

What's Going Around: A Communicable Disease Report

Diseases and conditions reported during January 14 – February 3, 2024:

This report is a bimonthly 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:

- 13 Animal Bites – 10 pediatric, 3; 1 adult recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 9 Campylobacteriosis – 3 pediatric, 6 adults
- 226 COVID-19 – 25 pediatric, 201 adults
- 2 Cryptosporidiosis – adults
- 4 Giardiasis – 1 pediatric, 3 adults
- 5 Invasive Strep Pneumoniae - adults
- 4 Pertussis – 2 pediatric, 2 adult
- 64 RSV, hospitalized – 32 pediatric, 32 adults
- 1 Salmonellosis – adult
- 1 Shigellosis – adult
- 3 STEC (Shiga Toxin Producing E.coli) - 2 pediatric, 1 adult
- 2 Varicella – pediatric
- 1 Vibriosis – pediatric

Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2024 Year to Date: 2 (bats)
- Hospitalized Influenza since October 1, 2023: 349 Total (287 Influenza A, 50 Influenza B and 12 Unsubtyped)

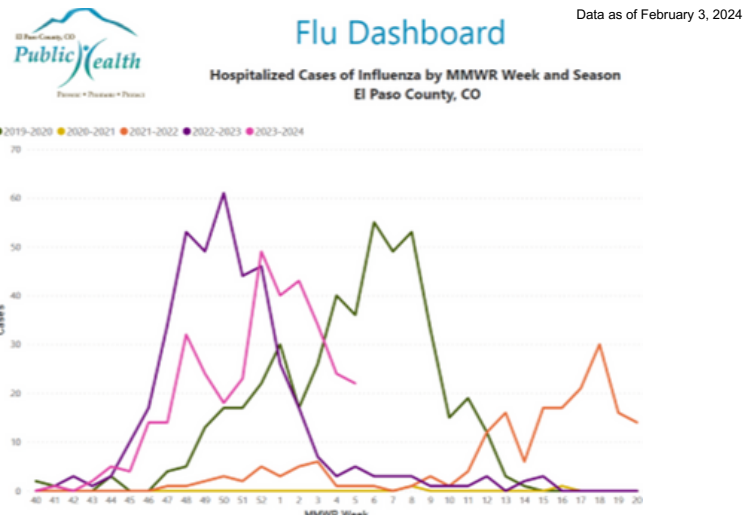
Outbreaks reported—

- 8 Influenza outbreaks associated with schools and childcare facilities
- 5 RSV outbreaks associated with schools and childcare facilities
- 3 COVID-19 outbreaks associated with schools and childcare facilities
- 4 Norovirus outbreaks: 3 associated with schools and childcare facilities and one associated with a long-term care facility

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

Health news: Mid-Season Influenza Update

- Seasonal influenza surveillance in Colorado is conducted from October (MMWR week 40) through mid-May (MMWR week 20) of the following year. This current flu season runs from October 1, 2023 through May 18, 2024.
- Thus far during the 2023-2024 Influenza season in El Paso County:
 - 349 reported cases of hospitalized influenza were reported. During the same timeframe last year, there were 375 reported cases. In the five years before the pandemic, El Paso County averaged 359 cases a year (range of 153 cases in 2015 to 506 cases in 2019).
 - 20 influenza outbreaks were reported (10 in schools, 8 in childcare centers and 2 long term care facilities; excluding outbreaks that had coinfection with COVID-19). During the same timeframe last year, there were 19 total influenza outbreaks reported across these settings.
 - A confirmed influenza outbreak is defined as: Two or more cases of influenza among associated people with symptom onset occurring within a 1-week period.
- In Colorado and nationally, Influenza A H1N1 is currently the predominant circulating strain followed by H3N2. El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) maintains a weekly Influenza dashboard to display county level data and trends: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/service/infectious-diseases/influenza-flu-prevention>
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment also has a data dashboard of hospitalized influenza, COVID-19, and RSV activity statewide: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/viral-respiratory-diseases-report>



- A national Influenza report is published weekly by CDC and can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm.
- Influenza outbreaks in any setting are required to be reported to the local health department by completion of this [form](#) or calling EPCPH at 719-587-3220.
- Public Health guidance and recommendations for schools, childcare, and long-term care settings can be found at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/communicable-diseases/infectious-disease-guidelines-schools-childcare>
- According to a [study](#) in the Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, the 2023 Southern Hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine, which included influenza antigenic serotypes similar to those targeted by the 2023–2024 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine formulation, reduced the risk for influenza-associated hospitalizations by 52%.

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
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List