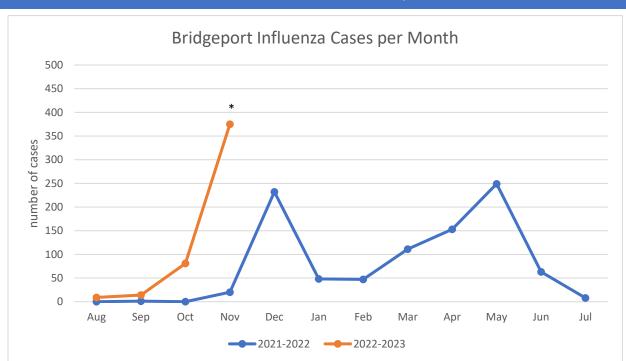
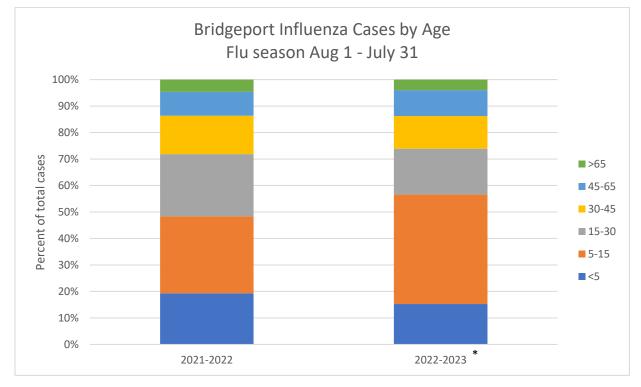
INFLUENZA EPI REPORT: 2022-2023 SEASON

WEEK 46 – ENDING NOVEMBER 19, 2022

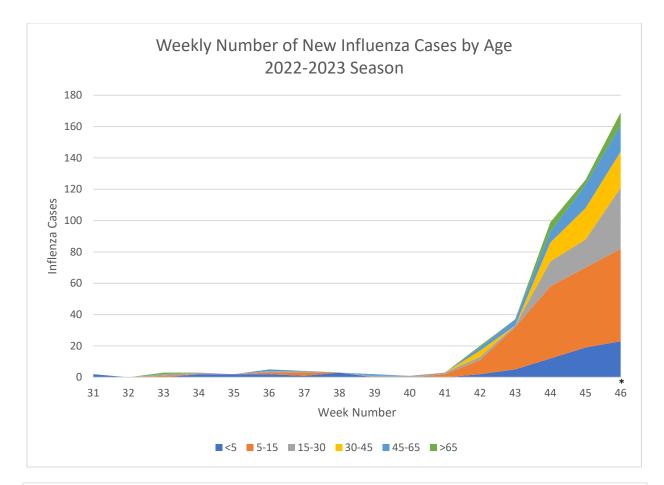


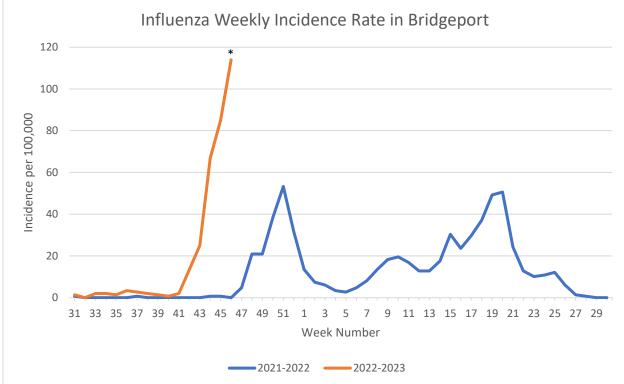




Updated November 22, 2022

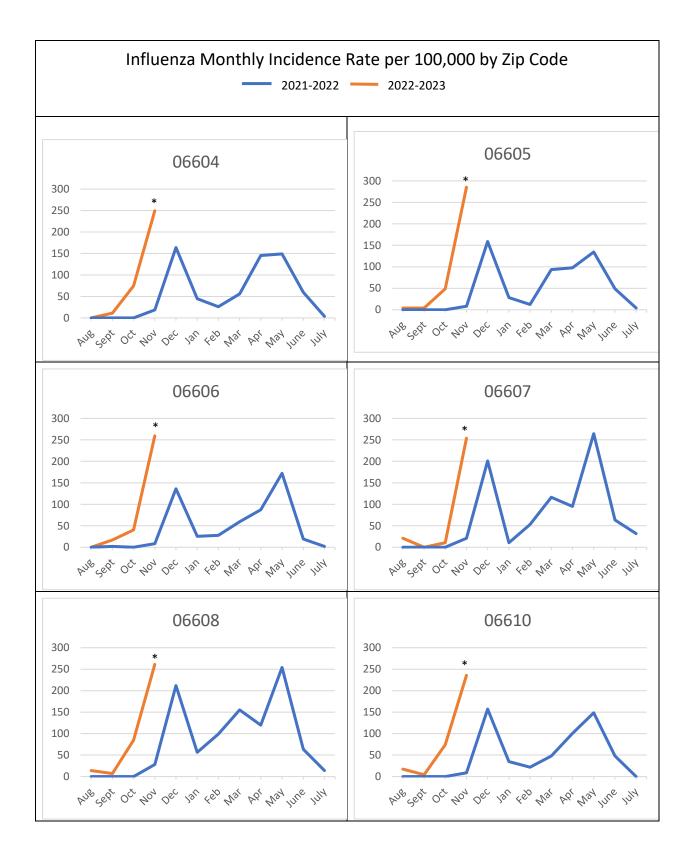
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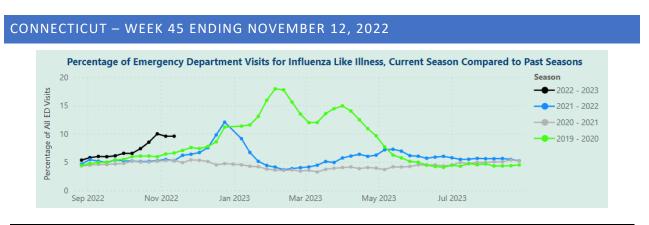


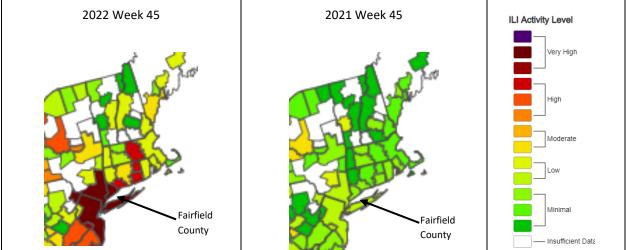


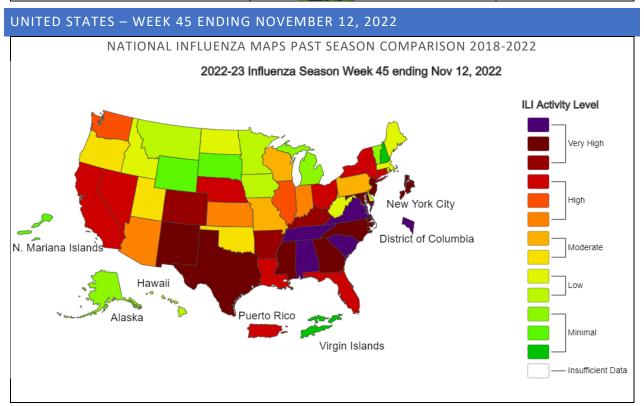
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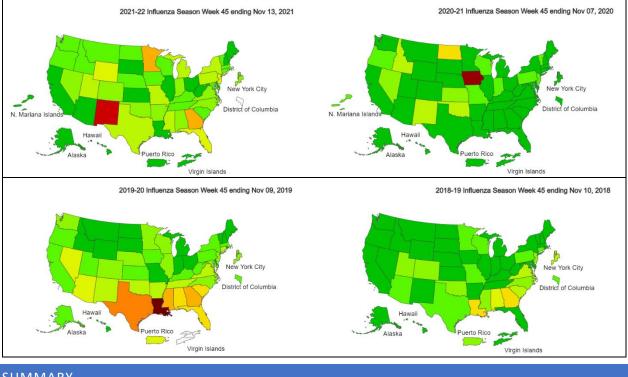






Updated November 22, 2022

*data are incomplete



SUMMARY

Laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in Bridgeport continue to rise rapidly in November. The first three weeks of November have 50% more cases of laboratory confirmed influenza than any month of the 2021-2022 flu season. Cases in the under 5 years age group have decreased to 15.2% of the total influenza cases for this season, but the majority of cases (41.3%) are still in the 5-15 year age group. The 15-30 year age group has increased to 17.3% of the total cases this year, but is still below the 23.5% of cases seen last year. Based on the age distribution, school transmission continues to be a major factor many of the reported cases of influenza. By week, the 5-15 year age group is responsible for the majority of case increases, but there are significant increased in the number of new cases for the 0-5 and 15-30 year age groups. The 30-45 and 45-65 year age groups have shown increases from week 44-46, but the percentage of total cases for this age group is similar to what was seen in the previous flu season. The weekly incidence rate of flu for Bridgeport continues to rise dramatically, surpassing 110 cases per 100,000 population for week 46. The highest incidence rate for flu in the previous year was 54 per 100,000. All zip codes of Bridgeport have seen a sharp increase in incidence of flu, exceeding 200 cases per 100,000 in the month of November. 06605 has the highest incidence rate at 285.2 per 100,000.

In Connecticut, the percentage of emergency department visits for influenza like illness (ILI) has remained steady for the past 2 weeks, but higher than seen in previous flu seasons at this same point in the year. When these cases of flu are sent for typing, they are coming back predominantly as influenza type A, but only a small portion of cases are sent for this analysis. Fairfield County as well as the surrounding areas of New York City, Newark, Jersey City, and Long Island are at very high levels of ILI. New London, Windham, and New Haven Counties are at high levels of activity and the Hartford-Tolland-Middlesex County region are at moderate levels of activity. At this same time in the 2021-2022 flu season there were no counties in Connecticut rated above low levels of ILI activity.

Nationally, ILI activity remains very high in Southern states as well as Texas and New Mexico. Western and Midwestern states are having increased levels of ILI activity as well. A total of 30 jurisdictions are at high or very high levels of influenza like illness activity and 6 are at moderate levels. This is an increase from 25 jurisdictions at

high or very high levels of ILI activity in the previous week. Overall, ILI activity levels at this time remain significantly higher than seen at this point during the previous 4 years.

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 https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm