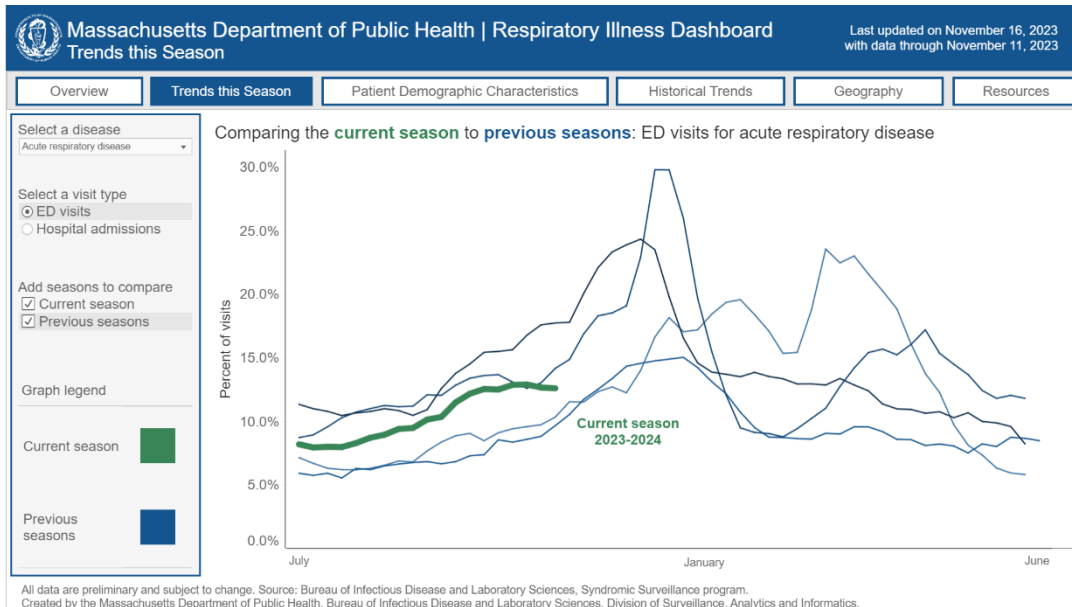


Respiratory Illness Reporting

This health update provides an overview of the current state of respiratory disease in Massachusetts, using data from [DPH dashboards](#). The dashboards are updated weekly on Thursdays.

Currently in Massachusetts, the influenza severity level is low, COVID-19 ED visit level is minimal, and COVID-19 hospital admissions level is low, as well. Overall, 12.6% of emergency department visits during the last week (Nov. 5 – Nov 11) were for acute respiratory disease. Specifically, in Worcester County, 12% of emergency department visits were related to acute respiratory disease and 20.9% of last week's hospital admissions were related to acute respiratory disease.

In the graph below, our current season (2023-2024) is bold in green, compared to previous seasons of emergency department visits for acute respiratory diseases. We are currently below the levels we experienced in the same week as the 2021 (14.2%) and 2022 (17.7%) seasons, compared to our current season at 12.6%.



As of November 11TH, Massachusetts is approximately 13.4% vaccinated against COVID-19 (the 2023-2024 updated vaccine), and 29.2% are vaccinated against influenza. To schedule a COVID-19 or flu shot visit your local pharmacy or visits www.vaccines.org to find an appointment near you.

Food Safety

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, click [here](#) for tips on how to prepare your turkey safely, to prevent the spread of germs. This CDC webpage has information on storing and thawing your turkey properly and safely, handling and cooking the turkey to a safe temperature, and of course, taking caring of all the delicious leftovers.



There will be no health update next week. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!