

NYS Health Connector

New York State Flu Tracker

Definitions

Office of Quality and Patient Safety Center for
Health Data Innovation

Office of Public Health Bureau of Communicable
Disease Control and the Bureau of Statistics and Data
Systems

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Definitions

Influenza case: A report of influenza identified in a person's qualifying laboratory specimen. Qualifying laboratory tests include:

- Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDT)
- Immunofluorescence assays (DFA and IFA)
- Rapid Molecular assays
- Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)
- Other Nucleic Acid Amplification tests
- Viral Culture

Note that clinical diagnoses and diagnoses based on serology are not reported.

Hospitalization case: A person admitted to an inpatient unit of the hospital or patients who were kept in observation for >24 hours with a qualifying laboratory specimen; see Methods for more details. Hospitalizations by county are based on the location of the acute care hospital and not the patient's county of residence. The aggregate totals by age group may exclude cases for which age was not reported. No hospitalization data are available for Greene, Hamilton, Seneca, Tioga, and Washington counties which do not have acute care hospitals.

Season: Because influenza activity peaks in winter, the influenza season is named for the two calendar years over which a single influenza epidemic span. CDC defines the influenza season as beginning with week 40 (generally the first week in October) of one calendar year and ending with week 20 of the following calendar year (generally the third week in May). See: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.html>.

CDC Week: CDC designates each week of the year with a sequential number starting with 1 to a maximum of 52 or 53. Week 1 is the first week of the year that has at least four days in the calendar year. CDC defines the influenza season as beginning with CDC week 40 (the first week in October) and ending with CDC week 20 of the following calendar year (the third week in May). Also known as MMWR week. Detailed information about how CDC week is calculated is at https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/wp-content/uploads/MMWR_Week_overview.pdf.

Week ending date: The last date of each CDC week. Each week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday; week ending dates are always on a Saturday.

Influenza Type: Influenza types A and B cause seasonal influenza epidemics. NYSDOH counts cases as "Type A" influenza or "Type B" influenza according to the test result. Rarely, when the virus type cannot be distinguished, cases are counted as "Type Unspecified". <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/viruses/types.htm>

Case rate per 100,000 population: The rate is calculated by dividing the number of influenza cases in a category (county, region, week, type, etc.) by the number of residents of the corresponding geography (county, region, or statewide). Please note that weekly case rates (calculated using the number of cases reported during a single week) will vary from season-to-date case rates (calculated using the sum of cases so far during the current season) and case rates over an entire season (calculated using the sum of cases over the entire 33 or 34 weeks of the season; applicable to past seasons only). Population denominators are CDC's Bridged-Race Population Estimates for the year preceding the influenza season: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

Hospitalization rate per 100,000 population: The rate is calculated by dividing the number of influenza hospitalizations in a category (county, region, week) by the population of the corresponding geography (county, region, or statewide). Please note that weekly hospitalization rates (calculated using the number of hospitalizations reported during a single week) will vary from season-to-date rates (calculated using the sum of hospitalizations so far during the current season) and hospitalization rates over an entire season (calculated using the sum of hospitalizations over the entire 33 or 34 weeks of the season; applicable to past seasons only). Population denominators are CDC's Bridged-Race Population Estimates for the year preceding the influenza season: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

Region: The five regions in New York are defined by county as:

Capital District Region counties: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington

Central Region counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St Lawrence, Tioga, Tompkins

Metropolitan Region counties: Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

New York City counties/boroughs: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond

Western Region counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates

Season-to-date: The cumulative number of cases, or the cumulative case rate, since the beginning of the season (starting with week 40).

Age Group: Data by age includes aggregate numbers of laboratory confirmed cases and hospitalizations by age group (0-4 years, 5-17 years, 18-49 years, 50-64 years, 65 years and older).

For more information or questions about this data, please contact nysapd@health.ny.gov.