



# Summit County Public Health Influenza Surveillance Report 2023 – 2024 Season Report #8



## Flu Surveillance Weeks 9 & 10 (11/26/2023 to 12/9/2023) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Weeks 48 & 49

### Summit County Surveillance Data:

In Weeks 9 & 10 of influenza surveillance, influenza-related activity was Low<sup>1</sup> in Summit County.

Table 1: Overall Influenza Activity Indicators in Summit County by week				
	Week 9 MMWR 48 N (%) <sup>1</sup>	Week 10 MMWR 49 N (%) <sup>1</sup>	Percent change from previous week	Number of weeks increasing or decreasing
<b>Lab Reports: Influenza</b>				
<u>Test Performed</u>	1044	1176	12.6%	5↑
<u>Positive Tests (Number and %)</u>	60 (5.7%)	81 (6.9%)	19.8%	4↑
Influenza A (Number and %)	48 (4.6%)	66 (5.6%)	22.1%	1↑
Influenza B (Number and %)	12 (1.1%)	15 (1.3%)	11.0%	2↑
<b><u>Acute care hospitalizations for Influenza:</u></b>	10	12	20.0%	1↑
<b>Schools absenteeism<sup>2</sup></b>	9.4	9.0	-5.3%	2↓
<b>Deaths (occurred in Summit County)</b>				
Pneumonia associated	6	5	-16.7%	2↓
<u>Influenza associated</u>	0	0	-	-
COVID-19 associated	6	0	-100%	2↓
<b>Emergency room visits (EpiCenter)<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3)**</b>				
Total ED Visits	4038	3317	-17.9%	1↓
Constitutional Complaints	517 (12.8%)	405 (12.2%)	-4.6%	1↓
<u>Fever and ILI</u>	56 (1.4%)	40 (1.2%)	-13.1%	1↓
<p>2) Absence is for any reason. Percent is from total number of students enrolled. Data was collected from approx. 9 schools or school districts throughout Summit County (n = approx. 32,000 students)</p> <p>3)** Percent is from total number of emergency room interactions – elimination of data from a significant reporting facility has resulted in decreases in current and previous week data. <b>Notable changes in Epicenter data are the result of a change in reporting practices from at least one of the reporting facilities. **These figures should not be compared to previous year's reports**</b> Notable decrease/ elimination of ER Related data may be the result of a reporting delay and not reflective of actual trends. <b>This will be revised in future reports.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Data is provisional and may be updated as more information is received. Percentages should be interpreted with caution. Small changes in number can result in large changes in percent. When a percentage, or prevalence, is available in this table, the percent change will be calculated from those values</p>				

**Lab reports:** During week 9 and 10 of influenza surveillance, reporting Summit County facilities performed 2,220 flu tests, of which 141 had positive results. (Figure 4) *Note: Influenza data are collected from selected reporting partners and do not represent positivity rates for the entire county.*

**Acute Care Hospitalizations:** There were 22 reported admissions during week 9 and 10. Figure 2 displays hospitalizations in Summit County.

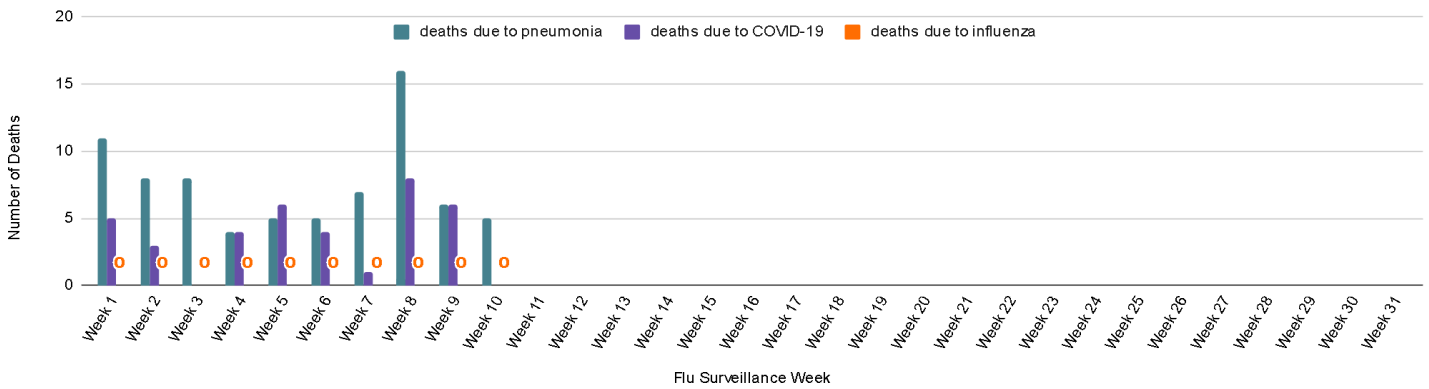
**School absenteeism** includes absences regardless of reasoning. There was a 5.3% decrease in school absences from week 9 to 10. Some of this decrease may be explained by the holiday.

0 deaths related to influenza, 6 COVID-19 related deaths and 11 pneumonia related deaths occurred in Summit County during week 9 & 10. Pneumonia associated deaths and COVID-19 associated deaths decreased from weeks 9 to 10 and influenza associated deaths remained 0.

Figure 1 displays weekly counts of deaths occurring in Summit County associated with pneumonia, COVID-19 and influenza.

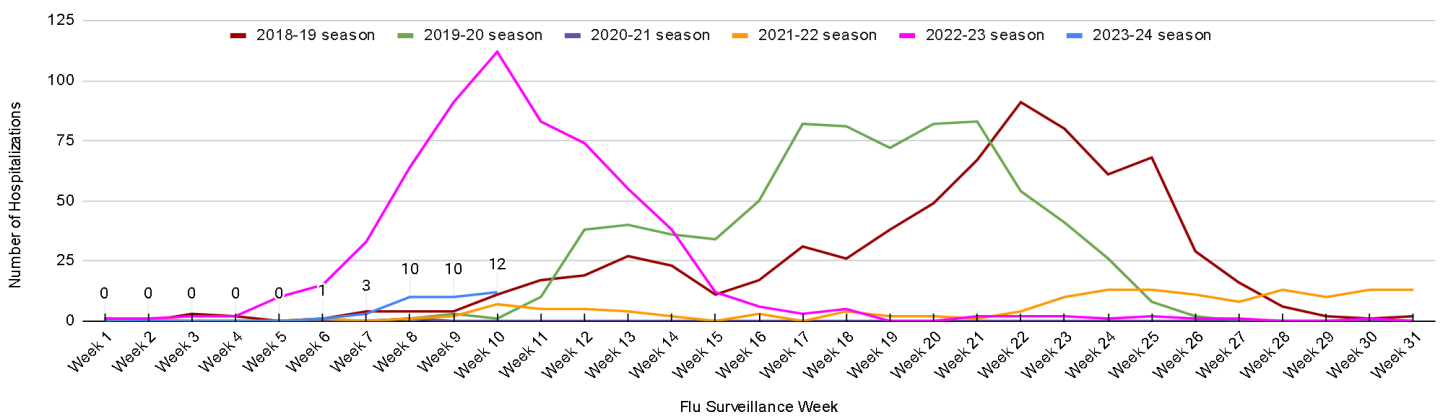
<sup>1</sup>The measure of 'influenza-related activity in Summit County' will be determined based on week to week comparison of underlined table 1 indicators. The scale is as follows: 1/5 indicators increase (very low), 2/5 indicators increase (low), 3/5 indicators increase (moderate), 4/5 indicators increase (high), 5/5 indicators increase (very high).

**Figure 1. Weekly Summit County death counts associated with pneumonia and influenza during 2023-2024 season**



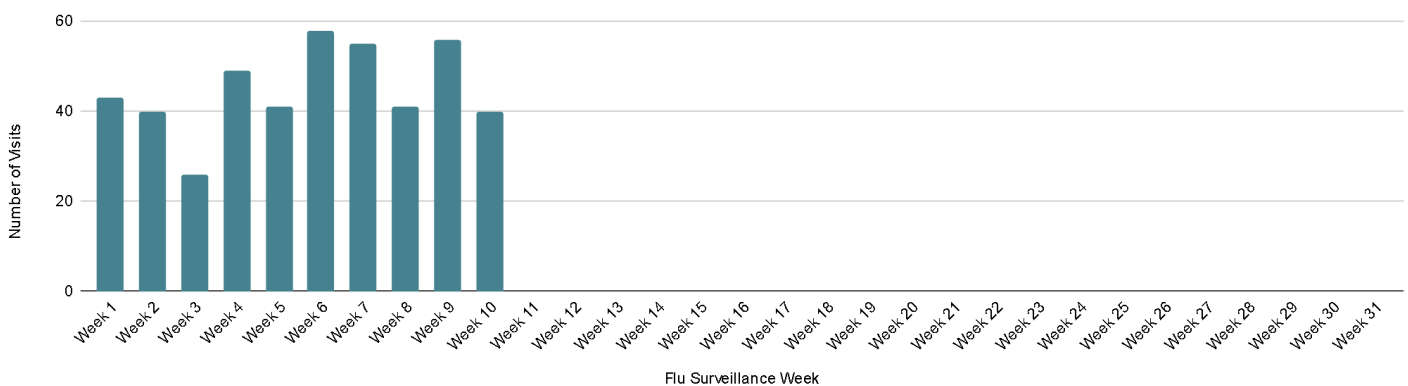
**Hospitalizations:** In Weeks 8 and 9, Summit County hospitals reported 10 influenza-associated hospitalizations each week. **Figure 2** displays weekly confirmed hospitalization counts for Summit County.

**Figure 2. Summit County weekly influenza-associated hospitalizations, 2023-2024 season and previous five seasons**

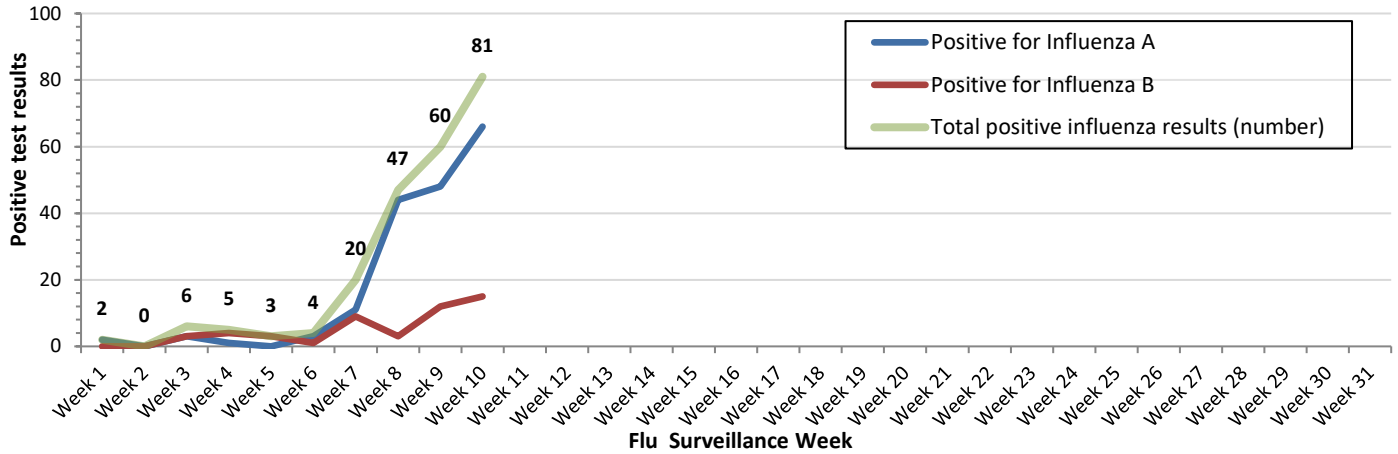


**EpiCenter** collects and analyzes health related data in real time to provide information about the health of the community. This system tracks ER visits related to constitutional complaints and fever and ILI. **Figure 3** displays the weekly ER visits related to ILI and flu symptoms in Summit County. **\*\*A significant number of ER visits are expected to be unaccounted for due to limited reporting partner participation. As a result, these figures should not be compared to previous year's reports.\*\***

**Figure 3. Weekly ED visits in Summit County related to Fever + ILI reported in EpiCenter, 2023 to 2024 season**



**Figure 4. Influenza diagnostic tests with positive results completed by Summit County health facilities, 2023 - 2024 season**



**Ohio Influenza Activity: from the Ohio Department of Health:**

Current Ohio Activity Level (Geographic Spread) –Moderate

**Ohio Department of Health Seasonal Influenza Activity Summary Week ending on 12/9/2023**

Activity Indicators (Week ending on 12/9/2023)				
Data Source	Current Week	Percent Change from last week	Trend Direction	Above 5 yr Average <span style="color: red;">█</span> 5 yr Average <span style="color: gray;">█</span> Below 5 yr Average <span style="color: blue;">█</span> Current Season Percent <span style="color: orange;">█</span>
<b>% of Outpatient Visits</b> <small>Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Outpatient Data..</small>	<b>3.73%</b>	<b>1.91%</b>	↑	
<b>Thermometer Sales</b> <small>(National Retail Data Monitor)</small>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>10.00%</b>	↑	
<b>% of Emergency Department (ED) Visits</b> <small>Fever and ILI Specified ED Visits (EpiCenter)</small>	<b>2.17%</b>	<b>4.83%</b>	↑	
<b>% of ED Visits</b> <small>Constitutional ED Visits (EpiCenter)</small>	<b>11.72%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	↑	
<b>Hospitalizations</b> <small>Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (Ohio Disease Reporting System)</small>	<b>120</b>	<b>13.21%</b>	↑	

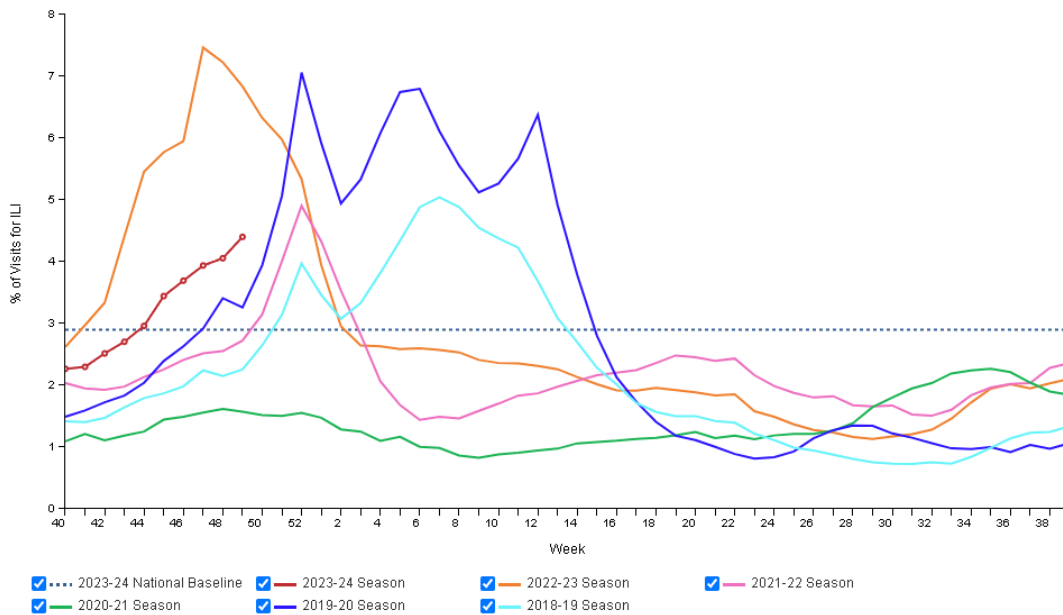
Details pertaining to the table above as well as other Ohio Influenza data can be found here → Source: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza/influenza-dashboard>

# National Surveillance: from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

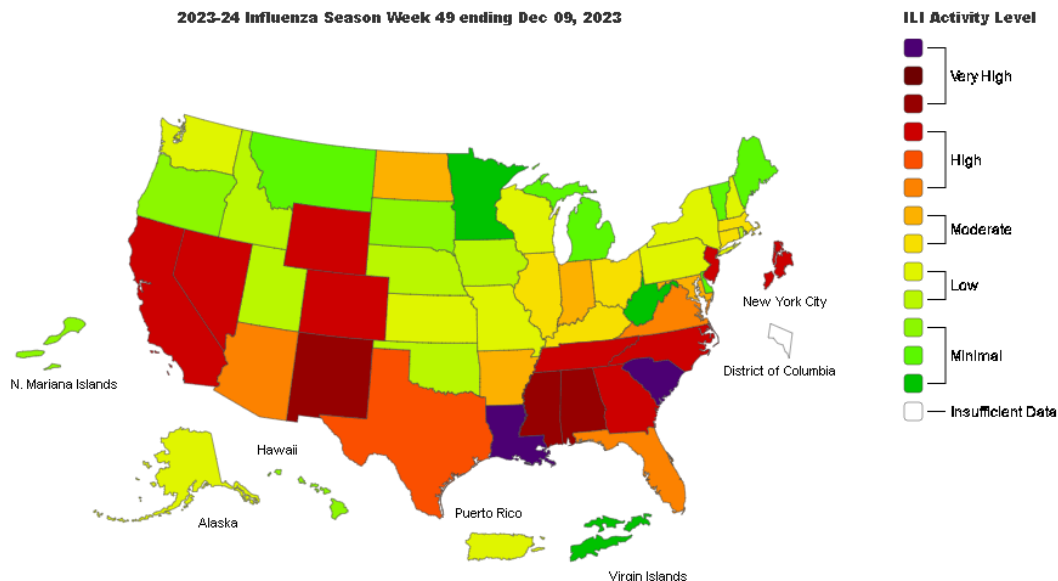
## National Outpatient Illness Surveillance:

Nationwide during Week 49, 4.4% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to respiratory illness that included fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI. This has increased compared to Week 48 and is above the national baseline of 2.9% for the sixth consecutive week. During week 49 compared to week 48, ILI activity increased in regions 1-4 and 6-10 and remained stable but trending upward in region 5. All regions are above their region-specific baselines this week. Multiple respiratory viruses are co-circulating, and the relative contribution of influenza virus infection to ILI varies by location.

**Figure 5. Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Respiratory Illness reported By the U.S. Outpatient Influenza like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2023-2024 and Selected Previous Seasons.**



**Figure 6. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet**



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

## Global Surveillance:

Influenza Update N° 460 11 December 2023, based on data up to 26 November 2023

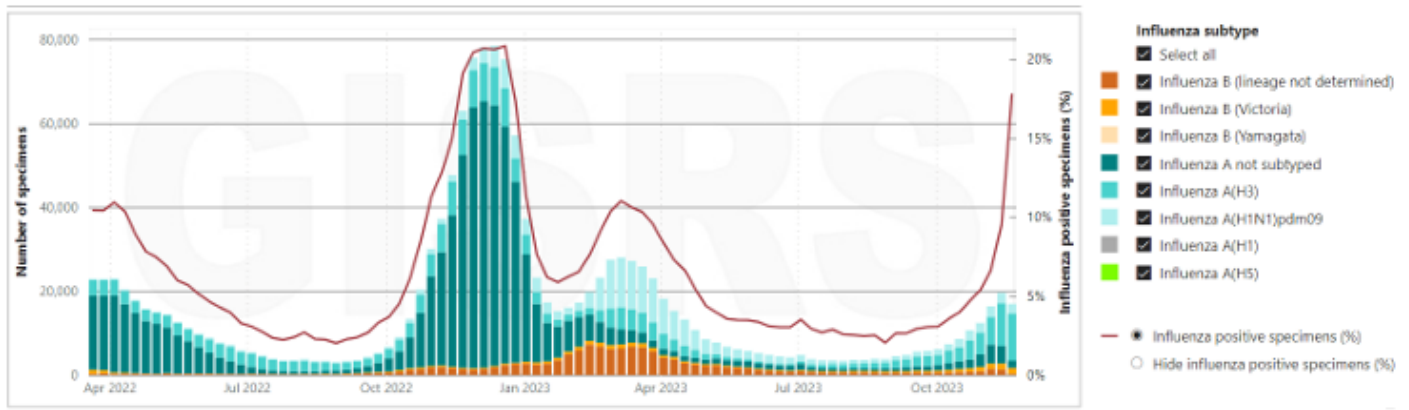
### Influenza Summary

- **Globally**, influenza detections increased due to increases in parts of the temperate Northern hemisphere, including parts of Europe and Central Asia, North America, and Eastern and Western Asia.
- In the countries of **North America**, influenza detections increased and activity was above the seasonal baseline and within expected levels for the time of year. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated among the detections.
- In **Europe and Central Asia**, in the most recent week, influenza activity remained low overall but has been increasing over the past few weeks. Of forty reporting countries, activity was reported at medium intensity in six, low intensity in twelve and below baseline in the others, and geographic spread was widespread in four reporting countries. Among the influenza detections in primary care sentinel surveillance, influenza A viruses predominated with similar numbers of A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) virus detections.
- In **Northern Africa**, detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were elevated, mainly due to activity in Egypt.
- In **East Asia**, influenza activity continued to increase mainly due to activity in China and the Republic of Korea, with influenza A(H3N2) and A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses more frequently detected, respectively.
- In **Western Asia**, influenza activity remained elevated in some countries of the Arabian Peninsula and remained low in other reporting countries.
- In the **Central American and Caribbean countries**, influenza activity remained moderate in the Caribbean with detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and remained low but increased in Central America with detections of predominantly B/Victoria lineage viruses.
- In **tropical South America**, influenza activity remained low.
- In **tropical Africa**, influenza detections decreased in Western Africa but increased in Eastern and Middle Africa. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were predominant but all seasonal influenza subtypes were reported.
- In **Southern Asia**, influenza activity driven predominantly by influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 decreased overall due to decreases in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and India.
- In **South-East Asia**, influenza activity driven by all seasonal subtypes decreased overall, however influenza detections of all seasonal subtypes increased in Cambodia.
- In the **temperate zones of the southern hemisphere**, indicators of influenza activity were reported at low levels or the below seasonal threshold in most reporting countries.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 122 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the period from 13 November 2023 to 26 November 2023 (data as of 08/12/2023 06:22:56 AM UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 301 639 specimens during that period. 36 530 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 32 078 (87.8%) were typed as influenza A and 4861 (12.2%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 4861 (18.6%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 21 327 (81.4%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the type B viruses for which lineage was determined, all (2892) belonged to the B/Victoria lineage.

### SARS-CoV-2 and RSV sentinel surveillance

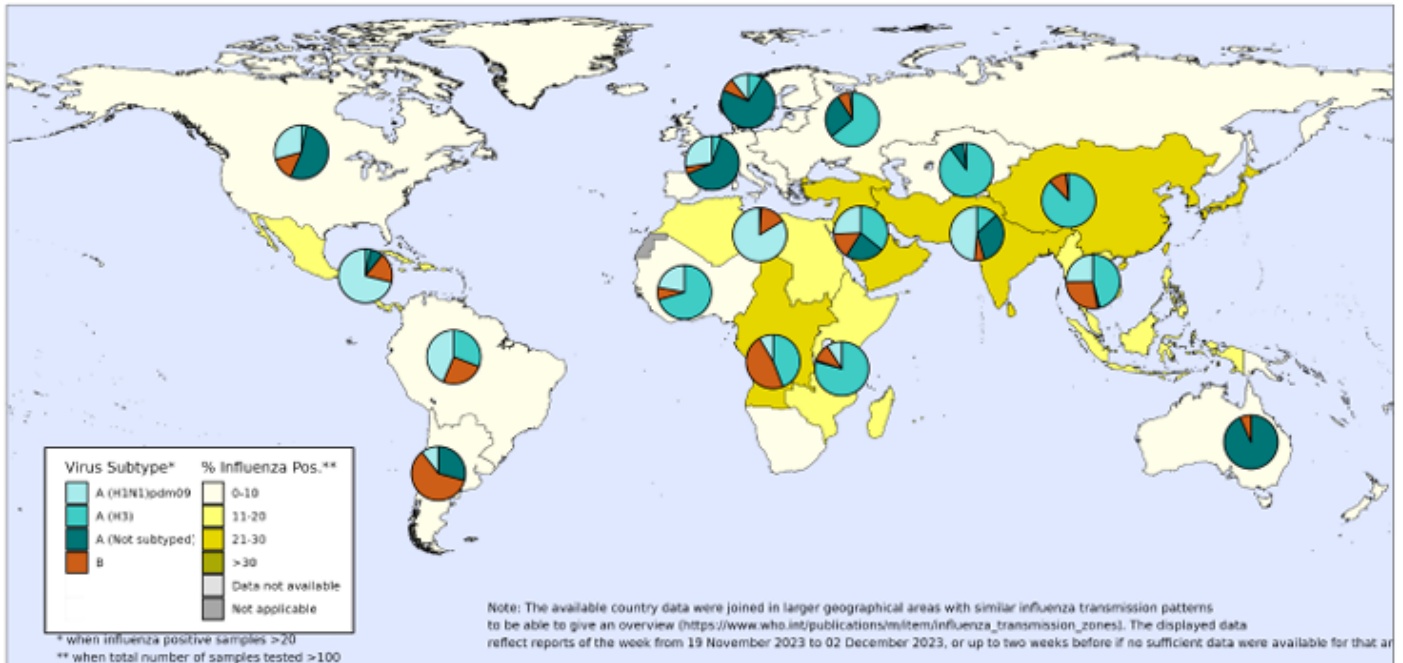
- Globally, **SARS-CoV-2 positivity** from sentinel surveillance decreased to just above 3%. Positivity was highest in the European Region, where it was stable at around 15%. Positivity was stable around or below 5% in the other regions. SARS-CoV-2 positivity from non-sentinel surveillance was around 16% globally.
- In countries with RSV surveillance in place, **RSV activity** increased in North America and Europe, with activity above the seasonal threshold in most reporting countries in Europe. Activity remained elevated in Central America and the Caribbean and was generally low or decreasing elsewhere.
- NICs and other national influenza laboratories from 80 countries, areas or territories from six WHO regions (African Region: 12; Region of the Americas: 18; Eastern Mediterranean Region: 6; European Region: 31; South-East Asia Region: 7; Western Pacific Region: 6) reported to FluNet from sentinel surveillance sites for time period from 12 November 2023 to 26 November 2023 (data as of 08/12/2023 06:22:56 AM UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 27 132 sentinel specimens during that period and 1199 (4.4%) were positive for SARS-CoV-2. Additionally, more than 26 830 non-sentinel or undefined reporting source samples were tested in the same period and 4684 were positive for SARS-CoV-2. Further details are included at the end of this update. **Source:** <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/influenza-update-n--459>

## Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype globally



Data source: FluNet ([www.who.int/toolkits/flunet](http://www.who.int/toolkits/flunet)). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)  
Data generated on 07/12/2023

## Percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza, by influenza transmission zone<sup>1</sup> Map generated on 08 December 2023.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data source: Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), FluNet ([www.who.int/tools/flunet](http://www.who.int/tools/flunet))  
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**About this report:** Reporting agencies include labs, hospitals, long-term care and community-based care providers, physician offices, university clinic, pharmacies, and schools. Agencies are distributed throughout Summit County and report different indicators of flu activity including total lab tests, numbers of positive tests and type, antiviral prescriptions filled, school absences, and influenza like illness (ILI). Hospitalizations are lab confirmed for influenza and are obtained from the Ohio Disease Reporting System. Number of deaths associated with influenza and pneumonia are gathered from the Summit County Office of Vital Records death listings. Emergency room visits for complaints related to influenza are obtained by syndromic surveillance system (Epicenter).

### Special thanks to all agencies who report Influenza related data weekly.

Reporting from participants may not be complete each week. Numbers may change as updated reports are received. For questions, please contact Julie Zidones at the Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (330-375-2662 or [cdu@schd.org](mailto:cdu@schd.org)). This report was issued on December 15, 2023.