



Fall Respiratory Virus Preparation

Presented by

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Fall respiratory virus season

- Fall season brings influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.
- Now is the time to prepare to protect yourself and your families from these viruses with prevention and treatment measures.
- We have tools to help reduce risk, test, treat illness, and keep viruses from spreading.
- Right now-we encourage community members to:
 1. Stay up to date with vaccines.
 2. Seek testing and treatment when needed.
 3. Practice basic protective measures like hand washing, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and staying home when sick.



COVID-19: What Metrics Are We Monitoring

- National level- CDC for community and individual strategy recommendations.
 - [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
 - New COVID-19 hospital admissions
 - % of deaths were COVID-19 by state
 - % of emergency department visits diagnosed with COVID-19
 - % positivity of COVID-19 NAAT tests by region in the country
 - [NCDHHS Respiratory Surveillance Dashboard](#)
 - Emergency department visits for respiratory viruses (COVID-19 , Influenza, and RSV)
 - COVID-19 and Influenza hospital admissions
 - COVID-19 wastewater monitoring



CDC- Current Metrics

Data Update for the United States

Hospitalizations

Hospital Admissions

15,067

(August 13 to August 19, 2023)

Trend in Hospital Admissions

+18.8% in most recent week



Jul 21, 2023

Aug 19, 2023

Deaths

% Due to COVID-19

2.0%

(August 20 to August 26, 2023)

Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths

+17.6% in most recent week



Jul 8, 2023

Aug 26, 2023

Total Hospitalizations

6,272,227

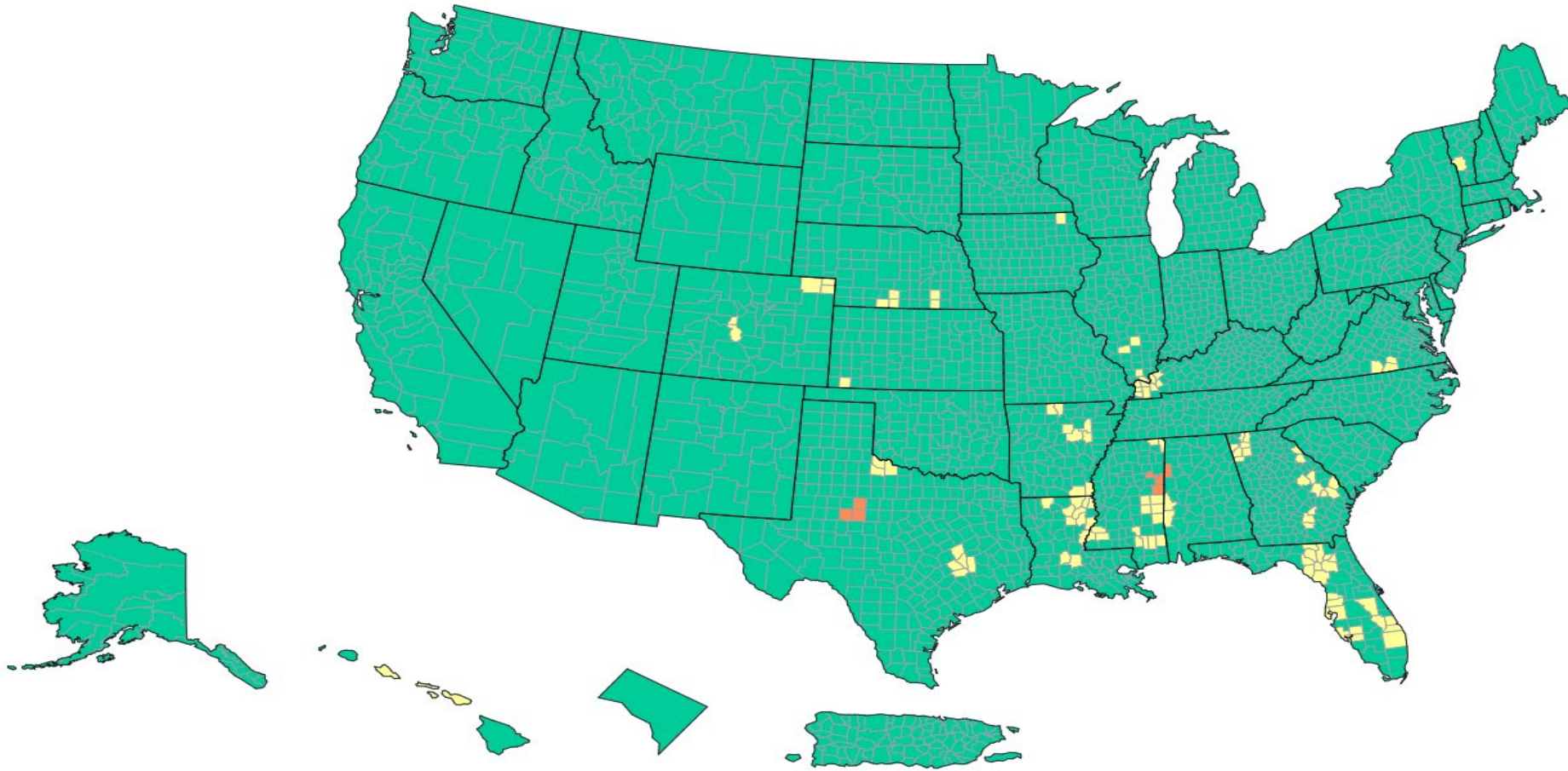
Total Deaths

1,139,457



CDC Hospital Admissions

Reported COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population in the Past Week, by County - United States

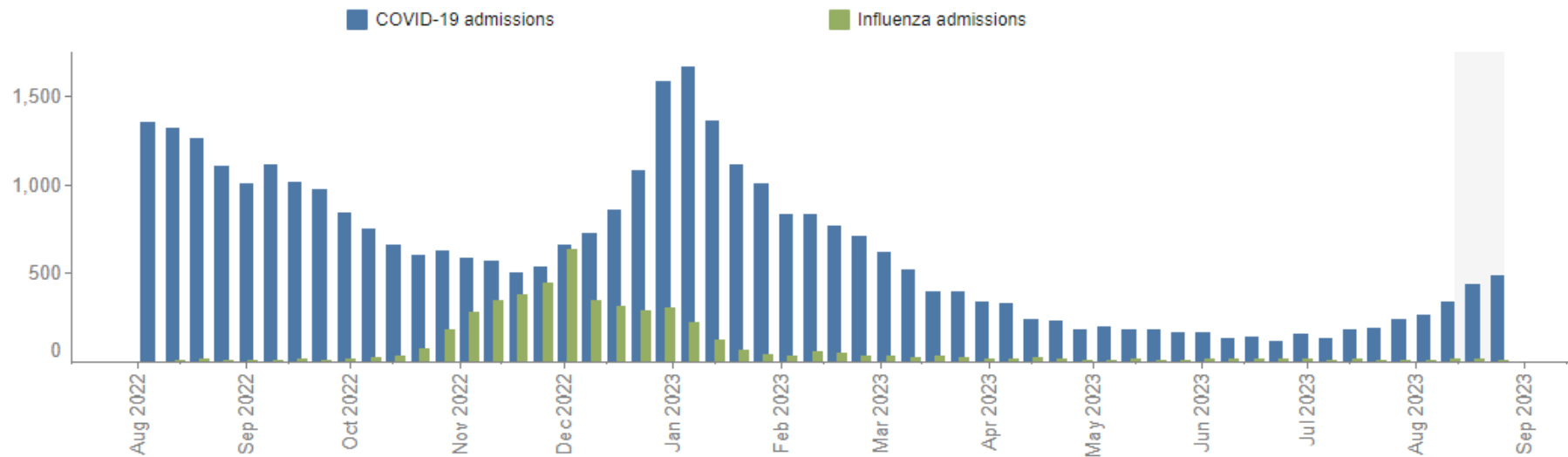


NCDHHS Hospital Admissions

Hospital Admissions

Latest week: Among reporting hospitals, **485 hospital admissions** were for **COVID-19** and **8** were for **Influenza**, an increase for **COVID-19** and a decrease for **Influenza** from the week before. (The week before was **435** for COVID-19 and **14** for influenza.)

Hospital reporting summary: 100.0% of hospital reports were completed over the last week, covering 99.2% of staffed beds. (The week before 100.0% of hospitals reports were completed, covering 99.1% of staffed beds.)

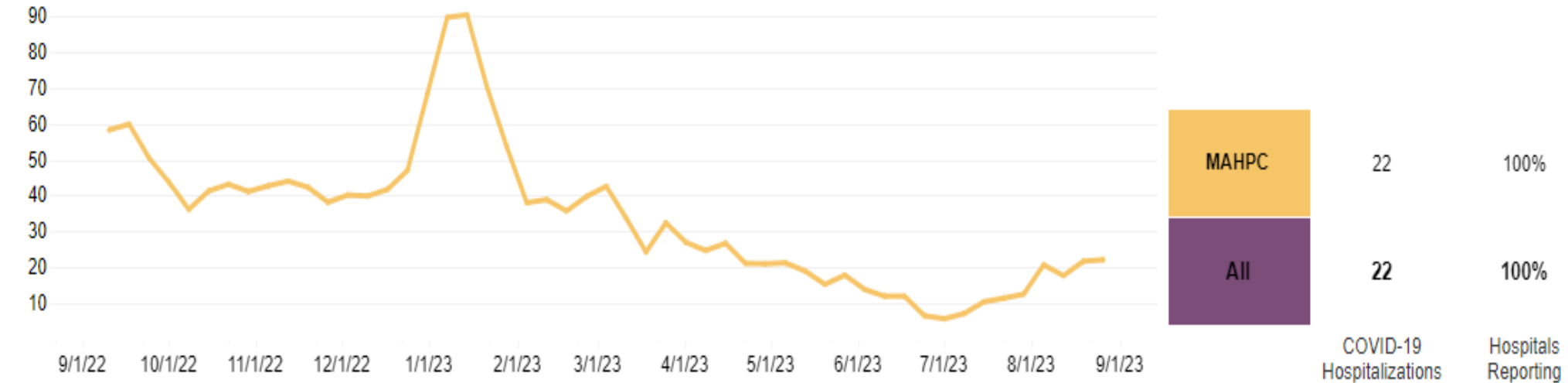


Number of confirmed COVID-19 and influenza patients admitted to hospitals each week. [More info](#)



NCDHHS Regional Hospitalization

7-Day Average of COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized By Week | Region View



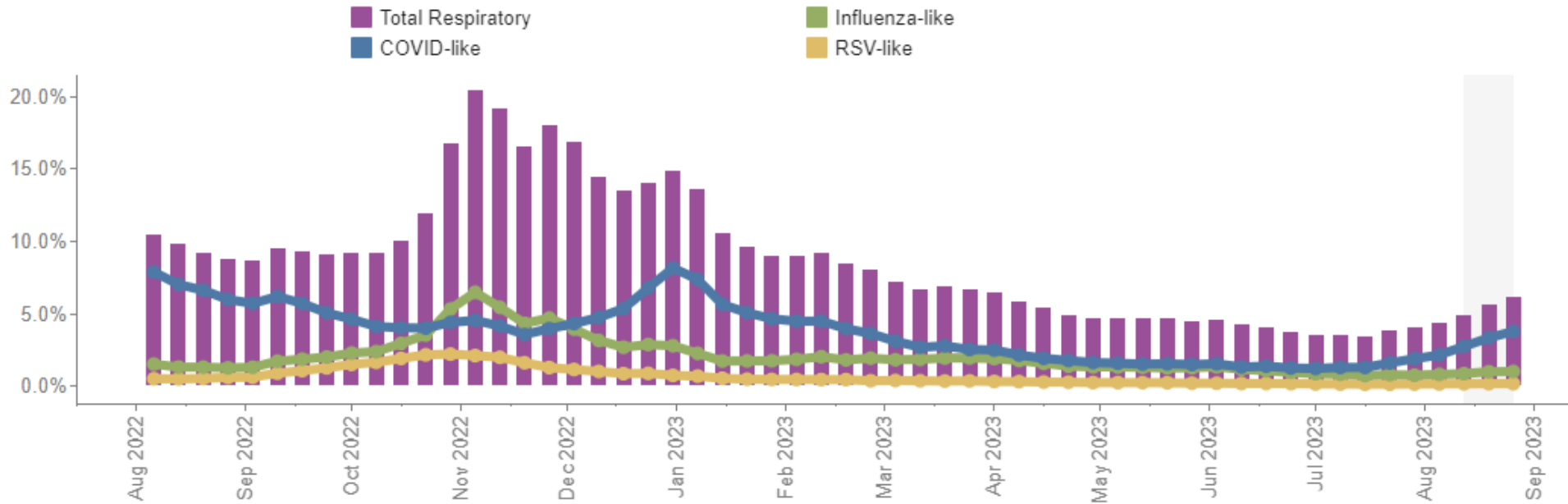
7-Day Average of Adult ICU COVID-19 Patients By Week | Region View



NCDHHS- ED Visits

Emergency Department Visits for Respiratory Viruses

Latest Week: **6.2%** of emergency room visits had symptoms of a respiratory virus, an increase from the week before. (The week before was 5.6%.)



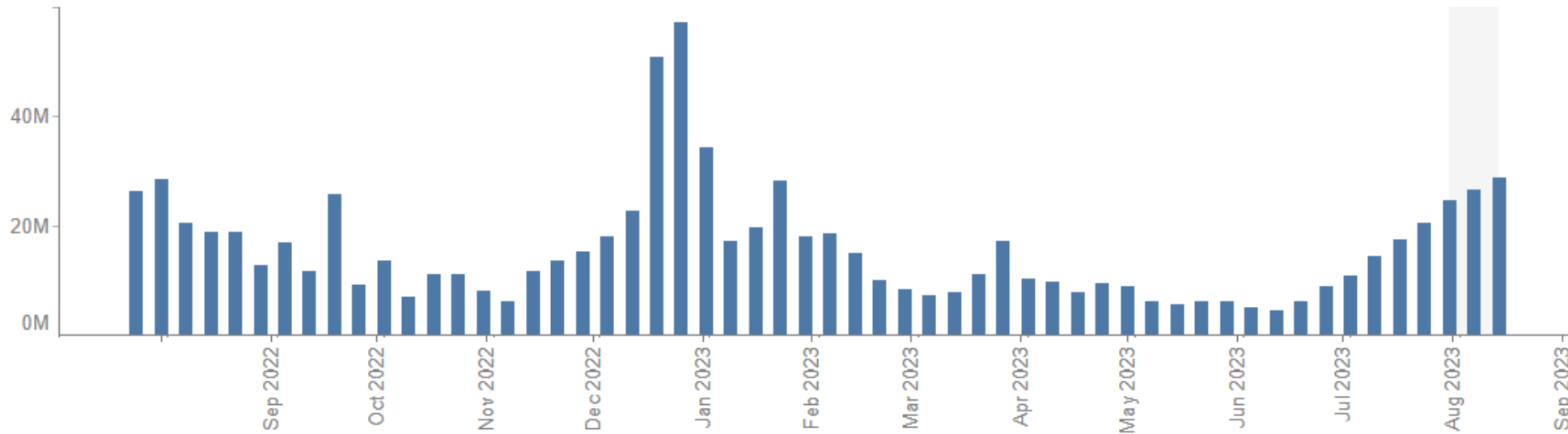
Percentage of North Carolina emergency department visits with symptoms or a diagnosis of a particular respiratory virus. [More info](#)



NCDHHS COVID-19 Wastewater Monitoring

COVID-19 Wastewater Monitoring

Latest Week: An average of **28.8 Million COVID-19 virus particles** per person were found in wastewater samples statewide, **an increase** from the week before. (The week before was 26.5 Million.)

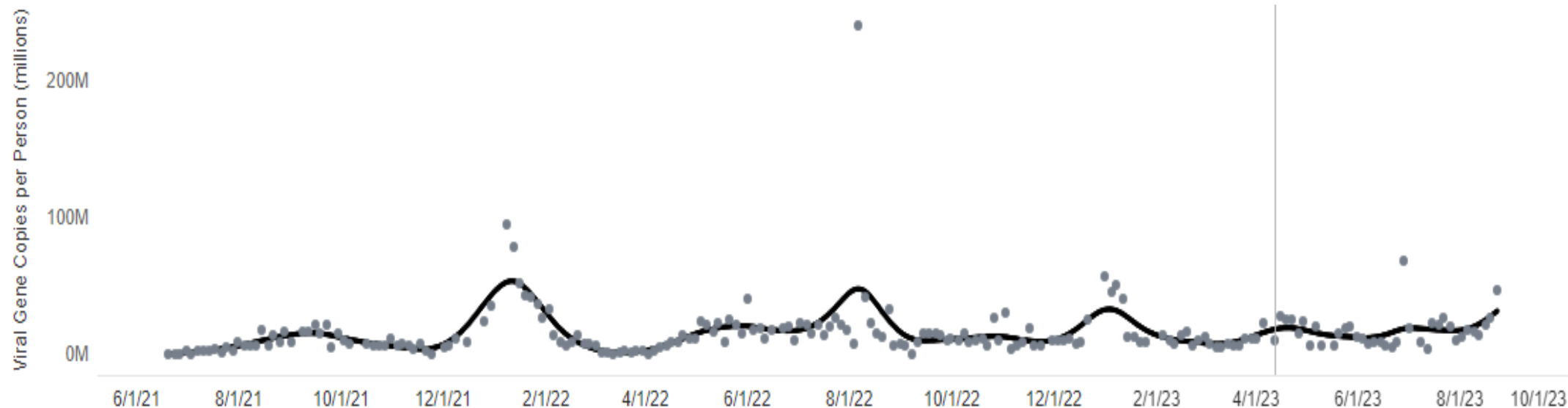


Average COVID-19 virus copies found per person per week from participating North Carolina wastewater treatment plants. COVID-19 virus particles appearing in wastewater can signal how quickly the virus is spreading, even if people don't get tested or have symptoms. Levels of influenza and RSV can also be measured in wastewater and may be included in the future. [More Info](#)



MSD Buncombe Co. Wastewater

COVID-19 Virus in Wastewater Samples - MSD of Buncombe County



Reported COVID-19 Cases in the Sewershed - MSD of Buncombe County



Community Level Prevention Strategies

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH

At all COVID-19 hospital admission levels:



- Promote equitable access to vaccination, testing, masks and respirators, treatment and prevention medications, community outreach, and support services.
- Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Provide communications and messaging to encourage isolation among people who test positive.



Individual Level Prevention Strategies

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH

At all COVID-19 hospital admission levels:



- [Stay up to date](#) on vaccination.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.



Action Steps

- **Vaccinate**

- Catch up on COVID-19 vaccines- we expect FDA authorization and CDC recommendations the week of September 11th for the new booster.
- Get the yearly flu vaccine in September or early October.
- Talking with your doctor if you are 60 years or older about whether the new RSV vaccine is recommended for you.
- Parents can also talk with their medical provider about a new monoclonal antibody for infants to protect against RSV.



Action Steps

- **Test and Treat**

- Having a supply of COVID-19 tests which are available for free at Buncombe County Health and Human Services at 40 Coxe Ave.
- You can also visit NCDHHS COVID-19 Home Test kit webpage to search for other locations near you.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed, you must continue to follow CDC guidelines for isolation and masking.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 or the flu and are in a high-risk group, contact your healthcare provider who may prescribe medications to treat your illness.



Action Steps

- **Follow basic prevention measures**
 - Wash your hands.
 - Cover your nose and mouth if you cough or sneeze.
 - Clean surfaces often.
 - Stay home if you are sick.





Questions?

