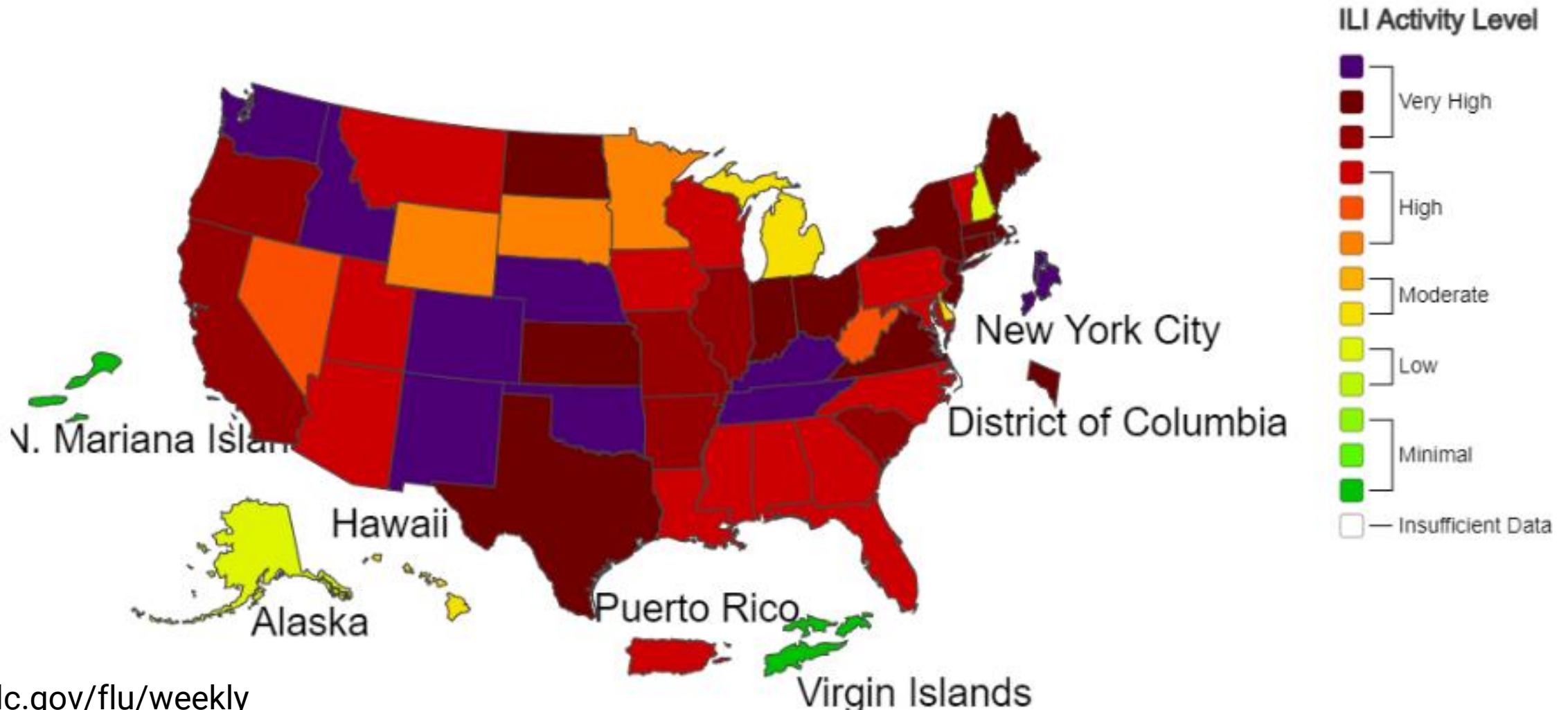




Ask Dr. Arwady

December 20, 2022

★ 2022-23 Influenza Season Week 49 (December 2022)

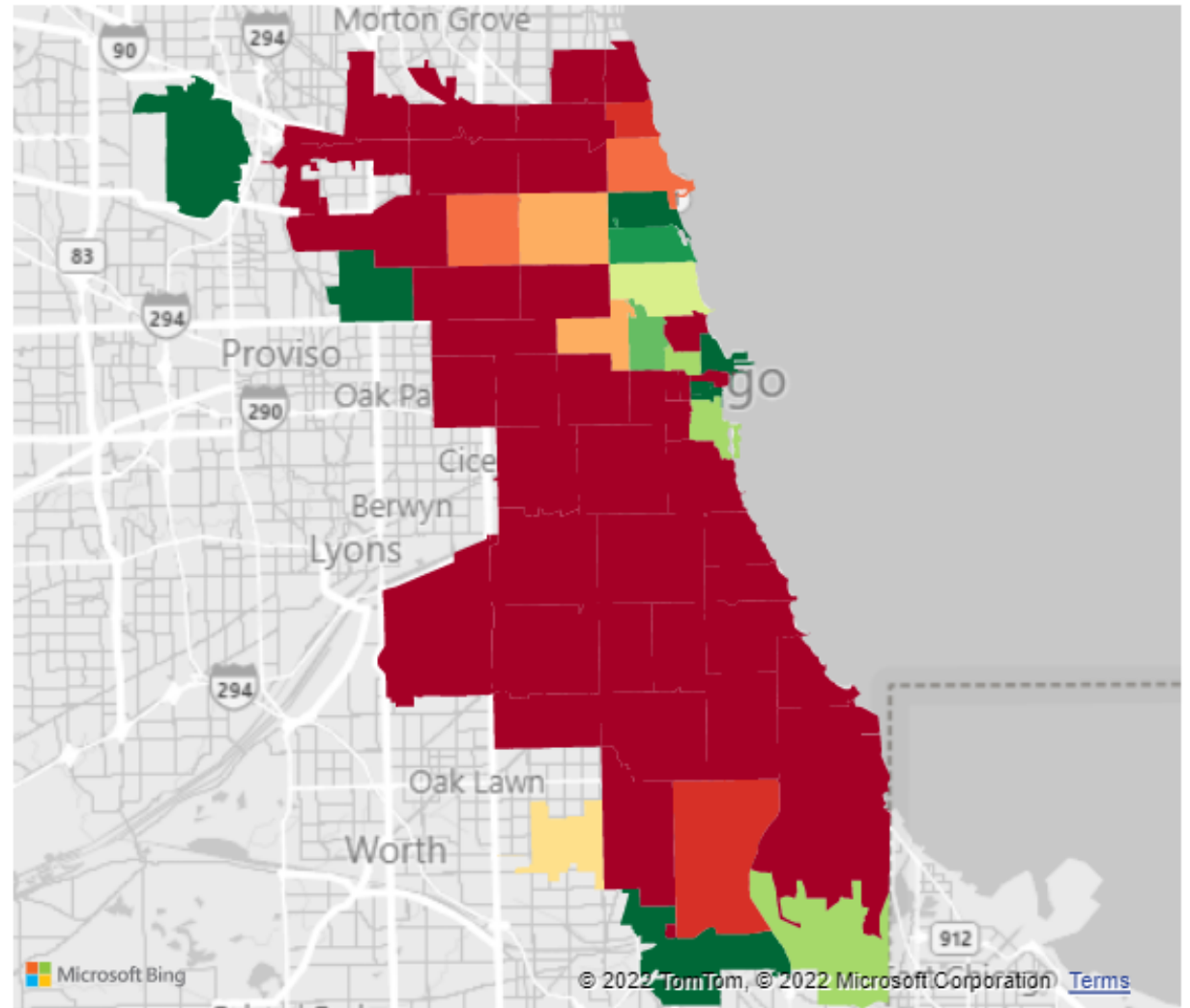




Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels by patient zip code

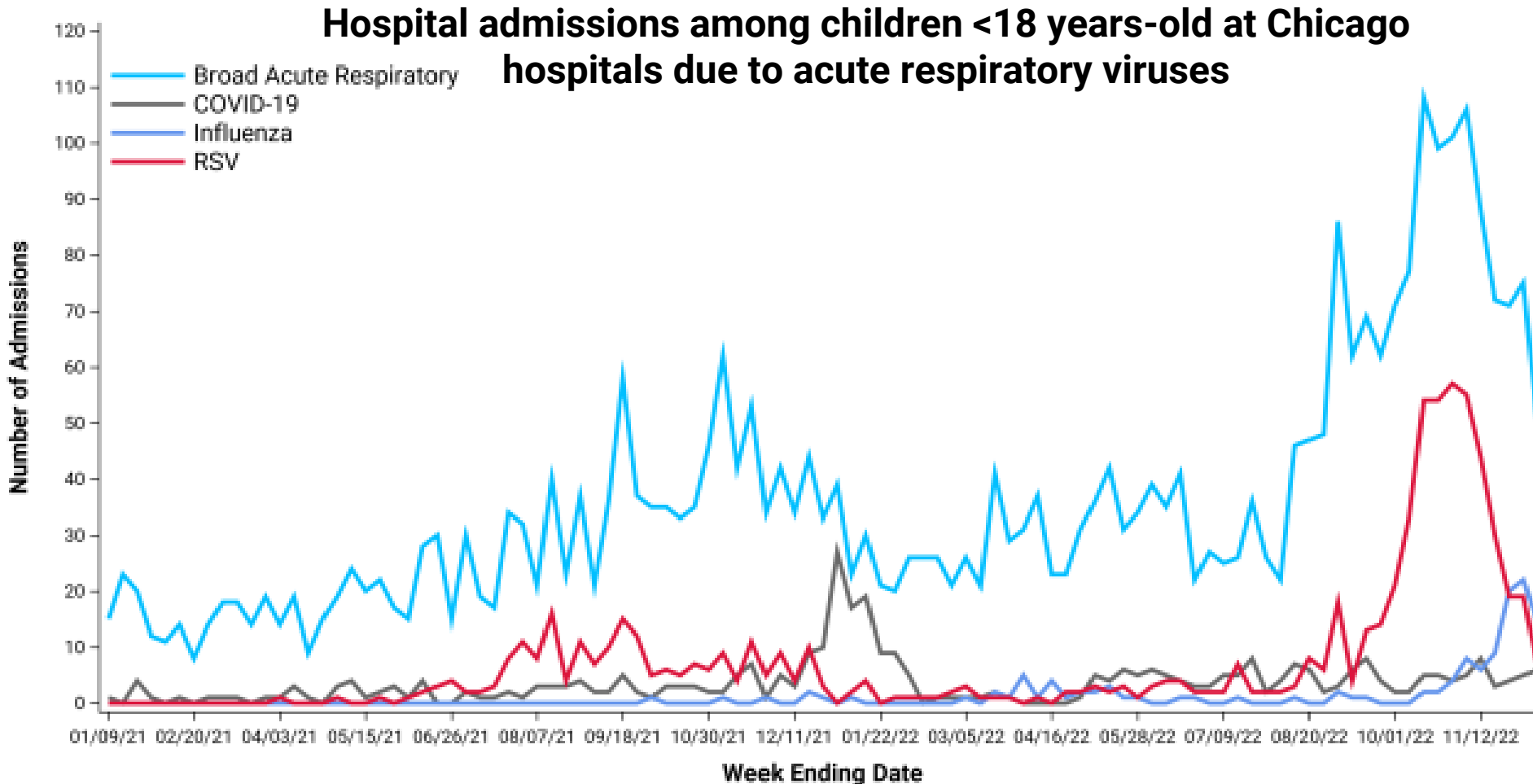
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/flu/home/chicago-flu-update.html>

ILI Activity Level ● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 ● 6 ● 7 ● 8 ● 9 ● 10



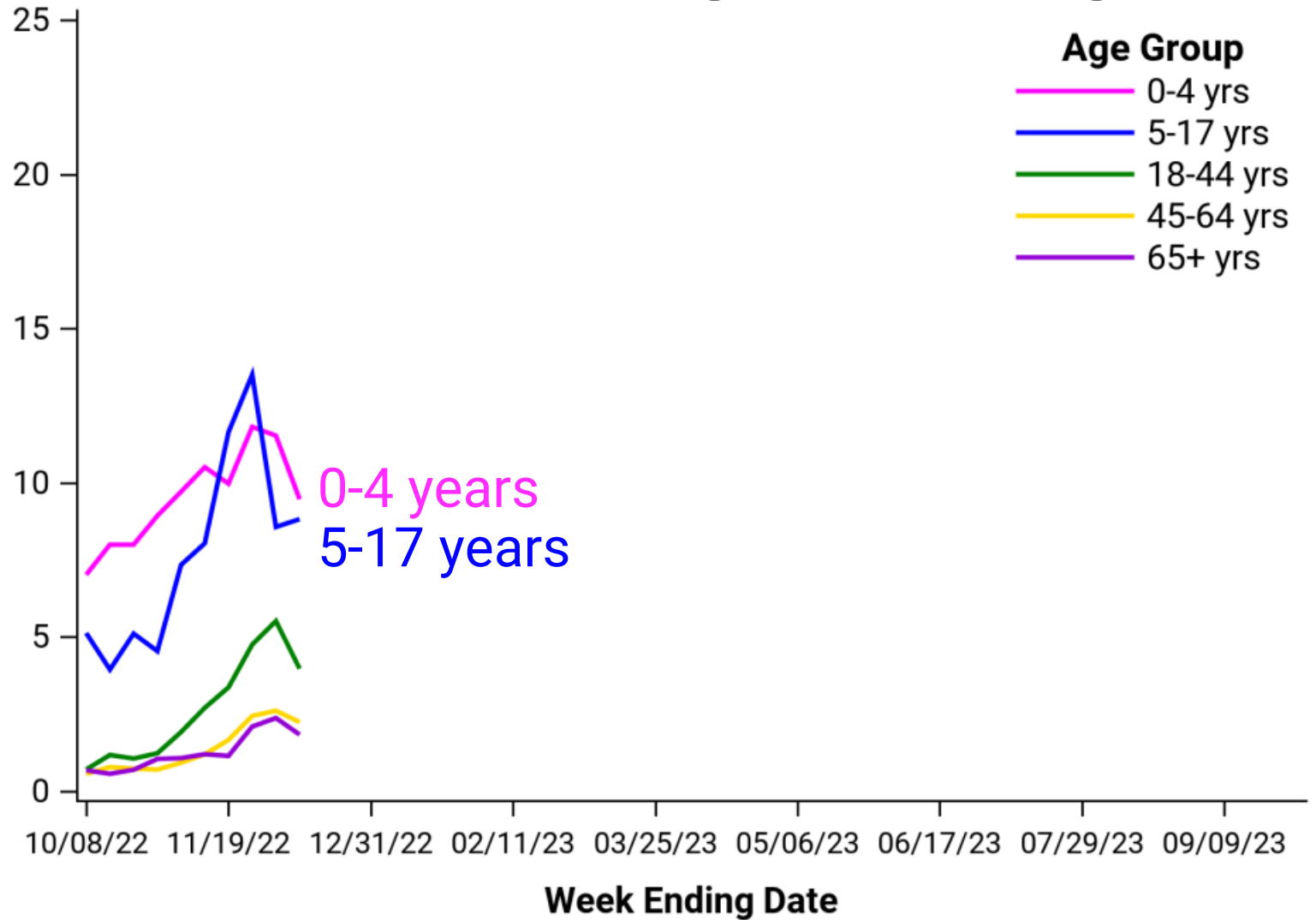
30 Chicagoans admitted to the ICU with influenza last week

Child hospitalizations, Chicago: RSV admissions have peaked, influenza admissions remain high



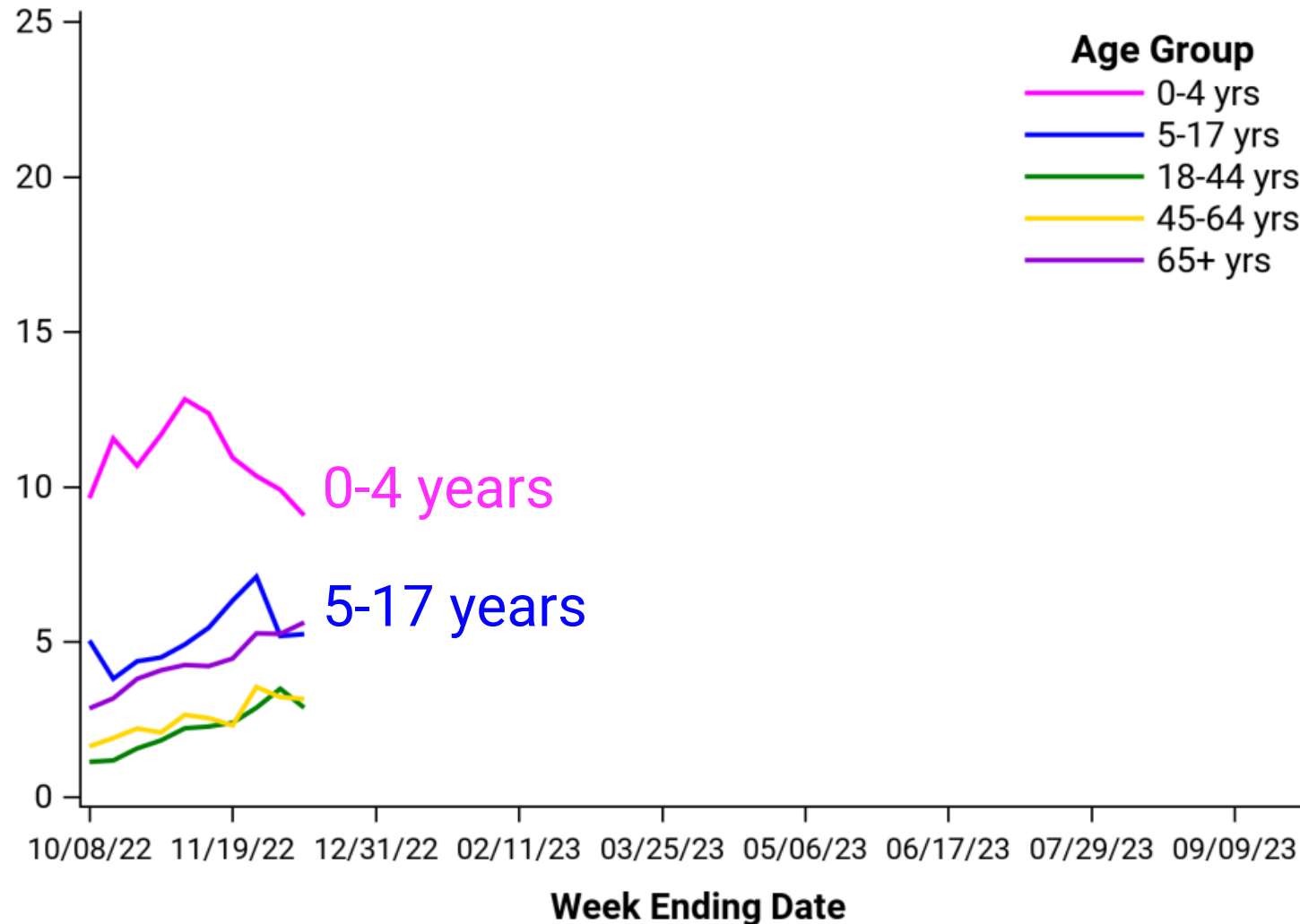
Data reported through 12/16//2022. Assigned syndromes or diseases are based on chief complaint terms and diagnosis codes. Broad acute respiratory is a syndrome to identify visits with diagnostic codes associated with a broad range of acute respiratory illnesses. This includes codes associated with specific respiratory infections (e.g. influenza, RSV, or coronavirus), as well as codes associated with general respiratory illness such as cough or pneumonia.

Chicago: Emergency Department visit rates for influenza-like illness are highest among children



Source: [Chicago Influenza and Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)

Chicago: Emergency Department visit rates for COVID-like illness is also highest among children



Source: [Chicago Influenza and Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)



Our local risk based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels is:

Medium

	New cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <200]</i>	New admissions per 100,000 population (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <10]</i>	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <10%]</i>
City of Chicago	157	11.9	4.7%
Cook County (including City of Chicago)	163	13.9	5.1%

Chicago metrics are calculated based on Chicago-level data.

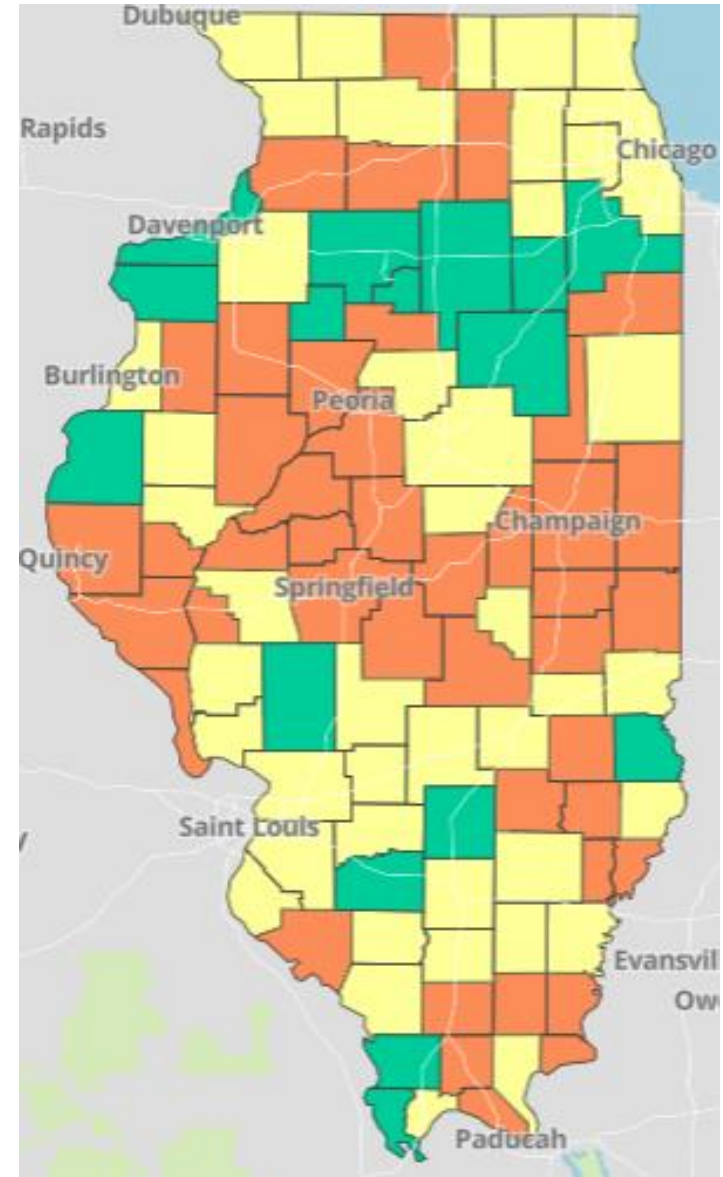
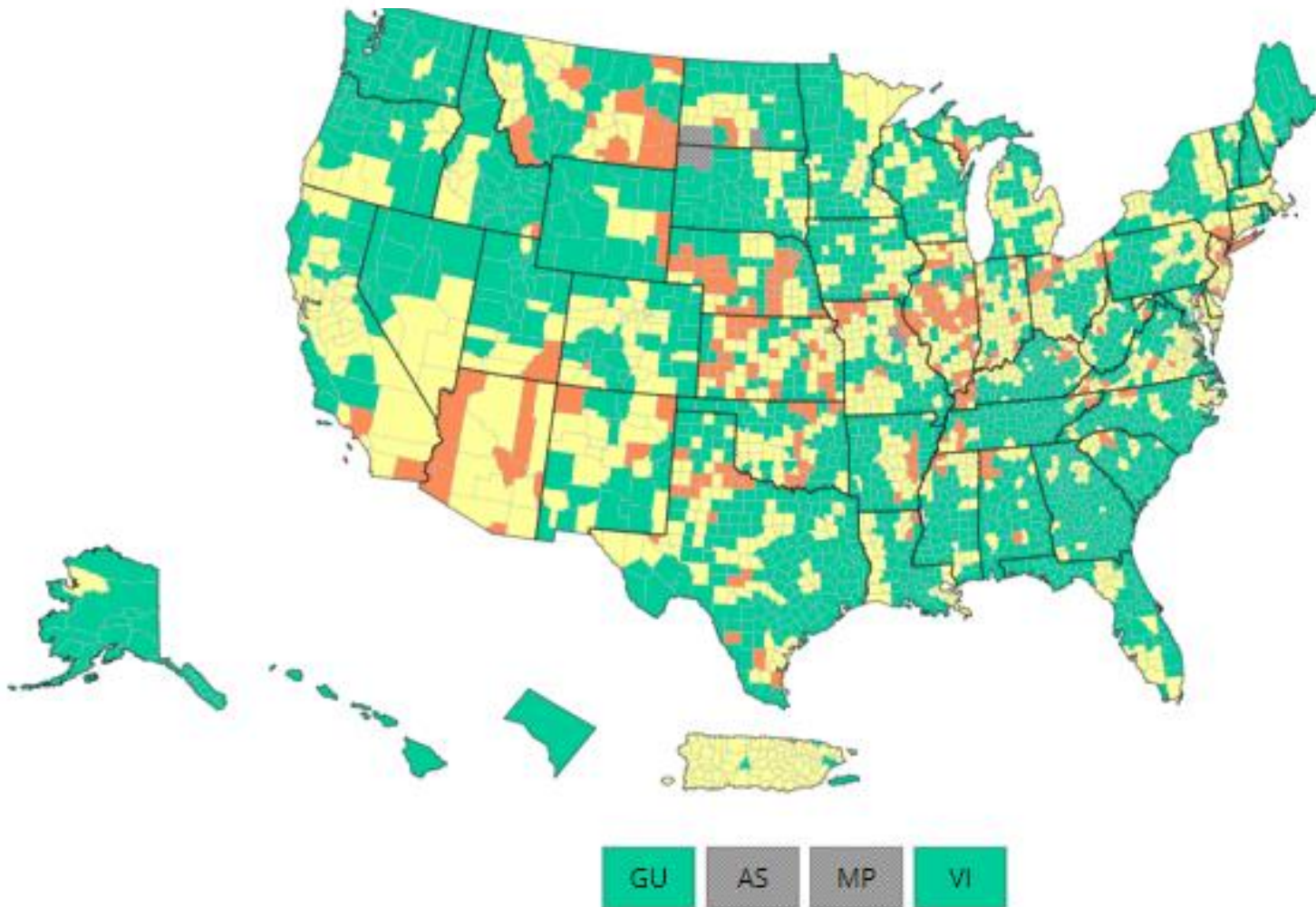
Cook County metrics are calculated by the CDC and posted on the [CDC Community Levels website](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/community-levels/).

Data current as of 12/15/2022.

Last week, **9%** of U.S. Counties reported **High** COVID Community Level and **35%** reported **Medium** Level.



Low Medium High





Should we reach a **HIGH COVID Community Level**, Chicago would issue a formal Mask Advisory

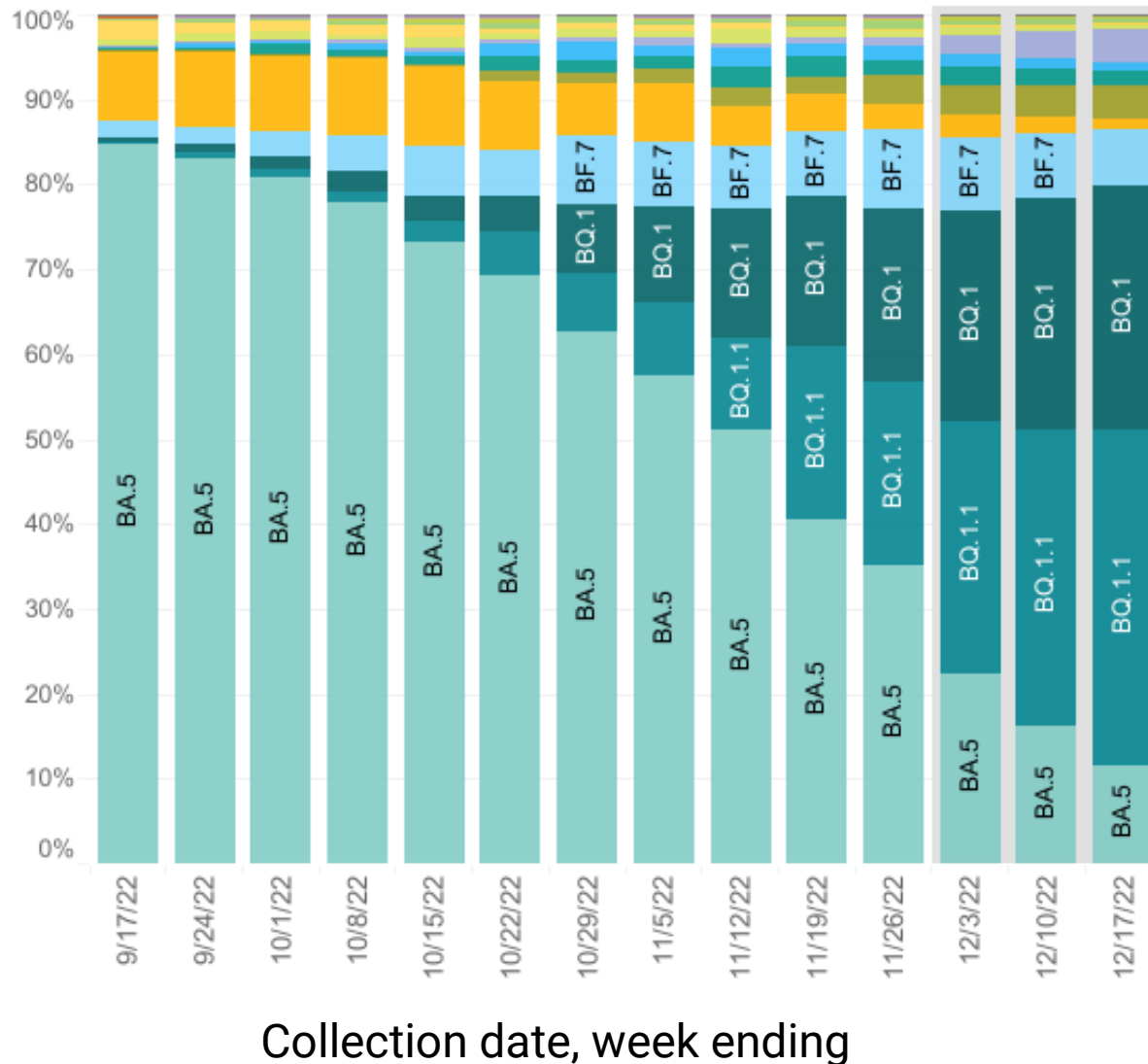


Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region

Continued evolution of more infectious **Omicron** subvariants



% Viral lineage
among infections



BQ.1.1	39.5%	
BQ.1	28.8%	
BA.5	11.7%	
BF.7	6.6%	
XBB	3.9%	
BN.1	3.8%	
BA.5.2.6	1.8%	
BA.4.6	1.3%	
BF.11	1.1%	
BA.2.75	0.6%	
BA.2	0.6%	
BA.2.75.2	0.4%	



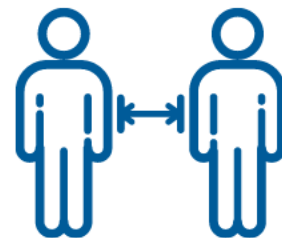
Things You Can Do To Stay Safe From COVID-19 During the 2022 Holiday Season:



VAX UP



MASK UP



BACK UP



OPEN UP



WASH UP

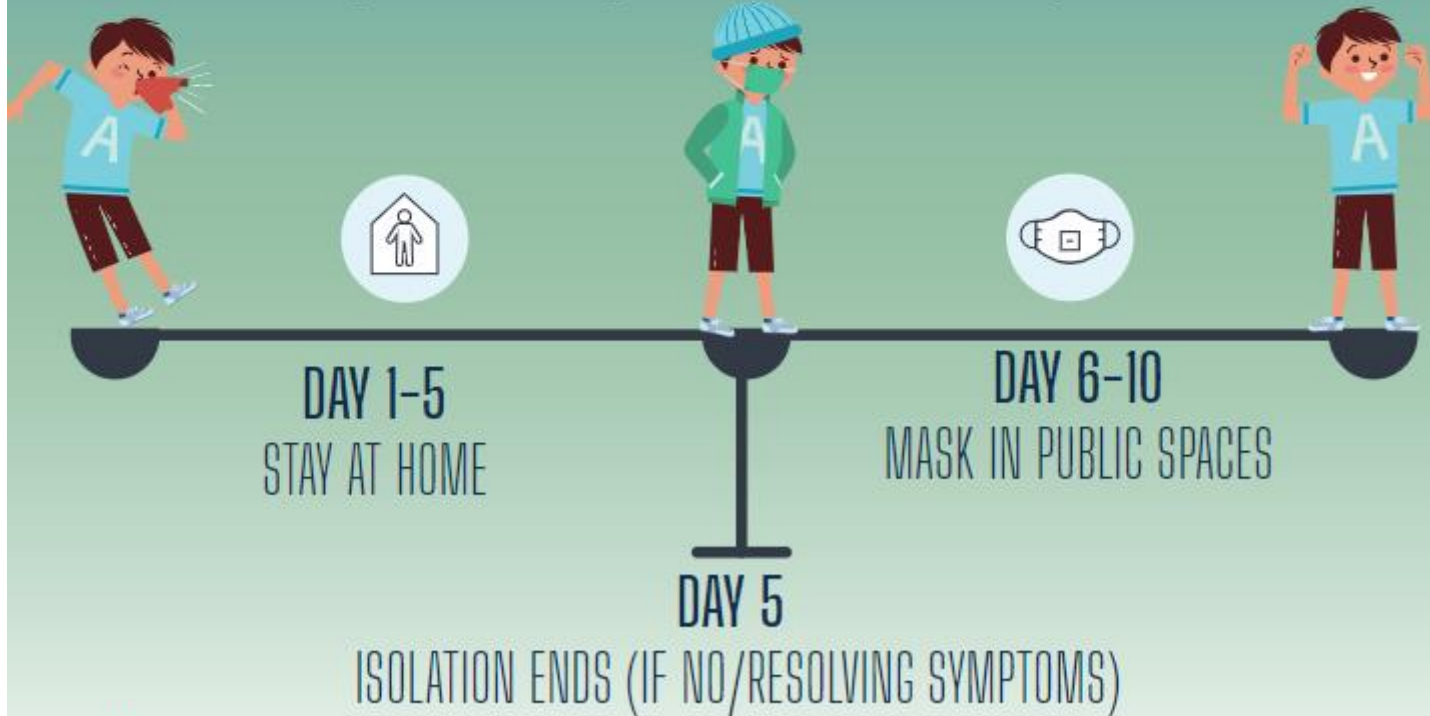


TEST UP

Order your **FREE** at-home COVID tests this winter. Go to COVIDTests.gov

REMEMBER: IF YOU CATCH COVID-19

Regardless of vaccination status, stay home for 5 days. If your symptoms are resolving or gone by Day 5, you can leave your house *but you must continue to mask* from days 6-10. You can opt out of masking with two negative antigen tests 48 hrs. apart.





5.6 MILLION COVID vaccinations administered to Chicagoans in two years!

December 15 marked the 2-year anniversary of when we first began administering COVID vaccines to Chicagoans.



Left to right: Dr. Geraldine Luna, Leah Hoelscher, Dr. Allison Arwady, Dr. Larry Kociolek, Dr. Matthew Davis



NEW: Kids under 5 now eligible for the new, updated COVID-19 bivalent boosters!

Who is eligible for a fall booster?

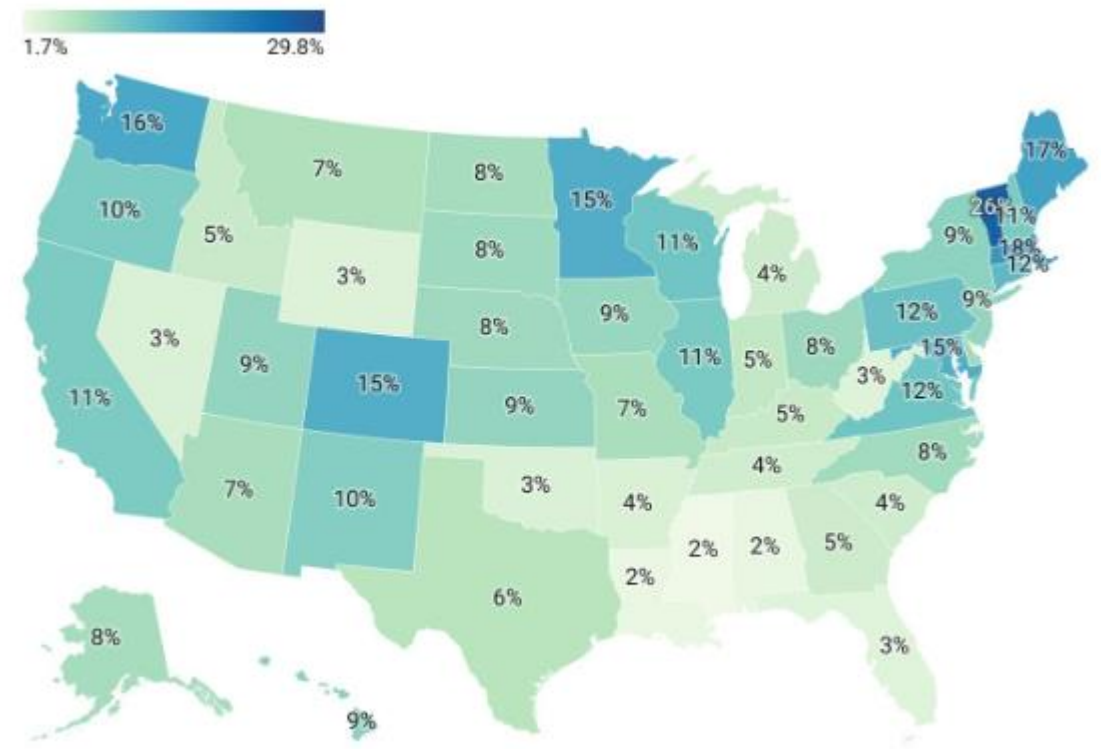
- **Moderna:** Every child that had the primary series (2 shots) is eligible for the fall booster
- **Pfizer:**
 - If your child completed primary series (3 shots), they are not eligible
 - If your child did not complete the primary series (i.e., had 1 or 2 shots only), they are eligible for the fall booster
- **Bottom line:** For kids under 5, your 3rd COVID shot should be the bivalent booster



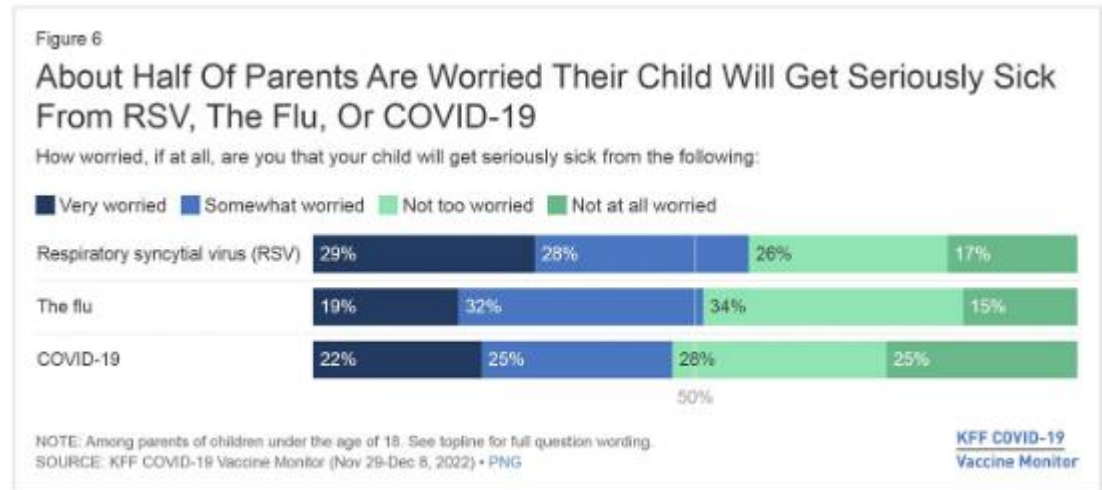
The problem: Primary series vaccine uptake for kids under 5 is extremely low

- In the United States, 8.4% of children under 5 have at least one dose
- In Chicago, 17% of kids under 5 have received at least one dose; 10% have completed their primary series
- Survey shows about half of parents are worried their child will get seriously sick from RSV, the flu or COVID-19

Percent of Kids Under 5 with At Least One Dose



Map: Beniv Renton • Source: CDC • Created with Datawrapper



Source: [Your Local Epidemiologist](#)

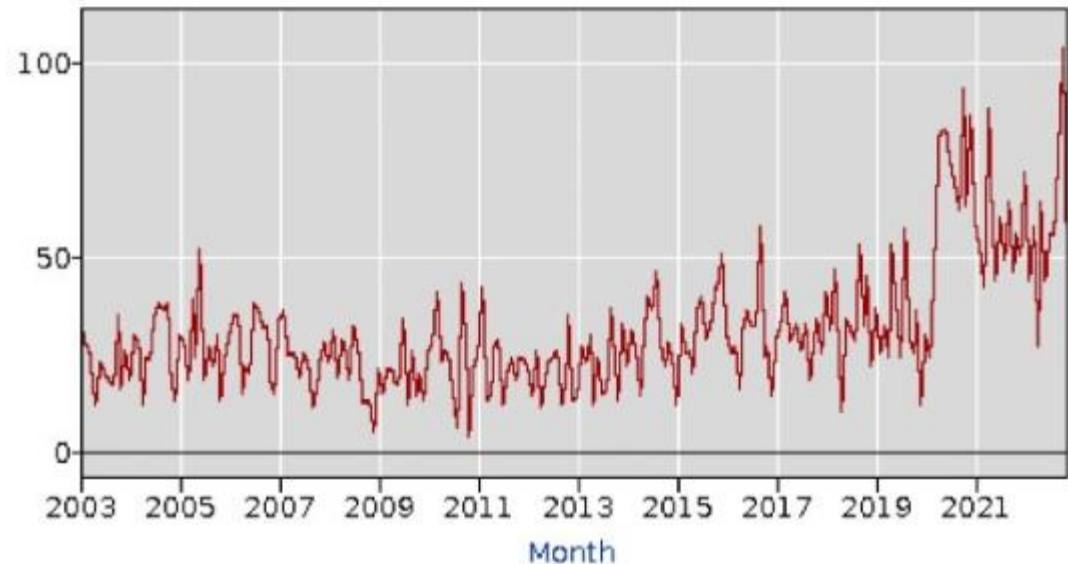


So, why is it important to get children vaccinated?

- The clinical trial data on safety and effectiveness of COVID vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years of age was published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). Researchers found the vaccines for the youngest children are **safe AND elicited immune responses**
- The updated vaccine provides broader protection against Omicron and its subvariants
- Parents missing work due to respiratory illness is at an all-time high right now.

Parents who missed work due to childcare problems.

Source: [Department of Labor](#)



NEW COVID-19 VACCINES NOW AVAILABLE

FOR EVERYONE 6 MONTHS & UP*



**YOU are eligible for the
strongest protection!**

New vaccines are “bivalent boosters” — protecting against original coronavirus and omicron.

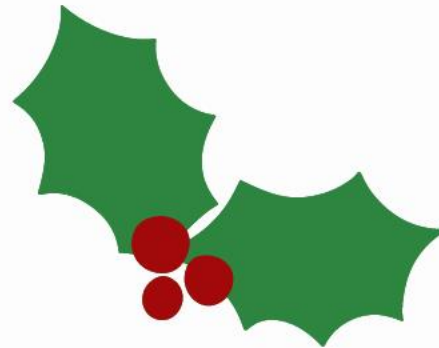
CHECK YOUR VACCINE CARD:

If it's been more than 2 months since your last vaccine, **YOU** need the new booster.

*Children age 6 months to 4 years who have received a complete 3-dose series of Pfizer vaccine do not need a bivalent booster



AT-HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Chicagoans 6 months and up can get vaccinated at no cost in their own homes. Primary COVID-19 vaccines, bivalent boosters, and flu shots are available.



FIND YOUR APPOINTMENT AT
CHICAGO.GOV/ATHOME

In-home appointments are available four days a week, Saturday through Tuesday, 8am-6:30pm.

Vaccines available:

- Primary series Moderna (age 6 months through 5 years) and Pfizer (age 6 months and older)
- New Pfizer bivalent boosters (age 6 months and older)
- Flu shots are available as long as one person receives the COVID-19 vaccine

Call 312-746-4835 and schedule your appointment today!



Need a vaccine or a booster?
Have questions?

visit

CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX

or call

312-746-4835





CDPH works closely with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Office of Student Health & Wellness (OSHW) on a variety of programming to promote the health and wellness of CPS students and families

- Surveillance, monitoring and outbreak control of 70+ diseases including COVID-19
- Dental and oral health exams
- Vision examinations
- Adolescent sexual health
- Connecting to primary care providers and school-based health centers
- Recent focus on expanding connection to mental health resources

Last Updated 12.19.22

CPS COVID UPDATE



HEALTHY CPS

OFFICE OF STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

2022 vs. 2021

- Fewer cases, hospitalizations, and deaths
- Better protections available this year:
 - **Vaccines and updated boosters** widely available to Chicagoans 6 months and older
 - **Testing:** In-school testing program continues, CPS is distributing more rapid at-home tests
 - **Post-infection treatment** available (Paxlovid)

CPS' Office of Student Health and Wellness Highlights

378,000

Tests administered through CPS' in-school testing program this school year

644,000

Rapid at-home COVID test kits distributed by CPS this school year

1,680+

CPS-managed COVID-19 vaccine events over the last 12 months



HEALTHY CPS

OFFICE OF STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

Weekly District Cases

8/21/2022 - 12/17/2022

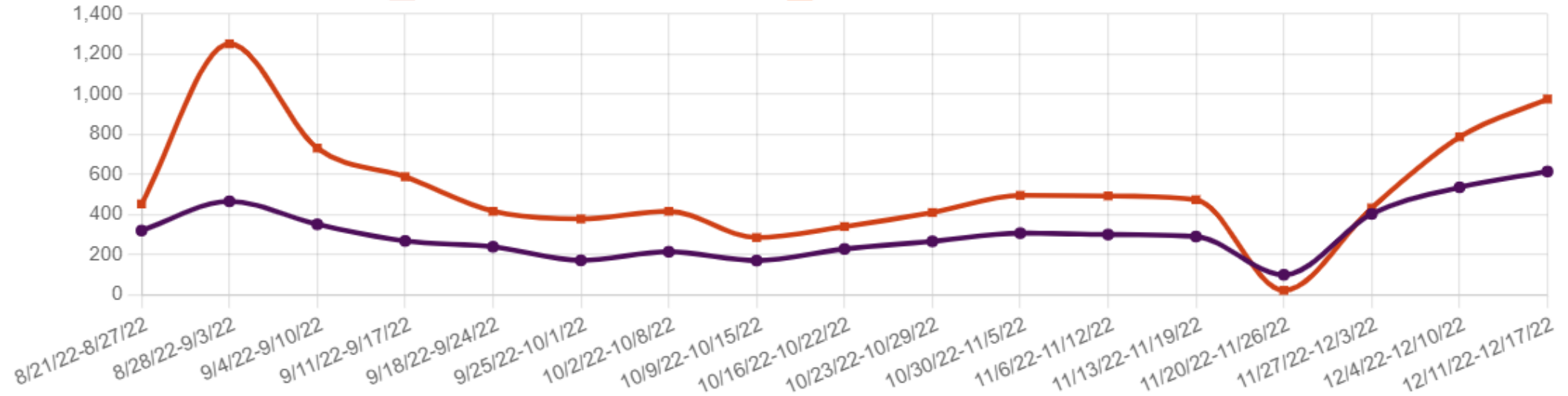
Total Cases

5,226 **8,937**

Adults Students

[Click to Show/Hide Filters](#)

- Adults Total (5226)
- Students Total (8937)
- Adults Self Reported Positive (3955)
- Adults Screen Tested Positive (1271)
- Students Self Reported Positive (6739)
- Students Screen Tested Positive (2198)



Testing

- **Rapid at-home tests available at every CPS school** to any family or staff member who wants them
 - Get your tests before Friday!
- **Rapid tests also available online: covid.gov/tests**
- Test before & after gatherings and before returning to school from Winter Break
- Report positive case at cps.edu/covidresults
- **In-school COVID testing program** signup: color.com/readycheckgo-cps
- If you are sick but tested negative for COVID-19, contact your medical provider to test for flu, RSV, and other illnesses



Vaccines

- **COVID-19 Vaccines & boosters** available to all Chicagoans 6 months and older
 - Updated boosters provide the best protection
 - Get your initial vaccine series first, then get boosted 2 months later
 - Find a vaccine or booster at **cps.edu/vaccinations**
- **Flu vaccines** available through CPS-managed vaccine events
- **Visit [Chicago.gov/flu](https://chicago.gov/flu)** to find flu vaccines

CPS Vaccination Rates

89.2%

of CPS staff are fully vaccinated

62.5%

Of 12-17 year old CPS students in district-run schools are fully vaccinated

60.8%

National average of fully vaccinated 12-17 year olds (Source: CDC)

40.4%

Of 5-11 year old CPS students in district-run schools are fully vaccinated

31.6%

National average of fully vaccinated 5-11 year olds (Source: CDC)

Protect Yourself & Others

- **Wear a Mask**
 - CPS is mask-optional, but masking is highly recommended especially during higher transmission
 - Masking required for 10 days following COVID infection or exposure
- **Practice Good Hand Hygiene**
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 60 sec.
- **Stay Home If You Feel Sick**
 - If you feel ill, consider postponing or skipping gatherings and consult your medical provider

Post-Infection Treatment

- **New oral treatment for COVID-19: Paxlovid**
- May be recommended for older parents, guardians and staff members and those with underlying health conditions
- Must be taken within the first few days of infection to be effective
- If you test positive, report your case and consult your health care provider if this treatment is recommended

cps.edu/covid



HEALTHY CPS

OFFICE OF STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

Additional Health & Wellness Services

Vision + Hearing Screening

40,000 students screened for vision; 38,000 for hearing

Eye Examinations

20,000 exams documented, almost half referred for corrective lenses

Dental Examinations

18,000 student dental exams documented

Visit cps.edu/healthforms to access services

Additional Health & Wellness Services (Continued)

Primary Care

33 School-Based Health Centers

- Immunizations
- Physical exams
- Sports physicals
- Behavioral / Mental health care
- Chronic condition management
- Sexual & reproductive health care
- Acute care

<https://schoolinfo.cps.edu/HealthCenters/>

Medicaid & SNAP

Call the Healthy CPS Hotline at 773-553-KIDS (5437) or fill out an assistance request form at cps.edu/healthforms.

Medicaid provides health insurance for medical care, a 24/7 nurse line, COVID-19 testing, etc.

SNAP provides nutrition benefits. P-EBT is a program that increases access to food while school is closed.

