

EPI Log

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that immunization currently prevents 3.5-5 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, measles, monkeypox and pneumococcal disease. There are now vaccines available to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer and healthier lives.

Immunization is a key component of primary health care and also one of the best health investments that money can buy. Vaccines are also critical to the prevention and control of infectious disease outbreaks.

Most infants and toddlers have received all recommended vaccines by age two, however, many children remain under-immunized leaving the real potential for outbreaks of infectious disease. Each year there could be updates or changes to the recommended vaccine schedule. Visit [Vaccines and Immunizations | CDC](#) for the 2023 Immunization schedules

Per WHO, vaccination coverage has plateaued in recent years and dropped since 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic and associated disruptions over the past several years have strained health systems with over 25 million children missing out on vaccination and 2021, 6 million more than in 2019 and the highest number since 2009.

Local providers play a vital role in reaching recommended immunization rates through monitoring and encouraging their patients to receive recommended immunizations. In addition to routine childhood vaccination, it is also important for providers to recommend adult vaccines. Adult vaccines are determined by factors such as age, lifestyle, health conditions, occupation, travel and previous vaccine history. Special consideration should be given to women who are pregnant.

Providers are encouraged to input vaccinations into Florida Shots which is a free statewide, centralized online immunization registry that assists healthcare providers, schools and parents track immunization records/ For information go to [Home | Florida SHOTS \(flshotsusers.com\)](#)



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EPIDEMIOLOGY

Suzanne Grubbs, MPH
Suzanne.Grubb@FlHealth.Gov
(386) 274-0695

Brian Benton, MPH
Brian.Benton@FlHealth.Gov
(386) 274-0633

Ivette Rainey, Staff Assistant
IvetteRainey@FlHealth.Gov
(386) 274-0634

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Georgianne Cherry
Georgianne.Cherry@FlHealth.Gov
(386) 281-6647

HIV/AIDS AND STI'S

Mary Lachendro-Figueroa
Mary.Lachendro@FlHealth.Gov
(386) 281-6545

To report a disease or outbreak: Call (386) 274-0634 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fax: (386) 274-0641, After Hours: (386) 316-5030. P.O. Box 9190, Bin #111, Daytona Beach, FL 32120-9190



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TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES

Here in Volusia County, there are many spring and summer outdoor activities our families and pets enjoy. However, several species of ticks are widely distributed in tropical and temperate climates and are capable of spreading diseases. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Ticks feed on the blood of animals and can spread diseases through their bites, although not all tick bites result in illness. If you enjoy camping, gardening, or hunting, you could come into close contact with ticks. Ticks can also attach onto our pets if they spend time outdoors.

Several species of ticks found in Florida transmit disease to humans. These include the American Dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), Brown Dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sangeineus*), and the Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*). Ticks locate animals and people by sensing body odors, heat, and moisture. While some ticks attach onto the skin imme-

- Take a shower soon after being in tick habitat.
- To kill ticks on clothing, you can tumble dry them on high heat for 10 minutes.
- Use veterinarian recommended products to keep ticks off pets. Remember to also check pets often.
- Keep grass, shrubs and trees close to your residence trimmed.

If you find a tick, use a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upwardly with steady, even pressure. Avoid twisting or jerking the tweezers. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Wash the area with soap and water, and dispose of the tick in alcohol, or flush it down the toilet. Avoid using heat or home remedies in an attempt to detach the tick from your skin. The goal is to remove the tick as soon as possible.

Symptoms of tick-borne illnesses include fever/chills, headaches, fatigue, muscle aches and joint pain.

diately, others will wander to areas where the skin is thinner, such as under the arms, around the ears, around your waist, and behind the knees. Ticks transmit pathogens that cause disease when they begin feeding, which ranges from 10 minutes to two hours. Reportable tick-borne illnesses include Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF), and babesiosis. In 2022, Volusia County reported fourteen tick-borne illnesses to the state.

- To prevent tick-borne illnesses: Avoid bushy or wooded areas and walk in the center of trails.
- Treat your clothes, camping gear, and shoes with EPA-registered insect repellents that contain DEET, permethrin, or picaridin. (<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>)
- After you come indoors, check your clothing for ticks.

Symptoms of tick-borne illnesses include fever/chills, headaches, fatigue, muscle aches and joint pain. Another common symptom is a rash, which is typically associated with Lyme disease, RMSF, and ehrlichiosis. Patients with Lyme disease may develop the classic “bulls eye” rash or EM. If you have had tick exposure and develop symptoms, it is important to see a physician or healthcare provider.

For providers, it is important to document when reporting a tick-borne illness the size of the EM in cm as part of reporting documentation, as well as any serology or lab results to the health department.

For more information see <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/tick-and-insect-borne-diseases/index.html>

Volusia County Disease Activity of Frequent Occurrence*	1st Quarter 2022	1st Quarter 2023	YTD 2023	Full Year 2022
Vaccine Preventable				
Mumps	1	1	1	3
Pertussis	2	1	1	2
Varicella	4	7	13	10
CNS Diseases and Bacteremia's				
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)	1	0	0	1
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)‡	1	3	6	7
Meningitis (bacterial, cryptococcal, mycotic)	2	1	1	10
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	0
Staphylococcus aureus (GISA/VISA)	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae (invasive disease)‡	4	12	15	28
Enteric Infections				
Campylobacteriosis	17	29	34	77
Cryptosporidiosis	1	12	16	25
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	20
Shiga-toxin producing E. coli, (STEC) infection	1	6	12	19
Giardiasis	4	12	18	28
Listeriosis	2	0	0	3
Salmonellosis	24	20	31	165
Shigellosis	1	9	10	7
Typhoid Fever (Salmonella Typhi infection)	0	0	0	0
Viral Hepatitis				
Hepatitis A	4	0	0	12
Hepatitis B, acute	10	7	9	29
Hepatitis B, chronic	31	29	38	128
Hepatitis B, pregnant Women	1	3	4	8
Hepatitis C, acute	22	12	13	69
Hepatitis C, chronic	144	163	217	620
Vector Borne, Zoonoses				
Babesiosis	0	0	0	1
Brucellosis	0	1	1	0
Dengue Fever	0	1	2	3
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	0	0	0	2
Lyme disease	1	2	3	12
Malaria	0	0	0	1
Q Fever, acute	0	0	0	0
Rabies, animal	1	0	0	2
Rabies (possible exposure)	43	69	86	176
Rocky Mountain spotted fever/Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0
Rickettsiosis	0	0	0	0
West Nile virus, neuroinvasive	0	0	0	2
Others				
Arsenic Poisoning/Mercury Poisoning	3	1	1	4
Pesticide-related illness and injury acute	0	1	1	3
Carbon monoxide poisoning	0	3	3	10
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0	0	0
Hansen's Disease (leprosy)	0	1	1	1
Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019)	32839	3602	4580	57604
Influenza due to novel or pandemic strains	0	0	0	0
Influenza-associated pediatric mortality	0	1	1	0
Lead poisoning	7	22	27	36
Legionellosis	4	4	6	12
Scombroid Poisoning	0	0	0	1
Tetanus	0	0	0	3
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	2	3	4	12 ³
Monkeypox	0	0	0	30

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [cdc.gov/flu](https://www.cdc.gov/flu)

Florida Flu Review, Week 17
[FloridaHealth.Gov/FloridaFlu](https://www.floridahealth.gov/FloridaFlu)

INFLUENZA SEASON 2022-2023 FROM FLORIDA FLU REVIEW WEEK 17

Influenza (flu) is a respiratory infection caused by a variety of flu viruses spread primarily by droplets made when infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might become infected with flu by touching a surface or object contaminated with flu virus and then touching their own mouth, eyes, or nose. **Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** is defined as the presence of fever and cough or fever and sore throat without a laboratory-confirmed etiology.

Influenza (flu) and influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance

Figures below show flu and ILI visit data from emergency departments (EDs) participating in ESSENCE-FL and ILI patient data from ILINet providers statewide for the current year and the previous 3 years. Data is calculated based on comparison of the current year's week visit percentage to the previous 3-week average.

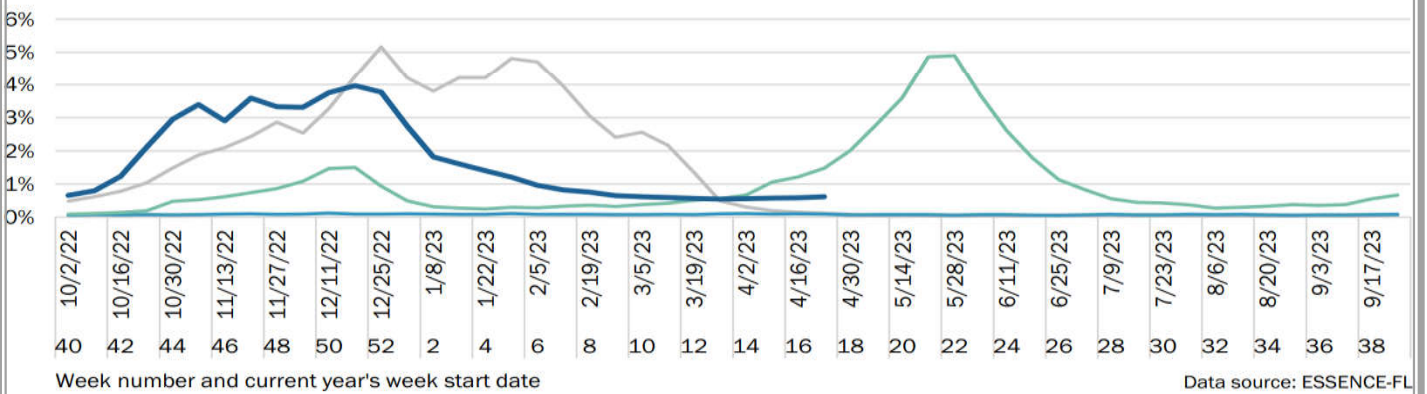
2019-20

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

Figure 1: Percent of ED visits with discharge diagnoses of flu didn't change from previous 3-week average



Florida Department of Health,
 Volusia County
 Office of Disease Control &
 Health Protection

1845 Holsonback Drive, Bin 111
 Daytona Beach, FL
 32117



The flu reporting year uses standard reporting weeks outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where every year has 52 or 53 reporting weeks. In Florida, the 2022–23 flu year began October 2, 2022 (week 40) and is ending this year May 20, 2023 (week 20), surveillance continues year round. Seasons vary in timing, severity, and duration. The current predominant strain circulating in our region is Influenza A H1N1 2009 Pandemic strain.

Annual vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from potentially severe complications from flu. Flu shots take up to two weeks to become fully effective, so it's important to get vaccinated as soon as possible to reduce your chances of getting the flu this season. To locate a vaccine near you, visit: [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) or contact the Volusia County Health Department vaccine line at (386) 274-0509.

CDC recommends antiviral treatment be initiated as soon as possible for people with confirmed or suspected flu who are at higher risk for complications (children <2 years, adults ≥65 years, pregnant people, and people with underlying medical conditions). Treatment should be administered within 48 hours of illness onset. For more information, contact your health care provider.

Individual cases are not reportable in Florida with the exception of novel flu A (a new subtype of flu A) and flu-pediatric deaths. All outbreaks are reportable in FL. For more information on flu visit [Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu)