



Clark County Health Department

Seasonal Respiratory Report

2025-2026

9/28/2025-5/23/2026

Overview

This report summarizes respiratory disease activity in Clark County during the 2025-2026 respiratory virus season. This report is organized using MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) Weeks, which is a standardized week numbering system that allows trends to be compared from one respiratory season to the next. Respiratory seasons are tracked from MMWR Week 40 (late September/early October) through MMWR Week 20 (mid-May), which corresponds to the period when respiratory viruses such as influenza, COVID-19 and RSV, are most active.

Influenza-associated hospitalization data was retrieved from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Data on COVID-19 and RSV-associated hospitalizations were retrieved from the ODH REDCap database. All Emergency Department (ED) data was retrieved from the EpiCenter Syndromic Surveillance System.

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations in Clark County

Overall, the 2025-2026 influenza season in Clark County was milder than usual. Flu hospitalizations exceeded the average for a 6-week period from early-December to mid-January with a spike in cases in weeks 52 and 53. Otherwise, the number of hospitalizations fell below the 5-year average. Older adults were disproportionately affected by influenza-associated hospitalizations with nearly 75% of cases occurring in those 50 years old and above.

2025-2026 Influenza Hospitalizations Exceeded the 5-Year Average Early-December to Mid-January (Week 50- Week 3)

Count of influenza-associated hospitalizations each week in 2025-2026 compared to the weekly 5-year average, Clark County

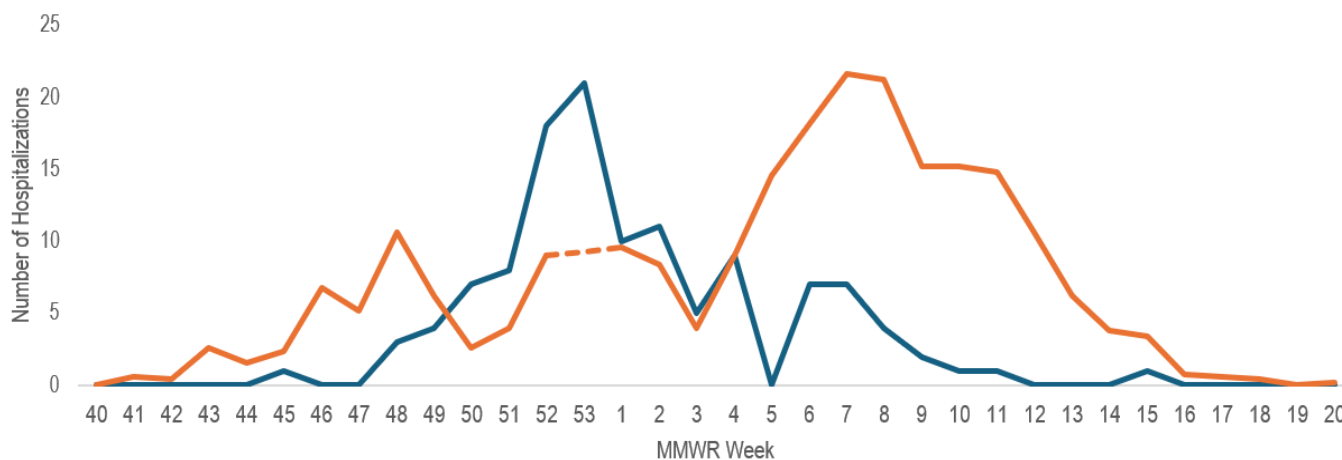


Figure 1: Influenza-associated hospitalizations by MMWR Week* in Clark County, OH for the 2025-2026** flu-season compared to the 5-year average***. Data was queried from ODRS on 7/21/2026.

Half of the Influenza Hospitalizations Occurred Among Adults Aged 65 Years and Older

Percentage of influenza-associated hospitalizations by age group in Clark County, 2025-2026

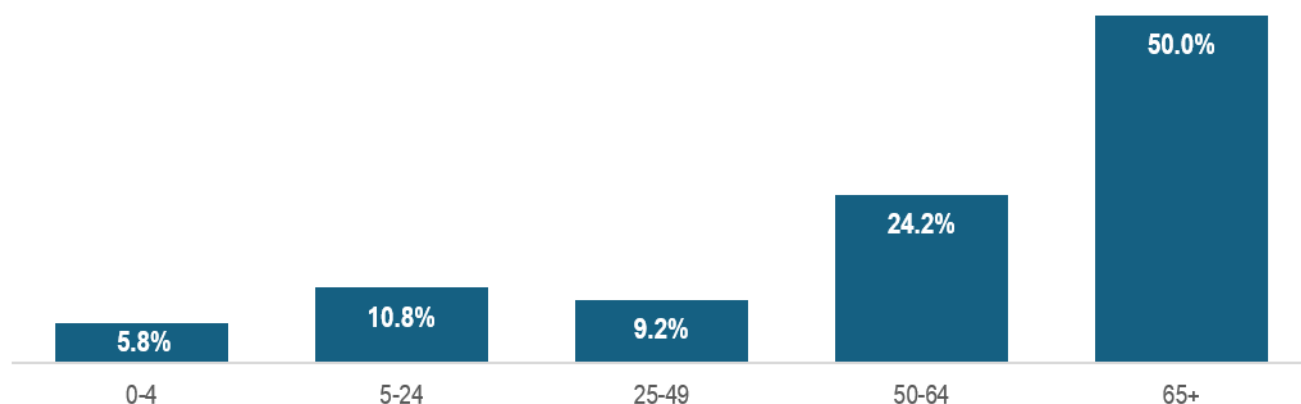


Figure 2: Percentage of influenza-associated hospitalizations by age group in Clark County for 2025-2026**. Data was queried from ODRS on 7/21/2026.

* To account for delays associated with ODH's transition to a new reporting system, MMWR Weeks for the 2025-2026 influenza season were calculated using the event date, defined as the earliest of diagnosis date, illness onset date, date reported, or specimen collection date. Weeks for prior seasons reflect ODH's reported MMWR Week which is based on the date the case was entered into ODRS.

** Data for the 2025-2026 season is preliminary and subject to change.

*** The 5-year average includes data from 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025. The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 flu seasons have been omitted due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also note that the 2025-2026 season includes MMWR Week 53, but the years comprising the 5-year average only contained 52 MMWR Weeks, so there is no 5-year average available for Week 53.

Emergency Department Visits

The percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for fever and influenza-like illness (ILI) and constitutional syndrome were generally below the 5-year average with the exception of a brief one-week spike in Week 52 (late-December) for fever and ILI visits, and a six-week period where constitutional syndrome was above the 5-year average at the same time of the season.

Comparison of ED Visits for Fever and ILI: 2025-2026 Season vs. 5-Year Average

Percentage of weekly ED visits in Clark County for fever and ILI by MMWR Week

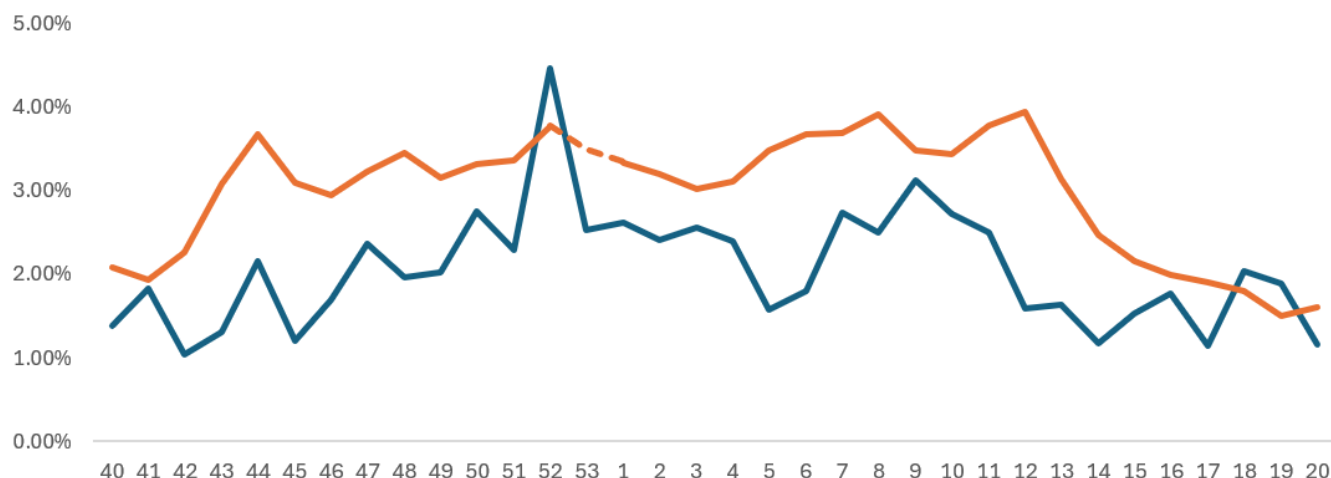


Figure 4: Comparison of the 2025-2026* respiratory season to the 5-year average** of the percentage of visits to the ED for fever and ILI in Clark County. Data queried from EpiCenter Syndromic Surveillance System on 8/20/2026.

Comparison of ED Visits for Constitutional Syndrome: 2025-2026 Season vs. 5-Year Average

Percentage of weekly ED visits in Clark County for constitutional by MMWR Week

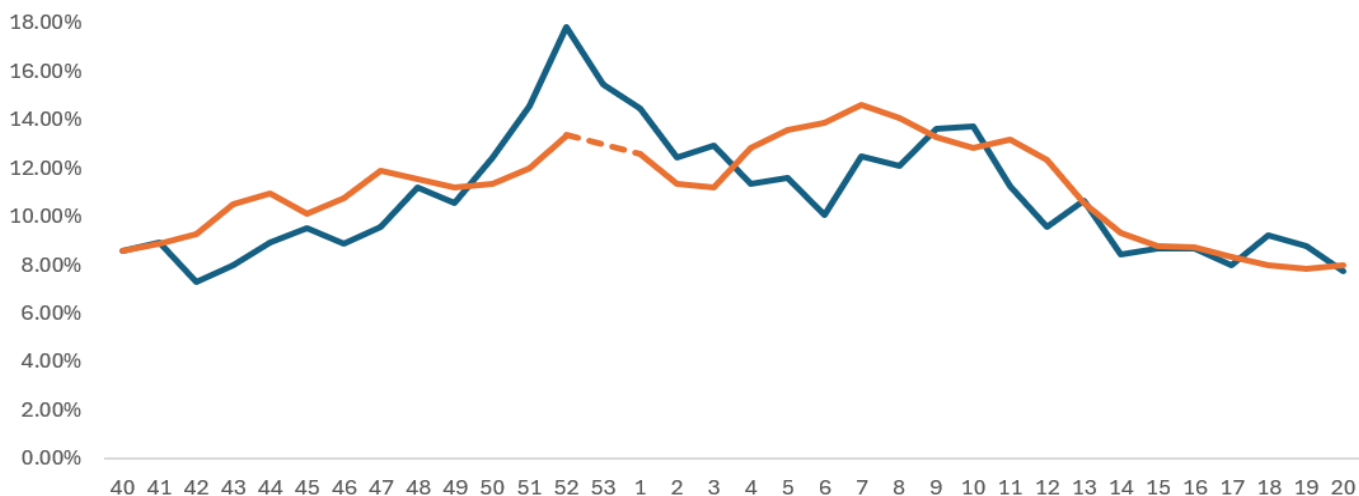


Figure 3: Comparison of the 2025-2026* respiratory season to the 5-year average** of the percentage of visits to the ED for constitutional syndrome in Clark County. Data queried from EpiCenter Syndromic Surveillance System on 8/20/2026.

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** The 5-year average includes data from 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025. The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 flu seasons have been omitted due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also note that the 2025-2026 season includes an MMWR Week 53, but the years that comprise the 5-year average only have 52 MMWR Weeks so there is 5-year average available for Week 53.

COVID-19 and RSV-Associated Hospitalizations

COVID-19 and RSV-associated hospitalizations were added to communicable disease reporting in Ohio on October 1, 2025, which corresponds to the first week of the 2025-2026 respiratory season (MMWR Week 40). In Clark County, COVID-19-associated hospitalizations peaked in Week 51 (mid-December), but hospitalizations continued through the beginning of April (Week 13). These hospitalizations were concentrated in the oldest age group, with over 60% of cases occurring to those 65 years and older. RSV-associated hospitalizations had a much later season than either influenza or COVID-19. RSV hospitalizations reached their peak in Week 7 (mid-February), with hospitalizations continuing until the final week of the season, Week 20 (late-May). The youngest age group was most affected by RSV with over 40% of hospitalized cases occurring in the 4 and under age group.

Weekly COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Peaked at MMWR Week 51 (mid-December)

Count of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations each week in Clark County, OH 2025-2026 Respiratory Season

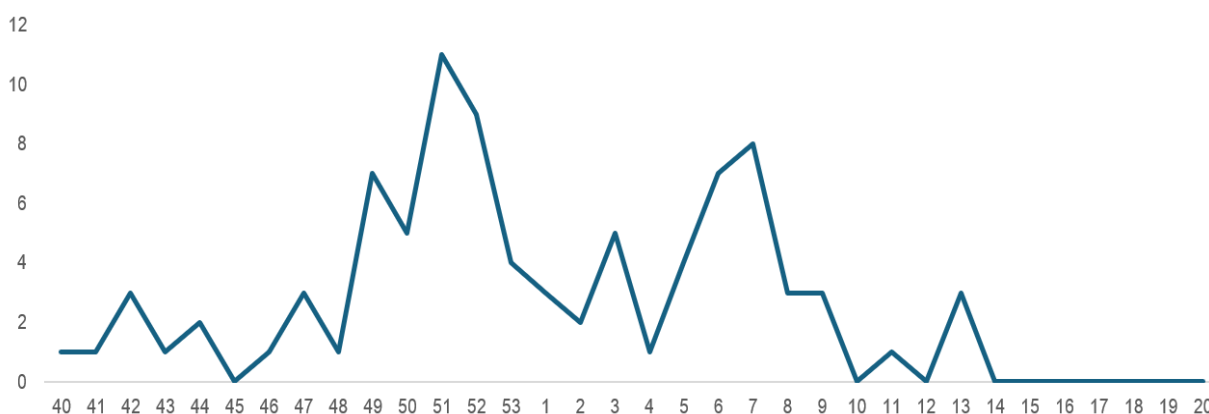


Figure 5: Count by MMWR Week of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations in Clark County, OH for the 2025-2026* respiratory season. Data was queried from REDCap on 7/14/2026.

A Majority of COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Occurred in the 65 and Older Age Group

Percentage of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations in Clark County by age group during the 2025-2026 respiratory season

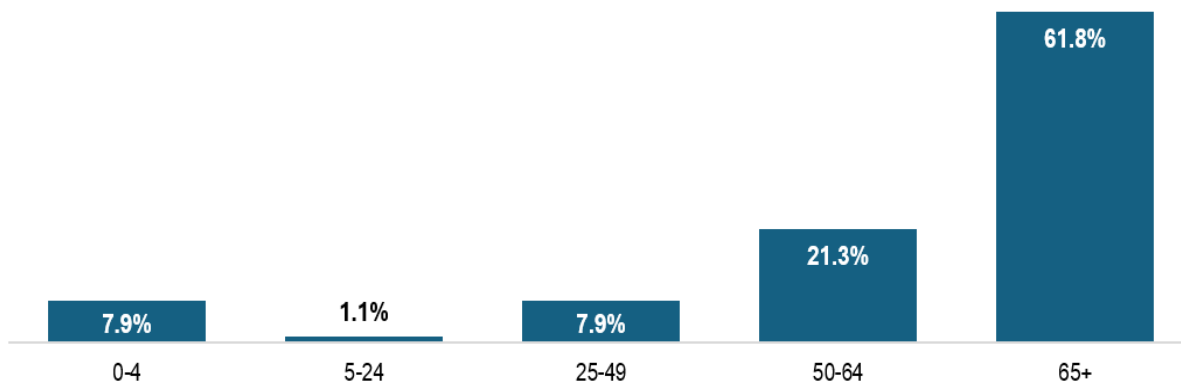


Figure 6: Percentage of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations in Clark County by age group during the 2025-2026* respiratory season. Data was queried from REDCap 7/14/2026.

Weekly RSV-associated hospitalizations peaked at MMWR Week 7 (mid-February)

Count of RSV-associated hospitalizations each week in Clark County, OH 2025-2026 respiratory season

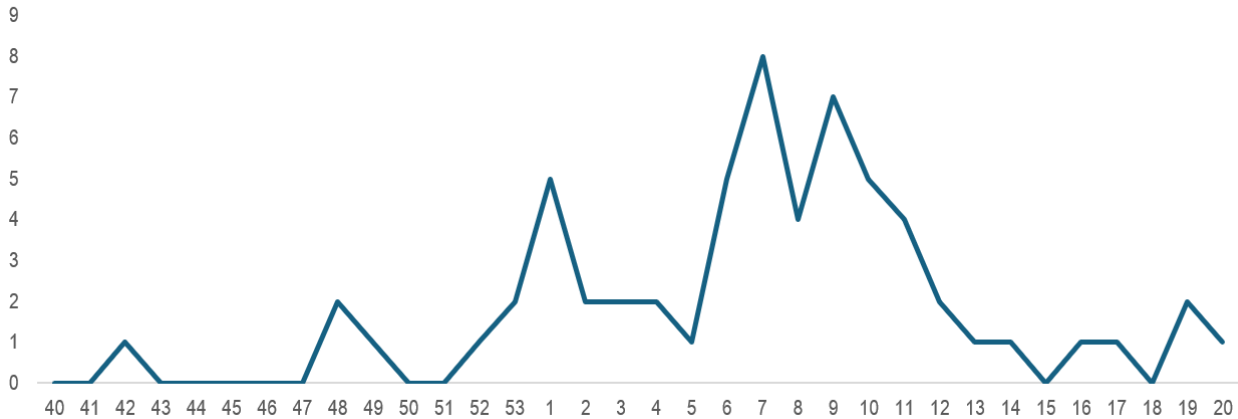


Figure 7: Count by MMWR Week of RSV-associated hospitalizations in Clark County, OH for the 2025-2026* respiratory season. Data queried from REDCap on 7/14/2026.

RSV-Associated Hospitalizations were Concentrated in the Youngest and Oldest Age Groups

Percentage of RSV-associated hospitalizations in Clark County by age group during the 2025-2026 respiratory season

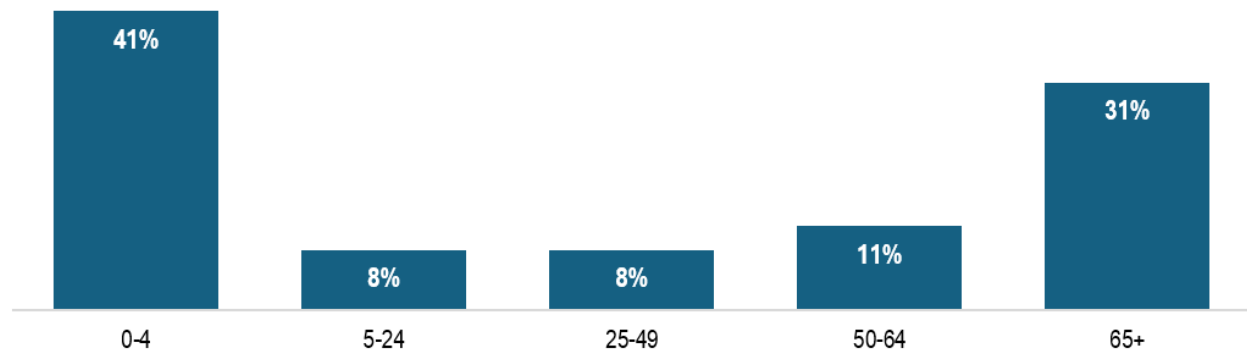


Figure 8: Percentage of RSV-associated hospitalizations in Clark County by age group during the 2025-2026* respiratory season. Data was queried from REDCap on 7/21/2026.

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