

Influenza Weekly Tracking Report

for week ending **December 3, 2022**

Report date: December 9, 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 December 3, 2022

OVERALL FLU CASES ~12X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK DURING BASELINE PERIOD*

Influenza cases continue to set historically high records and spiked significantly this week. Through early December, the 2022/23 flu season is continuing to show a sharp increase over the prior 10 years, and indicating we can expect 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

12x
CASES
SAME WEEK
BASELINE PERIOD

- For the most recent week reported, ending December 3, the estimated level of total influenza cases in the U.S. was almost 12 times (11.7) the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period.
- For the season to date (from mid-August) this year is running over seven times (7.6) the level of the baseline period, up 660%.
- This year is running over 11 times (11.3) the level of the 2021/22 flu season which was unusually mild, up 1,032%.
- This week shows a sharp increase over the prior week of November 26 (up 54%).
- Flu diagnoses typically peak around the end of year/early January, but significant year-to-year fluctuations occur.

PEDIATRIC CASES ~14X THE LEVEL OF THE SAME WEEK DURING BASELINE PERIOD

The level of incidence in children jumped dramatically this week to an exceptionally high level, at the same time reported RSV diagnoses are also increasing.

14x
CASES
SAME WEEK
BASELINE PERIOD

- For the most recent week of December 3, the estimated total number of pediatric influenza cases in the U.S. was almost 14 times (13.6) the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period.
- For the season to date, pediatric flu is over 10 times (10.5) the baseline level, up 950%, and over 17 times (17.2) the 2021/22 flu seasons, up 1,617%.

SOME REGIONS TRENDING MUCH HIGHER — 1,580% UP IN ONE AREA

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

↑ **1,580%**
IN WEST
NORTH CENTRAL

- The West North Central region is now trending the highest of all regions in its increase over the 2021/22 season to date, up 1,580%; while East South Central, West South Central and Pacific regions also continue to trend much higher, with estimated cases running above the 2021/22 season by more than 1,200%.
- New England and Mountain regions continue to show the lowest increases over last year of all regions, but still have more than triple the cases of last year at 342% and 543% higher, respectively.

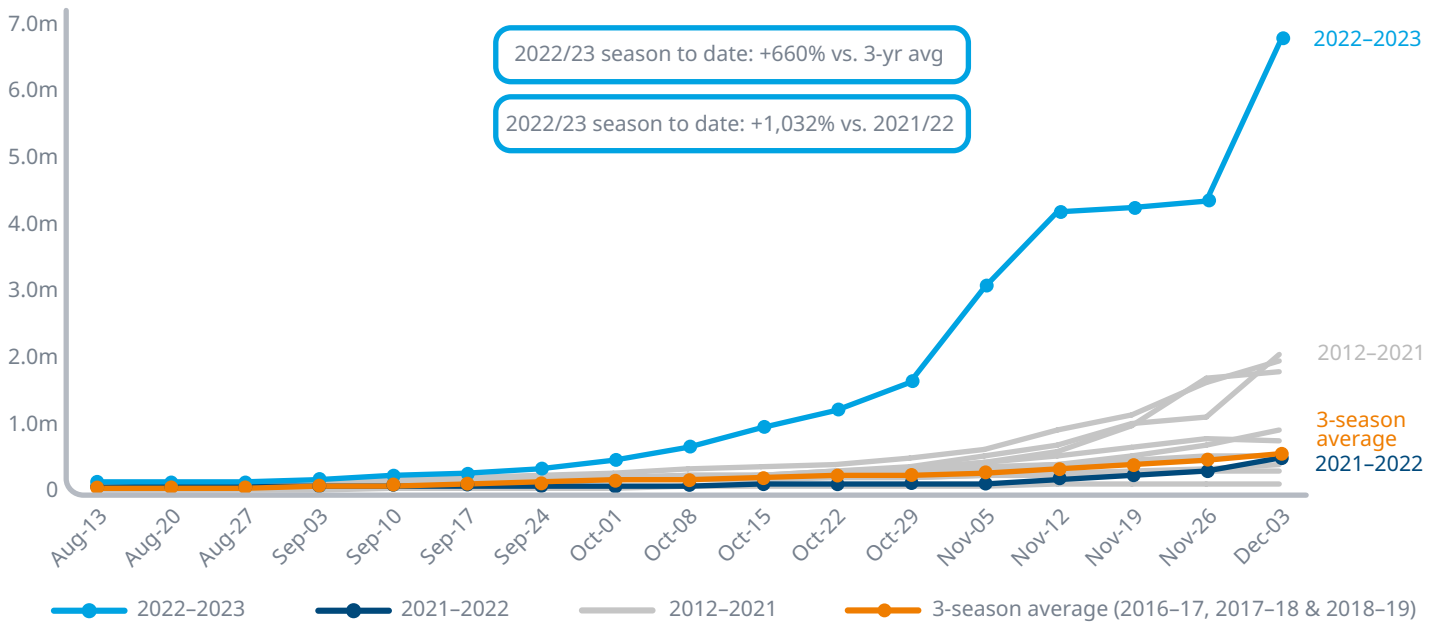
RETAIL PHARMACY VACCINATIONS RUNNING 6.3% ABOVE THE 2021/22 FLU SEASON

Flu vaccinations delivered through retail pharmacies are now running ahead of last year's level for the season to date, after running behind the 2021/22 level for most of the season.

PHARMACY
VACCINATIONS
↑ **6.3%**

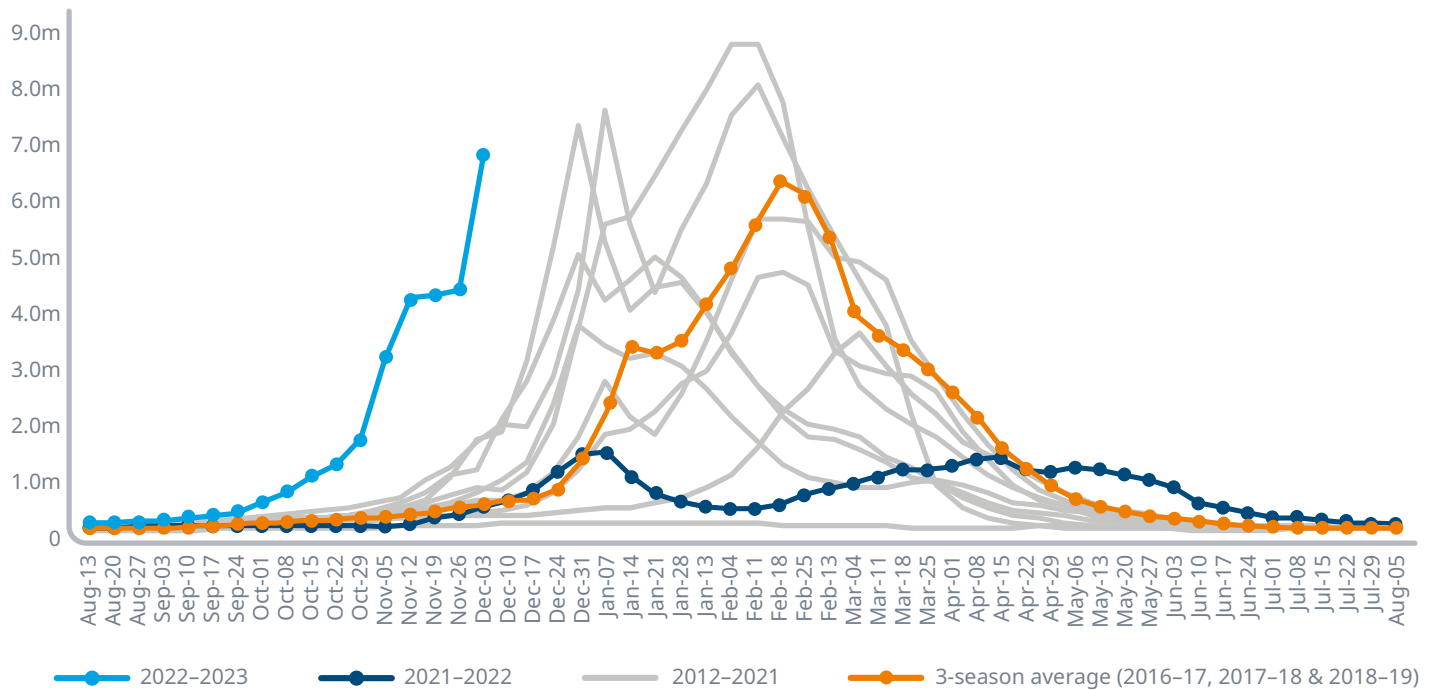
- Total retail pharmacy flu vaccinations through November 25, 2022, are running 6.3% above the 2021/22 flu season, totaling 38.0 million this season to date.
- During the week of November 25, the number of flu vaccines administered through retail pharmacies totaled 1.4 million, 0.9% more than the comparable week last year but down from the seasonal high levels of 4.5 million weekly vaccines reported one month earlier and reflecting the continuation of the downward trend in weekly vaccinations.
- Efforts earlier in the season to raise public awareness of the heightened level of influenza this year may have contributed to the increase in weekly vaccination levels seen in mid- to late- October.

Exhibit 1: Estimated number of total U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022 through week ending December 3, 2022



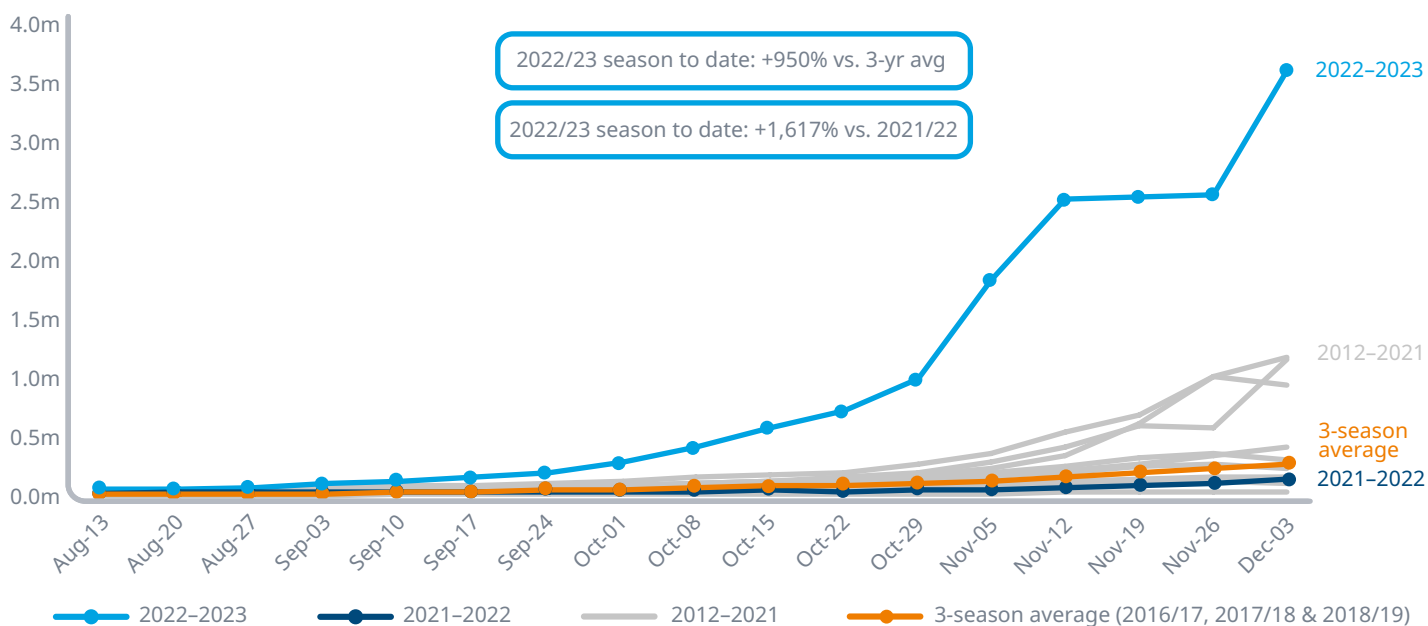
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 3, 2022.

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



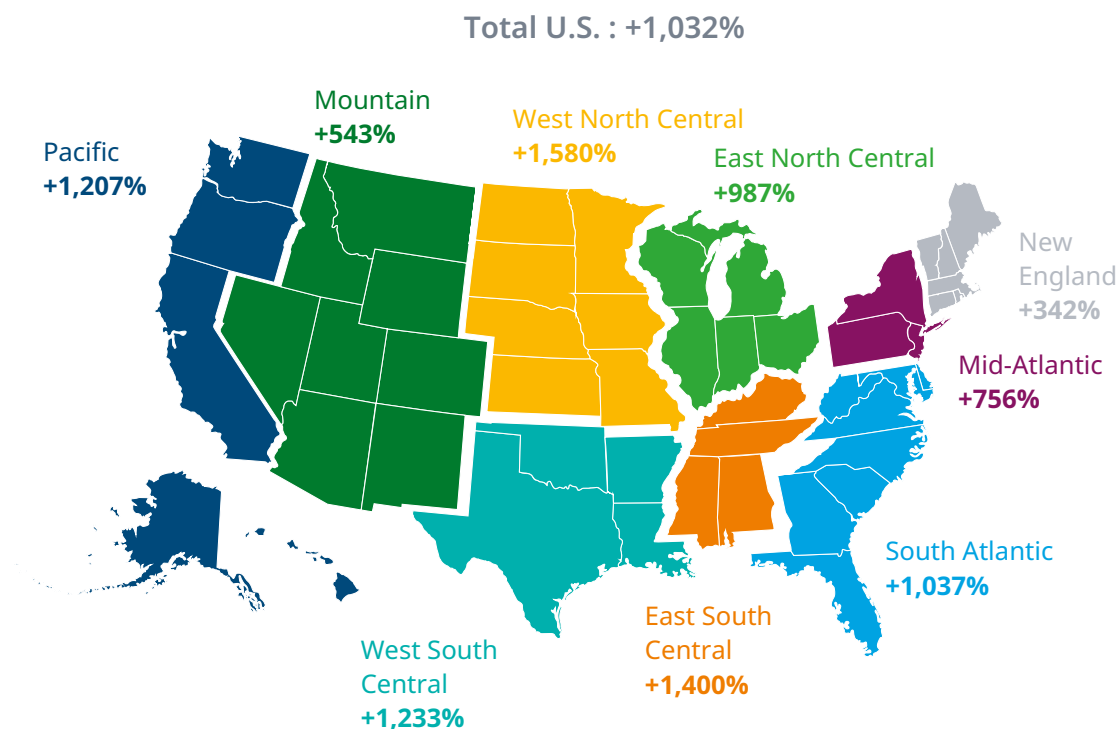
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 3, 2022.

Exhibit 3: Estimated number of pediatric U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022 through week ending December 3, 2022



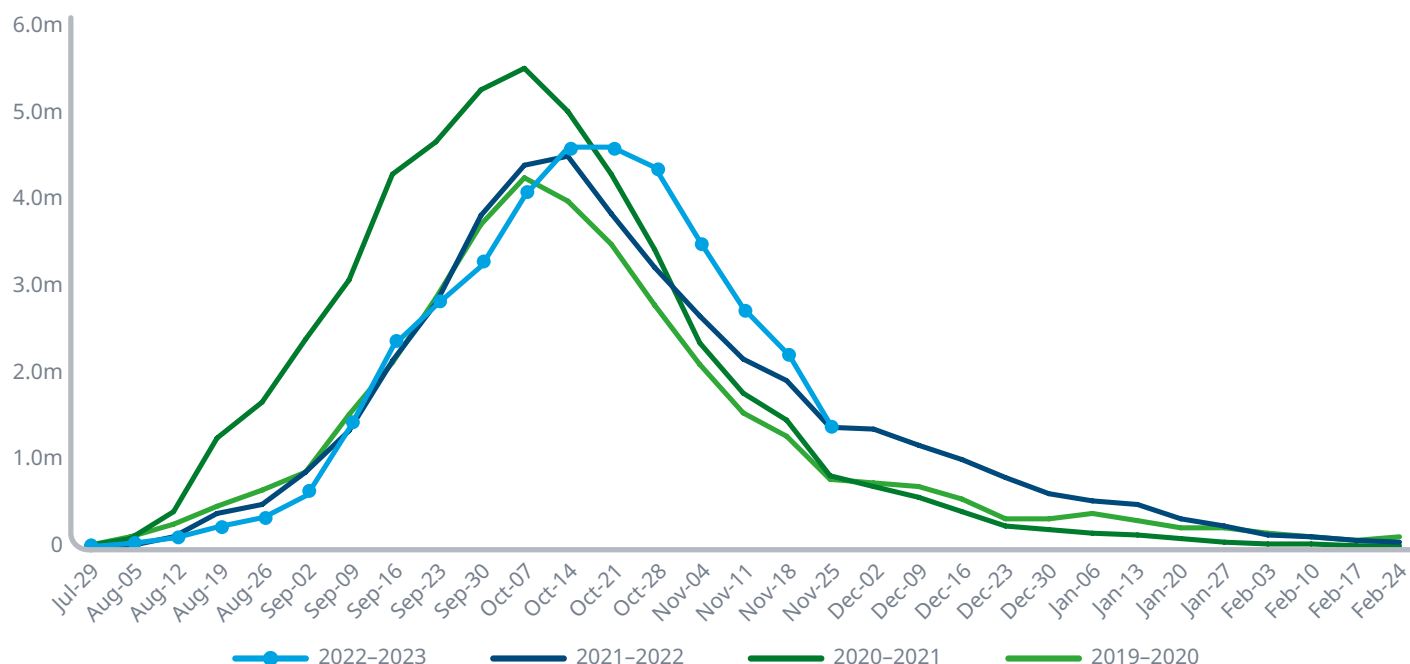
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 3, 2022.

Exhibit 4: Regional increases in total U.S. influenza cases, season to date through week ending December 3, 2022



Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 3, 2022.

Exhibit 5: Total U.S. retail flu vaccinations 2019–22, through week ending November 25, 2022



Source: IQVIA RxInsight, IQVIA Institute, Nov 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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