

CHCA Vesta Bowden Award

In September, I was honored to receive the Colorado Health Care Association’s Vesta Bowden Award for Outstanding Service in the Long-Term Care Community. This recognition really reflects the work of the dedicated nurses, aides, therapists, administrators and staff I’m lucky to work with every day. I’m grateful to everyone who nominated and supported me, and especially to our residents and families, who remind us why this work matters. I share this award with all of you. I am humbled by this recognition, and I will do my best be worthy of the honor. Thank you.

Pikes Peak Ethics Committee Meeting

- First Friday of every month at noon.
- Please consider bringing a case to the meeting. It’s a great opportunity to discuss difficult cases with your peers in LTC, share experiences, and learn from each other.
- Email me if you would like to be added to our email list to receive the agenda and reminders about

the meeting.

- https://zoom.us/j/97461641616?pwd=YPpJU1ZHMG3bTChSVxAcD9gb39qVaY.1

Influenza and COVID Vaccinations

I would vaccinate residents ASAP. We have seen early influenza activity in Colorado and already have several hospitalizations due to influenza.

Flu activity rising early in Colorado, prompting urgent call for vaccination | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

We have had 58 hospitalizations for influenza as of 10/18/26. This time last year we had 8 hospitalizations.

There has been 1 pediatric death from influenza in October.

There has been 1 influenza outbreak in a residential care facility and 2 COVID outbreaks thus far in October (10/18/26)

Overall, 12% of Colorado residents have received the influenza vaccine; 27.8% of those 65 and older have been vaccinated so far.

REMEMBER – Those over 65 y/o who are considered immunocompromised should be offered a second dose of COVID vaccine about 3-6 months after the first dose. Many of our residents might be considered immunocompromised. I think it is best to offer the second vaccination. Titers from COVID vaccination begin to decay at about 6 months. Antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in nursing home residents support a Bi-annual update schedule – PubMed

Interactive Influenza Data below; courtesy of CDPHE

COLORADO
Disease Control and Public Health Response
Department of Public Health & Environment

Select a category below to view more information.

- Hospitalizations
- Syndromic surveillance
- Sentinel lab positivity
- Outbreaks
- Deaths
- Emerging Infections Program
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome
- Wastewater
- Vaccine data

Viral respiratory diseases data

Colorado monitors statewide influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus activity throughout the year. For influenza and RSV, Colorado conducts additional enhanced monitoring for all three pathogens each viral respiratory season between October and May.

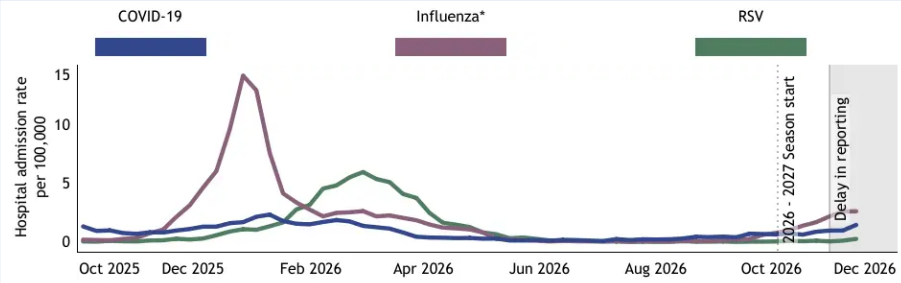
This week's overview

Overall respiratory illness activity in Colorado is Low

For more information, CDC's respiratory illness data channel

Hospital admission rates | Syndromic data

Colorado COVID-19, influenza, and RSV hospital admission rates by week of admission



Key metric changes this week compared to last week

Pathogen	ED visits diagnosed	Weekly sentinel positivity rate
COVID-19	0.60% (▲0.17)	4.37% (▼0.65)
Influenza*	1.76% (▲0.4)	10.40% (▲1.3)
RSV	0.03% (▲0.02)	0.67% (▲0.25)

*A,H1N1 is the predominant circulating virus.

Wastewater surveillance data

SARS-CoV-2	Influenza	RSV
Increasing SARS-CoV-2 trends in 19 out of 22 monitored utilities.	Influenza detected in 10 out of 22 monitored utilities.	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detected in 0 out of 22 monitored utilities.

Link to prevention guidance

Illness data is updated weekly at about 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and includes cases reported through the previous week. Wastewater data is updated on Wednesdays and Fridays. All data, for dates past and present, is recalculated weekly.

Last update: 11/20/2026

View on Tableau Public | Share

Antibiotic Stewardship

The facilities that I see do this the best keep a monthly line list of every patient who was given an antibiotic, the indication for the antibiotic, the name of the antibiotic and the duration of the antibiotic. We discuss each patient on the line list monthly at our QAPI meeting and try to learn from each case.

- Antimicrobial Stewardship in Long-Term Care Facilities | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Loeb Criteria Basics from CDPHE –> Nursing Home Antibiotics Guidelines Summary Resource.pdf – Google Drive
- **Suspected UTI Action Tool v.4 11-18.pdf – Google Drive**

Infection Prevention and Long-term Care Facility Residents

- Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training
- PPE in Nursing Homes
    - PPE in Nursing Homes to Prevent MDROs
    - PPE in Nursing Homes: FAQs about Enhanced Barrier Precautions
- Respiratory Virus Toolkit
- Infection prevention and control risk assessment spreadsheet (fillable)

Enhanced Barrier Precautions

Pharmacy Services and Psychotropic Medications

What the CMS State Operations Manual (Appendix PP, 2025 revision) requires under F755, F756, F757, and the former F758 requirements are now located at F605

PRN antipsychotic update in 2025 state operations manual – docShepherd

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