



Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Activity Summary October 2022 – May 2023

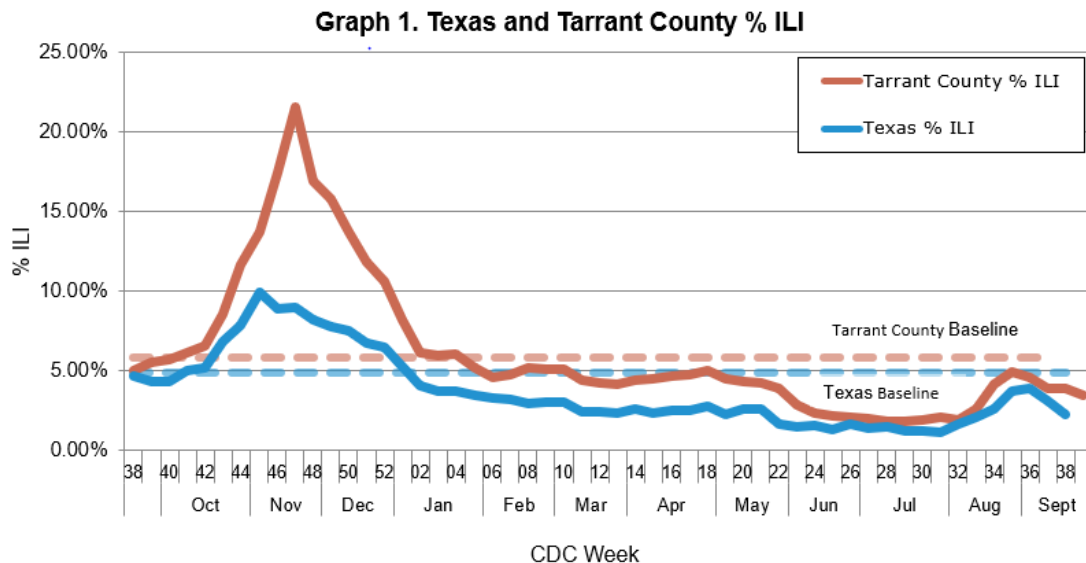
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What was the 2022-2023 flu season like?

The 2022-2023 flu season began on October 4, 2022, and ended on May 20, 2023. Tarrant County influenza activity in the 2022-2023 influenza season peaked in late November, which was earlier in the influenza season compared to the 2021-2022 season. During the 2022-2023 season, activity was at or above the Tarrant County baseline for 16 consecutive weeks. The first week that influenza activity was at or above the Tarrant County baseline was CDC Week 41 (October 9-15, 2022) and the last week was CDC Week 1 (January 8-14, 2023).

When did the 2022-2023 flu season peak?

Tarrant County influenza activity peaked during CDC Week 47 (November 20-26, 2022). The influenza-like illness (ILI) for Tarrant County during CDC Week 47 was 21.6%, which was well above the Tarrant County ILI baseline of 5.9%. Texas influenza activity peaked two weeks prior to Tarrant County, during CDC Week 45 (November 6-12, 2022). The ILI for Texas during CDC Week 45 was 9.9%, which was also above the Texas ILI baseline of 4.9%. Student absenteeism due to ILI in Tarrant County peaked during CDC Week 45. Both Tarrant County and Texas only experienced one peak in influenza activity during the 2022-2023 flu season.

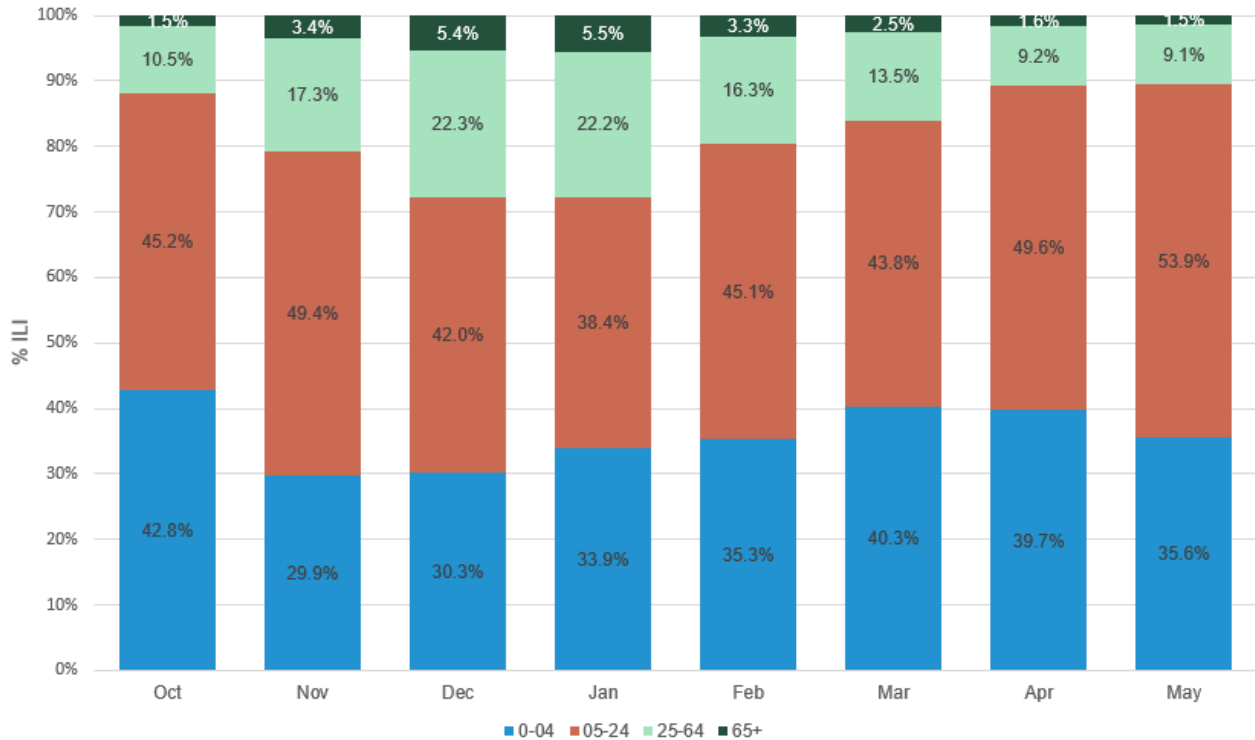


Data obtained from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Tarrant County ILI data reflects participating hospitals and urgent cares within Tarrant County. Texas ILI data obtained from DSHS Texas Respiratory Virus Surveillance Reports.

What age groups had the highest reported ILI numbers this season?

Throughout the 2022-2023 influenza season, the number of reported ILI was generally highest among 5-24 year olds. Individuals 5 to 24 years of age accounted for the majority of ILI in October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May. The number of reported ILI among individuals 65 years and older was consistently lower than that of other age groups. During November, the peak of influenza activity, 12,561 individuals between the ages of 5 and 24 experienced ILI.

Graph 2. Number of ILI by Age Group Reported by Tarrant County, 2022-2023



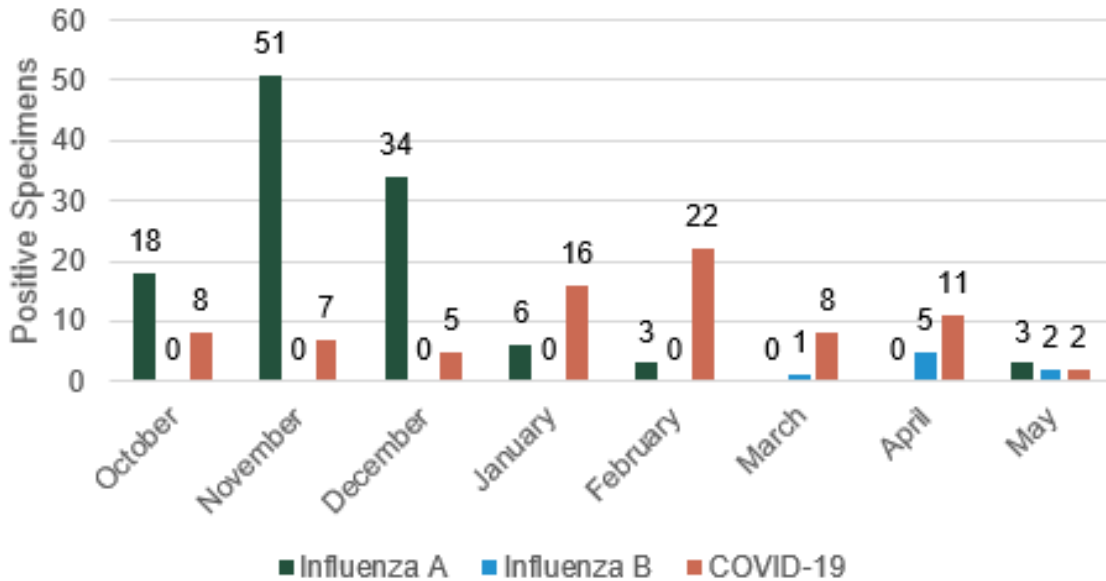
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What viruses circulated this season in Tarrant County?

650 specimens submitted during the 2022-2023 season for testing to the North Texas Regional Laboratory (NTRL). Approximately 31.1% of specimens submitted to NTRL were positive for either influenza A, influenza B, or COVID-19 (Graph 3). Of the 123 total positive influenza specimens, 42 specimens subtyped for influenza A/H1N1 (34.1%), 73 specimens subtyped for influenza A/H3N2 (59.3%), and 8 subtyped for influenza B (6.5%). Additionally, of the 650 specimens submitted, 230 specimens were positive for at least one of the following respiratory viruses: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, Parainfluenza-1, Parainfluenza-2, Parainfluenza-3, or Rhinovirus (Graph 4). From January through May, other respiratory diseases such as RSV, Rhinovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, and Adenovirus were more prevalent than Influenza and COVID-19 based on lab specimens submitted to NTRL.

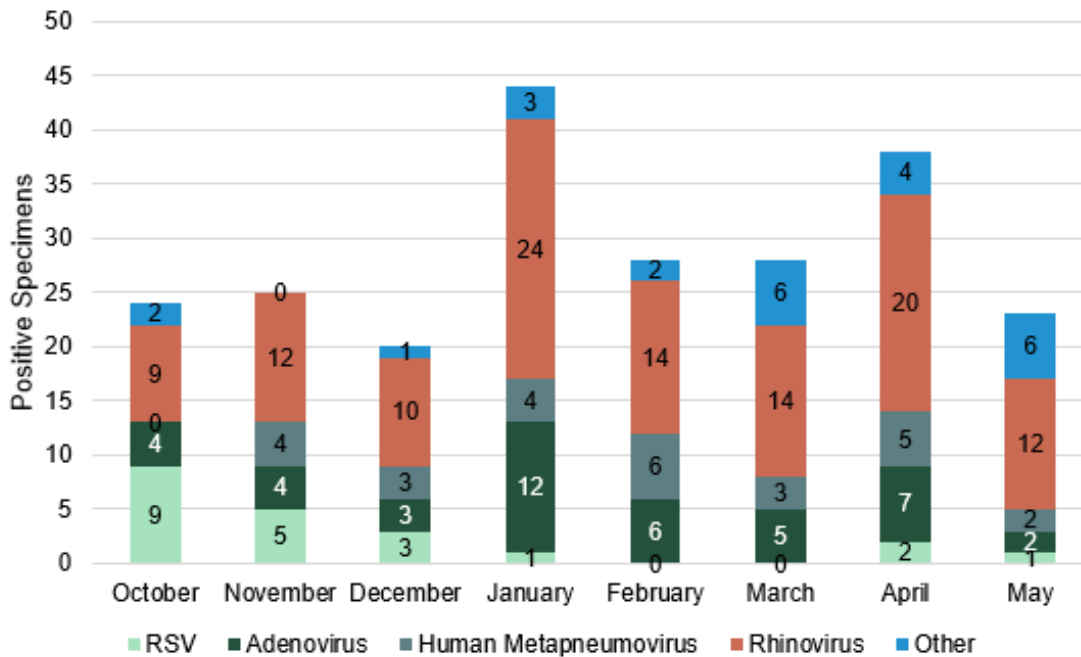
1. Information for the 2023-2024 Flu Season – Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 09 November 2023
2. “ACIP Vaccine Recommendations” – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 October 2023

Graph 3. Influenza and COVID-19



Data obtained from respiratory specimens submitted from 3 participating hospitals within Tarrant County. Specimens were tested and reported by the North Texas Regional Laboratory (NTRL).

Graph 4. RSV, Adenovirus, hMPV, Parainfluenza, and Rhinovirus



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What ongoing program activities does Tarrant County conduct?

As in previous years, the Tarrant County Public Health Influenza Surveillance Program continues to conduct year-round influenza surveillance including influenza-like illness surveillance in schools and syndromic surveillance. Additionally, NTRL conducts tests on submitted specimens for influenza (by subtype) as well as for COVID-19, RSV, adenovirus, human metapneumovirus, rhinovirus, and parainfluenza (type 1, 2, and 3). To obtain updates on respiratory diseases within Tarrant County, visit <https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/public-health/disease-control---prevention/respiratory-diseases.html>. If your facility would like to partner with our program as a sentinel provider site or weekly data reporter, contact Dan Luong at (817) 312-3144.

What can be expected for the 2023-2024 influenza season?

The week beginning October 1, 2023, marks the beginning of the 2023-2024 influenza season. Influenza season will end on May 18, 2024. Predicting the exact timing of influenza activity and which strains will dominate remains challenging. The expected ILI baseline for Tarrant County is 6.5%. The updated composition of flu vaccines will contain the following components:

Egg-based vaccines¹:

- An A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- An A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- A B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- A B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines¹:

- An A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- An A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- A B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- A B/Phuket/3703/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

What are the influenza vaccination recommendations for the 2023-2024 season?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released updated influenza and RSV vaccination for the 2023-2024 influenza season on CDC webpage.

Influenza Vaccination recommendation summary²:

- All persons ages ≥ 6 months with egg allergy should receive influenza vaccine. Any influenza vaccine (egg based or non-egg based) that is otherwise appropriate for the recipient's age and health status can be used

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination recommendation summary²:

- Maternal RSV vaccine is recommended for pregnant people during 32 through 36 weeks gestation, using seasonal administration to prevent RSV lower respiratory tract infection in infants

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- Adults 60 years of age and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, using shared clinical decision-making

For detailed recommendations and information about the different influenza vaccines available and their specific recommendations and precautions, please visit the CDC influenza webpage or contact Dan Luong, *Tarrant County Public Health Flu Surveillance Specialist* at dqluong@tarrantcountytexas.gov.

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