

Below is an update on COVID-19 and influenza in Massachusetts.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 wastewater data continues to trend downward. Hospitalization rates, associated with COVID-19, are also decreasing in Massachusetts, as shown in the graph below (Source: [MDPH](#)).



This week, the White House announced the COVID-19 emergency will end on May 11, 2023. For more information, click [here](#) and [here](#). This declaration will impact many programs and coverage that was mandated during the pandemic, including the funding for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, covered under Medicare and Medicaid. Importantly, this does not impact the Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. For a full description, click [here](#). However, the World Health Organization voted to renew the Public Health Emergency of International Concern to continue developing a plan for long-term prevention, surveillance, and other control action plans.

**Flu:** Influenza severity for Massachusetts is low this week. The Central Region, including Worcester County, is also experiencing low influenza severity. Below is a map of the state, which shows the influenza-like activity for each region. In addition, the chart at the top is comparing influenza-like activity for the past six years. In comparison to other years, we experienced an early and severe flu season, Overall, the percentage of influenza-like illness visits and percent of hospitalizations in Massachusetts have continued to decrease. The influenza vaccination rate for all ages across the state is 44%. For more information, click here to view the [MDPH flu report](#).

