

# Influenza Weekly Tracking Report

## for week ending **November 5, 2022**

Report date: November 11, 2022



### Introduction

This report is intended to bring current information to the American public on the unfolding 2022/23 flu season. As the season progresses, there is heightened public health concerns about the prevalence of influenza-like illness, in addition to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 infections.

In response to this, the IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science, drawing on IQVIA's FAN Flu/Cold/Respiratory Activity Notification Program® and IQVIA RxInsight, is publishing a weekly update based on these services.

If you have questions about this report, please contact us at [info@IQVIAInstitute.org](mailto:info@IQVIAInstitute.org)

### Murray Aitken

*Executive Director, IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science*

## Summary — Week ending November 5, 2022

### OVERALL FLU CASES ~10X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK DURING BASELINE PERIOD\*

Through the first week of November, the 2022/23 flu season is showing a sharp increase compared to the prior 10 years, and suggests an unusually high level of incidence over the course of the full season

\* three year average of the 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, flu seasons

**10x**  
BASELINE  
CASES

- For the most recent week reported, ending November 5, the estimated level of total influenza cases in the U.S. was more than 10 (10.3) times the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period
- For the season to date (from mid-August), this year is running at almost five times (4.8) the level of the baseline period, up 380%
- This year is running more than seven times (7.4) the level of the 2021/22 flu season, which was unusually mild, up 644%
- This week shows a significant increase in the level compared to baseline and prior years, indicating a worsening of the season's trend
- Flu diagnoses typically peak around end of year/early January, but significant year-to-year fluctuations occur

### PEDIATRIC CASES 30X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK LAST YEAR

The level of incidence in children is trending exceptionally high and occurring at the same time RSV diagnoses are also increasing

**30x**  
SAME WEEK  
LAST YEAR

- For the most recent week of November 5, the estimated total number of pediatric influenza cases in the U.S. was almost fifteen times (14.6) the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period and over thirty times (30.8) the level of the same week last year
- For the season to date, pediatric flu is more than seven times (7.5) the baseline level, up 654%, and over 10 times (10.1) the 2021/22 flu seasons, up 905%

### SOME REGIONS TRENDING MUCH HIGHER — 942% AND 932% UP IN SOME AREAS

All regions of the country are reflecting higher levels of flu to date than last year, although there is significant regional variation

**↑ 932%**  
IN THE  
SOUTH ATLANTIC

- The West South Central and South Atlantic regions continue to trend much higher in total cases during the season to date, with estimated cases running above the 2021/22 season by 942% and 932% respectively; The East South Central region is now running 900% higher than the 2021/22 season
- New England and Mountain regions are trending the lowest of all regions, but still have more than double the cases of last year at 151% and 144% higher respectively

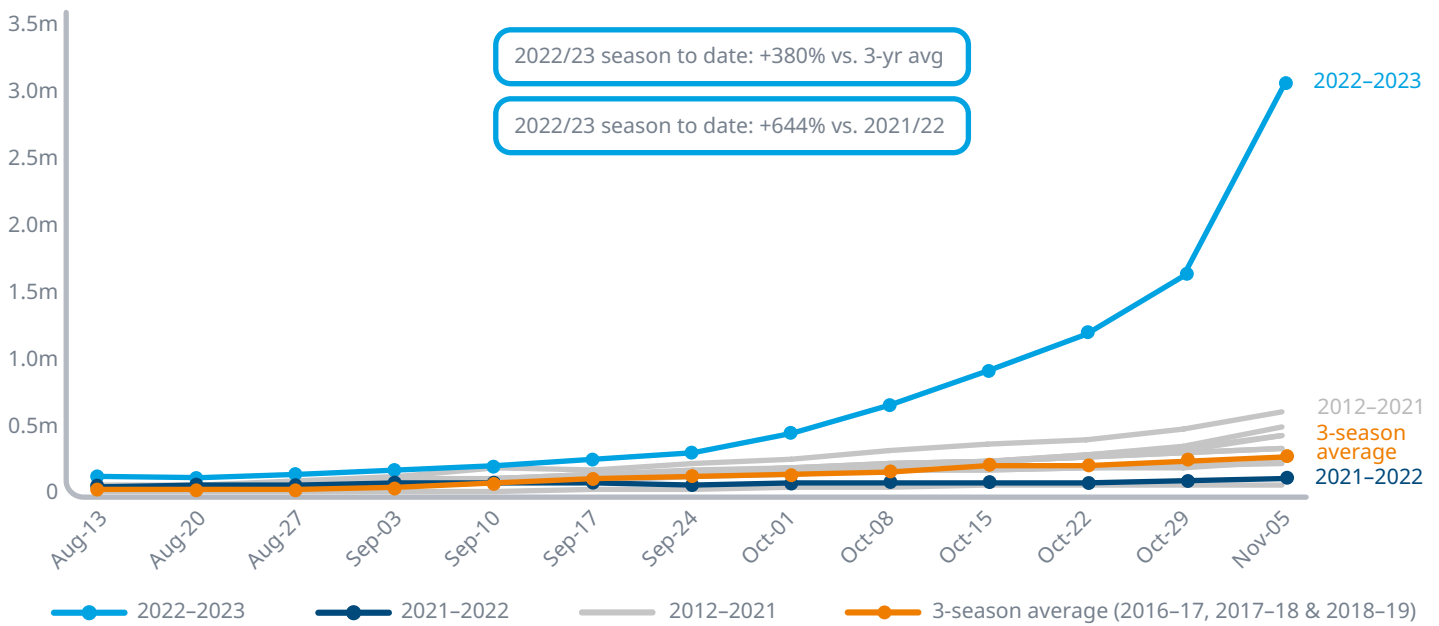
### RETAIL PHARMACY VACCINATIONS RUNNING 1.9% ABOVE THE 2021/22 FLU SEASON

Flu vaccinations delivered through retail pharmacies are now running slightly ahead of last year's level for the season to date, after several weeks of lower vaccination rates and despite efforts to raise public awareness of the heightened level of influenza this year

PHARMACY  
VACCINATIONS  
**↑ 1.9%**

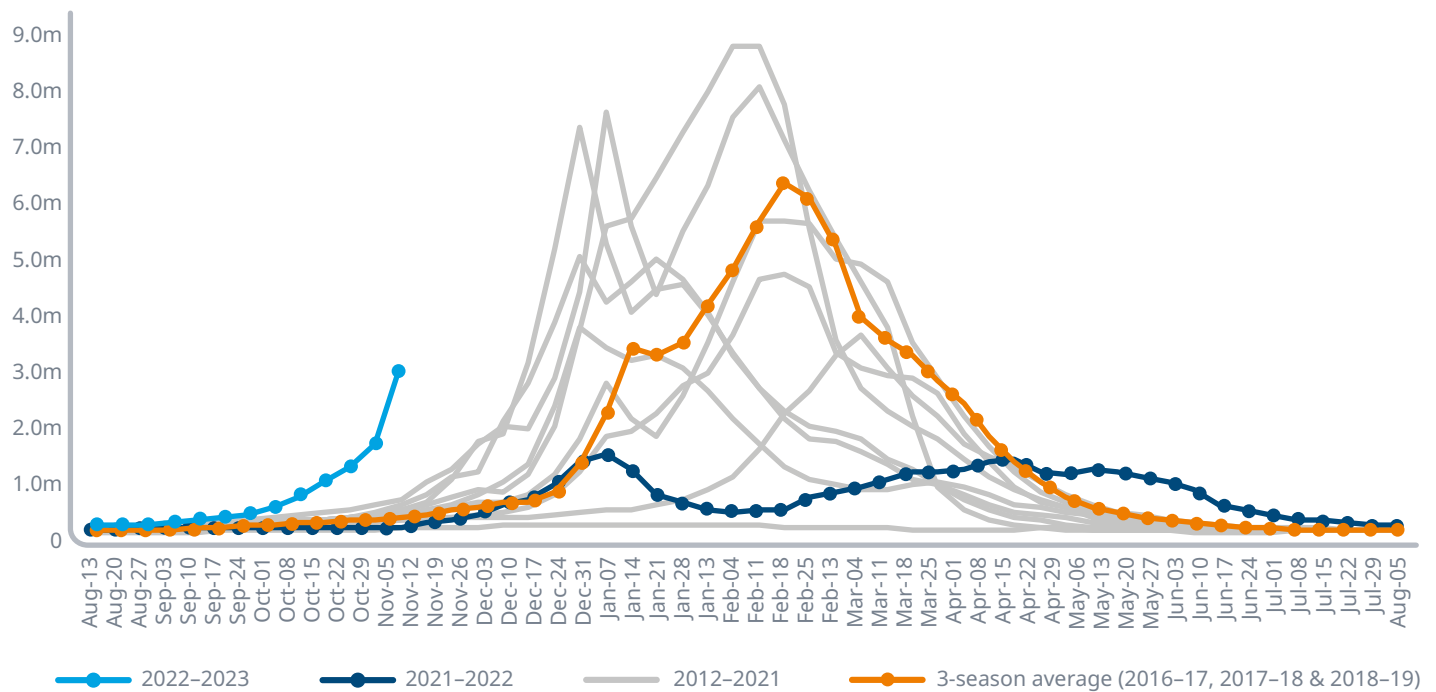
- Total retail pharmacy flu vaccinations through October 28, 2022, are running 1.9% above the 2021/22 flu season, totaling 28.2 million this season to date
- During the week of October 28, the number of flu vaccines administered through retail pharmacies totaled 4.3 million, 34.5% more than the comparable week last year but down from the seasonal high levels reported over the prior two weeks and indicating the start of a downward trend in weekly vaccinations

**Exhibit 1: Estimated number of total U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022**



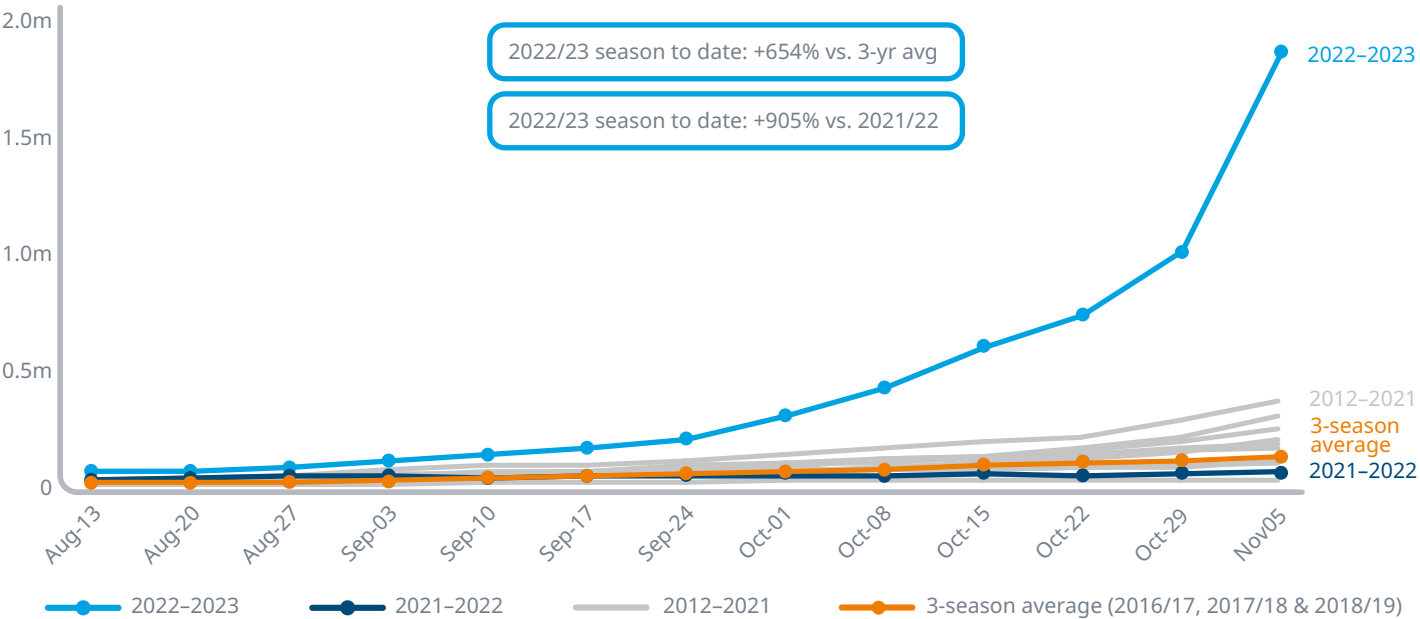
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Nov 5, 2022.

**Exhibit 2: Estimated number of total U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022**



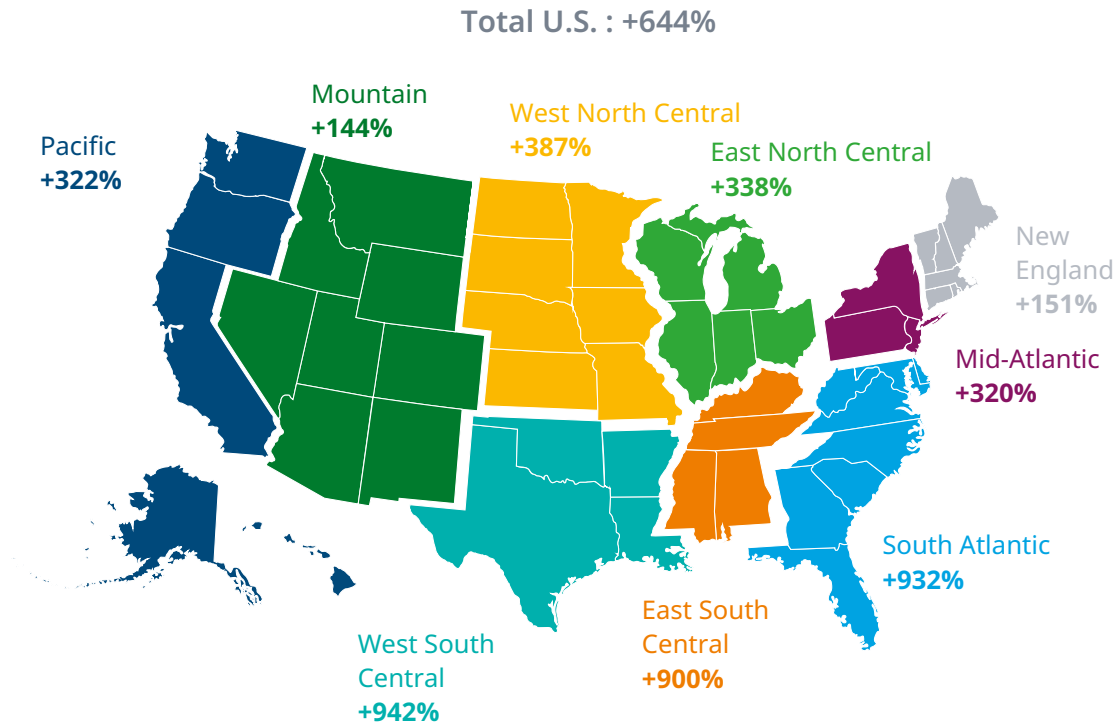
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Nov 5, 2022.

Exhibit 3: Estimated number of pediatric U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022



Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Nov 5, 2022.

Exhibit 4: Regional increases in total U.S. influenza cases, season to date through week ending November 5



Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Nov 5, 2022.

## Exhibit 5: Total U.S. retail flu vaccinations 2019–22, through week ending October 28, 2022



Source: IQVIA RxInsight, IQVIA Institute, Oct 2022.

### NOTES

- Baseline is defined as a three-year average of the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 flu seasons.
- The FAN program has been used for more than 35 years to predict variations in demand for related over-the-counter medications.
- The modeling draws on a combination of diagnostics information from office-based medical claims, prescription claims from retail pharmacies, and deliveries of over-the-counter medications to establish estimates of diagnosed and treated populations.
- The FAN model evaluates correlations of multiple sources and weights by channel before projecting to national totals of affected populations.
- Modeling and projections are updated weekly.
- Flu vaccinations captured in IQVIA RxInsight are based on transactions processed through pharmacy dispensing systems in chain and independent pharmacies, food stores and mass merchants.
- This report is produced independently by the IQVIA Institute as a public service, without industry or government funding. The contributions of Beth Attiani, Scott Biggs, Jianqing Gao, Mary Kate Newell, and Chip Schaible are gratefully acknowledged

### CONTACT US

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