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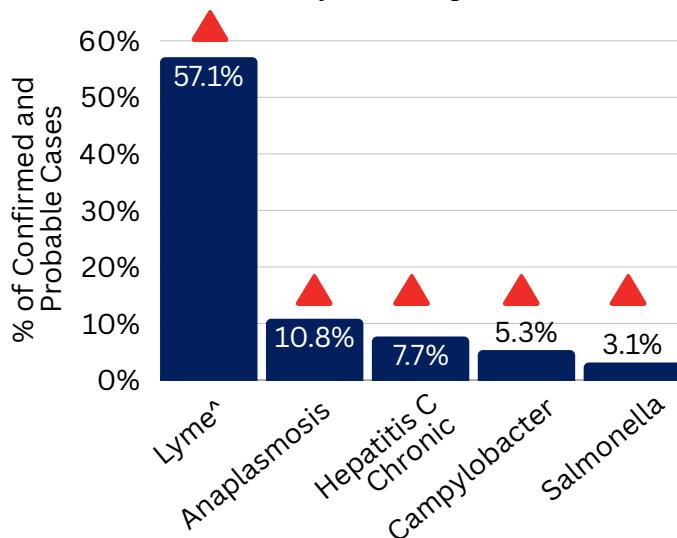
HEALTH IN THE NEWS

- Flu cases have hit New York State hard and have broken records in both [cases](#) and [hospitalizations](#).
- In January 2026, if the U.S. fails to stop [measles](#) (over 2,000 cases recorded in 2025) by the 12-month mark for uninterrupted transmission, it may lose its [elimination](#) status. (Elimination: refers to no continuous, year-round transmission for at least 12 months.)
- [A recent research article](#) shows a promising decline in childhood food allergies after a [guideline](#) change, driven by a drop in peanut allergies. This public health success links back to a [2015 LEAP study](#), showing the early introduction of potential allergens prevents allergies.

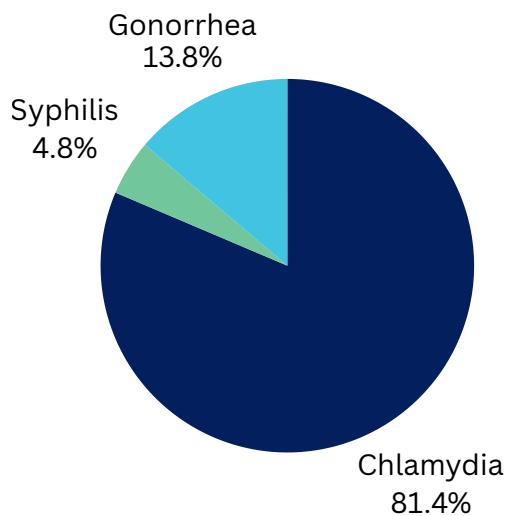
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ACTIVITY IN MADISON COUNTY, JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025
General Communicable Diseases

Madison County, January to December 2025, N=415 (excludes STI cases)

^Lyme disease case numbers are preliminary and subject to change.


Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Madison County, January to December 2025, N= 145


 The total number of communicable diseases (excluding STIs) in 2025 **increased** compared to 2024 for the same time period.

 The total number of STIs in 2025 **decreased** compared to 2024 for the same time period.

 From January thru December 2025, **chlamydia** was responsible for 81.4% of STI cases in Madison County.

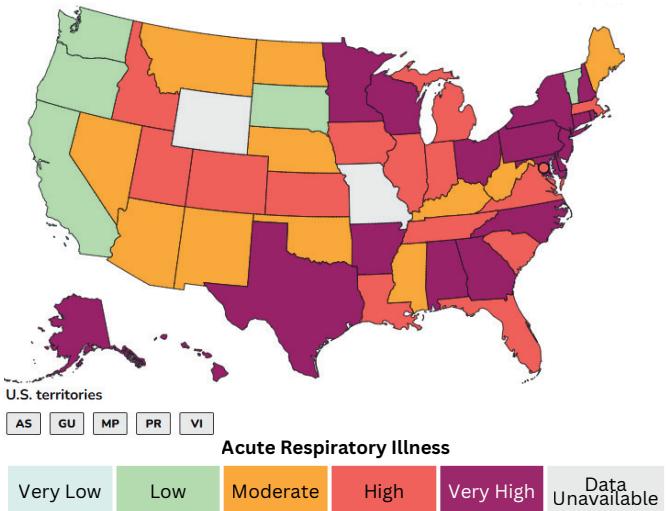
 Trend Compared to 2024 YTD: ▲ rate increase ● rate stable ▼ rate decrease


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

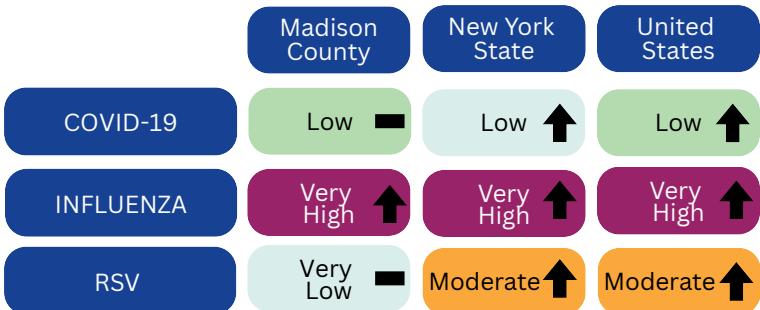

 Explore new
[data trends on
Sexual Health in
New York State](#)

NATIONAL RESPIRATORY ACTIVITY

Respiratory Illness Activity



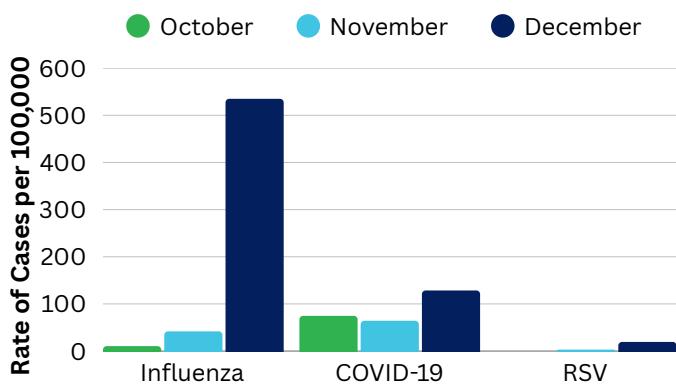
Emergency Department Visit Activity and Trend



Respiratory illness activity is measure of how frequently respiratory symptoms and conditions are diagnosed by emergency departments (EDs). [CDC respiratory data](#) included is as of January 5, 2026.

LOCAL AND STATE RESPIRATORY ACTIVITY

Madison County Respiratory Activity, October - December 2025



The number of **COVID-19, RSV, and Influenza** cases reported in Madison County increased between November and December 2025.

In Madison County, 93.8% of influenza cases reported so far this season (2025–2026) have been **influenza A**.

New York State (NYS) Respiratory Activity, Season-to-Date

Illness	Total Cases	% Change from Prior Week
INFLUENZA	239,857	-32%
COVID-19	41,224	-20%
RSV	25,828	-11%

Compared to the prior week, the number of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV cases decreased in NYS.

Healthcare Facility Respiratory Outbreaks, Season-to-Date Total

Illness	Central New York	New York State
INFLUENZA	38	363
COVID-19	40	323
RSV	2	38

Of reported respiratory outbreaks in NYS healthcare facilities, 50.1% were **Influenza-associated**.

New York State Respiratory Illness Geographic Activity (Week of November 27, 2025):

- Sporadic
- Local
- Regional
- Widespread



INFLUENZA
Widespread

COVID-19
Widespread

RSV
Widespread



Respiratory Surveillance (including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV) is conducted year-round but reported out during respiratory season (May - October). Counties included in Central New York are Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga, and Tompkins. [New York State respiratory data](#) included is through December 27, 2025. Madison County data is through December 31, 2025. [Respiratory activity definitions - page 7 of reports](#).

COVID-19 WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE

COVID-19 Detection Levels in New York State Sewersheds

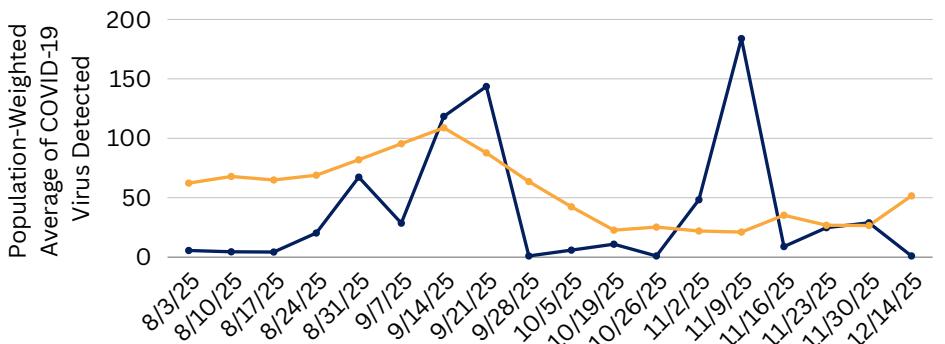
Data as of 12/23/2025

COVID-19 Detection Level	
Low	34
Moderate	59
High	19
Very High	21
NA	41
Total Sewersheds	174

Population-Weighted COVID-19 Wastewater Trends, August - December 2025



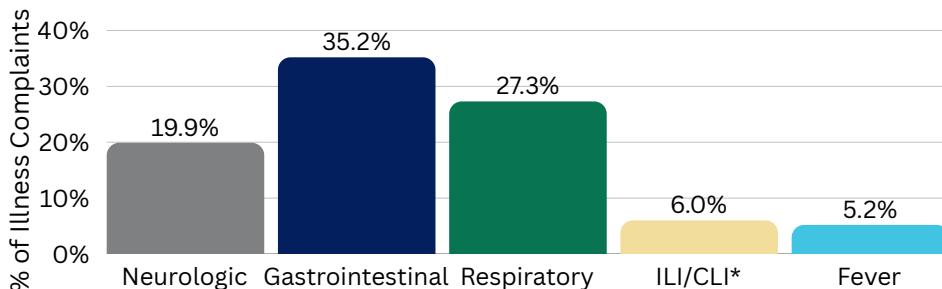
● Madison County ● New York State



i Wastewater surveillance is a tool to monitor viruses and bacteria and help predict trends within a community. It can be used to track the spread of respiratory illnesses (COVID-19 and influenza) and vaccine preventable diseases (polio and measles). The COVID-19 virus may be detected in wastewater as many as three to seven days before increases in the percentages of people who test positive or are hospitalized with COVID-19.

ILLNESS COMPLAINTS OBSERVED BY K-12 SCHOOLS IN MADISON COUNTY

Top 5 Illness Complaints Observed in K-12 Schools, Madison County, December 2025



Top 5 Round-up of Illness Complaints for December:

1. Gastrointestinal (35.2%)
2. Respiratory (27.3%)
3. Neurologic (19.9%)
4. ILI/CLI* (6.0%)
5. Fever (5.2%)

i Syndromic surveillance monitors disease indicators in near real-time to detect information about symptoms during early phases of illness and indicate outbreaks of disease earlier than other public health methods. Data from K-12 Schools are reported as a percentage of the total syndromes observed. *Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and COVID-like Illness (CLI) is defined as a temperature at or above 100° F with a cough and/or sore throat.

MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH APP ADDS WEATHER ALERTS

Protect your health and safety with real-time severe weather warnings! Get instant warning notifications for storms, extreme heat, flooding, and more.

- [Download](#) the Madison County Public Health App on your smartphone and be prepared, no matter what the weather brings. (Make sure NWS Alerts are turned-on in your app settings!)



IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Call 315-366-2361, option 2 for appointments & vaccine availability at:

Madison County Public Health
138 N. Court St, Building 5, Wampsville

- Wednesday, January 14 1 PM - 3:30 PM
- Tuesday, January 27 9 AM - 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, February 11 1 PM - 3:30 PM



FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

In November 2025, of 13 food service inspections conducted, 12 were satisfactory and 1 were unsatisfactory.



- [Search inspection results](#)



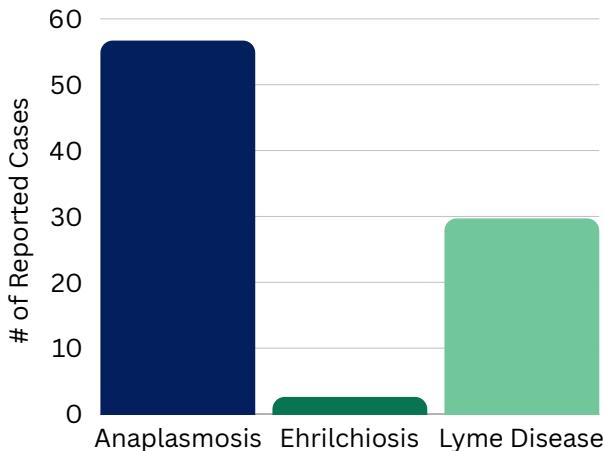
Inspections are a tool to identify and apply safety and sanitary measures to reduce the risk of food-borne illness. Critical violations pose an imminent health threat. Non-critical violations do if not fixed, could pose a health threat.



ANIMAL SURVEILLANCE IN MADISON COUNTY

Local Veterinarian Zoonotic Reporting

Average Number of Reports, Madison County, January to November 2025



Madison County Rabies Data

Nov. 21 thru Dec. 11, 2025

2025 Summary

Animal Bites	14 (6 dogs, 8 cats)	139 (109 dogs, 29 cats, 1 other)
Animal Specimens Tested	1 (feral cat)	36
Animal Specimens Positive for Rabies	1 (feral cat)	7 (3 raccoons, 1 skunk, 1 deer, 2 feral cat)
Individuals Authorized for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP)	2	33

Among reporting veterinarians, January-November 2024 and 2025:



Lyme Disease: Average monthly reported cases in 2025 were 9.2% fewer than in 2024.

Anaplasmosis: Average monthly reported cases in 2025 were 7.8% higher than in 2024.

Ehrlichiosis: Average monthly reported cases in 2025 were 52.6% higher than in 2024.



Most new or emerging infectious diseases spread from animals to people, called zoonotic diseases. Animal surveillance is an early warning of potential human illness. Rabies is one example of a zoonotic disease we closely monitor. To improve local surveillance, veterinary offices are surveyed monthly. Responses are voluntary, the number of month responses varies, and data is preliminary.

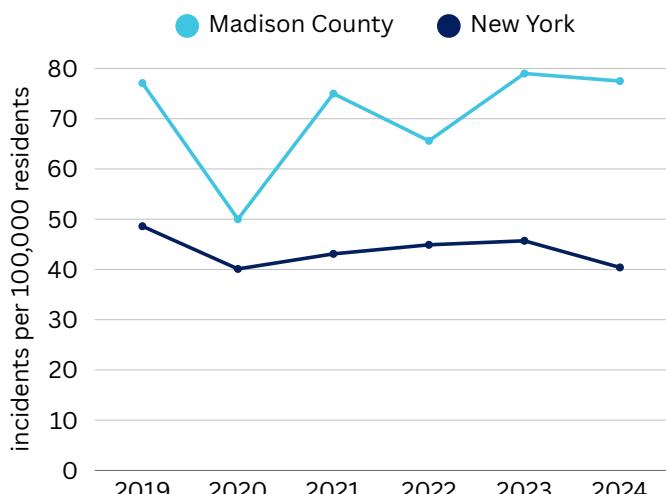
HIGHLIGHT: WHEN IMPAIRMENT TAKES THE WHEEL

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. It is a time to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other substances, especially during the holiday season.

Driving while under the influence is dangerous because it:

- Slows reaction time and coordination
- Affects judgement and focus
- May cause tiredness or blurred vision
- Increases the chances of severe crashes.

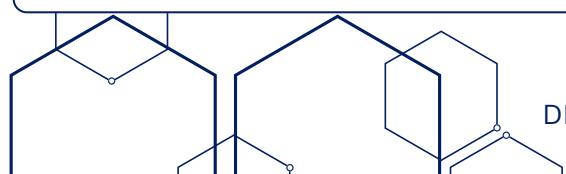
Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2019 - 2024



Beyond safety risks, it can lead to arrests, fines, loss of a driver's license, and lasting legal or financial problems. Madison County had higher rates of alcohol related motor vehicle accidents between 2019 and 2024 compared to New York State (see chart).

Between 2020 and 2024, an average of 93% of issued impairment tickets were alcohol-related while an average of about 7% were drug-related.

Enjoy the holidays with safe practices: arrange for a sober designated driver or use rideshare services and do not drive if you are impaired in any way.



CLARIFYING CHANGES TO THE U.S. CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

Following a Presidential directive to align U.S. recommendations with certain peer nations, HHS and CDC updated the childhood immunization schedule, moving some vaccines from universal recommendation to risk-based use and/or shared clinical decision-making (SCDM).

Despite this change in recommendations from HHS and CDC, in New York State as of 1/7/26:

- **Access remains unchanged:** Parents can still go by the “before” schedule. Children can still receive the full range of vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).
- **No out-of-pocket cost:** All New York State school childhood vaccines—including those under shared clinical decision-making—remain fully covered by ACA-regulated private insurance, Medicaid, and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, as affirmed by HHS.
 - One exception: HPV. If your child is getting two doses, the second dose may not be covered under this new directive. Check with your insurance provider.
- **The evidence is unchanged:** Scientific evidence continues to support the full AAP and AAFP immunization schedules for protecting children from serious disease. New York’s immunization policies are grounded in science and public health expertise and are designed to protect children, families, and communities from preventable diseases.
- **New York State immunization practices and recommendations remain unchanged:** Immunizations required for school and childcare entry have not changed. There are no changes to New York State school immunization requirements and related policies, vaccine access, insurance coverage, or the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Vaccine policy decisions are established by states under their public health authority. **Read the full recent New York State Department of Health Advisory.**

LATEST
NEWS

CONSUMER ALERT: RAW SHRIMP RECALL



Direct Source Seafood LLC is recalling bags of frozen raw shrimp sold under the Market 32 and Waterfront Bistro brands because they may have been exposed to very low levels of the radioactive isotope cesium-137 during preparation, packing, or holding.

- The **Market 32 product was sold at Price Chopper stores in New York** and other Northeast states, and the Waterfront Bistro shrimp was sold in additional states.
- No illnesses have been reported.
- Do not eat this product. Discard or return it for a refund. For full details, see the FDA notice.



Request for Speakers

Submit your abstract here by 2/27/26.

YOUR NEW STATE HEALTH BRIEFS

Adults Arthritis Brief shows:

Adults with two or more other chronic health conditions are much more likely to have arthritis (about 53%) than those with only one other chronic condition (about 34%).

Adult Lung Cancer Screening (ages 50-80) Brief shows:

An estimated 1 in 10 New Yorkers aged 50 to 80 years—about 648,000 people—are eligible for lung cancer screening; however, only 1 in 5 of those eligible, roughly 129,000 people, report having been screened for lung cancer in the past year.

This one-day event will bring together healthcare, public health, EMS, and emergency management professionals to advance coordination, innovation, and regional resilience.

Summit Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Where: Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES in Auburn

Need more info? Email subject line: ‘CNY Integrated Health Emergency Management Summit’ to dementoa@upstate.edu