

Highlights¹

The 2023-2024 season runs from August 27, 2023, to August 24, 2024

Activity levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the 2023-2024 respiratory season began on August 27, there has been little influenza activity, consistent with previous years. COVID-19 activity has been increasing over this time but is lower than during the same time period in 2022², and RSV activity has increased in the last two weeks.
Laboratory-confirmed cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 3 new cases of Influenza A, and 0 new cases of Influenza B reported during weeks 35-39; there have been 3 cases of Influenza A and 0 cases of Influenza B reported since the start of the 2023-2024 season. COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 1476 new cases of COVID-19 reported during weeks 35-39; there have been 1476 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the 2023-2024 season. RSV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 19 new cases of RSV reported during weeks 35-39; there have been 19 laboratory confirmed case of RSV since the start of the 2023-2024 season
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No hospitalizations or deaths reported COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 2023-2024 season there have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58 hospitalizations (non-ICU) 5 ICU admissions 7 deaths
Outbreaks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 24 new long term care facility outbreaks declared in this reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Influenza 24 COVID-19 0 RSV
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of emergency department visits for influenza like illness (ILI) was 0.3% during this reporting period.

Panorama data pulled on October 4, 2023

¹ See Appendix for data notes and limitations.

² [COVID-19-epidemiologic-summary_2022-10-11.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Weeks 35-39 (August 27, 2023, to September 30, 2023)

INFLUENZA

Figure 1: Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by week (n=3), 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia³

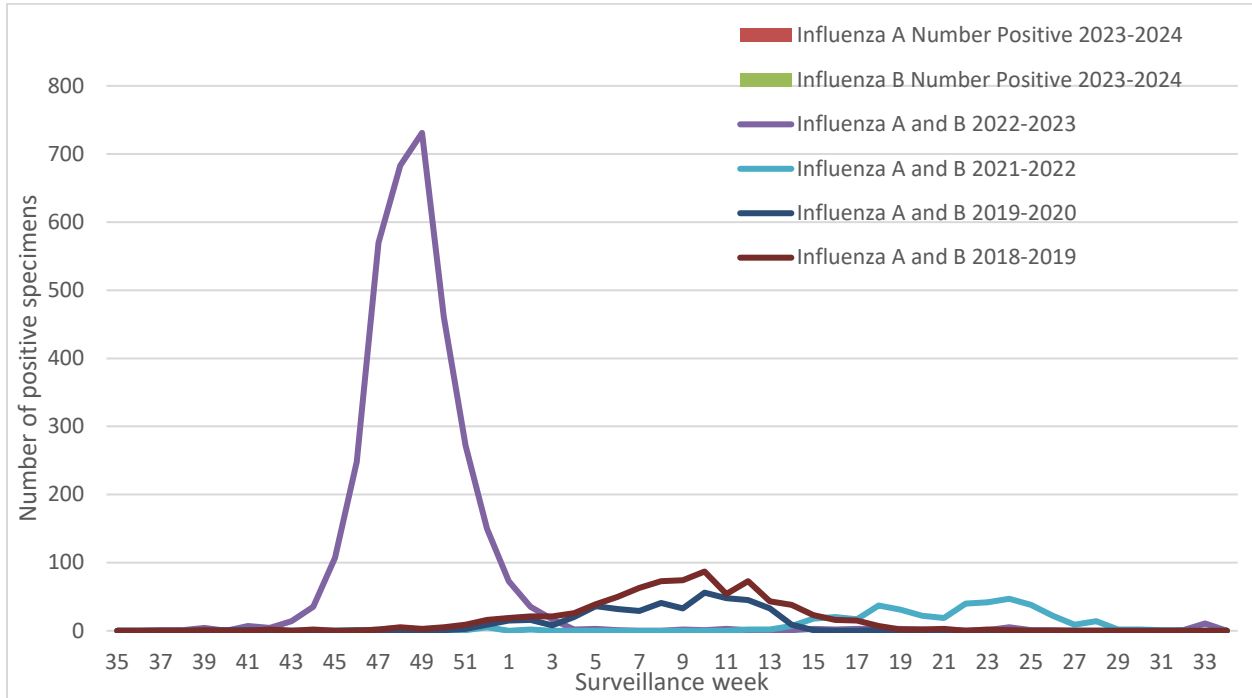


Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by zone, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

ZONE	CURRENT PERIOD			CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL
Western	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	1	0	1	1	0	1
Eastern	2	0	2	2	0	2
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia Total	3	0	3	3	0	3

³ There were no reported influenza cases during the 2020-2021 season.

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Table 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by age group, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD			CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL
0-4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-44	1	0	1	1	0	1
45-64	2	0	2	2	0	2
65+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia Total	3	0	3	3	0	3

Figure 2. Number of influenza hospitalizations and ICU admissions by week, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia⁴

No influenza hospitalizations or ICU admissions this season to date.

Table 3: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths for influenza positive patients, based on most severe outcome, cumulative counts, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia⁵

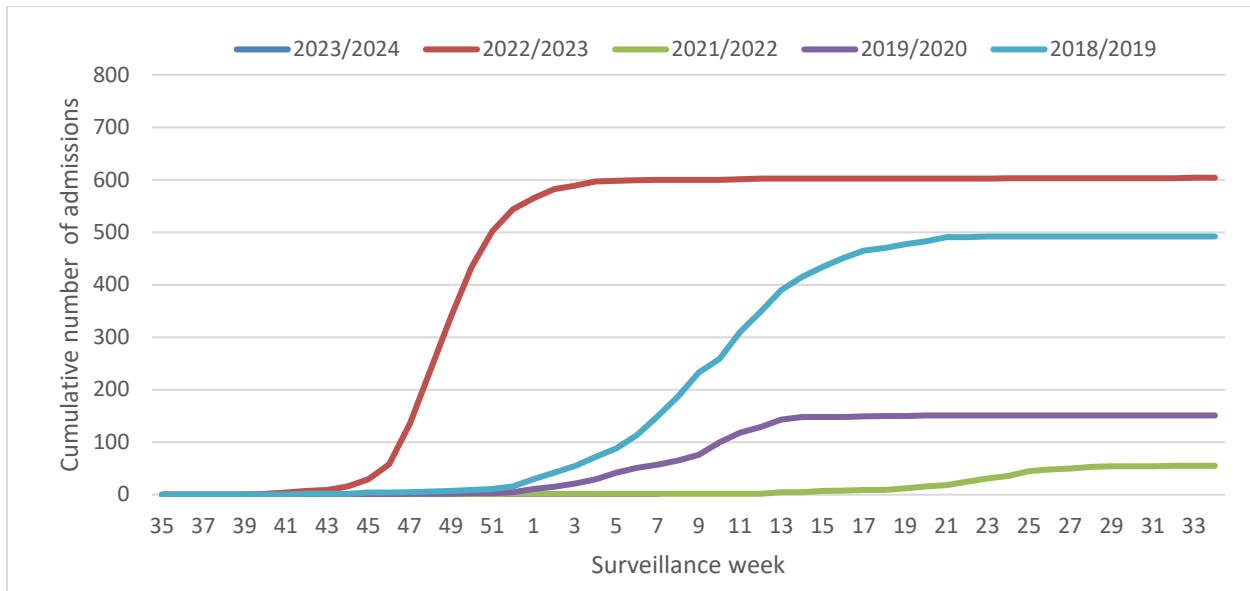
AGE (years)	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	Hospitalizations	ICU	Deaths
0-4	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0
20-44	0	0	0
45-64	0	0	0
65+	0	0	0
Nova Scotia Total	0	0	0

⁴ Due to influenza outcome reporting cycles, a data delay prevents reporting on the most recent surveillance week. If a case is hospitalized and moves to ICU in the same reporting week, they will appear in both the hospitalization and ICU columns for that week.

⁵ In this table, only the most severe outcome for a case is included; numbers of hospitalizations and ICU admissions could therefore decline over time, if a person counted in one of those columns moves to a more severe outcome.

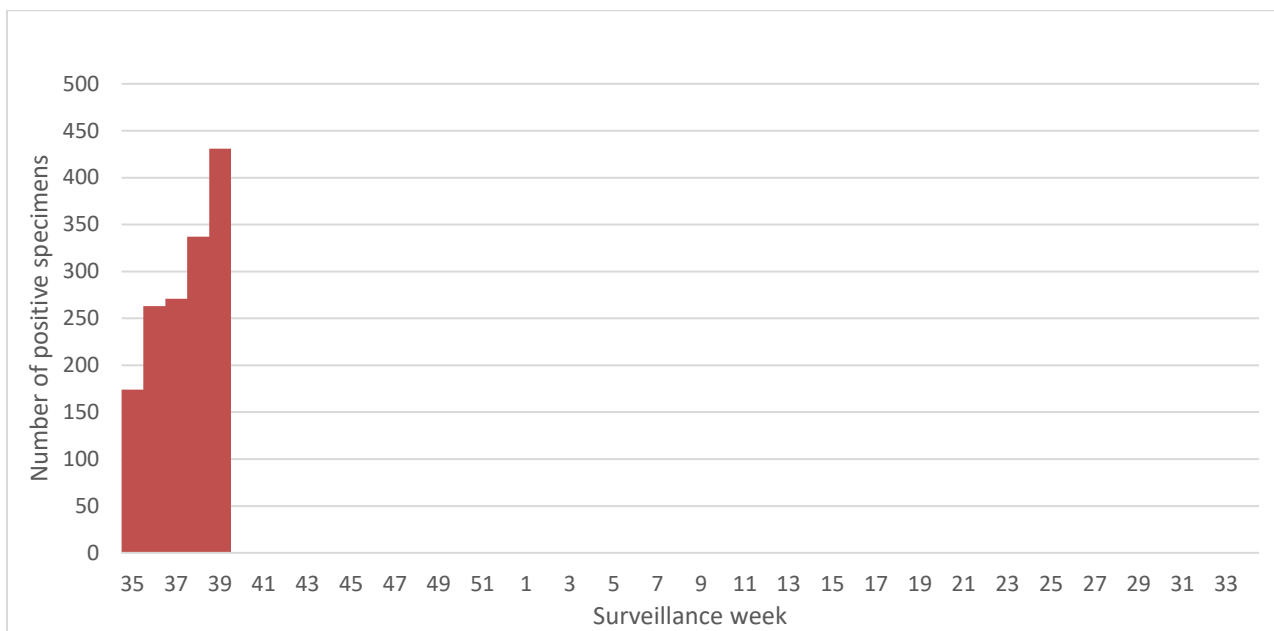
Weeks 35-39 (August 27, 2023, to September 30, 2023)

Figure 3: Cumulative influenza hospitalizations and ICU admissions, by week, 2023-24 season compared to prior seasons, Nova Scotia⁶



COVID-19

Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by week (n=1476), 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia⁷



⁶ There were no reported cases of influenza during the 2020-2021 season.

⁷ There were 4664 PCR positive COVID-19 cases in September 2022

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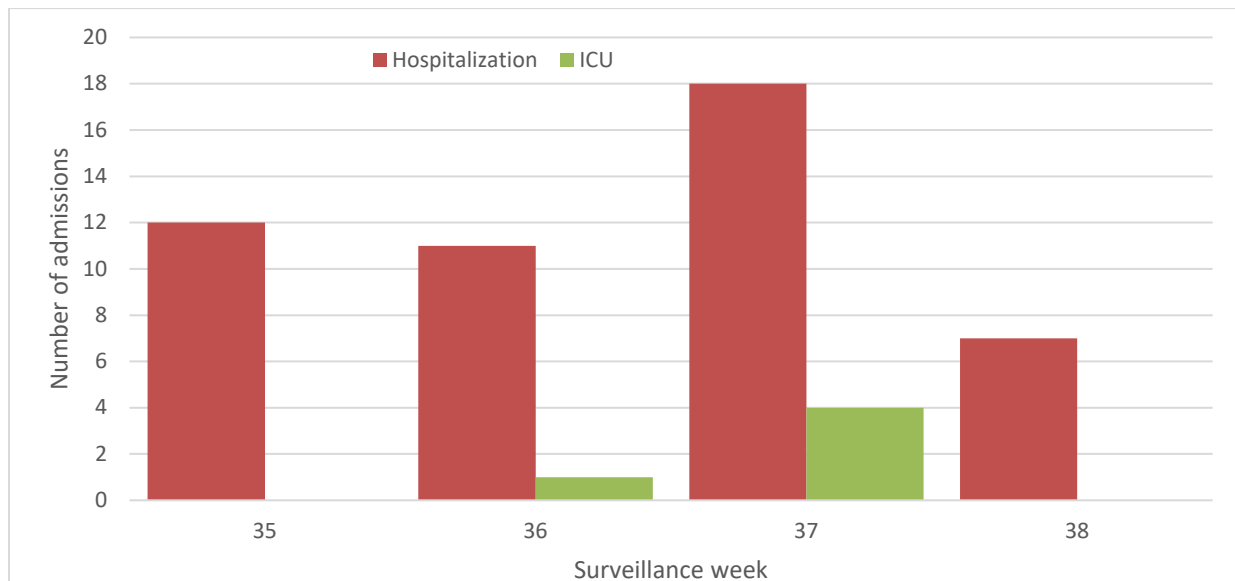
Table 4: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by zone, current period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

ZONE	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
Western	305	305
Northern	191	191
Eastern	276	276
Central	704	704
Nova Scotia Total	1476	1476

Table 5. Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group, current period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
0-4	12	12
5-19	25	25
20-44	245	245
45-64	349	349
65+	845	845
Nova Scotia Total	1476	1476

Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions by week, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia⁸



⁸ Due to COVID-19 outcome reporting cycles, a data delay prevents reporting on the most recent surveillance week. If a case is hospitalized and moves to ICU in the same reporting week, they will appear in both the hospitalization and ICU columns for that week.

Weeks 35-39 (August 27, 2023, to September 30, 2023)

Table 6: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths for COVID-19 positive patients, cumulative counts, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia^{9,10}

AGE (years)	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	Hospitalizations	ICU	Deaths
0-4	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0
20-44	0	0	0
45-64	4	1	0
65+	54	4	7
Nova Scotia Total	58	5	7

RSV

Table 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed RSV cases by age group, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

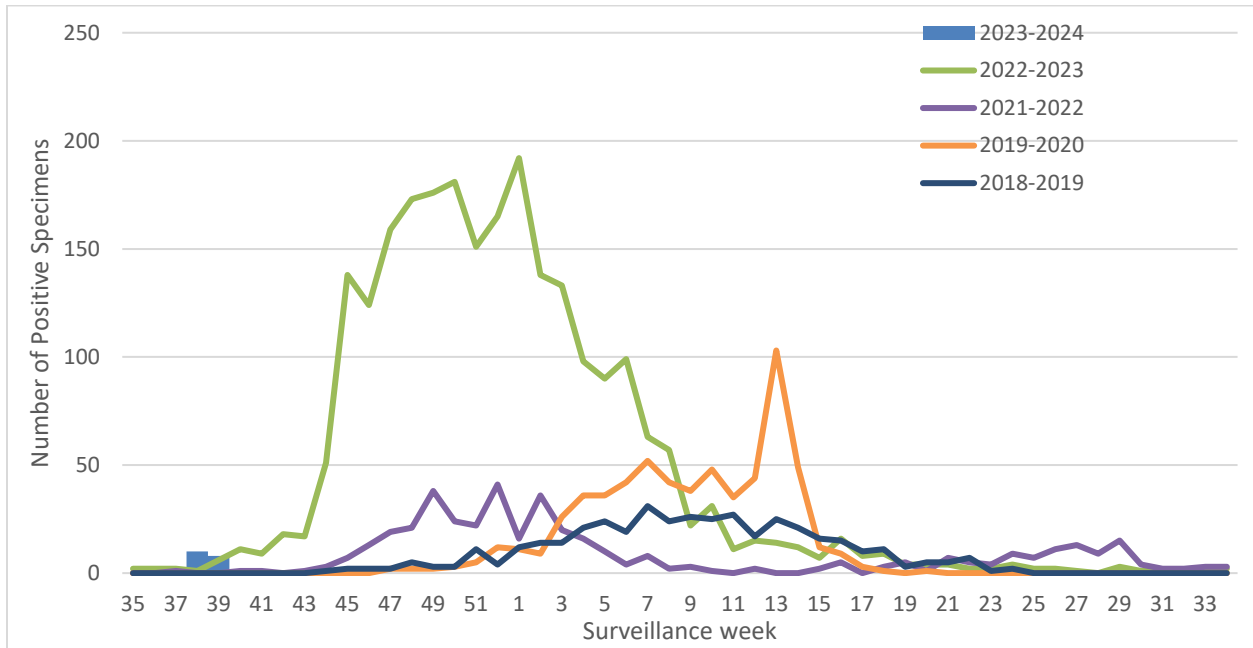
AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
0-5 months	2	2
6-11 months	1	1
12-23 months	3	3
2-4 years	6	6
5-19 years	2	2
20-64 years	4	4
65+ years	1	1
Nova Scotia Total	19	19

⁹ In this table, only the most severe outcome for a case is included; numbers of hospitalizations and ICU admissions could therefore decline over time, if a person counted in one of those columns moves to a more severe outcome.

¹⁰ There were 205 hospitalizations and 14 deaths from COVID-19 during the month of September 2022.

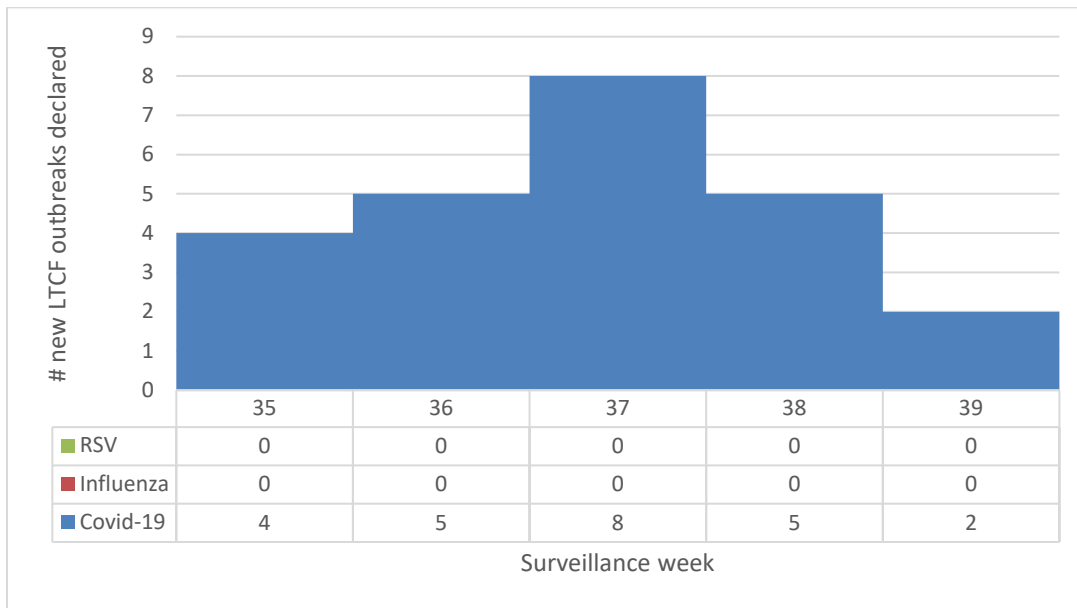
Weeks 35-39 (August 27, 2023, to September 30, 2023)

Figure 6: Laboratory-confirmed RSV cases by week, 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia¹¹



RESPIRATORY OUTBREAKS

Figure 7. Number of new long term care facility respiratory outbreaks by week and respiratory virus (influenza, COVID-19 and RSV), 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia¹²

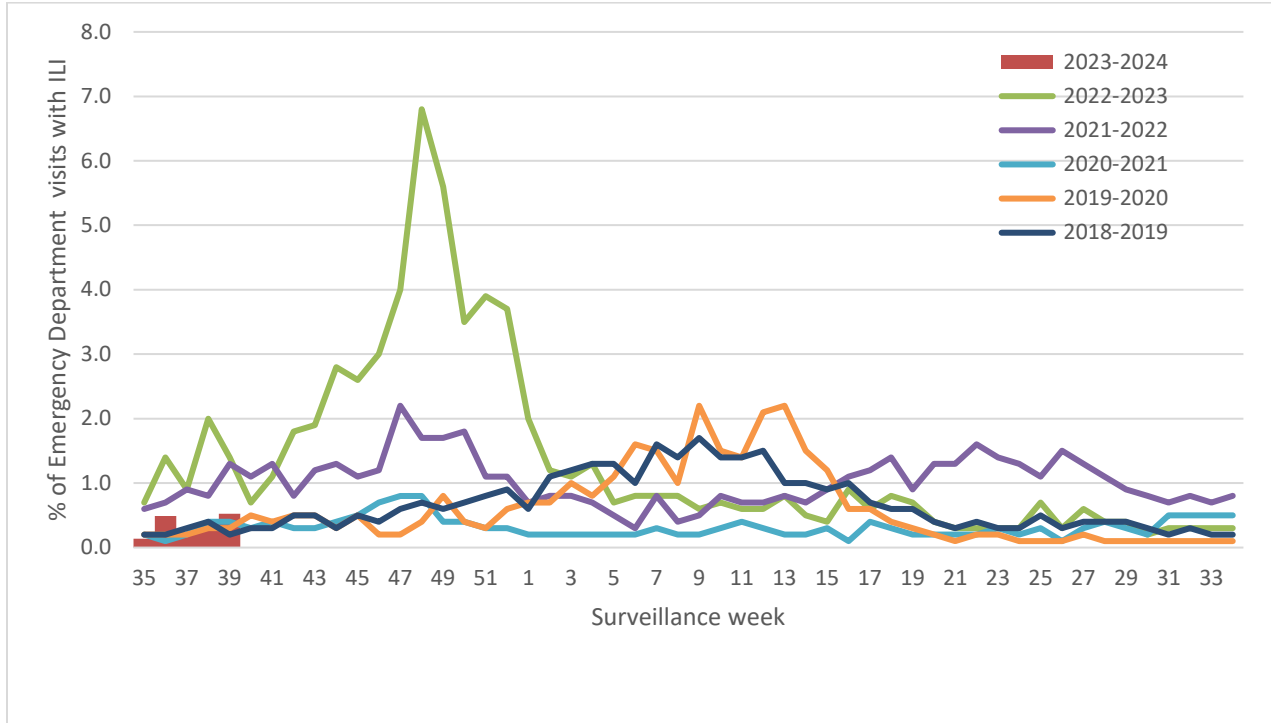


¹¹ There were no reported RSV cases during the 2020-2021 season.

¹² Outbreak definitions can be found in the Appendix.

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 8: Percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI by report week, 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia



OTHER RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Table 8: Number of positive specimens for other respiratory viruses, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

PATHOGEN	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
Adenovirus	6	6
Bocavirus	0	0
Coronavirus*	0	0
Enterovirus/Rhinovirus	57	57
Metapneumovirus	1	1
Parainfluenza	12	12

*Excludes COVID-19

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APPENDIX – DATA NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

DATA NOTES

- A surveillance week runs from Sunday to Saturday. The 2023-2024 season is defined using PHAC’s FluWatch surveillance weeks.
 - This year runs from August 27, 2023 (Week 35) to August 24, 2024 (Week 34).
- Notifications of hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths may lag; deaths are particularly affected. Additionally, COVID-19 and influenza outcome reporting from public health occurs on Wednesdays. As a result, this data is incomplete for the most recent week. Because of this, we do not include the most recent surveillance week in graphs showing outcomes by week.
- The definition for COVID-19 hospitalizations was changed in May 2023.
- A case can have more than one outcome (e.g., be hospitalized, and later move to the ICU); multiple outcomes per case are counted in graphs showing outcomes by week, where applicable.
- RSV is not a reportable disease in Nova Scotia.
- Testing eligibility guidelines and the use of multiplex respiratory virus testing affect the number of cases identified and reported.
 - Because not everyone gets tested or is eligible for testing, the numbers reported here under-represent the true burden of disease in the community.
 - The implementation of multiplex testing has likely led to increased detection of cases of other respiratory pathogens, including RSV.

DEFINITIONS USED IN RESPIRATORY SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2023-2024

See: [Nova Scotia’s Respiratory Response Plan](#)

ACRONYM LIST

ICU	Intensive care unit
ILI	Influenza-like illness
RSV	Respiratory syncytial virus

OUTBREAK DEFINITIONS

Lab Confirmed COVID-19 Outbreak

Two or more laboratory-confirmed resident cases, AND at least one is a facility acquired case, with all cases epidemiologically linked within the LTCF in a 10-day period

Lab Confirmed Influenza Outbreak

Two or more resident cases of ILI (influenza-like illness), where at least one is a laboratory confirmed case of influenza, within the LTCF in a 7-day period

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Lab Confirmed Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Outbreak

Two or more symptomatic residents where at least one is a laboratory confirmed case of RSV, epidemiologically linked within the LTCF in a 7-day period

ILI CASE DEFINITION

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following – sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration which is likely due to influenza. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

OTHER CASE DEFINITIONS

See: [Surveillance Guidelines | novascotia.ca](#)

LINKS TO OTHER WEEKLY INFLUENZA REPORTS

Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

World: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>

US: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly