

Provider Newsletter – Brief Disease Update, 2025/2026

Where has the Wood County Health Department Provider Newsletter been? Updating! Take a look at some quick disease trends for Q4 2025 and how respiratory season is tracking for 2025-26.

Q4 Disease Trends (October – December)

All of the most frequently reported disease in Q4 were **higher** than our five-year average. Chlamydia accounted for 51% of reportable diseases, followed by influenza-associated hospitalizations (not included in table but trends on page 4), gonorrhea, and campy. CPOs are a notable mention, and it’s important to continue antimicrobial stewardship in 2026.

Reportable Disease	Q4 2025	Five-year average	Trend
Chlamydia	103	93	↑
Campylobacteriosis	11	5	↑
Carbapenemase Producing Organism (CPO)	7	1	↑
Shigellosis	5	1	↑
Cryptosporidiosis	4	1	↑
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	4	1	↑

Disease Reporting Changes

On October 1, 2025, updates were made to the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) disease reporting rules. Please review the Ohio Department of Health attachment for specific rule changes and updated “**Know Your ABCs: A Quick Guide to Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio**”

New Reportable Diseases

The following diseases are now reportable to the local health department (LHD):

Class A Report immediately via telephone to LHD	Botulism Free-living amoeba infection Tularemia, inhalation
Class B Report to LHD by end of next business day	Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) Cholera COVID hospitalizations Cronobacter, invasive infection in infants less than 12 months of age Melioidosis Mpox Latent tuberculosis infection in a child 2 years of age or younger RSV hospitalizations Tularemia, non-inhalation

Amebiasis, aseptic meningitis, COVID are **no longer** reportable conditions. **COVID hospitalizations are now considered a Class B reportable disease.**



How to Report Diseases

Please use the following contact methods to report infectious diseases including both **suspect cases** and when a **positive lab** result is known.

<p>Class A <u>Immediately</u> Via Phone</p>	<p>Please do NOT leave a voicemail, you MUST speak with someone.</p> <p><u>During business hours (Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30):</u></p> <p>Infectious Disease: 419-354-4306</p> <p>General Health Department: 419-352-8402</p> <p><u>After business hours:</u></p> <p>Wood County Sheriff Department: 419-354-9001 option 9</p>
<p>Class B <u>End of Next Business Day</u> Via Fax or Phone</p>	<p>Fax to <u>WCHD Infectious Disease</u> at <u>419-353-1516</u></p> <p>Phone to <u>WCHD Infectious Disease</u> at <u>419-354-4306</u></p> <p>Diseases such as mumps, pertussis, and varicella (not shingles) must be reported, including both <u>suspected cases</u> and when a <u>positive test result is known</u>.</p> <p>Because test results for these diseases can take weeks, timely reporting is essential to ensure public health follow-up for isolation and close contact guidance</p>



Respiratory Season (October – May)

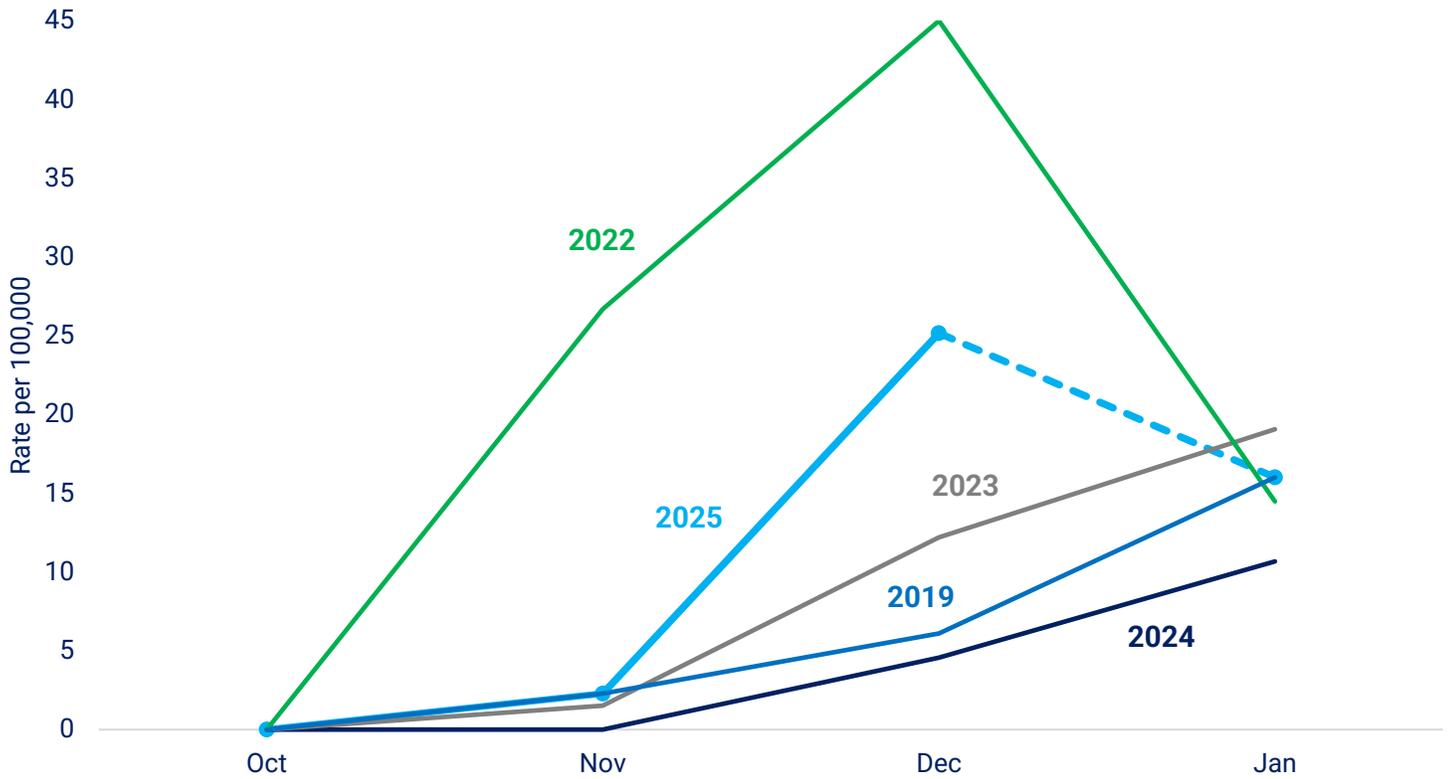
During the 2024-25 respiratory season, **COVID-19 peaked in December** and **flu peaked in February**. COVID-19 cases are no longer reportable, and this newsletter will feature reportable hospitalizations associated with influenza, COVID-19, and RSV as required by OAC 3701. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as outpatient visits for respiratory illness, including fever, cough, and/or sore throat. Data is preliminary and subject to change. Data updated 1/23/2026.

Quick take-aways

- Flu and respiratory activity in Wood County is **higher** than our five-year average.
- ILI is **high** in Ohio and across the country.
 - Reported illnesses and percent positivity is trending **downward** but still elevated.
- Subclade K (of Flu A H3N2) emerged as flu vaccine was decided and is likely the driver of increased activity. About 90% of all subtyped A H3N2 specimens (N = 659) 90.4% are subclade K.
 - Flu B and Flu A H1N1 are still circulating.
- There have been **44 flu-associated pediatric deaths**, including **3** in Ohio.
 - Nearly 90% of pediatric deaths were among children that were eligible for vaccines but were **not fully vaccinated**.
- It is a good time to remind your patients about easy and effective prevention methods like **proper hand washing** and **staying home when they're sick!**



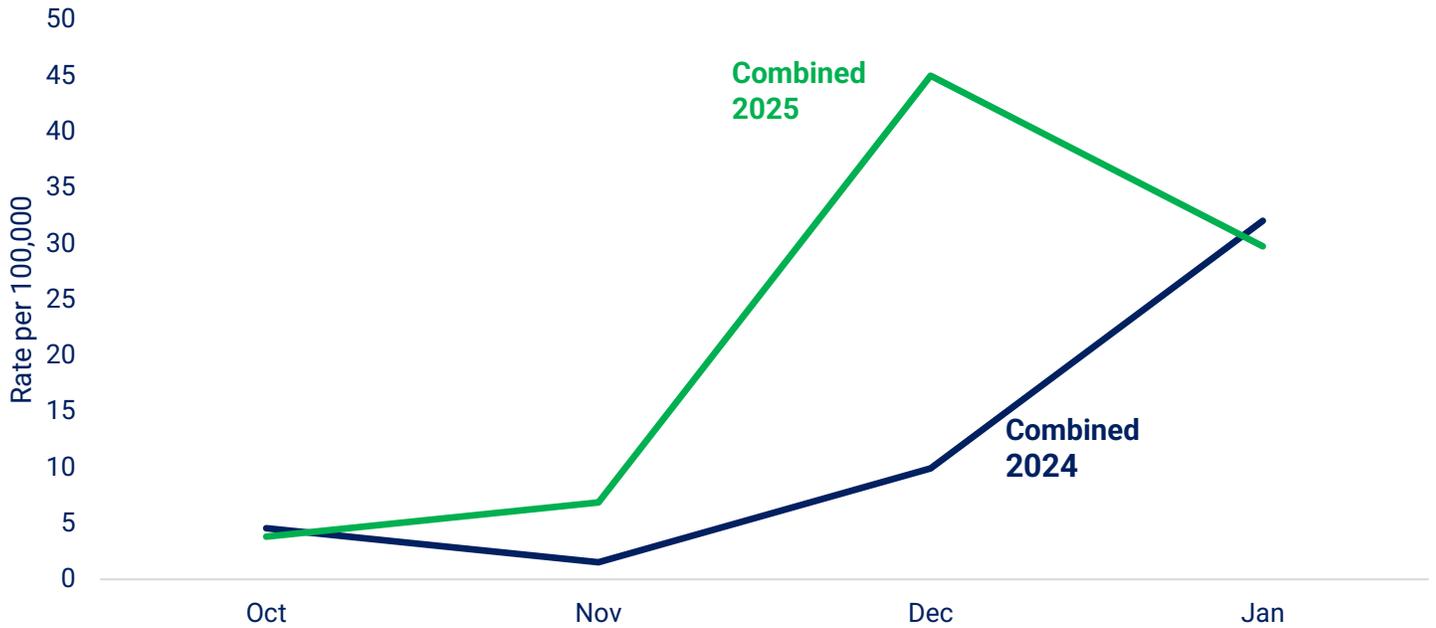
Current (2025) flu-associated hospitalization rates are **higher** than in 2024, 2023, and 2019 but are **below** rates seen in 2022.



Flu season 2020 and 2021 not presented due to unusually low case counts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current rates may lag and change as data is reported.



Current (2025) combined hospitalization rates of flu and COVID-19 are **higher** than combined rates from **last year (2024)**.



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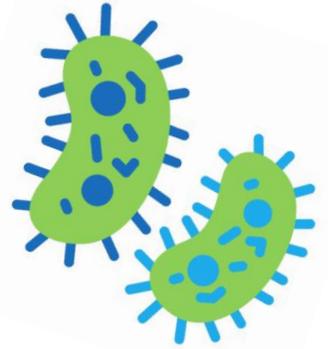


Infectious Disease Escape Room

Are you interested in hosting an escape room designed to train your staff on infection prevention and control?

Wood County Health Department offers this engaging and interactive training on a variety of scenarios, including C. diff, pertussis, and food safety.

Each "room" takes 15-20 minutes with 5-6 participants. Please let us know if we can provide this educational opportunity to your staff!



For questions, topic suggestions, or if you know others who are interested in signing up for this newsletter, please contact:

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