

# Milwaukee Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update

## MMWR Week 17, Ending April 26, 2025

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## Respiratory Illnesses In the News

HHS to require placebo testing of 'all new vaccines,' raising questions about approval of updated COVID-19 shots: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/30/health/hhs-vaccine-placebo-testing>

12 more children die of flu, reaching new season high for a nonpandemic year: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/influenza-general/cdc-12-more-children-die-flu-reaching-new-season-high-nonpandemic-year>

### Overview

#### County

- There were 2 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported in Milwaukee County during the week ending on April 26, 2025. From September 29, 2024 through April 26, 2025, there have been 1187 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County (805 City of Milwaukee residents).

#### State

- Statewide influenza-like illness activity is low.
- Influenza and RSV activity levels are low based on emergency department, laboratory testing, and wastewater data. COVID-19 activity is minimal.
- Influenza B makes up >80% of influenza currently circulating based on laboratory detections.

#### National

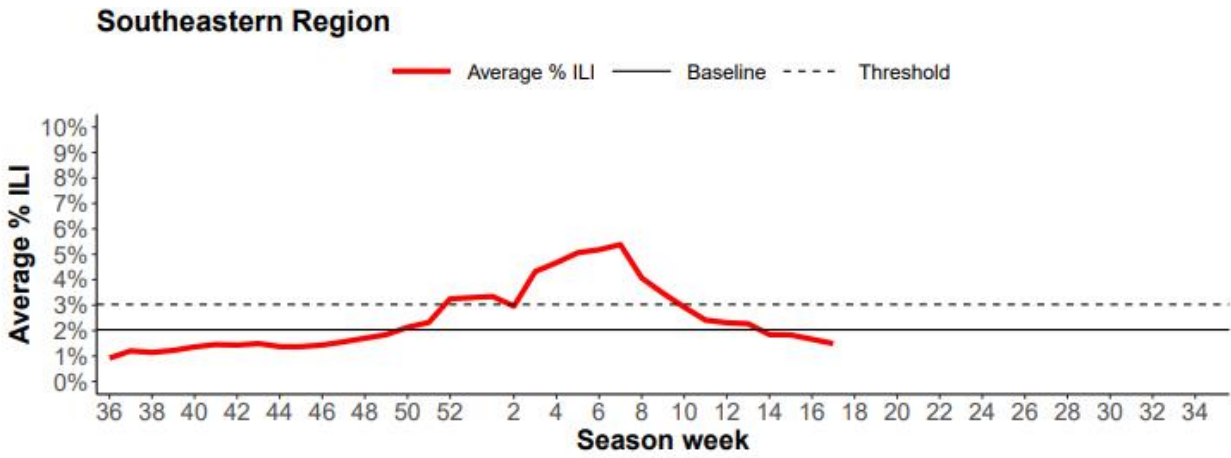
- Seasonal influenza continues to decline. This week 0 jurisdiction experienced moderate influenza activity and 0 jurisdictions experienced high or very high activity.
- 12 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurred during this week.
- Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), and B were the predominant viruses this week.

#### CDC Pediatric Data (Since Week 40)

2024-25 To Date: Total Deaths	2023-24 To Date: Total Deaths	Pediatric Deaths This Week	Notes on Deaths
216	207	12	Twelve influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2024-2025 season were reported to CDC during Week 17. The deaths occurred between weeks 5 (the week ending February 1, 2025) and 16 (the week ending April 19, 2025). Ten deaths were associated with influenza A viruses. Eight of the influenza A viruses had subtyping performed; four were A(H1N1) viruses and four were A(H3N2) viruses. Two deaths were associated with influenza B viruses with no lineage determined. A total of 216 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2024-2025 season have been reported to CDC. This number of pediatric deaths exceeds the previous high reported for a regular (non-pandemic) flu season. The previous high of 207 deaths was reported during the 2023-2024 flu season.

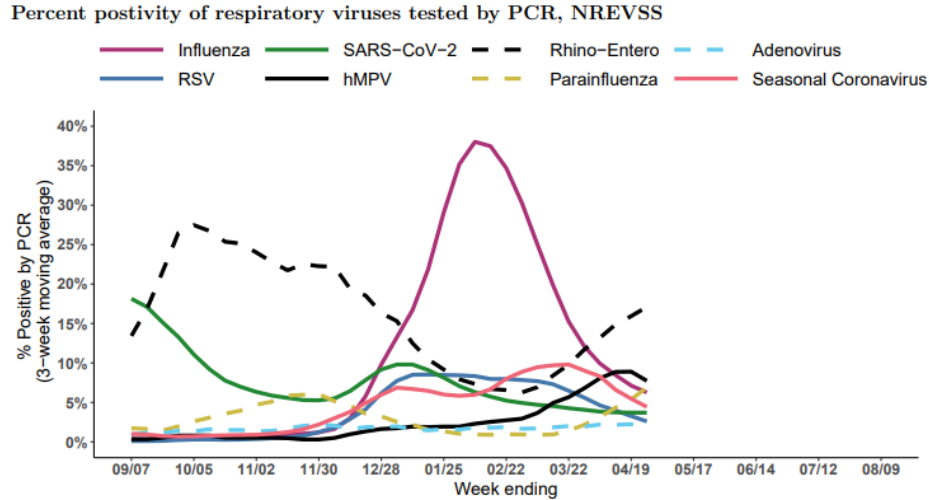
## Statewide and Regional Influenza Activity

Influenza-like illness levels were below baseline statewide and below baseline in the southeastern region of the state.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, April 26, 2025

## Respiratory Virus Laboratory Surveillance



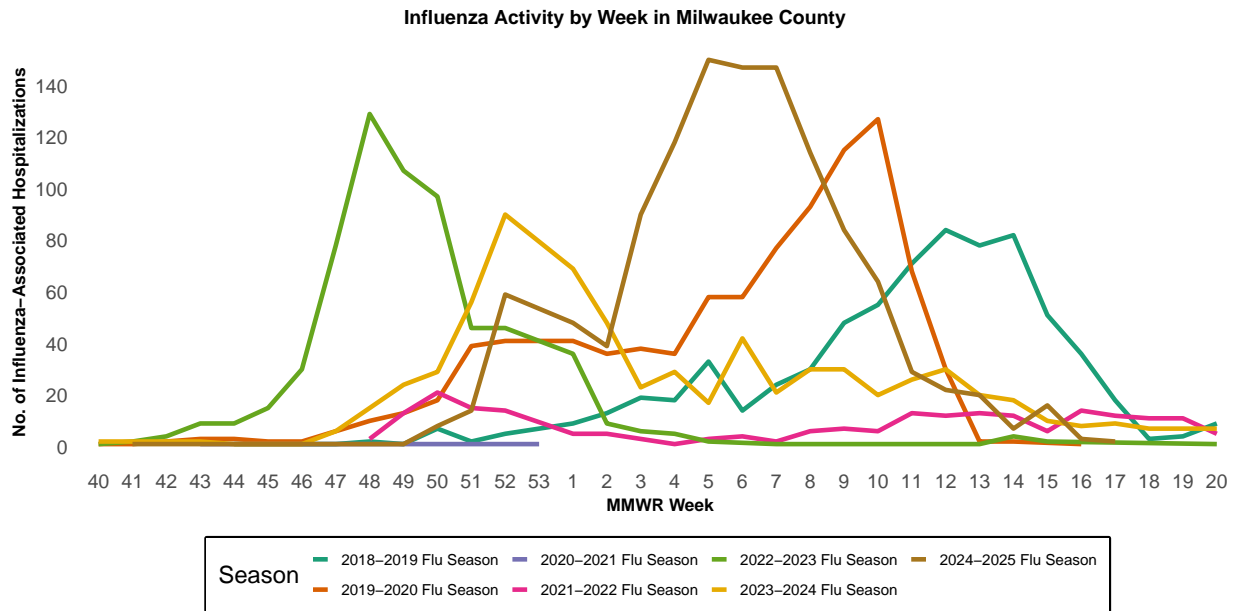
RSV = respiratory syncytial virus, hMPV = human metapneumovirus

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, April 26, 2025

## Milwaukee County Influenza Activity

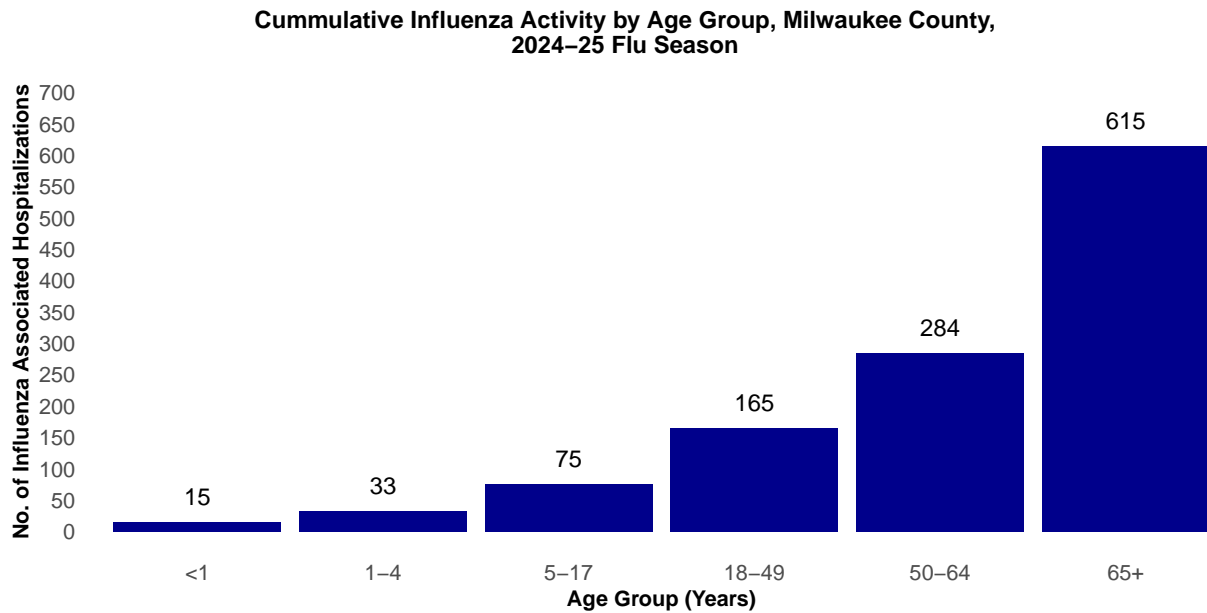
From September 29, 2024 through April 26, 2025 there have been 1187 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County.

### Milwaukee County Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations



\*Flu activity was unusually low in the 2020-2021 flu season, despite high levels of testing. COVID-19 mitigation measures such as wearing face masks, social distancing, staying home, and school closures, in addition to flu vaccination, likely contributed to the low flu activity during this season.

### Milwaukee County Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group MMWR Week 40, 2024 through Week 17, 2024

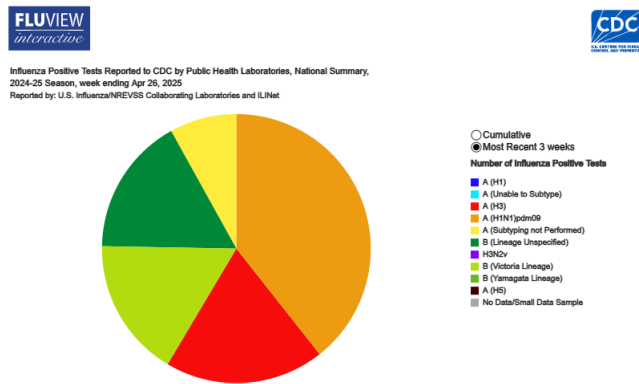


## Influenza Testing Data

### Public Health Laboratory Influenza Testing Data To-Date (Since Week 40)

Lab	Number Tested to date	Number Positive to date	Most Recent Week Percent Positive	Predominant A Subtype and Strain	Predominant B Strain	Predominant Type (A or B)
CDC	3,197,184	478,429	2,722/59,431 (4.6%)	(H1N1)pdm09	Victoria	B
WSLH	-	-	486/8,755 (5.6%)	Unknown	Unknown	B
MHDL	3	0	0/3 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A

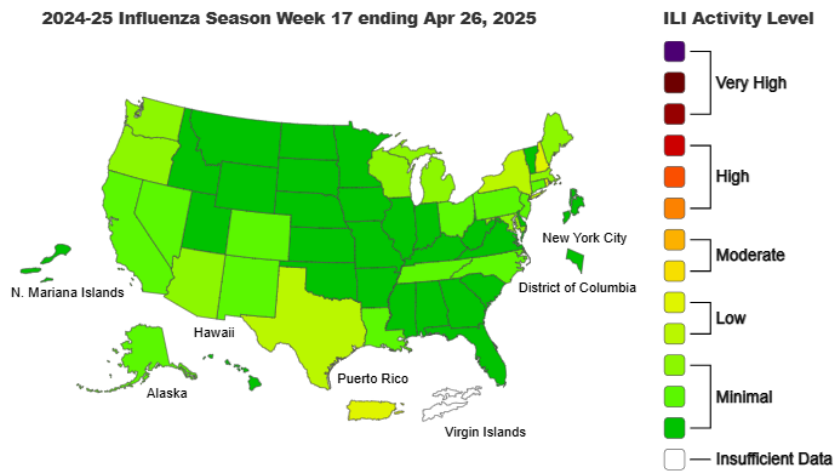
### National Influenza Testing Data, CDC FluView



<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html> accessed

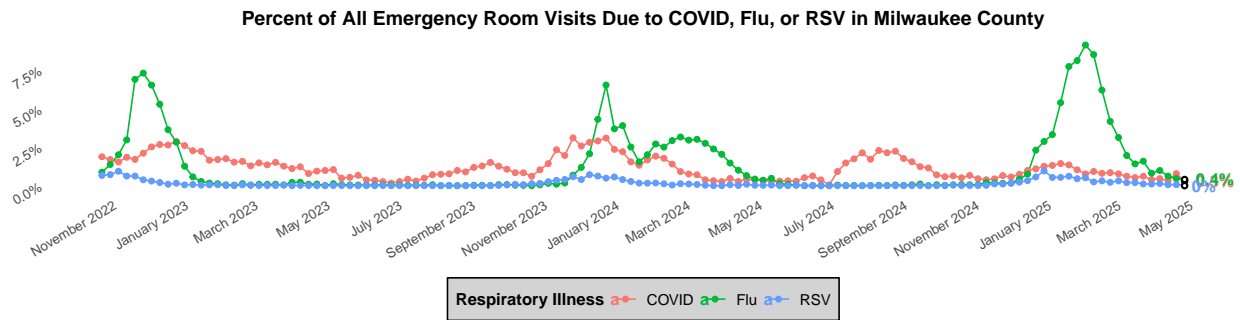
## National Influenza Activity

### Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity Map, CDC FluView



<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#MS2> accessed

## Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits in Milwaukee County



## Respiratory Illness Immunization Rates of Milwaukee County Residents, 2024-2025 Season

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Immunization Program has dashboards for statewide and county specific immunization rates for influenza vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccinations, and both infant and adult RSV vaccinations. Each immunization dashboard contains demographic data for people receiving vaccines.

To access these dashboards:

- COVID-19: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/covid-19-vaccine-data.htm>
- Influenza: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/influenza.htm>
- RSV: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/rsv-vaccine-data.htm>

COVID-19 and RSV dashboards are updated weekly year-round and the influenza dashboard is updated weekly during the flu season.

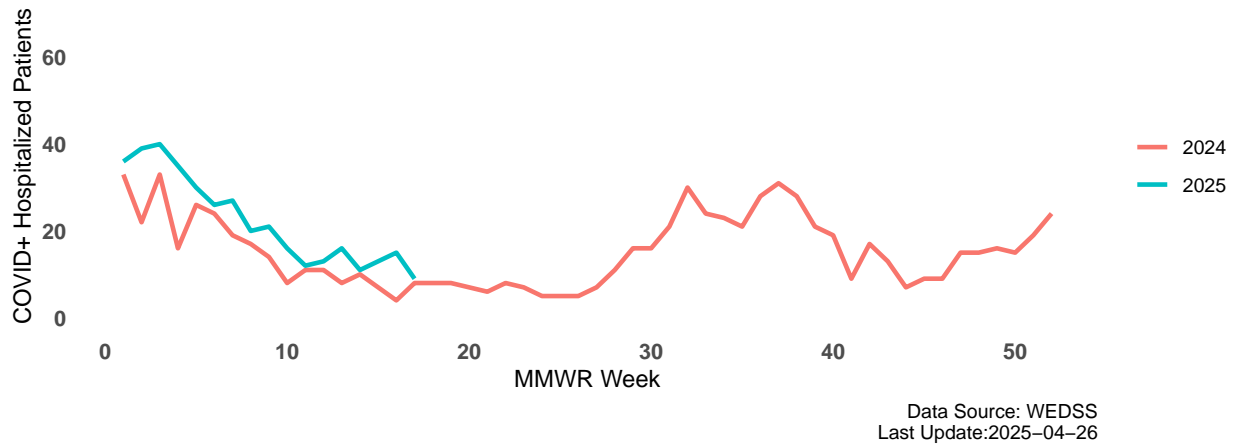
### Influenza Vaccine Composition 2024-2025 Influenza Season

All standard-dose flu shots will be a trivalent formulation. The trivalent vaccines for use in the 2024-2025 influenza season contain the following:

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus

## COVID-19 Activity

### Hospitalized Patients that are COVID-19 Positive Timeline, Milwaukee County

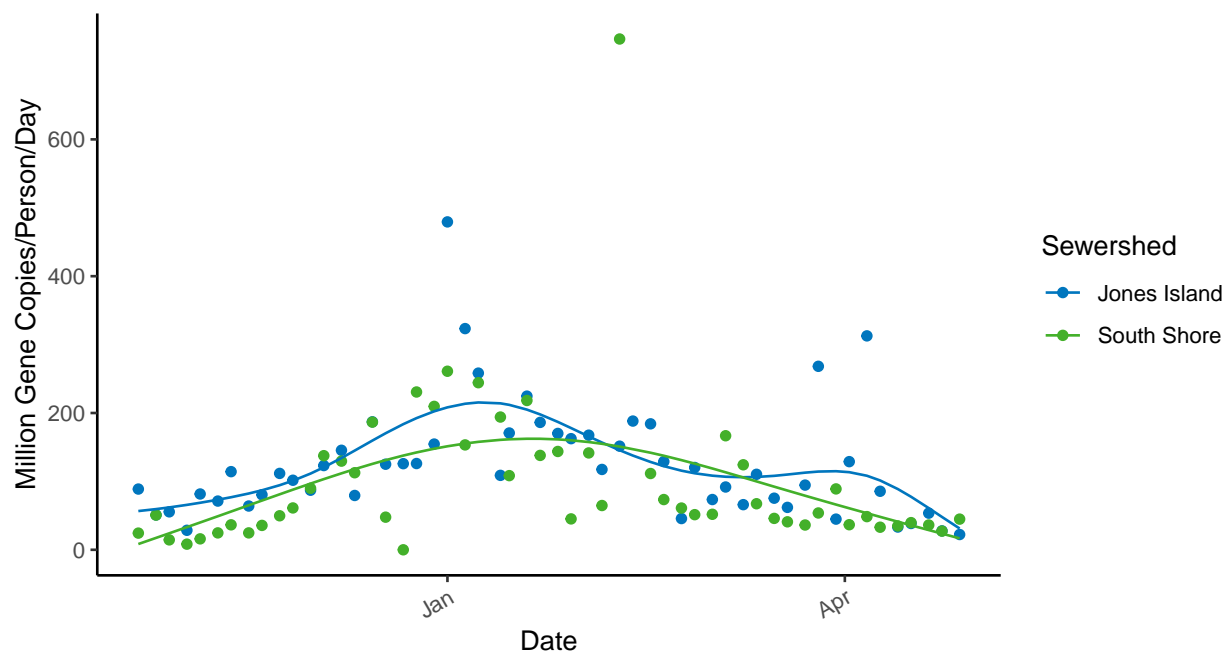


## Wastewater Disease Surveillance - Respiratory Illnesses

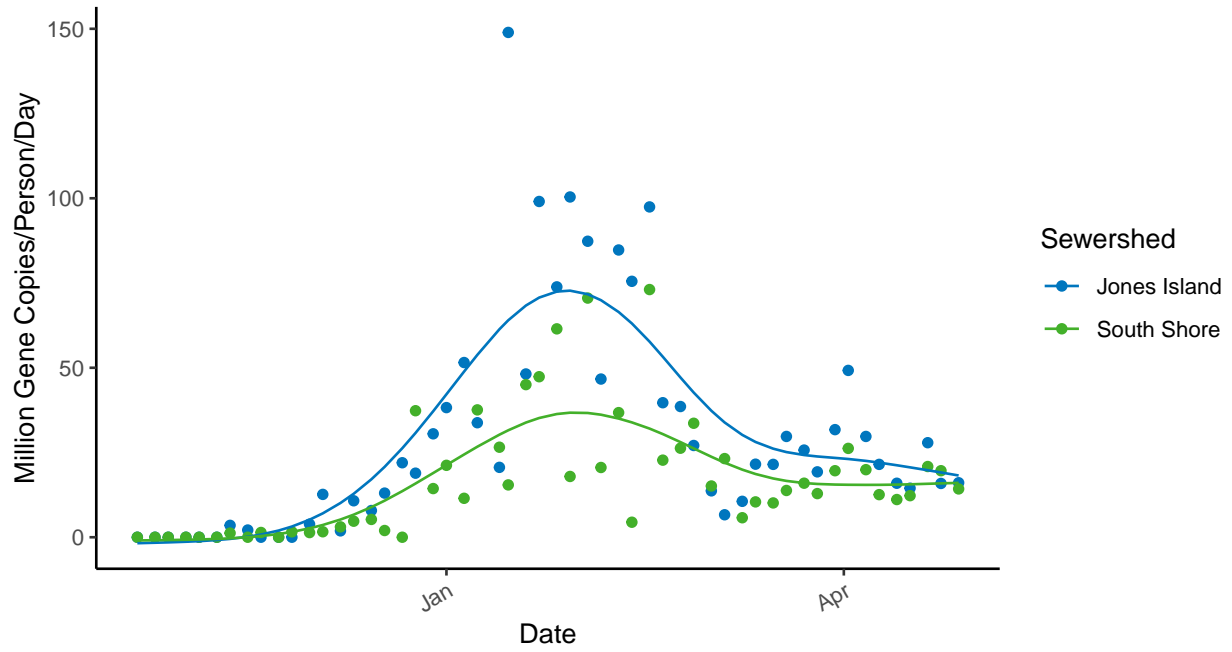
Wastewater disease surveillance is a powerful tool that detects illness before people start to show symptoms. MHD Laboratory does routine disease surveillance from wastewater samples at Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Districts collection points, Jones Island and South Shore. Samples are taken twice weekly at each site. Wastewater disease surveillance can detect a wide variety of illnesses. At MHD, we test for COVID-19, influenza A, influenza B, and RSV respiratory pathogens.

When interpreting wastewater surveillance data, the trend is the most important indicator of disease level in the population. Each of the plots below include a spline that represents the trend of illnesses.

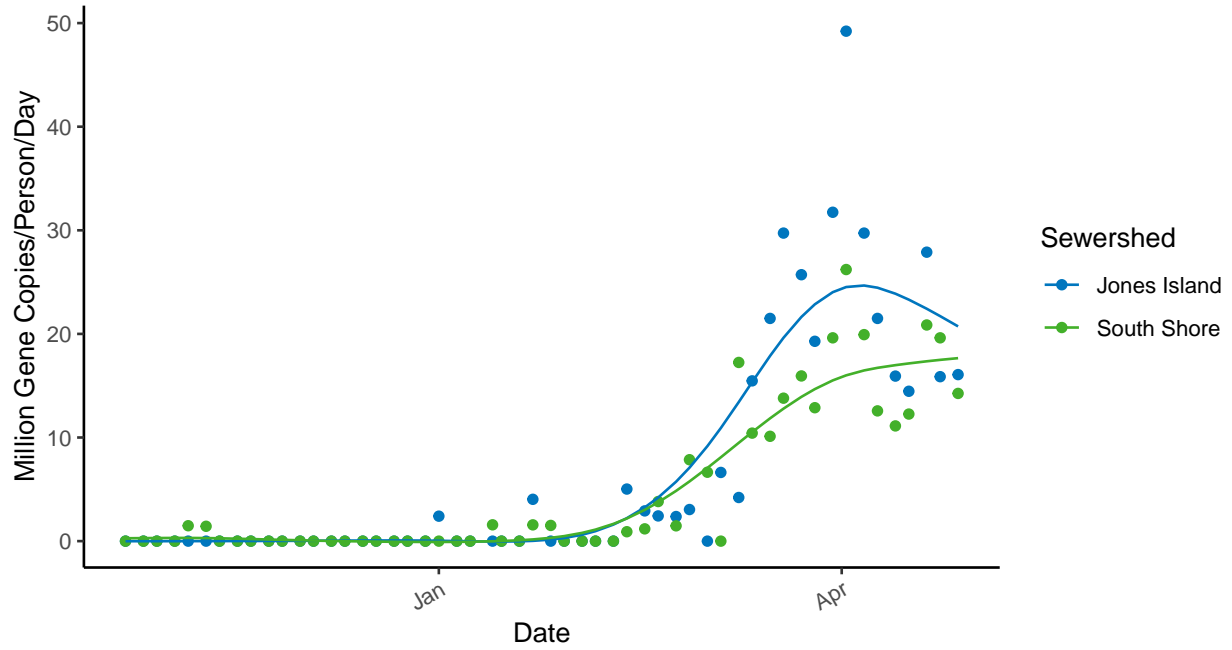
### COVID-19 Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



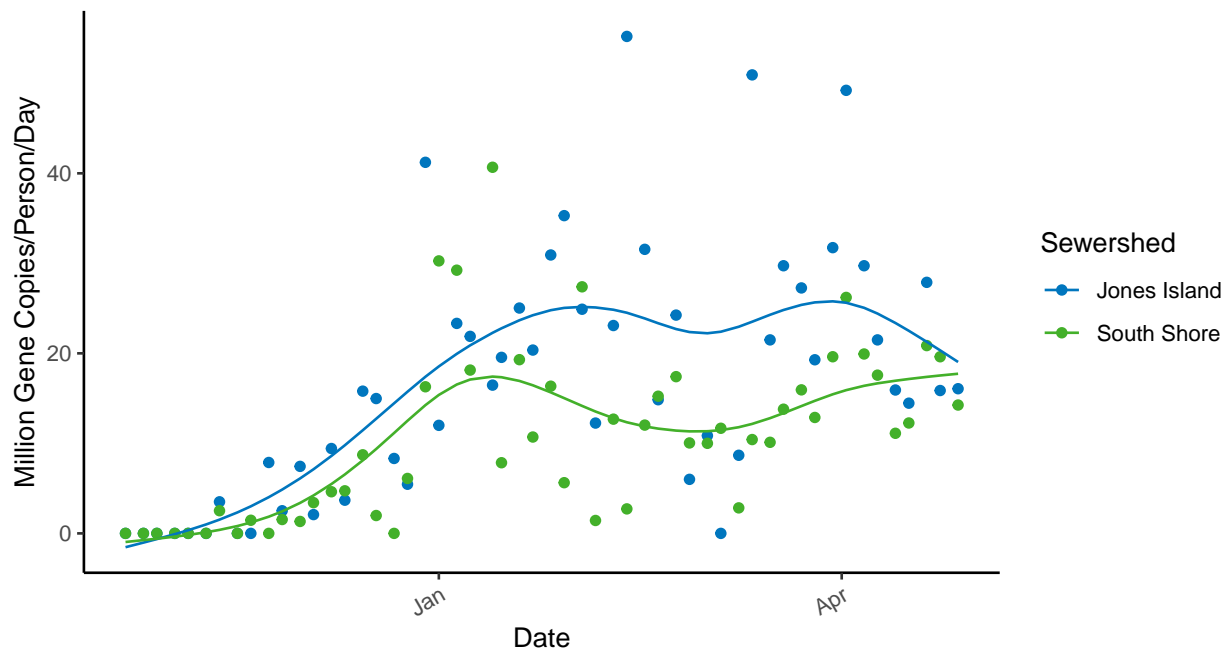
Flu A Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



Flu B Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



### RSV Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



To see more interactive wastewater surveillance data, visit the MHD respiratory illness dashboard at <https://milwaukee.gov/wastewater>.

**Have feedback on the Milwaukee Respiratory Illness Report?** Send an email with the subject line "User Feedback" to [SURVNET@milwaukee.gov](mailto:SURVNET@milwaukee.gov).