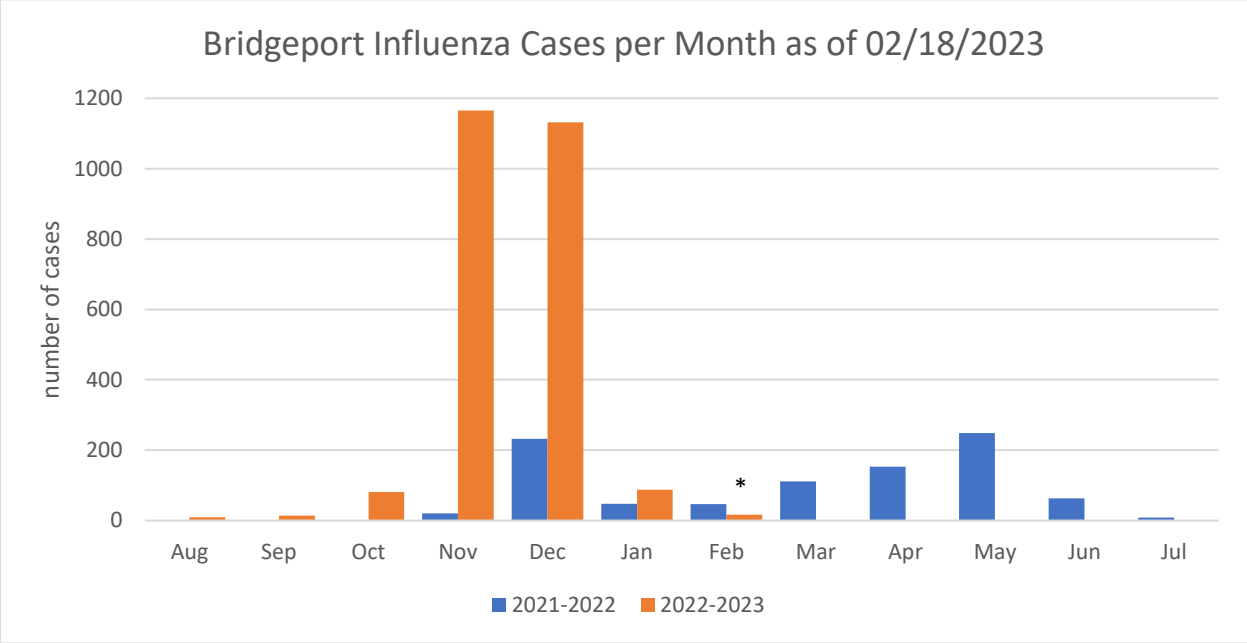
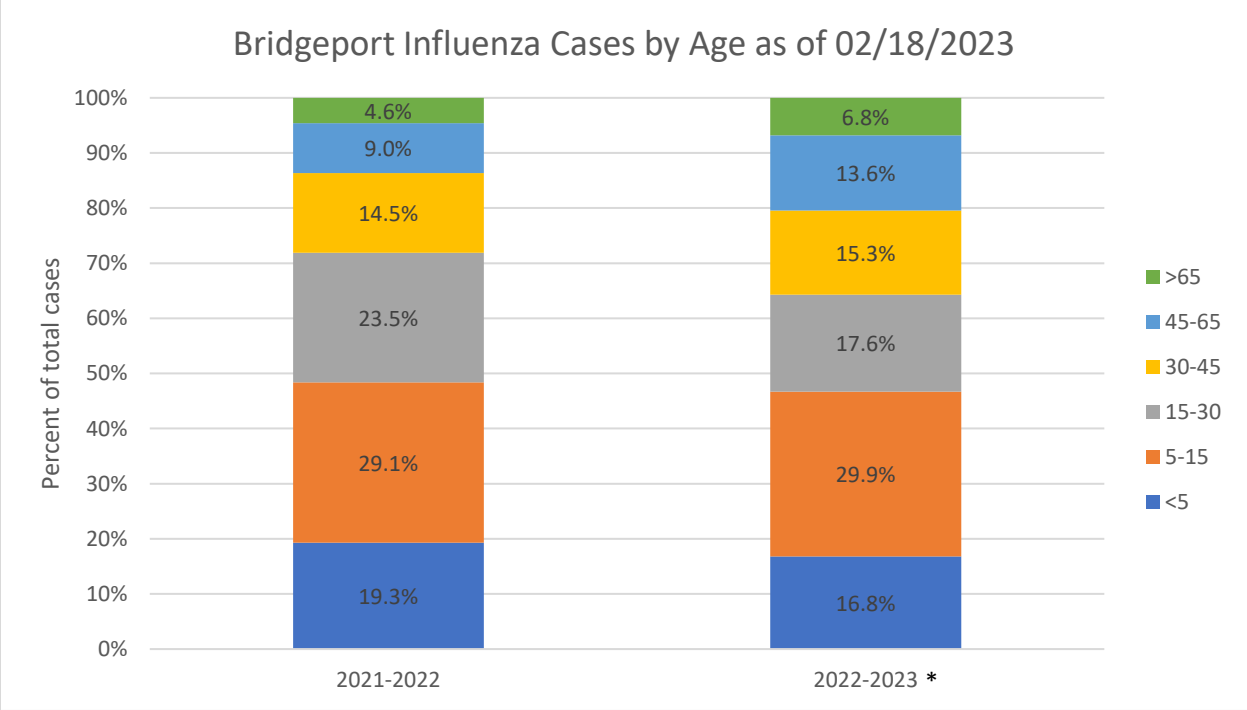
INFLUENZA EPI REPORT: 2022-2023

WEEK 7 – ENDING FEBRUARY 18, 2023

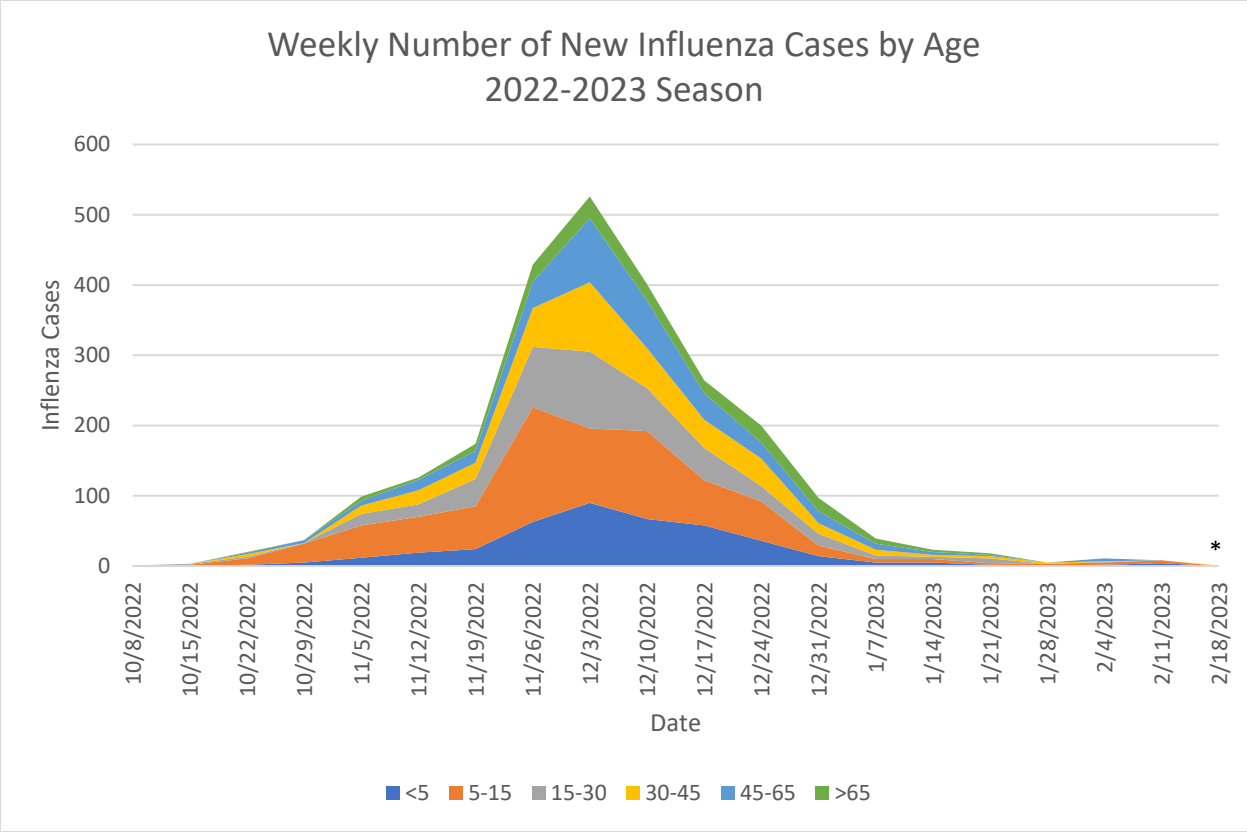
BRIDGEPORT – CASES REPORTED THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2023

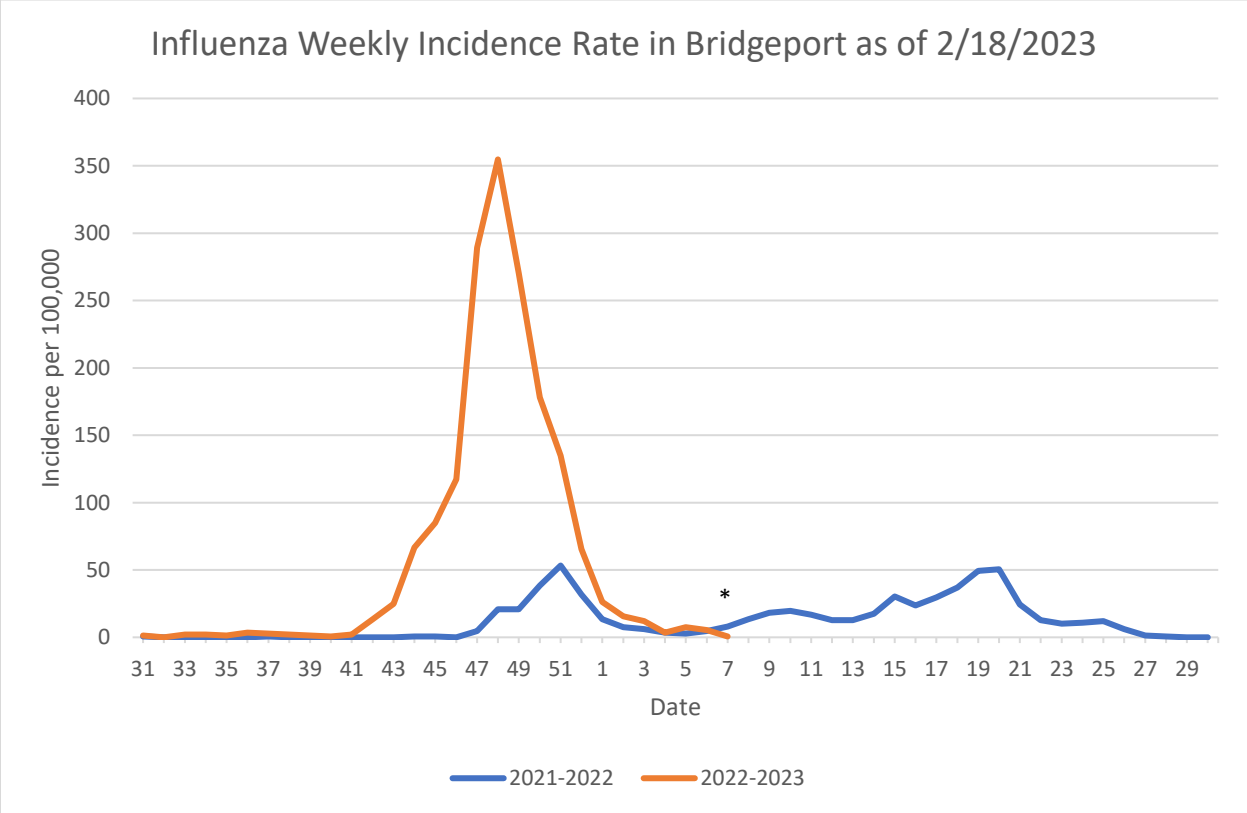




Updated February 25, 2023

*data are incomplete





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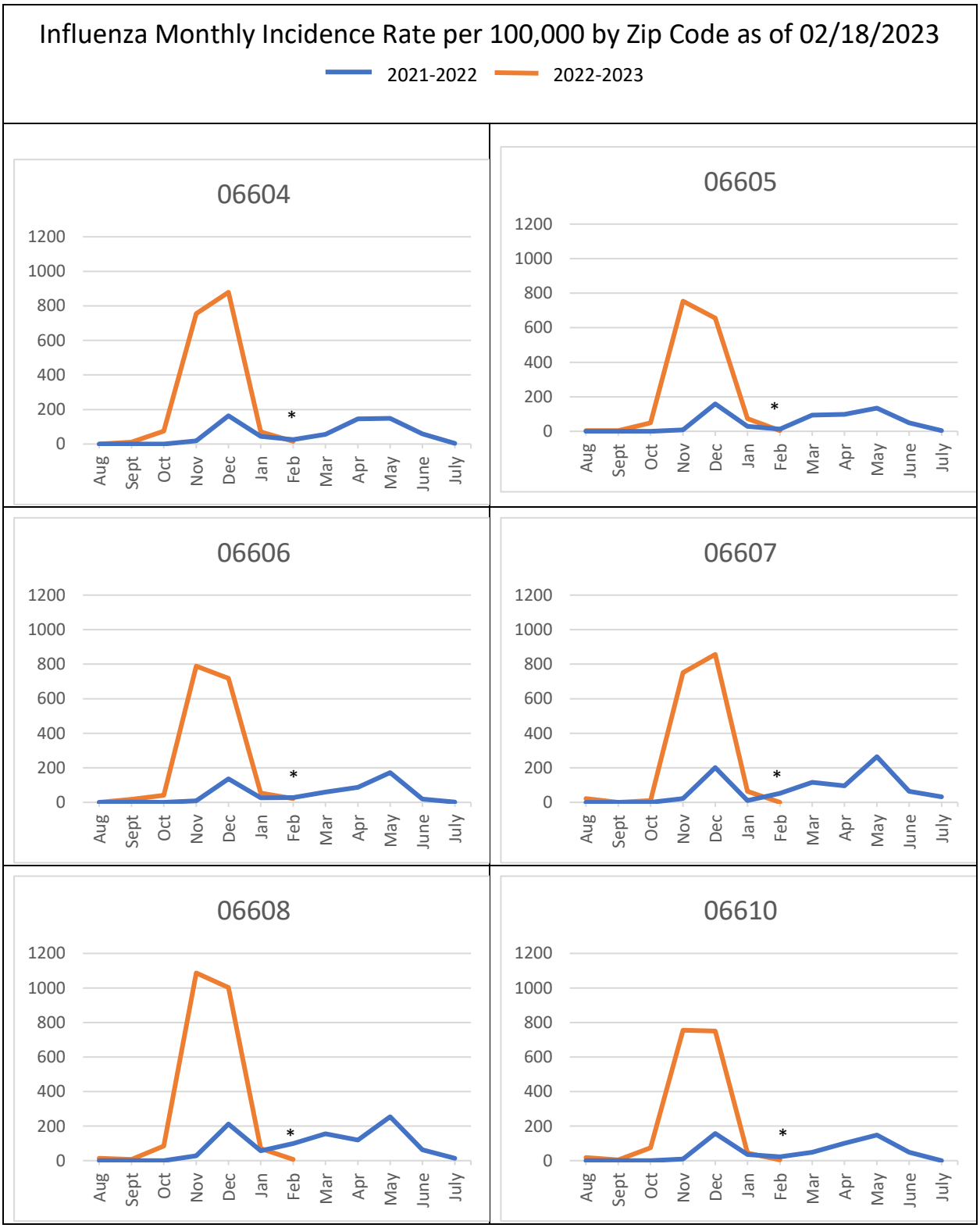

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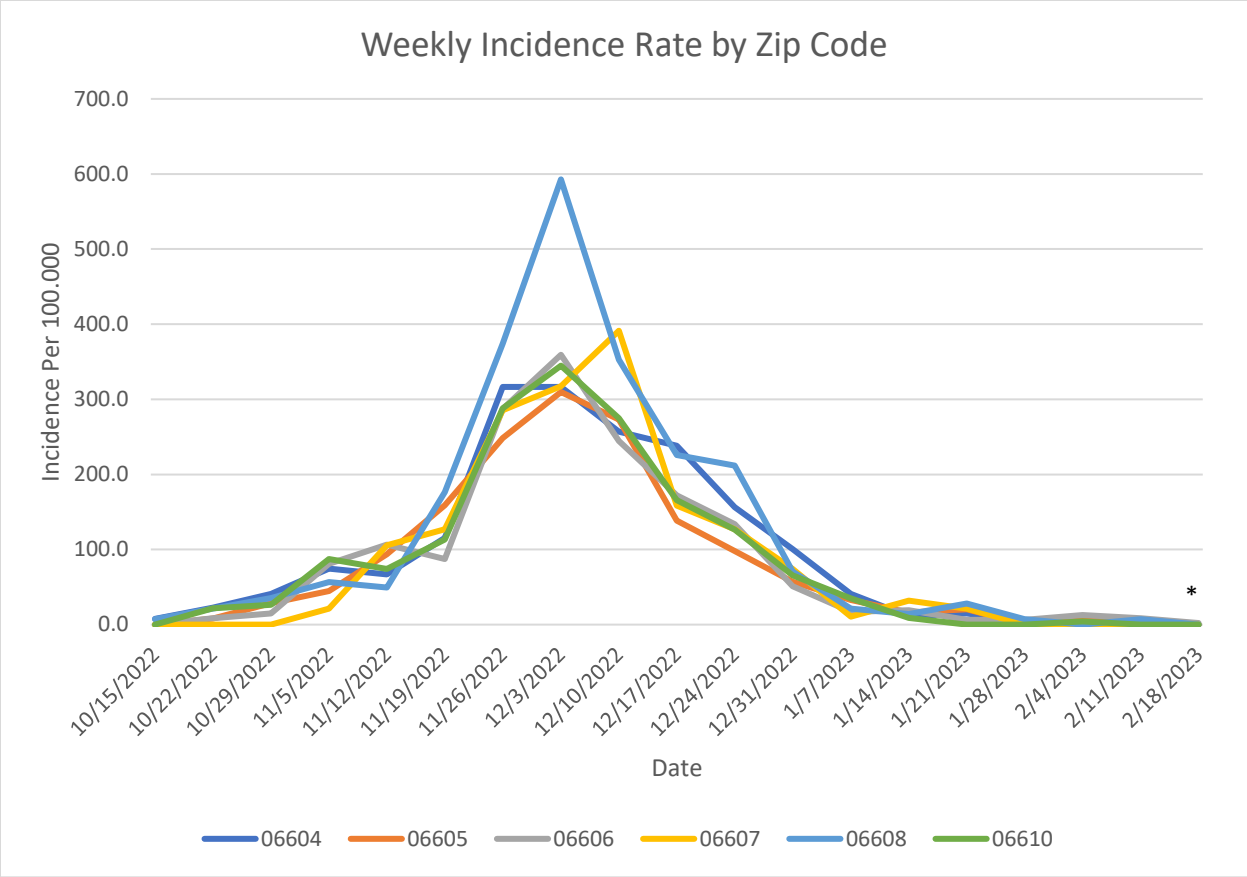

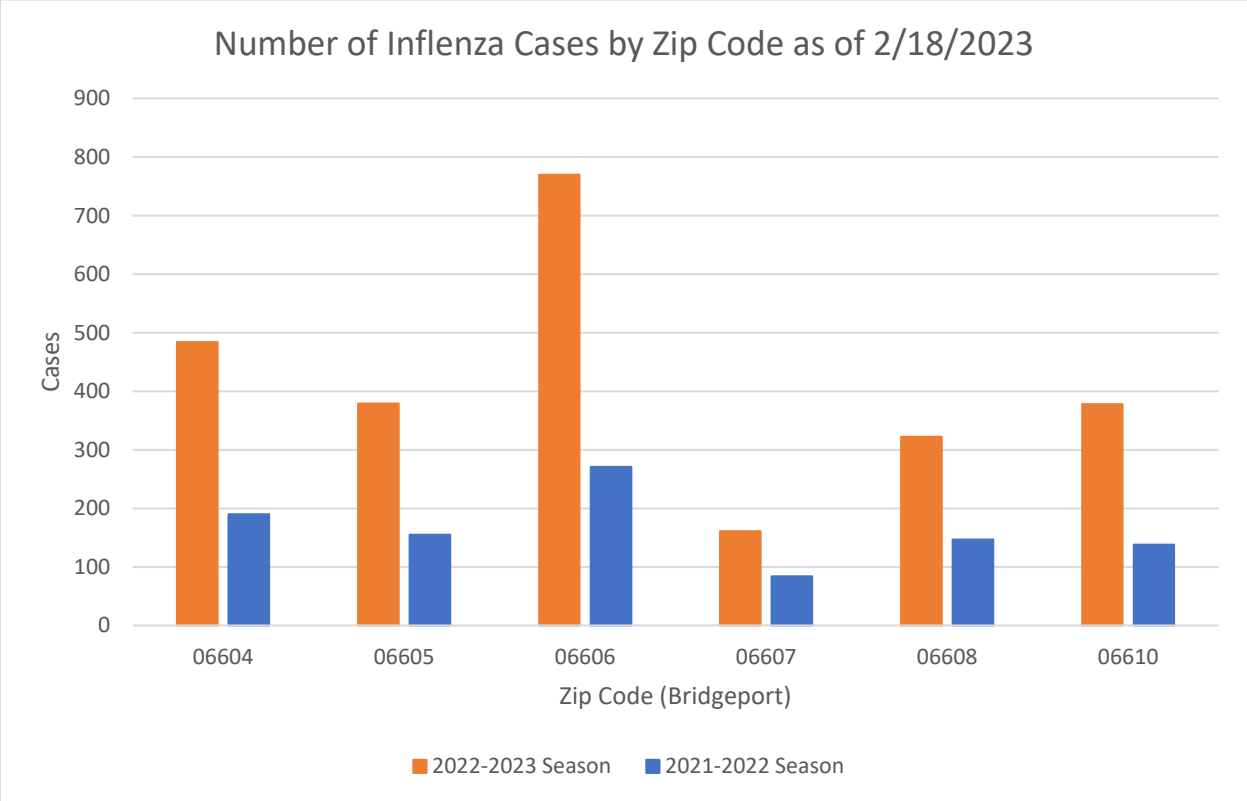

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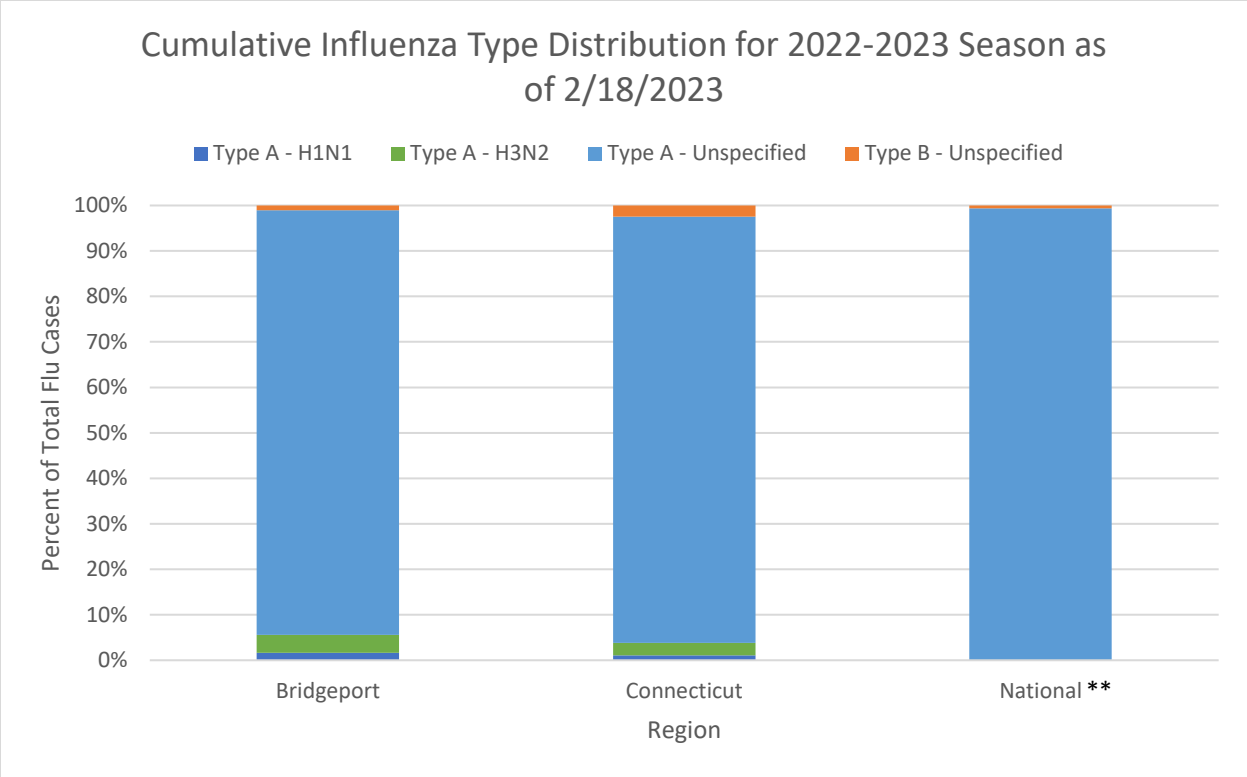
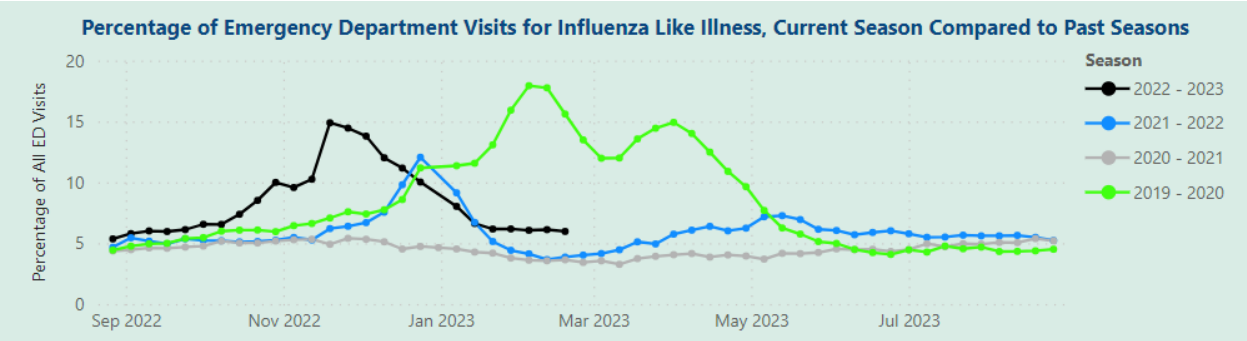


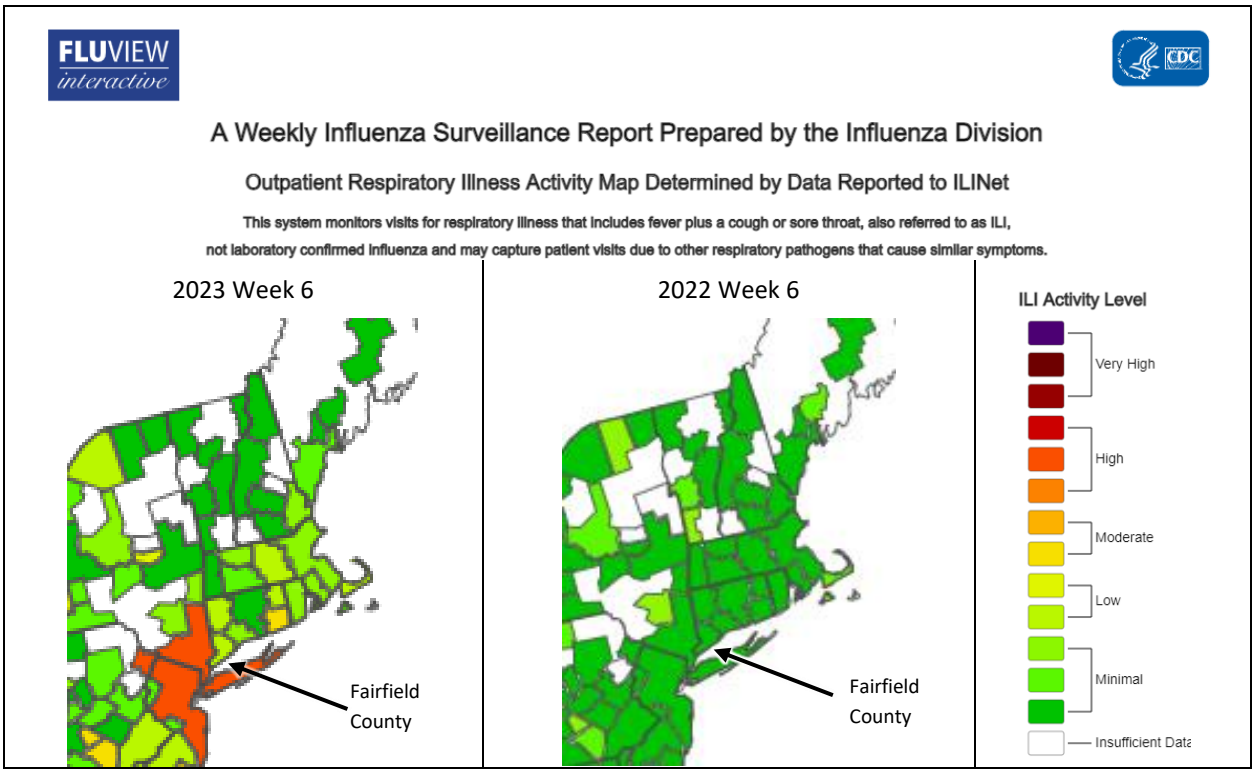
**National data does not include subtyping of influenza viruses

CONNECTICUT – WEEK 6 ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 2023



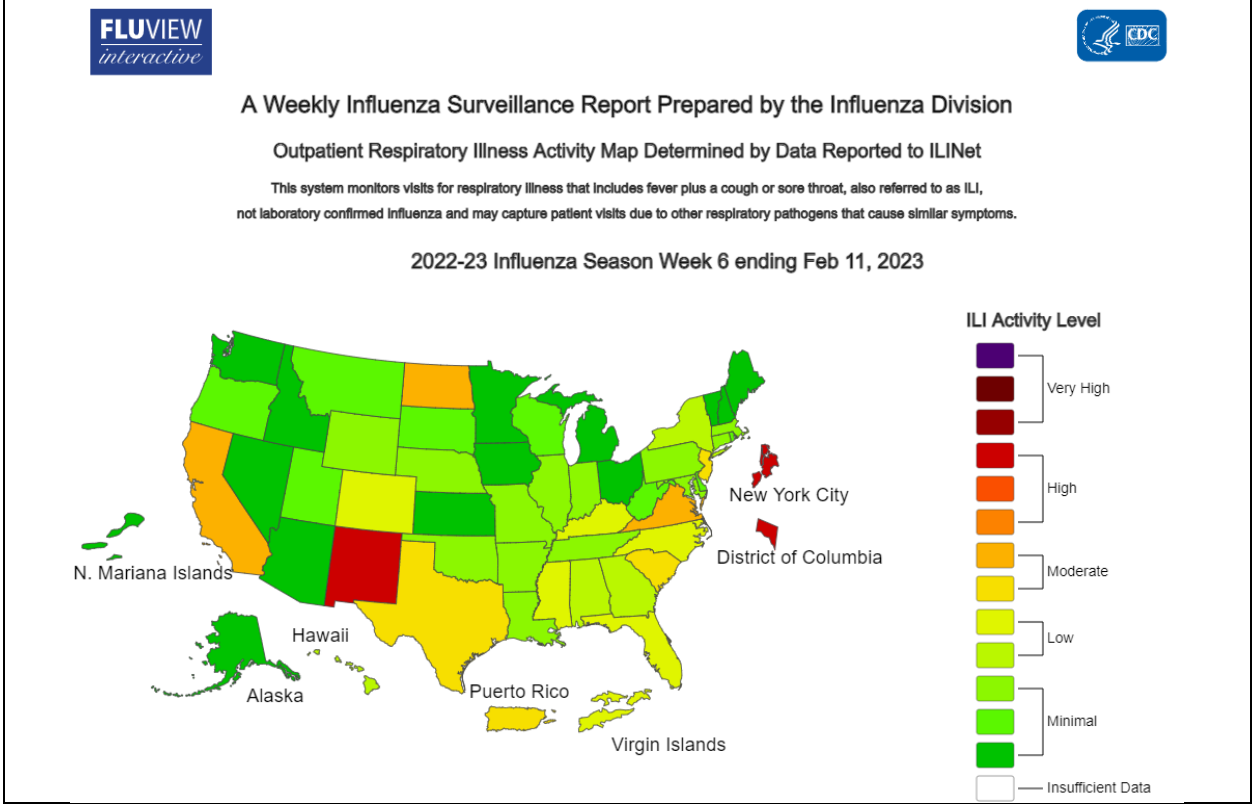
* Influenza case and laboratory data are obtained from the Connecticut Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CT EDSS). Laboratories report positive influenza tests to DPH. Test results may include the virus subtype (such as H3N2), which helps determine virus strains circulating in CT. Other results only include a general type (Type A Unspecified, Type B). Data are updated weekly for the previous reporting week (Sunday-Saturday).

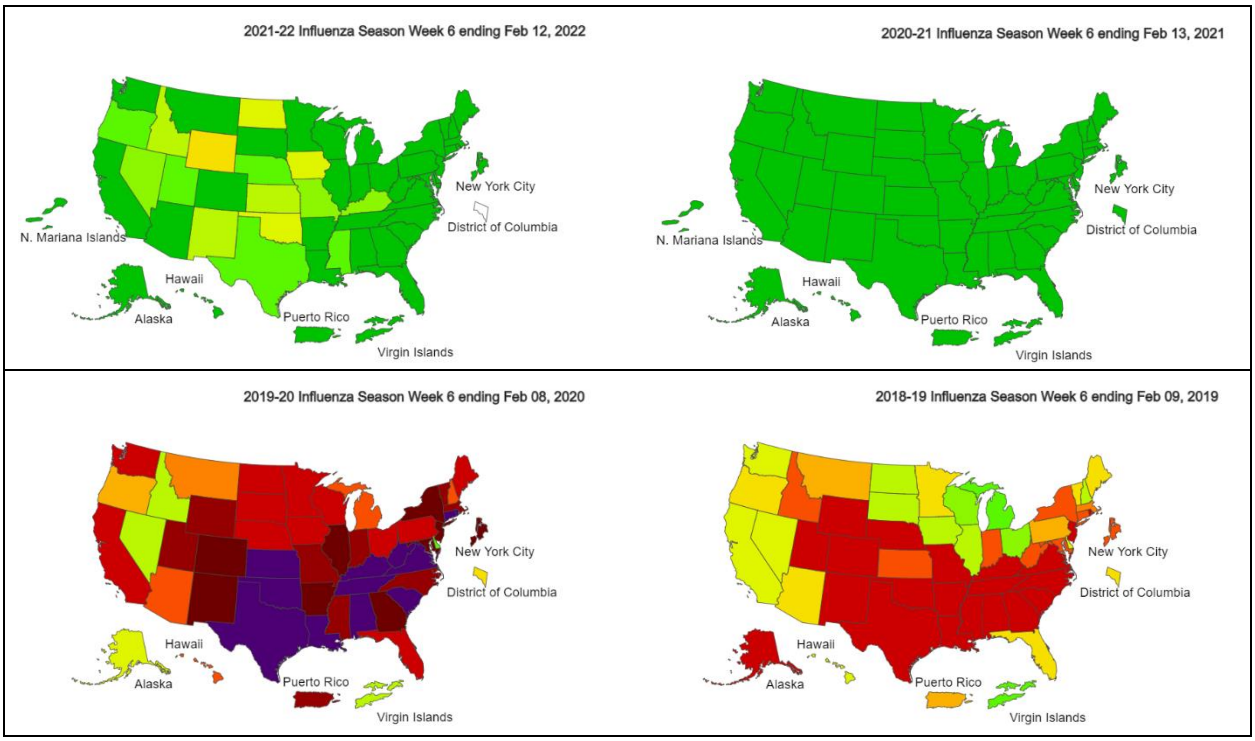
* DPH EpiCenter receives near real-time information about emergency department (ED) visits from hospital Eds throughout Connecticut and some Urgent Care Centers. Data from recent flu seasons were influenced by the of COVID-19 Pandemic and should not be compared to previous seasons.



UNITED STATES – WEEK 6 ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 2023

NATIONAL INFLUENZA MAPS PAST SEASON COMPARISON 2018-2022





*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.

*Data displayed in this map are based on data collected in ILINet, whereas the State and Territorial flu activity map are based on reports from state and territorial epidemiologists. The data presented in this map is preliminary and may change as more data is received.

*Differences in the data presented by CDC and state health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the state likely being the more complete.

SUMMARY

Influenza cases in February remain below the cases numbers seen in the previous months and previous flu season. In the previous week, there was only one additional influenza case reported. The highest percentage of cases continues to be in 5-15 year olds (29.9%) and the next highest percentage is in 15-30 year olds (17.6%). With only a single new case this week, the weekly number of cases as well as the weekly incidence rate have not altered in a dramatic way. Incidence rates for all zip codes as well as the overall weekly incidence rate are below the rates seen at this time in the previous flu season. When examined by virus type, H3N2 is the dominant subtype of influenza virus type A being seen and type A is the more common virus type overall, for both Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the nation.

In Connecticut, the percentage of emergency department visits for influenza like illness have hovered around 6% for the past 6 weeks. This is a higher percentage than was seen in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 seasons but lower than was seen in the 2019-2020 season. Fairfield County has lowered to minimal levels of ILI activity and New London County has the highest levels of ILI activity in Connecticut with a ranking of moderate levels.

Nationally, ILI activity is at high levels for 3 states/regions (New Mexico, New York City, and D.C.). While the majority of the nation remains at low or minimal levels of activity, increases are being seen in California, North

Dakota, and Virginia. Compared to historical numbers, this week has higher levels of ILI activity than the 2021-2022 and 2020-2021 but lower levels than the 2019-2020 and 2018-2019 seasons for this week in time.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE

- Get vaccinated every flu season
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and if you are sick limit contact with others
- If you have the flu, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone (except to get medical care or other necessities) without fever-reducing medication
- Take antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them

MORE INFORMATION

How does the flu make you sick? (video)

What should you do if you have the flu? (video)

Is it the flu or COVID-19? (website)

Flu Vaccine Information (website)

DATA SOURCES

- CTEDSS – Bridgeport Influenza Cases
- CT DPH Flu Tracker
- CDC FluView – Weekly Influenza Summary