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Updates At-A-Glance

Influenza

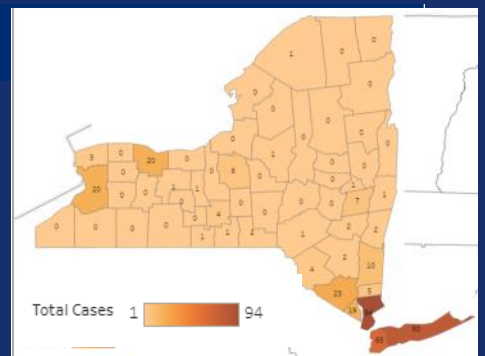
- Influenza (Flu) cases and patient visits due to influenza-like illness have continued to decline since December 2022. However, New York State influenza activity remains categorized as geographically widespread and prevalent; and the New York State Department of Health *Regulation for Prevention of Influenza Transmission by Healthcare and Residential Facility and Agency Personnel* remains in effect.



Confirmed/Probable Mpox Cases by NYS Region and County (Excluding NYC)

Monkey Pox (Mpox)

- Excluding New York City, New York State has reported a total of 377 Mpox cases to date. Most recently two new cases were reported between January 1-February 9, 2023.
- No cases have been reported in Madison County to date. Madison County Public Health offers the Mpox vaccine at its clinics by appointment.



COVID-19 Virtual Urgent Care:

A free hotline is now available in the state for those who test positive for COVID-19, but don't have a health care provider.

- All New Yorkers outside of NYC, who test COVID-19 positive, are eligible to be evaluated for treatment by calling 888-TREAT-NY (888-873-2869) or completing an evaluation at the NYS COVID-19 [ExpressCare Therapeutics Access website](#) which includes a telemedicine visit.



Health Advisories

February 1, 2023: [Outbreak of Extensively Drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Associated with Artificial Tears—CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\) No. 485](#)

- The majority of patients who used artificial tears reported using EzriCare Artificial Tears, a preservative-free, over-the-counter product packaged in multi-dose bottles. CDC laboratory testing identified the presence of the outbreak strain in opened EzriCare bottles with different lot numbers collected from two states. Patients and healthcare providers should immediately discontinue using EzriCare artificial tears pending additional guidance from CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

February 9, 2023: [Multi-Drug Non-Susceptible Gonorrhea Reported in Massachusetts—NYSDOH Health Advisory](#)

- An individual with a novel gonorrhea strain that demonstrated reduced antimicrobial susceptibility to ceftriaxone, cefixime, and azithromycin, and resistance to ciprofloxacin, penicillin, and tetracycline.
- To date, no such diagnoses have been reported in New York State. New York State is enhancing testing and surveillance. Clinicians may refer to the [NYSDOH 2/9/23 Health Advisory on the Health Commerce System](#) for information on how to send isolates, guidance and recommendations.

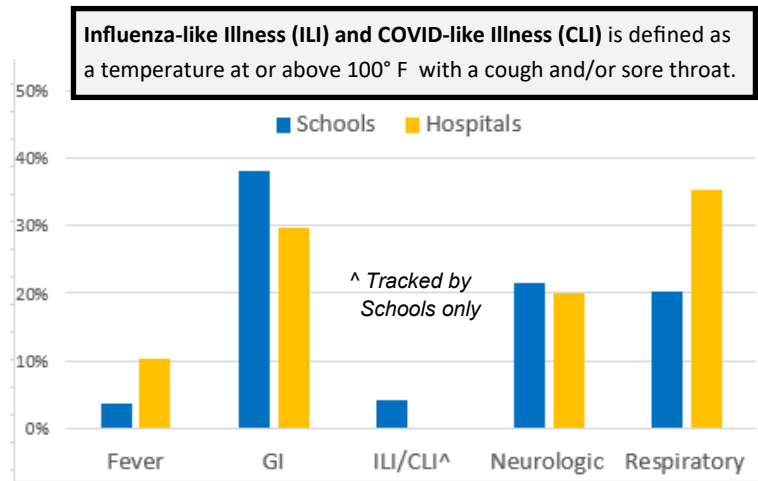
Madison County Communicable Disease Reporting

Top 5 Syndromes Observed by Madison County Schools and Hospital Emergency Departments, December 2022*

Syndromic surveillance is used to monitor disease indicators in near real-time to detect information about symptoms during early phases of illness and indicate outbreaks of disease earlier than would otherwise be possible with other public health methods.

- Complaints of gastrointestinal illness (GI) reported by schools and hospitals increased in January compared to December.
- All other non-GI related complaints decreased slightly in January compared to the month prior.

*Data reported as percent of total syndromes observed

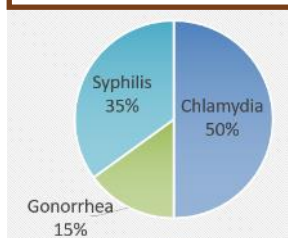


Communicable Disease Activity in Madison County: January-February 6, 2023

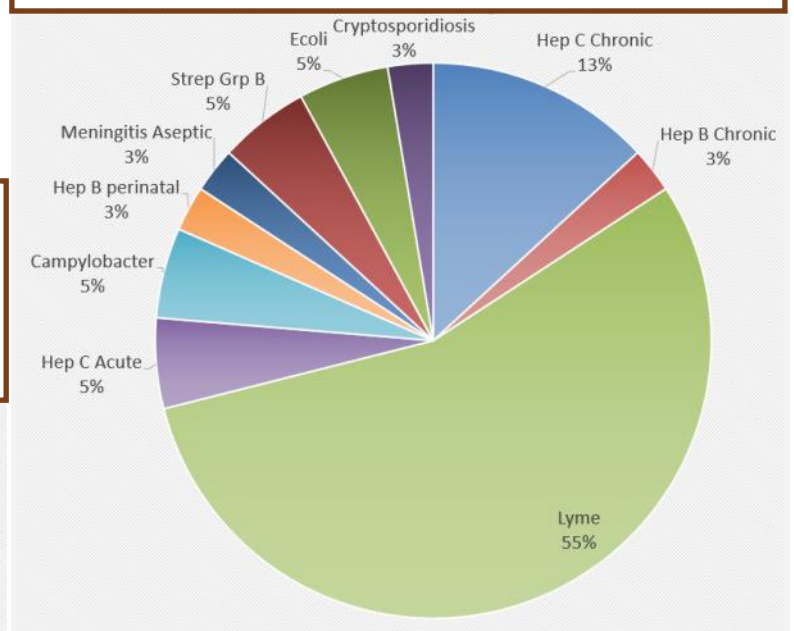
Communicable diseases are spread person to person or from an animal, surface or food to a person. Timely reporting of communicable diseases helps public health identify newly emerging infections, detect outbreaks, prevent secondary transmission, monitor trends, and evaluate the effectiveness of control measures.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) represented 35% of the total number of reportable communicable diseases (excluding Flu and COVID-19), reported in Madison County from January to February 6, 2023.

Percentage of Confirmed Cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) by Type

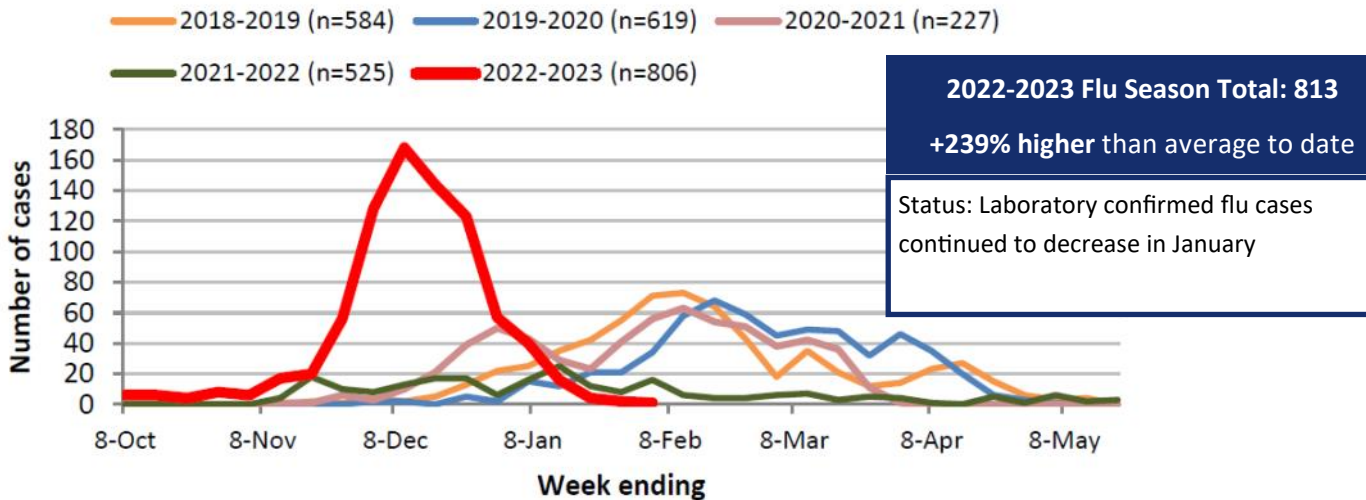


Percentage of Confirmed Cases of Communicable Cases by Type *excludes STIs



Influenza (Flu) Activity— through week 5, ending February 4, 2023

Total Laboratory-Confirmed Flu Cases Reported in Madison County, by season



County and State Flu Case Summary

The overall rate of flu in Madison County remains *lower* than New York State.

Type Flu A continued to be responsible for the majority of flu cases in the County, State, and U.S.

A larger percent of individuals ages 65 have gotten sick with the flu in Madison County compared to NYS.

Cumulative Incidence Rate
(New cases per 100,000 population)

Flu Cases by Type

Cases by High-Risk Age Groups
(percent overall this season)

Madison County

New York State

1,195.3

1,594.0

Flu A: 94%
(overall in January 2023)

Flu A: 73%
(week ending 1/28/23)

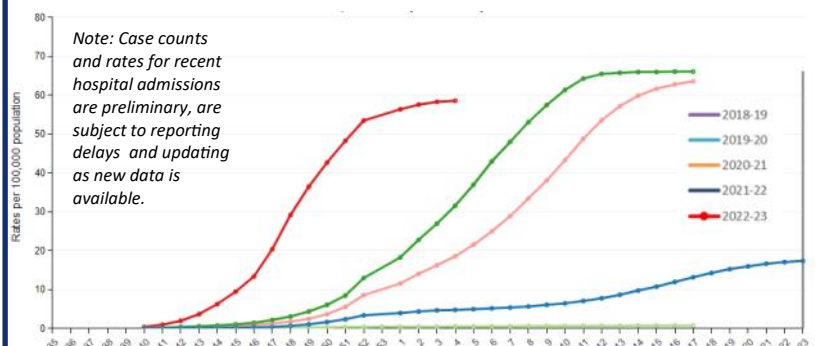
0-4 Years: 13%
65+ Years: 11%

0-4 Years: 17.5%
65+ Years: 8.1%

State and National Flu Hospitalizations—through week 4, ending January 28, 2023

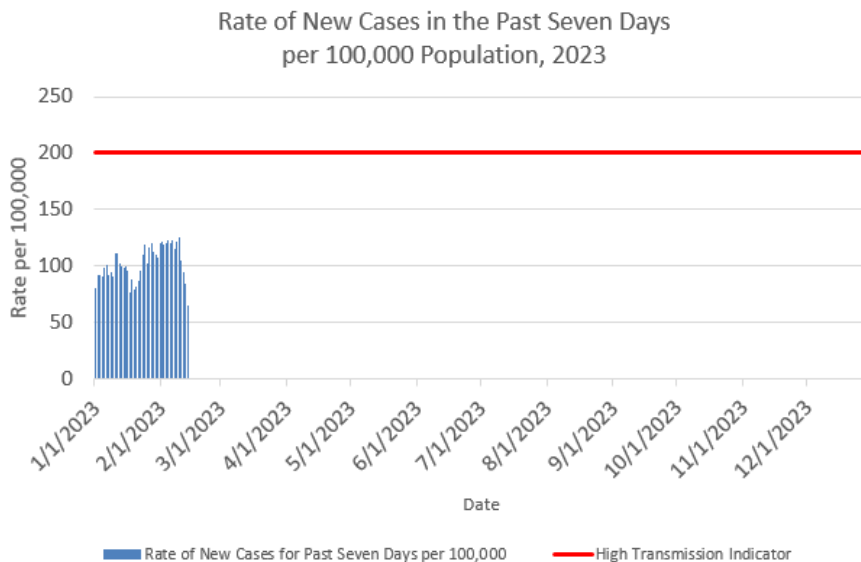
- When examining rates by age, the highest rate of hospitalization per 100,000 population was among adults aged 65 and older (173.2). Among adults aged 65 and older, rates were highest among adults aged 85 and older (316.3). Among persons aged <65 years, hospitalization rates per 100,000 population were highest among children aged 0-4 years (78), followed by adults aged 50-64 years (62.5).
- When examining rates by race and ethnicity, the highest rate of hospitalization per 100,000 population was among non-Hispanic Black persons (83.5), followed by non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native persons (71.8).

Cumulative Rate of Laboratory-Confirmed Flu Hospitalizations among cases of all ages, by season, MMWR Week 4



COVID-19 Activity

Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Madison County



NYSDOH recommends use the CDC weekly COVID-19 levels to determine the impact of COVID-19 and guide actions for communities and healthcare facilities to take in response.

Visit the CDC links for recommended level actions.



Weekly level on 2/16/23:

[CDC Community Level for Community Action:](#)

LOW

[CDC Transmission Level for Healthcare Facility Action:](#)

HIGH

2022 County, State and National COVID-19 Summary*

	Madison County	New York State	United States
*All rates up to date as of February 6, 2023			
Weekly Case Rate (New cases per 100,000 population)	90.22	105.1	84.6
**Reflects the rate of Hospitalizations in the Central New York (CNY) region			
7-Day Avg. New Hospital Admissions (Rate per 100,000 population)	2.34**	1.73	1.2
Up-to-Date Vaccination Status (Population ≥ 5 years of age)	17%	17.4%	16.6%

Current COVID-19 Practices and Guidance

[2/10/23—New York State Department of Health released updated Advisory Guidance for use of Face Masks and Face Coverings in Healthcare Facilities, effective February 12th.](#)

- This supersedes previous related guidance and recommendations.
- This updated COVID-19 Advisory does not affect any requirements under the [Regulation for Prevention of Influenza Transmission by Healthcare and Residential Facility and Agency Personnel](#).

Find a COVID-19 Test

Visit the Madison County Public Health website healthymadisoncounty.org for testing information.

Before You Throw Out "Expired" Tests:

Check to see if an at-home COVID-19 tests kits' expiration date has been extended.

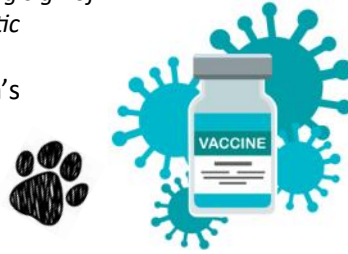
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

Environmental Health & Safety

Zoonotic Disease Surveillance in Madison County—Summary January 2023

About 3 out of every 4 new or emerging infectious disease is spread from animals to people – these are known as **zoonotic diseases**. Animal surveillance is used as an early warning sign of potential human illness from a zoonotic

- Madison County Public Health's Rabies Vaccination Clinics will resume in April 2023.



Animal Specimens Tested [^]	Animal Bites
1	7
Animal Specimens Testing Positive for Rabies*	
1—Raccoon	
Individuals Authorized for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP)	
0	

Food Safety

The Health Department inspects food facilities to determine the level of compliance for safety and sanitary measures to reduce food-borne illness. Over time, inspection results provide a more accurate picture of compliance practices. Inspections also serve as an opportunity to correct violations and provide education for food establishment owners.

- In December 2022, 27 food service inspections conducted were satisfactory for compliance. One facility inspection was unsatisfactory.
- Information on restaurant inspections and violations are available at: <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/453/Food-Inspection-Results>



Food Safety Tip of the Month: **After four days, throw leftovers out**

Don't go by smell or taste to determine if food is safe to eat. There are different types of bacteria, some of which cause illness in people and others that don't. The types of bacteria that cause foodborne illness, like *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, do not affect the taste, smell, or appearance of food. Freeze or toss refrigerated leftovers within three to four days even if they smell and look fine. If you're not sure how long leftovers have been in the refrigerator, toss them. When in doubt, throw it out!



Upcoming Clinics and Events

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY JANUARY-MARCH 2023	
Wednesday, January 4th 1:00 to 3:30 pm	Wednesday, March 1st 9:00-11:30 am
Tuesday, January 10th 9:00 to 11:30 am	Tuesday, March 14th 3:00 to 5:30 pm
Friday, January 27th 9:00 to 11:30 am	Friday, March 31st 9:00 to 11:30 am
Tuesday, February 7th 1:00 to 3:30 pm	
Wednesday, February 15th 9:00-11:30 am	

All regular immunizations, including COVID-19, flu, and monkeypox/mpox (JYNNEOS) are offered.

• Please have your insurance card ready when you call.
• Cash, check, credit card and some insurance are accepted.
• If you or your child do not have insurance, please let us know when you call for an appointment.

LOCATION: Madison County Health Department
155 N. Court Street, Building 5, Romeville, NY

CALL 315-366-2361 OPTION 2 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Call 315-366-2361 OPTION 2 to make an appointment at an upcoming immunization clinic:

- Wednesday, March 1st 9:00-11:30 am
- Tuesday, March 14th 3:00-5:30 pm
- Friday, March 31st 9:00-11:30 am

We offer: all regular immunizations, including COVID-19, flu, and monkeypox/mpox (JYNNEOS).

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH

HOTLINE 315-464-3979

The Upstate Public Health Hotline, is open for questions about pediatric RSV, Flu, and more.

Call 315-464-3979 from 8am to 11pm, 7-days-a-week.

[Click the image for a PDF Clinic Flyer](#)

HEALTH ISSUE HIGHLIGHT: Preventing Chronic Diseases



CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Chronic conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, and asthma can lead to chronic diseases. Madison County adults have high levels of asthma compared to New York State (NYS) (16% vs 10.1%).³

Education is important for managing of chronic conditions. Compared to 10.2% of NYS, only 2.6% of adults in Madison County with a chronic illness have taken a class to learn how to manage their condition.³



TOBACCO USE & VAPING

Tobacco use is recognized as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.¹ In Madison County, 21% of adults are current smokers, compared to only 12.8% of NYS. The percent is higher among low-income adults (34.7%).³ The use of the vaping products (e-cigarettes) has also increased among county adults to 12% in 2021.⁶ While there is a downward trend in youth trying cigarettes, 43.3% of high school students in the county report trying vaping products.⁴



ROUTINE HEALTHCARE

Regular doctor visits and screenings can lower the risk for chronic conditions. About 89% of Madison County residents have a regular healthcare provider. The majority of county residents receive the recommended screenings for colorectal, breast, and cervical cancers (84.3%, 90.2%, 89.7% respectively).³



HEALTHY EATING & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Healthy eating and adequate physical activity lower the risk of developing a chronic condition and help to prevent early death. Nearly 75% of Madison County residents live within reasonable distance to parks and recreational facilities. County residents of all ages (youth, adults, and older adults) report higher physical activity levels when compared to NYS residents.^{3,4}

Access to affordable, safe, and nutritious foods contribute to an individual's eating habits. About 90% of all Madison County residents report having access to a reliable source of food; yet only 67.3% of low-income adults report food security. This is slightly higher than low-income adults in NYS (55.8%).³ In terms of diet, more Madison County adults eat fruit and vegetables daily (76.1%) compared to NYS (71.9%).⁵ Nearly 34% of low-income residents drink at least one sugary beverage per day, which is slightly higher than NYS (31%).

Healthy eating and physical activity also play a role in an individual's weight. The percentage of adults who meet criteria for obesity (body mass index ≥ 30 kg/m²) in Madison County jumped from 28% in 2016 to 37.2% in 2018, and remains higher than NYS (27.9%). The percent of youth (0-17 years) who have a BMI higher than 30 has varied. In 2019, 20.3% of youth met these criteria.³



Chronic diseases typically develop in middle age after prolonged exposure to unhealthy lifestyle factors

including tobacco use, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol use, and poor nutrition. Health behaviors, regular health visits and screenings are key to preventing chronic diseases.¹

In Madison County, chronic diseases (cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke) account for four of the five leading causes of premature death (under 75 years). Lung cancer causes the majority of all cancer deaths.^{2,3}

¹CDC. About Chronic Diseases. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Published April 28, 2021. Accessed March 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/index.htm>

²NYSDOH. Deaths and Death Rates* by Selected Causes and Race New York State - 2018. Vital Statistics of New York State 2018. Accessed March 2022. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2018/table33a.htm

³NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard. NYSDOH. Accessed March 2022. https://health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2019-2024/.

⁴Joel LaLone Consulting. 2021 Community Tobacco Survey of Adult Residents of Madison County (New York). BRIDGES; 2021:1-86.

⁵Louis T, Dudrick J. Teen Assessment Project Report for Madison County, New York. Youth Bureau; 2018:1-91. Accessed March 2022. <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/151/2014-Teen-Assessment-Project-Report>

⁶NYS Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS). NYSDOH; 2018. Accessed February 2022. <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chirs>

Next month's highlight:

Communicable Disease