

# Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

## 2021 Reporting Week 41: October 10 — October 16



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

### Influenza (Flu) Up, COVID-19 Down

Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Okaloosa increased again this past week while COVID-19 has continued to decrease. Currently, the percentage of emergency visits due to ILI is double (3.03%) what we normally see this time of year (average 1.5%). We encourage providers to review CDC's [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Professionals](#) to be prepared for counseling on co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines (see page 6 for most recent From the Desk of the Health Officer regarding co-administration), patient education, and the 2021-22 flu vaccine composition.

This week's COVID-19 community risk level dropped to SUBSTANTIAL for the first time since Week 26. The total number of Okaloosa residents aged 12 and older that are fully-vaccinated continues to rise and has surpassed 60%! The actual number of fully vaccinated in Okaloosa is 107,774 (60.3%). Please continue to encourage vaccination as the COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective at preventing severe disease and death.

### Continued COVID-19 Resources

Guidance on the newly approved Pfizer [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot](#) eligibility is available on the CDC website. [Moderately and severely immunosuppressed people](#) who completed either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine series are recommended to get a **third dose** of the mRNA vaccine from the same manufacturer. An additional dose is not authorized for the J&J vaccine.

FREE [Monoclonal Antibody Treatments](#) are available in Okaloosa for use in adult and pediatric patients (12 and older) who have either been diagnosed or exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19. Please follow the link for all locations.

### Contact Us:

**Florida Department of Health  
in Okaloosa County**

**Epidemiology Section**

**24/7 Disease Reporting:  
850-833-9065**

**Confidential Fax:**

**850-833-7577**

**[okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov](mailto:okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov)**

## COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 41 Review		Difference from Wk40
Resident Case Count	148	-64
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	71.7	-31
Average Resident Cases per Day	21.1	-9.2
Percent Positivity	5.5%	-1.7%

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or [NewsMedia@flhealth.gov](mailto:NewsMedia@flhealth.gov).

Week 41 Community Risk Level		
COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: HIGH</b>		
Low	<10	<5%
Moderate	10-49	5-7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8-9.9%
High	>100	>10%

Community risk level is the color of the higher risk level for the two indicators.

Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 Fully  
Vaccinated =  
No Quarantine

# COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 41: October 10 - October 16

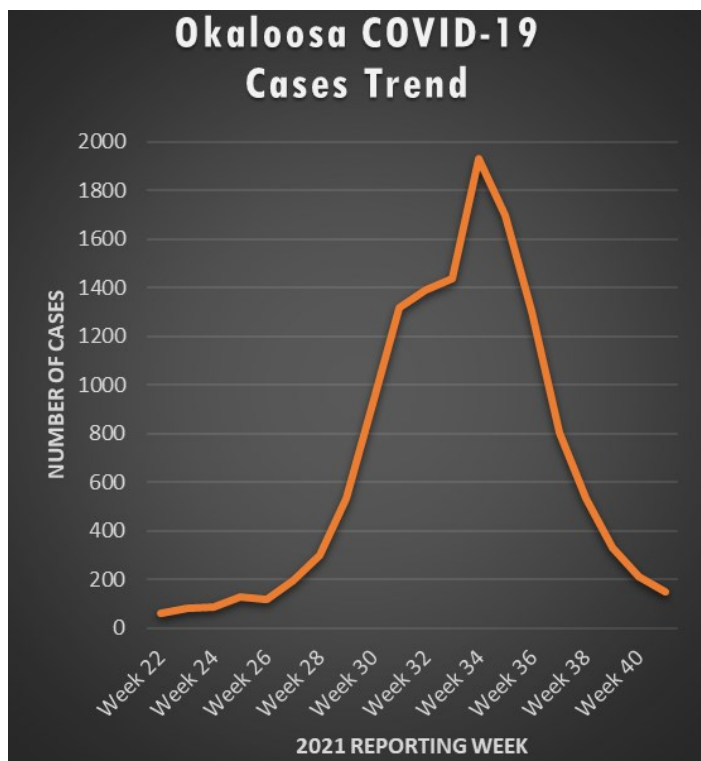


Figure 1: Trend of total COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

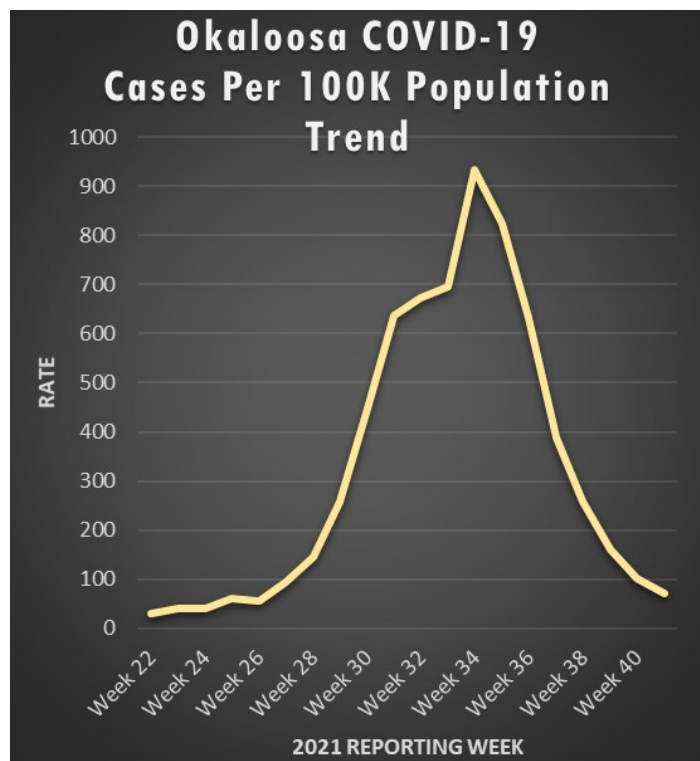


Figure 2: Trend of COVID-19 case rates by week. Data source: Merlin Database

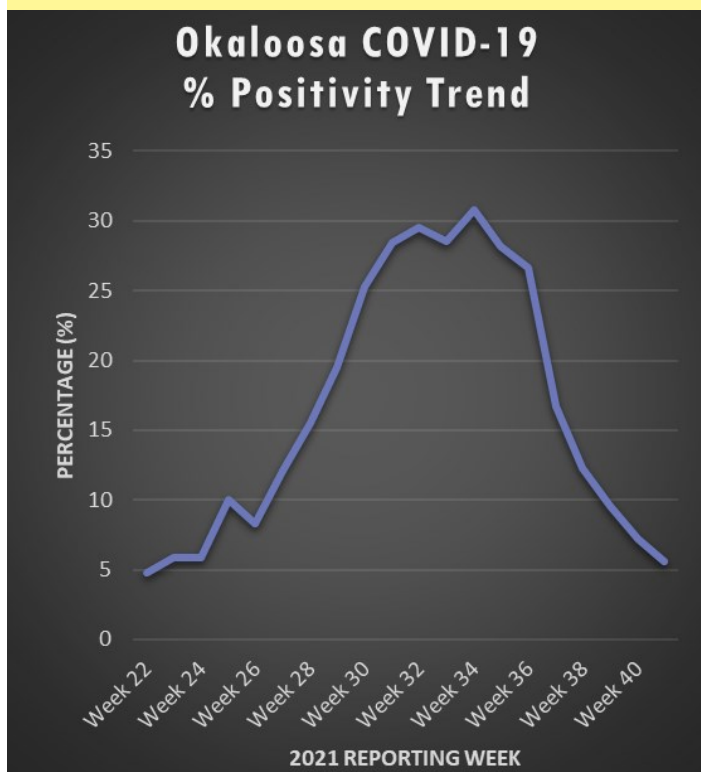


Figure 3: Trend of 7-day moving percent positivity of COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

## COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

Age Group	Okaloosa Resident Cases since 03/01/21 through Week 40	% by Age Group	Difference from Week 39
0-11	2009	13.0%	+24
12-14	697	4.5%	+1
15-24	2385	15.4%	+20
25-44	5285	34.2%	+55
45-64	3525	22.8%	+27
65-74	945	6.1%	+13
75-84	389	2.5%	+6
85+	204	1.3%	+2
Unknown	6	0.0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15445</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>+148</b>

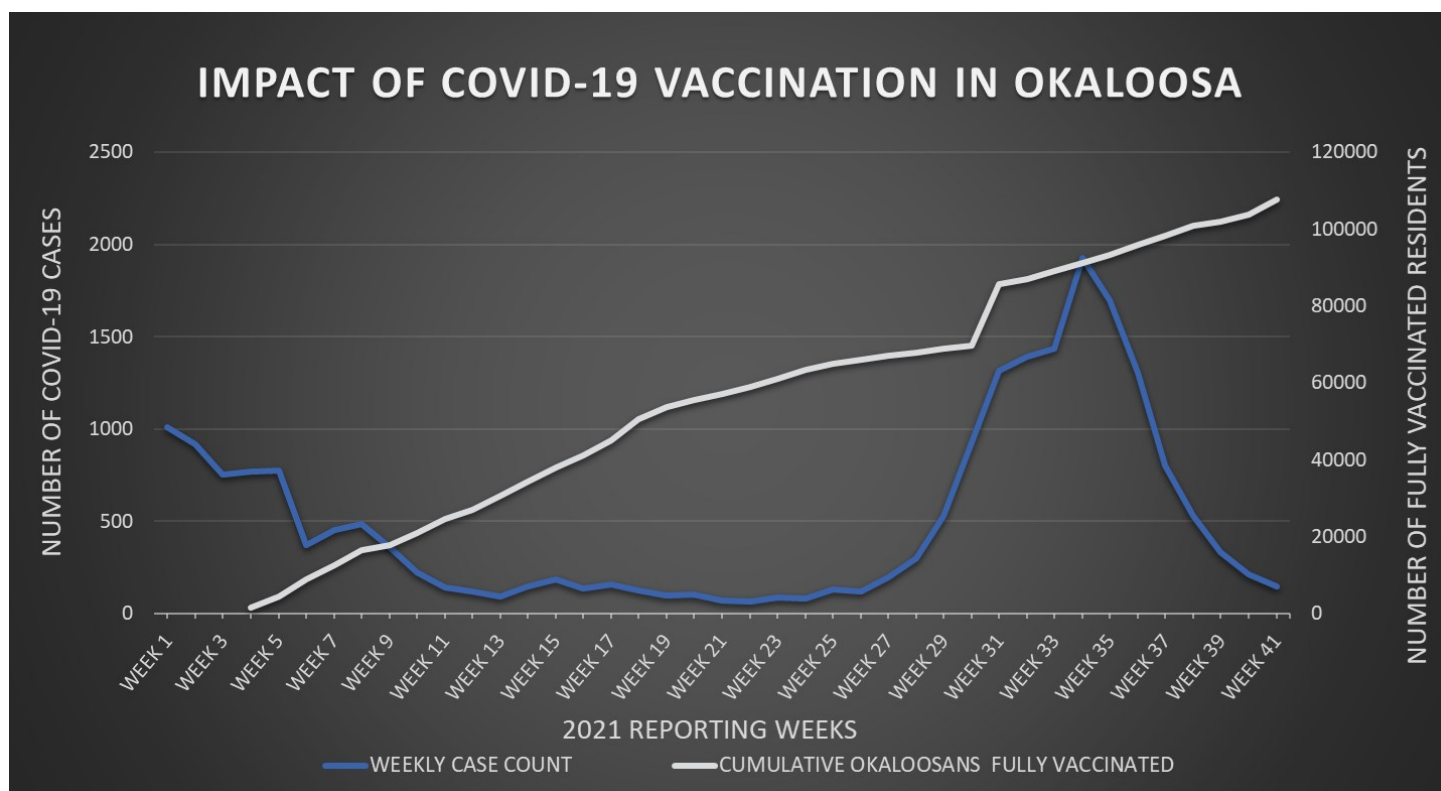
Data Source: Merlin Database



COVID-19 Fully  
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# COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 41: October 10 - October 16



**Figure 4:** Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.  
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

## VACCINATION DATA RESOURCE

The CDC COVID Data Tracker presents county level vaccination data that includes vaccinations from:

- FL SHOTS, including FL Department of Health, retail pharmacies, and long-term care facilities,
- Dialysis centers participating in the Federal Dialysis Center Program,
- Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and
- Federal entities such as Department of Defense, Veterans Health Administration, Indian Health Service and Bureau of Prisons.

Percentage of  
Breakthrough  
Infection in  
Fully-Vaccinated  
Individuals:

1.27%

Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population $\geq$ 12 Years of Age	60.3%	66.7%
% of Population $\geq$ 18 Years of Age	62.9%	68.4%
% of Population $\geq$ 65 Years of Age	88.1%	84.4%

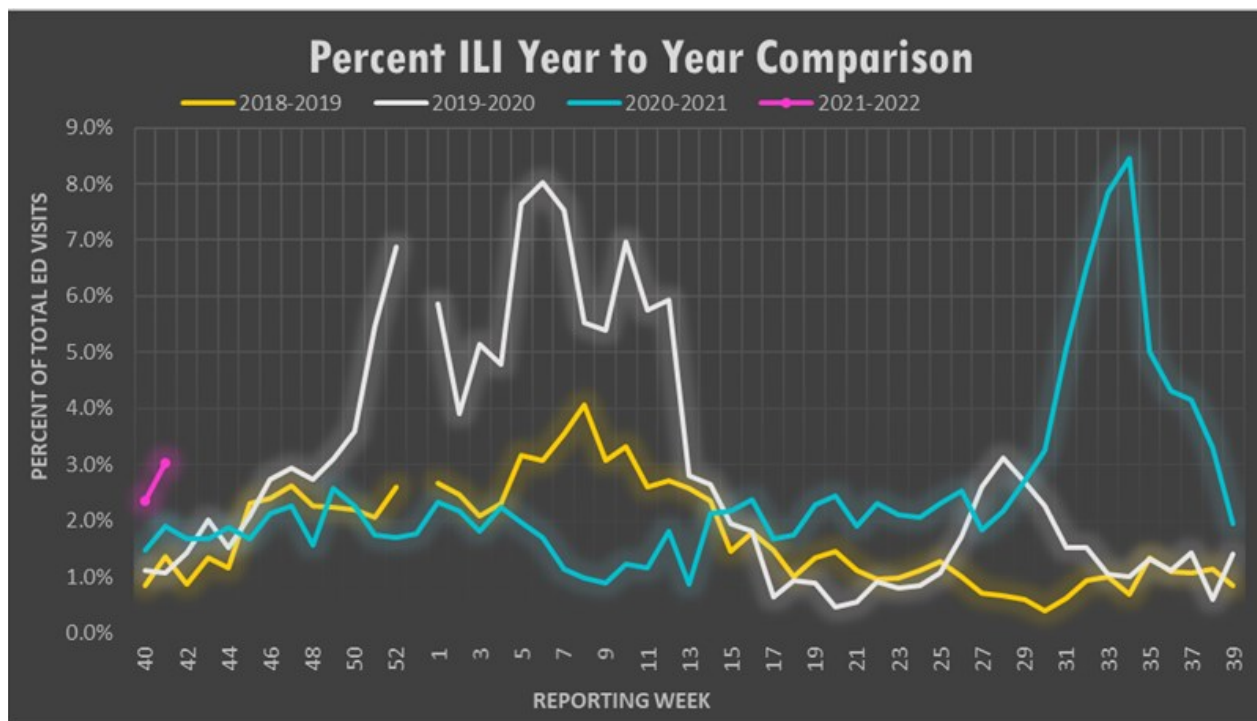
Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



# Influenza-Like Illness

Week 41: October 10 - October 16

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.



**Figure 5:**

Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 influenza seasons by week.

Data source:

ESSENCE

**ANALYSIS:** During Week 41, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported an increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County increased from 2.35% during Week 40 to 3.03% during Week 41. Flu partners reported no positive rapid influenza tests this week. Over the past three weeks, 20 out of 180 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (8 Influenza A unspecified, 12 Influenza B unspecified). There were no reported ILI admissions, outbreaks, or deaths reported this week. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 41 is higher than that of Week 41 last year.

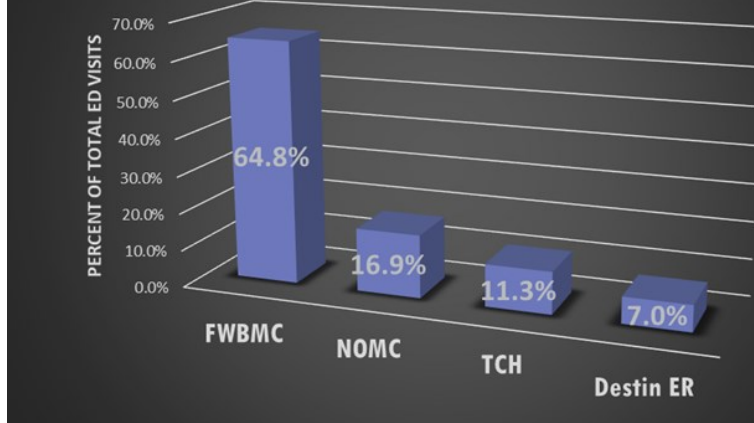
*Note:* Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

## % ILI by Age Group Week 41, 2021

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	31	240	12.92%
5-19	20	339	5.90%
20-34	5	446	1.12%
35-54	6	583	1.03%
55-74	8	484	1.65%
75+	1	244	0.41%

Data Source: ESSENCE

## % of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 41, 2021



**Figure 6:** Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=71). Data source: ESSENCE

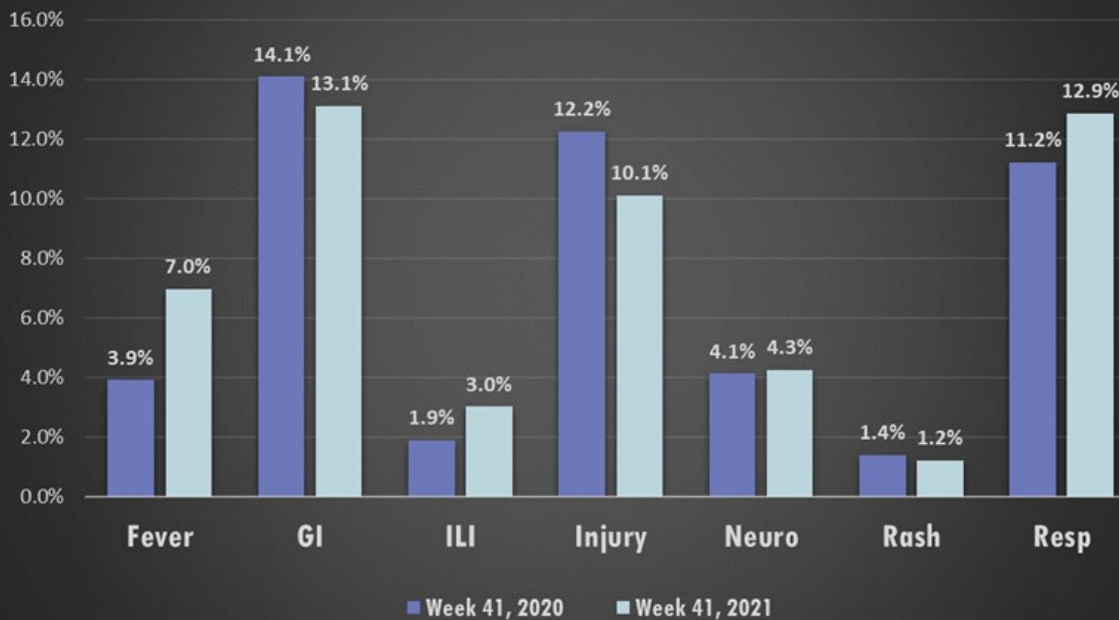




# Syndromic Surveillance

Week 41: October 10 - October 16

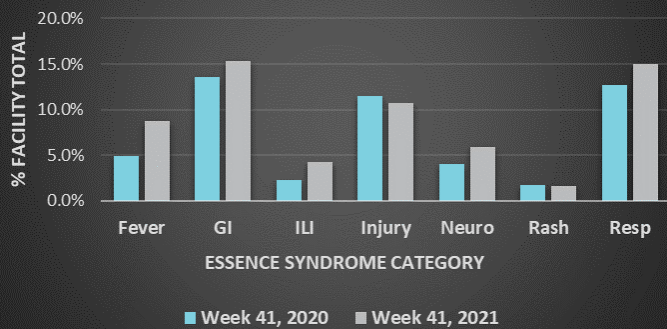
## Total ED Visits by Syndrome



**Figure 7:** Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2021 Week 41 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2342). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%.

Data source: ESSENCE

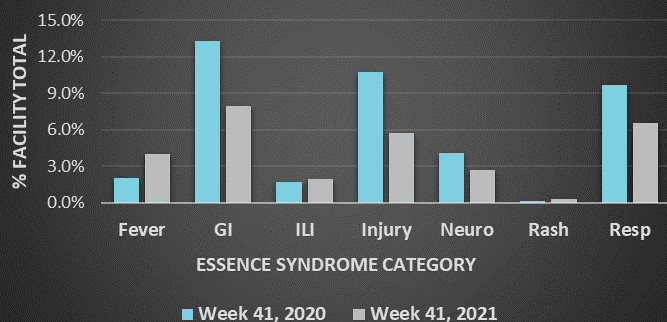
## Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 41—Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	46
5-19	RESP	51
20-34	GI	44
35-54	GI	41
55-74	INJURY	21
75+	INJURY	14

## North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 41—North Okaloosa Medical Center

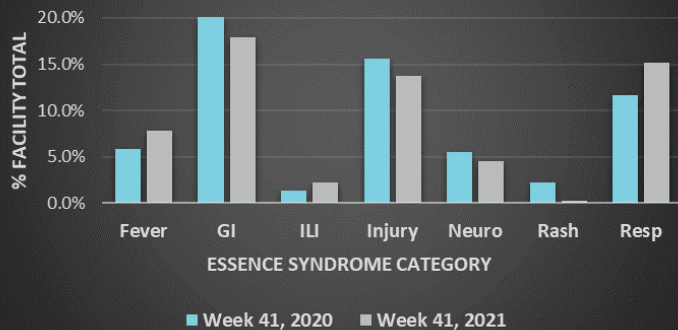
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	16
5-19	FEVER	9
20-34	INJURY	10
35-54	GI	19
55-74	RESP	14
75+	NEURO	7



# Syndromic Surveillance

Week 41: October 10 - October 16

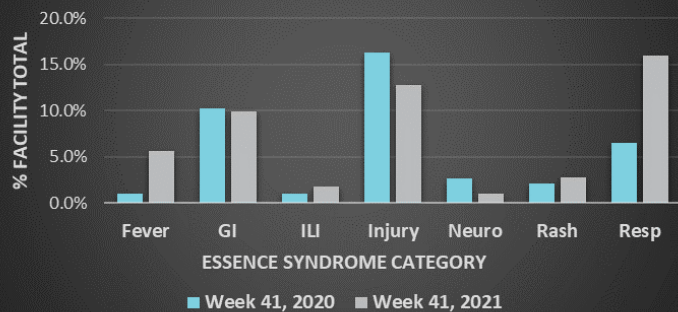
## Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



## Week 41—Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	11
5-19	GI	12
20-34	RESP	8
35-54	GI	24
55-74	INJURY	12
75+	INJURY	12

## DestinER ED Presentations



## Week 41—DestinER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	16
5-19	INJURY, RESP	10, 10
20-34	GI	11
35-54	INJURY	7
55-74	INJURY	7
75+	INJURY	4

## Week 41—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	RESP
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY

Data Source: ESSENCE





# From the Desk of the Health Officer

## Co-administration of COVID-19 & Influenza Vaccinations



**Dear Colleagues,**

The Florida Department of Health is providing the following link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Interim Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) to health care providers as a resource for ensuring immunization services are maintained or reinitiated.

***According to the CDC, [COVID-19 vaccinations may be co-administered](#) with the influenza vaccine and/or other vaccines on the same day.***

This essential preventative care service is crucial for protecting the public's health by reducing the burden of respiratory illness, especially during the upcoming influenza season, and other diseases or outbreaks that can be prevented with routine vaccination.

Please continue to educate your patients about [routine vaccination](#) schedules, verify vaccination status of patients to avoid missed opportunities for [vaccination catch-up](#), and communicate to your patients about how they can [safely be vaccinated](#) and maintain their vaccination schedules during the pandemic.

Thank you for your partnership in protecting and promoting public health.

**In Health,**

**Elizabeth "Beth" Smith, MSN, RN**

**Health Officer**

***DOH-Okaloosa 24/7 Disease Reporting Line: 850-833-9065***