

2023 - 2024 Georgia Winter Respiratory Illness Report

Last Updated 2/13/2024

This report shares data through **Week 5 of 2024, which ended February 3**, unless otherwise noted.

Overview

Ongoing surveillance of winter respiratory illnesses is essential for:

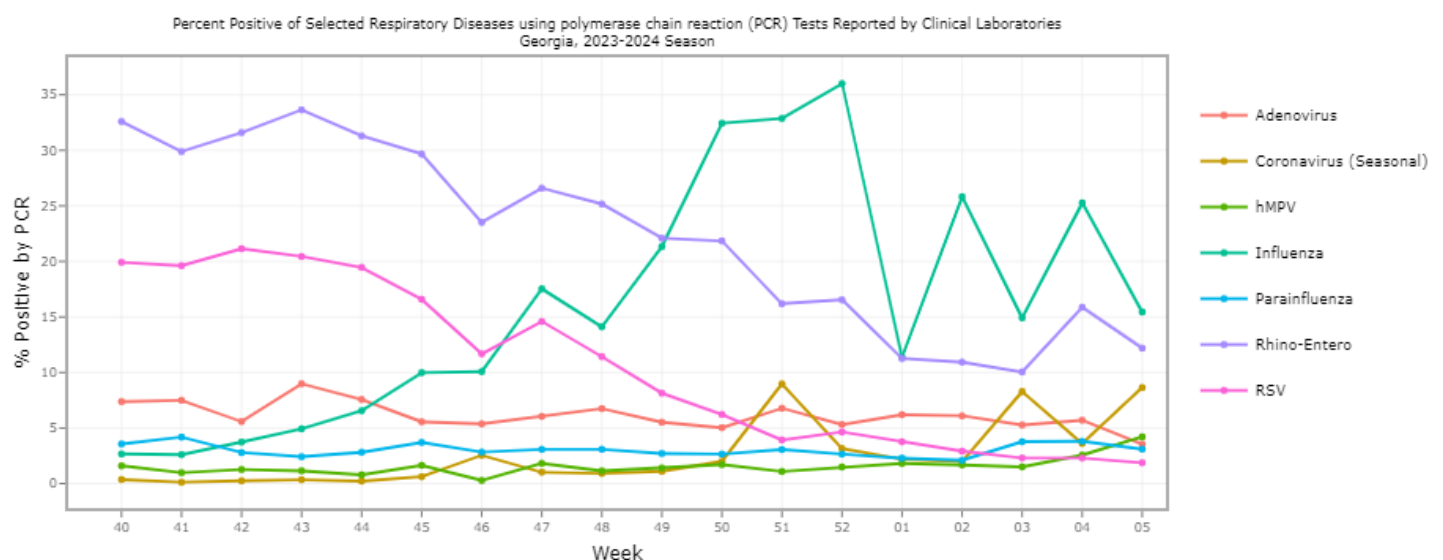
- detecting changes in circulating respiratory illnesses.
- guiding treatment decisions.
- understanding the viruses' impact on our community.

Please keep in mind that these illnesses are under-reported since not everyone with symptoms gets tested.

Figure 1 shows the **trends** in respiratory diseases in recent weeks in Georgia.

The percentage of positive tests for flu has fluctuated in recent weeks, but has decreased from last week.

Figure 1



hMPV = Human Metapneumovirus. RSV = Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

Influenza

Figure 2 provides a **snapshot** of recent flu activity in Georgia.

Figure 2

Georgia 2023 – 2024 Influenza Activity (10/01/2023 – 2/3/2024)



6,985 (13.0%)

Positive Influenza Tests (Test Positivity)

Georgia



3,518 (+129)

Metro area influenza hospitalizations

Georgia



29 (+0)

Influenza-related deaths

Georgia



148 (+24)

Influenza outbreaks*

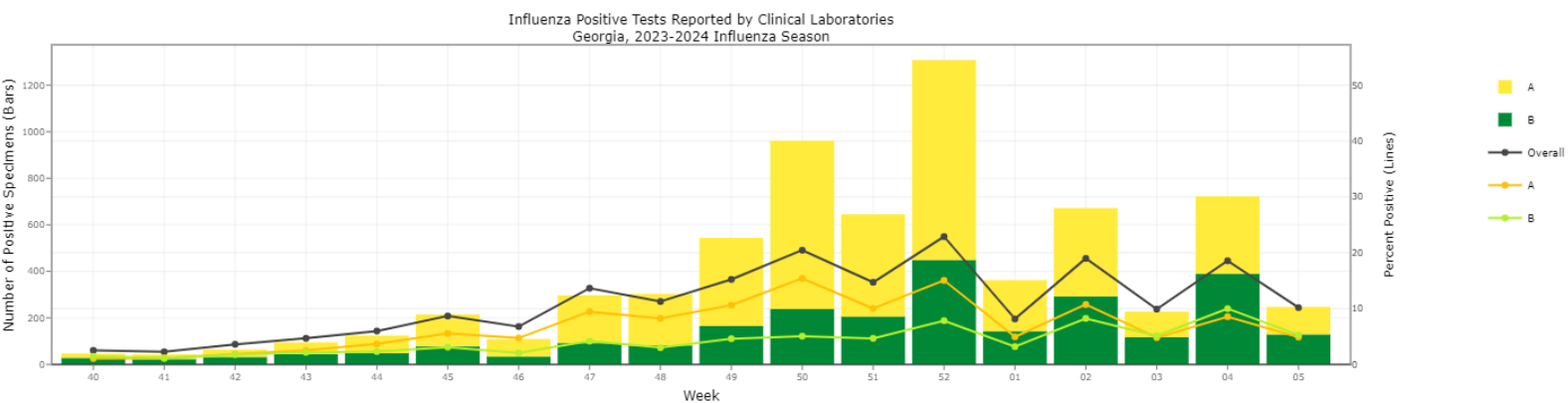
Georgia

**A confirmed influenza outbreak is defined as any cluster of illness with at least one associated lab-confirmed influenza positive individual.*

There are two main types of human flu viruses: types A and B. These viruses that routinely spread in people are responsible for the seasonal flu spikes each year.

Figure 3 shows Georgia's number of **positive influenza tests** through Week 5, as well as the percentage of all tests that were positive.

Figure 3



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

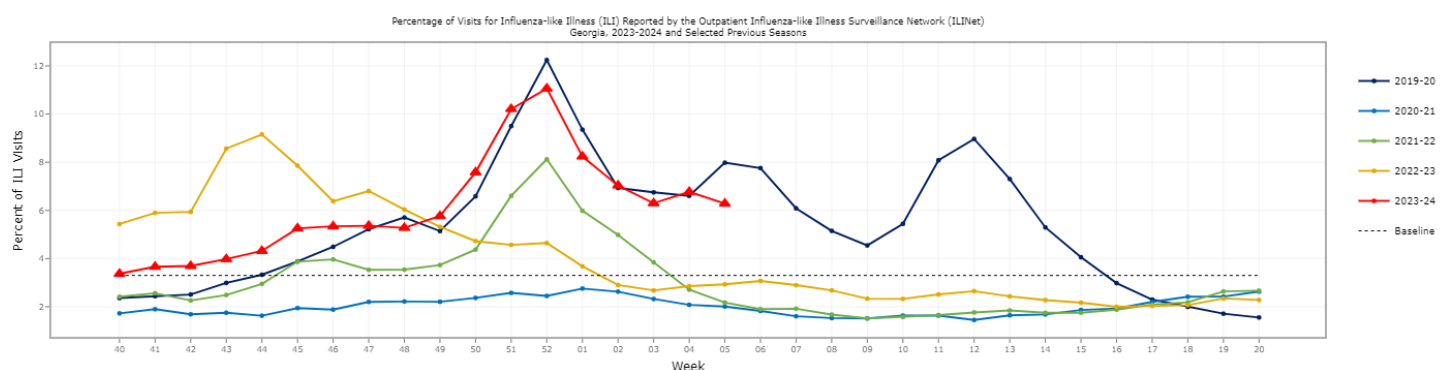
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as a fever (temperature of 100°F or greater) and a cough and/or sore throat.

Figure 4 shows Georgia's percentage of **outpatient visits for ILI** in Week 40 of one year through week 20 of the following year. Week 40 ends in early October and Week 20 ends in mid-May. The figure compares the winters from 2019-2020 to the present.

In Week 5, 6.3% of all outpatient visits were due to an ILI. This is above the Southeastern regional baseline of 3.3%.

Figure 4

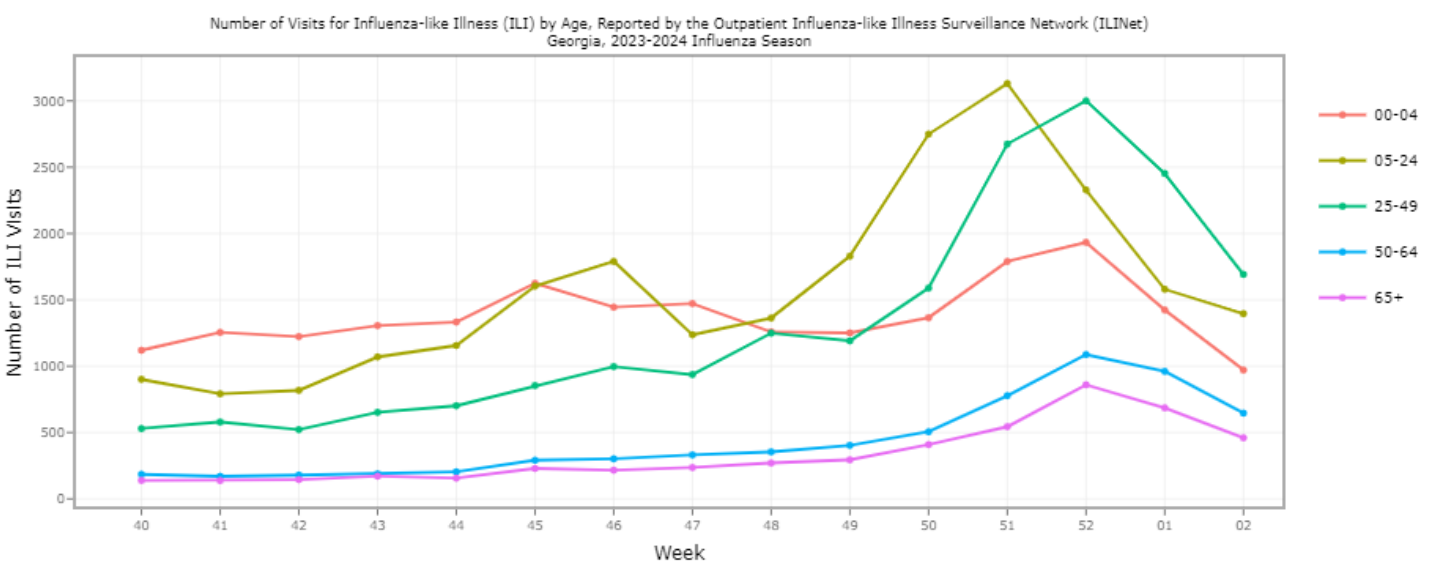


Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

Note: Data should be interpreted with caution as it may include individuals who are seeking care due to other respiratory illnesses. It does show general patterns in respiratory illness.

Figure 5 shows Georgia's number of **outpatient ILI visits by age group**. Those ages 05-24 show the highest number of visits in Week 5, followed closely by those aged 25-49 and those aged 0-4.

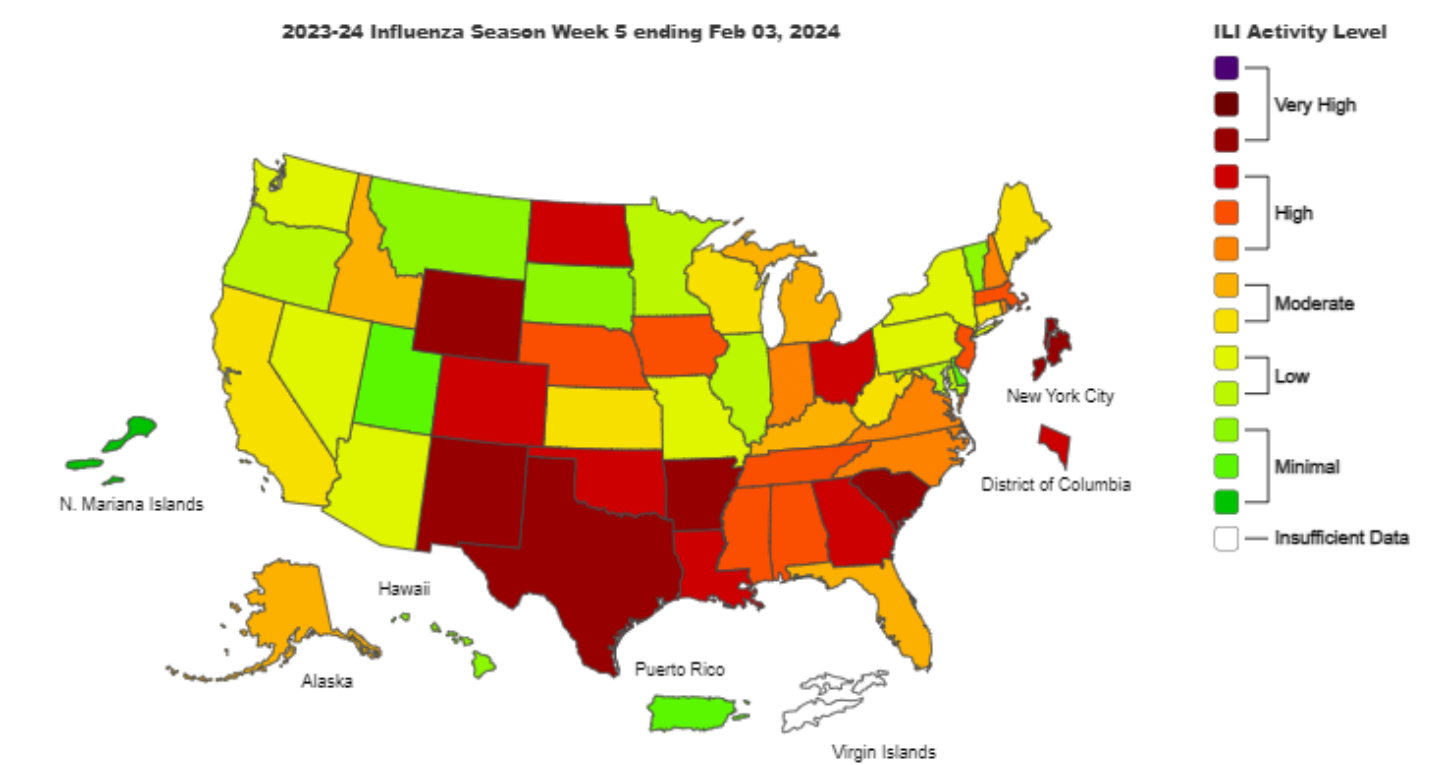
Figure 5



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

The **ILI activity level** is based on Georgia's percentage of outpatient visits due to ILI compared to the 3-year average of ILI visits during weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. During Week 5, the activity level in Georgia was **High**, as shown in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

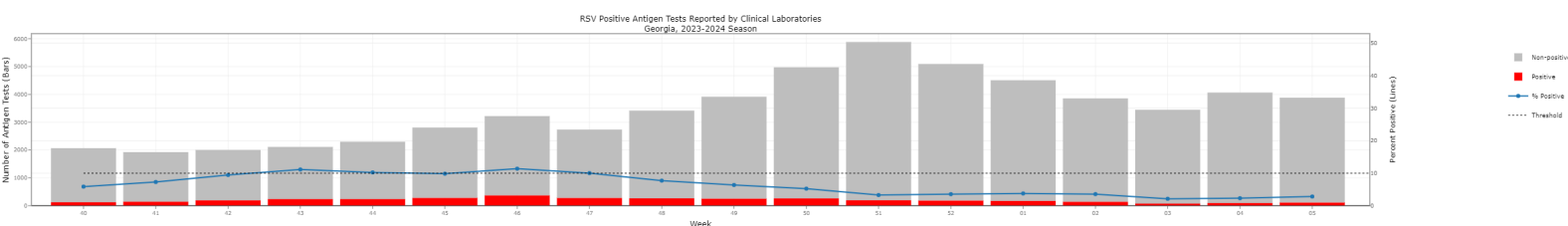
COVID-19

For the latest data on COVID-19 in DeKalb County, [click here](#).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

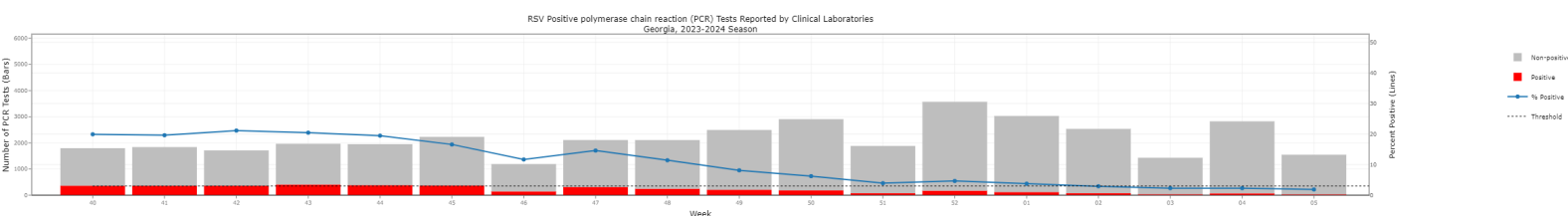
During Week 5, laboratories in Georgia conducted 3,881 antigen tests and 2.8% of the specimens were positive. They also conducted 1,548 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests and 1.9% were positive. An antigen test is less likely to detect the virus than a PCR test. **Figures 7 and 8** show the **trends** in RSV positive antigen and PCR tests.

Figure 7



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

Figure 8



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

Data sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

DeKalb Public Health: <https://dekalbhealth.net/covid-19dekalb/>

Georgia Department of Public: https://influenzareport.s3.amazonaws.com/DPHFluReport_Week202351.html