

Milwaukee Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update

MMWR Week 6, Ending February 8, 2025

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Respiratory Illnesses In the News

Flu deaths may have surpassed COVID deaths nationwide for the first time since the start of the pandemic: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/flu-deaths-surpass-covid-for-first-time-since-pandemic-started/>

An intense flu season is filling hospitals with severely ill patients: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/14/health/flu-season-hospitalizations-mrsa-ane/index.html>

Notes from the Field: Seroprevalence of HPAI Virus Infections Among Bovine Veterinary Practitioners - United States, September 2024 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/74/wr/mm7404a2.htm?s_cid=mm7404a2_w

Overview

County

- There were 80 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported in Milwaukee County during the week ending on February 8, 2025. From September 29, 2024 through February 8, 2025, there have been 410 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County (269 City of Milwaukee residents).

State

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

National

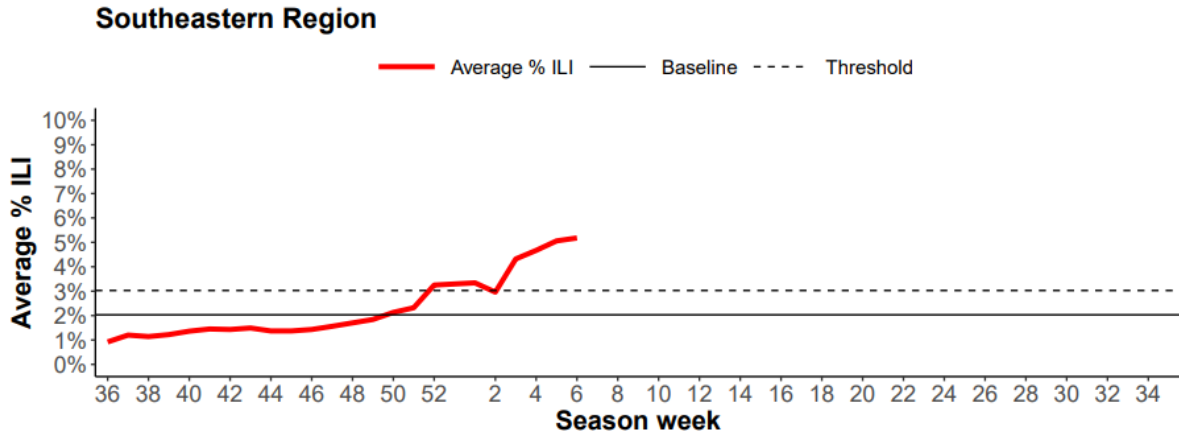
- Seasonal influenza remains elevated and is higher than it has been all season. This week 2 jurisdiction experienced moderate influenza activity and 46 jurisdictions experienced high or very high activity.
- 11 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurred during this week.
- Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 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 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 68 | 207 | 11 | Eleven influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2024-2025 season were reported to CDC during Week 6. The deaths occurred between Week 51 of 2024 (the week ending December 21, 2024) and Week 6 of 2025 (the week ending February 8, 2025). Ten deaths were associated with influenza A viruses. Six of the influenza A viruses had subtyping performed; three were A(H1N1) viruses and three were A(H3N2) viruses. One death was associated with an influenza B/Victoria virus. |

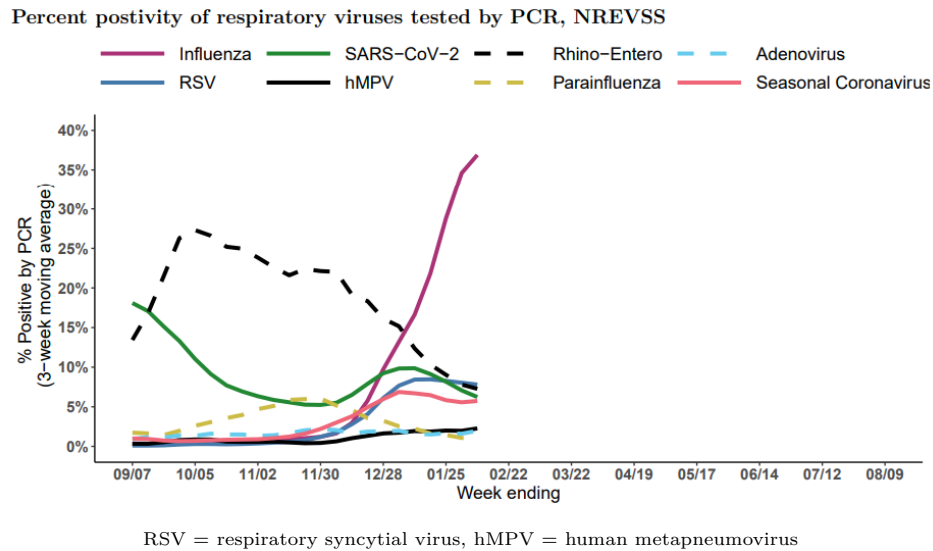
Statewide and Regional Influenza Activity

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 8, 2025

Respiratory Virus Laboratory Surveillance

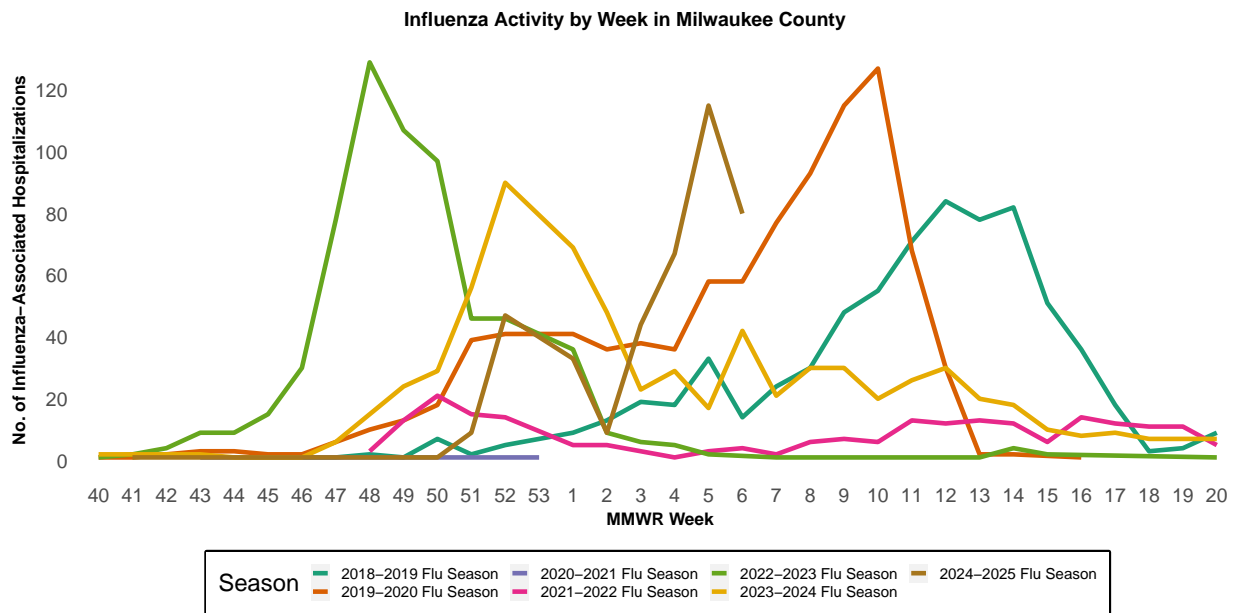


Wisconsin Department of Health Services Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, February 8, 2025

Milwaukee County Influenza Activity

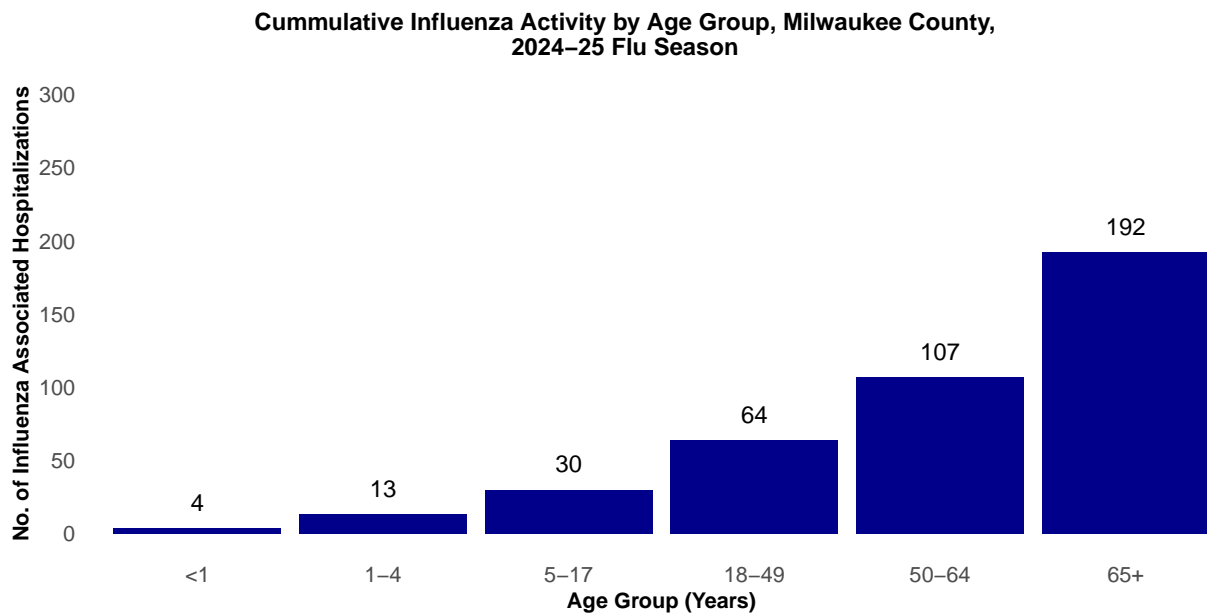
From September 29, 2024 through February 8, 2025 there have been 410 reported influenza-associated hospitalizations in Milwaukee County.

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 6, 2024

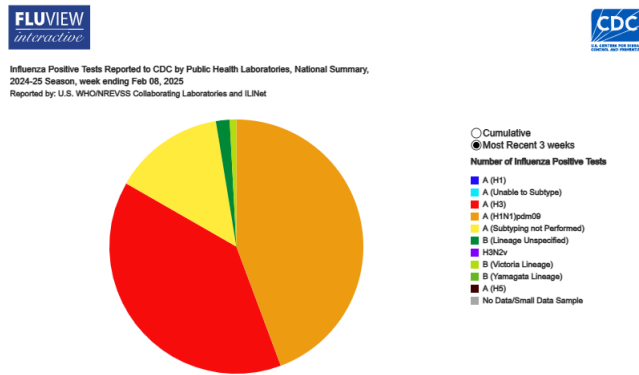


Influenza Testing Data

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 | 2,010,657 | 289,283 | 47,328/150,006 (31.6%) | (H1N1)pdm09 | Victoria | A |
| WSLH | - | - | 7,807/21,245 (36.7%) | Unknown | Unknown | A |
| MHDL | 107 | 85 | 85/107 (79.4%) | H1N1 | N/A | A |

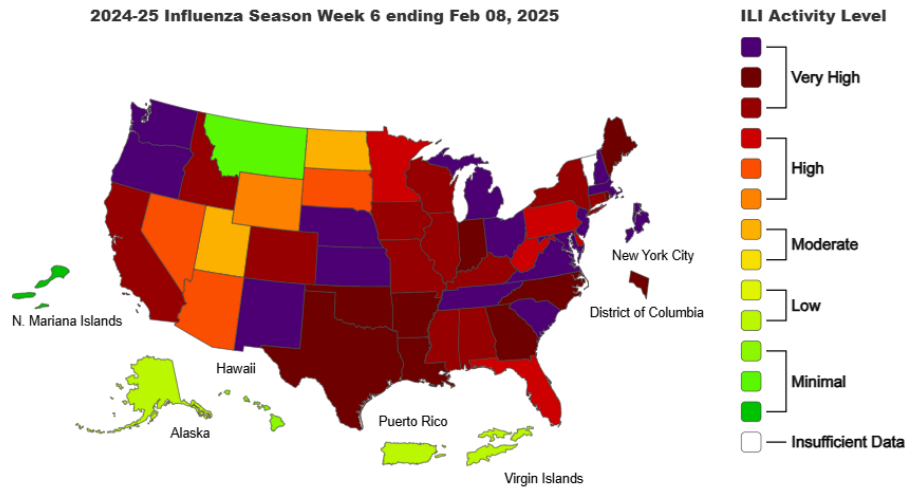
National Influenza Testing Data, CDC FluView



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

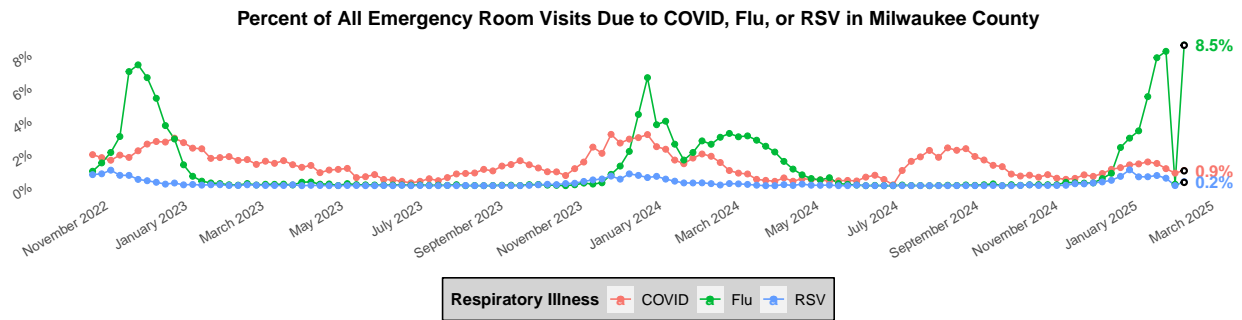
National Influenza Activity

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>

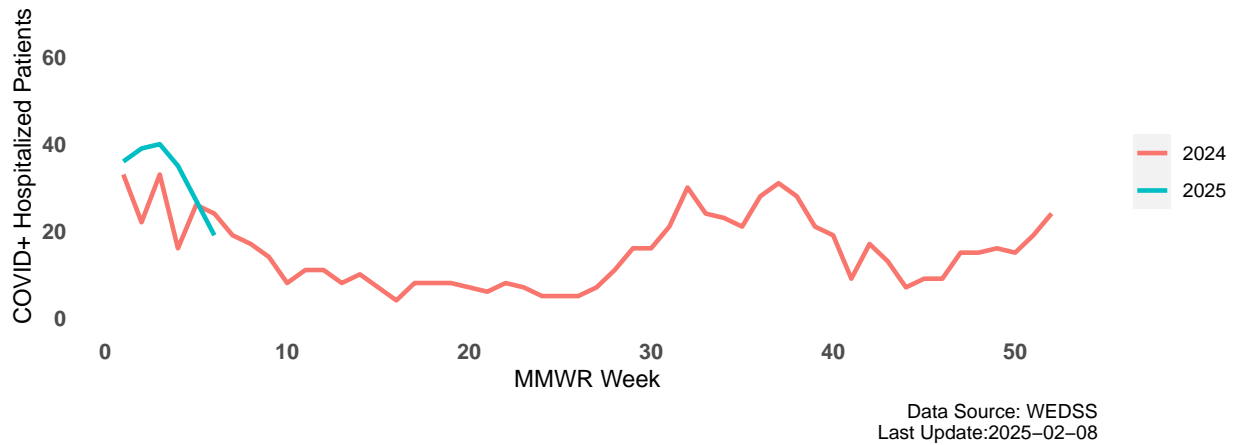
COVID-19 and RSV dashboards are updated weekly year-round and the influenza dashboard is updated weekly during the flu season.

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

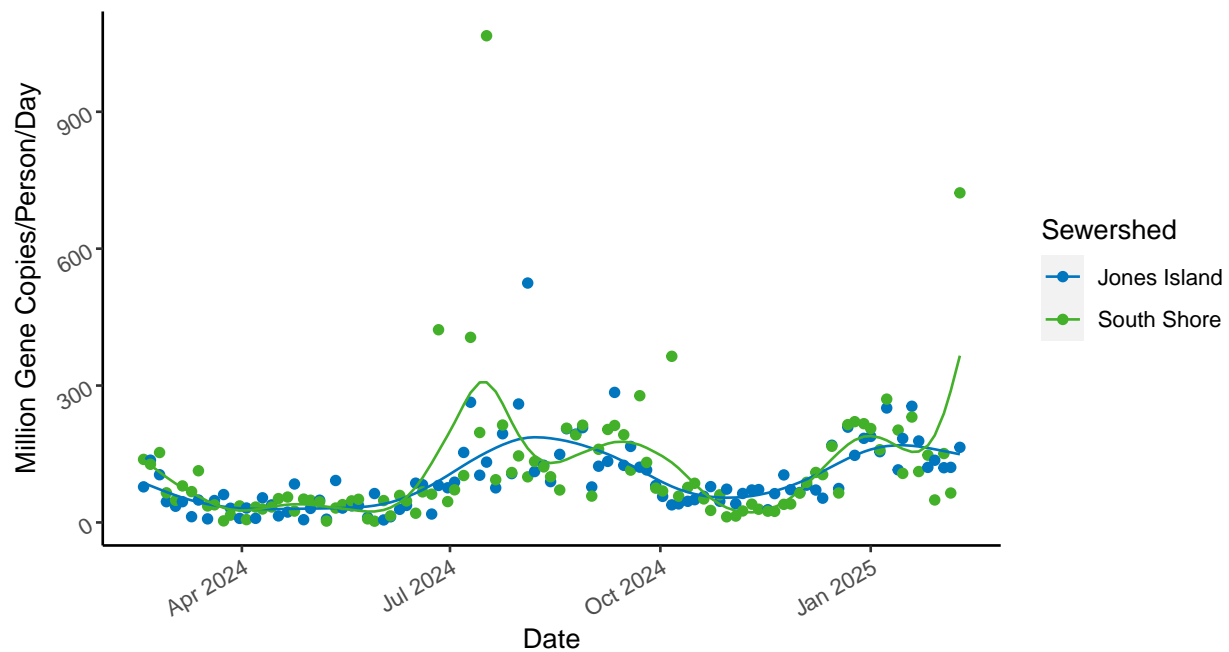


Wastewater Disease Surveillance - Respiratory Illnesses

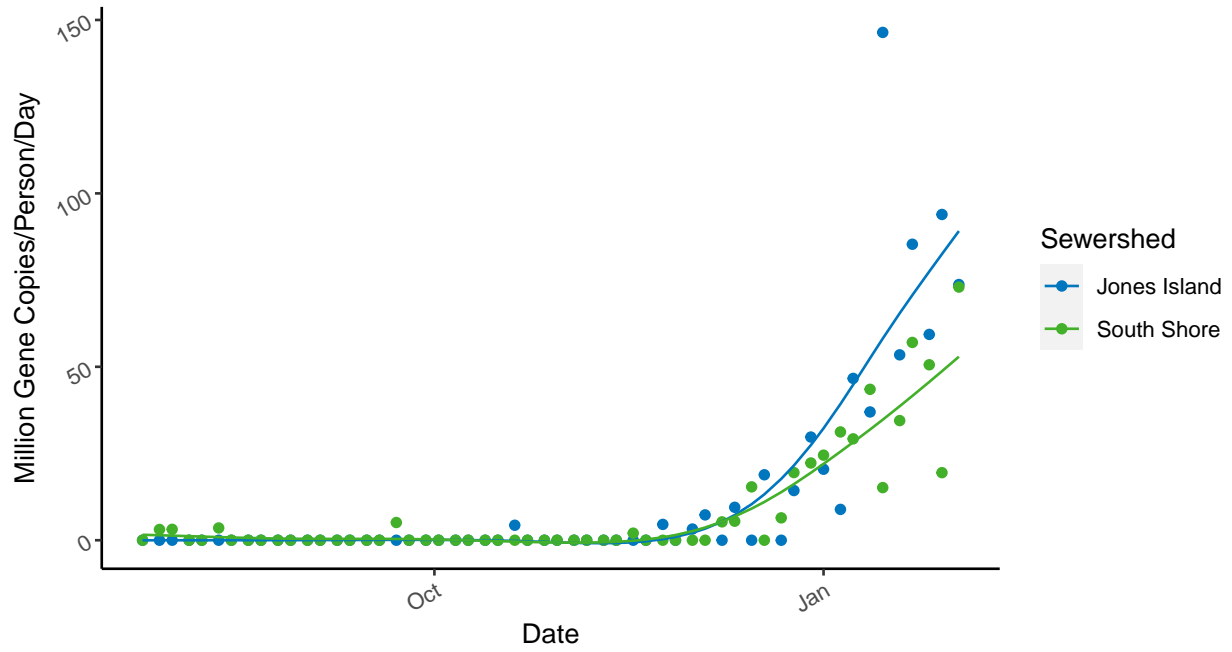
Wastewater disease surveillance is a powerful tool that detects illness before people start to show symptoms. MHD Laboratory does routine disease surveillance from wastewater samples at Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Districts collection points, Jones Island and South Shore. Samples are taken twice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

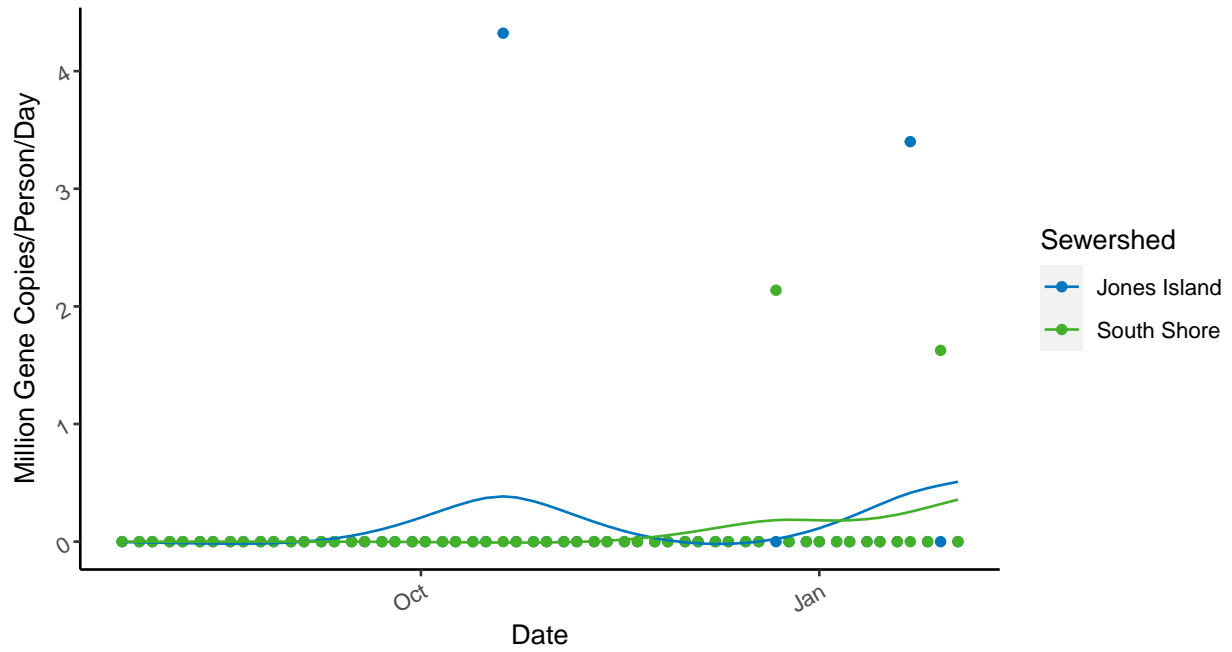
COVID-19 Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



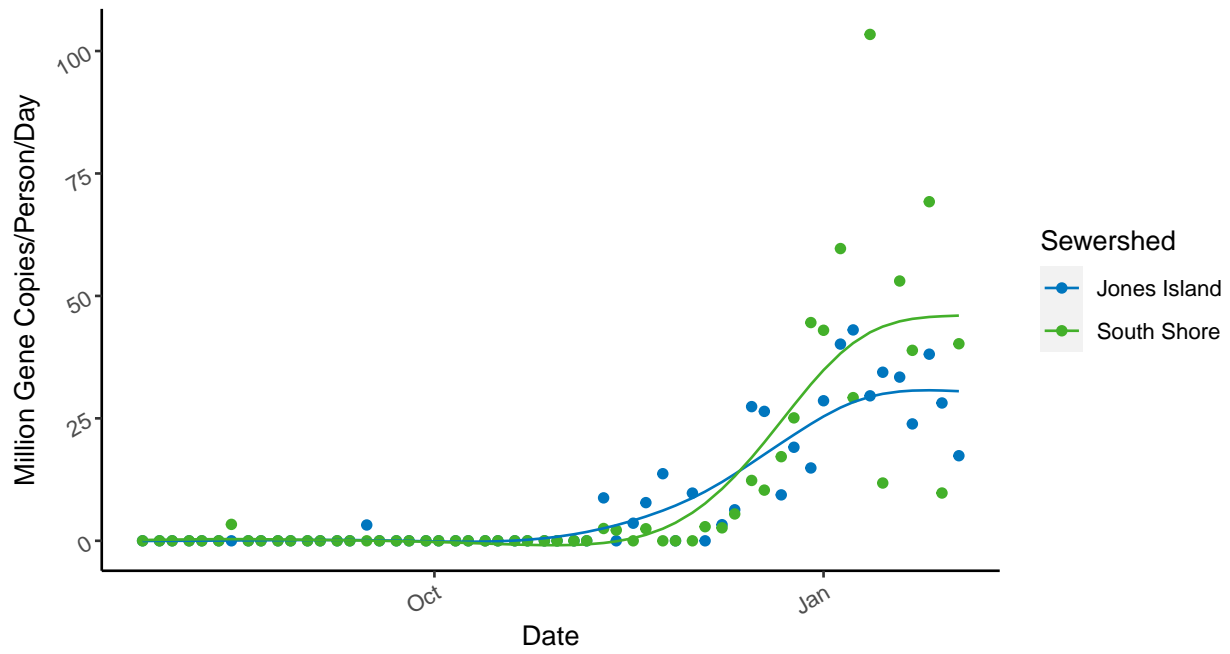
Flu A Trends in Milwaukee Sewershed



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.