

## Diseases and conditions reported during Sep 3 - Sep 16, 2023:

This report is a bi-monthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.

### Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 12 Animal Bites – 4 pediatric, 8 adults; 2 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 7 Campylobacteriosis – 2 pediatric, 5 adults
- 740 COVID-19 – 90 pediatric, 650 adults
- 4 Cryptosporidiosis – 1 pediatric, 3 adults
- 3 Giardiasis – 1 pediatric, 2 adults
- 1 Legionellosis - adult
- 2 Salmonellosis – adults
- 4 Shigellosis – adults
- 1 Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive - adult
- 2 Varicella – 2 pediatric
- 12 West Nile Virus - adults

### Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2023 Year to Date: 1 (bat)
- Outbreaks reported - 4 COVID-19 outbreaks associated with schools, 1 COVID-19 outbreak associated with community organization, 1 Strep Throat outbreak associated with a school.

For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this [link](#).

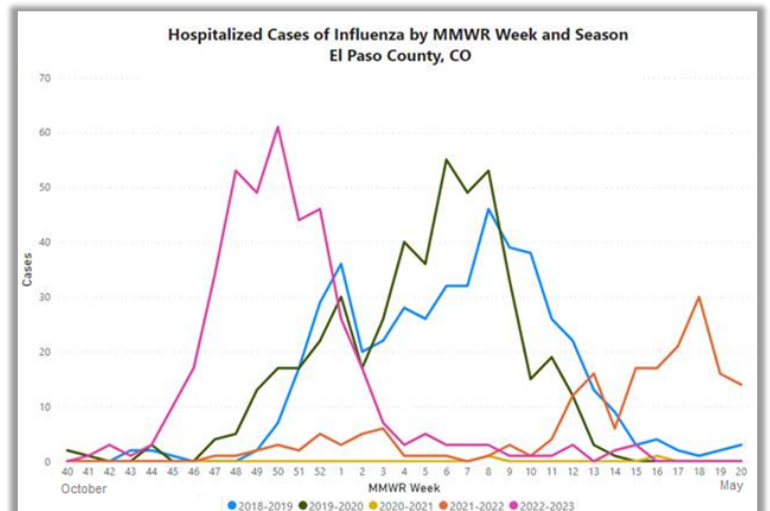
## Health News: Preparing for the influenza season – trends, surveillance, reporting, and prevention

### Trends

- While influenza viruses are detected year-round, in the U.S. they typically circulate during the fall and winter months.
- The timing and duration of influenza season varies year to year, but influenza activity typically begins to increase in October, then peaks between December and February, and continues through May.
  - In the previous five influenza seasons, 2018-2023, in El Paso County, peak influenza activity has occurred as early as December (2022-23 influenza season) and as late as May (2021-22 influenza season).

### Surveillance

- Influenza is monitored year-round, but more in-depth surveillance activities are implemented from October through May, and specifically from the 40th week of the year through the 20th week of the following year, which this influenza season will be October 2, 2023 through May 18, 2024.
- **County-level** hospitalization data, an important metric for measuring the timing and severity of influenza season, will be reported on a weekly basis beginning in October on EPCPH's [Influenza Data Dashboard](#).
- **Statewide** surveillance metrics, including influenza-associated hospitalizations, influenza-associated pediatric deaths, test positivity from sentinel hospital labs, and outbreaks in long-term care and correctional facilities, will be reported on the Colorado Department of Public Health's (CDPHE) [Viral Respiratory Disease Data Dashboard](#).



### Reporting

- The following influenza-associated conditions and outbreaks are reportable to public health:
  - **Influenza-associated hospitalizations:** Patients who have a hospital admission date 14 days or fewer after a positive influenza test or a hospital admission date three days or fewer before a positive influenza test.
  - **Influenza-associated pediatric deaths:** Report any suspected or confirmed influenza-associated pediatric death in children under 18 years.
  - **Influenza Outbreaks** in long-term care facilities, health care facilities, correctional facilities, schools, and child care facilities.
    - To report an influenza outbreak, please contact EPCPH's Communicable Disease Team at (719) 578-3220.

### Prevention

- **Vaccination** is the most effective way to protect against influenza infection and associated complications.
  - In the Southern Hemisphere, influenza season precedes that in the Northern Hemisphere and occurs between March and September. [The 2023 Southern Hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine reduced the risk for influenza-associated hospitalization by 52%.](#) The influenza viruses circulating in the Southern Hemisphere this year, are genetically similar to those targeted by the 2023-24 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine formula. This indicates that this season's vaccine might offer similar protection if the viruses that were circulating during the Southern Hemisphere's influenza season also predominate during the upcoming Northern Hemisphere's influenza season.
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥6 months who do not have contraindications. For individuals needing only one dose of influenza vaccine for the season, vaccination should ideally be offered during September or October.
    - Full [CDC influenza vaccination guidance for the 2023-2024 influenza season](#).
- Key prevention actions also include staying home when you are sick, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, washing your hands often, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose, and frequently cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces at home, work, or school especially when someone is ill.

Questions? Please Contact:

El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program  
Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(719) 578-3220; after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395  
[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)  
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List