

Navigating the Kentucky Department for Public Health Respiratory Disease Data Dashboard

A Quick Guide - 2025-2026 Season

Dashboards offer an interactive, visually engaging and flexible way to present data. The Kentucky Department for Public Health’s (KDPH) Respiratory Disease Data Dashboard supports informed decision making by providing trends across Kentucky for respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

The dashboard allows KDPH to share the most up-to-date information available. It is updated every Thursday, excluding state holidays, and reflects data through the preceding Saturday. Please note that new reports may come in after each update, so the numbers may change as new information is received.

❖ **Getting Started**

Website: [Kentucky Respiratory Disease Data Dashboard](#)

Updates: Every Thursday (except state holidays)

Explore Tabs: The dashboard is divided into seven tabs, each providing different information, highlighted below.

See the “*Definitions*” buttons (at the top of each dashboard tab) and figure footnotes for additional details.

Tab	Purpose
Introduction	A summary of what the dashboard tracks, why it is tracked, and how the data are collected.
All Conditions	Displays weekly or monthly trends using line graphs showing the percentage of emergency department (ED) and inpatient hospital encounters related to respiratory illness. This data can be filtered by season (2020-2021 to present season), condition, region, age, race and ethnicity. A map view is also available to explore county level patterns.
Historical Trends (COVID-19, Influenza, RSV)	Displays monthly trends using line graphs showing the percentage of ED and inpatient hospital encounters related to respiratory illness. COVID-19, Influenza and RSV trends are provided on separate sub tabs within historical trends. These data can be filtered by season, age group and region. Each season is shown in a different color, allowing users to compare trends over time.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	Describes trends in outpatient visits with patients showing influenza-like symptoms and allows users to compare the current and past respiratory season trends (end of September to mid-May).
Deaths	Charts display weekly counts of deaths linked to COVID-19, influenza, RSV, or co-infections and can be filtered by season to explore patterns over time. Detailed tables are also available, breaking down deaths by season and age group to highlight trends across specific populations.
Laboratory Reporting	Shows weekly or monthly lab-confirmed COVID-19, influenza and RSV counts, along with information on flu strain types. Data are described by counts of COVID-19 and RSV detected through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and influenza detected through PCR or viral culture. A county level map is also available, allowing you to filter by county and disease and to see where activity is occurring.
Kentucky Maps	Shows the percentage of all emergency room visits, hospital stays, or lab reports (PCR for COVID-19 and RSV, PCR or viral culture for Influenza) linked to respiratory illnesses in each county. This helps users to understand illness trends and target areas of concern.

❖ Understanding the Data

What the Information Means	
Emergency Department Visits	An estimate of how many people visited emergency departments for fever, cough, or breathing problems.
Hospital Admissions	An estimate of how many people were sick enough to be admitted to the hospital.
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)	Reported outpatient doctor visits for fever + cough or sore throat (not always influenza).
Lab Confirmed Tests	Reported weekly positive tests for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV (PCR for COVID-19 and RSV, PCR or viral culture for Influenza).
Deaths	Reported deaths from COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV, including how those deaths impact both younger and older age groups

❖ Using the Dashboard

How to Explore	
Use Filters	Filters help you explore the data you are most interested in such as, viewing trends by season, disease, region, age, race or ethnicity.
Map View	Click the map icon to switch to detailed county-level visualizations.
Definitions	Click the definitions button at the top left of the dashboard tabs for further information on data sources and definitions used.
Hover for Details	Hover over charts or maps to see additional details including county specific counts.

 Reset	Use the reset icon (bottom left of each page) to clear filters and return to default views.
Download 	Click the download icon (bottom right of each page) to save charts or data tables as images, PDFs, or spreadsheets.

❖ **How to Read the Dashboard**

- Watch for changes over time – rising lines mean more illness.
- Use map view to see county -_level estimates.
- Use this information to stay informed about what’s happening in your community and use the data to decide what steps make sense for you like talking to your healthcare provider, getting recommended vaccines or deciding when to wear a mask.
- The information on the dashboard is updated weekly and subject to change as new information is gathered.

❖ **Why it Matters**

- Families: Know when virus activity is increasing.
- Schools: Stay aware before absenteeism rises.
- Communities: Prepare and protect people at higher risk.
- Healthcare providers: Know when to expect patients with respiratory illnesses.

❖ **Tips and Shortcuts**

- Click on the links within the dashboard to see additional information.
- Check back for weekly updates to observe any changing trends.

❖ **What’s New This Year**

- *New Data Available* - You can now also see RSV lab report data starting from October 2024.
- *Easier to Read* – We have updated colors to make charts easier see and adjusted wording to make the information clearer.
- *Simpler navigation* – Related charts are grouped together, and you can now click a “Definitions” button to learn more about how the data are collected and what the terms used mean.

❖ **Links to Kentucky Respiratory Dashboard Resources**

[The Kentucky Respiratory Disease Data Dashboard](#)
[The Kentucky COVID-19 and Influenza Seasonal Immunization Dashboard](#) and
[The Kentucky Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard](#) can all be accessed from the [Kentucky Department for Public Health Respiratory Viruses](#) landing page. This page contains updated resources on respiratory prevention and control.