



SPRING 2024

EPI Log

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Immunizations are the best protection against preventable disease. Vaccines give us the power to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our entire community from preventable disease.

Vaccines protect children against 14 preventable diseases before the age of 2, however, many children remain under-immunized leaving the real potential for outbreaks of infectious disease. Children are born without the ability to fully protect themselves against the thousands of germs they are exposed to. They are also often at the highest risk for complications from diseases. Vaccines stimulate the body’s immune system (the body’s ability to fight germs and sickness) to provide natural protection against preventable diseases makes infants and children stronger from within. View the latest [Immunization Schedules suggested by the CDC](#).

Local providers play a vital role in reaching recommended immunization rates in both children and adults. Adult vaccines are determined by factors such as age, lifestyle, health conditions, occupation, travel, and previous vaccine history. Special consideration should be given to women who are pregnant. Providers are encouraged to input vaccinations into Florida Shots which is a free statewide, centralized online immunization registry that assists healthcare providers, schools and parents track immunization records. For information go to [Home | Florida SHOTS \(flshotsusers.com\)](#)



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Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance Report March 2024



Hepatitis A

April 2023 March 2024

- **Hepatitis A activity decreased from last month** and was below the previous 5-year average.
- **11 cases** were reported in March.

Pertussis

April 2023 March 2024

- **Pertussis activity increased from last month** and was above the previous 5-year average.
- **24 cases** were reported in March.

Meningococcal Disease

April 2023 March 2024

- **Meningococcal disease activity increased from last month** and was above the previous 5-year average.
- **6 cases** were reported in March.

Varicella

April 2023 March 2024

- **Varicella activity increased from last month** and was above the previous 5-year average.
- **106 cases** were reported in March.

To report a disease or outbreak: Call (386) 313-7101 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fax: (386) 437-8207, After Hours: (386) 986-7749, 301 Dr. Carter Blvd. Bunnell, FL 32110

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES & TRENDS

A rabies alert was issued on March 21, in response to a deceased cat that tested positive for rabies on March 15. This rabies alert is for 60 days. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Flagler by calling (386) 437-7358. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek immediate veterinary assistance for the animal, and contact Animal Control—Flagler Humane Society at (386) 246-8612.

Recently the CDC has issued a health advisory on meningococcal disease and alerts on increased measles cases and human infection of pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1). Providers can sign up to receive CDC advisories and alerts from the [Health Alert Network](#).

Food recalls:

<https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-02-24/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/raw-milk-cheese-2-24/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/charcuterie-meats-01-24/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/news/lead-poisoning-outbreak-linked-to-cinnamon-applesauce-pouches.html>

As is common when temperatures rise in Central Florida, cases of salmonella rise. Salmonella are bacteria that can make people sick. Most people with Salmonella infection have diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. People can get Salmonella infection from a variety of sources, including:

Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water

Touching infected animals, their feces, or their environment

Remember to follow the [Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill](#) guidelines to help keep you and your family safe from Salmonella. Please remember to keep your hands clean. [Wash your hands](#)

REFERENCES

www.cdc.gov

www.fda.gov

<https://flshotsusers.com/>

www.flhealthcharts.gov

<https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/index.html>

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseasereporting>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/VPD>

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First Quarter 2023

Disease	Disease Count	Percent %
Campylobacteriosis	8	1.11
Carbon monoxide poisoning	1	0.14
Coronavirus disease (COVID) for 2023	637	88.35
Giardiasis, acute	1	0.14
H. influenzae invasive disease	1	0.14
Hepatitis A	2	0.28
Hepatitis B, acute	3	0.42
Hepatitis B, chronic	3	0.42
Hepatitis C, acute	1	0.14
Hepatitis C, chronic	17	2.36
Lead poisoning	17	2.36
Listeriosis	1	0.14
Mercury poisoning	1	0.14
Rabies, possible exposure	15	2.08
S. pneumoniae invasive disease	5	0.69
Salmonella Typhi infection	1	0.14
Salmonellosis	4	0.55
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infection	2	0.28
Vibriosis (other Vibrio species)	1	0.14

First Quarter 2024

Disease	Disease Count	Percent %
Arsenic poisoning - 98080	1	0.15
Campylobacteriosis - 03840	5	0.73
Coronavirus disease (COVID) for 2023 - 00344	635	92.16
Cryptosporidiosis - 13680	1	0.15
Giardiasis, acute - 00710	5	0.73
H. influenzae invasive disease - 03841	2	0.29
Hepatitis B, acute - 07030	1	0.15
Hepatitis B, chronic - 07032	5	0.73
Hepatitis B, pregnant women - 07039	1	0.15
Hepatitis C, chronic - 07054	14	2.03
Lead poisoning - 94890	1	0.15
Legionellosis - 48280	1	0.15
Lyme disease - 06959	1	0.15
Rabies, animal - 07102	1	0.15
Rabies, possible exposure - 07101	3	0.44
S. pneumoniae invasive disease - 04800	2	0.29
Salmonellosis - 00300	7	1.02
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infection - 00800	1	0.15
Vibriosis (V. parahaemolyticus) - 00540	2	0.29

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cdc.gov/flu

Florida Flu Review, Week 13
FloridaHealth.Gov/FloridaFlu

INFLUENZA SEASON 2023-2024 FROM FLORIDA FLU REVIEW WEEK 13

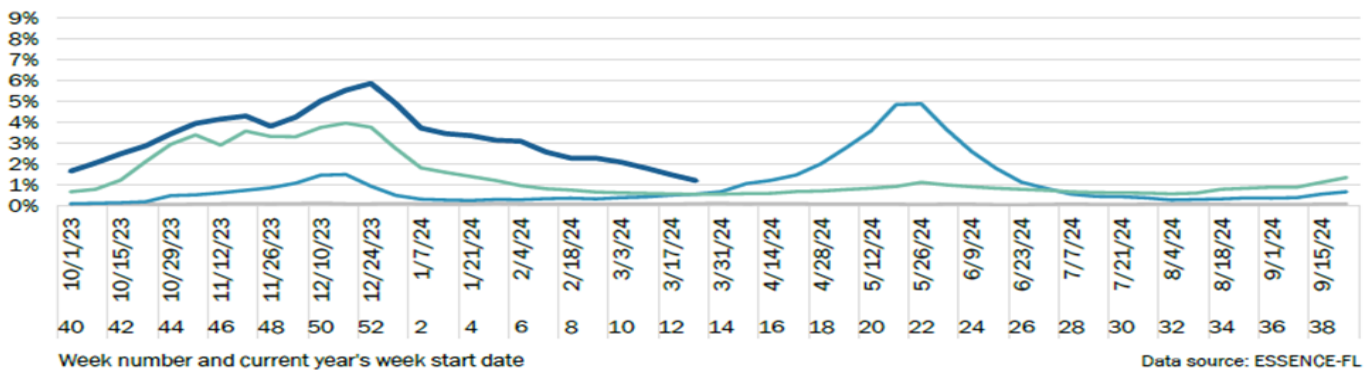
Influenza (flu) is a respiratory infection caused by a variety of flu viruses spread primarily by droplets made when infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. Although its less common, a person might become infected with flu by touching a surface or object contaminated with flu virus and then touching their own mouth, eyes, or nose. **Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** is defined as the presence of fever and cough or fever and sore throat without a laboratory-confirmed etiology.

Influenza (flu) and influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance

Figures below show flu and ILI visit data from emergency departments (EDs) participating in ESSENCE-FL and ILI patient data from ILINet providers statewide for the current year and the previous 3 years. Data is calculated based on comparison of the current year's week visit percentage to the previous 3-week average.



Figure 1: Percent of ED visits with discharge diagnoses of flu decreased from previous 3-week average

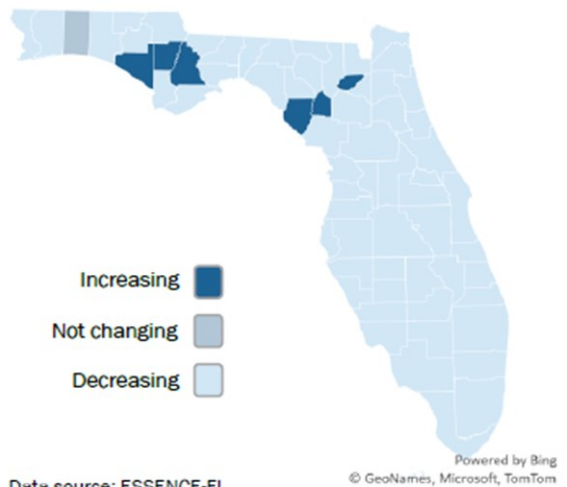


Annual vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from potentially severe complications from flu. The best time to receive the vaccine is before flu activity begins, usually around late October, but it is still beneficial to receive the vaccine at any point during flu season.

To find a flu vaccine near you, visit [The Power to Protect](#).

The flu reporting year uses standard reporting weeks outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where every year has 52 or 53 reporting weeks. Though flu season ends May 18, this year (week 20), surveillance continues year-round. Seasons vary in timing, severity, and duration. It is not possible to predict what the 2023-24 flu season will be like in Florida.

County flu and ILI activity trend



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 Flagler County
 Office of Disease Control &
 Health Protection

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