SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Flu Watch

MMWR Week 42: October 18, 2026 to October 24, 2026

All data are provisional and subject to change as more reports are received.

Geographic Spread

South Carolina reported **widespread activity** this week.

Influenza Indicators

Influenza Indicator	Change from Previous Week
Lab-confirmed tests	Increased
ILI Percent	Increased
Hospitalizations	Increased

Regional Influenza Activity



Increased



Increased



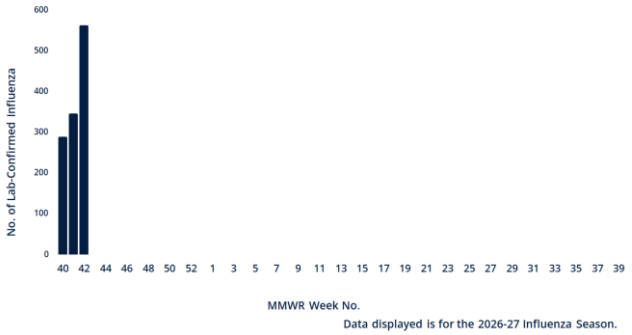
Increased



Increased

Virologic Surveillance

This week, **561** lab-confirmed tests were reported. In the current flu season, there have been **1,195** lab-confirmed tests reported.

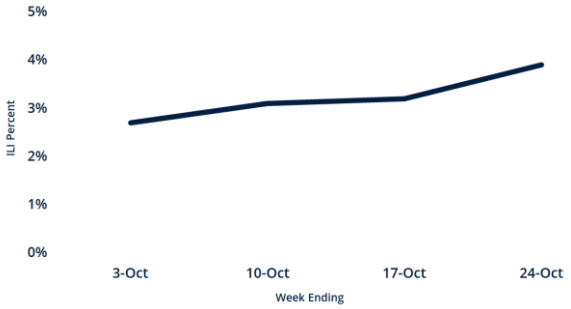


Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations

This week **104** influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by **63** hospitals. The cumulative hospitalization rate is **4.2 per 100,000**. In the current flu season, there have been **213** influenza-associated hospitalizations.

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

The percent of patient visits to sentinel providers for an influenza-like illness (ILI) was **3.9%**, which is higher than South Carolina's baseline (**3.2%**). The ILI activity level overall was **moderate**.



Influenza-Associated Deaths

This week, **0** influenza-associated deaths were reported. The cumulative mortality rate is **0.0 per 100,000**. In the current flu season, there have been **2** influenza-associated deaths.

For a description of South Carolina's influenza surveillance components and definitions go to: https://dph.sc.gov/professionals/public-health-data/flu-watch

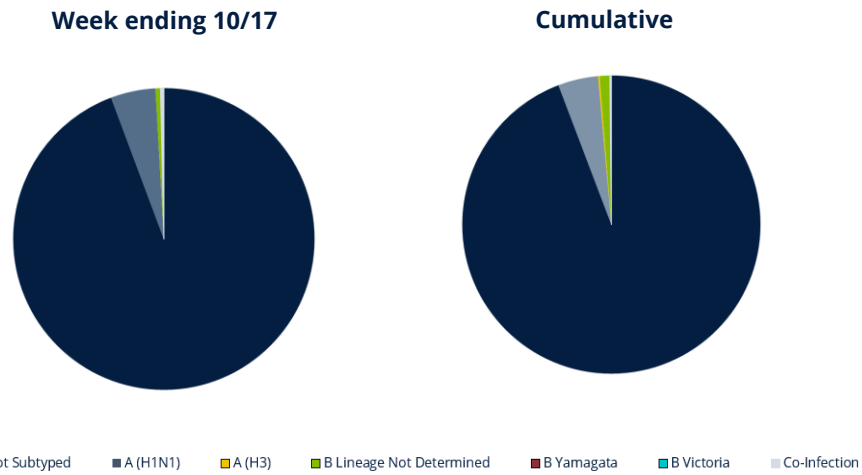
For national surveillance, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Virologic Surveillance

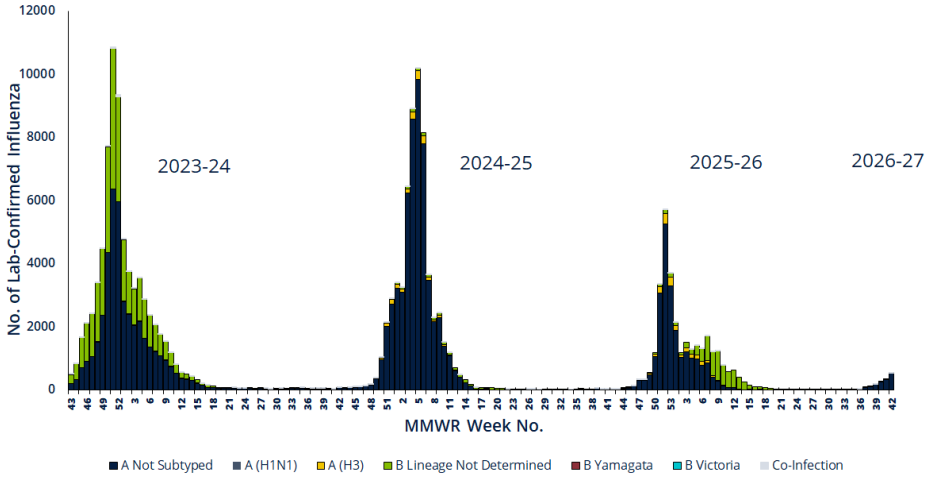
Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases by Influenza Type to Date*					
	No. of Cases (%)				
Influenza Type	This Week	2026-27	2025-26	2024-25	5 Season Average
Overall	**561**	**1195**	**81**	**157**	**1260.4**
Influenza A	**557(99.3)**	**1180(98.7)**	**74(91.4)**	**140(89.2)**	**1150.8(91.3)**
A(H3)	0(0.0)	2(0.2)	9(12.2)	12(8.6)	36.6(3.2)
A(H1N1)	27(4.8)	52(4.4)	1(1.4)	3(2.1)	20(1.7)
A(NS)**	530(95.2)	1126(95.4)	64(86.5)	125(89.3)	1094.2(95.1)
Influenza B	**3(0.5)**	**13(1.1)**	**3(3.7)**	**12(7.6)**	**105(8.3)**
B (Victoria)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1.4(1.3)
B(Yamagata)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
B (LND)+	3(100.0)	13(100.0)	3(100.0)	12(100.0)	103.6(98.7)
Influenza Virus Coinfection§	**1(0.2)**	**2(0.2)**	**4(4.9)**	**5(3.2)**	**4.6(0.4)**

*Data presented from previous influenza seasons represents the data from that season through the same week as the current season. Nationally, the influenza season begins with MMWR week 40 and ends with MMWR week 39. The 2026-27 influenza season began on October 4, 2026 and will end on October 2, 2027.
**NS – not subtyped +LND – lineage not determined
§Cases with more than one influenza A subtype in the same sample or with influenza A and B viral types in the same sample simultaneously.

Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Cases, by Virus Type



Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Cases, 2023-24 Season to Present



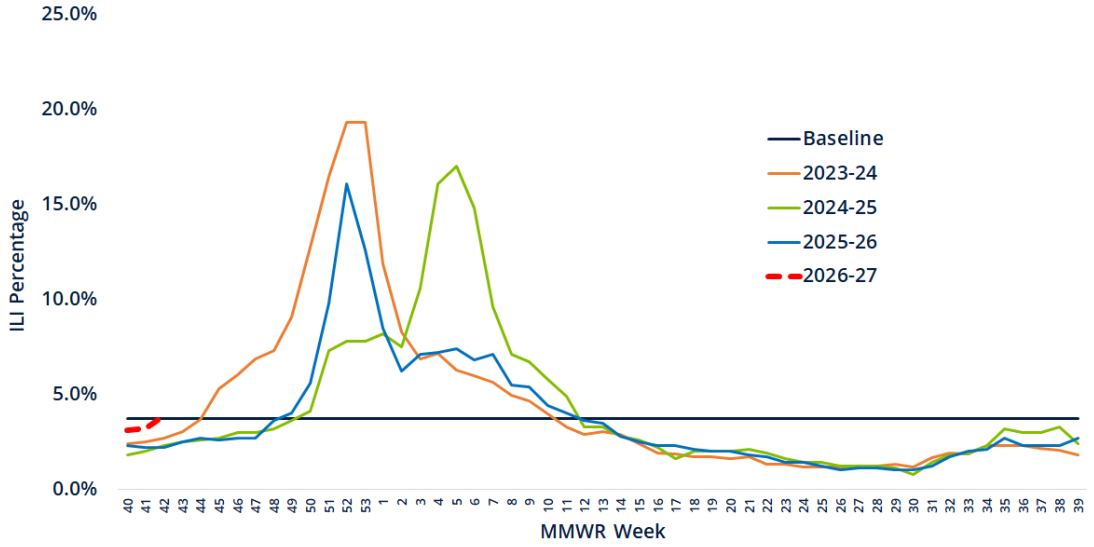
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

This week, the ILI activity level was **moderate** and **3.9%** of patient visits to SC ILINet providers were attributed to an influenza-like illness. This is **higher than** the state baseline of **3.2%**.

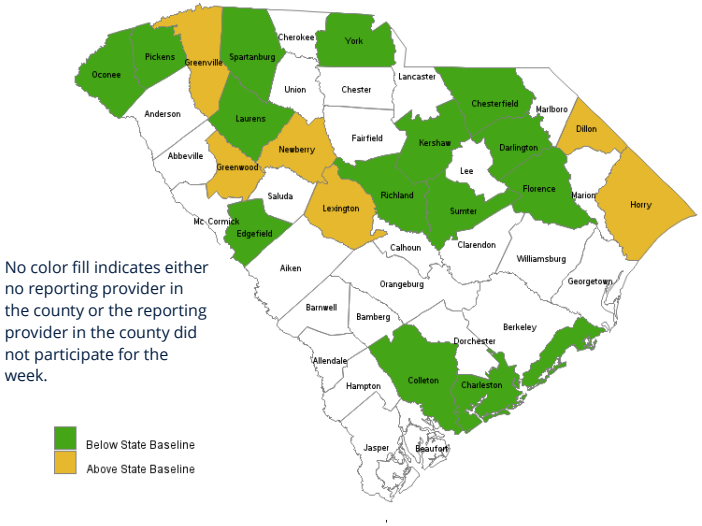
Reports were received from providers in **20** counties, representing all DPH Public Health regions.

ILI percentage is dependent upon the number of reporting providers and/or can vary by disease activity or the number of providers submitting reports.

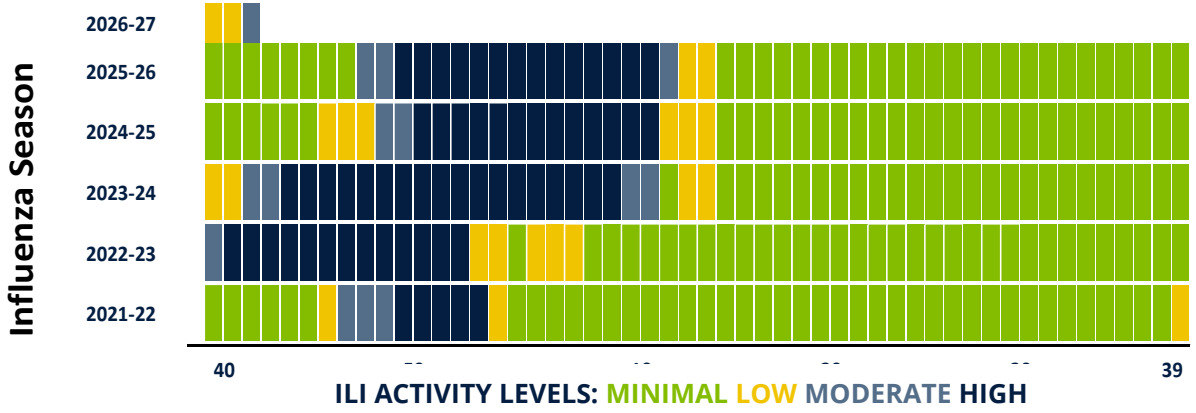
Percentage of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Visits Reported by Sentinel Providers for Past and Current Seasons



County ILI Percent



State ILI Activity Level by MMWR Week, 2021-22 Influenza Season to Present



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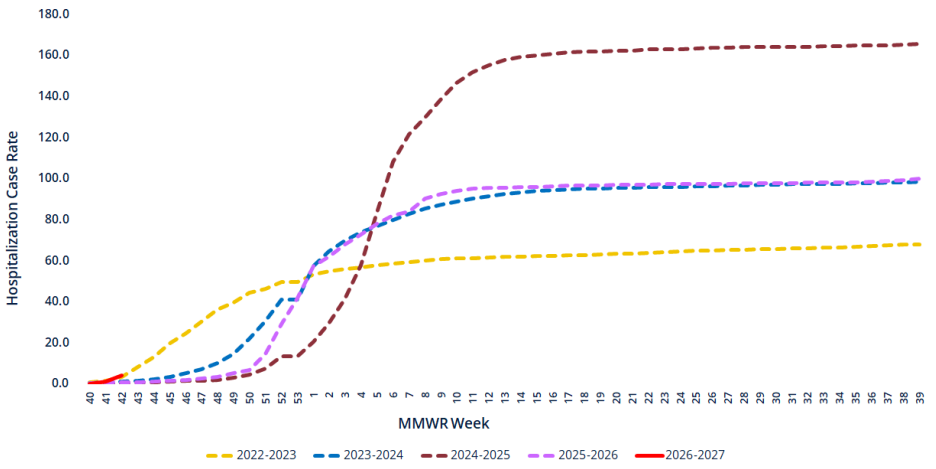
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations And Deaths

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group*						
	No. of Hospitalizations (Rate)					
Influenza Season	Overall	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-17	Ages 18-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65+
This Week	104(2.0)	5(1.8)	5(0.6)	19(0.92)	13(1.3)	62(6.9)
2026-27	213(4.2)	9(3.2)	7(0.8)	38(1.8)	29(2.9)	130(14.4)
2025-26	41(0.8)	1(0.4)	0(0.0)	6(0.3)	5(0.5)	29(3.2)
2024-25	27(0.5)	1(0.4)	0(0.0)	4(0.2)	8(0.8)	14(1.6)
5 Season Average	63(1.2)	2(0.8)	5(0.6)	13(0.6)	10(1.0)	33(3.6)

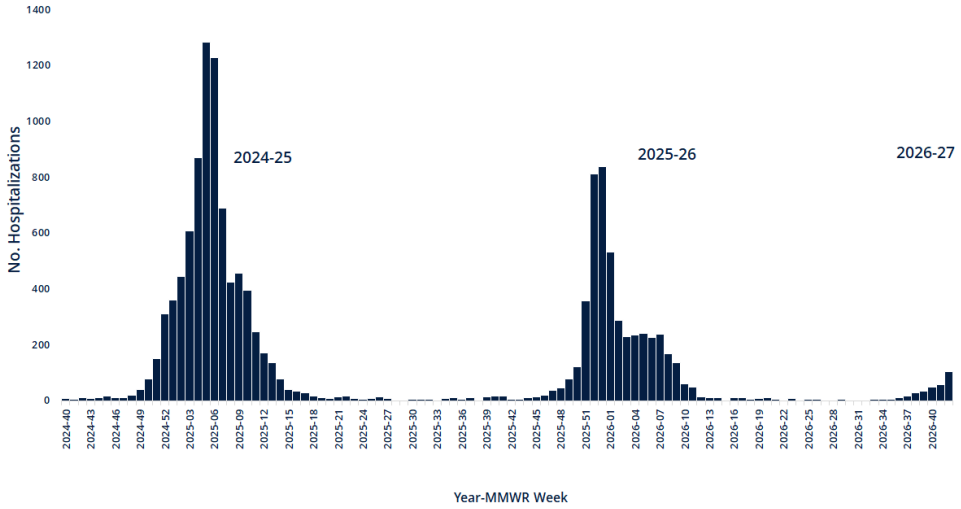
Influenza-Associated Deaths by Age Group*						
	No. of Deaths (Rate)					
Influenza Season	Overall	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-17	Ages 18-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65+
This Week	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
2026-27	2(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	2(0.2)
2025-26	1(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(0.1)	0(0.0)
2024-25	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
5 Season Average	2(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(0.1)

*Data presented from previous influenza seasons represents the data from that season through the same week as the current season. Nationally, the influenza season begins with MMWR week 40 and ends with MMWR week 39. The 2026-27 influenza season began on October 4, 2026, and will end on October 2, 2027.

Cumulative Hospitalization Rate for Past and Current Seasons



Reported Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations, 2024-25 Season to Present



Influenza-Associated Deaths by Region

