

Health Trends in Early Childhood

September 2025



Respiratory Illnesses



Trend

Respiratory viruses, including influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) pose a **significant threat** to children's health.

There were **270 pediatric deaths** during the 2024-2025 flu season.

Most people showing up in **emergency departments** right now are children



Explanation

COVID-19 **continues to climb** and is on track to **surpass the peak** of last winter's wave.

As the respiratory virus season approaches, flu, COVID, and RSV are expected to circulate at the same time and play significant roles in the months ahead.



Impact

Respiratory illnesses in children are common and include influenza (flu), pneumonia, bronchiolitis, and croup, leading to **significant complications and hospitalizations**.

Children with chronic health conditions at **greater risk for complications** from flu.



Action

Immunization, timely testing, and treatment against influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remain the **best way to protect against severe disease**.

Resources

- [Other Respiratory Illnesses Going Around | Respiratory Illnesses | CDC](#)
- [The Flu: What Parents Need to Know - HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [AAP Releases Its Own Evidence-Based Immunization Schedule - HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [Flu Resource Center | CDC](#)

Learn more at
www.pakeys.org/HealthTrends

This is the most updated information at release time. The information in Health Trends is not a Pennsylvania regulatory requirement for early childhood providers. Pennsylvania early childhood providers with questions about regulatory requirements should contact their Cert rep or the Bureau of Certification.

