

NPAIHB Weekly Update

February 25, 2025



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Information for Today's Call

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction: Bridget Canniff
- Announcements, Events, & Resources
- Legislative & Policy Updates
- IHS & State Partner Updates
- Questions & Comments
- Please place yourself on mute unless speaking
- Please sign in, using chat box, with your full name and tribe/organization
- Use the chat box for questions, for Q&A after updates and announcements



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Upcoming Indian Country ECHO Telehealth Opportunities

- **Care and Access for Pregnant People ECHO** – 4th Tuesday of every month at 11am PT
 - Tuesday, February 25th at 11am PT
 - Didactic Topic: *IHS MCH Updates*
- **Hepatitis C ECHO** – Wednesdays at 11am PT
 - Wednesday, February 26th at 11am PT
 - Didactic Topic: *Neurobiology of Addiction*
- **Early Relational Health (ERH) ECHO – Formerly MCH ECHO** – Wednesdays at 11am PT
 - Wednesday, February 26th at 11am PT
 - Didactic Topic: *IECMH and ERH - Our Community of Tribal Infant Early Childhood Mental Health - We Are All Therapists*

Upcoming Indian Country ECHO Telehealth Opportunities

- **Dementia Caregiver Support ECHO** – 4th Thursday of every month at 11am PT
 - Thursday, February 27th at 11am PT
 - Didactic Topic: *Using Research for Policy and Community Engagement to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia*
- **Journey to Health ECHO** – 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month at 7am/12pm PT
 - Thursday, February 27th at 12pm PT
 - Didactic Topic: *Re-Membrance: Reflections on Indigenizing Care for the 7th Generation*

Weekly Update Schedule: March

March 4: Public Health Update TBD

March 11: NWTEC Update

March 18: Healthy Native Youth Resources

March 25: Legislative & Policy Updates, Health Policy Team



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Legislative & Policy Update

NPAIHB Monthly Staff Update

February 25, 2025



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Jason Lovett

- **Licensed Professional Engineer**
- **University of Idaho** - Masters in Engineering Management
- **University of Maine** - Civil Engineering
- **Indian Health Service 29+ year career**
 - Director, Division of Health Facilities Engineering for the Portland Area
 - Sanitation facilities & healthcare facilities in multiple tribal communities

Special Projects Manager, NPAIHB



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Capitol Hill Updates



Washington D.C. Recap

Primary requests:

- Protect 100% FMAP for AI/AN,
- Exempt AI/AN from block grants, per capita caps, work requirements and Medicaid expansion roll backs in budget reconciliation legislation
- Ensure continued funding to Tribal Nations and programs for AI/AN
- To generally, exempt Tribal Nations and AI/AN from any policies being rolled out



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Current Executive Orders and Executive Branch Actions

Hiring freezes at all federal agencies

New hiring requirements for nearly all federal agencies

Voluntary early retirement

Termination of employees in their probationary period

Federal funding freezes which may impact environmental, climate, or social justice grants



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IHS Layoffs Rescinded

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. verbally rescinded the layoffs of 950 Indian Health Service employees on Friday, February 14th.

[ICT Article](#)



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Action Items

Federal agencies and federal legislators are encouraging advocacy through letter writing and share stories about how E.O.s are impacted Tribal Nations.

Please include NPAIHB on your communications at policyteam@npaihb.org.

February 28

Contact your state congressional delegation by Friday, February 28, 2025 and share current or potential impacts E.O.s will have on your Tribe

[Idaho
Congressional
Delegation](#)

[Oregon
Congressional
Delegation](#)

[Washington
Congressional
Delegation](#)

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Email the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at: oversight@indian.senate.gov with your Tribe's concerns.



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Template Letter

[[ON TRIBAL LETTERHEAD]]

[Date]

Senator []
[] [] Senate
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Senator []
[] [] Senate
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Representative []
[] [] House
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Protect IHS and Tribally-Operated Facilities from Harmful Health Care Reform-Medicaid Proposals in Budget Reconciliation Legislation

Dear []:

On behalf of [Tribe], we urgently request your support to protect Medicaid funding to IHS and Tribally operated facilities in any health care reform proposals in 2025 budget reconciliation legislation. Our Tribe is concerned with several Medicaid proposals in health care reform efforts because they do not uphold trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations. They will also impact services for our people, reduce revenue for IHS and Tribal clinics, and ultimately, increase the health disparities of our people. Our concerns and recommendations as to Medicaid reform proposals in budget reconciliation legislation are, as follows:

1. Protect Medicaid Funding to IHS and Tribally Operated Facilities

Medicaid is rooted in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) (P.L. 94-437, 25 U.S.C. § 1601) which recognizes the Federal trust responsibility for the provision of health care services to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. IHCIA also provides the authorization for Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) to bill Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance; and amends section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act to provide 100% Federal Medical Assistance Payment (FMAP) for eligible AI/AN people receiving services through IHS or Tribally operated facilities.



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Federal Legislative Activity

Senate

- **S. Con. Res. 7 - Concurrent Resolution FY 2025 Budget, setting budget levels for FY 2026 - 2034**
 - Passed Senate on 02/21/2025
- **S. 632. IHS Workforce Parity Act**
 - Referred to the Senate Committee for Indian Affairs on 02/19/2025

Joint Resolution

H. Res. 119/S. Res. 67 - Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

House

- H.R. 150 - People CARE Act
- H.R. 444 - Native American Health Savings Improvement Act
- H.R. 741 - To elevate the position of Director of IHS within HHS to Assistant Secretary for IHS, and for other purposes



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Testimony

**Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies of the House of
Representatives American Indian and
Alaska Native Public Witness Days**

February 27, 2025: Chair Greg
Abrahamson, NPAIHB Vice-Chair
Testifying

April 4, 2025: Deadline to submit written
public testimony for all groups



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Upcoming National & Regional Meetings



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IHS Health Information Technology (HIT) Modernization Program

Seeking recommendations and feedback via Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the following topics:

- **February 13, 2025** - Breakout Sessions with IHS HIT Modernization Program Leadership
- **May 15, 2025** - Overview of Four Directions Warehouse
- **August 7, 2025** - Overview of applications to be included in PATH EHR
- **November 6, 2025** - Review status of pilot site activities and upcoming implementation milestones



National & Regional Meetings

**February
25-26**

VA - ACTIA

Virtual only



**February
26-27**

CDC/ATSDR

CANCELLED

**March
3-4**

**PRC
Workgroup**
Virtual only



**March
4-5**

TLDC

CANCELLED



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National & Regional Meetings

**March
11-12**

FAAB

El Paso, Texas &
Via Zoom



**March
19-20**

**IHS Tribal Self-
Governance
Advisory
Committee**

Arlington, VA



**April
4-10**

**2025 Tribal Self-
Governance
Annual
Conference**

Chandler, AZ



**April
23-24**

**2025 CMS
Health Equity
Conference**

Bethesda, MD



HHS STAC

Portland Area Primary



**Chair Ron Allen, Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe**

Portland Area Alternate



**Chair Cheryle Kennedy,
Confederated Tribes of
Grand Ronde**

Members-at-Large Alternate



**Secretary Rachel Edwards,
Nez Perce Tribe**



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NPAIHB Policy Resources



WEEKLY

- Legislative and Policy Update Email

MONTHLY

- 4th Tuesdays at 10 AM PT on the NPAIHB Weekly Update via Zoom

QUARTERLY

- Quarterly Board Meetings

OUR TEAM MEMBERS



CANDICE JIMENEZ, MPH

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OF WARM SPRINGS
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CATHERINE STENSGAR

NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE
**Executive &
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Coordinator**
cstensgar@npaihb.org

Portland Area IHS Communicable Diseases Update

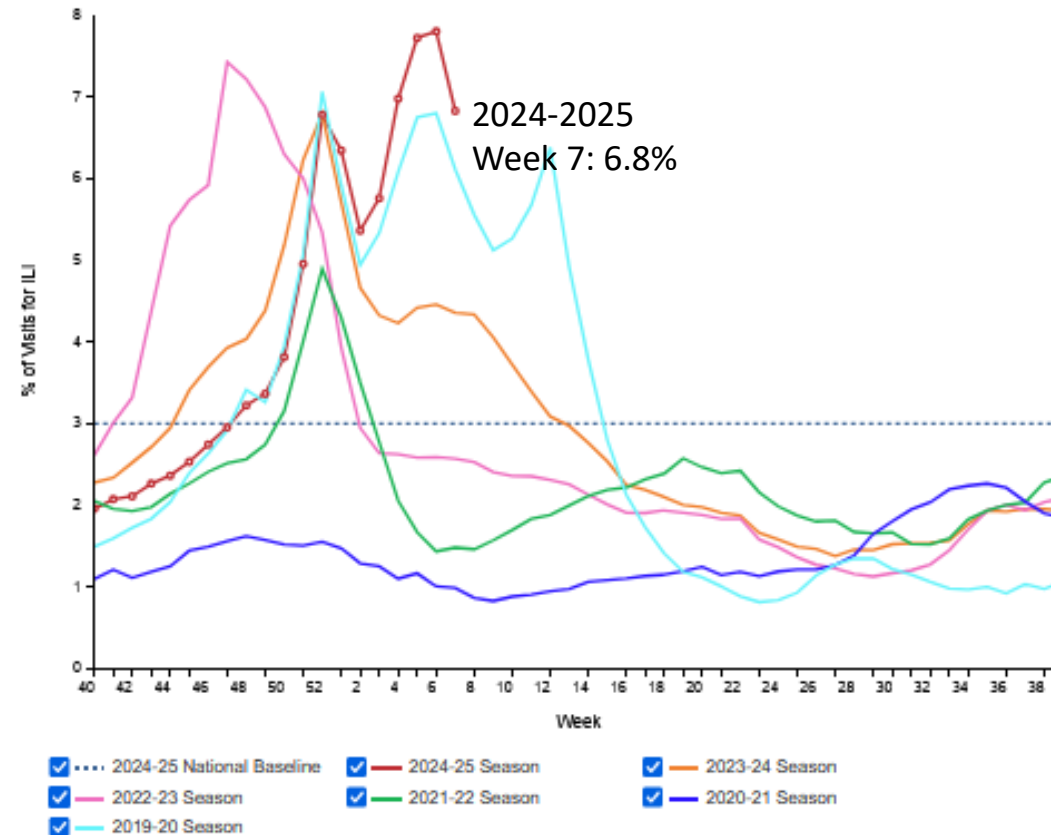
TARA PERTI, MD, MPH
MEDICAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST
OFFICE, PORTLAND AREA IHS
February 25, 2025



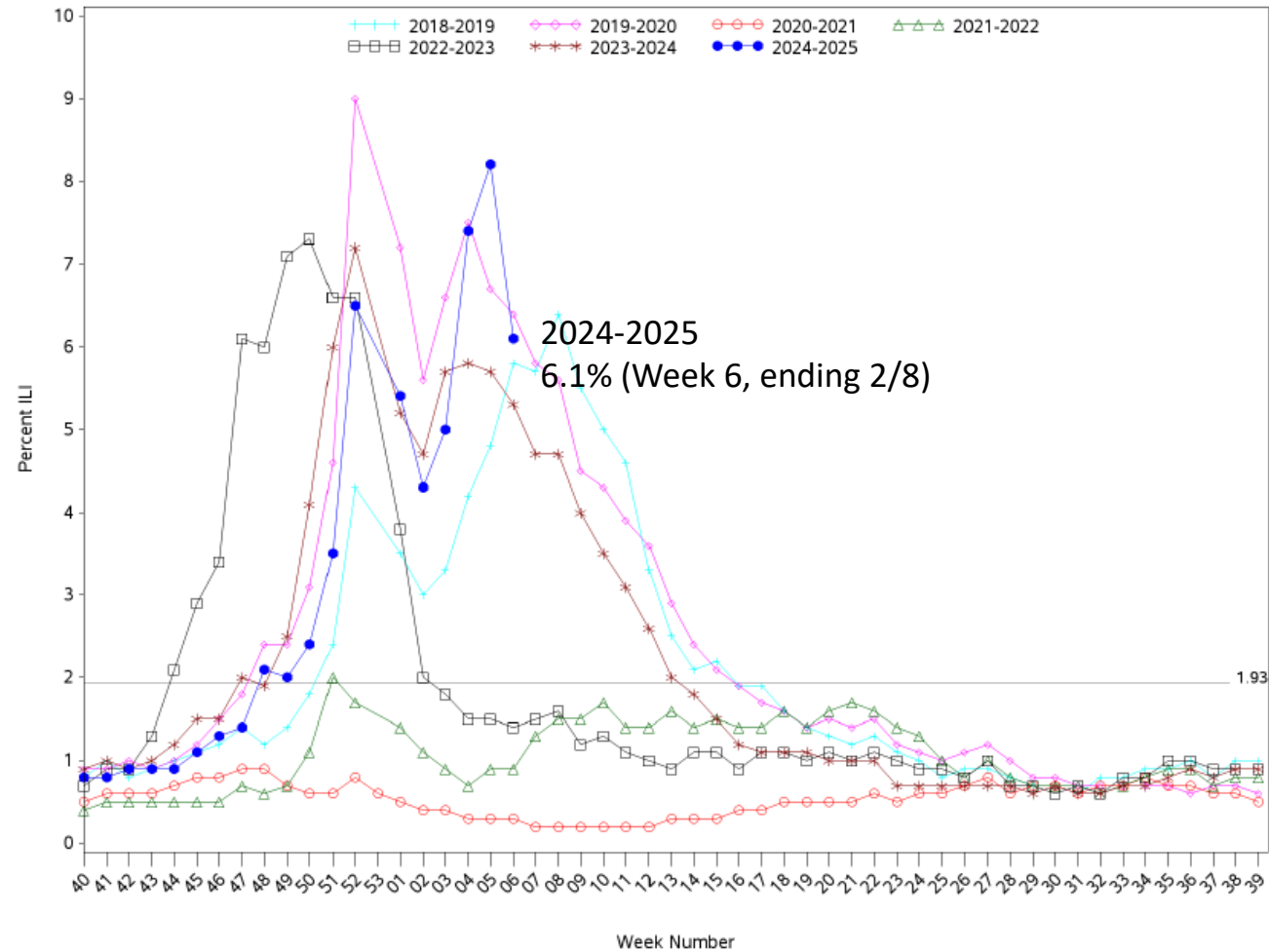
Outline

- Outpatient ILI Activity
- Influenza activity
- RSV activity in Idaho
- Pertussis
- Norovirus

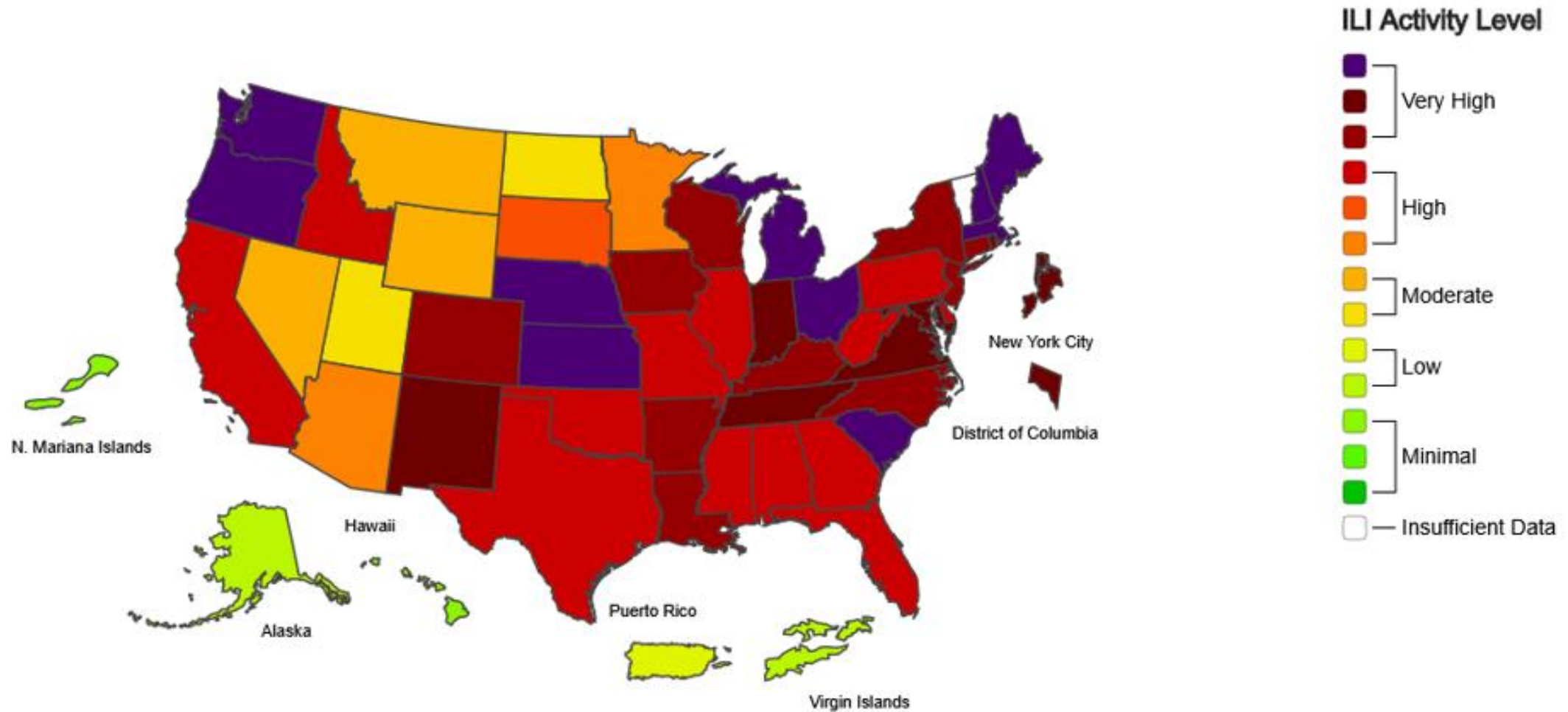
Percentage of Outpatients Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) — United States



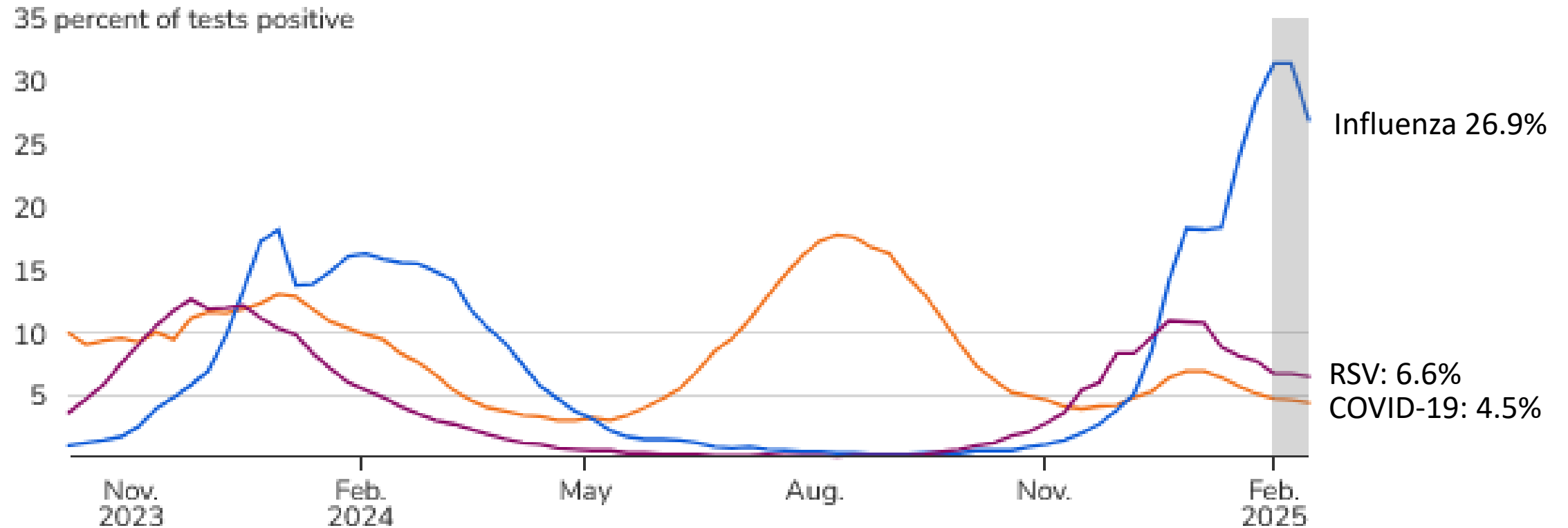
Percentage of Outpatients Visits for Influenza-like Illness — IHS (IHS Influenza Awareness System)



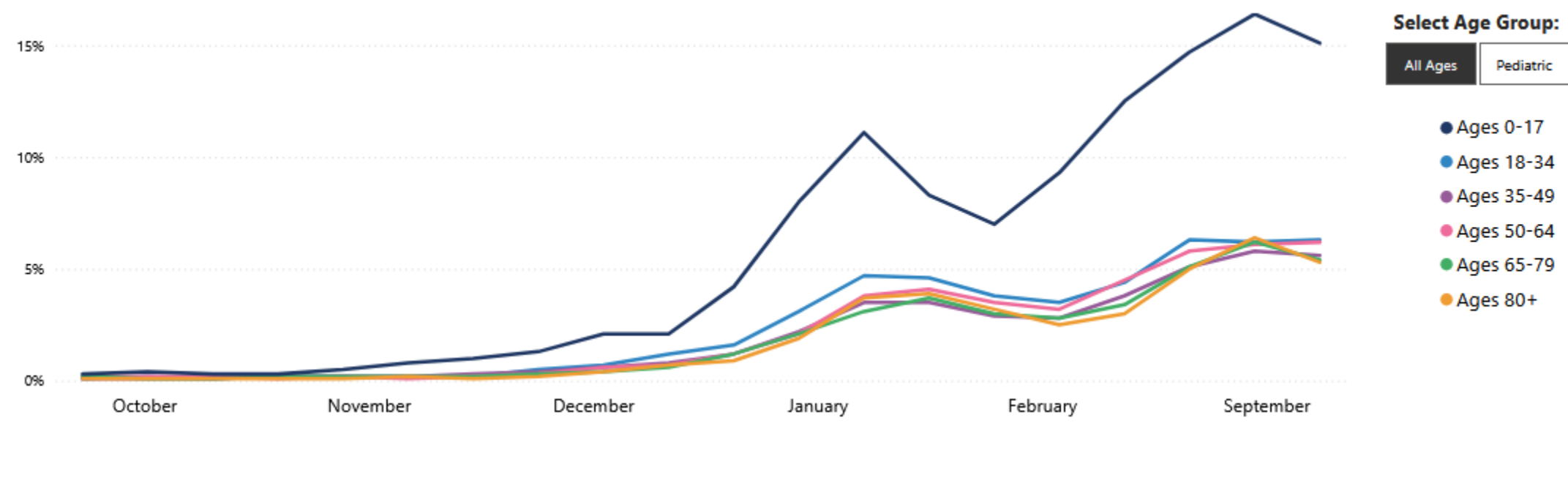
ILI Activity — United States, 2025 (Week 7)



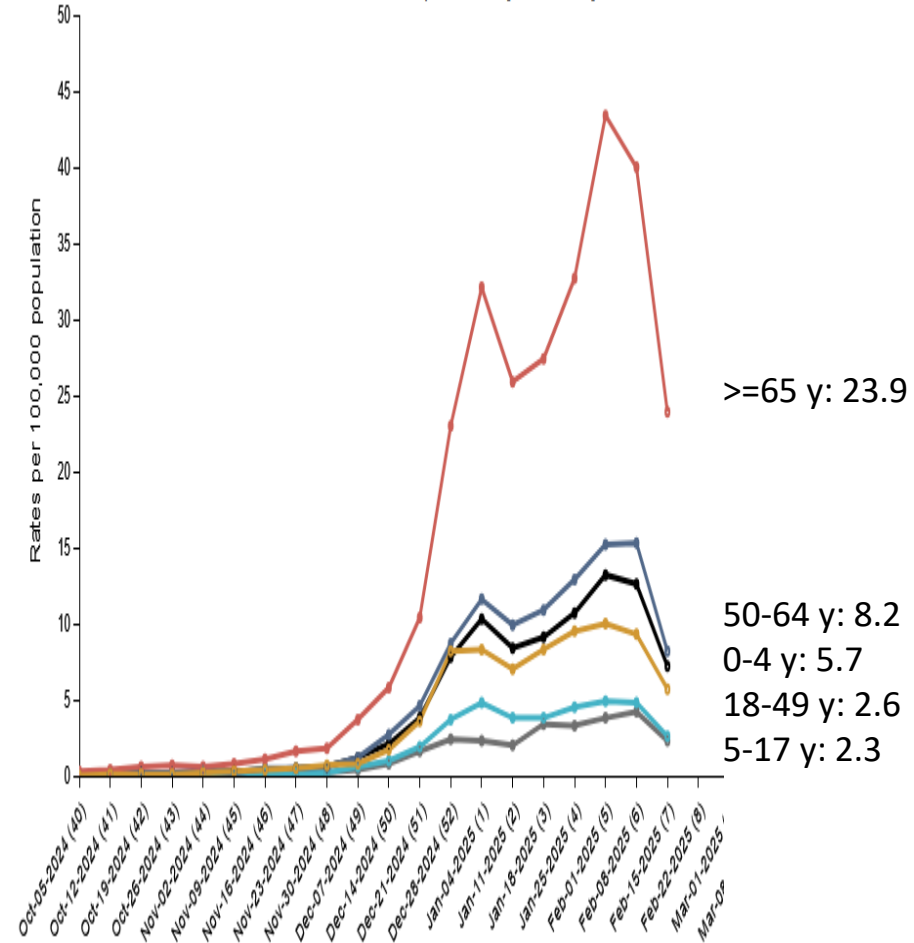
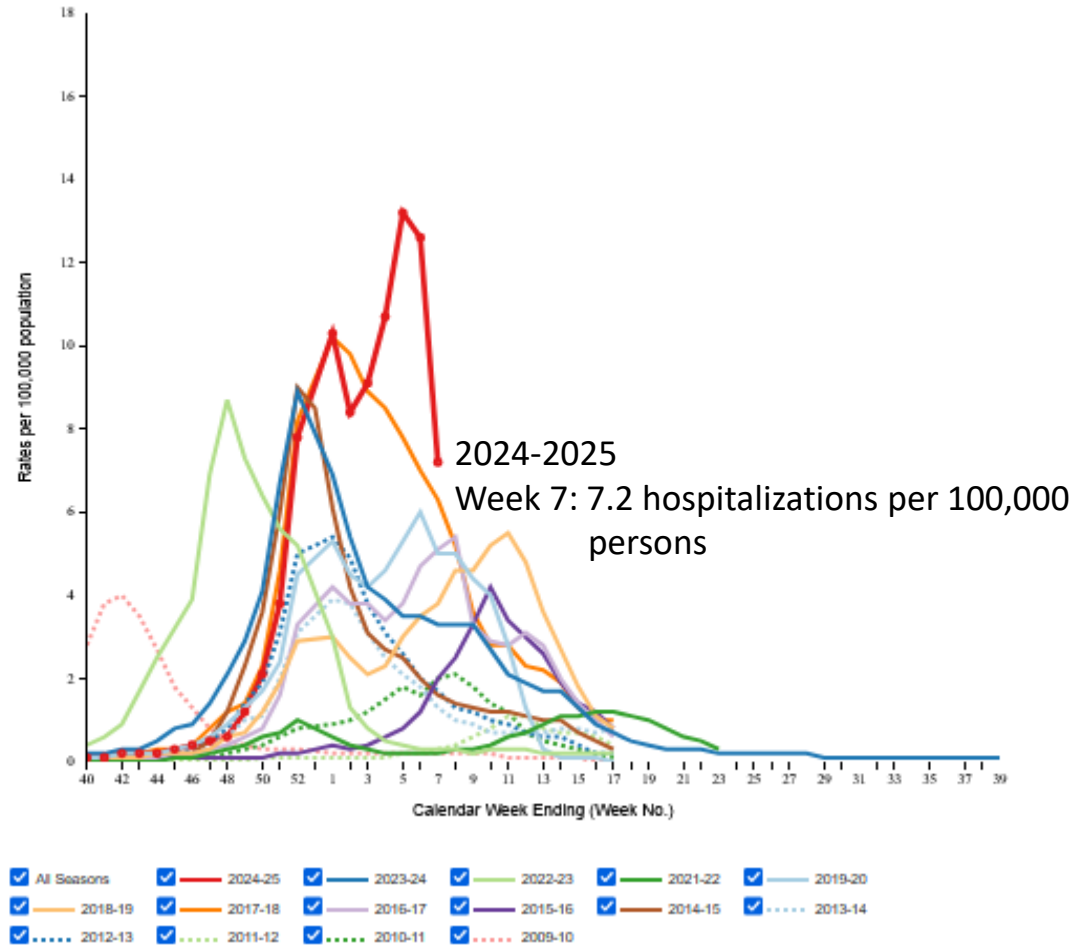
Percent of Tests Positive for Influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 — United States, 2024-25 through week 7



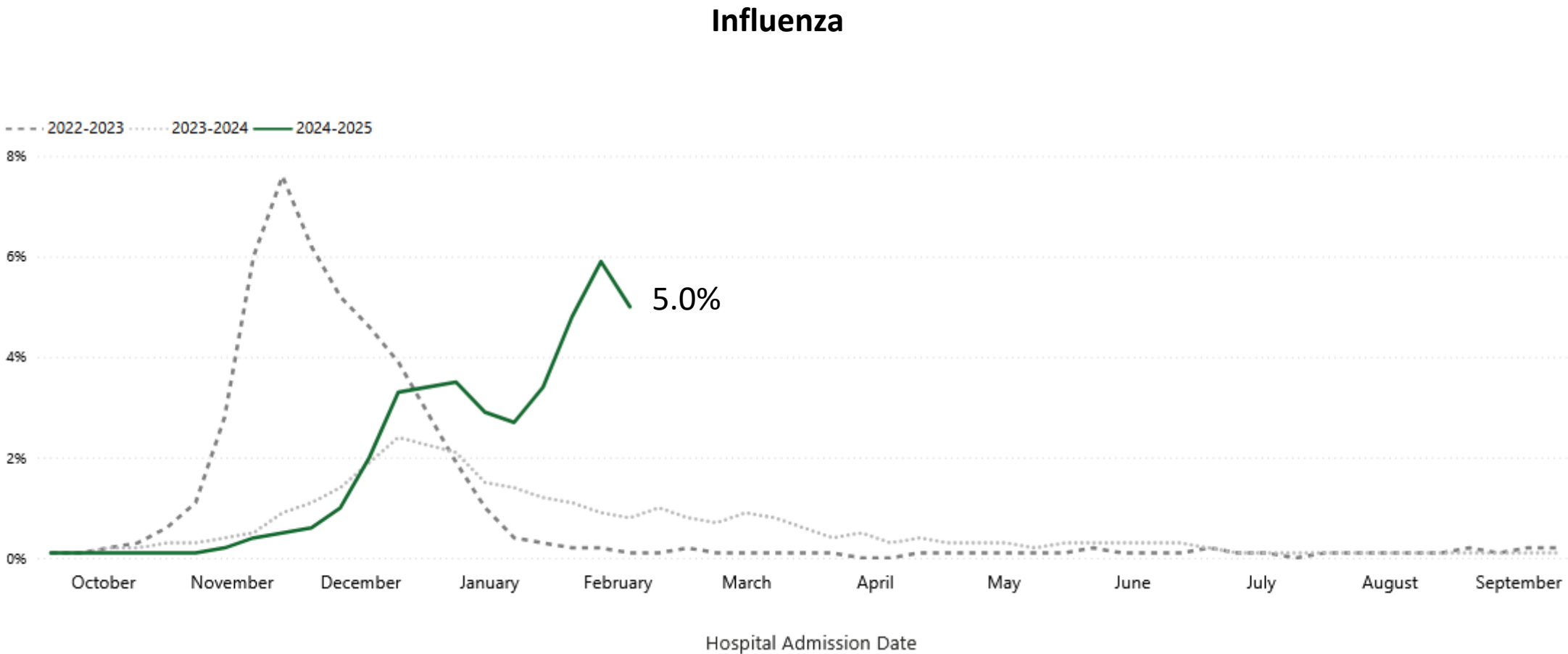
Percent of Emergency Department Visits Associated with Influenza by Age — Washington, 2024-25 through week 7



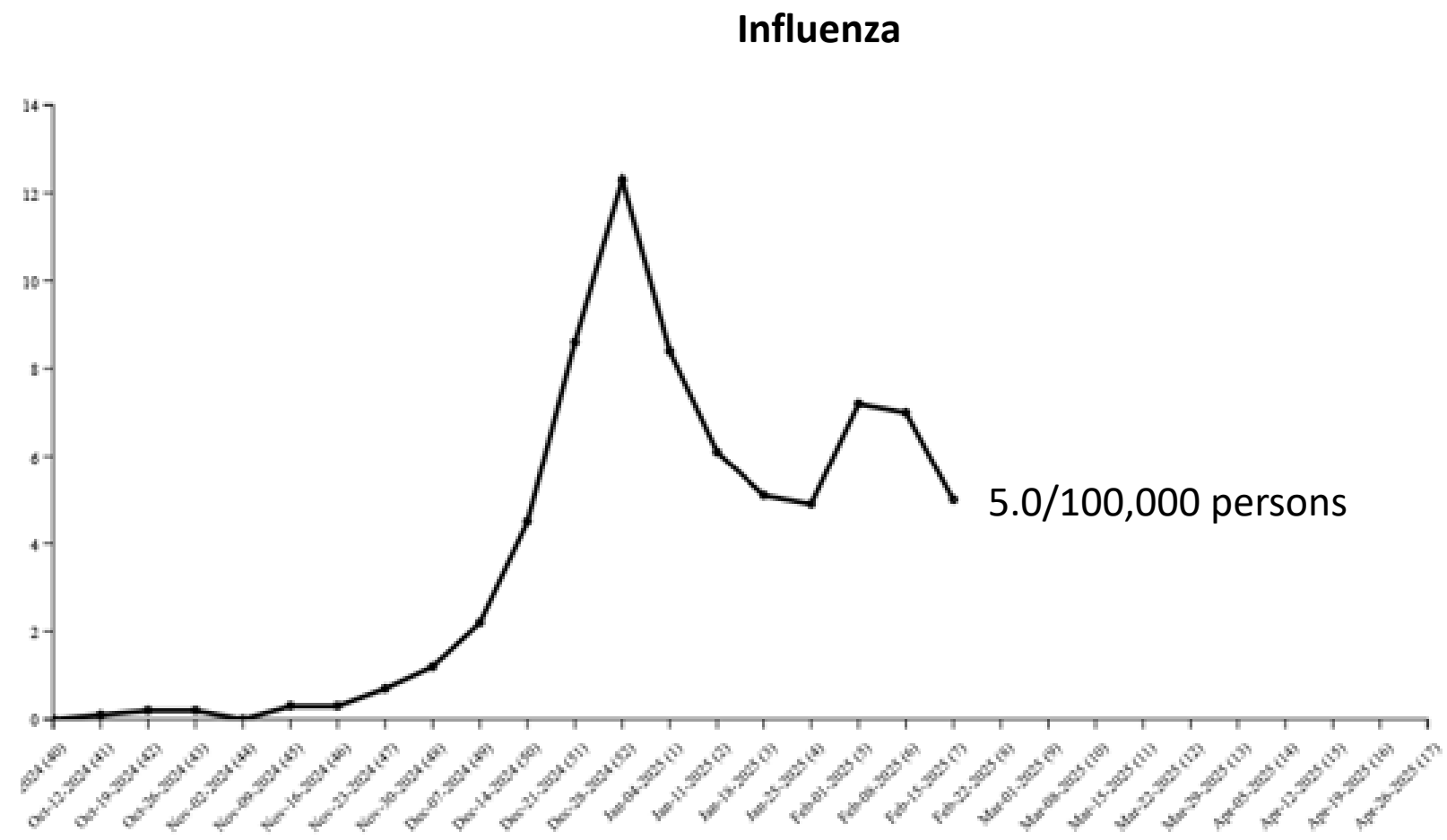
Hospitalizations Associated with Influenza — United States (FluSurv-Net), 2024-25 through week 7



Percent of Hospitalizations Associated with Influenza — Washington, 2024-25 through week 7

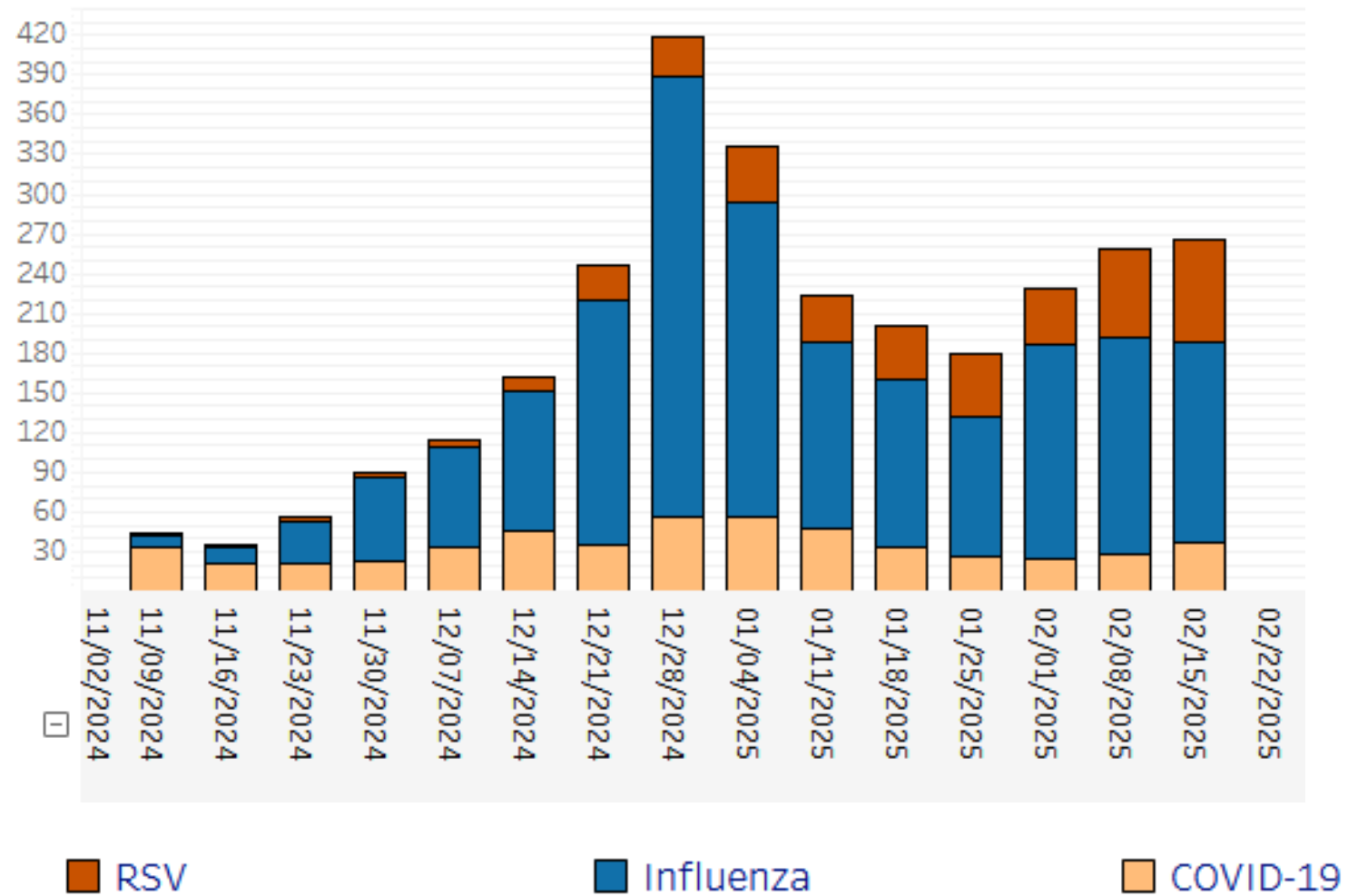


Weekly Rates of Hospitalizations Associated with Influenza — Oregon, 2024-25



FluSurv-NET. Available at: <https://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>

Number of Hospitalizations Associated with Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV — Idaho, 2024-25



Influenza Immunization Rates – Portland Area vs. National, Dec. 31, 2024

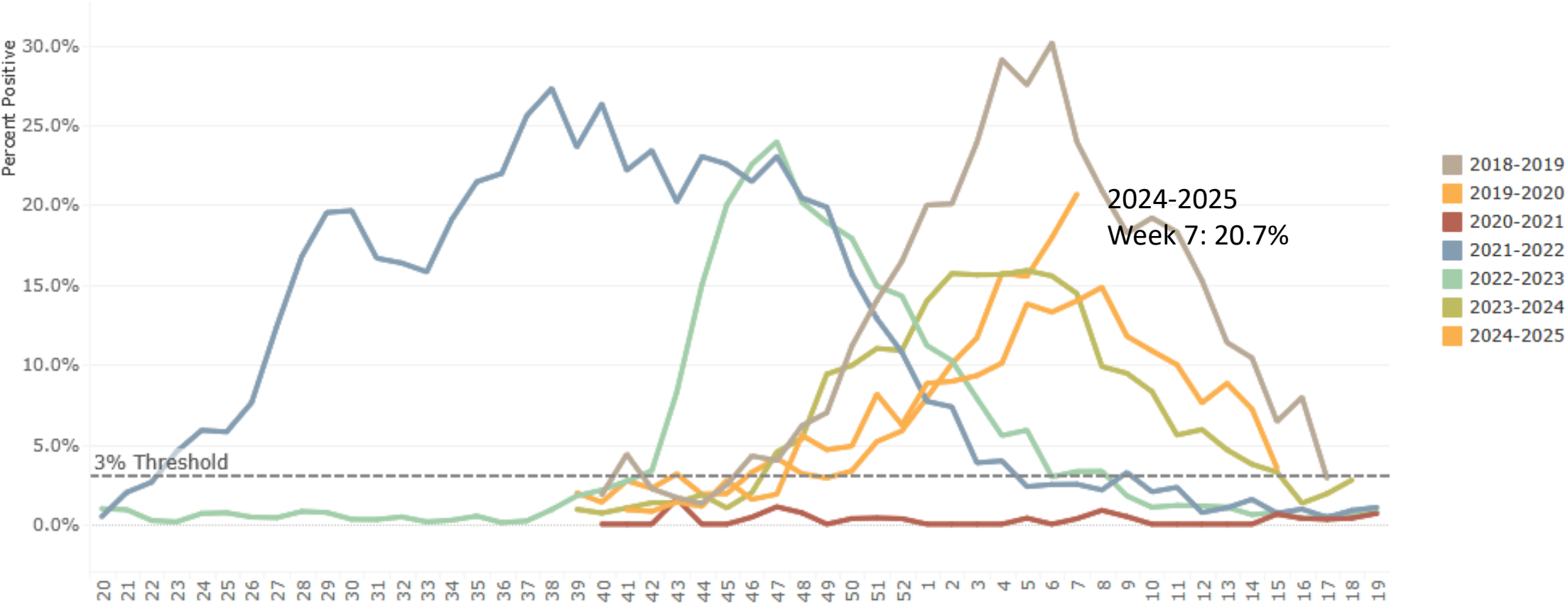
Age Group	% Vaccinated Portland Area (at least 1 dose)	% Vaccinated Nationally (at least 1 dose)
10-23 months (at least 1 dose)	24%	26%
2-4 years (at last 1 dose)	16%	17%
5-17 years	14%	21%
18-49 years	13%	17%
50-64 years	28%	31%
65 + years	39%	45%
Overall	20%	25%

*Based on 11 (24.4%) of 45 reporting facilities including 5 of 6 IHS Service Units
National Immunization Reporting System Reports

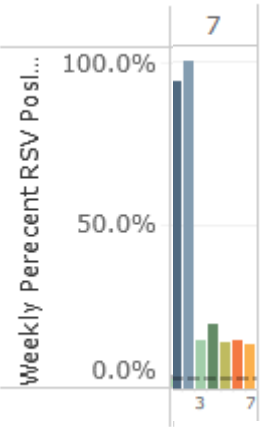
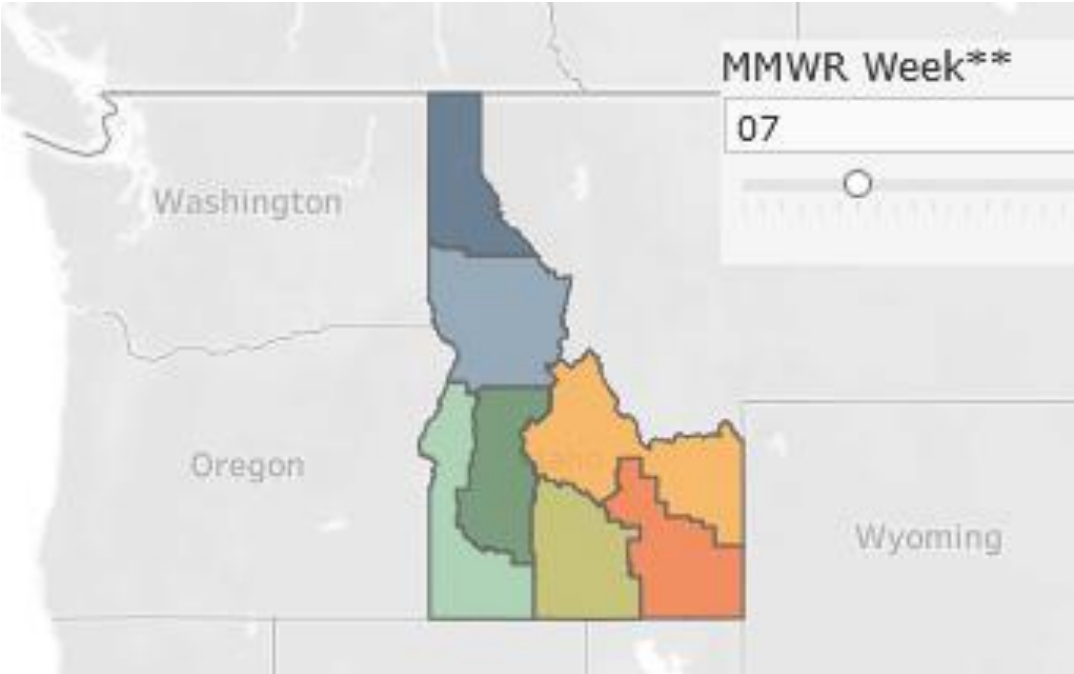
Influenza Immunization Rates – Portland Area IHS, 2024-2025 (Week 6)

Age Group	% Vaccinated
6 mo – 17 years	14.9
18+ years	22.5
65 + years	45.1
Overall (6 months +)	20.8

Percent of Tests Positive for RSV — Idaho, 2024-25 through week 7

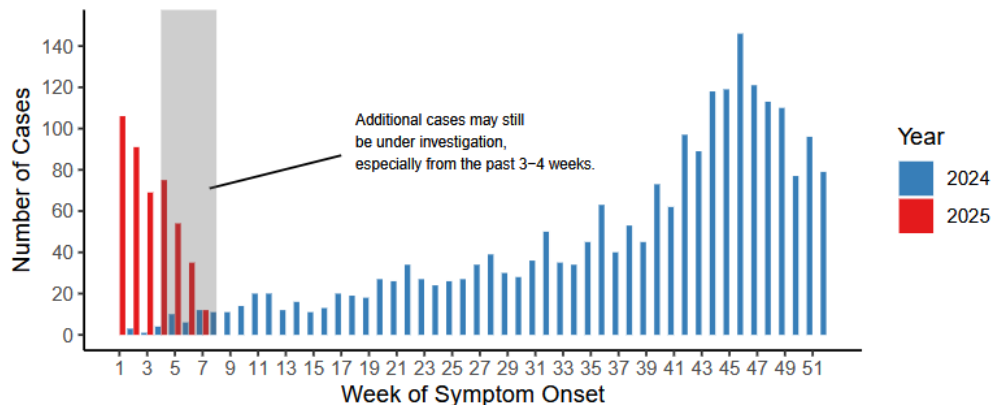


Percent of Tests Positive for RSV — Idaho, 2024-25 through week 7

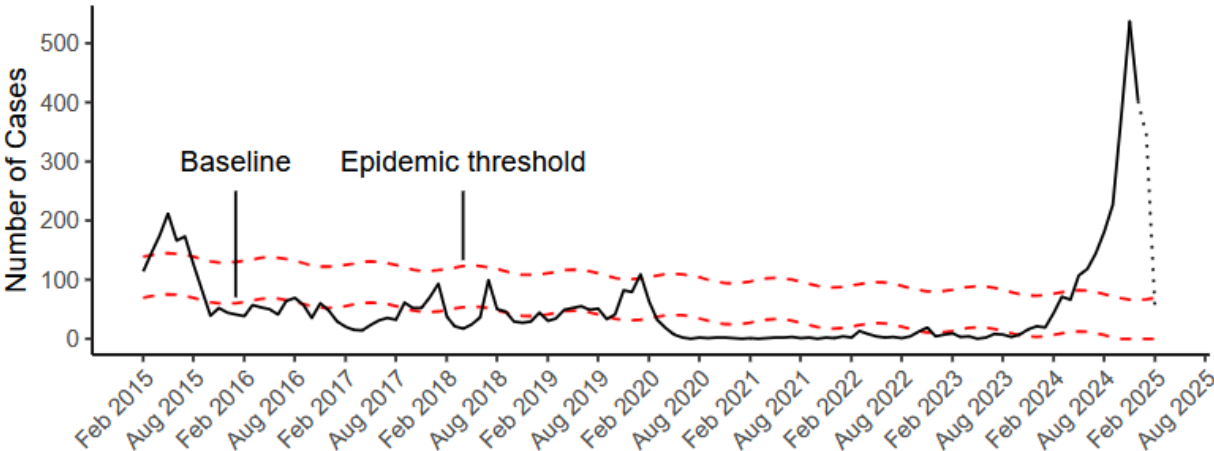


Pertussis Update – Washington, Oregon, and Idaho

Pertussis Cases, Washington – 2024-2025



Washington 2025 YTD Cases: 442 (2024 YTD Cases: 44)



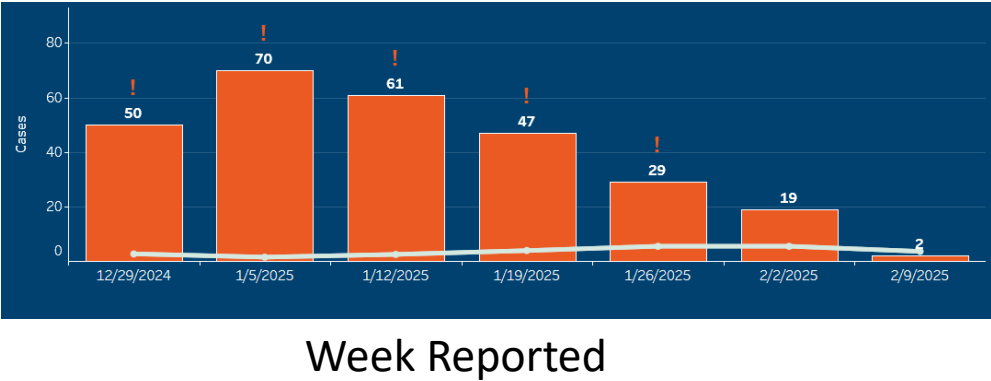
Idaho: 143 cases reported through week 7, mostly in following Public Health Districts:

- District 1 (Panhandle)
- District 3 (Southwest)
- District 4 (Central)

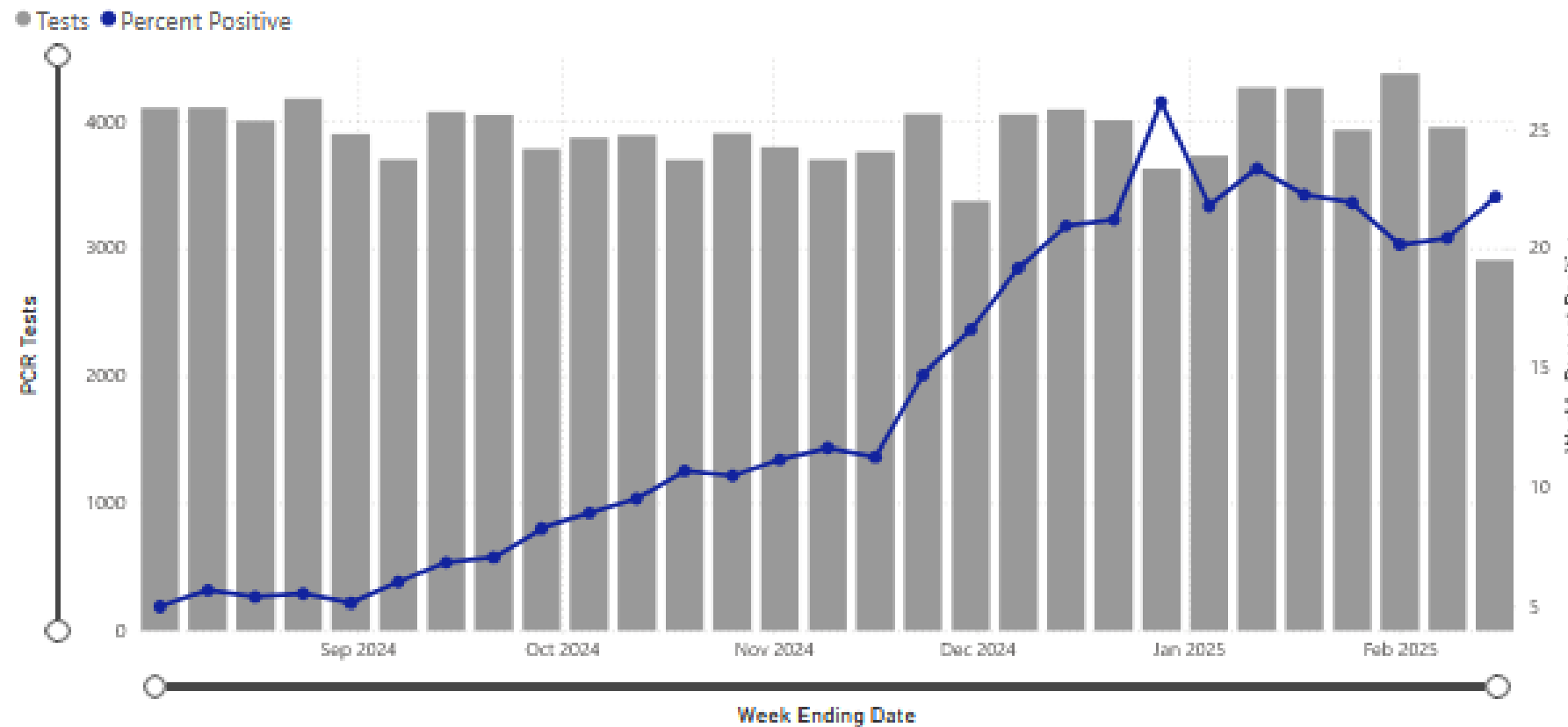


Oregon: 278 cases reported through week 7 (2024 YTD Cases: 20)

Pertussis Cases, Oregon – 2025



Percent of Tests Positive for Norovirus, United States – 2024-25



Summary

- ILI Activity is now decreasing, but still very high in Washington and Oregon, and high in Idaho.
- Hospitalization rates for influenza are declining nationally and now also starting to decline in all three states locally, but are still higher at this time in the season than the past 15 years.
- RSV is continuing to increase in Idaho.
- Norovirus continues to remain elevated nationwide.

Recommendations

- **Keep vaccinating** your patients for seasonal influenza!
- **RSV update:** IHS has advised continuing to vaccinate pregnant AI/AN people between 32-36 weeks of gestation with the maternal RSV vaccine (Pfizer's Abryso) through February 2025.
- **Treat** patients with suspected or confirmed influenza as soon as possible.
- **Isolation:**
 - Respiratory viruses: Stay home until symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours, with masking for an additional 5 days.
 - Norovirus: Stay home until 2 days after symptoms stop. Do not cook, prepare, or serve food, or care for others until symptoms stopped for 2 days. Wash your hands with soap and water (not hand sanitizer). Clean surfaces with a bleach solution (5 to 25 tablespoons of household bleach [5% to 8%] per gallon of water) or use a disinfectant EPA-registered for norovirus.

Immunization Patient Education Resources

- IHS: <https://www.ihs.gov/epi/health-surveillance/educational-resources/>
<https://www.ihs.gov/NIPHC/public-health-messaging/>
- NPAIHB: <https://www.npaihb.org/native-boost>
<https://www.indiancountryecho.org/vaccinative>
- Immunize.org: https://www.immunize.org/clinical/a-z/?wpsolr_fq%5B0%5D=audiences_str%3AVaccine%20Recipients&wpsolr_fq%5B1%5D=imm_language_str%3AEnglish
- Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center>
<https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-update-healthcare-professionals/resources/vaccine-and-vaccine-safety-related-qa-sheets>
- Boost Oregon: <https://boostoregon.org>
- Oregon Health Authority: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/vaccinesimmunization/gettingimmunized/pages/index.aspx>
- Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization>
- Idaho Department of Health & Welfare: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/children-families/child-and-adolescent-immunization>
<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/children-families/adult-immunization>





Partner Updates

Comments & Questions



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