Children's Mercy
INTEGRATED CARE SOLUTIONS

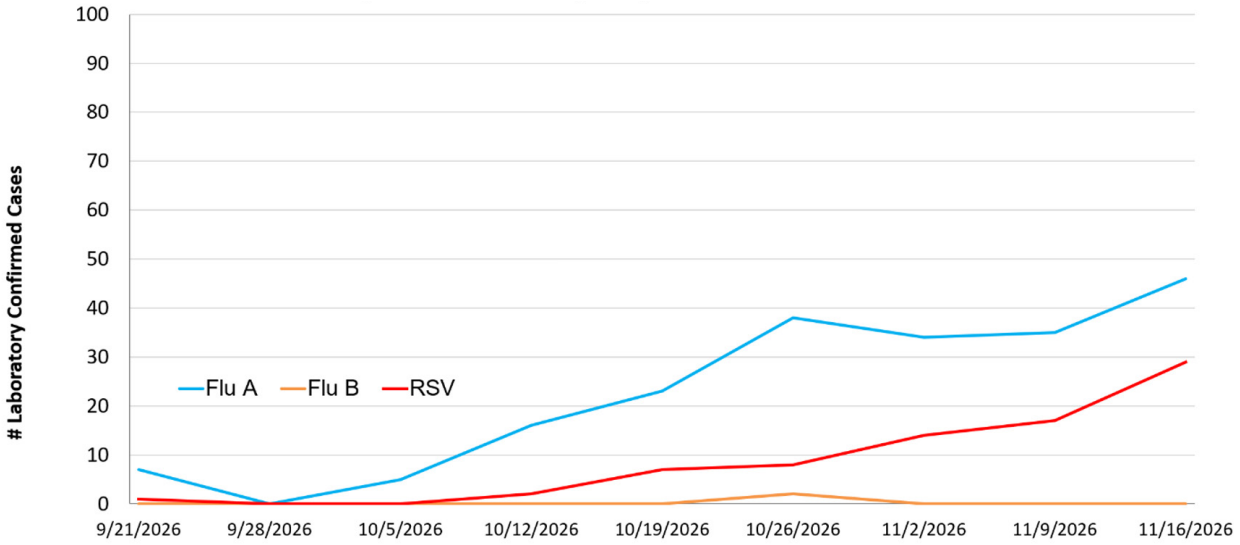
# Weekly Children's Mercy Influenza/RSV Activity Communication

11/19/2026

## Weekly Influenza & RSV Activity Based on Local Data:

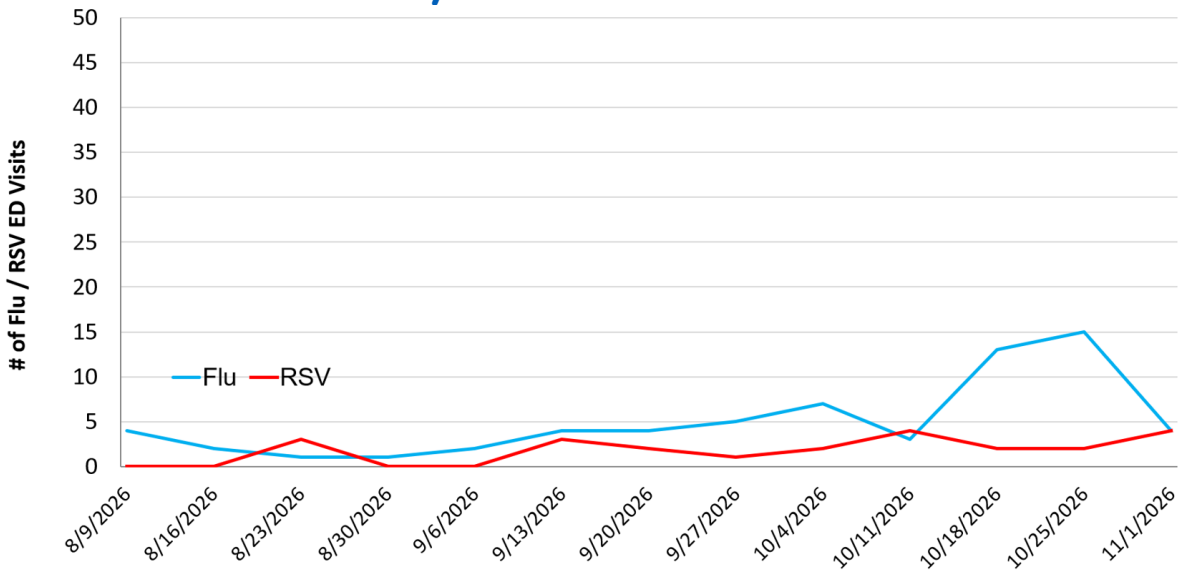
- Flu and RSV activity remain low but are **increasing, with continued increases expected over the next month**.
- An early flu season is expected this year, making **now a great time to get vaccinated**.

### Weekly Children's Mercy Hospital Influenza & RSV Virometer

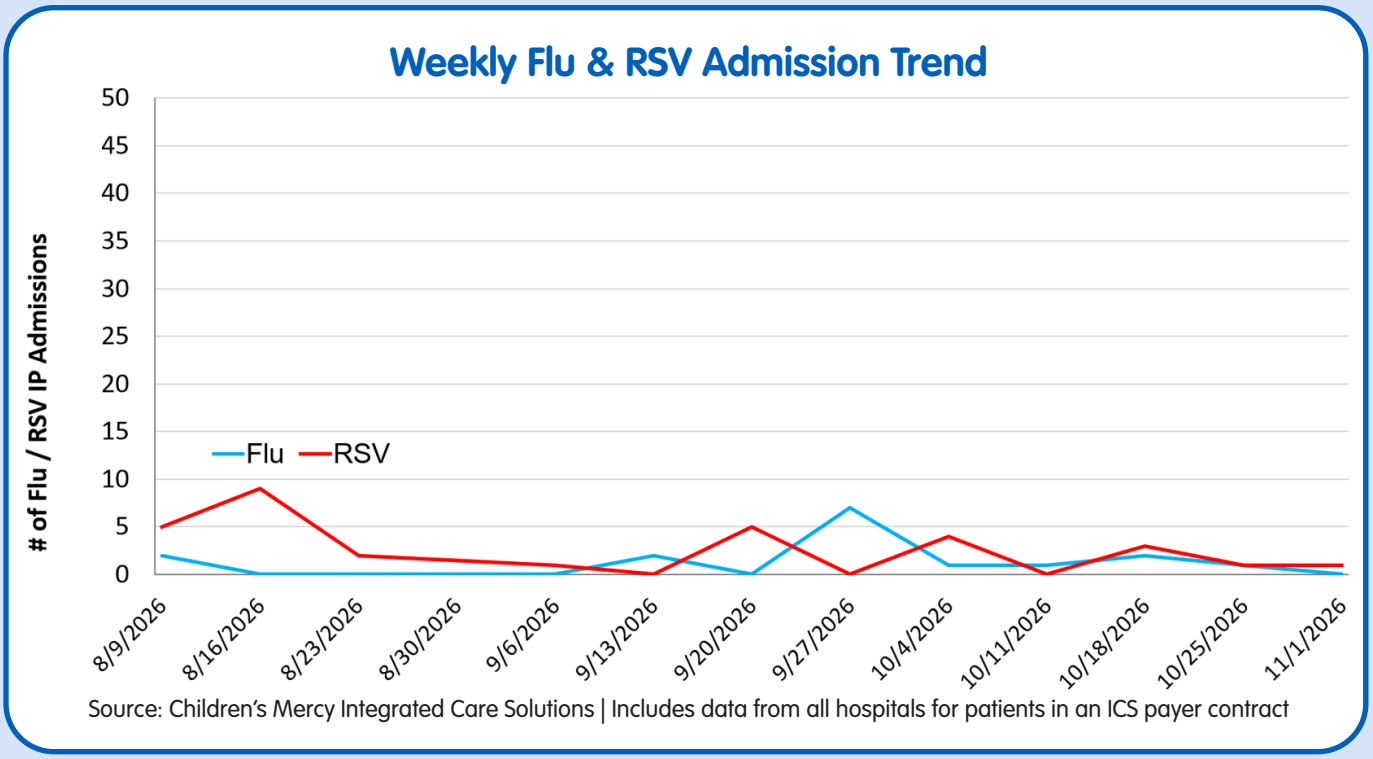



Source: Children's Mercy Kansas City | Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

### Weekly Flu & RSV ED Visit Trend

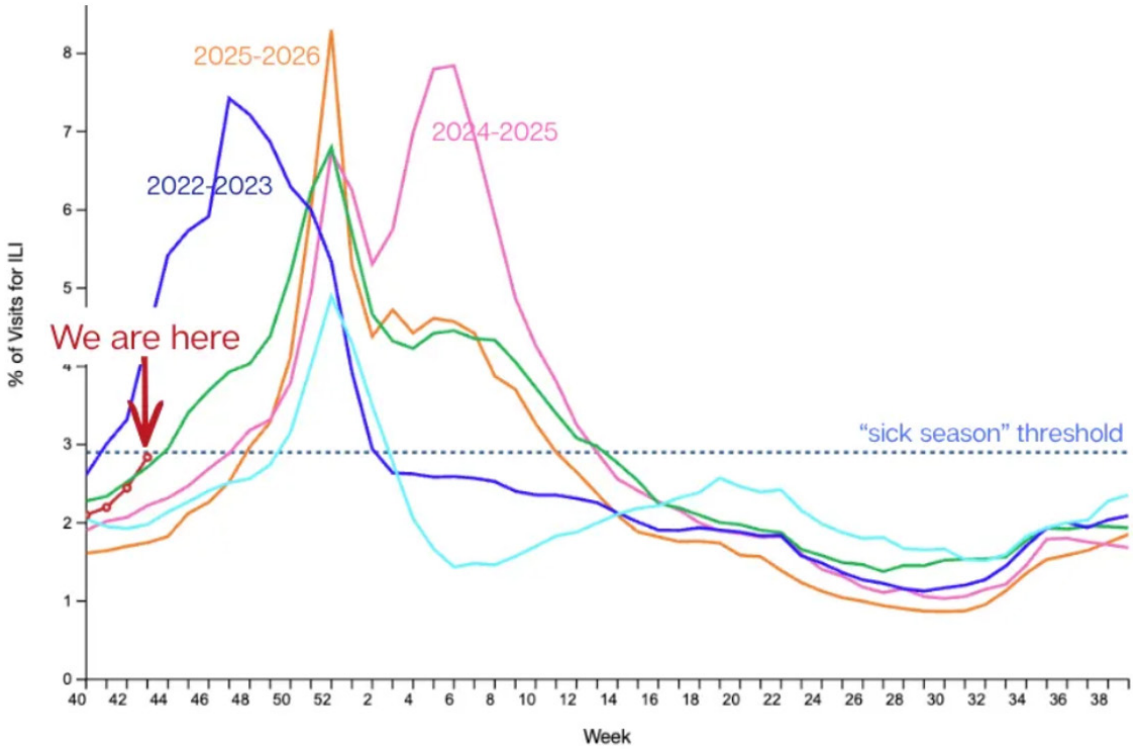


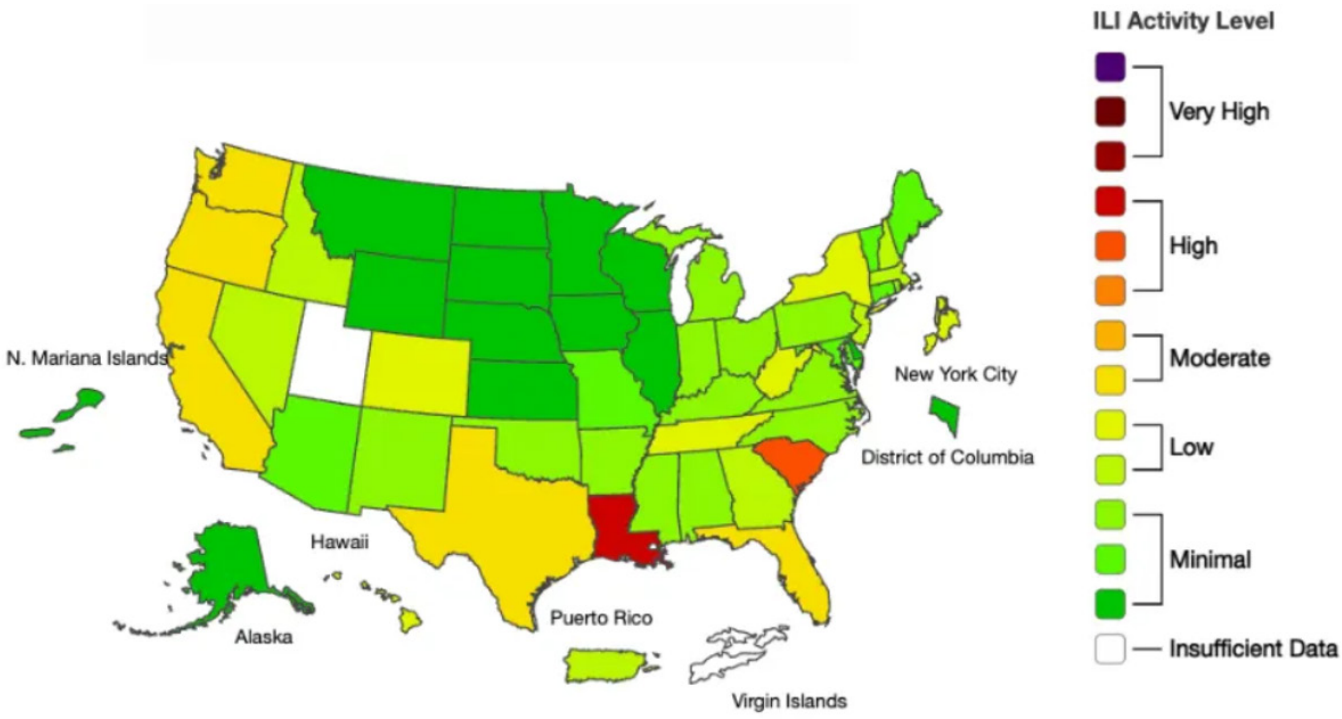

Source: Children's Mercy Integrated Care Solutions | Includes data from all hospitals for patients in an ICS payer contract




## Influenza Activity Based on National Data:

- Your Local Epidemiologist | The Dose | 11/10/2026: Respiratory illness is beginning to pick up across the U.S. National ILI (Influenza-Like Illness) activity is **2.8%**, just below the **2.9% seasonal baseline**, while the South and West have already surpassed that threshold. Young children are currently experiencing the greatest burden.
  - **Flu is increasing**: About 9% of tests are positive nationally, and hospitalizations are rising across most regions. Activity is highest in the West and South.
  - **RSV is on the rise**: Hospitalizations are increasing, particularly among children under 5, with the South currently seeing the most activity.






ILI Activity, by season and by state. Source: CDC; Annotated by Your Local Epidemiologist.

## Communication Tip of the Week

**Use Tailored Messaging**

Research shows that tailoring vaccine information to a family's unique circumstances, values, and needs can increase vaccine uptake.

Source: Gerend 2013.

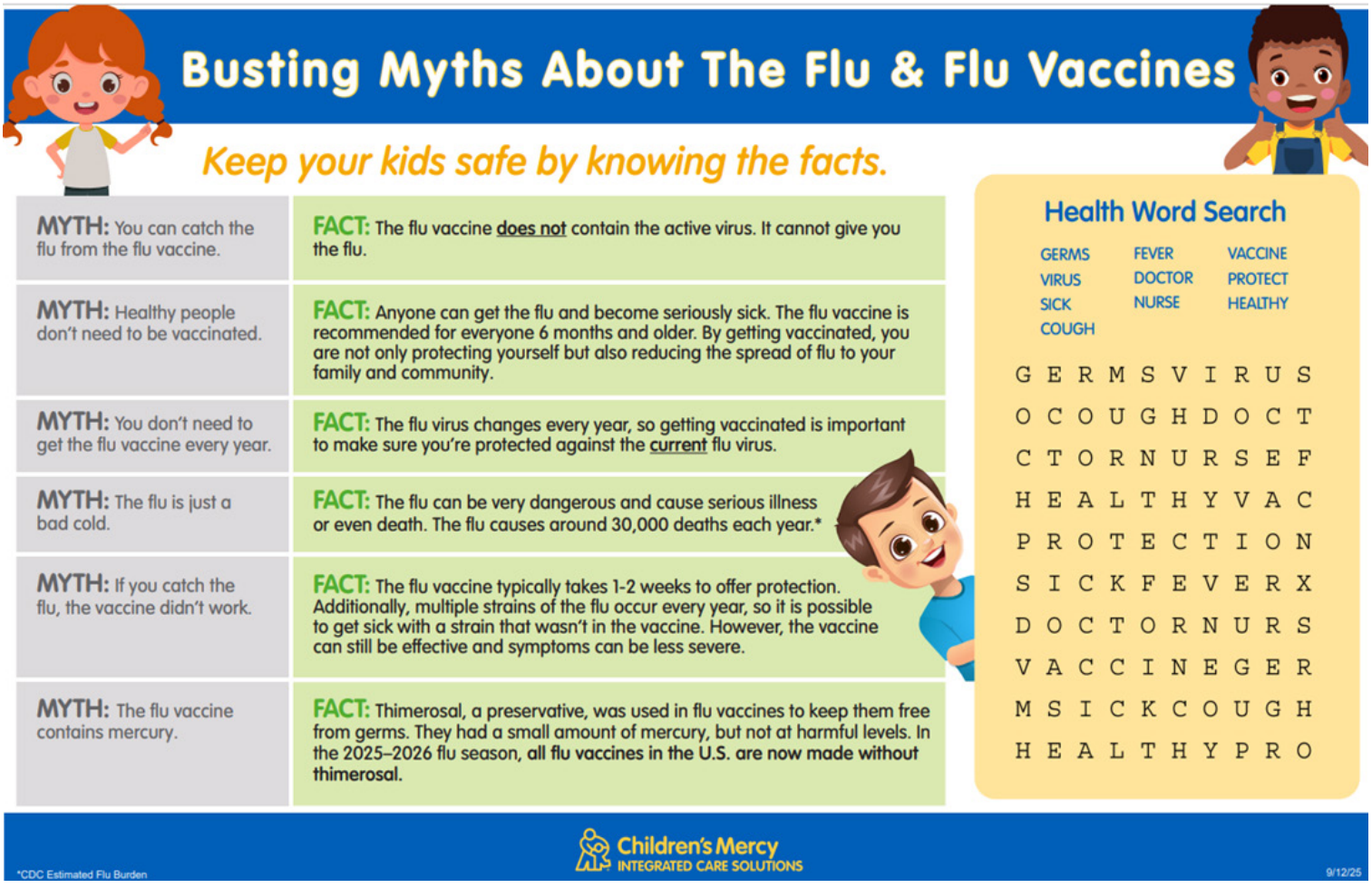


## Flu Vaccination Statements to Educate Patients & Families

- "Receiving the flu vaccine can help reduce the severity of illness and prevent hospitalizations. Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated today!"
- "Flu can come on fast and hard for your child. A flu vaccine can tame flu's worst symptoms if your child does get sick."
- "The flu vaccine can help your child stay healthy and continue attending school without interruptions. A healthy child means fewer sick days, better learning outcomes, and overall well-being."
- "The flu vaccine reduces the risk of flu illness by about 40-60%." – Source: CDC
- "Vaccinated children are 74% less likely to be hospitalized due to flu complications." – Source: CDC
- "Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-related medical visits by up to 60%, and it also reduces the risk of hospitalization." – Source: CDC

## RSV Immunization Statements to Educate Patients & Families

- "Young infants are hit hardest by RSV. Each year, 2–3 out of every 100 infants under 3 months are hospitalized with RSV." – Source: CDC
- "RSV antibody protection has been shown to reduce the risk of RSV-related hospitalization by about 80–90% in infants" – Source: CDC




Please contact your CMICS Population Health Management Network Rep or email ProviderRelations@cmpcn.org if you would like printed posters for your practice. Digital version is available **here**.