

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2021 Reporting Week 52: December 26 — January 1



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) and COVID-19 Surge

During Week 52, Okaloosa experienced a major increase in both COVID-19 and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. The COVID-19 community risk remains at HIGH. As of January 4, only 8.1% of hospital beds in Okaloosa County are occupied by COVID-19 patients. Of those, 64% are unvaccinated.

On December 27, the CDC [updated the COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations](#) for the general population. Since that time, CDC has provided [background information](#) for reduction of isolation and quarantine timeframes and [further information on quarantine and isolation guidelines](#). [Guidance for managing healthcare personnel](#) with COVID-19 exposure or infection was also updated to enhance protection for staff, patients, and visitors.

COVID-19 vaccination counts in Okaloosa County continue to increase slowly (see page 3). Providers are encouraged to review CDC's [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Professionals](#) for counseling on co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, patient education, and the 2021-22 flu vaccine composition. For more information on the Omicron variant, please visit [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#).

COVID-19 Booster Shots and Monoclonal Antibody Resources

The CDC has updated their guidance on COVID-19 [vaccinations](#) and, specifically, [booster](#) shots. This information is increasingly important as vaccination and booster status are considered for isolation and quarantine timelines. Please continue to promote the COVID-19 vaccine as it is highly effective at preventing severe disease and death.

FREE [Monoclonal Antibody Treatments](#) are available in Okaloosa for adult and pediatric patients (12 and older) either diagnosed or exposed to someone with COVID-19 and at high risk for 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

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850-833-9065**

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COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 52 Review		Difference from Wk51
Resident Case Count	1172	+912
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	567.8	+441.8
Average Resident Cases per Day	167.4	+130.3
Percent Positivity	22.7%	+16.0

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.

Week 52 Community Risk Level		
COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
HIGH	567.8	22.7%
PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: HIGH		
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 52: December 26 — January 1

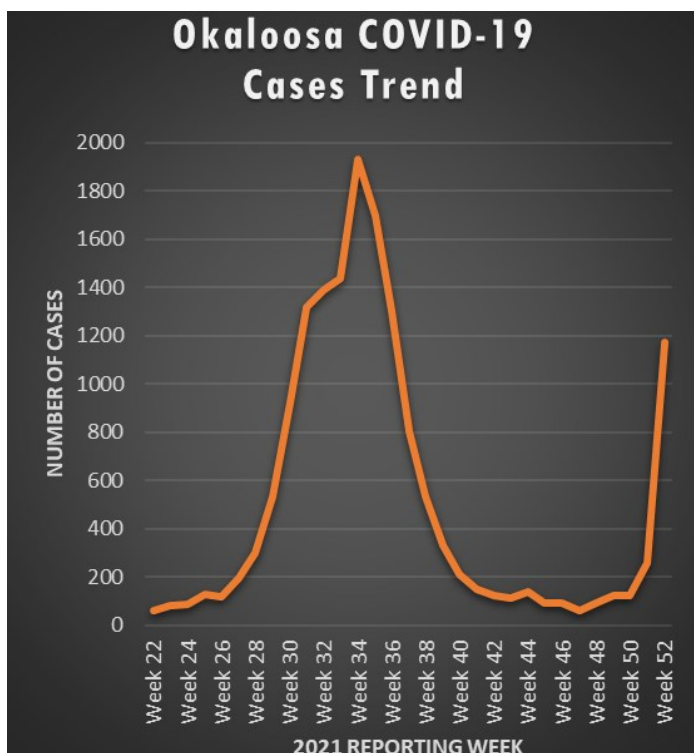


Figure 1: Trend of total COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

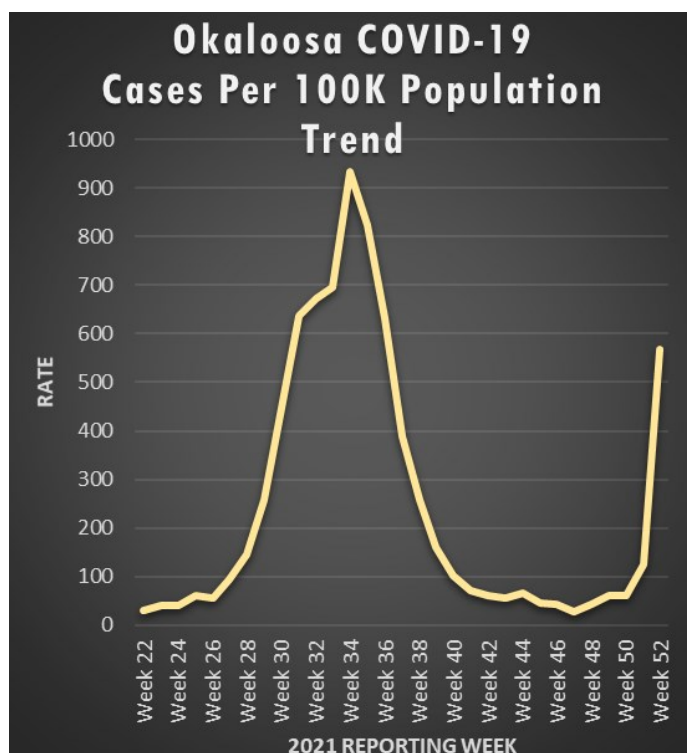


Figure 2: Trend of COVID-19 case rates by week. Data source: Merlin Database

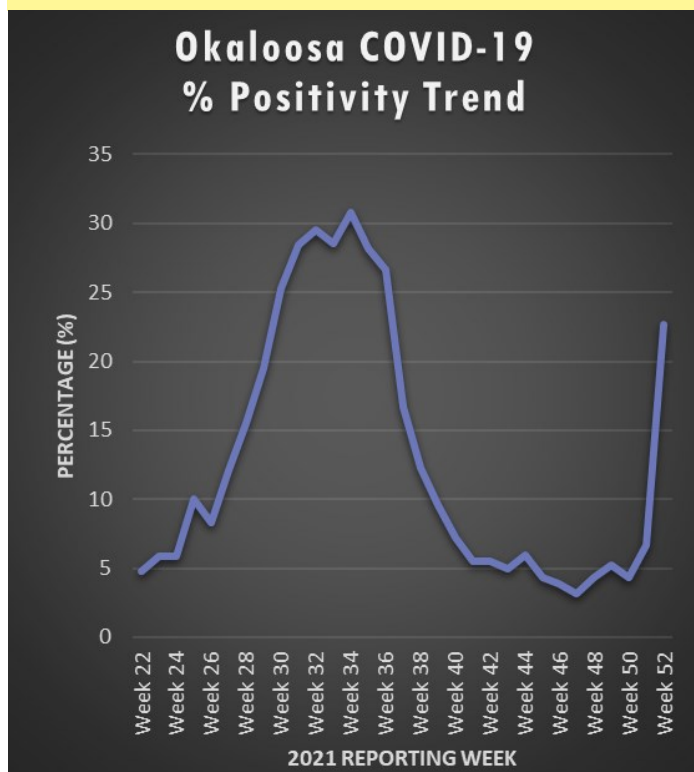


Figure 3: Trend of 7-day moving percent positivity of COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

COVID-19 Cases by Age Group			
Age Group	Okaloosa Resident Cases since 03/01/21 through Week 52	% by Age Group	Difference from Week 51
0-11	2163	12.2%	+55
12-14	733	4.1%	+9
15-24	2741	15.4%	+194
25-44	6209	34.9%	+494
45-64	4161	23.4%	+301
65-74	1086	6.1%	+70
75-84	469	2.6%	+36
85+	232	1.3%	+13
Unknown	5	0.0%	0
Total	17,799	100%	+1172

Data Source: Merlin Database



COVID-19 Fully
Vaccinated =
No Quarantine

COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 52: December 26 — January 1

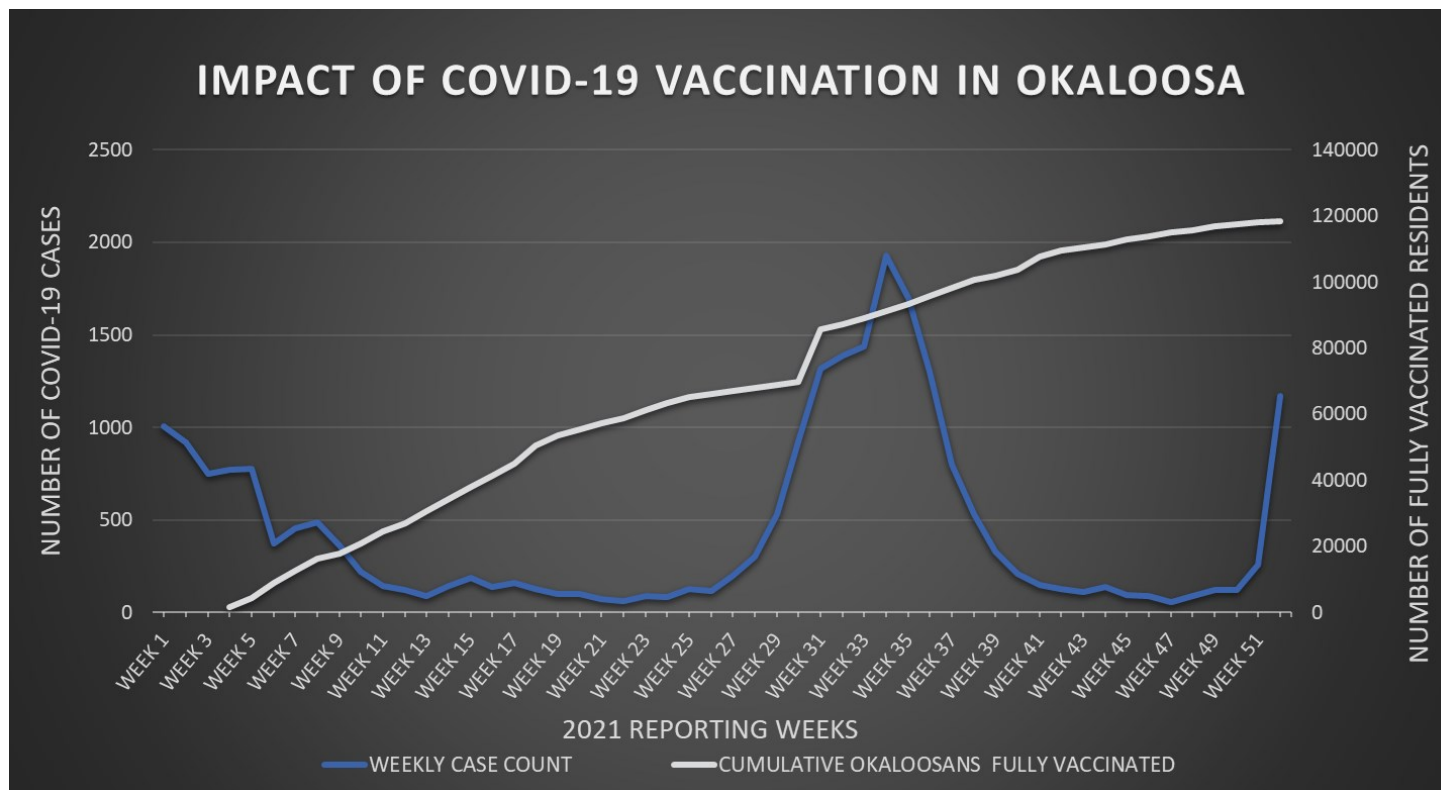


Figure 4: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

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:

2.27%

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

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	60.1%	65.9%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	65.8%	71.1%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	68.5%	72.8%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	91.4%	87.6%

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



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 52: December 26 — January 1

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.

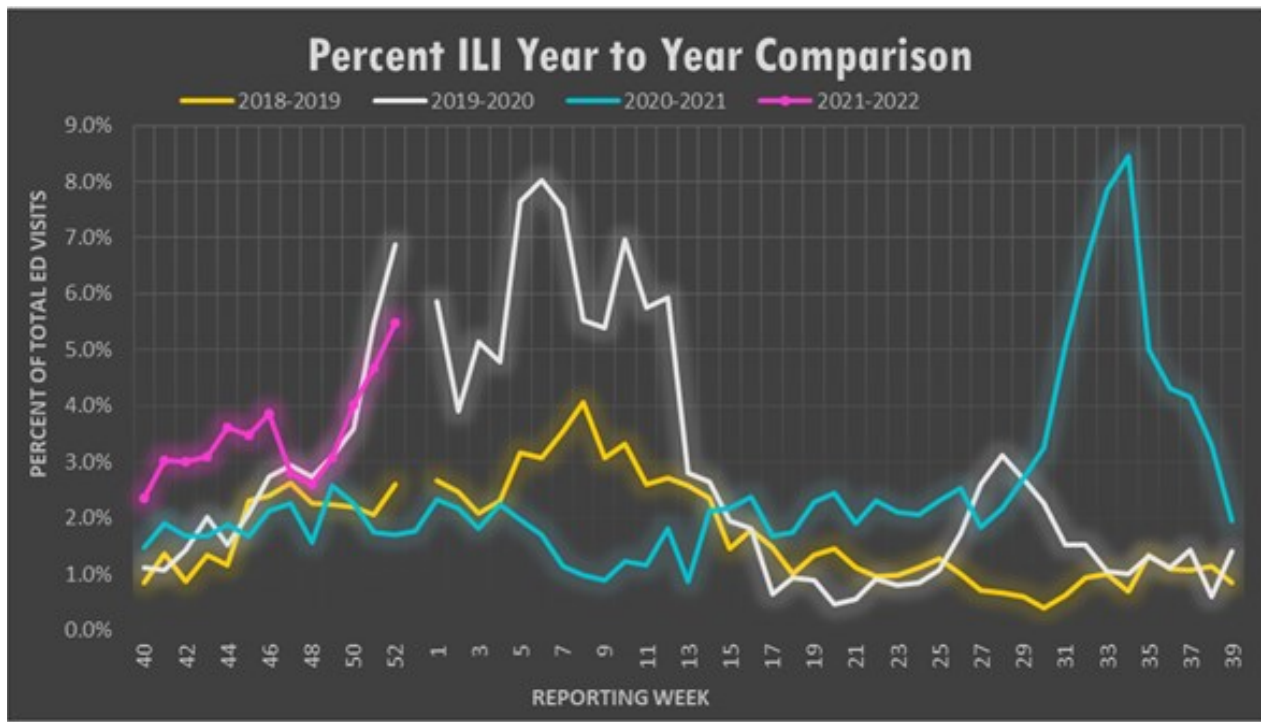


Figure 5: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 52, 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 4.66% during Week 51 to 5.49% during Week 52. Flu partners reported 4 positive rapid influenza tests this week. Over the past three weeks, 79 out of 352 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (2 Influenza A H3, 55 Influenza A unspecified, 22 Influenza B unspecified). There were no ILI admissions, outbreaks, or deaths reported this week. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 52 is higher than that of Week 52 last year.

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

% ILI by Age Group Week 52, 2021

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	32	199	16.1%
5-19	23	282	8.2%
20-34	29	562	5.2%
35-54	28	616	4.5%
55-74	22	587	3.7%
75+	3	303	1.0%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 52, 2021

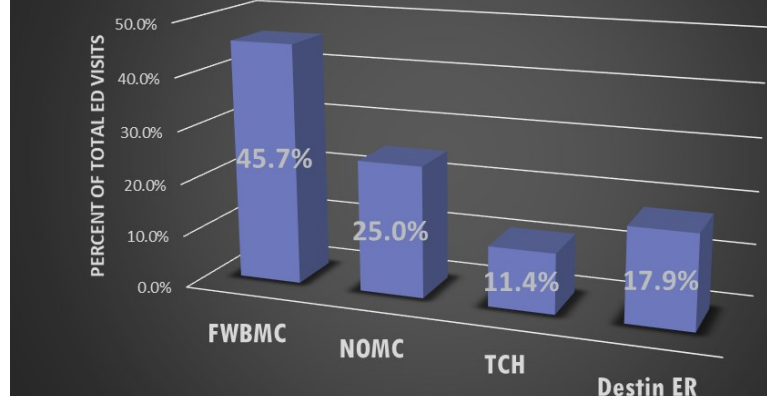


Figure 6: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=137). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 52: December 26 — January 1

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

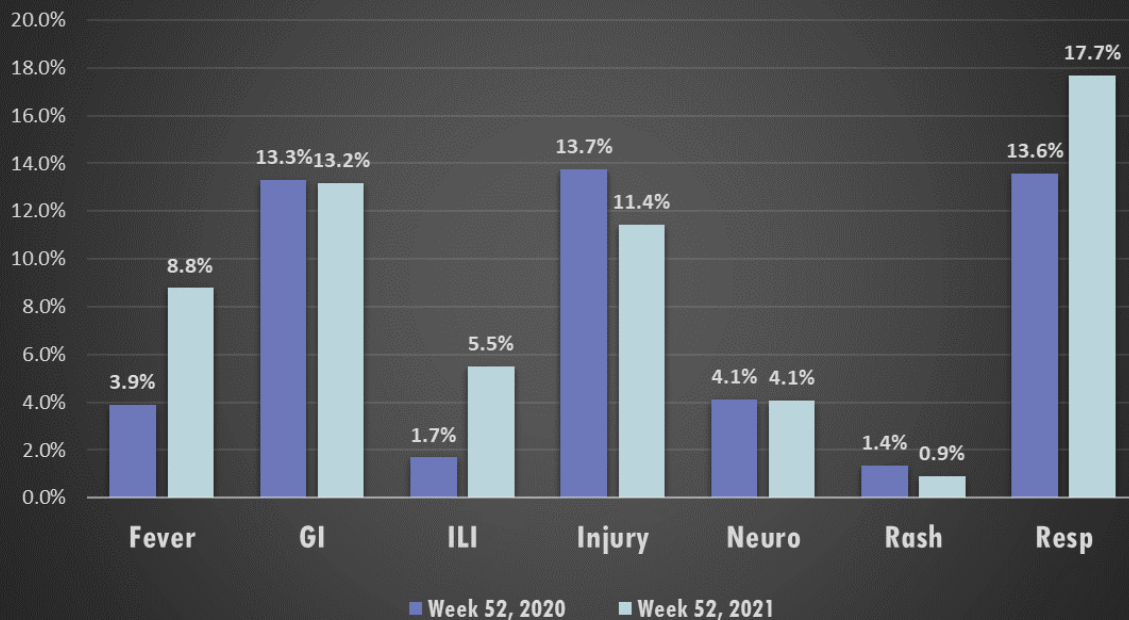
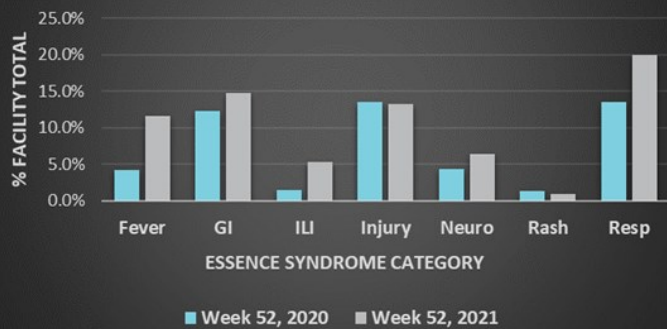


Figure 7: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2021 Week 52 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2551). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%.

Data source: ESSENCE

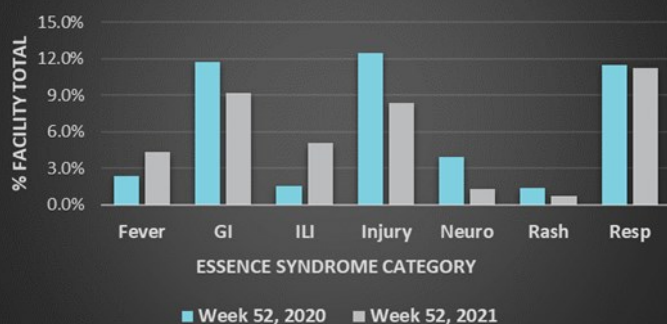
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 52—Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	49
5-19	RESP	26
20-34	RESP	51
35-54	GI	52
55-74	RESP	42
75+	RESP	29

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 52—North Okaloosa Medical Center

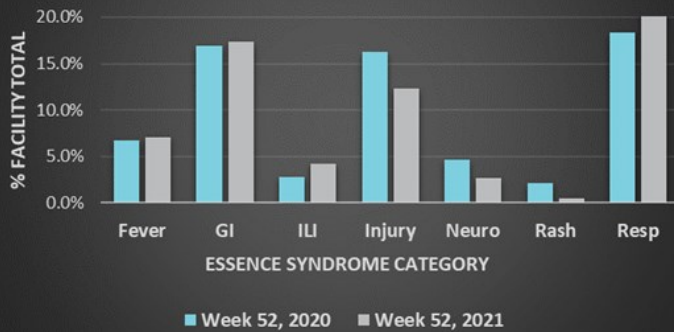
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	17
5-19	INJURY, RESP	10, 10
20-34	GI	20
35-54	GI	13
55-74	RESP	20
75+	GI, INJURY	9, 9



Syndromic Surveillance

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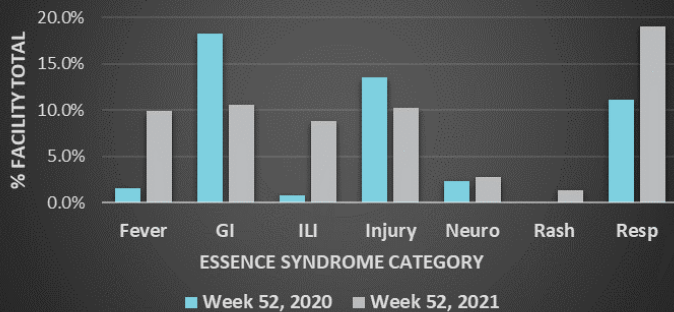
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 52—Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	6
5-19	RESP	10
20-34	GI	17
35-54	RESP	22
55-74	GI	16
75+	RESP	17

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 52—Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	10
5-19	RESP	11
20-34	GI	14
35-54	RESP	8
55-74	RESP	15
75+	GI, RESP	2, 2

Week 52—Okaloosa County

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



Data Source: ESSENCE