

WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGIST REPORT

November 27, 2023



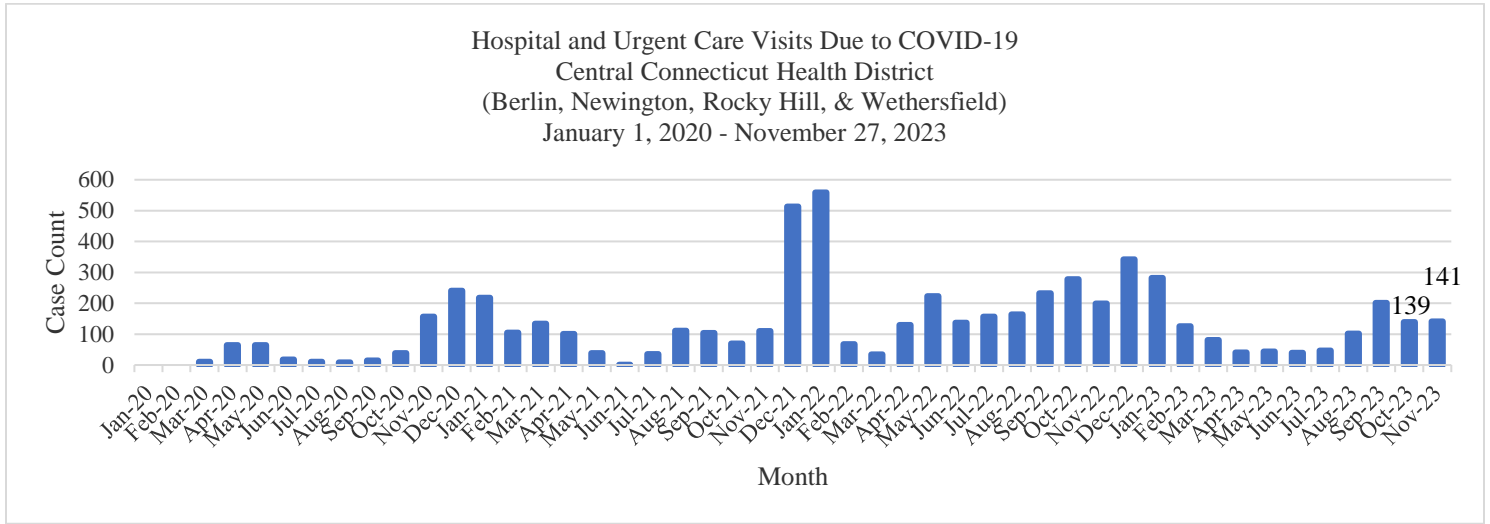
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RESPIRATORY VIRAL SEASON

CCHD has had twenty-four (24) laboratory-confirmed cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) this past reporting week. **COVID-19 cases are starting to increase. Two COVID-19 outbreak notifications were reported in our district this past week.** Remember, if you are sick stay home to prevent the spread of germs to others.

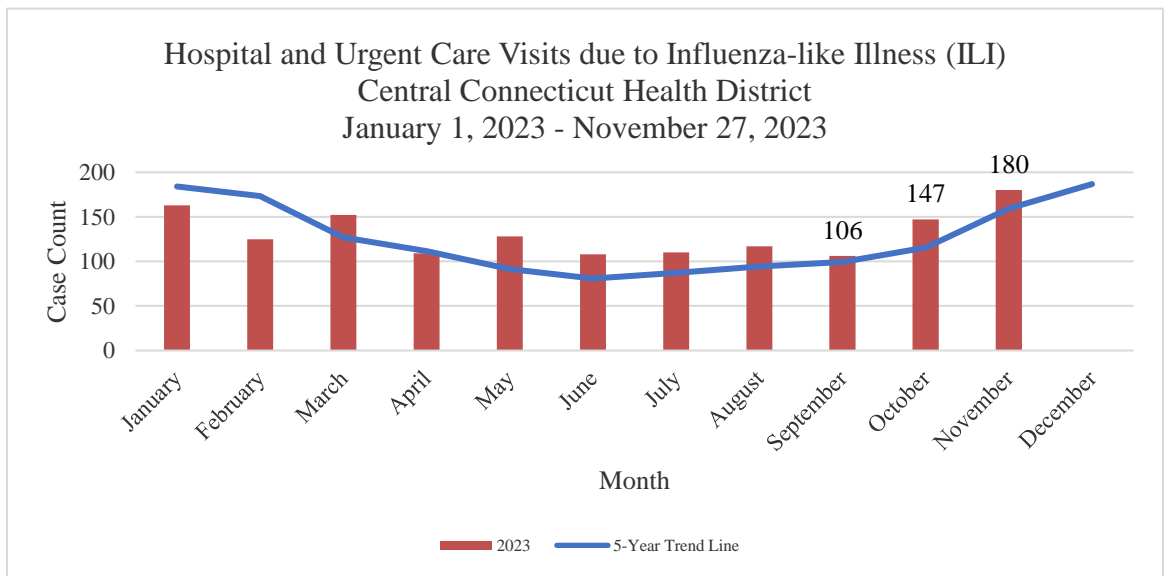
COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Data for COVID-19 was collected on November 27, 2023 from EpiCenter. The bar graph below illustrates the syndromic surveillance of hospital and urgent care visits due to COVID-19 (those experiencing symptoms with a COVID-19 diagnosis) in our district. Thirty-eight (38) cases were reported between 11/21 – 11/27.



INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

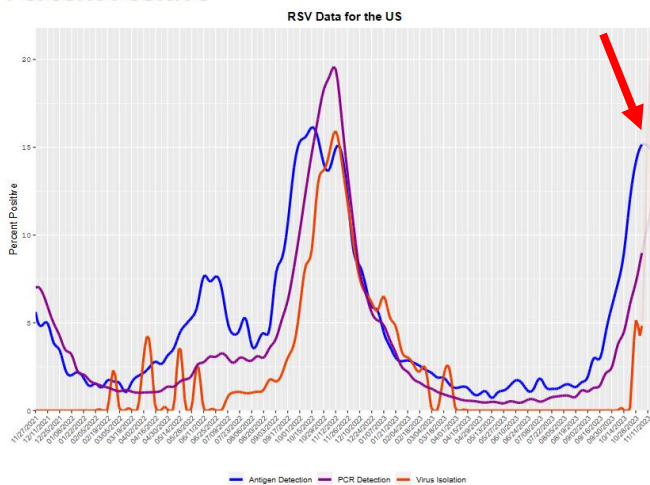
Data for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) was collected on November 27, 2023 from EpiCenter. The graph below illustrates the syndromic surveillance of hospital and urgent care visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) five-year average trend line (2018-2022) compared to this year's cases. Other circulating respiratory viruses can present as influenza-like illness. ILI is defined as having a fever and a cough or sore throat. **Twelve (+4) laboratory confirmed cases of influenza have been reported since September 1, 2023.**



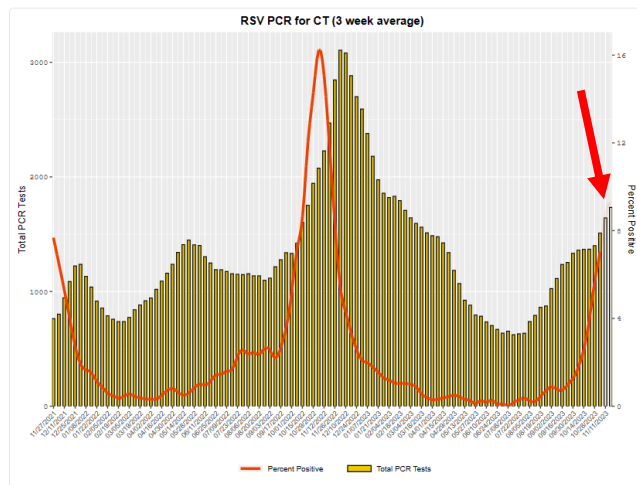
RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

Nationally, and regionally RSV antigen (blue line) and PCR (purple line) percent positivity continue to increase (line graph on left). Connecticut RSV PCR test positivity (red line) is also on the upward trend as of November 16th (see bar graph to the right). **Since September 1, 2023, our district was notified of 51 confirmed cases of RSV.**

Percent Positive



Total PCR Tests

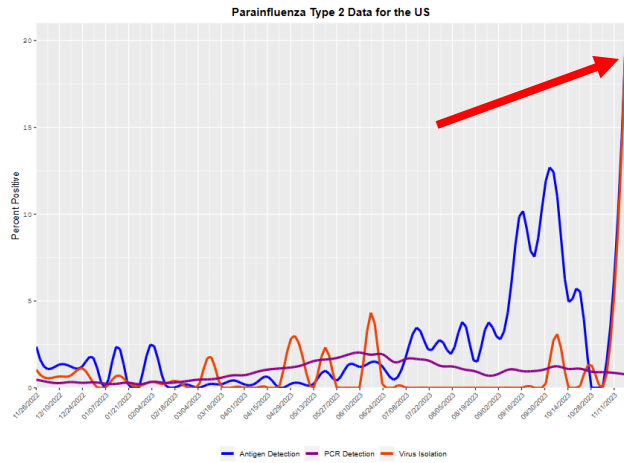


NATIONAL RESPIRATORY & ENTERIC VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NREVSS)

The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) is a laboratory-based system that monitors temporal and geographic circulation patterns (patterns occurring in time and place) of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human parainfluenza viruses (HPIV), human metapneumovirus (HMPV), respiratory adenoviruses, human coronavirus, and gastrointestinal viruses: rotavirus, and norovirus. Participating laboratories report weekly to CDC the total number of tests performed that week, and the number of those tests that were positive. Middlesex and Yale are the only contributing health organizations in Connecticut that report respiratory and enteric virus surveillance data to the CDC. Data from NREVSS was updated November 16, 2023.

Norovirus test positivity is continuing to increase in the Northeast, CCHD will continue to conduct surveillance and report on significant trends. Norovirus is the leading cause of vomiting and diarrhea, and foodborne illness in the United States. People of all ages can get infected and sick with norovirus, which spreads very easily and quickly. <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/prevention.html>

Nationally antigen detection of human parainfluenza viruses (HPIV) type 2 has reached the highest levels for both virus and antigen detection all year. HPIV is associated with croup and can cause upper and lower respiratory illness and cold like symptoms (see graph to the right). HPIV can also cause more severe illness such as bronchitis, bronchiolitis, and pneumonia.

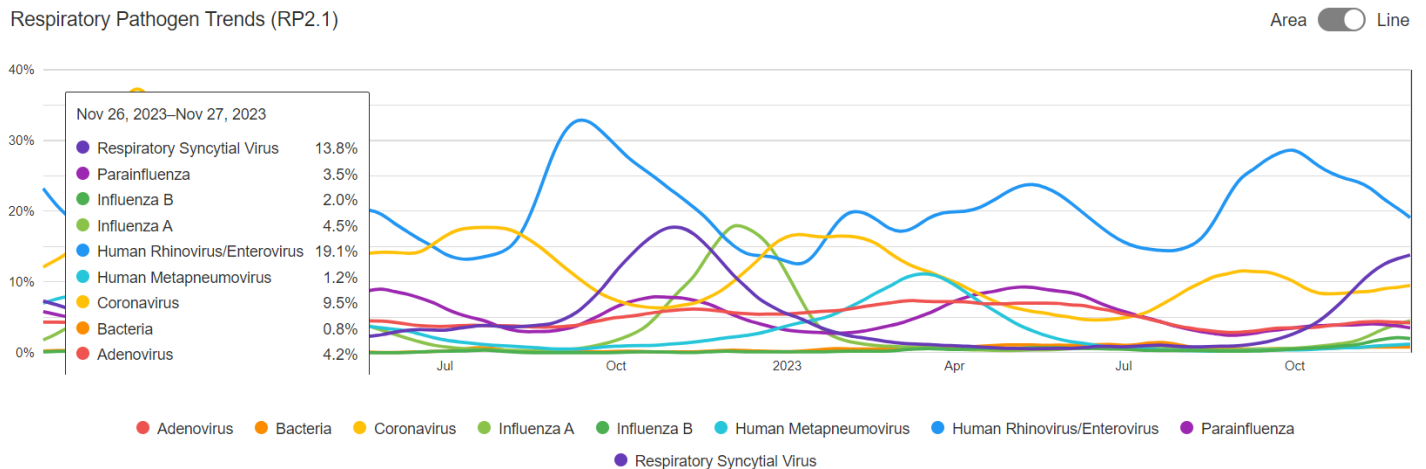


Rotavirus test positivity has decreased in the Northeast.

Seasonal coronavirus, and human metapneumovirus detection data appear to show no concerning increases.

BIOFIRE SYNDROMIC TRENDS

Biofire Syndromic Trends is a software feature from BioFire that provides pathogen circulation trends. BioFire is a syndromic infectious disease diagnostics company that provides healthcare providers with accurate and comprehensive results in a short period of time. The graph below illustrates aggregate BioFire data for respiratory pathogen trends as of November 27, 2023. Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus still is the main pathogen (19.1%, -2.3) that individuals in the US are testing positive for, followed by RSV (13.9%, +.9), and Coronavirus (9.5%, +.7) (see figure below).



<https://www.biofire.com/products/filmarray/biofire-syndromic-trends/>

PREVENTION

To prevent serious disease complications from respiratory illness, consider getting your annual flu shot. To schedule your flu shot with us please visit: <https://www.ccthd.org/book-appointment> . The RSV vaccine is available for persons over 65, please encourage residents to check with their provider to see if they are administering it. The updated COVID-19 booster is also available at participating pharmacies. Remember the best way to prevent the spread of infectious respiratory illness is to:

- Cover your cough and sneezes,
- **Wash your hands often**,
- Get vaccinated,
- Stay home when you are ill,
- Minimize close contact with sick people,
- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals.



FOOD RECALLS

The following foods are being recalled because they are contaminated. Please check your cupboards and throw out any of these items:

New this week:

- Malichita Whole Canteloupe by Pacific Trellis Fruit, LLC dba Dulcinea
- Ting 2% Miconazole Nitrate Athletes Foot Spray by Insight Pharmaceuticals
- Seasonal Blend, Melon Trio Canteloupes by CF Dallas, LLC
- Dianne's Fine Desserts Chocolate Decadent Brownies by Sienna Bakery
- Hy-Vee Turkey Gravy by Seneca Foods Corporation
- Cantaloupe chunks and fruit mixes containing fresh cantaloupe by Crown Jewel Produce
- Viktrakvi oral solution 20 mg/mL in 100 mL glass bottles by Bayer



Image from: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/salmonella-outbreak-linked-cantaloupes-killed-2-infected-99-wake-up-call>

Previous recalls:

- TFP Nutrition Dry Dog, Dry Cat and Catfish food
- Whole Peaches, Plums and Nectarines by the HMC group Marketing, Inc.
- Over the counter Pain and Fever Reliever for Infants and Kids by KinderFarms, LLC
- Ice cream, yogurt, ice cream bars, and gelato by Wilcox Ice Cream

- Cantaloupe chunks and fruit mixes containing fresh cantaloupe (Malichita/Soifa Procude LLC dva Trufresh)
- Tyson chicken nuggets: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls-alerts/tyson-foods-inc--recalls-chicken-patty-product-due-possible-foreign-matter>
- Multiple brands of eye drops by Kilitch Healthcare India Limited
- Multiple brands of Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree by Wanabana LLC



For more information on recalls due to undeclared allergens please visit:
<https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts>

Don't forget to follow Central Connecticut Health District on social media!

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/ccthd4/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CCTHD4>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/centralcthealthdistrict/>

The Central Connecticut Health District is committed to improving the quality of life in our communities through prevention of disease and injury, fostering of a healthy environment, and promotion of the health of our residents.