

Diseases and conditions reported during August 4-August 17, 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:

- 11 Animal Bites – 4 pediatric, 7 adults; 3 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 12 Campylobacteriosis – 3 pediatric, 9 adults
- 2 Chikungunya Virus Disease - adults
- 2 Cryptosporidiosis – 1 pediatric, 1 adult
- 4 Cyclosporiosis - adults
- 1 Dengue – adult
- 6 Giardiasis – adults
- 4 Legionellosis – adults
- 4 Pertussis - pediatrics
- 10 Salmonellosis – 4 pediatrics, 6 adults
- 3 STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) - adults
- 2 Shigellosis – adults

Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2024 Year to Date: 5 (Bats)
- Outbreaks reported:
- 1 Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease, 1 Unknown gastrointestinal, and 2 COVID-19, outbreaks associated with child care facilities.
 - 2 COVID-19, 1 Unknown respiratory, outbreaks associated with K-12 schools.
 - 3 COVID-19 outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities. (investigated by CDPHE)

For a list of Reportable Disease and Conditions and instructions on how to report, use this [link](#).

Health News: COVID-19 and back to school guidance

- El Paso County has observed an increase in reported cases of COVID-19, along with an increase in hospitalizations. (Figure 1.)
- In March of 2024 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated COVID-19 guidance to align with other seasonal respiratory illnesses including such as RSV and Influenza. This guidance applies to school and child care settings.
 - Updated guidance recommends symptom-based precautions. People known or suspected to have COVID-19 infection should stay home and away from others until 24 hours after fever has resolved (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.
 - Since some people remain contagious beyond the "stay-at-home" period, use additional prevention strategies, for the next 5 days. Those include good handwashing, wearing a mask, social distancing, and taking steps for cleaner air. Additional information can be found here: [Respiratory Virus Guidance Update](#)
 - People who were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and develop symptoms are encouraged to test themselves.
 - Providers and teachers can contribute to these prevention strategies by encouraging students to use good hand hygiene, staying home when ill, and remaining up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Updated 2024-45 COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be available at El Paso County Public Health in the next month for people with limited private insurance types and those with Medicaid or no insurance. Call (719)-578-3199, option 5 to learn more and to confirm availability. Pharmacies and private providers will offer COVID-19 vaccines.
- [How sick is too sick?](#) is a document created by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to guide parents, teachers, and caregivers through routine decisions about when ill children or staff should stay home from school or child care.

Reporting:

- Outbreaks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illness can cause significant increases in absenteeism among staff and students.
- Outbreaks of respiratory illness should be reported to Public Health upon identification, per state statute (6 CCR 1009-1).
 - Outbreaks are typically identified within schools when there is a noticeable increase in the number of ill/absent children or staff members at the school or child care center above seasonal baseline.
 - Report suspected outbreaks EPCPH communicable disease program, 719-578-3220.
 - Since Jan. 1, 2024, there have been 76 outbreaks of COVID-19 in El Paso County, 36 of which have been reported since June (32 Long Term Care Facilities, 2 K-12, and 2 child care facilities), which is when we began to see the most recent increase in cases.
 - With schools back in session and respiratory season approaching, cases and outbreaks of viral respiratory illness will increase over time.

Graphs, Charts, Supporting Infographics:

The summer wave of COVID-19 continues in El Paso County, Colorado, and the U.S.

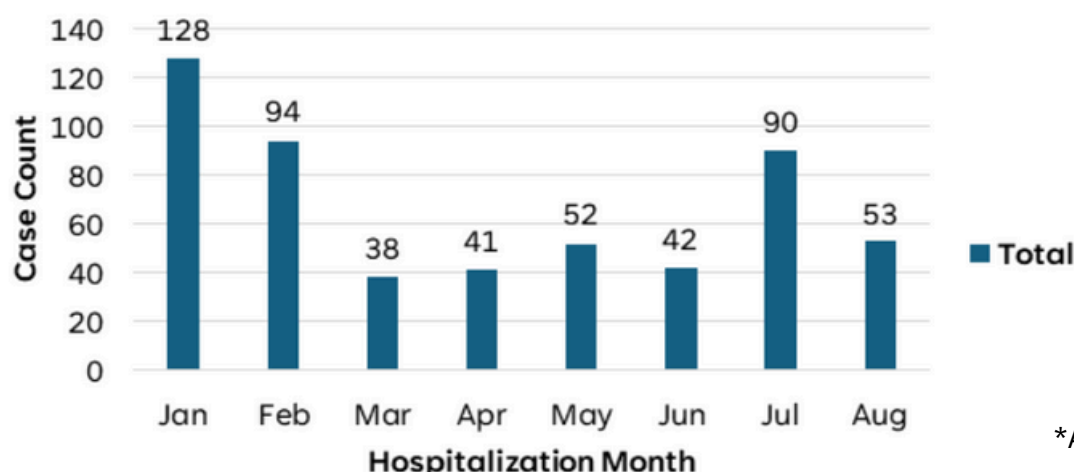
Return to school will likely continue this trend.

- CDPHE continues to monitor COVID-19 hospitalizations as a surveillance tool (See Figure 2.)
 - During Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2023, El Paso County reported 509 COVID-19 hospitalizations.
 - During Jan. 2024 – Aug. 22, 2024, El Paso County has reported 538 cases reported.
 - Figure 2 shows statewide trends in COVID-19 hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

For more on Colorado COVID-19 Data please see the Colorado COVID-19 Data home page at: [Data](#)

**COVID-19 Hospitalizations
January - August 2024 YTD*
El Paso County, CO**

Figure 1.

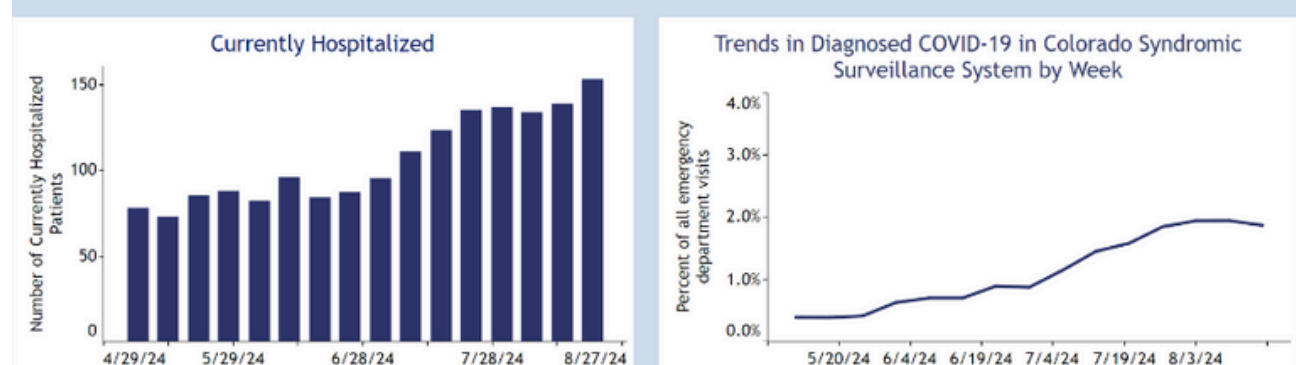


*August data is preliminary

Figure 2.

COLORADO'S COVID-19 DATA

THIS WEEK'S OVERVIEW



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