

Influenza Weekly Tracking Report

for week ending **October 29, 2022**

Report date: November 4, 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.

Murray Aitken

Executive Director, IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science

Summary — Week ending October 29, 2022

OVERALL FLU CASES ~6X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK DURING BASELINE PERIOD*

Through the end of October, the 2022/23 flu season is showing a sharp increase over 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

6x
BASELINE
CASES

- For the most recent week reported, ending October 29, the estimated level of total influenza cases in the U.S was over six (6.2) times the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period
- For the season to date (from mid-August), this year is running almost four times (3.8) the baseline level, up 282% compared to the baseline period
- This year is running more than five times higher (5.6) than the 2021/22 flu season, which was unusually mild, up 462%
- High levels of flu diagnosis at the beginning of the season typically presage high levels throughout the season
- Flu diagnoses typically peak around the end of year/early January, but significant year-to-year fluctuations occur

PEDIATRIC CASES >9X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK DURING BASELINE PERIOD

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

9x
BASELINE CASES
IN CHILDREN

- For the most recent week of October 29, the estimated total number of pediatric influenza cases in the U.S. was over 9 times (9.2) the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period
- For the season to date, pediatric flu is over six times (6.1) the baseline level, up 512%, and over seven times (7.6) the 2021/22 flu season, up 660%

SOME REGIONS TRENDING MUCH HIGHER — 748% AND 612% 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

↑ 748%
IN WEST
SOUTH CENTRAL

- The West South Central and South Atlantic regions are trending much higher in total cases during the season to date, with estimated cases running above the 2021/22 season by 748% and 612% respectively
- The New England and Mountain regions are trending the lowest of all regions, but still have more than double the cases of last year at 116% and 122% higher respectively

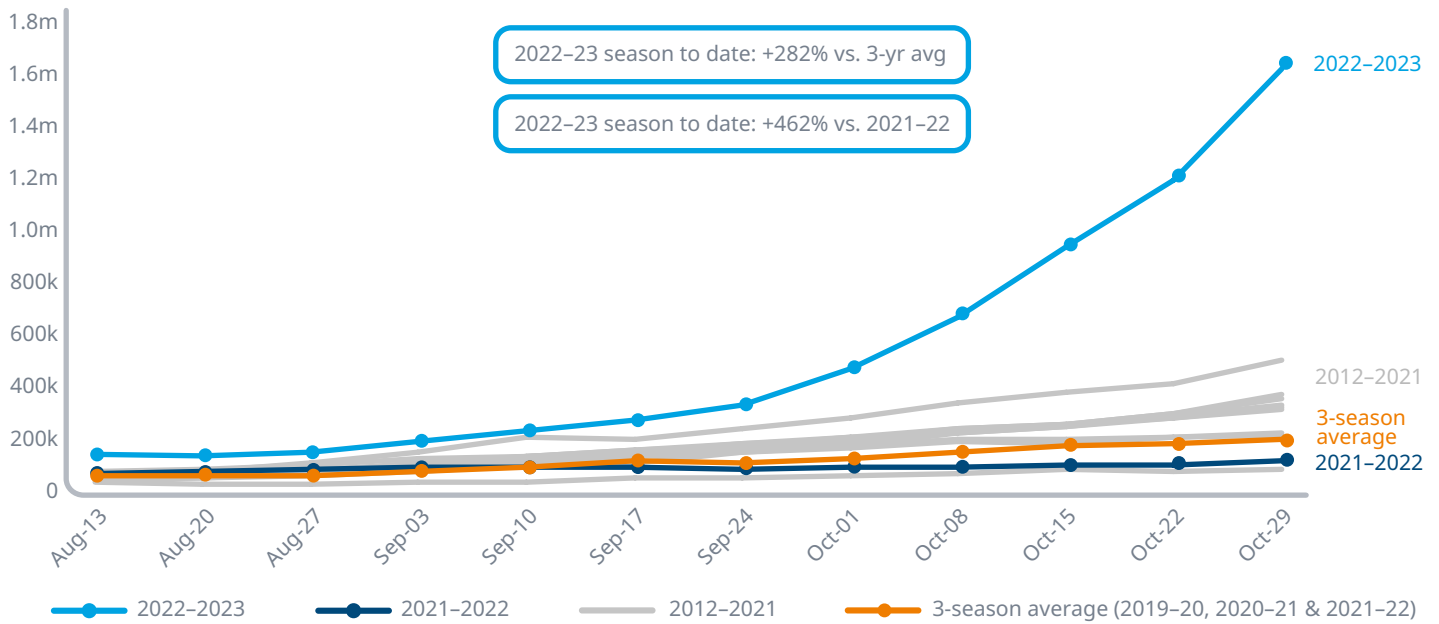
RETAIL PHARMACY VACCINATIONS RUNNING 2.4% BEHIND THE 2021/22 FLU SEASON

Flu vaccinations delivered through retail pharmacies are running behind last year's level, despite efforts to raise public awareness of the influenza seasons, although some improvement in recent weeks is observed

PHARMACY
VACCINATIONS
↓ 2.4%

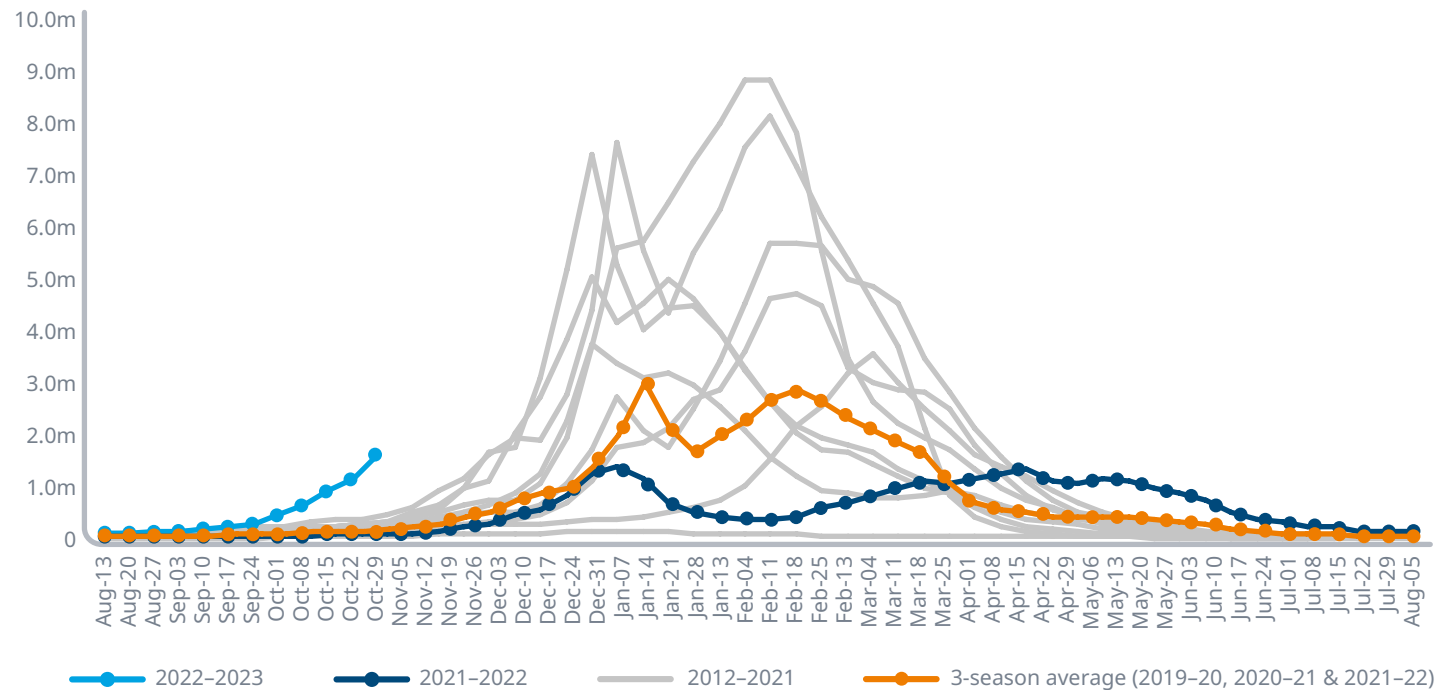
- Total retail pharmacy flu vaccination levels through October 21, 2022 are running 2.4% behind the 2021/22 flu season, totaling 23.9 million this season to date
- During the week of October 21, the number of flu vaccines administered through retail pharmacies totaled 4.5 million, 19.6% more than the comparable week last year and the second consecutive week at this seasonal high level, suggesting that efforts to promote the public health importance of flu vaccines are having an impact

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



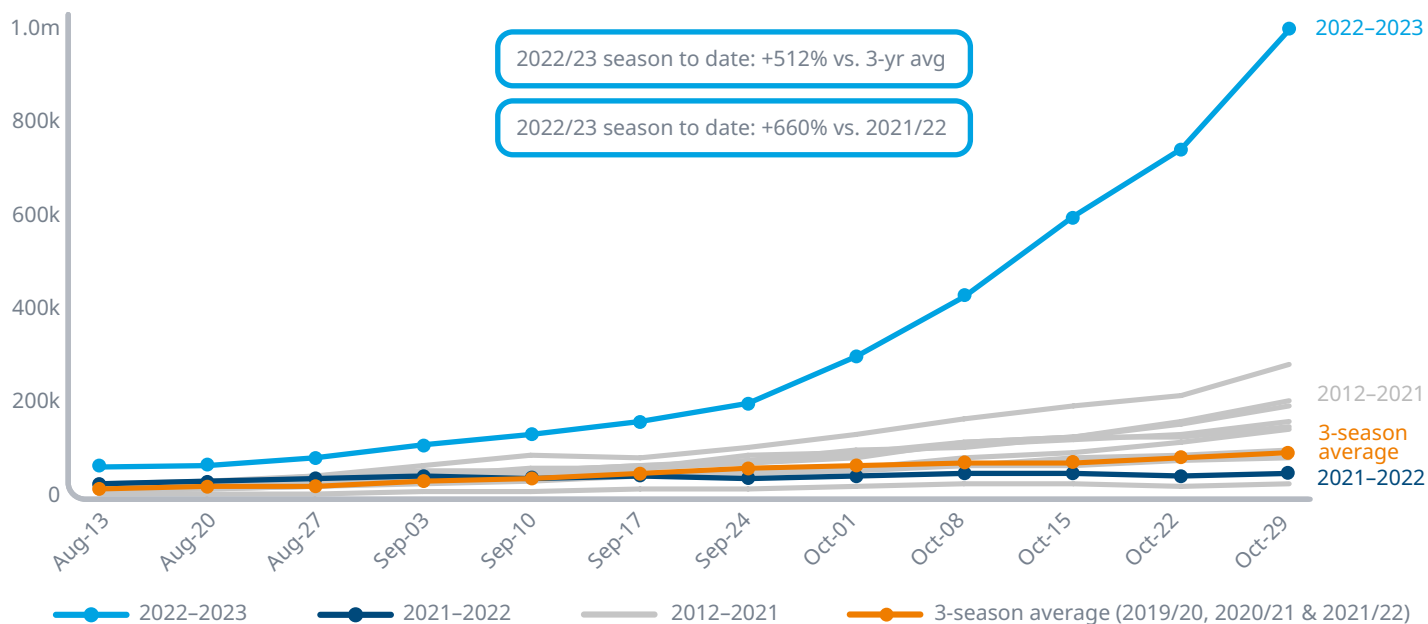
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Oct 29, 2022.

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



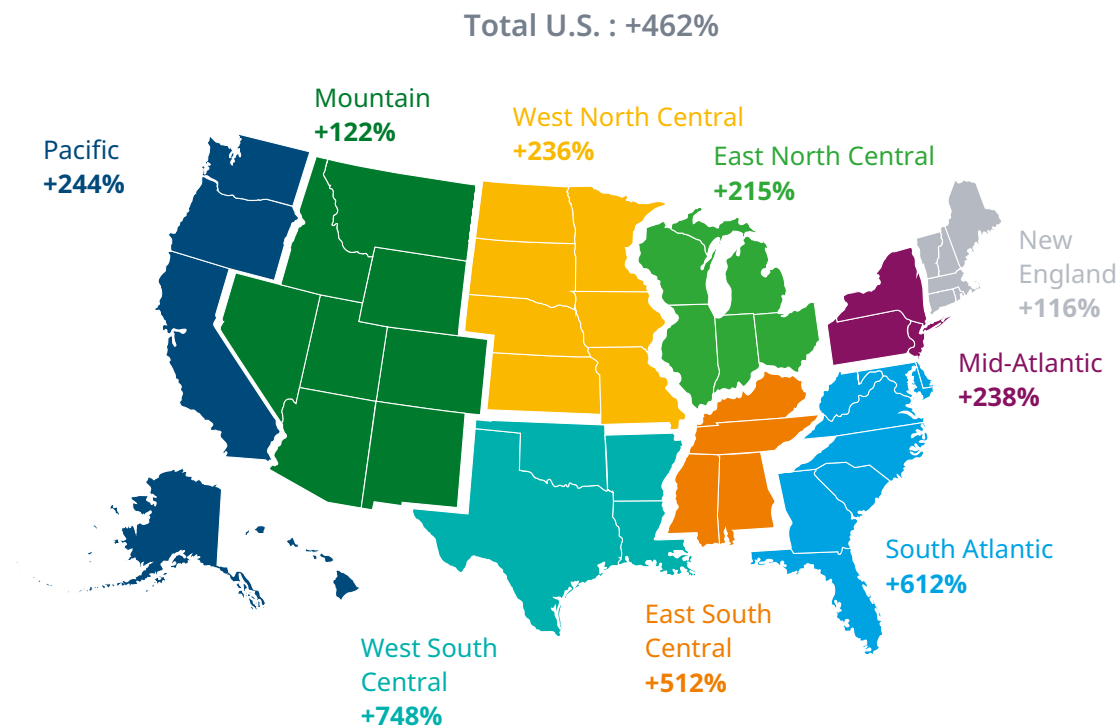
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Oct 29, 2022.

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



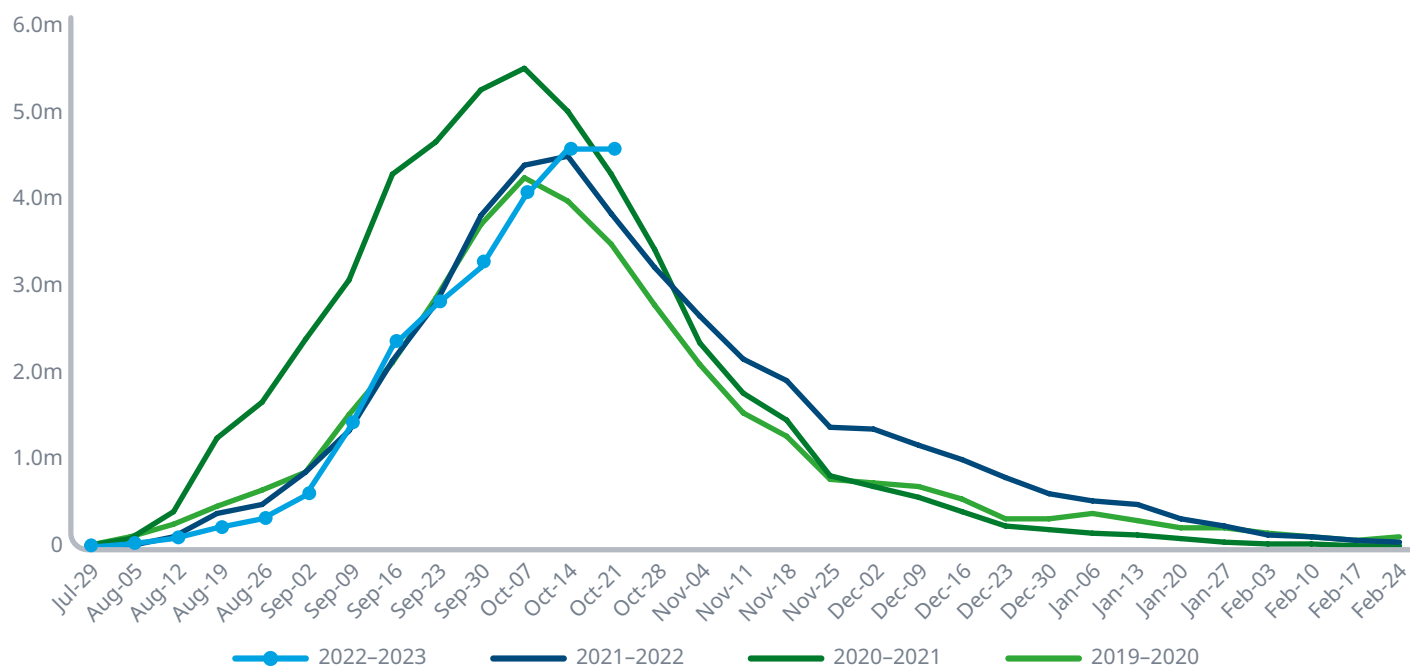
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Oct 29, 2022.

Exhibit 4: Regional increases in total U.S. influenza cases, season to date through week ending October 22



Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Oct 29, 2022.

Exhibit 5: Total U.S. retail flu vaccinations 2019–22, through week ending October 21, 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 with influenza-like illness.
- 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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please contact us at info@IQVIAInstitute.org

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