

WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGIST REPORT

January 29, 2024



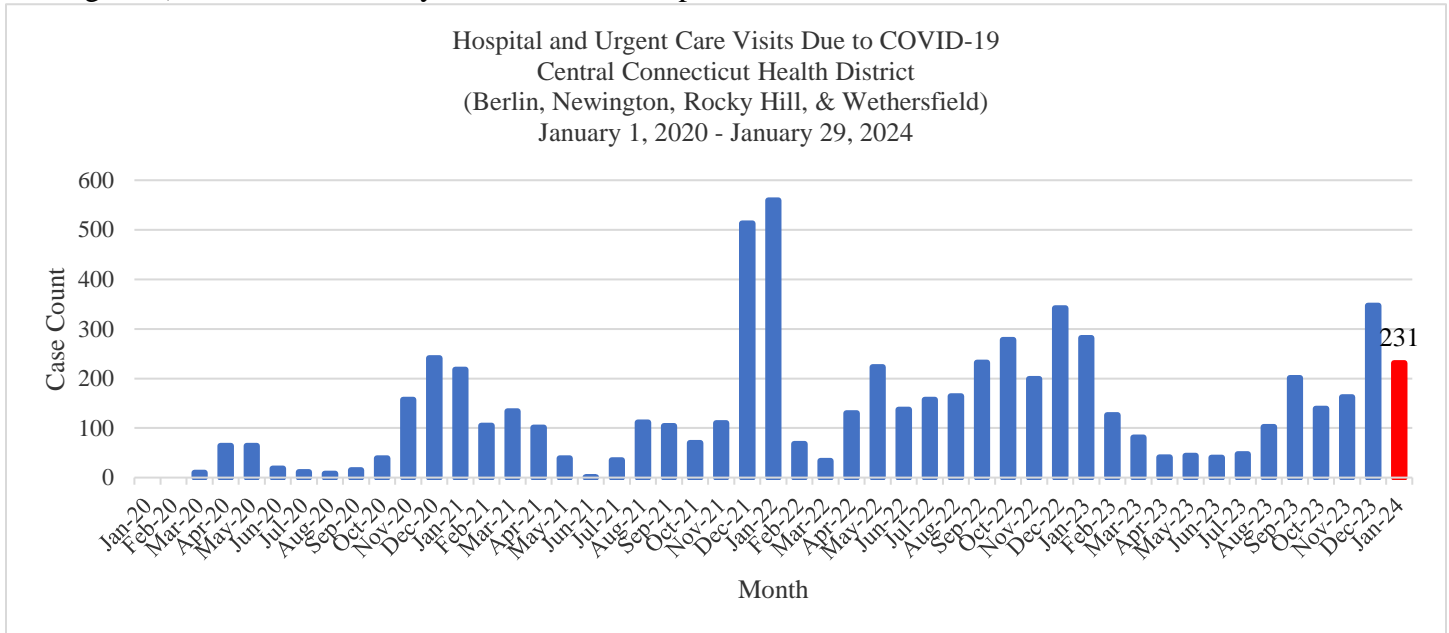
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RESPIRATORY VIRAL SEASON

Case numbers for COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in our district continue to subside. Visit www.ccthd.org for an interactive graph on respiratory illness in our district. Remember, if you are sick stay home to prevent the spread of germs to others.

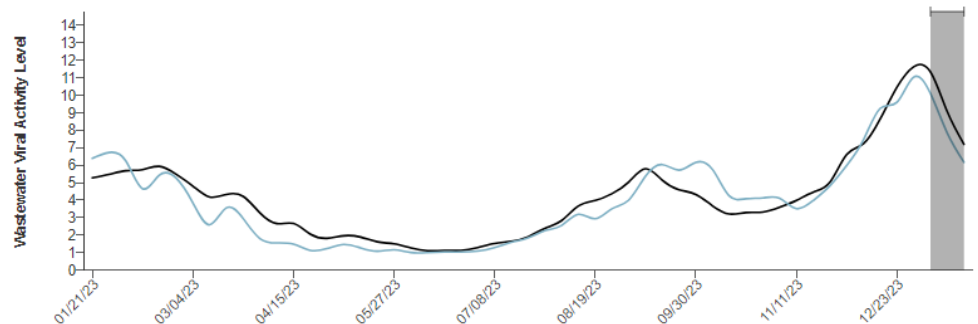
COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Data for COVID-19 is as of January 29, 2024 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. Fifty-four cases were reported between 1/22/24-1/28/24.



COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance

As of January 25, 2024, the nationwide wastewater viral activity level for COVID-19 is currently **high** at a level of 7.2 (-2.18 from previous reporting period) (see the black line in the figure to the right) along with the Northeast region with a level of 6.16 (-1.76 from previous reporting week) (blue line). Connecticut has paused wastewater surveillance until capacity at the State Public Health Laboratory has increased and additional water management facilities are onboarded to the Connecticut Wastewater Surveillance Program.

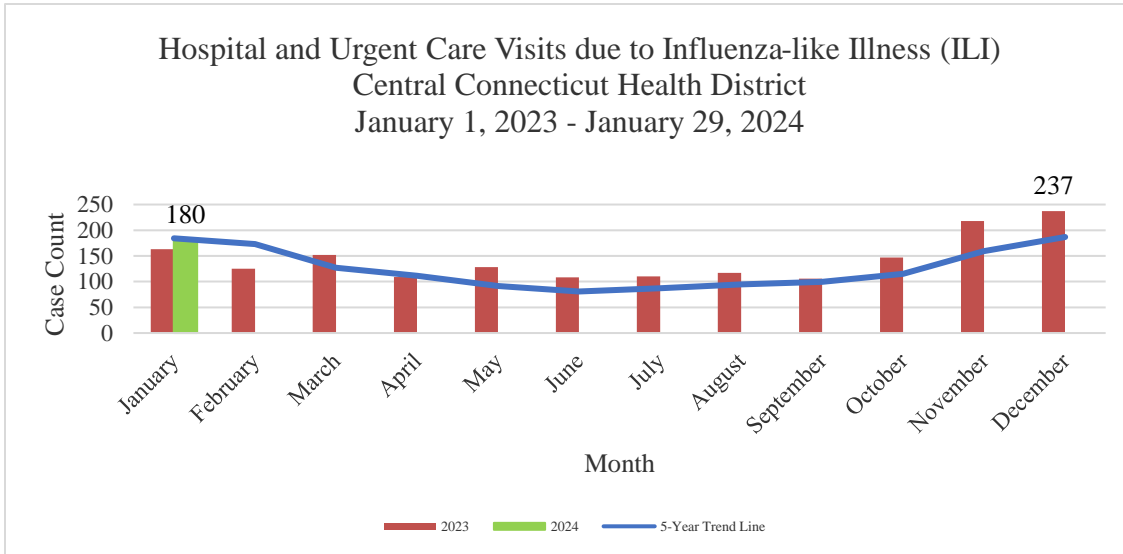


For more information on wastewater surveillance please visit : <https://www.cdc.gov/nwss/rv/COVID19-nationaltrend.html>

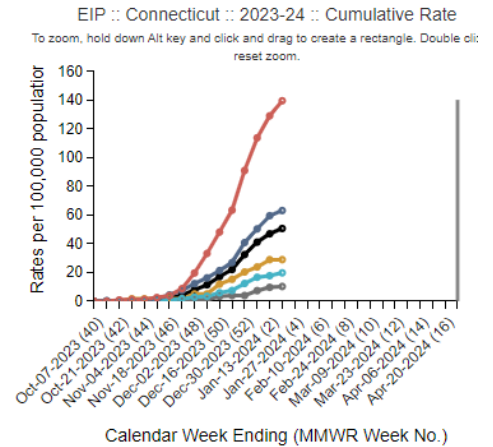
In the Northeast, the predominant variant sequenced in reported laboratory-confirmed cases is JN.1 (91.8%). There is currently no evidence that JN.1 presents an increased risk to public health relative to other circulating variants (CDC).

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Data for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is as of January 29, 2024 from EpiCenter. The graph below is the syndromic surveillance of hospital and urgent care visits due to ILI five-year average trend line (2018-2022) compared to this year and last 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.



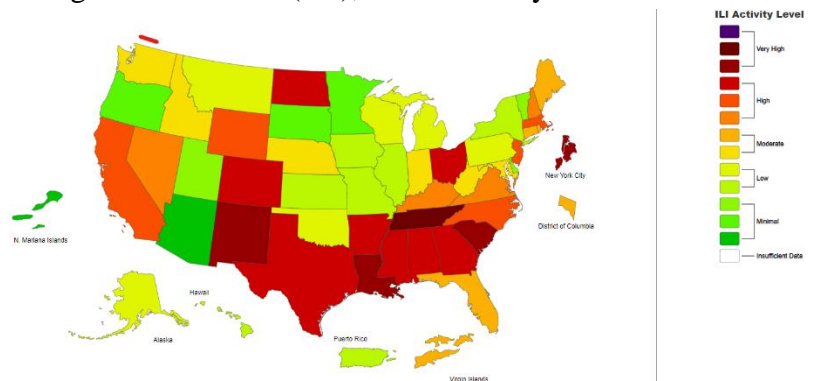
In Connecticut, the majority of those hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza are those who are 65 years of age or older (139.7 per 100,000 population) followed by those who are 50-64 years of age (63.2 per 100,000 population) and those who are 0-4 years of age (29.0 per 100,000 population). Overall 50.7 per 100,000 people in Connecticut have been hospitalized due to influenza. Data was last updated on January 20th. The figure to the right can be found at <https://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>



The CDC's FLUView Interactive Map

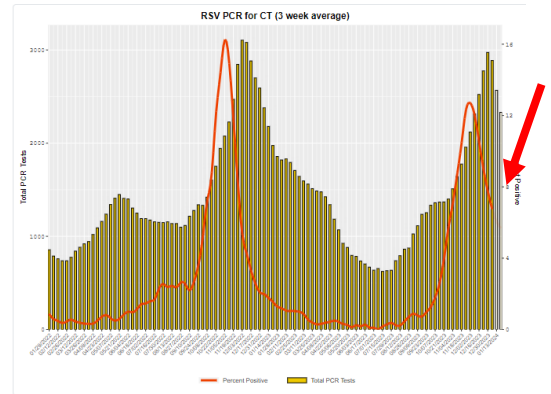
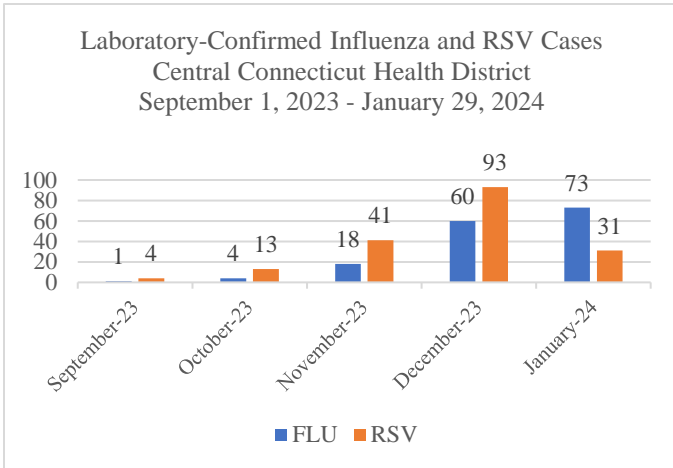
<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html> is a system that monitors visits

for respiratory illness that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat (ILI), not laboratory-confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms. Connecticut's ILI Activity Level remains at the MODERATE level as of January 20th. Most states are seeing a reprieve in ILI activity level.



RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

Nationally RSV positivity is on the downward trend. In Connecticut, RSV PCR test positivity (red line) is following suit as of January 18th (see bar graph to the right).



Our district was notified of 156 (+20) laboratory-confirmed of influenza (99% influenza type A), and 182 (+3) laboratory-confirmed cases of RSV in the CTEDSS database (see figure to the left) since September 1, 2023.

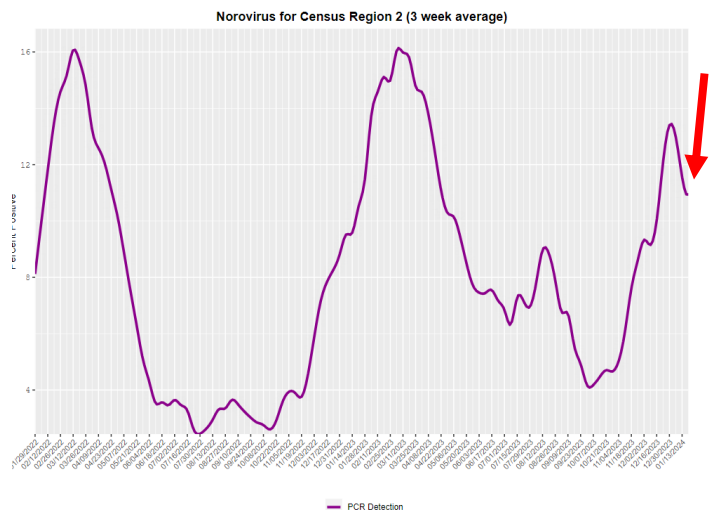
NATIONAL RESPIRATORY & ENTERIC VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NREVSS)

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 January 20, 2024.

Norovirus test positivity remains high in the Northeast (10.9%), however positivity continues on the downward trend.

The figure to the right illustrates the three week average percent positivity since January 29, 2022. 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>



Seasonal coronaviruses, CoVOC43, CoVHku1, CoVNL63 and CoV229E, HPIV, adenovirus, rotavirus and human metapneumovirus detection data appear to show no concerning increases. All test positivity as of January 18, 2024 is under 5%.

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent the spread of infectious respiratory or gastrointestinal illness is to:

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



OPIOID DATA

As of January 29, 2024, thirteen CCHD residents were reported to have a suspected overdose by a hospital or urgent care center this month in the EpiCenter Syndromic Surveillance System.

On February 26th from 6pm to 8pm CCHD will be holding a narcan training at the Rocky Hill Senior Center. For more information please visit our website (www.ccthd.org) or email Lisa Coakley, our Clinical Health Supervisor, at lcoakley@ccthd.org.

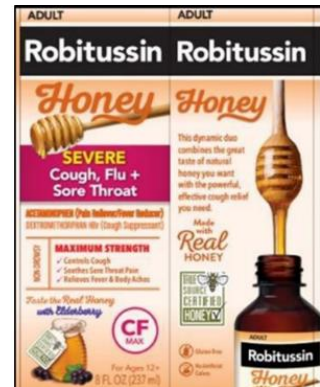
FOOD RECALLS

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

New this week:

- Robitussin Honey CF Max Day and Nighttime cough for microbial contamination
 - Consumers that have purchased the product listed should stop consumption immediately. Please call Haleon’s Consumer Relations team at +1-800-245-1040 or reach out via email to mystory.us@haleon.com.
 - The table below contains the lots being recalled:

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date
ROBITUSSIN HONEY CF MAX DAY ADULT 4OZ	T10810	31OCT2025
ROBITUSSIN HONEY CF MAX DAY ADULT 8OZ	T08730	31MAY2025
	T08731	31MAY2025
	T08732	31MAY2025
	T08733	31MAY2025
	T10808	30SEP2025
ROBITUSSIN HONEY CF MAX NT ADULT 8OZ	T08740 T08742	30JUN2026 30JUN2026



Previously reported:

- Spinach and Salad Kits by BrightFarms for possible *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination.
- Aged Cojita Mexican Grating Cheese by Rio Bros California Creamery, Rizo Lopez Foods, Inc. for potential *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination.
- Multiple brand names Cereal, bars, and snacks by The Quaker Oats Company for potential for *Salmonella* contamination

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/CCTHD>

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.