



Main Office
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Clark County Combined Health District- Health Advisory
Increase of 3 Respiratory Illnesses
November 2, 2022

The Clark County Combined Health District (CCCHD) has noticed an increase of 3 respiratory related illnesses. Influenza associated hospitalizations and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) have increased since the beginning of October. Additionally, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib) has increased in 2022 compared to other years. Please consider broader testing for influenza, RSV and Hib among patients presenting with acute respiratory illness as the symptoms are generally the same.

Please note the most common testing methods for Hib use a sample of blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). It is best practice to use PCR for diagnosis, but culture and antigen test are acceptable.

1. Influenza Associated Hospitalizations

Influenza hospitalizations are unseasonably high from MMWR Week 40 through MMWR Week 43 (10/2/2022-10/29/2022) (Figure 1). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted early increases in seasonal influenza activity across the country.

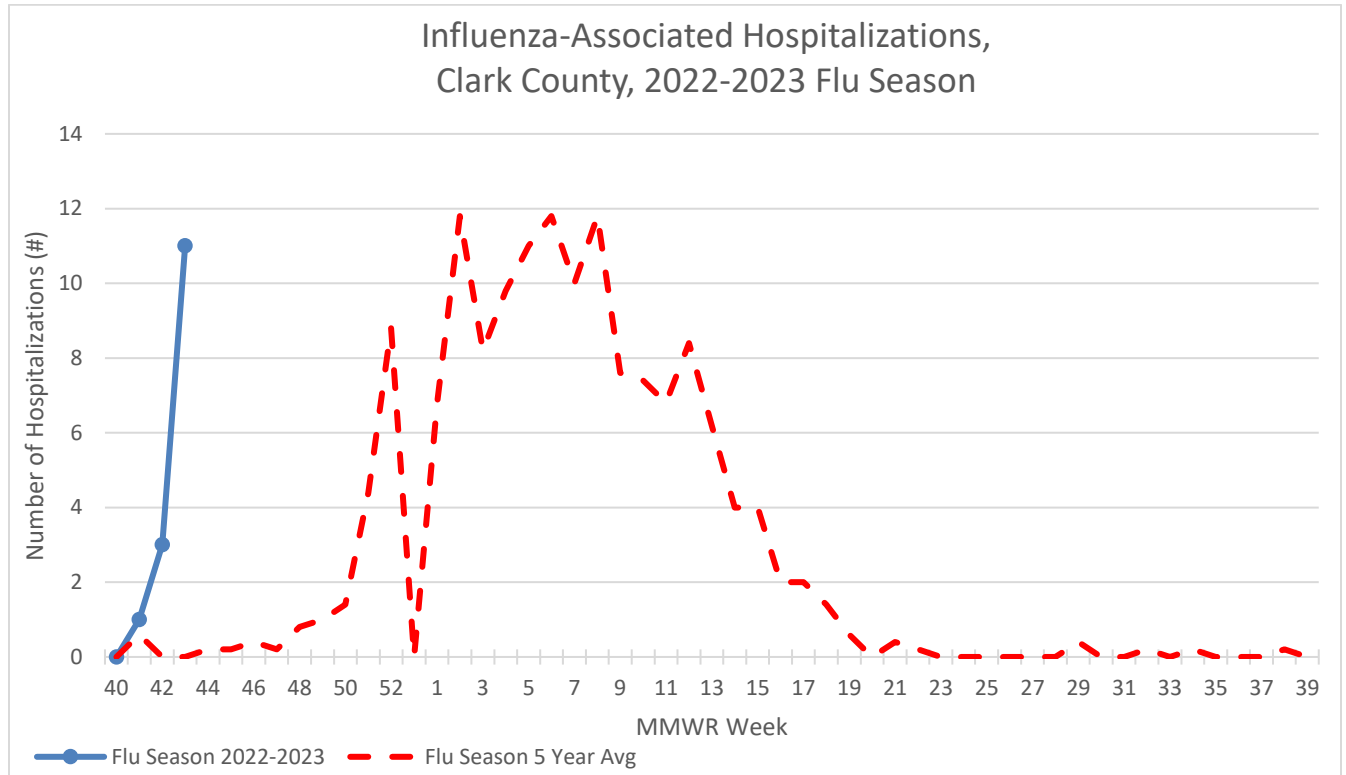


Figure 1 Influenza-associated Hospitalizations in Clark County, OH; 2022-2023 flu season compared to 5-year average. Data queried from Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) Data Extract on 10/31/2022.

2. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV began to increase in May of 2022 in Ohio with a steep increase in cases at the end of September (Figure 2). Further RSV surveillance for Ohio can be found at the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS).



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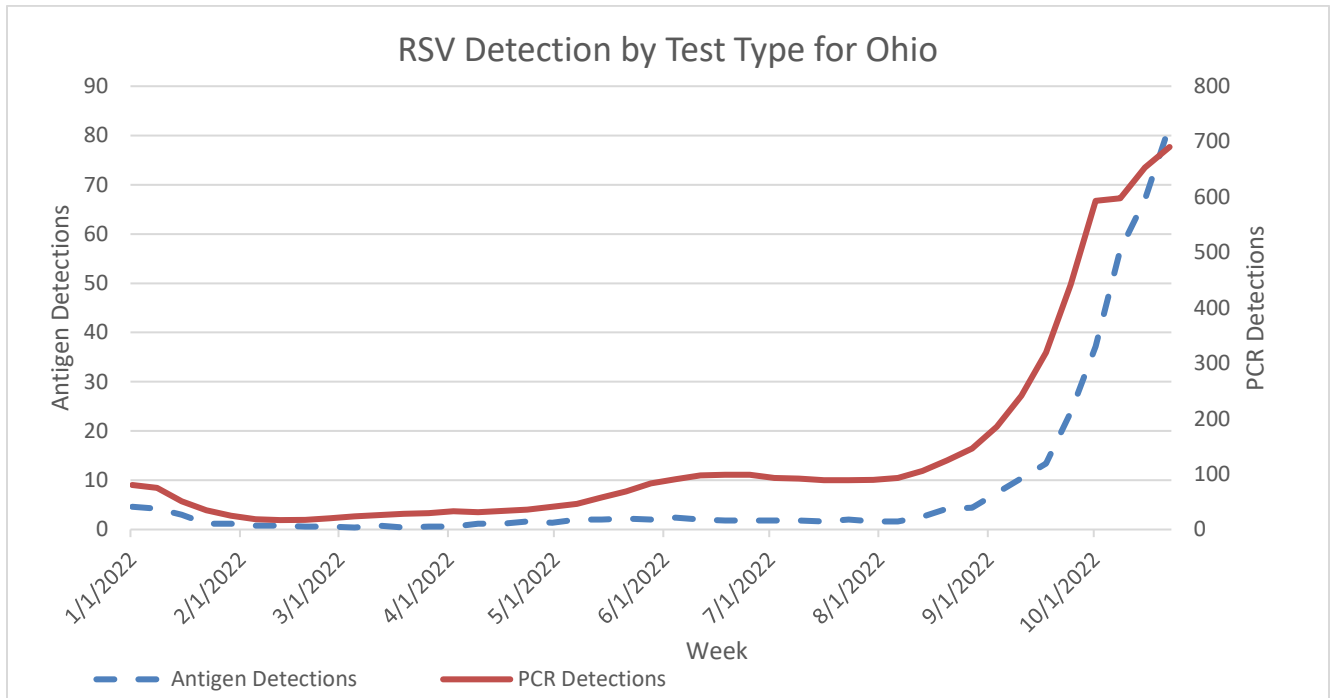


Figure 2 RSV detection by test type, Antigen and PCR tests, for Ohio, 2022.

3. Haemophilus influenzae, invasive disease (Hib)

Haemophilus influenzae (Hib) cases have increased 150% from 2017 to 2022 (date as of 10/31/2022) in Clark County (Figure 3). Majority of 2022 cases (90.0%) are adults, 18 years or older.

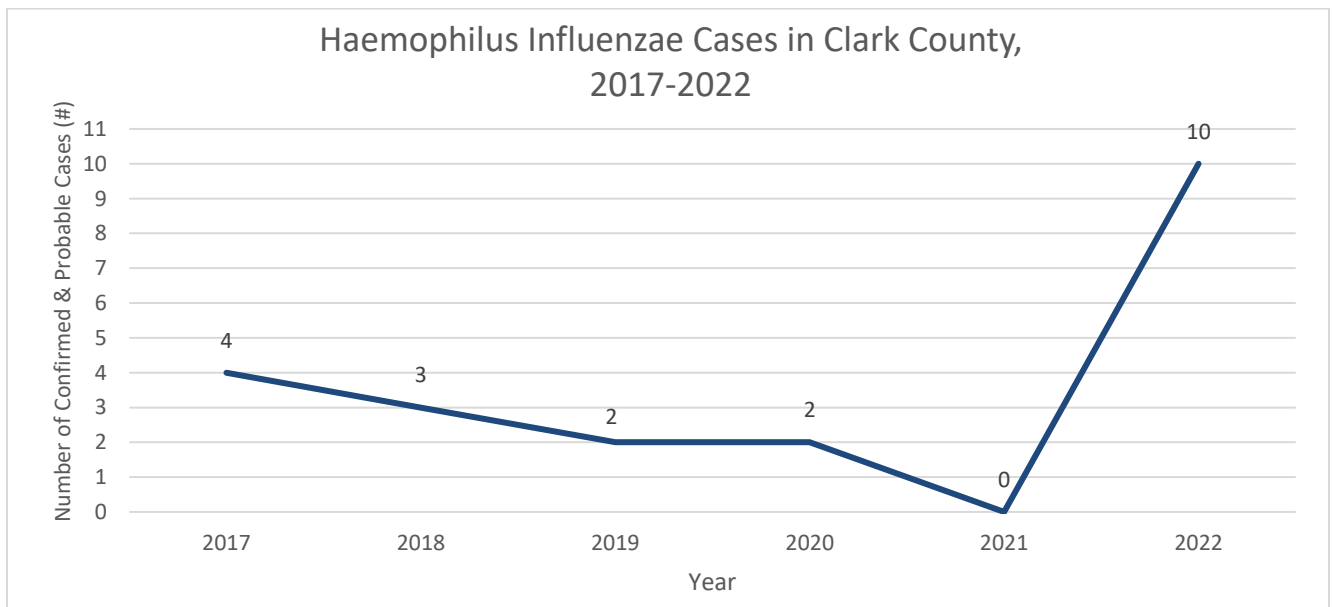


Figure 2 Haemophilus influenzae, invasive disease (Hib) confirmed and probable cases in Clark County from 2017 through October 31st 2022. Data queried from Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) Data Extract on 11/1/2022.



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Recommendations:

1. Encourage all who have not yet received the influenza vaccine this season to get vaccinated.
2. Encourage all parents/guardians to vaccinate their children for Hib.
3. Clinicians should consider testing patients with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test and acute respiratory illness for non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory pathogens, such as Influenza, RSV and Hib, as the symptoms are generally the same for these respiratory illnesses.
4. Clinicians should report laboratory-confirmed Hospitalized Influenza cases to local and state health departments according to their routine reporting requirements.
5. Healthcare personnel, childcare providers, and staff of long-term care facilities should avoid reporting to work while acutely ill – even if they test negative for SARS-CoV-2.

For More Information

- [ODH Flu Activity](#)
- [Clark County Flu Reports](#)
- [Clark County Communicable Disease Reports](#)
- [The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System \(NREVSS\)](#)

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Alert Details

Date: 11/2/2022

Time Sensitivity: Immediate

To: Medical offices, Urgent Cares, Clinics, Hospitals, Laboratories and ICPs

Target Audience: Physicians, PA, NP, Nurses, Medical Staff, ICP staff, and Laboratorians

Subject: Increased Influenza Hospitalizations

Relevance to Public Health: High Concern

