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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

## MONTHLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 12/07/2022

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### COVID, FLU, and RSV: The [“Triple Threat”](#)

COVID-19, Flu, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are spreading earlier than normal. Health officials have been referring to the combination of RSV, COVID-19 and Flu as a “triple threat” because they are all circulating simultaneously — and are fueling an unprecedented spike in respiratory illnesses that may worsen in the coming months.

Many Oregon hospitals are at or over capacity and using “crisis standards of care.” ICU beds are in very short supply, especially for children, due to the wave of respiratory illnesses hitting our region and state.

### Coronavirus update

Known national case count slightly increased this month. Most recent US weekly case count is 303,101 up from about 280,000 weekly case average recorded in first few weeks of November. After decreasing steadily from April through July, the number of Americans hospitalized with coronavirus has started to increase again from an average of 3,301 weekly admissions in October, to [4,126](#) in November. Deaths have decreased modestly since the start of September, down from 489 announced each day to 324 as of November 30th.

Cases in Oregon have increased from 2,786 new cases recorded in the first week of November to [3,586](#) new cases this first week of December. This is still an increase from the beginning of September weekly average of 1,395 new cases. The number of deaths across the state continue to increase, up 184 from the beginning of November, reaching a total of 8,864 deaths. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, hospitalizations from COVID-19 have increased from 238 recorded at the start of November to 363 hospitalizations with 42 patients in ICU beds. Looking at severity of COVID-19 hospitalizations, there were 13 COVID-19 positive patients on ventilators this past week, up from 8 at the start of November.

Clackamas County remains in low risk for community spread of COVID-19 according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Neighboring counties, Multnomah, Washington, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill have also remained in low risk for community spread. Cases in Clackamas County have slightly increased from previous weeks with [394](#) new cases recorded this past week. The percentage of positive test results have increased over the past several weeks, from 5.8% to 8%.

[Wastewater monitoring](#) indicates that most regions remain relatively flat with some regions seeing a sustained increase. While there has only been a small increase in cases and hospitalizations, due to COVID-19, health systems continue to experience strain from several sources including pandemic related workforce challenges such as burnout and not enough staff members to meet demand. Oregon is seeing greater numbers of influenza cases and hospitalizations than we have seen in the last 2 years, further straining our already taxed hospital systems. This increase in respiratory disease could be mitigated with updated vaccine boosters now for both COVID-19 and flu.

Clackamas County Public Health encourages everyone get boosters up to date at a [vaccine clinic](#) to strengthen your protection against COVID-19, and get your annual flu shot. It is more important than ever and is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

## Updates Recommended to Immunization Schedules

[CDC's Advisory Committee](#) on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended updates to the 2023 childhood and adult [immunization schedules](#), which includes incorporating additional information for approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines.

These recommendations come as first steps toward a transition of the COVID-19 vaccination program from emergency response to a routine immunization program activity.

Ensuring children are up to date on all of their recommended childhood vaccines goes a long way to prevent many respiratory illnesses from spreading in our community.

## COVID-19 cases in Clackamas County

The number of [new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported](#) for Clackamas County.

Week of Date	Case Count	Cases per 100k	Test Positivity
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	301	70.8	10.1%
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	230	54.1	5.8%
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	445	104.6	9.3%
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	332	90.3	8.6%
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	694	157.5	10.4%
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	697	169.3	10.0%
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	1024	210.0	13.6%
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	1083	276.5	13.0%

## COVID-19 vaccinations in Clackamas County

[Vaccination data](#) for Clackamas County.

Age Groups of people in Clackamas County who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon (per OHA)			
AGE	NUMBER VACCINATED	% PRIMARY SERIES COMPLETE	% RECEIVED A BIVALENT BOOSTER
0 to 4	2,614	11.8%	0 %
5 to 11	16,834	42.4%	2.3%
12 to 17	22,844	65.9%	6.5%
18 to 19	7,740	85.7%	5.4%
20 to 49	123,470	70.7%	8.3%
50 to 64	69,424	78.9%	15.5%
65+	79,516	89.8%	33.6%

## People of all ages living in Clackamas County

76.0% have initiated COVID-19 vaccination and have received at least one dose.

70.5% have completed their primary series.

13.6% have received a bivalent booster in addition to completing their primary series.

237,764 are eligible to receive a booster but have not yet.

20.4% of those eligible have received a booster.

## Testing

### **No-Cost COVID-19 Testing**

[Curative](#) testing site at Harmony Campus in Milwaukie operates 6 days a week with expanded afternoon hours on weekdays. The site also offers **free** rapid molecular testing with results available in about an hour. Appointments are not required.

[Rapid Molecular Testing](#) (Results usually within an hour)

Monday - Friday, 9:30a - 4:30p

### **COVID-19 Test to Treat Locator Available Online**

Test to Treat, a federal initiative launched in March, offers a new opportunity for testing and treating COVID-19. At select locations across the country, individuals can get tested and, if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them, can get a prescription and have their medication filled all at one location.

A tool to find Test to Treat locations as well as more information on the program is available at [aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat](https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat). Prescriptions are currently being offered to those that are at high risk of becoming very sick. New Test to Treat locations will be added as the program expands.

Organizations serving communities in Clackamas County are still able to request test kits via <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/testkits>

## RSV

RSV is a common virus most people recover from in a week or two, but it can cause serious illness, especially for young children and older adults.

### **RSV Burden Estimates**

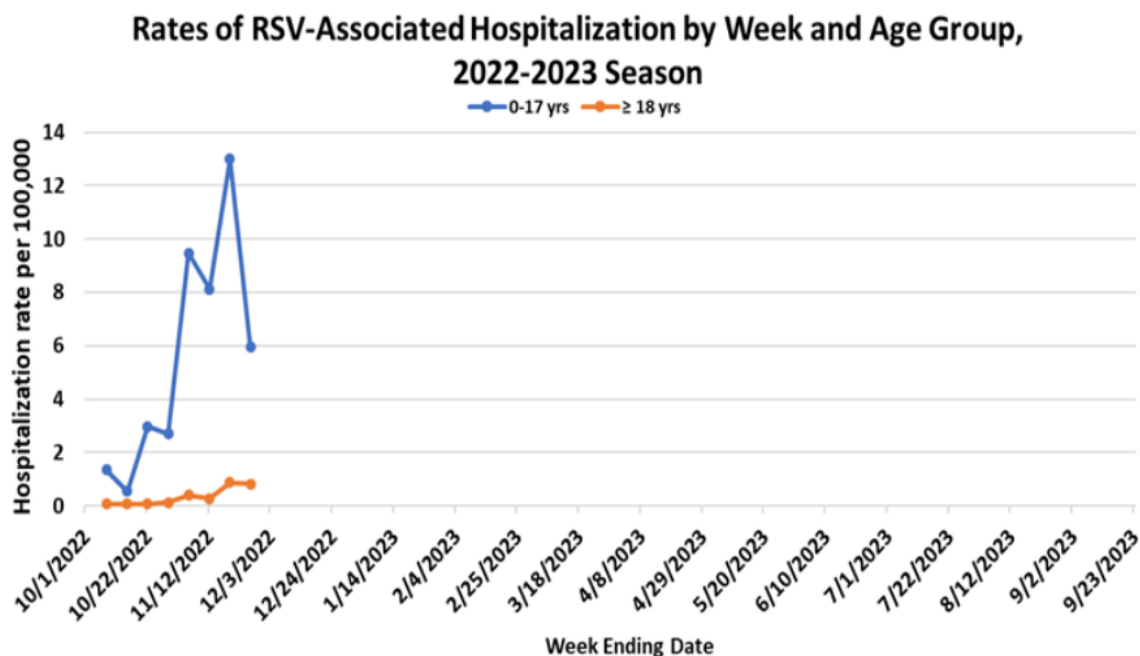
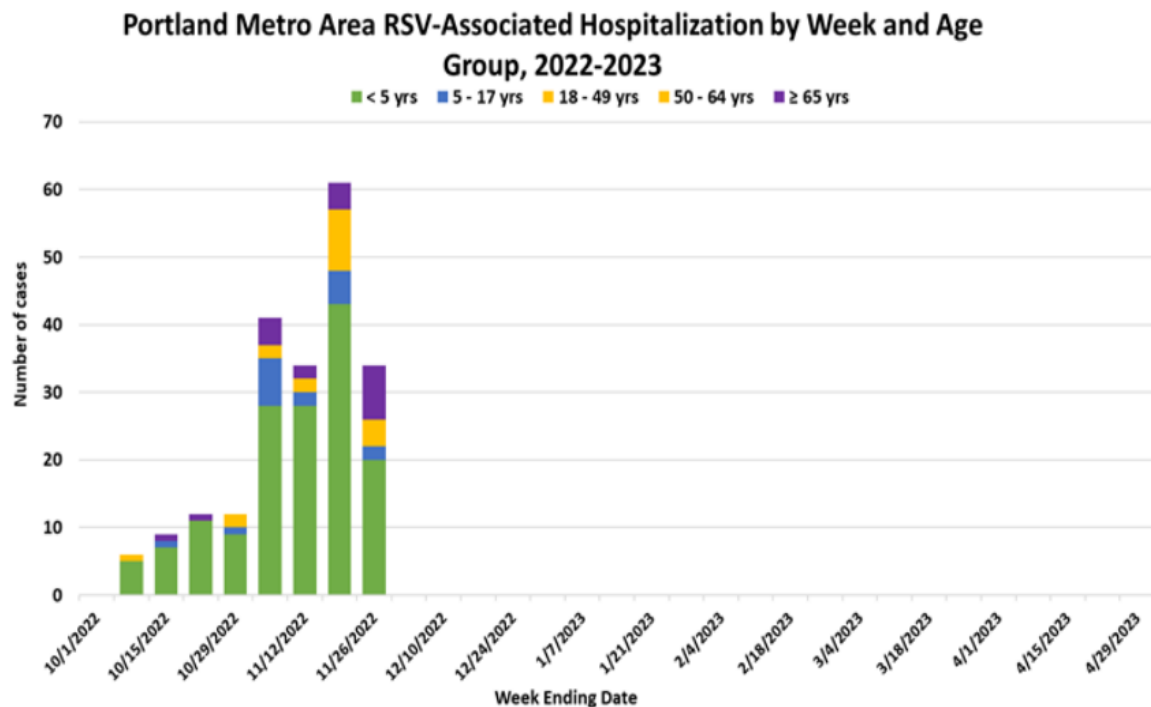
In a typical year in the United States, RSV leads to approximately:

- 2.1 million outpatient (non-hospitalization) visits among children younger than 5 years old.<sup>(1)</sup>
- 58,000-80,000 hospitalizations among children younger than 5 years old.<sup>(2,3)</sup>
- 60,000-120,000 hospitalizations among adults 65 years and older.<sup>(4,5)</sup>
- 6,000-10,000 deaths among adults 65 years and older.<sup>(6,7)</sup>
- 100–300 deaths in children younger than 5 years old.<sup>(7)</sup>

Currently, Oregon and the country is seeing a much higher than typical surge in RSV. This is thought to be somewhat due to the low rates of RSV in the last three years as COVID precautions also limited the spread of other respiratory diseases, including RSV. Natural immunity wanes over time, and many young children who have not previously been exposed at all are now as pandemic restrictions are lifted.

The percent positivity rate is above 10-15% in the U.S. which indicates RSV is [spreading fast](#); however, the testing positivity rate is not as high as [2021](#). There are hints that RSV is peaking, but other illnesses, such as flu are still rising.

Oregon's current hospitalization records are shown in the following graphs ([OHA](#)).



## Flu

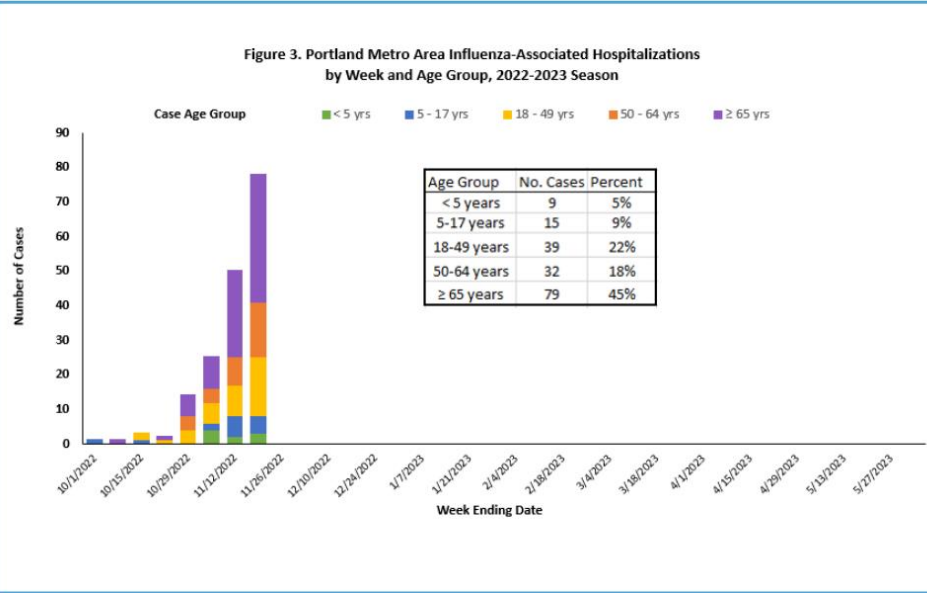
The cumulative hospitalization rate ...system is higher than the [rate](#) observed (at this point in the year) during every previous flu season since 2012-2011.

In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties there was 78 influenza-associated hospitalization reported during week 47 of 2022. There has been [174](#) reported hospitalizations during the 2022-2023 season.

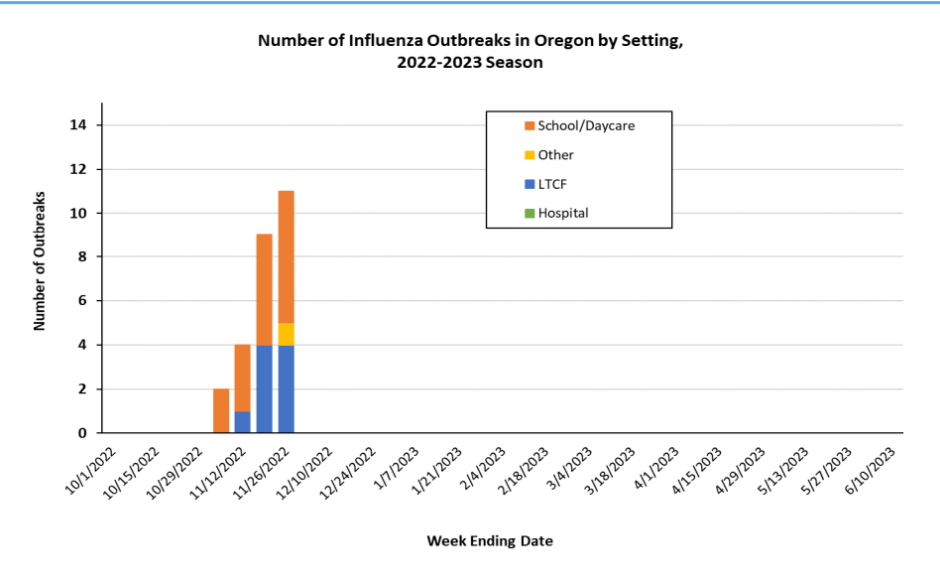
Influenza-associated deaths in children 17 years of age and younger are nationally notifiable. There were no pediatric influenza deaths in Oregon reported during week 47, 2022 and none yet reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2022—2023 influenza season.

There were 11 influenza outbreaks reported during week 47, 2022, there have been 26 reported outbreaks during the 2022-2023 season.

**Portland Tri-County Influenza Hospitalizations:** In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties there was 78 influenza-associated hospitalization reported during week 47 of 2022. There has been 174 reported hospitalization during the 2022-2023 season.



**Influenza Outbreaks:** There were 11 influenza outbreaks reported during week 47, 2022, there have been 26 reported outbreaks during the 2022-2023 season.



## Conclusion

While COVID is not the only driving cause, hospitalizations have started to rise for those over the age of 65 and for those 5 years and younger. There is a risk of co-infections, and increasing risks of infections from other viral illnesses, as we all return to more public interaction without masking and other pandemic precautions. The Triple threat isn't at its peak yet, and as RSV, Flu, and COVID continue to spread it is important to stay up to date on Flu and COVID vaccinations and use preventive actions such as washing your hands often, covering your cough/sneeze, consider masking in public places, avoiding close contact with others who are ill, and staying home when you're sick.

Please note, December 2022's report is the last planned written COVID-19 report. Clackamas County Public Health anticipates COVID will continue throughout the winter season. If significant changes to this situation develop, additional information will be provided.