Vermont Department of Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Respiratory Disease Season 2023-2024 Check-in

January 11, 2024
From CDC’s [Respiratory Virus Activity Levels (cdc.gov)](https://www.cdc.gov) as of 1/3/2024

RSV and Influenza emergency department visits have increased slightly in Vermont.

•COVID-related visits have been fairly level.
Current Level of COVID-19 Activity: Trending up, but still “low”


Daily Hospitalizations With COVID-19 Diagnosis
Seven-Day Rolling Average

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HHS Protect
Low COVID-19 Case Numbers in Youngest Vermonters: Less testing... which also suggests fewer visits!

COVID-19 Cases (positive tests performed by a healthcare provider), Vermonters age 0-9: all pandemic

COVID-19 Cases (positive tests performed by a healthcare provider), Vermonters age 0-9
Vermont Influenza Activity – Influenza-Like Illness
Respiratory Disease Activity and Response

• COVID-19, flu, RSV and other respiratory illness are circulating.

• While COVID-19 has demanded much of our attention in the past few years, other conditions such as influenza and RSV appear to be of greater risk for youngest age groups.

• Child-care facilities that do not provide healthcare staffing are not required to report cases or outbreaks of COVID-19, flu or RSV to the Health Department.

• All facilities are encouraged to contact the Department to report disease outbreaks and are always welcome to contact us for information and support in managing infectious disease:

  Non-COVID-19 Viral Respiratory Disease Outbreak Report Form (alchemer.com)
Respiratory Disease Activity and Response

- COVID-19 testing should not be required in decision-making; there are no required isolation periods for childcare.

- Use the same principles with COVID-19 as with other infectious respiratory diseases: If a child or staff member is too sick to participate in group care, they should be sent home.

- Because mask use is not recommended for children ages younger than two years and may be difficult for very young children or for some children with disabilities, consider layering other prevention strategies.
Reducing Respiratory Illness Transmission

Over the past four years we have learned how layering efforts can help reduce transmission of COVID-19 and similar diseases.

- **Get Vaccinated**: Encourage everyone to stay up to date with vaccinations.
- **Masks**: Make masks available to those who can wear them
- **Ventilation**: Improve ventilation of indoor common areas by opening windows and/or using fans
- **Hand Hygiene**: Encourage handwashing and make hand sanitizer available
- **Sanitation**: Clean high touch areas and make cleaning supplies available in shared bathrooms
- **Stay home when sick**
Questions?

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To find your local Health Department office:
https://www.healthvermont.gov/local

Thank you!
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