



MONDAYS WITH
DR MARK & DR MICHAEL

Monday, August 5, 2024 | 1:00 – 1:45PM

TOPIC #28
Avian Flu, COVID and Vaccination Updates





Avian Influenza Update



A detailed 3D rendering of several COVID-19 virus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured, reddish-pink surface and numerous protruding, grey, spike-like structures. They are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, reds, and pinks against a light, hazy background.

COVID Update

A small, stylized icon of a vintage microphone, positioned to the left of the text.

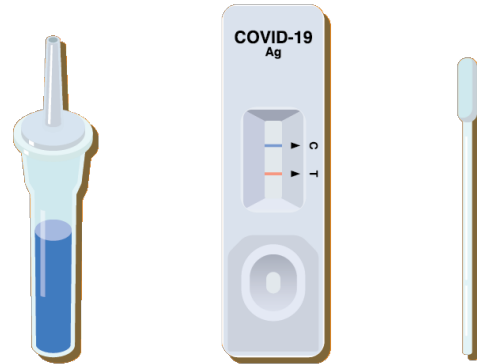
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Quick Poll

Have you or someone you know tested positive for COVID in the last 2 weeks?

- A. YES
- B. NO



Early Indicators

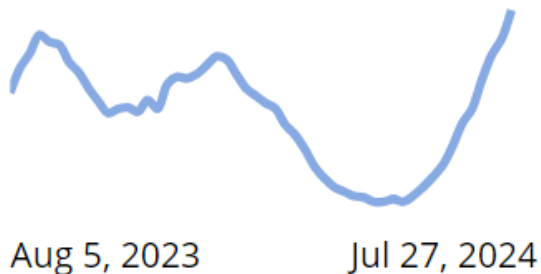
Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

16.3%

Week ending July 27, 2024

Previous week 14.3%



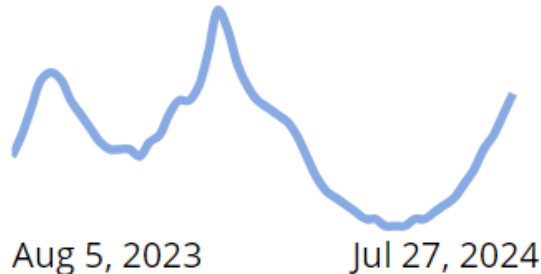
Emergency Department Visits >

% Diagnosed as COVID-19

2.2%

Week ending July 27, 2024

Previous week 1.9%

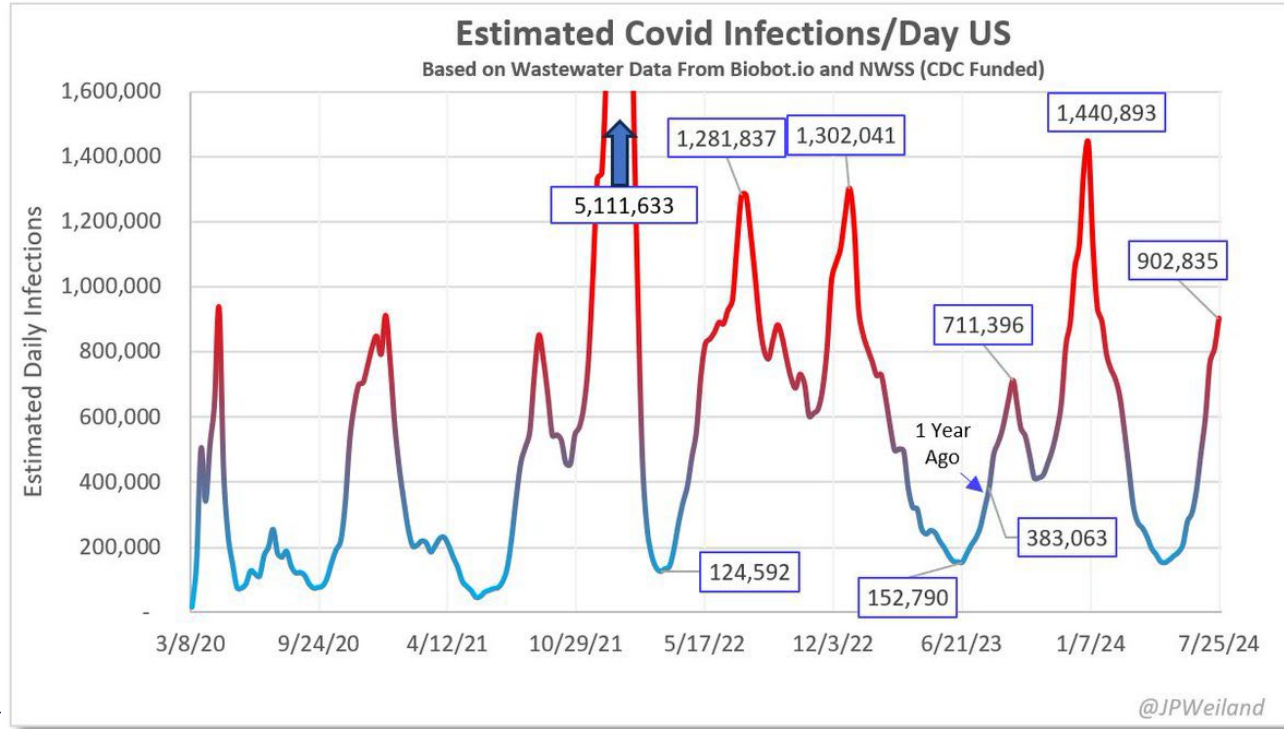


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<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

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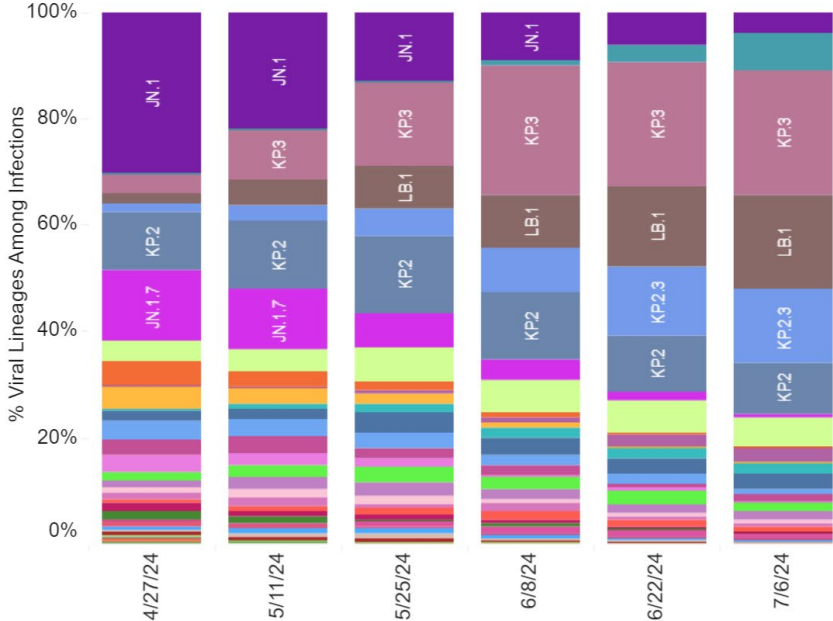
Wastewater Surveillance



- It's Estimated:
- 900,000 new infections/day
 - 1 in every 37 people currently infected
 - 59% higher than 12-month average.

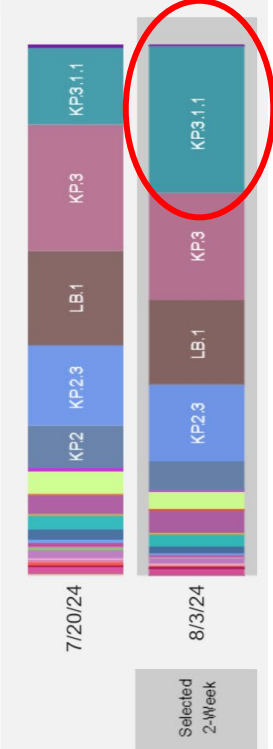
Genomic Surveillance

Weighted Estimates: Variant proportions based on reported genomic sequencing results



Collection date, two-week period ending

Nowcast:** Model-based projected estimates of variant proportions



- Rapid growth in KP.3.1.1 to become the dominant variant in all parts of the US



KP.3.1.1

- KP.3.1.1, characterized as having the most immune evasion and infectivity¹
- KP.3.1.1 has not been linked with as much severe Covid (absolute increase) as was seen in prior waves
- But compared to last week there was a relative increase of 25% of deaths and 12% increase in emergency room visits due to Covid²

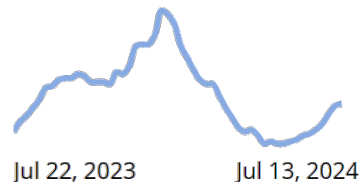
1. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.07.16.603835v1>
2. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Hospitalizations >

Rate per 100,000 population

3.1

Week ending July 13, 2024
Previous week 3.0

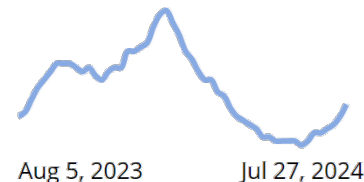


Deaths >

% of All Deaths in U.S. Due to COVID-19

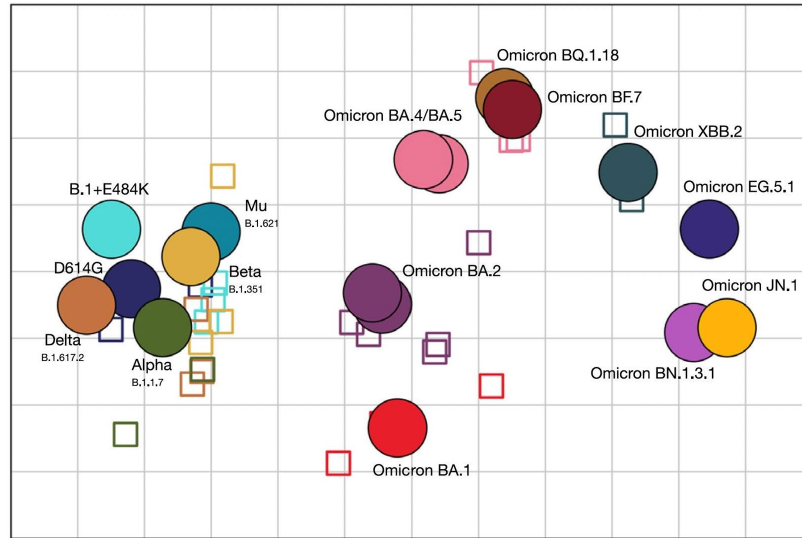
1.5%

Week ending July 27, 2024
Previous week 1.2%



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Antigenic Cartography¹



Antigenic Shift or Distance →

- JN.1 is further way from Omicron BA.1 than BA.1 is from the major variants of 2020 and 2021 (Wuhan-ancestral, D614G, Alpha, Delta, Beta)
- KP.3 and KP.3.1.1 are further to the right!

Is there a problem?

Waning Immunity

- Immunity from vaccinations and infections wanes over time
- Vaccine boosters only last 4-6 months for protection from severe Covid
- Majority of people have not had a booster for 12+ months



Mitigation

- Few people are masking
- Most people not testing
- Little has been done to improve air quality or ventilation
- Indoor events are being held with big crowds

Quick Poll

When did you last receive a COVID shot?

- A. Less than 6 months
- B. 6-12 months
- C. 12-18 months
- D. 18-24 months
- E. >24 months
- F. Never been vaccinated



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Fall Vaccination Update



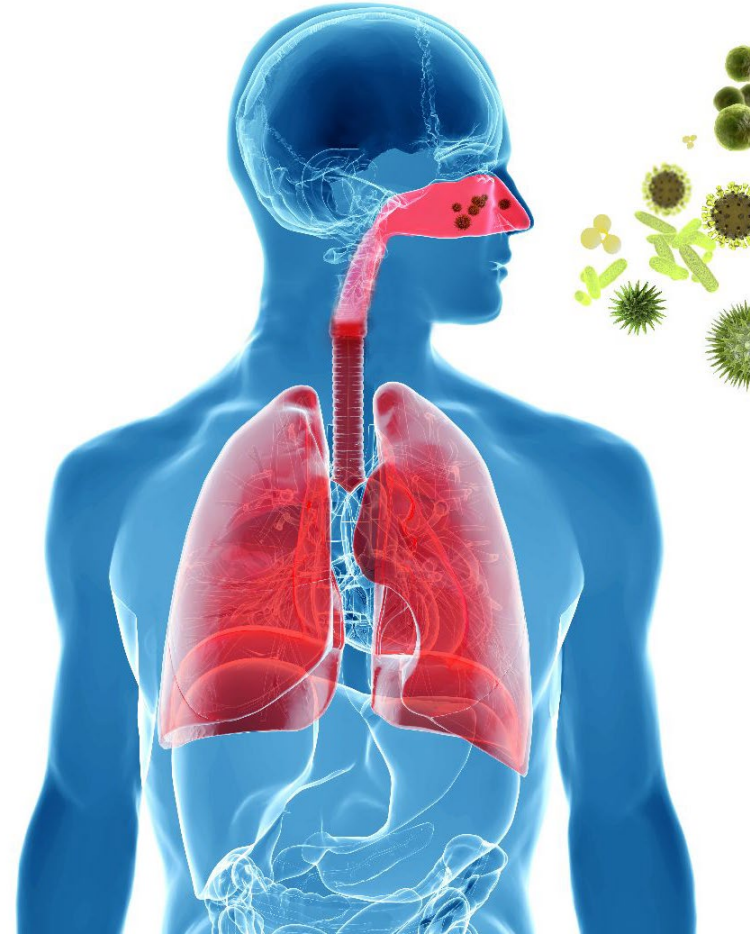
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Respiratory Season Vaccinations

Seasonal Influenza:

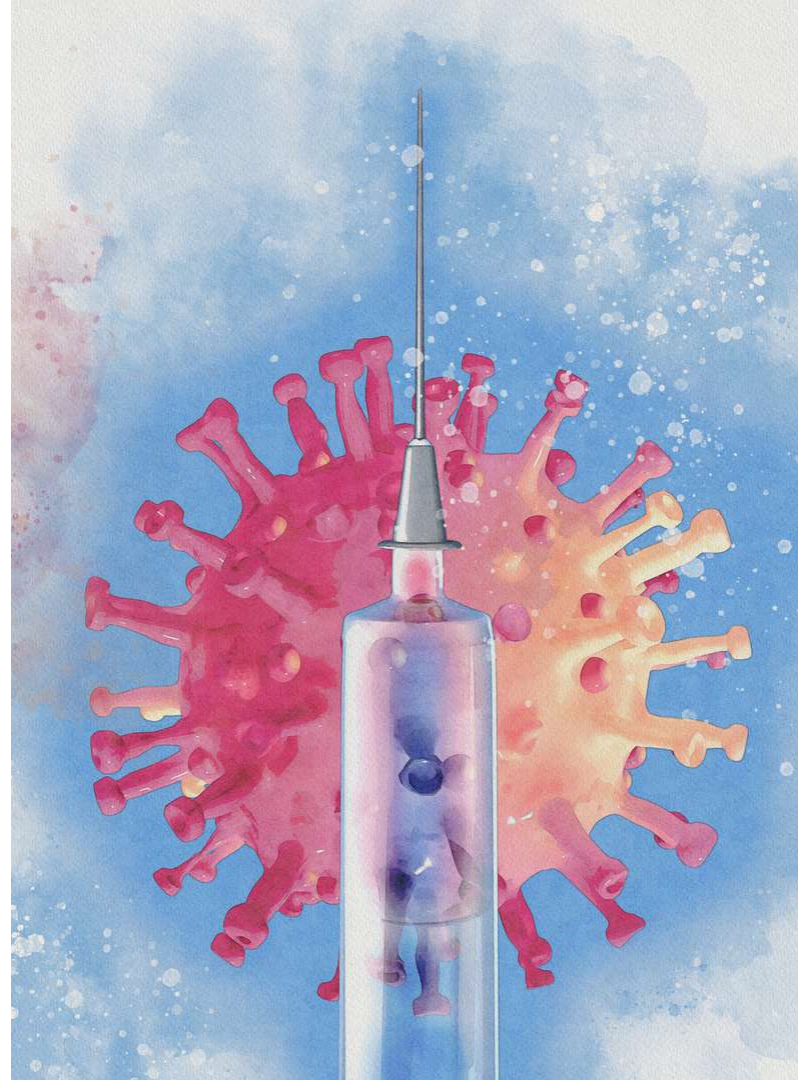
- FDA VERBAC committee recommend a three-component (trivalent) vaccines and include an influenza A(H1N1), an A(H3N2) and a B/Victoria-lineage vaccine virus.
- Recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications
- Timing - September or October for majority but should continue throughout the season if influenza viruses are circulating
- >65 should get high-dose version



Respiratory Season Vaccinations

COVID

- Recommended for Everyone Aged 5 Years and Older:
 - 1 dose Moderna or Pfizer – monovalent KP.2 variant
 - 1 dose Novavax (>12) – monovalent JN.1 variant
- Unvaccinated, 6 months to 5 years, >65, Immunocompromised dosing varies
- Timing –
 - September-October
 - >65 may need another booster 4-6 months
 - COVID is not influenza as tends to have two major waves
Possible argument for 6 monthly (updated) vaccines



Respiratory Season Vaccinations

RSV - CDC recommends:

- Everyone ages 75 and older receive the RSV vaccine.
- People ages 60–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions, such as lung or heart disease, or they live in nursing homes, receive the RSV vaccine
- Timing – August – September

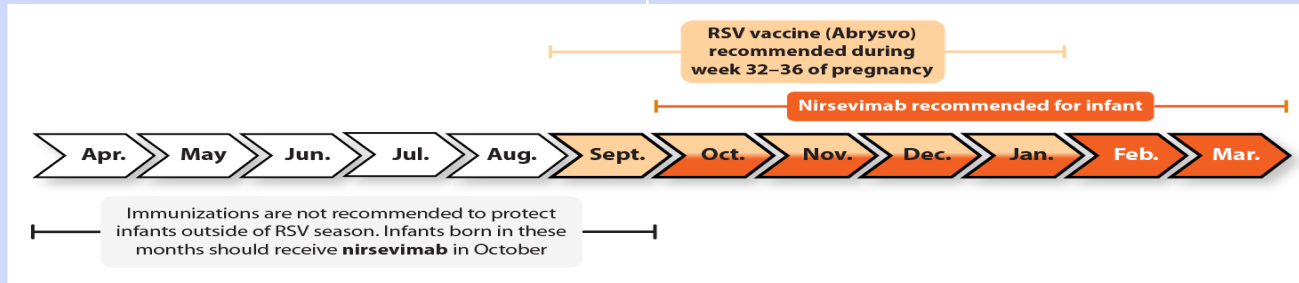
Pneumococcal Vaccines:

- CDC recommends pneumococcal vaccination for children younger than 5 years and adults 65 years or older.
- CDC also recommends pneumococcal vaccination for children and adults at increased risk for pneumococcal disease.



Vaccines and Pregnancy




Recommended	Timing
Influenza	Sept – October Summer if in third trimester
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis)	27th and 36th week of pregnancy
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	During weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy during September to January (Pfizer Abrysvo) Baby aged 8 months or younger can get RSV antibody (nirsevimab) during their first RSV season
COVID-19 vaccines	Any time



Mother isn't just protecting themselves —vaccines during pregnancy give their baby some early protection too!

Other Adult Vaccinations

KEY

-  ALL adults in age group should get the vaccine.
-  SOME adults in age group should get the vaccine.
-  Adults should talk to their health care provider to decide if this vaccine is right for them.

VACCINE	19–26 YEARS	27–49 YEARS	50–64 YEARS	65+ YEARS
COVID-19	At least 1 dose of the current COVID-19 vaccine			
Influenza/Flu	Every Year			
RSV	If pregnant during RSV season		If aged 60 through 74 years	If aged 75 years or older
Tdap/Td	Tdap every pregnancy. Td/Tdap every 10 years for all adults.			
MMR	If aged 66 years or younger			
Chickenpox	If U.S. born and aged 43 years or younger			
Shingles				
HPV		27–45 years		
Pneumococcal				
Hepatitis A				
Hepatitis B	Through 59 years			
Meningococcal				
Hib				
Mpox				



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Employer Checklist: What You Can Do!

Provide Information

- Do your employees have access to accurate and up-to-date information on vaccines?

Make It Easy for Employees to Get Vaccinated

- Do you host vaccination clinics or partner with other organizations to do so?
- Do you offer time off for obtaining vaccinations?

Communicate Your Organization's Commitment to Vaccination

- Are your organization's leaders leading by example?
- Have you developed campaigns to promote vaccination supported by mailers, social media, newsletters and employee platforms?
- Have you considered combining incentives with your communication campaigns?

Collaborate with DE&I Leadership and ERGs

- Have you shared information about vaccination disparities with ERGs?
- Have you encouraged them to share experiences, and asked them for suggestions to encourage vaccination?

Fight Misinformation

- Are you actively fighting vaccine misinformation and employing tactics like using visuals, quoting experts and telling stories as part of your messaging?
- Are you emphasizing the benefits of vaccination and keeping messages clear and positive?

Promote Immune Fitness as Part of Your Well-being Strategy

- Do you emphasize the importance of PCPs and wellness check-ups?
- Do you provide information on vaccines at employee health fairs?
- Have you enlisted your digital vendors in efforts to promote vaccination?

Make Sure Vaccinations Don't Require Out-of-Pocket Expense

- Do your employees know they won't have to pay for recommended vaccines?

Collect Vaccination Data About Your Employee Population

- Do you work with your health plan to collect data to track and better understand vaccination rates in your population?
- Do you set targets for selected vaccines and track progress?

Advocate

- Does your health plan know vaccination is a key priority for your organization?

Questions

Upcoming NEBGH events

- **August 13** – Shhh! What Women Don't Tell You About Their Health
- **August 19** – Mondays w/ Dr. Mark & Dr. Michael
- **September 12** – Pharmacy Benefits 2024
- **September 25** – The Loneliness Epidemic in America
- **September 26** – Up and Comers BenefitsBlueprint Series: Benchmarking Leave and Time Off
- **November 7** - Advances in Lung Cancer: Progress, Promise, and Workplace Support