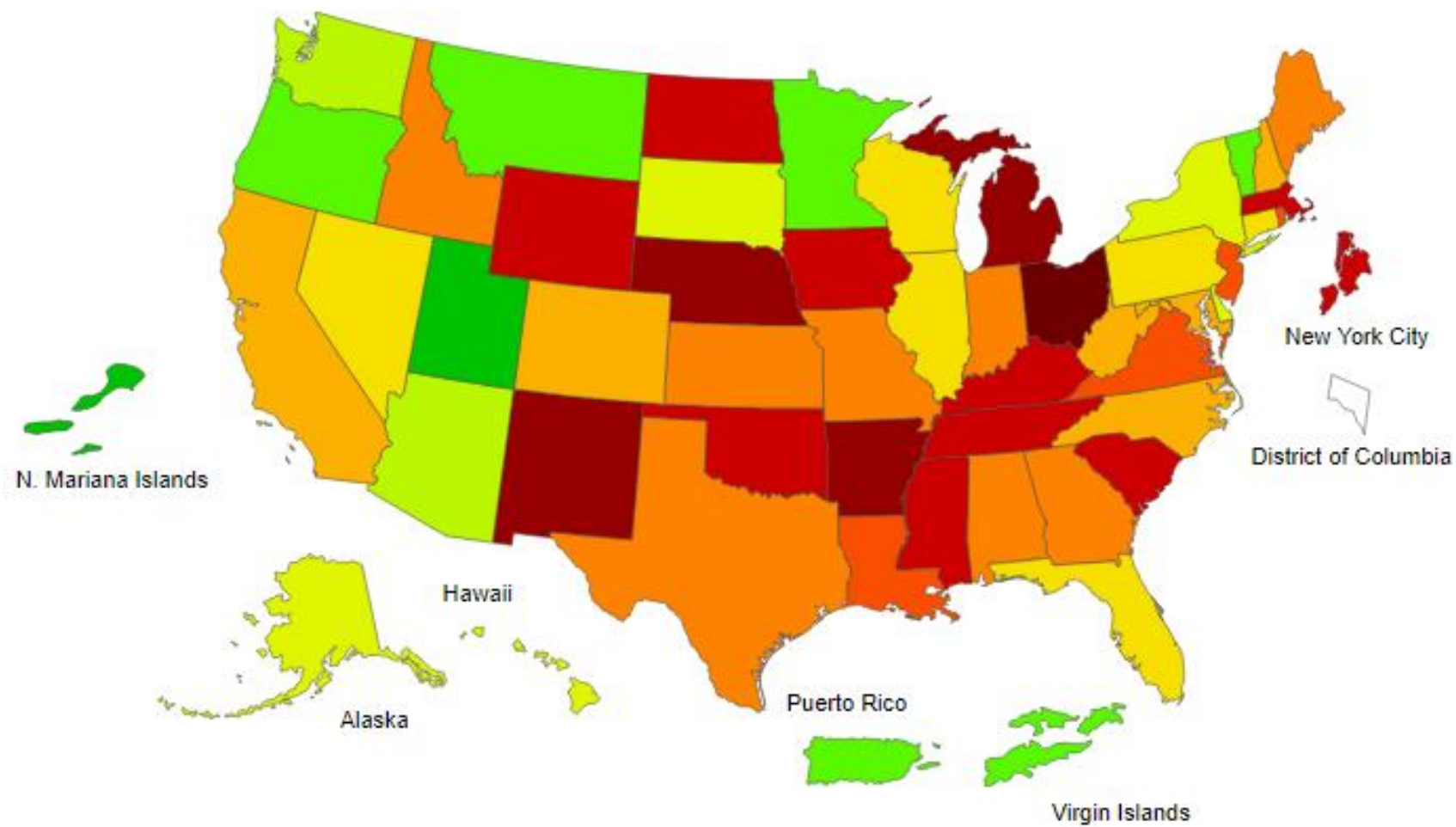
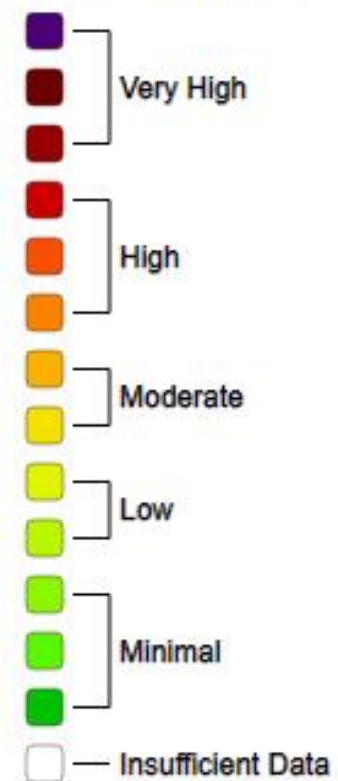
Season: 2023-24 and 5 previous seasons ▼

Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Respiratory Illness Reported by  
The U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet),  
Weekly National Summary, 2023-24 Season and Selected Previous Seasons



2023-24 Influenza Season Week 8 ending Feb 24, 2024

ILI Activity Level



# COVID-19 Update for the United States

## Early Indicators

### Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

8.1%

(February 11 to February 17, 2024)

Trend in % Test Positivity

**-1.3%** in most recent week



Dec 30, 2023

Feb 17, 2024

### Emergency Department Visits >

% Diagnosed as COVID-19

1.7%

(February 11 to February 17, 2024)

Trend in % Emergency Department Visits

**-12.4%** in most recent week



Dec 30, 2023

Feb 17, 2024

These early indicators represent a portion of national COVID-19 tests and emergency department visits. [Wastewater](#) information also provides early indicators of spread.

## Severity Indicators

### Hospitalizations >

Hospital Admissions

18,977

(February 11 to February 17, 2024)

Trend in Hospital Admissions

**-5.7%** in most recent week



Dec 30, 2023

Feb 17, 2024

Total Hospitalizations

6,834,006

### Deaths >

% of All Deaths in U.S. Due to COVID-19

2.4%

(February 11 to February 17, 2024)

Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths

**-11.1%** in most recent week



Dec 30, 2023

Feb 17, 2024

Total Deaths

1,180,042

# Nationwide RSV Activity Decreasing

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RSV Levels decreasing in many regions

RSV hospitalizations decreased for infants and the elderly

RSV deaths remain stable



Influenza B now makes up the majority of new lab-diagnosed influenza cases in ND. Several metrics of flu activity increase from the previous week, including aggregate laboratory positivity and the percentage of outpatient visits for flu-like illness. Nationwide, seasonal flu activity remains elevated with increases in certain areas of the country.

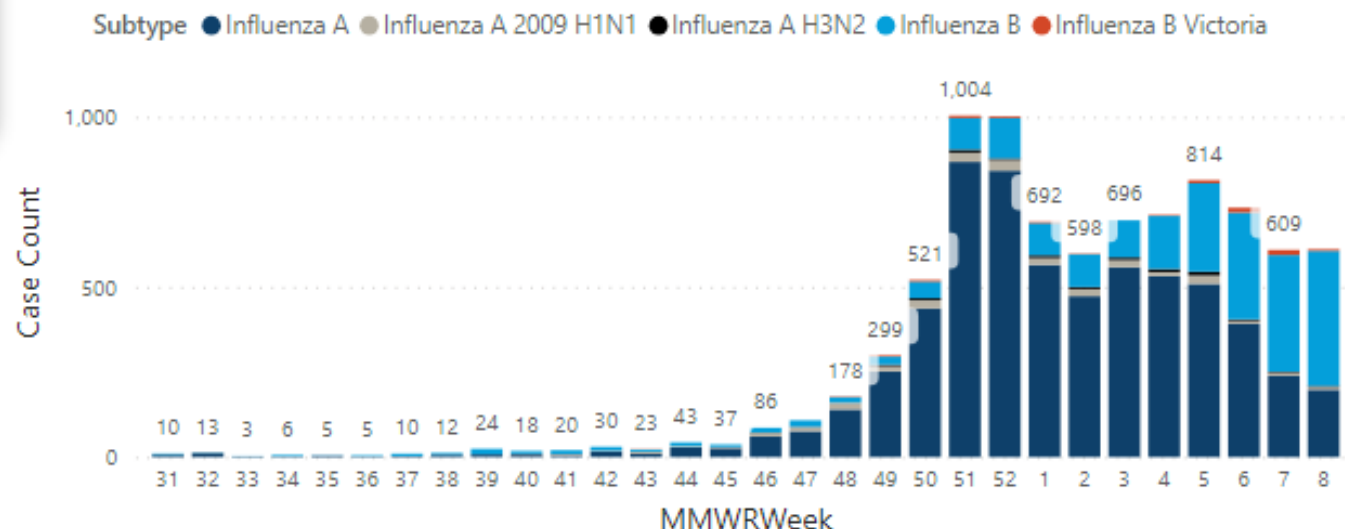
Beginning January 1st, 2024, NDHHS updated its reportable conditions list and influenza is now reportable via electronic laboratory report (ELR) only. More information detailing this change can be found on our NDHHS website [here](#).

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](#).

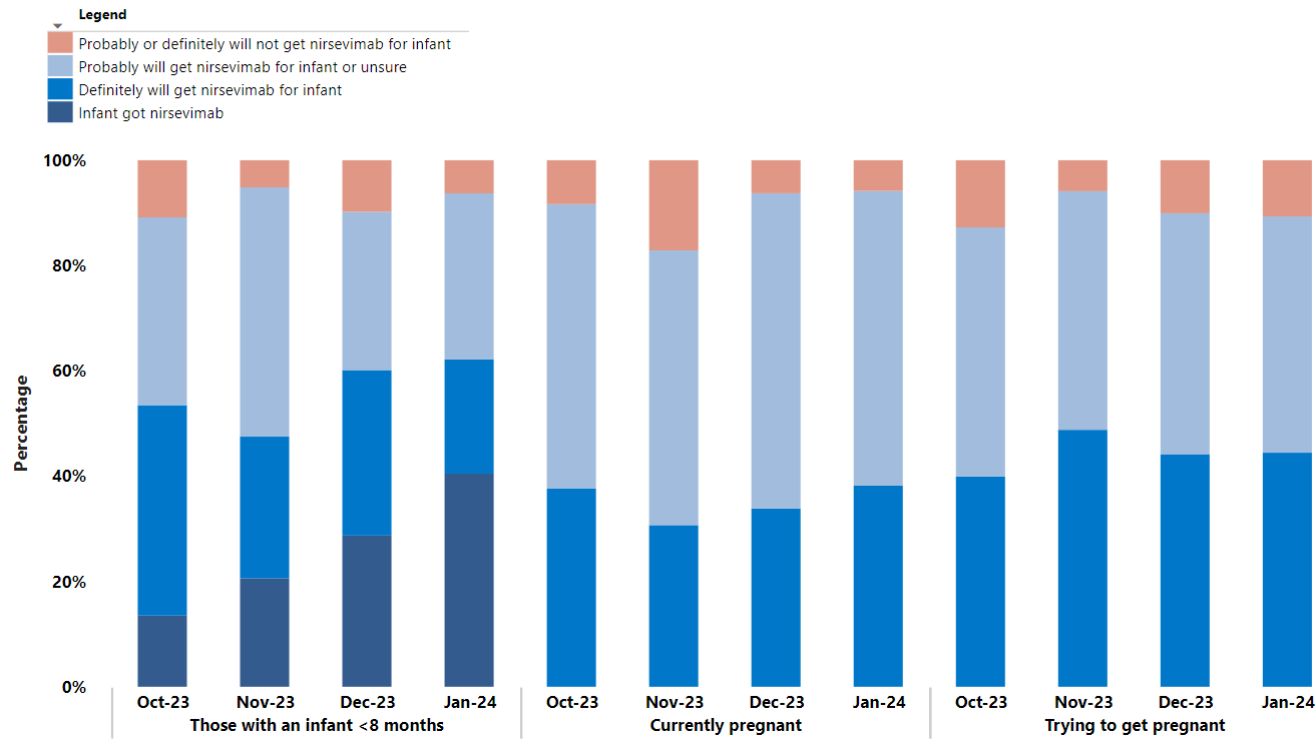
| Subtype               | Cases in Previous Week | Total for Season |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Influenza A           | 0                      | 6,283            |
| Influenza A 2009 H1N1 | 0                      | 283              |
| Influenza A H3N2      | 0                      | 82               |
| Influenza B           | 0                      | 2,198            |
| Influenza B Victoria  | 0                      | 76               |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>0</b>               | <b>8,922</b>     |

|   | Last Week | Season Total |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| New Influenza Cases:                          | 0         | 8,922        |
| Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness: | 0.00%     | 4.70%        |
| Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:  | 0.00%     | 15.28%       |
| Percentage of Students Absent from School:    | 0.25%     | 2.06%        |
| New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:        | 0         | 339          |
| New Deaths due to Influenza:                  | 0         | 29           |

### Influenza Cases by Week Number



**Figure 6. Monthly Nirsevimab Receipt and Intent Among Females Aged 18-49 Years Who Have an Infant <8 Months, Are Currently Pregnant, or Are Trying to Get Pregnant, United States<sup>\*,†</sup>**  
**Data Source: National Immunization Survey–Adult COVID Module**



RSVVaxView | CDC

# National Vaccine Coverage for COVID-19, Flu, RSV Low.

## \*Good News:

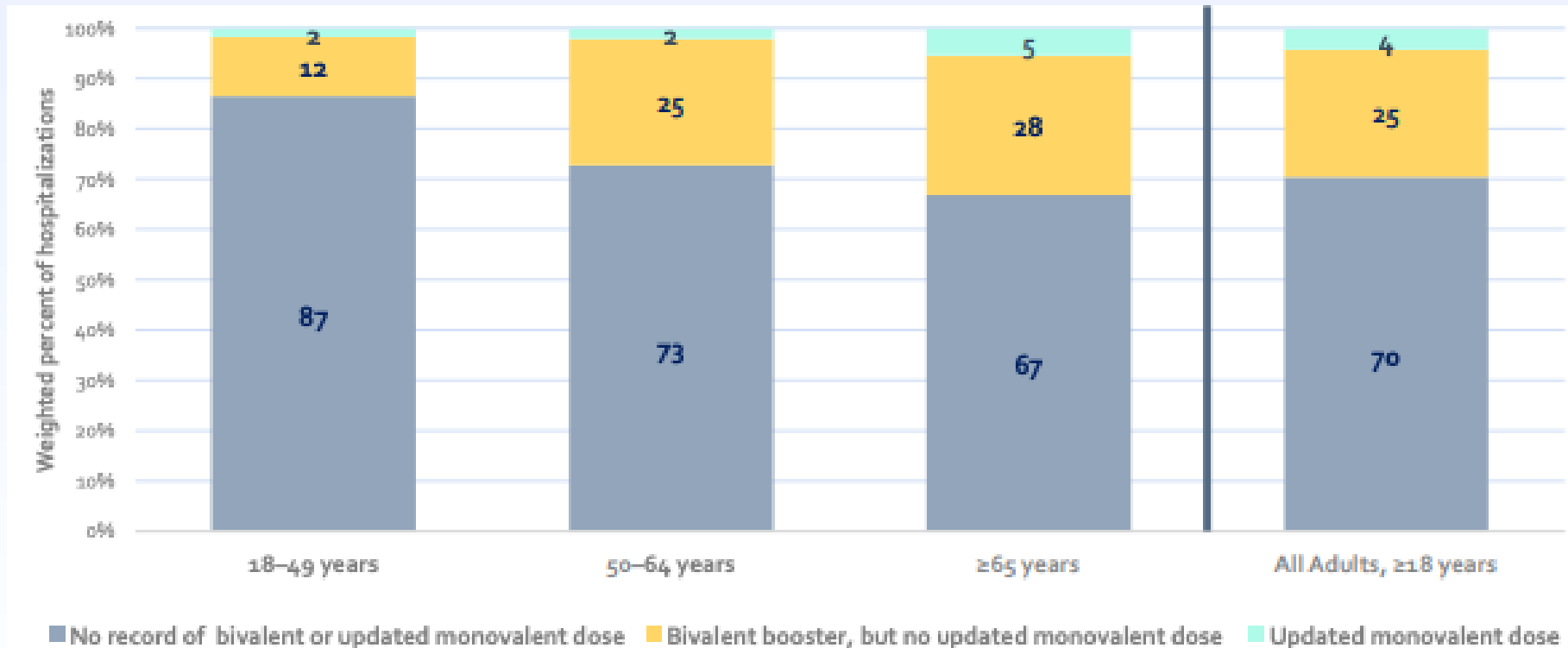
U.S. Nirsevimab stats as of 1/24:

- **40.5% infants < 8 months received**
- 21.7% definitely plan to receive
- Pregnant women: 38.2% definitely plan for infant to receive
- Women trying to get pregnant: 44.4% definitely plan to get nirsevimab for infant



# ACIP says adults 65+ should get 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 booster this spring

## COVID-19 Vaccination Status by Age Group among Adults Ages $\geq 18$ Years Hospitalized with COVID-19 — COVID-NET, October–November 2023 (*Preliminary*)





# Questions

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