

Westchester gov.com

Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health

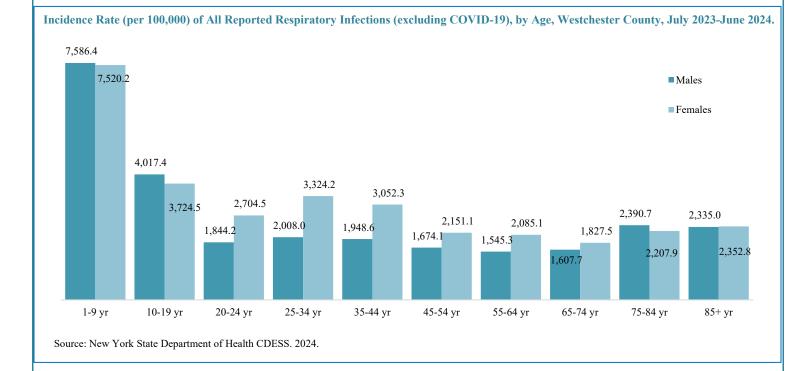
Overview

Respiratory infections cause illnesses to the respiratory system. Typical symptoms for these infections include: fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, sore throat, vomiting, headaches, diarrhea and loss of taste or smell. In Westchester County the major infections (excluding COVID-19) reported are various types of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Influenza is a viral infection that attacks the respiratory system. Influenza, commonly called the flu, differs from the stomach "flu" viruses that cause diarrhea and vomiting. For most people, influenza resolves on its own. Sometimes, influenza and its complications can be deadly. Young children under 5, adults over 65 years, pregnant women, women up to two weeks postpartum, and those with chronic illnesses are especially at high risk of catching influenza. Though the annual influenza vaccine isn't 100 percent effective, it's still one of the best defenses against the flu.

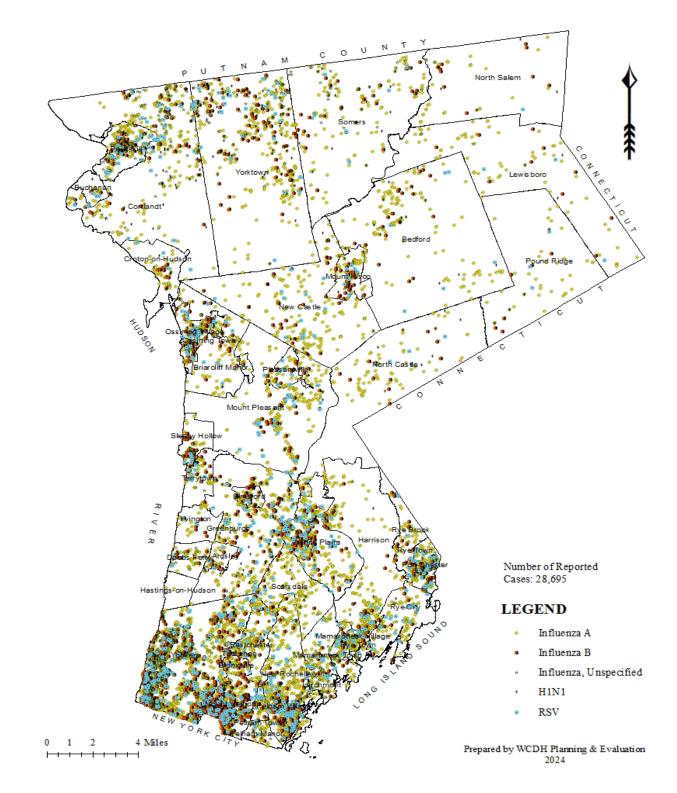
RSV is a common respiratory virus that affects the nose, throat and lungs. It is usually spread by touching contaminated surfaces then touching your eyes, nose or mouth. It occurs mostly in fall and winter and peaks in December and January. It affects people of all ages but infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV. In New York State, the reporting of RSV became mandatory by NYSDOH on December 20, 2023.

This data brief covers the lab-confirmed cases reported to the NYSDOH Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). Cases tested by rapid tests at urgent care facilities and doctors' offices, etc. as well as those tested by home-test-kits are not included in the report.



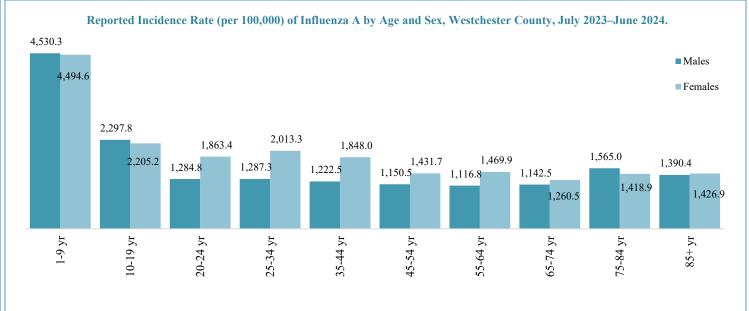
Overview

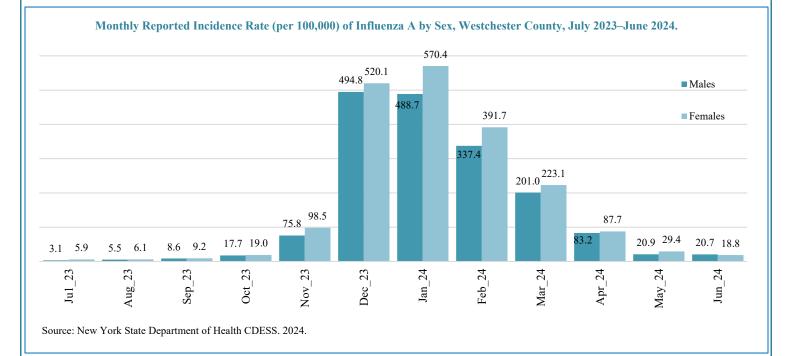
Geographical Distribution Reportable Respiratory Infections (Excluding COVID-19), Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



Influenza - A

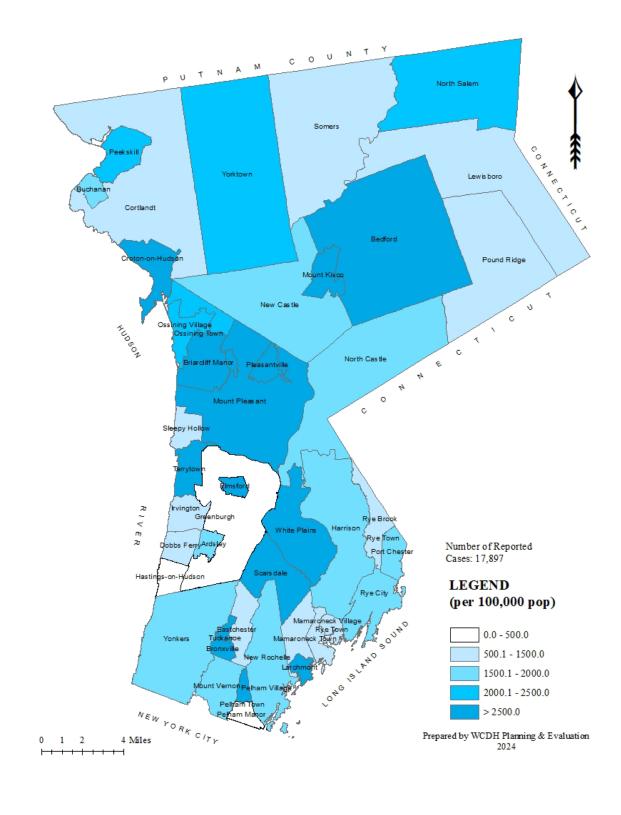
Type A influenza infection can be serious and cause widespread outbreaks and disease. Common symptoms of type A infection can be confused with other conditions. While in some mild cases the flu can resolve on its own without significant symptoms, severe cases of type A influenza can be life-threatening. Unlike a type B infection, type A viruses are categorized by subtypes and strains. Influenza A mutates faster than influenza B, but both viruses are always changing, creating new strains from one flu season to the next. Past flu vaccinations will not prevent infection from a new strain.





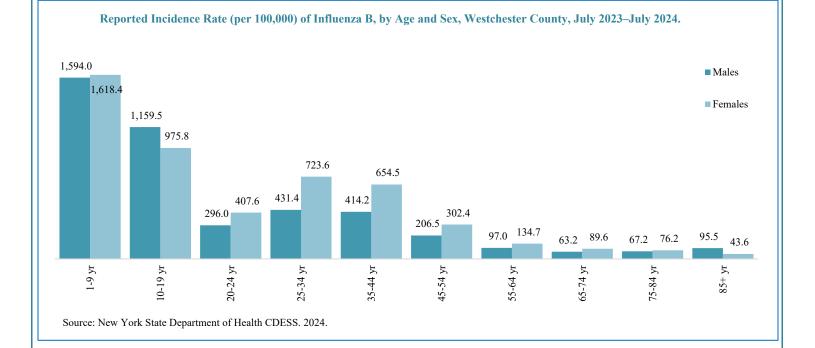
Influenza - A

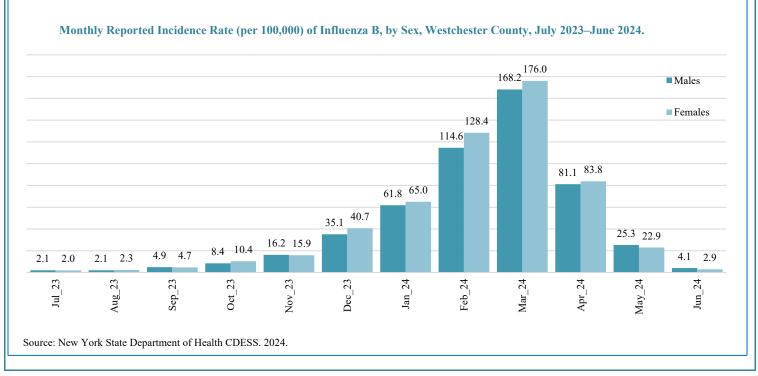
Geographical Distribution of the Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Influenza A Infections by Municipality, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



Influenza - B

Similar to type A, influenza B is also highly contagious and can have dangerous effects on people's health in more severe cases. However, this form can only be spread from human to human. Type B influenza can cause seasonal outbreaks and can be transferred throughout the year. Children under 5 years old, adults over 65 years, pregnant women and those up to two weeks postpartum and those with weakened immune systems or certain chronic conditions are at high risk of catching influenza B.

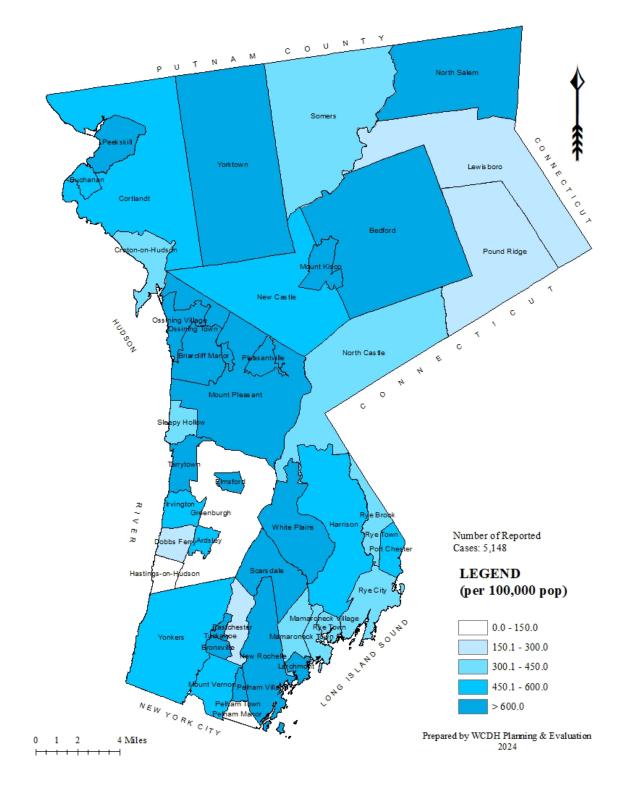




6

Influenza - B

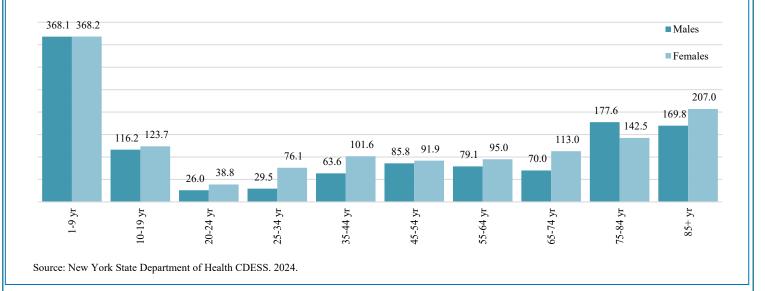
Geographical Distribution of the Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Influenza B Infections by Municipality, Westchester County, July 2023–July 2024.



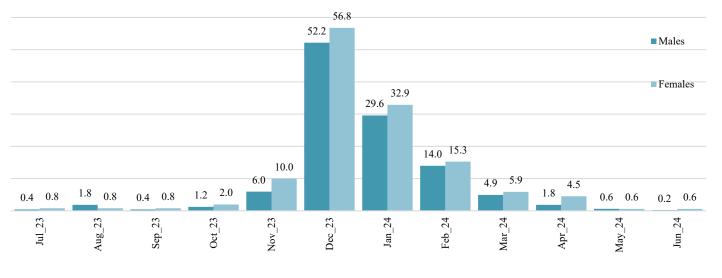
Influenza – Swine Flu (H1N1)

Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Like human influenza viruses there are different subtypes and strains of swine influenza viruses. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans; however sporadic human infections have occurred. These viruses are called 'variant viruses', and one such virus is the H1N1. Some people are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill. These include: adults over 65, children under 5 years, people with compromised immune systems, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, or neuromuscular disease.

Reported Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Swine Flu, by Age and Sex, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.

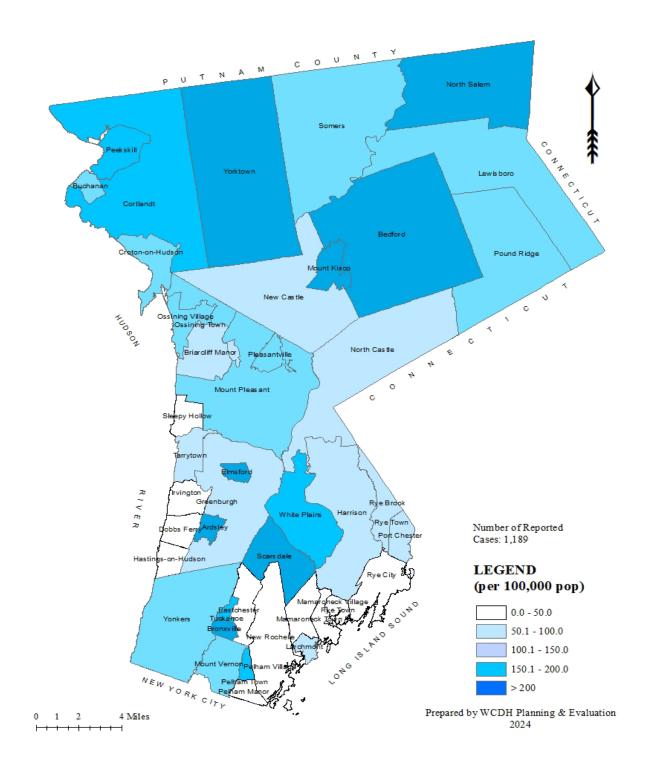


Monthly Reported Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Swine Flu, by Sex, Westchester County, July 2023- June 2024.



Influenza – Swine Flu (H1N1)

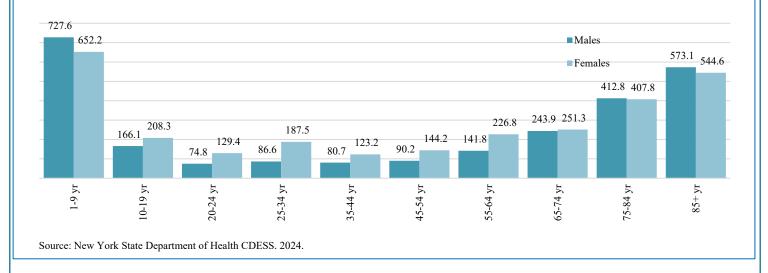
Geographical Distribution of the Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Swine Flu Infections by Municipality, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



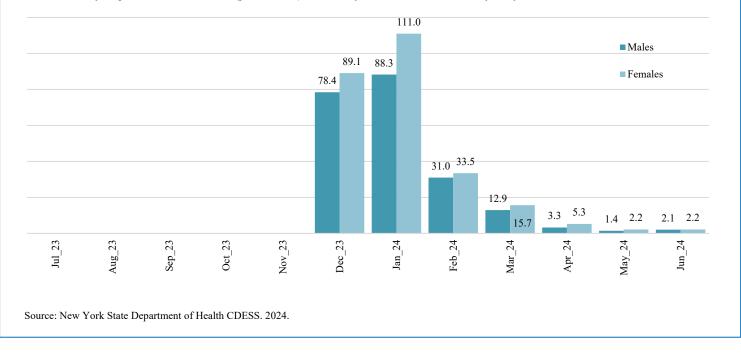
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract. Most children have been infected by the age of 2 years. RSV can also infect adults. In adults and older healthy children, RSV symptoms are mild and typically mimic the common cold. Self-care measures are usually all that is needed to relieve any discomfort. However, severe infections such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia can occur, especially in children younger than a year. It can also be dangerous for older adults with certain medical conditions or who are frail and/or live in nursing homes. RSV can sometimes lead to worsening conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and congestive heart failure.

Reported Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of RSV, by Age and Sex, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.

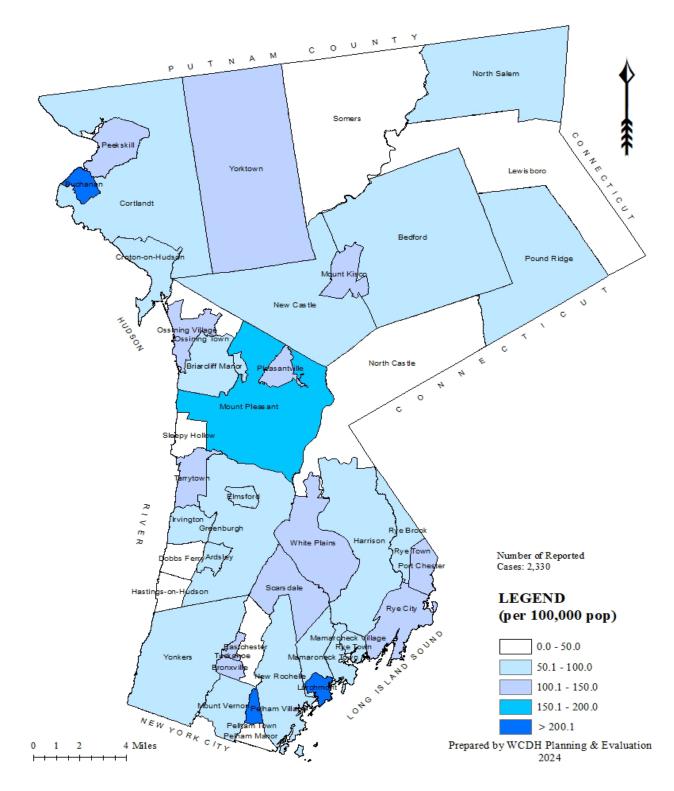


Monthly Reported Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of RSV, by Sex, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Geographical Distribution of the Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of RSV Infections by Municipality, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.

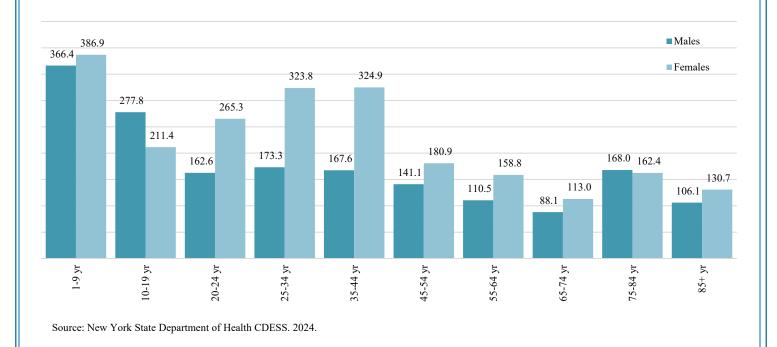


Source: New York State Department of Health CDESS. 2024.

Influenza Unspecified

This is a non-specific term for influenza that is documented without further identification, and/or caused by an unidentified influenza virus. Other terms for unspecified influenza include: Influenza NOS, Influenza laryngitis NOS, Influenza pharyngitis NOS and Influenza with upper respiratory problems NOS.

Reported Incidences (per 100,000) of Unspecified Influenza, by Age and Sex, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.

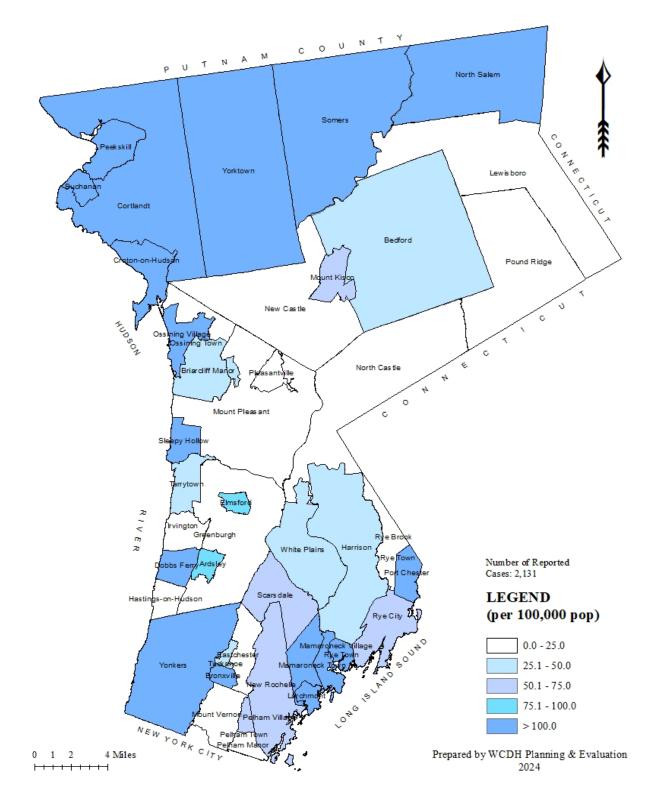


Monthly Reported Incidences (per 100,000) of Unspecified Influenza, by Sex, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



Influenza Unspecified

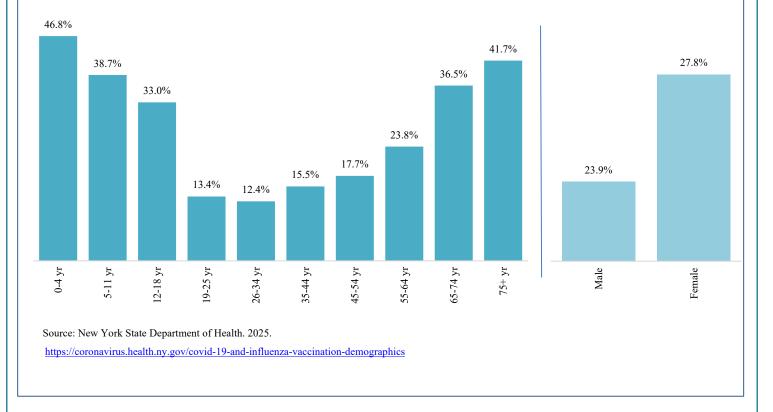
Geographical Distribution of the Incidence (per 100,000) of Unspecified Influenza Infections by Municipality, Westchester County, July 2023–June 2024.



Source: New York State Department of Health CDESS. 2024.

Seasonal influenza vaccines can protect people against the three or four influenza viruses that research indicates will be the most common during the season. According to the CDC, the trivalent vaccines will be used in the United States for the 2024-2025 flu season.

Common side effects from a flu vaccine include soreness, redness, and/or swelling where it was given, headache (low grade), fever, nausea, muscle aches, and fatigue. The vaccine, like other injections, can occasionally cause fainting. Life-threatening allergic reactions to influenza vaccines are very rare. Signs of serious allergic reaction can include breathing problems, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heartbeat, or dizziness. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after receiving the vaccine. These reactions can occur among persons who are allergic to something that is in the vaccine, such as egg protein or other ingredients. While severe reactions are uncommon, one should let the doctor, nurse, clinic, or pharmacist know if he/she has a history of allergy or severe reaction to influenza vaccine or any part of influenza vaccine.



Percentage of Population Vaccinated for the 2024-2025 Flu Season by Age and Sex, Westchester County, as of January 29, 2025.