Respiratory illnesses season outlook

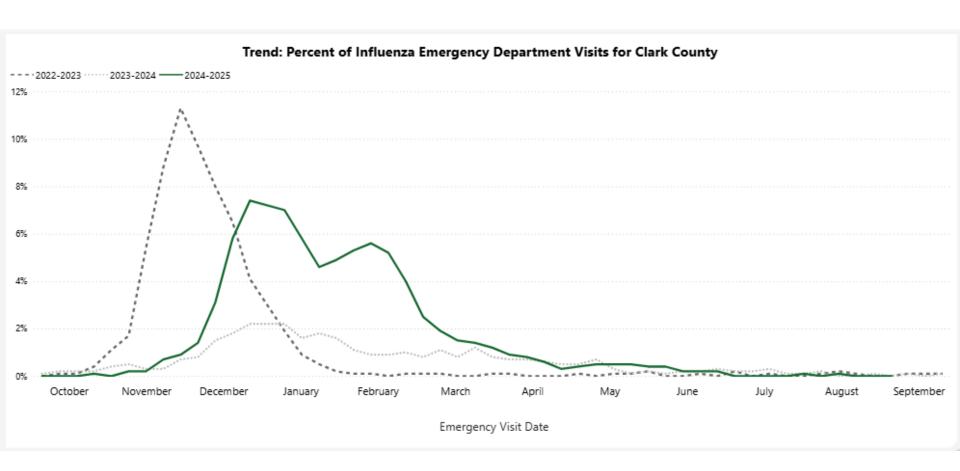
Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH Sept. 24, 2025



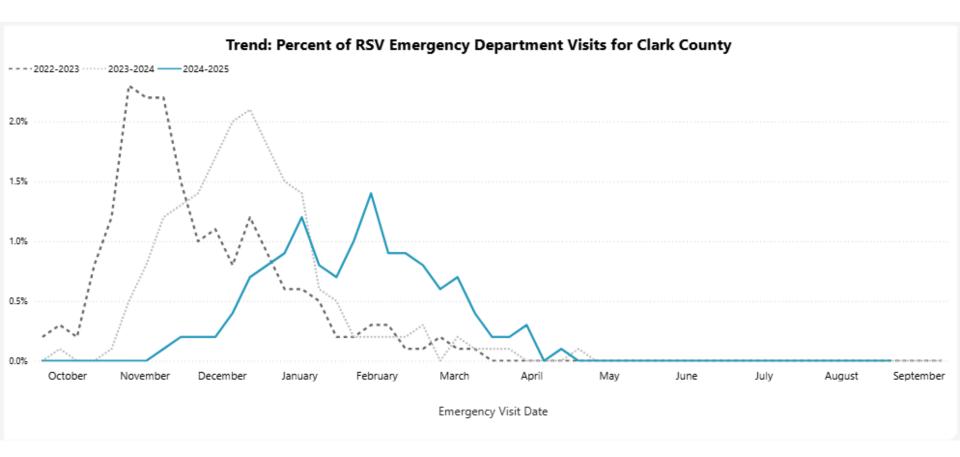
Current activity



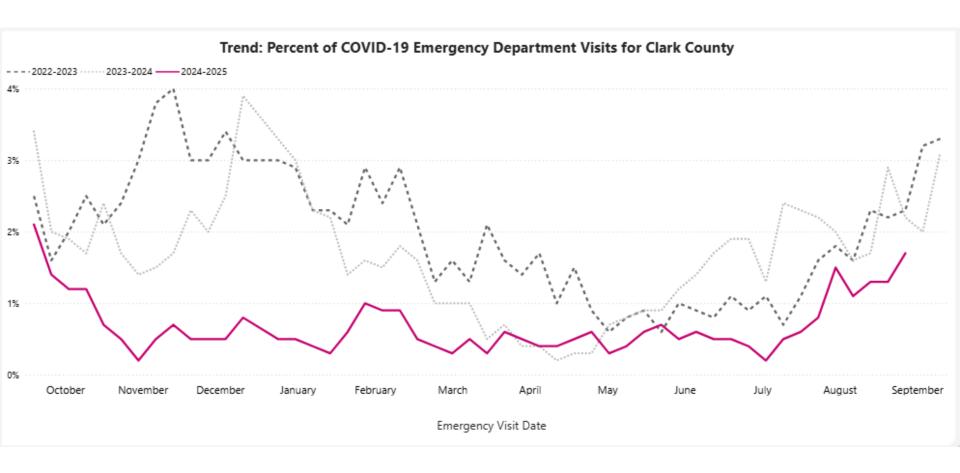
Current activity: Influenza



Current activity: RSV



Current activity: COVID-19



Vaccine recommendations



2024-25 Clark County vaccination rates

- **27.9%** of Clark County residents received a 2024-25 flu vaccine. 30.5% statewide
- **42.1%** of adults 75 and older in Clark County received the RSV vaccine.

44.8% statewide

18.2% of Clark County residents received a 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine.

18.9% statewide

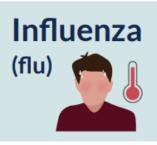
Vaccine recommendations: Influenza

What are the options?

Who is eligible?

they work?* I get it?

How well do When should



high-dose and adjuvanted for people at high risk.

All vaccines protect against 3 strains of influenza.

Multiple options, including Everyone 6+ months old.

41-55% effective at preventing hospitalization for adults; 63-78% effective for children.

Anytime, but getting vaccinated Sept-Oct provides best protection throughout influenza season.

Vaccine recommendations: RSV

What are the options?

Who is eligible?

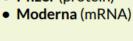
they work?*

How well do When should I get it?

RSV (older adults)

Multiple options:

- GSK (protein)
- Pfizer (protein)



Only 1 dose currently recommended.

If not previously vaccinated:

- Adults 75+ years
- Adults 50-74 years if increased risk of severe illness

73-83% effective at preventing hospitalization.

Anytime, but Aug-Oct is best.

RSV (pregnancy)



1 option: Pfizer

Pregnant people at 32-36 weeks of pregnancy and not previously vaccinated.

Maternal vaccination passes protection to infants.

70-79% effective at preventing hospitalization for infants.

Sept-Jan.

RSV (monoclonal antibody)

Not a vaccine but a medicine that prevents illness.

2 options:

- nirsevimab
- clesrovimab

All infants younger than 8 months if mother didn't get RSV vaccine during pregnancy.

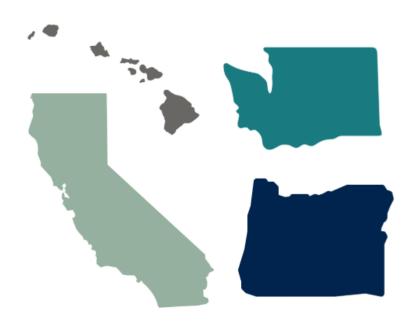
High-risk children 8-19 months old.

79-82% effective at preventing hospitalization.

Born Oct-March: First week of life. Born April-Sept and for high-risk children who need second dose: Oct-Nov.

West Coast Health Alliance

- Partnership between Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii.
- Shared commitment to ensuring that public health recommendations are guided by safety, efficacy, transparency, access and trust.
- Coordinate health guidelines by aligning immunization recommendations that are informed by respected national medical organizations.



COVID-19 standing order

- Standing orders are like prescriptions – they allow patients to receive tests, vaccines, clinical services or other health care without an individual prescription.
- Washington State Department of Health issued a standing order for COVID-19 vaccines.
- The standing order is **not** a
 directive and **does not** require
 anyone to receive the vaccine.



Vaccine recommendations: COVID-19

What are the options?

Who is eligible?

they work?*

How well do When should I get it?

COVID-19



Multiple options:

- Moderna (mRNA)
- Pfizer (mRNA)
- Novavax (protein)

Updated vaccines target JN.1 or LP.8.1 variants.

Everyone 6+ months old.**

Most people only need 1 dose. People not previously vaccinated or at high risk may need additional doses.

34-45% effective at preventing hospitalization for adults.

As soon as updated vaccines are available.

Recently infected? OK to wait 4-6 months after infection.

Preventing illness

- Get vaccinated.
- Protect infants from RSV with monoclonal antibodies.
- Stay home when sick and keep sick children home from school.
- Consider masking in crowded indoor places, especially if you or someone you live with is at higher risk for severe illness.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.
- Avoid spending time with people who are sick.

Monitoring respiratory illnesses

- Weekly respiratory illness updates on our social media channels and our respiratory illness data webpage.
 - Data on emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to COVID-19, influenza and RSV.
- Monitoring influenza and COVID-19 deaths.
 - Reported monthly on our website and social media.
- Monitoring influenza test positivity.

Website: www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/respiratory-illness-data

Questions?

