

Diseases and conditions reported during December 01 – 14, 2024:

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:

- 7 Animal Bites – 5 pediatric, 2 adults; 0 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 7 Campylobacteriosis – adults
- 1 Cryptosporidiosis - adult
- 1 Dengue - adult
- 2 Giardiasis – adults
- 3 Invasive pneumococcal disease - adults
- 1 Mpox - adult
- 9 Pertussis – 7 pediatrics, 2 adults
- 1 Salmonellosis – pediatric
- 4 STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) - adults
- 1 Shigellosis – adult
- 1 Varicella – pediatric

Additional reports:

- Hospitalized Influenza since September 29, 2024: 30 total (29 Influenza A, 1 Influenza B, 0 unsubtype)
- Outbreaks reported:
 - 1 Influenza outbreak associated with a long-term care facility.
 - 1 Unknown GI outbreak associated with an assisted living facility.
 - 1 Norovirus, 1 Pertussis, outbreaks associated with K-12 schools.
 - 2 Unknown GI illness, 2 Hand, Foot, and Mouth outbreaks associated with child care centers.
 - 4 COVID outbreaks in long term care facilities (investigated by CDPHE).

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

Health News: Norovirus

Background

- Norovirus is the leading cause of gastrointestinal and foodborne illness in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that norovirus infection accounts for 58 percent of all acquired foodborne illness.
 - It is estimated that norovirus causes 19 to 21 million people in the U.S. to become ill each year.
 - Annually there are roughly 2,500 norovirus outbreaks reported in the U.S. Outbreaks are most often reported from November through April.
- Norovirus is a cold-weather virus that typically circulates during the same season as the influenza virus, which gives rise to the misnomer ‘stomach flu.’
- Individuals usually experience symptoms 12-48 hours after being exposed to norovirus (incubation period).
 - Symptoms of norovirus include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, low-grade fever, headache, and body aches.

About the current norovirus season -Nationally

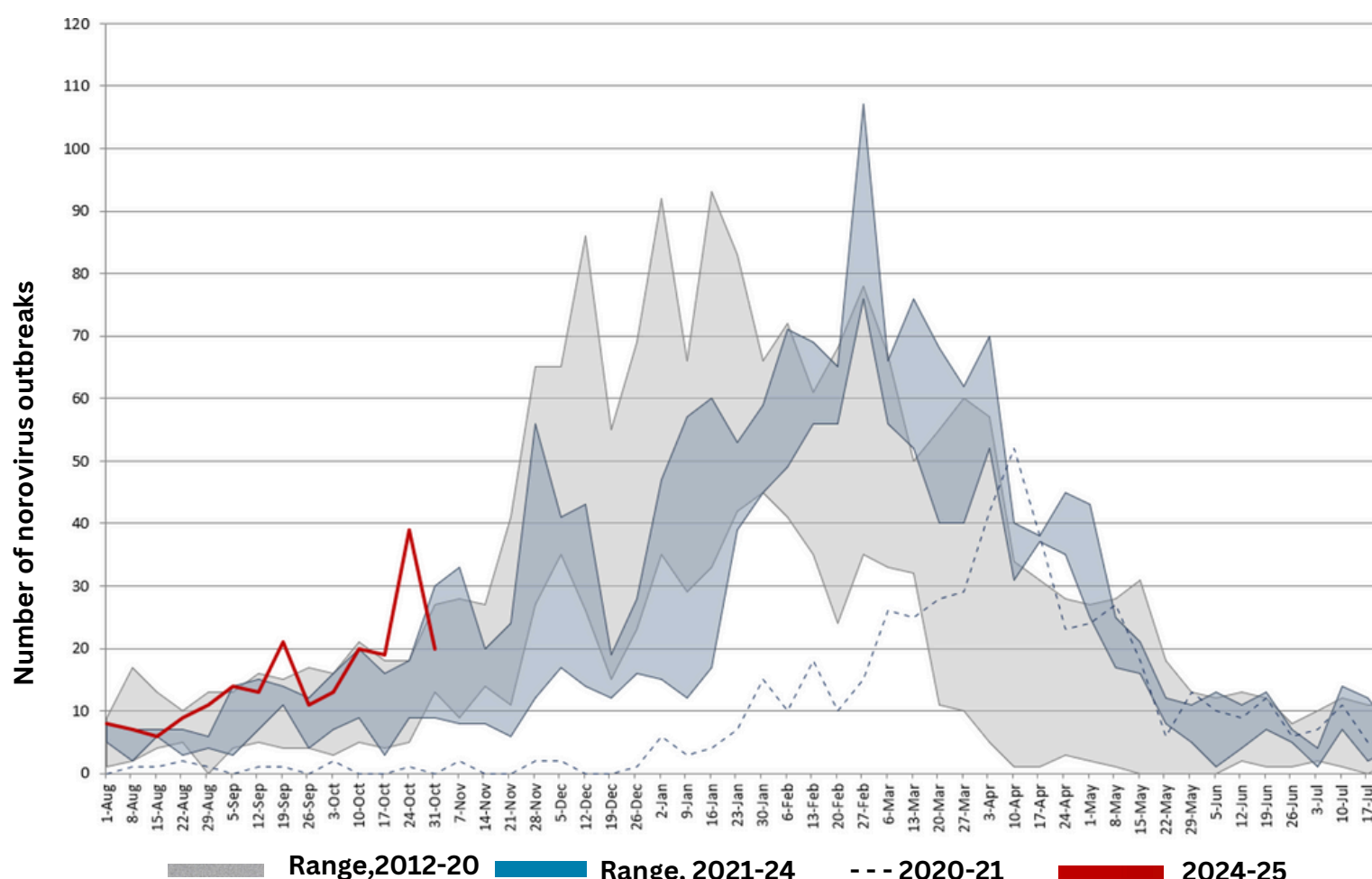
- Fourteen state health departments (including Colorado) participate in NoroSTAT with the CDC to provide near real-time reporting and monitoring of norovirus outbreak activity.
- During Aug. 1–Nov. 6, 2024, there were 211 norovirus outbreaks reported by NoroSTAT from participating states.
 - During the same period last seasonal year, there were 189 norovirus outbreaks reported by these states.
 - The total number of outbreaks reported thus far during the 2024–2025 seasonal year (August – July) is above the range reported during the same period during the 2012–2020 and 2021-2024 seasonal years.
 - NoroSTAT data dashboards are updated weekly.

About the current norovirus season – El Paso County, CO.

- From 2012-2019, 42 percent of all reported outbreaks in El Paso County were either laboratory-confirmed as norovirus or suspected norovirus based on timing and characteristics of the outbreak.
 - From 2012-2019, an average of 22 norovirus outbreaks were reported in El Paso County per year.
 - During 2023, 40 norovirus outbreaks were reported; thus far 28 norovirus outbreaks have been reported in 2024.
- Reporting
 - All suspected and confirmed outbreaks are required to be reported to the EPCPH Communicable Disease Program at (719) 578-3220.
 - In the event of an outbreak, the EPCPH Communicable Disease program can assist with laboratory testing, surveillance, disease control and infection prevention measures to limit the spread of disease in facilities and the community.
- Though individual cases of norovirus are not reportable, EPCPH recommends individual cases of food poisoning associated with a retail food establishment be reported at the following link:
www.elpasocountyhealth.org/report-foodborne-illness
 - Reports of food poisoning assist EPCPH in identifying outbreaks or common exposures.

Graphs, Charts, Supporting Infographics:

Number of Suspected or Confirmed Norovirus Outbreaks Reported by NoroSTAT-Participating States Per Week, 2012-2025



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