

# Milwaukee Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update

## MMWR Week 5, Ending February 1, 2025

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## Respiratory Illnesses In the News

Milwaukee County Zoo closes aviary after hundreds of dead birds found along Lake Michigan: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/life/2025/02/06/milwaukee-county-zoo-closes-aviary-over-concerns-about-bird-blue/78291385007/>

Related: Hundreds of cusk found sick or dead along Lake Michigan as outbreak of H5N1 bird flu hits Chicago area: <https://wgntv.com/news/chicago-news/hundreds-of-ducks-found-sick-or-dead-of-suspected-bird-flu-along-lake-michigan-local-conservation-group-reports/>

Follow Wisconsin DATCP HPAI in Poultry investigations: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/HPAIWisconsin.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HPAIWisconsin.aspx)

## Overview

### County

- There were 82 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported in Milwaukee County during the week ending on February 1, 2025. From September 29, 2024 through February 1, 2025, there have been 294 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County (193 City of Milwaukee residents).

### State

- Statewide influenza-like illness activity is very high.
- Influenza activity is very high and increasing based on emergency department, laboratory testing, and wastewater data.
- RSV activity is high and increasing particularly in children under 5. COVID-19 activity is low.

### National

\_\_\_Update: National influenza data is now available. For weeks 3 and 4 of 2025, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/index.html>.\_\_\_

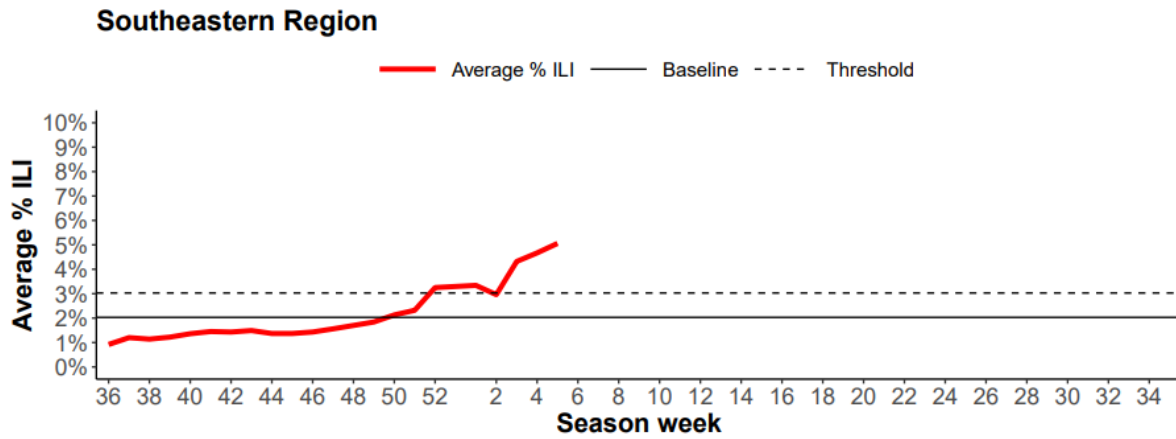
- Seasonal influenza remains elevated and continues to increase across most of the country. This week 2 jurisdiction experienced moderate influenza activity and 45 jurisdictions experienced high or very high activity.
- 10 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurred during this week.
- Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) 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
57	207	10	Ten influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2024-2025 season were reported to CDC during Week 5. The deaths occurred between Week 52 of 2024 (the week ending December 28, 2024) and Week 5 of 2025 (the week ending February 1, 2025). Eight deaths were associated with influenza A viruses. Seven of the influenza A viruses had subtyping performed; four were A(H1N1) viruses and three were A(H3N2) viruses. Two deaths were associated with influenza B viruses with no lineage determined. A total of 57 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2024-2025 season have been reported to CDC.

## Statewide and Regional Influenza Activity

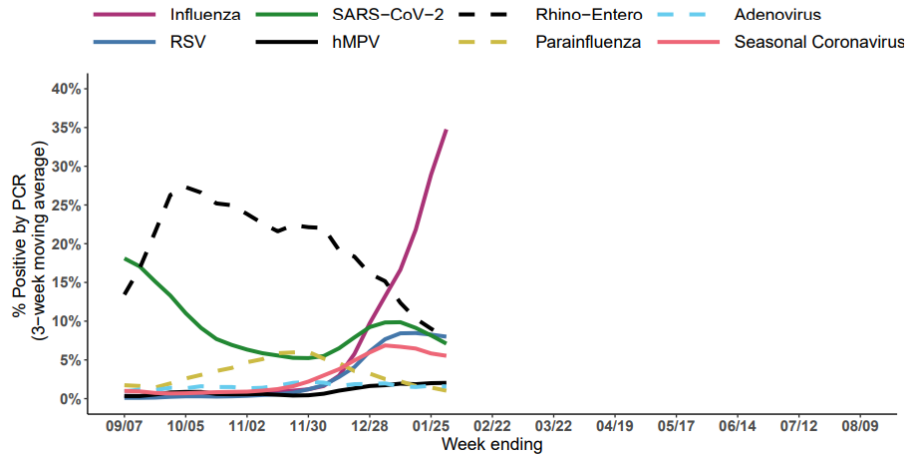
Influenza-like illness levels were above baseline statewide and above baseline in the southeastern region of the state.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, February 1, 2025

## Respiratory Virus Laboratory Surveillance

Percent positivity of respiratory viruses tested by PCR, NREVSS



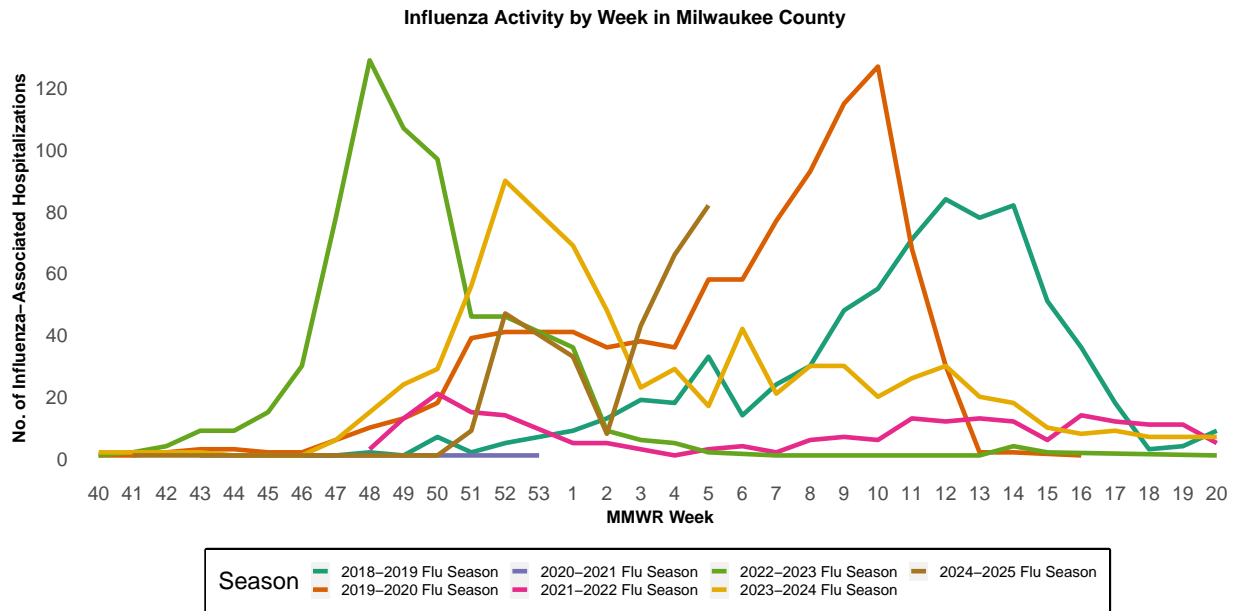
RSV = respiratory syncytial virus, hMPV = human metapneumovirus

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, February 1, 2025

## Milwaukee County Influenza Activity

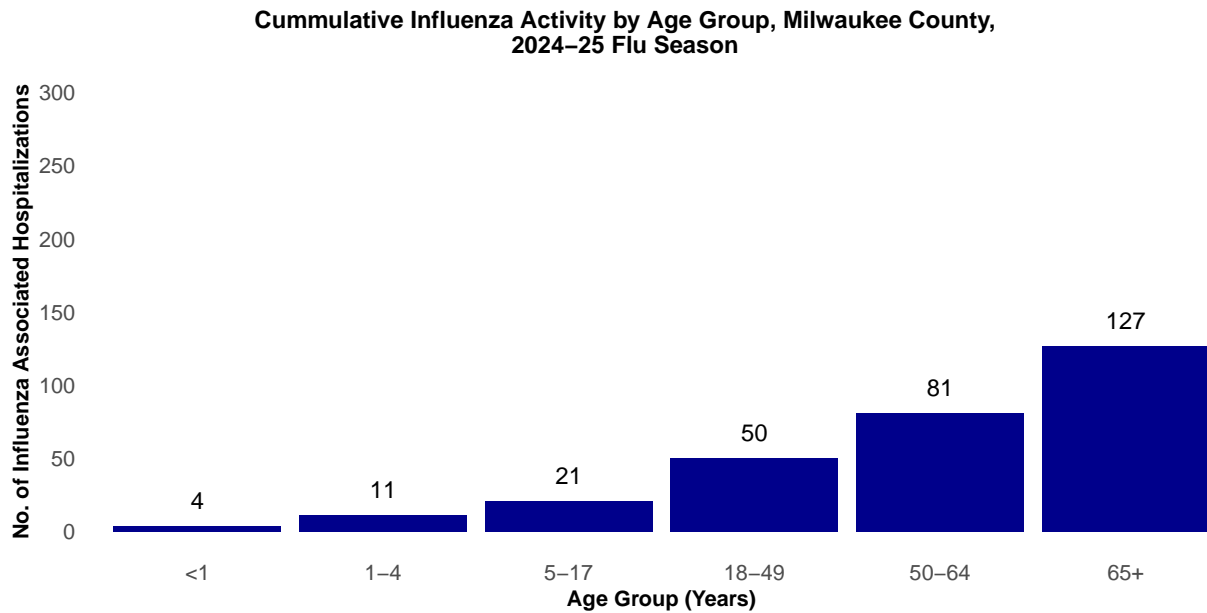
From September 29, 2024 through February 1, 2025 there have been 294 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County.

### 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 5, 2024

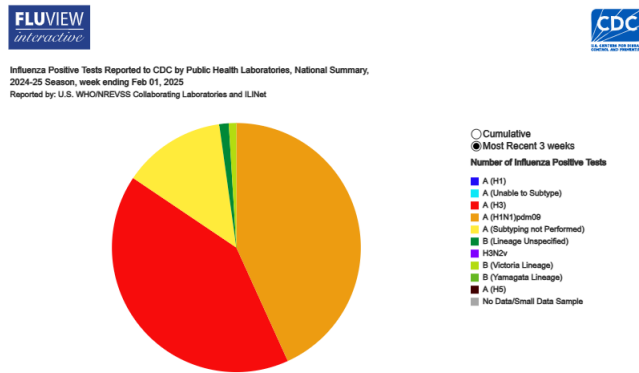


## Influenza Testing Data

### 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	1,840,292	236,204	47,004/148,747 (31.6%)	(H1N1)pdm09	Victoria	A
WSLH	-	-	7,688/20,382 (37.7%)	Unknown	Unknown	A
MHDL	8	4	48/65 (50%)	N/A	N/A	A

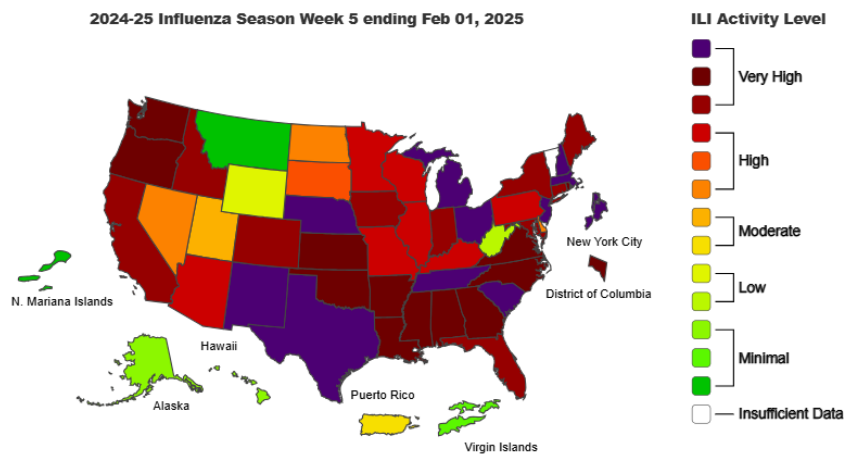
### National Influenza Testing Data, CDC FluView



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

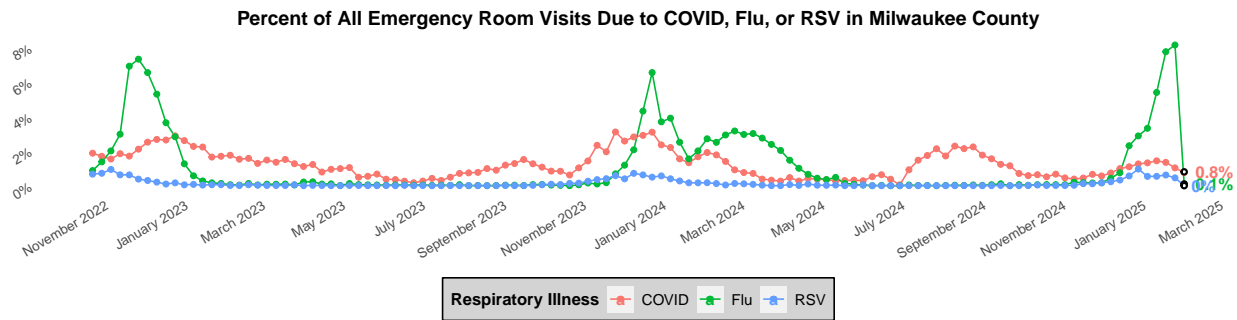
## National Influenza Activity

### 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>

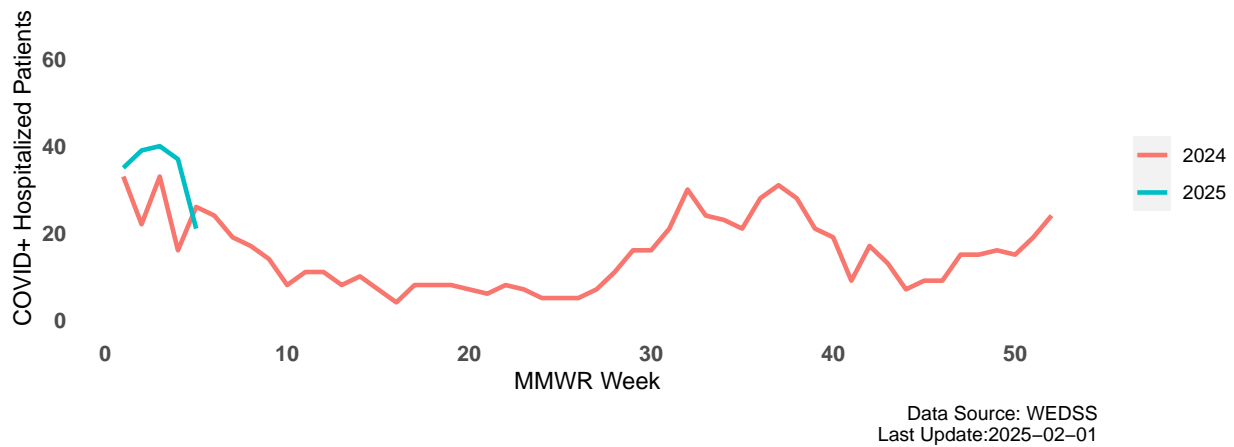
COVID-19 and RSV dashboards are updated weekly year-round and the influenza dashboard is updated weekly during the flu season.

**Influenza Vaccine Composition 2022-2023 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



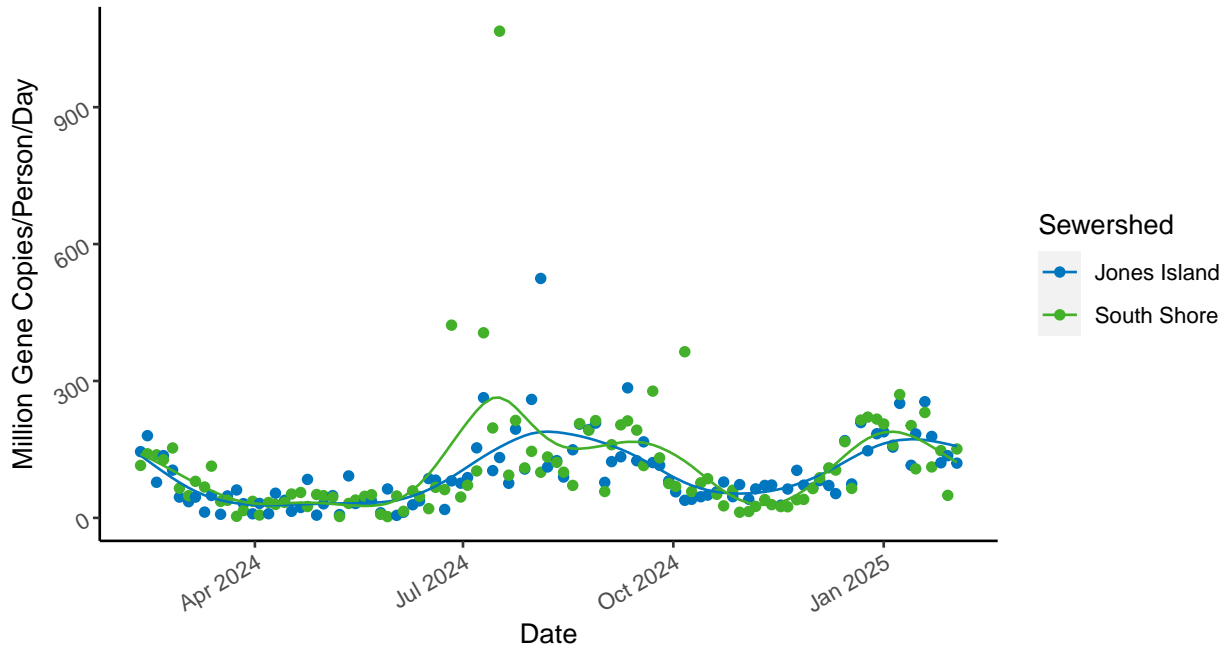
## Wastewater Disease Surveillance - Respiratory Illnesses

**Data disclaimer: wastewater data for Flu A in previous respiratory reports experienced a calculation issue. This calculation has been corrected as of 1/24/2025. Please refer to Flu A data from this issue of the respiratory illness report or our dashboard.**

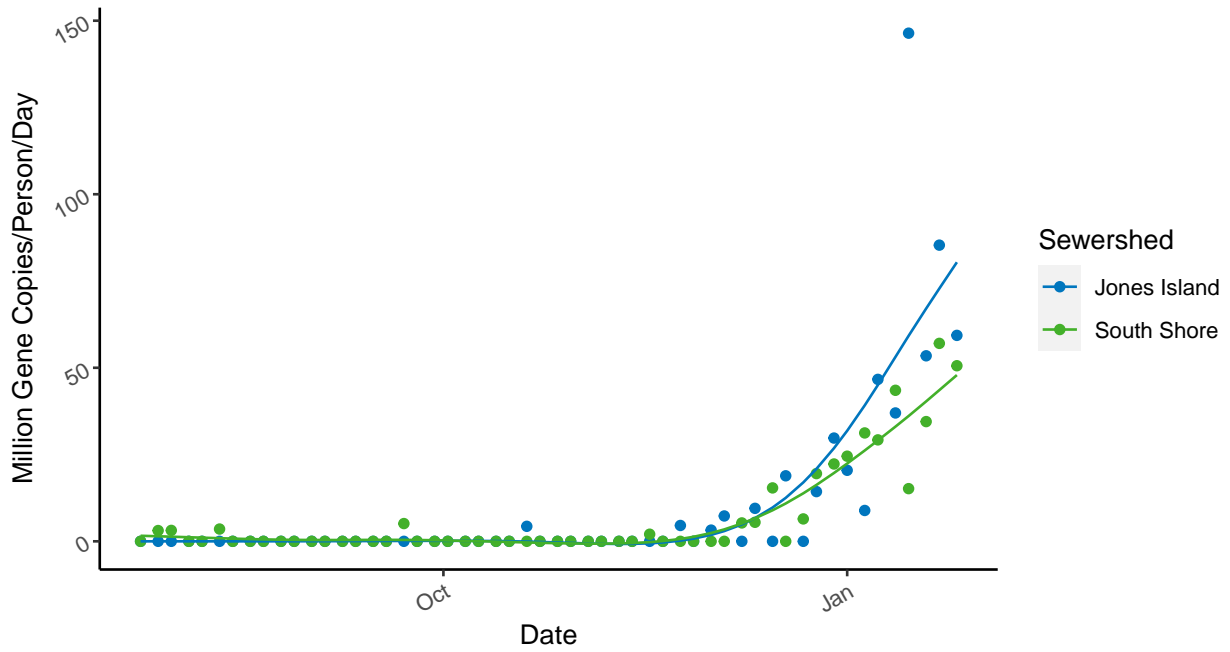
Wastewater disease surveillance is a powerful tool that detects illness before people start to show symptoms. MHD Laboratory does routine disease surveillance from wastewater samples at Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Districts collection points, Jones Island and South Shore. Samples are taken twice 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.

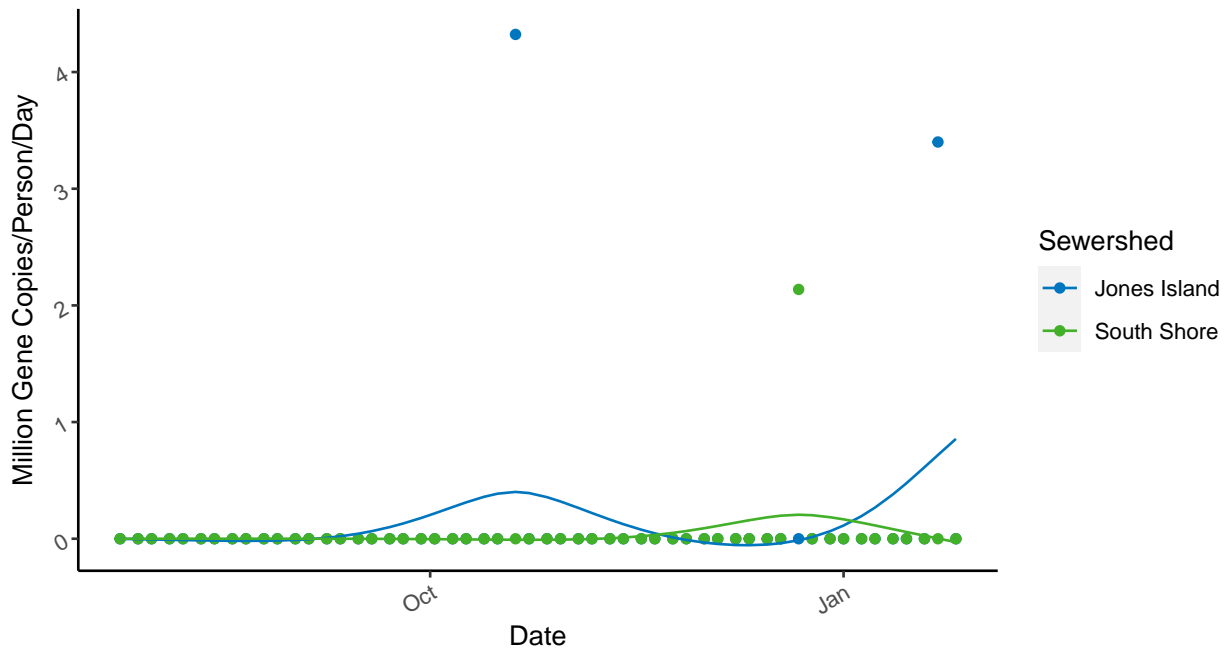
### COVID-19 Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



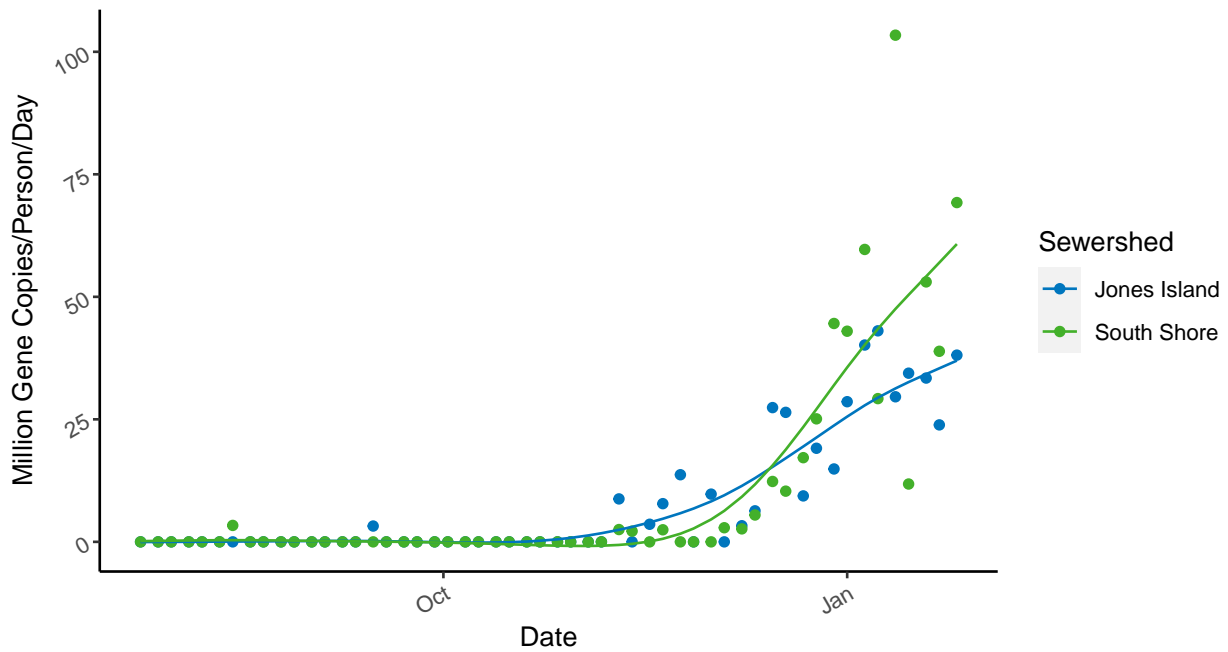
### Flu A Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



### 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).