



CDC: As virus activity increases, another 3 children have died of flu

April 22, 2022

Alyson Sulaski Wyckoff, Associate Editor

Article type: [News](#)

Topics: [Infectious Diseases](#), [Influenza](#), [Public Health](#)

The latest [data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) reveal three more children have died of flu, bringing the total pediatric deaths this season to 22.

Influenza activity is highest in New Mexico, with moderate activity in Oklahoma, New York and Massachusetts. Nationally, about 8.9% of clinical lab specimens were positive for influenza during the week ending April 16, up from 8.4% the previous week.

Roughly 2.1% of outpatient medical visits last week were due to a respiratory illness, up slightly from the previous week but still below baseline. The cumulative hospitalization rate of 9.8 per 100,000 people is higher than last season, but lower than the four seasons just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the CDC estimates at least 4.7 million people have gotten sick from flu this season, 47,000 have been hospitalized and 2,800 have died.

The AAP and CDC recommend everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated. Flu vaccines have not been highly effective in preventing infection this season but still may protect against severe illness.

The [AAP said](#) it would keep its flu recommendations the same next season with no preference for any product.

Resources

- [AAP policy Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2021–2022](#)

- [AAP technical report *Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2021-2022*](#)
- [Information on flu from the CDC](#)
- [CDC FAQs about the 2021-'22 flu season](#)
- [Information for parents on flu vaccine from HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [Information on flu from the AAP *Red Book*](#)
- [Flu vaccine locations near you](#)

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