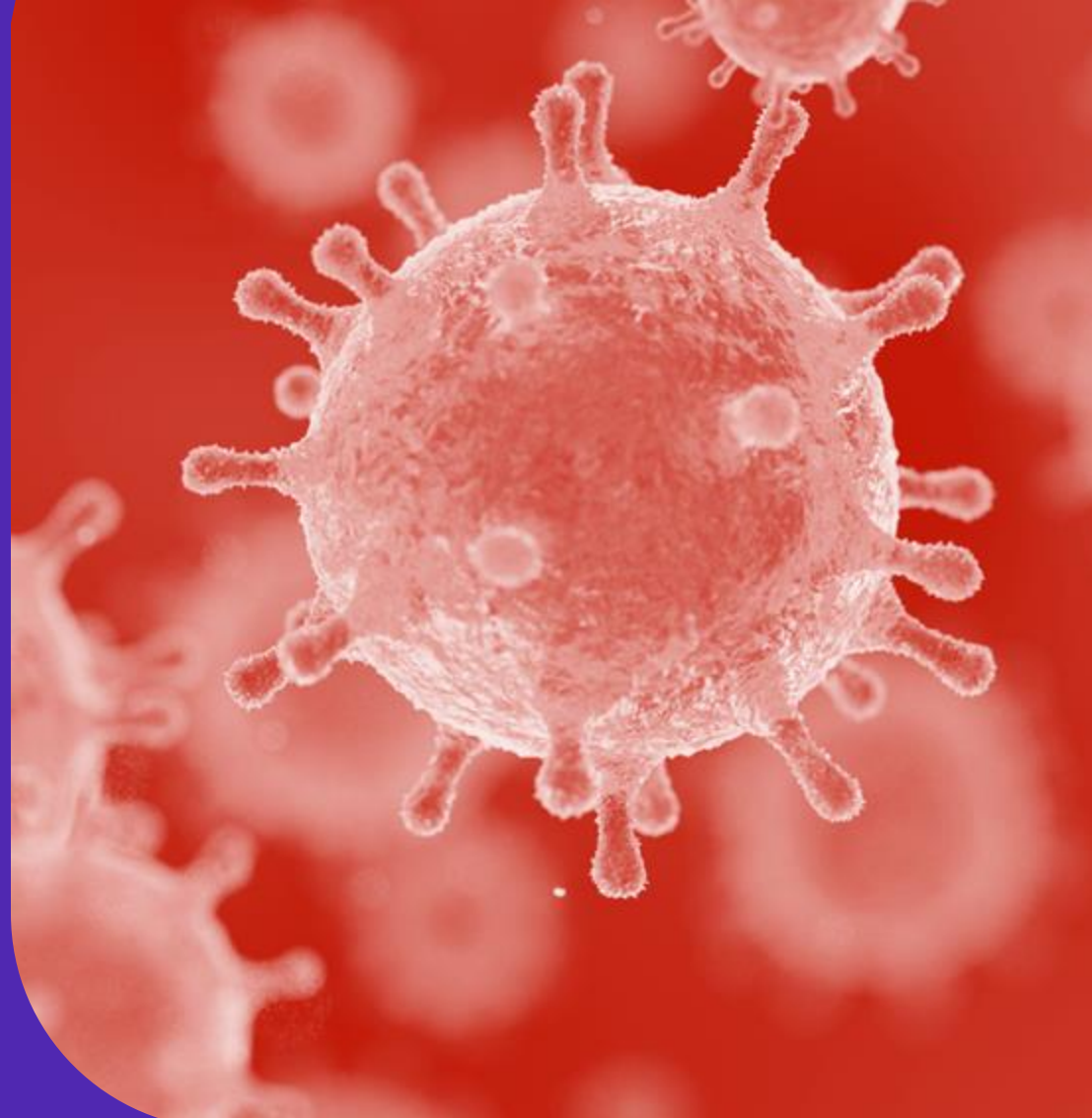


Respiratory Illness Season

September 2025



Land Acknowledgement and Reconciliation

Doctors Manitoba, and the physicians and medical learners of Manitoba, work and live on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations, the National Homeland of the Red River Métis, and the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, we recognize these harms continue today, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.



Speakers

Dr. Brent Roussin

Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Manitoba Health

Dr. Davinder Singh

Medical Officer of Health
Manitoba Health / Southern Health

Dr. Natalie Casaclang

Medical Officer of Health
Manitoba Health

Richard Baydack, PhD

Director, Communicable Disease Control
Manitoba Health

Inga Hossack

Manager, Policy and Operations,
Communicable Disease Control
Manitoba Health

2025/26 Respiratory Illness Immunization Program

**Town Hall – Doctors Manitoba and Members
September 11, 2025**

Respiratory Season Outlook – Australia & South America

- Overall, nothing particularly unusual about the season in Australia and South America (SA)
 - H1N1 predominated in both regions.
 - Similar (slightly lower) numbers of influenza like illness (ILI), Influenza positivity, COVID-19 positivity, and RSV positivity in 2025 compared to 2024 in Australia
 - [Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report – 28 July to 10 August 2025](#)
- Similar (slightly lower) numbers of Flu, and RSV in SA in 2025 compared to 2024. Lower numbers of COVID-19 in 2025 compared to 2024.
 - [Influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV and other Respiratory Viruses Regional Situation - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)

Australia

Figure 10: Notified RSV cases by year and week of diagnosis*, Australia, 2023 to 10 August 2025

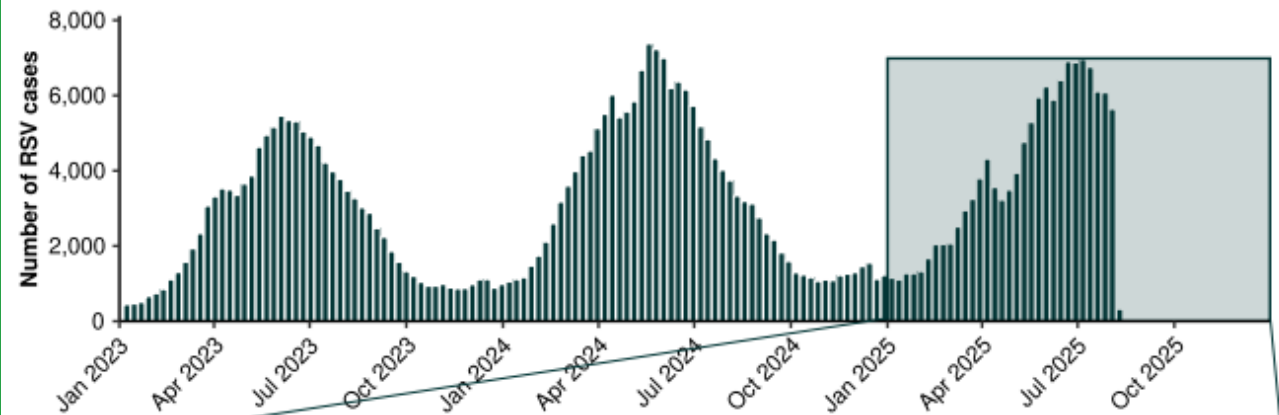


Figure 6: Notified influenza cases and five-year average* by year and week of diagnosis, Australia, 2022 to 10 August 2025

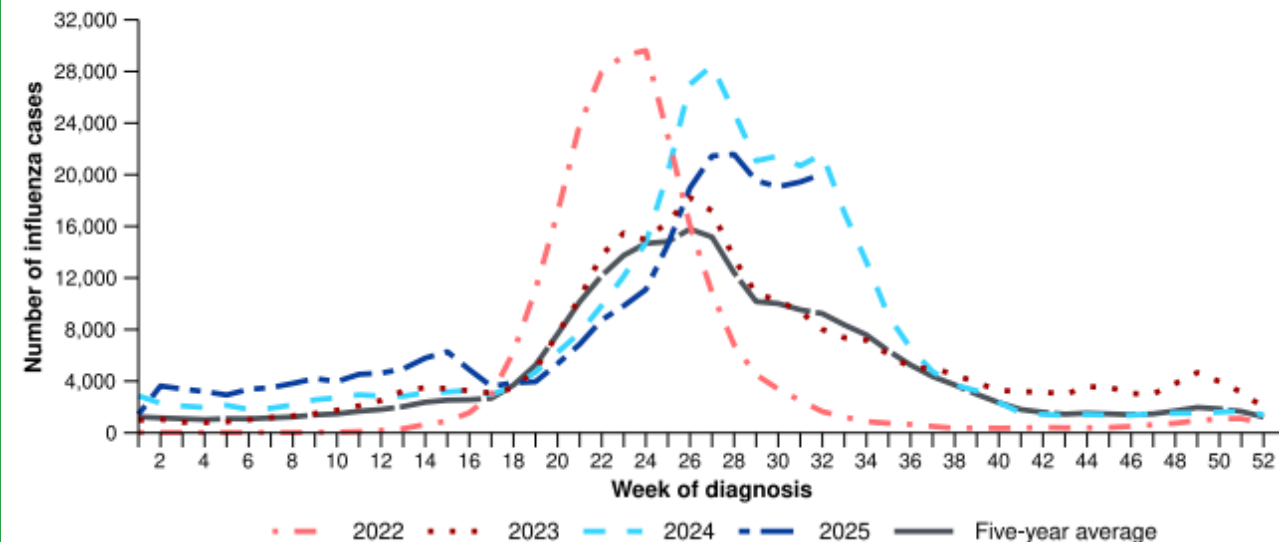
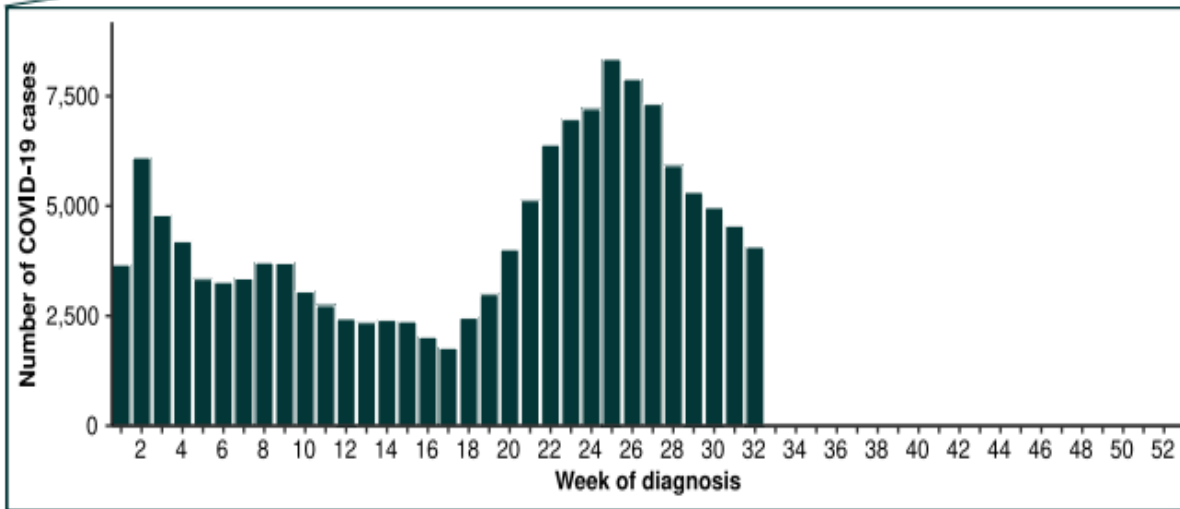
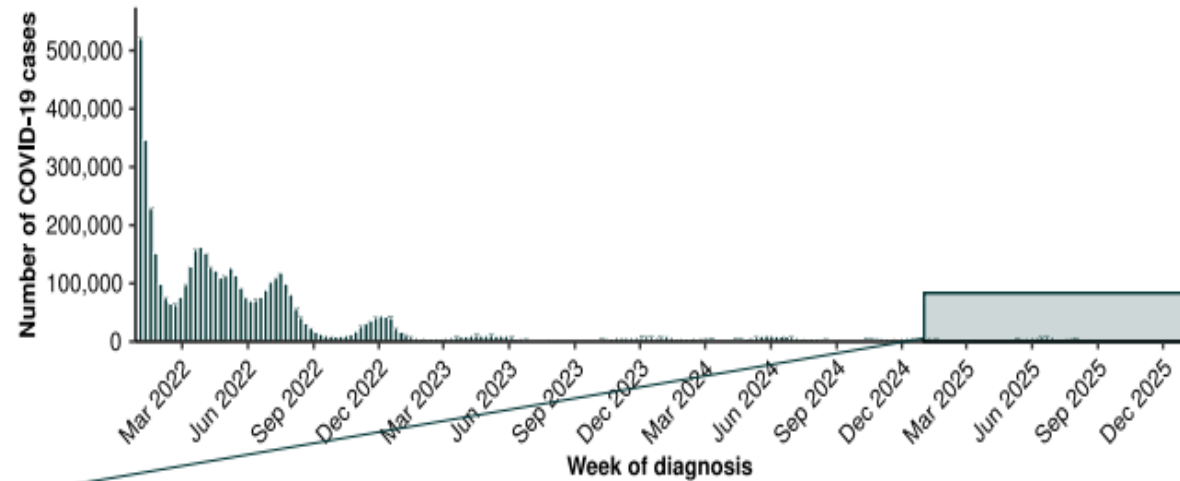
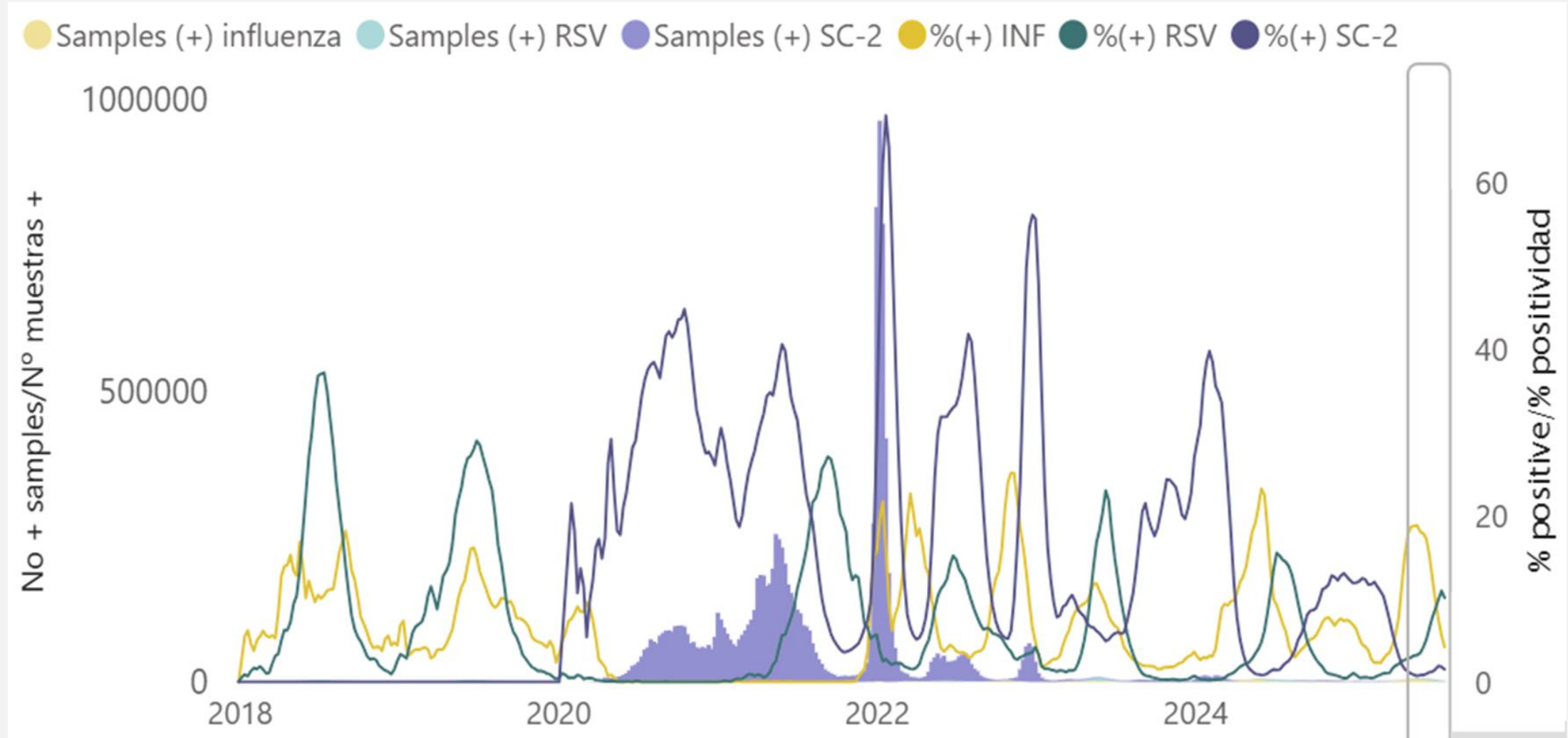


Figure 4: Notified COVID-19 cases (laboratory-confirmed only) by year and week of diagnosis, Australia, 2022 to 10 August 2025

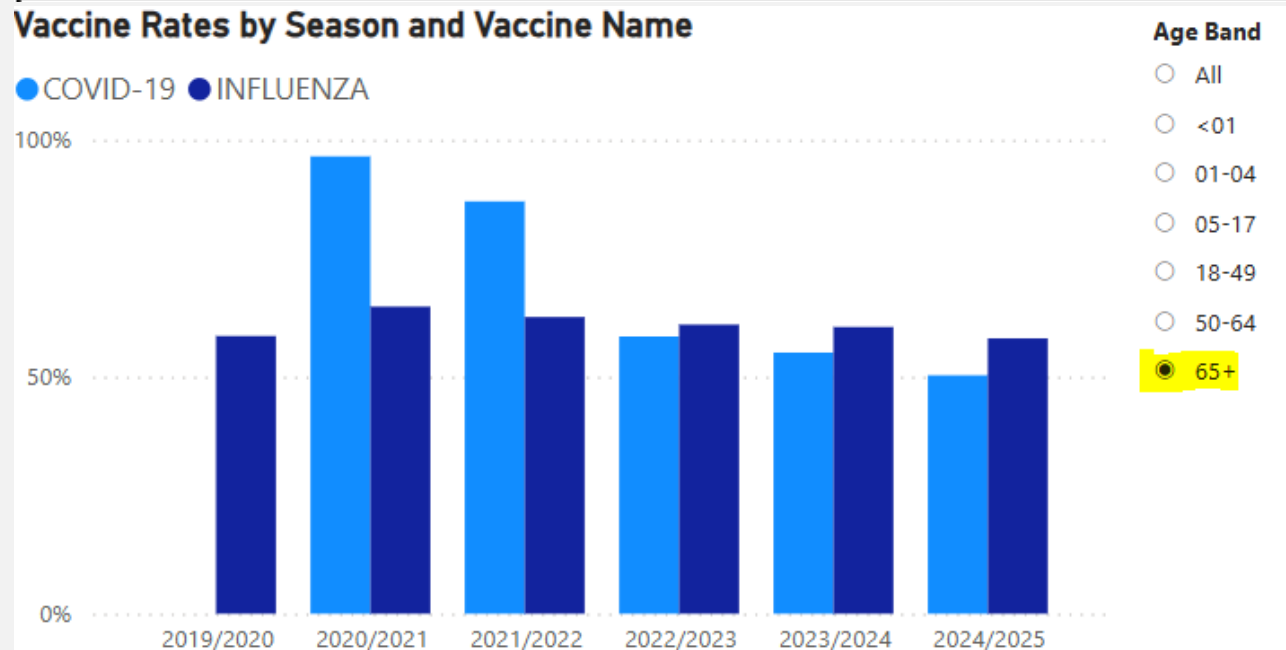
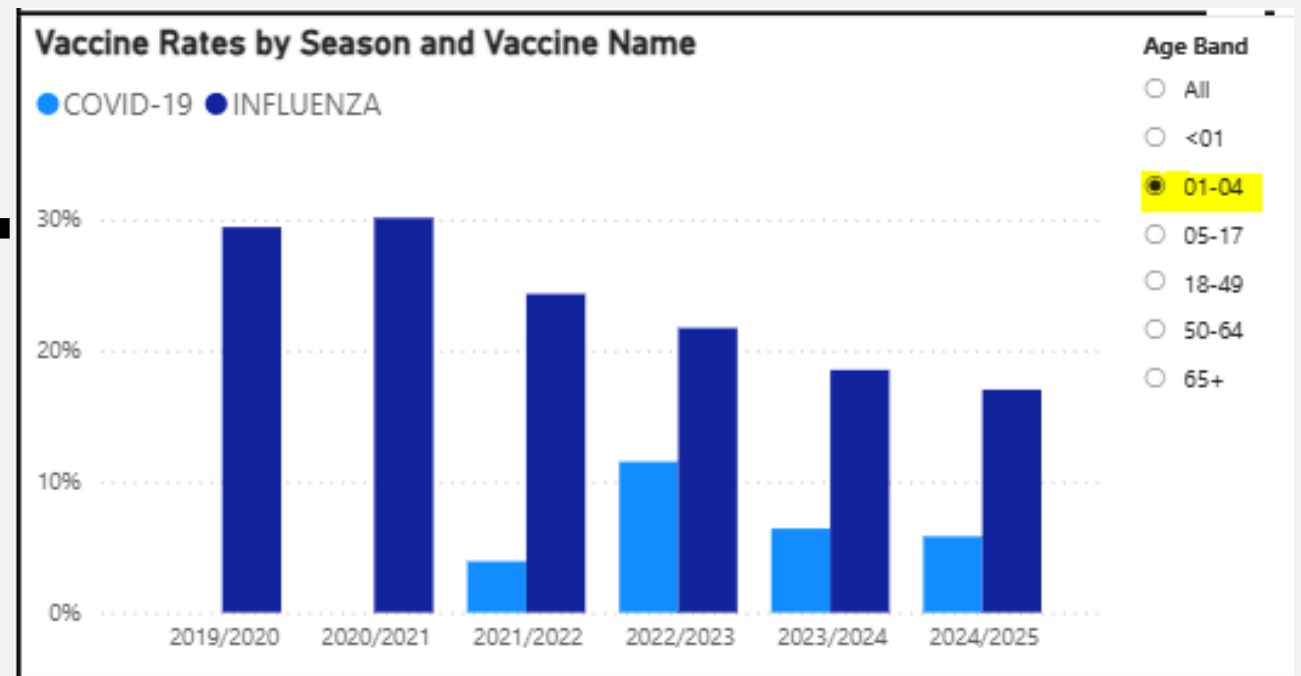


South America

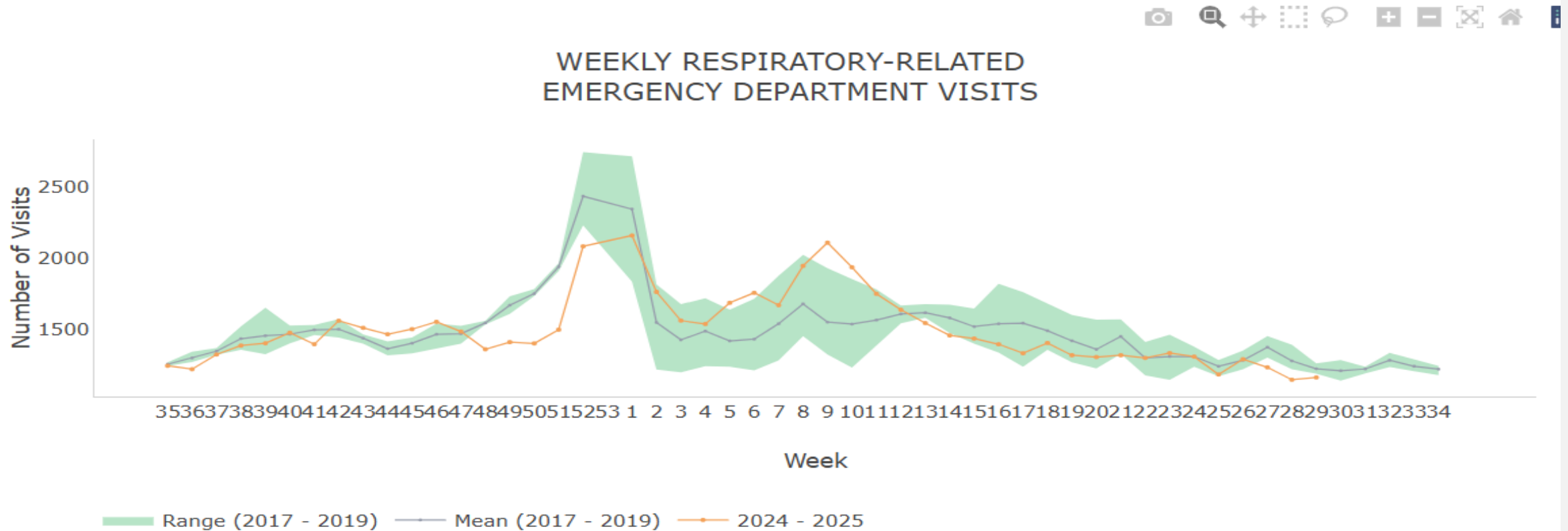


Clinical Review - Vaccine Uptake

- 5-year trend: Both influenza and COVID-19 vaccine uptake continue to decline.
- 2024/25 Uptake:
 - Flu: 23.2% overall | 58.1% in 65+
 - COVID-19: 16.3% overall | 50.3% in 65+



Clinical Information



70,421 respiratory-related emergency department (ED) visits reported in 2024-2025.

ICU Administration Data from 2024/25

ICU data from Nov 3-March 8 – 126 days:

- 38 total admissions for COVID-19 and flu, the majority of whom were not vaccinated.
 - Only 6 were vaccinated for flu and of those:
 - 4 also had the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Most clients had chronic disease such as Diabetes, chronic kidney disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Hypertension, Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)
- Most who were unvaccinated had opportunities to get immunized through a physician, pharmacy, or health system – ER, surgery, scopes, dialysis
- After reviewing the data for the past couple of season the findings are similar. Poorly optimized Diabetes care was prominent in both seasons.

Key Goals

- Reduce severe outcomes from Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV by immunizing those at highest risk of severe disease:

Indigenous
Manitobans

Individuals with
underlying
medical
conditions

65 years of age
and older and
those in long-term
care facilities

Pregnant women

Infants/children
between 6 months
and 4 years old

- Optimize vaccine use to minimize wastage.

2024/25 Program Rollup

In 2024/25 approximately 23.4% of the population received flu vaccines and 16.2% received COVID-19 vaccines.


- Significantly higher rates were seen in the 65+ age group (58.8% for flu and 49.8% COVID-19). These are decreases compared to the 2023/24 season.



1007 health care providers registered to participate in the 2024/25 Influenza and COVID-19 Immunization Program.



Over 980,000 doses of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines were shipped to providers across Manitoba. Over 5,100 orders were processed during the season.



The respiratory virus season started much later than normal with high volumes of cases not appearing until February and March 2025.

2025-26 Respiratory Immunization Program - Overview

Who is Eligible?

- **Flu & COVID-19 vaccines:** All Manitobans **6 months+**
- **Pneu-C-20:** All Manitobans **age 65+** not previously immunized with Pneu-P-23 or Pneu-C-20 since turning 65, and those at high risk of IPD are eligible for one dose.
 - There is currently no recommendation to administer a dose of Pneu-C-20 if someone has already received a dose of Pneu-C-20 before turning 65.
- **RSV (adults):** Individuals aged **60 years** of age and older are eligible for one dose of the RSV vaccine if they:
 - Reside in a personal care home (PCH), or
 - Have been admitted to a PCH for respite care, or
 - Have been admitted to a transitional care unit AND have been paneled for PCH and are awaiting placement, or
 - Have been admitted to a chronic care unit AND have been paneled for PCH.

Timing Matters

- **2 weeks** needed for optimal immune response to vaccine
- Start immunizing as soon as product becomes available and received

Program Set Up

Registration

1. Review the Requirements

- Review the updated program requirements available at:

www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution

2. Register for the Program

- Complete the registration form available at:

forms.office.com/r/tXDWts79mN

- You must agree to all program requirements to register.

3. Return Expired Vaccines

- Return any expired or unused vaccines to MDA. Biologics Return Policy and Procedure available at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>

Distribution Groups

Priority Locations:

Hospitals, First Nations Communities and Long-Term Care facilities.

Group 1:

Locations with Holding Point Codes ending in **0 to 4**

Group 2:

Locations with Holding Point Codes ending in **5 to 9**

Order Surveys

- Online Order Surveys will be emailed to contacts identified during registration.
- Make sure to use the correct Holding Point code (five digit) and the correct email address. Any incorrect information could affect the ability to receive the confirmation email and/or orders.
- Providers are expected to order a 4-week supply on the 1st pre-order survey.
- The first survey is a pre-order survey. This survey is to plan and allocate orders based on available supply. Supply will not be available to ship right away. Allocation emails will be sent out to advise when the initial orders are expected to be shipped.
 - Based on the pre-orders submitted to date, more doses of flu vaccine for those 65+ have been ordered than were administered to that age group during all of the 2024/25 season.
- Subsequent surveys will remain open for 5 days, sent on Thursdays and closing at end of day on the following Tuesday.
 - Shipping occurs during the week after the survey is closed.
- Priority location orders are fulfilled first.
- For non-priority locations, the initial order is likely to be split into 2 separate shipments which will be shipped approximately 2 weeks apart (depending on the volume of supply MB receives).

Vaccine Allocations for MB

- MB will receive federal allocations of influenza vaccines in approximately four deliveries.
- COVID-19 vaccine shipments will follow similar timelines.
- **Note:** Percentages and delivery dates are tentative and subject to change based on manufacturer supply volumes and schedules.

43% by Sep 22

71% by Oct 1

77% by Oct 7

100% by Oct 15

Deliveries

- Distribution will be similar to last year's process.
- Priority locations will have access to weekly deliveries.
- Groups 1 & 2 will have access to bi-weekly deliveries at the beginning of the program.
- Once the initial demand slows, an open-ended survey may be put in place starting in November/December for all providers to order as needed.
- Once product is received at your location, you can start immunizing. **Do not book appointments until after the last date of the delivery window that is received in the confirmation email.**

Estimated First Delivery Schedule

- The delivery schedule is dependent on vaccine manufacturers meeting their contractual obligations, and is subject to change.
- Currently expect to begin shipping to priority locations and Group 1 the week of September 22.
- Currently expect to begin shipping to Group 2 the week of September 29.

Jurisdictional Scan

- Many jurisdictions in Canada start their program by distributing and offering the vaccines to priority locations such as hospitals, personal care homes and FN communities for the initial couple of weeks in October.
- Once the priority locations have received and started immunizing, the program opens to the general population during the second half of October.

Influenza Products

NEW this year:

- All influenza products will be trivalent.
- **Fluad**: MB will bring in Fluad along with Fluzone HD for people 65 years of age and older.
- Product will be allocated based on available supply

Eligibility	Product	Format	Doses per vial/box
6m+	Fluzone	Multi-dose Vial	10 doses per vial
	Fluviral (NEW)	Multi-dose Vial	10 doses per vial
	Fluzone	Pre-filled Syringe	10 doses per box
	Flucelvax (NEW)	Pre-filled Syringe	10 doses per box
65yrs+	Fluzone High-Dose	Pre-filled Syringe	5 doses per box
	Fluad (NEW)	Pre-filled Syringe	10 doses per box

Fluzone HD and Fluad Eligibility

Fluad

- Community-dwelling individuals aged 65-79 years.

Fluzone High Dose

- Adults aged 65 and older who are at the highest risk of severe outcomes from influenza, including:
 - Residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF), including new and unimmunized residents admitted during flu season
 - Residents of supported and assisted living facilities
 - Clients in interim or transitional care beds
 - Clients receiving homecare services while awaiting admission to an LTCF
 - Indigenous Manitobans, regardless of residence
 - Individuals living in remote or isolated communities or north of the 53rd parallel
 - Individuals in provincial correctional facilities, including newly incarcerated individuals or those transferred from federal or out-of-province correctional facilities
- Community-dwelling individuals aged 80 years and older
- As volumes for the enhanced products are limited, it is important the identified eligibility criteria are followed.
- If a client 65 years of age and older is interested in immunization and you do not have the product matching their eligibility, you can offer them another product (either enhanced product or SD). You should discuss this with the client before administering the vaccine, as they may choose to receive the appropriate vaccine at another nearby location.

Order Surveys - Additional Questions

- With two different products for individuals aged 65 and older with differing eligibility criteria, we need to optimize allocation of enhanced influenza vaccine products. Additional questions will be asked in the survey to help allocate appropriately.
- Your responses will help to match vaccine product to eligibility criteria based while considering product volumes being received in Manitoba.
- Allocations will be based on the answers that are provided.
- Please make sure to use the appropriate product based on eligibility to make sure sufficient supply is available for the identified populations.

Facility Type & Location:

- Hospitals
- First Nations Communities
- Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities
- Correctional Facilities
- Locations North of the 53rd Parallel

Population-Specific Needs:

- Residents in supported/assisted living, interim/transitional care, home care
- Community-dwelling individuals 80+
- Indigenous Manitobans

COVID-19 Products

- Only mRNA products will be available.
- Choose the appropriate product based on the age of the client.
- Allocations will be based on the responses provided in the survey.
- Moderna MDV:
 - Can be used in those 6 mths of age and older.
 - It is the only product for under 5 years of age.
 - Dose is different depending on the age – half dose for those under the age of 12.

Age group	Products	Format	Doses per vial/box	2–8°C Stability
12yrs+	Moderna* Spikevax	Multi-dose Vial	5 doses per vial	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C
	Moderna Spikevax	Pre-Filled Syringe	10 doses per box	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C
	Pfizer Comirnaty	Multi-dose Vial	6 doses per vial	70 days in fridge once removed from -80C
	Pfizer Comirnaty	Pre-Filled Syringe	10 doses per box	8 months in fridge once removed from -20C
5 to <12yrs	Pfizer Comirnaty	Single Dose Vial	1 dose per vial	70 days in fridge once removed from -80C
6m to <12yrs	Moderna* Spikevax	Multi-dose Vial	10 doses per vial	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C

Cold Chain Requirements



All flu and COVID-19 vaccines are shipped and delivered to providers in a refrigerated state.



COVID-19 vaccines should be refrigerated once received (they should not be re-frozen).



Once in the fridge, the timelines for storage pre- and post- puncture should be followed as per the manufacturer's Product Monographs. This information is also available in the Quick Reference Guide at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/covid-19-flu-pneumo-vaccine-quick-reference-guide-final.pdf.

Initiatives to increase coverage

- MHSLTC recommends that all physicians offer both flu and COVID-19 vaccines to clients at every visit, especially to those at higher risk.
 - More medical clinics offered both vaccines last year but there is still a discrepancy in the number of medical clinics that are offering influenza but not COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Offering both vaccines helps prevent vaccine hesitancy as patients who are only offered one vaccine may feel the health care provider does not recommend the other vaccine.
- A recommendation from a health care provider is the best way to increase coverage.

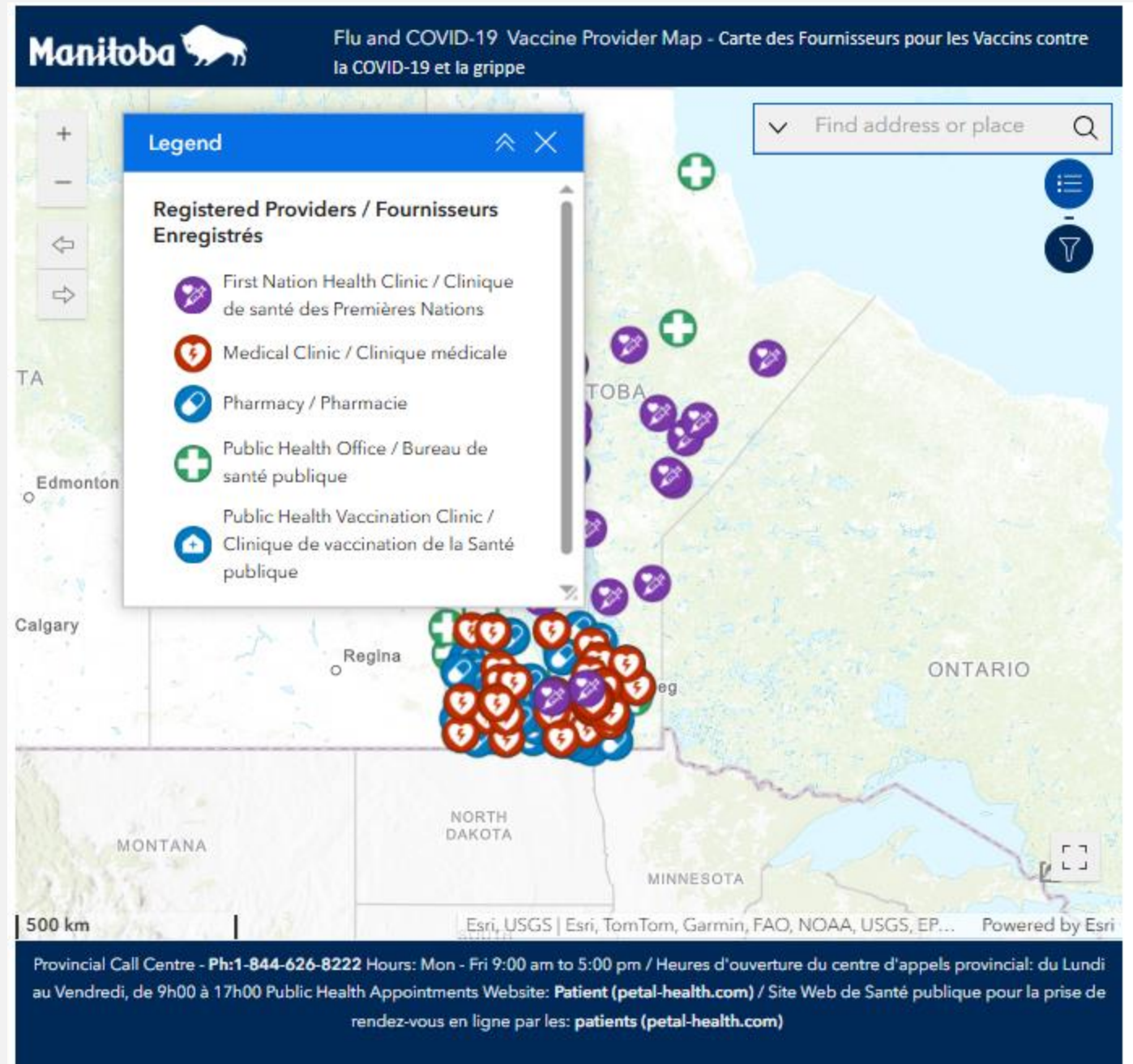
Registered Medical Clinics Offering Immunization				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Flu	276	276	270	274
COVID-19	135	123	171	204

Next Steps for Physicians

- Increase immunization coverage in those under 5 years of age
 - Lowest coverage rates occur in this population.
- Recommend 65+ get an enhanced influenza vaccine over the standard dose.
- Specialty clinics (e.g., OB, renal health) and other health care settings (e.g., inpatient care) are encouraged to administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Take the opportunity to vaccinate while clients are in the office. They may not go to another provider (i.e. Public Health or Pharmacy) once they leave the clinic, even if recommended.
- Report all vaccines administered using the correct tariff:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/immunization/docs/mims_tariff_codes.pdf.
- If a clinic currently doesn't offer immunizations and wants to start immunizing, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca.

Vaccine Provider Map

- The Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Map identifies locations throughout Manitoba that have registered to receive influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccines.
- **NEW:** The public will be able to identify providers offering vaccines for children aged 6 months to 5 years on the provider information tab as well as through a filter.



Resources

Influenza and COVID-19 fact sheets - available in 15 languages:
www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/resources-public.html

COVID-19, Influenza, and Pneumococcal Immunization Consent Form:
www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/docs/flupneumo_consentform_letter.pdf

COVID-19/Influenza/ Pneumococcal Vaccine Quick Reference Guide AND Vaccine Comparison Chart updated at: www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/resources-hcp.html

The print resources order form (posters etc) available at:
<https://www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/resources-hcp.html#respiratory>

Immunization Reporting Form for those without a PHIN:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/vaccine-admin-reporting-no-phin.pdf>

Immunization Record Correction Form for Health Care Providers:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/imrcfhcp.pdf>

Testing and Treatment Resources

- Information on testing and treatment is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing.html.
 - Testing for COVID-19 is only recommended for people with consistent symptoms who are at high risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and need to know if they have COVID-19 for medical care (e.g. treatment).
- Recommendations on COVID-19 treatment are available at: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/treatment/>.
- Recommendations for influenza treatment from the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI) can be found at: <https://utppublishing.com/doi/10.3138/jammi.2019.02.08> (foundation document) and <https://utppublishing.com/doi/10.3138/jammi-2023-07-12> (2023 update).
- Coverage for COVID-19 (e.g. Paxlovid) and influenza (e.g. oseltamivir) treatment is dependent on identified criteria in the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/docs/manitoba-drug-benefits-formulary.pdf>) and the Manitoba Enhanced Pharmacare Program (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/mepp.html>).
- Guidance for managing respiratory infections symptoms is available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/symptoms-and-exposure.html>.

Resources

- The **Provincial Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report** offers valuable data on COVID-19 and influenza in Manitoba:
 - case counts
 - trends
 - severe outcomes
 - test volumes and positivity
 - outbreaks
 - syndromic data
 - vaccine monitoring.
- This information is available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/influenza/index.html>.

Thank you!

Please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca
with any questions or concerns.