EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

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2022–2023 Influenza Season Review

By Renee Veleva

During the 2022-2023 influenza season, Pinellas County saw moderate to severe levels of influenza activity that compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. The season began in early October which was earlier than previous seasons. Activity levels reached its peak in November and December.

According to the CDC[1], nationally, this season saw the highest severity among children and adolescents. The rate for influenza-associated medical visits and hospitalization were higher than previous seasons for children under 5 years old and children and adolescents aged 5-17 years. These visits co-circulated with other respiratory viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 and RSV which put a strain on healthcare systems. Among the children and adolescents who were hospitalized, the influenza vaccination coverage was lower compared to previous seasons. Only 1 out of 3 children and adolescents who were hospitalized were vaccinated.

The influenza (flu) vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and influenza-related doctor's visits each year. The 2023—2024 influenza season began on October 1. It's important to protect yourself and others from influenza by getting the flu vaccine. The CDC recommends that individuals aged 6 months or older receive the flu vaccine.

For more information on the flu vaccine, please visit Flu Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know | CDC

Reference:

[1]High Influenza Incidence and Disease Severity Among Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years — United States, 2022–23 Season | MMWR

HAN 499: Limited Availability of Nirsevimab in the United States–Interim CDC Recommendations to Protect Infants from Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) during the 2023-2024 Respiratory Virus Season

Summary:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to provide options for clinicians to protect infants from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in the context of limited supply of nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody immunization product recommended for preventing RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease in infants.

CDC recommends prioritizing available nirsevimab 100mg doses for infants at the high risk for severe RSV disease: young infants (age <6 months) and infants with underlying conditions that place them at highest risk for severe RSV disease. Recommendations for using 50mg doses remain unchanged at this time.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers:

These interim recommendations apply to healthcare settings with limited nirsevimab availability during the 2023 –2024 RSV season. Interim recommendations are subject to change as new evidence becomes available.

Recommendations can be found here: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00499.asp

Recommendations for the Public:

1. Families should be aware of everyday preventive measures to limit the spread of RSV and other respiratory illnesses, including washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and staying home when sick.
2. Expectant parents should talk with their healthcare provider about receiving the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo, Pfizer) during pregnancy to protect their infant from severe RSV. CDC recommends that all infants are protected against RSV through either vaccination of the mother with RSV vaccine during pregnancy or giving the infant nirsevimab after birth.
3. Parents should talk with their healthcare provider about whether nirsevimab is available for their infant.

For More Information:

Additional Information for the Public:

Symptoms and Care of RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) | CDC
Preventing RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) | CDC
RSV Vaccination: What Parents Should Know | CDC
RSV Vaccination for Pregnant People | CDC
Frequently Asked Questions About RSV Vaccine for Children 19 Months and Younger | CDC
Protect yourself from COVID-19, Flu, and RSV | CDC
RSV National Trends – NREVSS | CDC
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Preventive Antibody Immunization Information Statement | CDC

Additional Information for Healthcare Providers:

For Healthcare Professionals: RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) | CDC
Healthcare Providers: RSV Vaccination for Pregnant People | CDC
Healthcare Providers: RSV Immunization for Children 19 Months and Younger | CDC
ACIP and AAP Recommendations for Nirsevimab | Red Book Online | American Academy of Pediatrics
Updated Guidance for Palivizumab Prophylaxis Among Infants and Young Children at Increased Risk of Hospitalization for Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics

Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
Disease	**Sep 2023**	**Sep 2022**	**Pinellas 2023**	**Florida 2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
A. Vaccine Preventable							
Coronavirus 2019	**2703**	**3594**	**21120**	**490703**	**119224**	**103356**	**44852**
Measles	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	0	0	0
Mpox	**0**	**49**	**4**	**56**	162	0	0
Mumps	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13**	0	1	1
Pertussis	**0**	**1**	**1**	**57**	2	1	8
Varicella	**2**	**0**	**21**	**468**	24	25	18
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	**0**	**0**	**1**	**30**	3	1	0
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	**1**	**0**	**4**	**90**	12	5	5
Meningococcal Disease	**0**	**0**	**2**	**30**	2	1	2
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	**24**	**18**	**172**	**3572**	208	213	247
Cryptosporidiosis	**4**	**6**	**26**	**496**	38	28	38
Cyclosporiasis	**1**	**0**	**11**	**331**	21	9	9
E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)	**3**	**2**	**27**	**819**	28	16	10
Giardiasis	**4**	**4**	**24**	**973**	34	29	28
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	**2**	**0**	**2**	**5**	0	0	0
Listeriosis	**0**	**0**	**2**	**32**	3	3	2
Salmonellosis	**26**	**16**	**125**	**4912**	174	182	200
Shigellosis	**1**	**3**	**41**	**959**	37	37	19
D. Viral Hepatitis							
Hepatitis A	**0**	**0**	**1**	**86**	20	6	3
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	**2**	**3**	**14**	**379**	20	10	18
Hepatitis B, Acute	**1**	**4**	**24**	**510**	33	51	40
Hepatitis C, Acute	**5**	**3**	**76**	**961**	120	91	117
E. Vectorborne/Zoonoses							
Animal Rabies	**0**	**0**	**1**	**48**	0	0	0
Rabies, possible exposure	**24**	**8**	**142**	**4822**	151	135	118
Chikungunya Fever	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	0	0	0
Dengue fever	**0**	**2**	**2**	**402**	7	0	1
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	**5**	**1**	**17**	**218**	11	7	11
Malaria	**0**	**3**	**4**	**49**	4	2	2
West Nile Virus	**0**	**0**	**0**	**9**	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	0	0	0
F. Others							
Hansen's Disease	**0**	**0**	**1**	**19**	0	0	0
Legionellosis	**1**	**3**	**11**	**331**	38	36	33
Mercury Poisoning	**0**	**0**	**0**	**17**	0	2	1
Tuberculosis	**1**	**1**	**2**	**283**	22	21	24
Vibrio Infections	**2**	**2**	**12**	**286**	13	12	18
G. Sexually Transmitted Infections							
	Pinellas		**YTD Total**		**Pinellas County Annual Totals**		
	Sep 2023	**Sep 2022**	**Pinellas 2023**	**Pinellas 2022**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Chlamydia	**186**	**331**	**2808**	**2743**	4027	4090	3956
Gonorrhea	**79**	**131**	**1132**	**1257**	1734	1883	1634
Syphilis, Total	**4**	**70**	**438**	**526**	879	634	479
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	**3**	**35**	**236**	**265**	336	274	212
Syphilis, Early Latent	**1**	**25**	**135**	**222**	269	239	166
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	**0**	**10**	**68**	**104**	5	7	5
Syphilis, Congenital	**0**	**0**	**3**	**5**	269	114	96

*YTD up to September 30, 2023. n/a = not available at this time