

Influenza Weekly Tracking Report

for week ending **December 31, 2022**

Report date: January 6, 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 31, 2022

OVERALL FLU CASES — SEASON TO DATE IS ~6X LEVEL OF CASES IN BASELINE PERIOD*

Influenza cases continue to set historically high records as season progresses

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

~6x
CASES IN
SEASON TO DATE VS.
BASELINE PERIOD

- For the most recent week reported, ending December 31, the estimated level of total influenza cases in the U.S. was double (2.1) times the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period (three-year average of the 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, flu seasons)
- For the season to date (from mid-August) this year is running almost six times (5.9) the level of the baseline period, up 486%
- This year is running over seven (7.4) the level of the 2021/22 flu season which was unusually mild, up 644%
- The most recent data continues the falling trendline in the number of new cases which has fallen about 30% since the peak week of December 3
- Flu diagnoses typically peak around the end of year/early January, but significant year-to-year fluctuations occur and it is uncertain how the season will evolve over the next few weeks

PEDIATRIC CASES — SEASON TO DATE IS 7X LEVEL OF CASES IN BASELINE PERIOD*

The level of influenza incidence in children remains at elevated levels, occurring at the same time RSV diagnoses are also increasing

7x
CASES IN
SEASON TO DATE VS.
BASELINE PERIOD

- For the most recent week of December 31, the estimated total number of pediatric influenza cases in the U.S. was more than double (2.1) the level of the corresponding week during the baseline period
- For the season to date, pediatric flu is over seven times (7.1) the baseline level, up 609%, and over nine times (9.4) the 2021/22 flu seasons, up 837%

SOME REGIONS TRENDING MUCH HIGHER — 1,559% 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

↑1,559%
IN PACIFIC
REGION

- The Pacific region continues as the highest of all regions in its increase over the 2021/22 season to date, up 1,559%; while East North Central and West South Central regions also continue to trend much higher, with estimated cases running above the 2021/22 season by more than 700%
- New England and Mid-Atlantic regions show the lowest increases over last year of all regions, but still have substantially higher number of cases compared to last year, both regions up 466% over the 2021/22 season

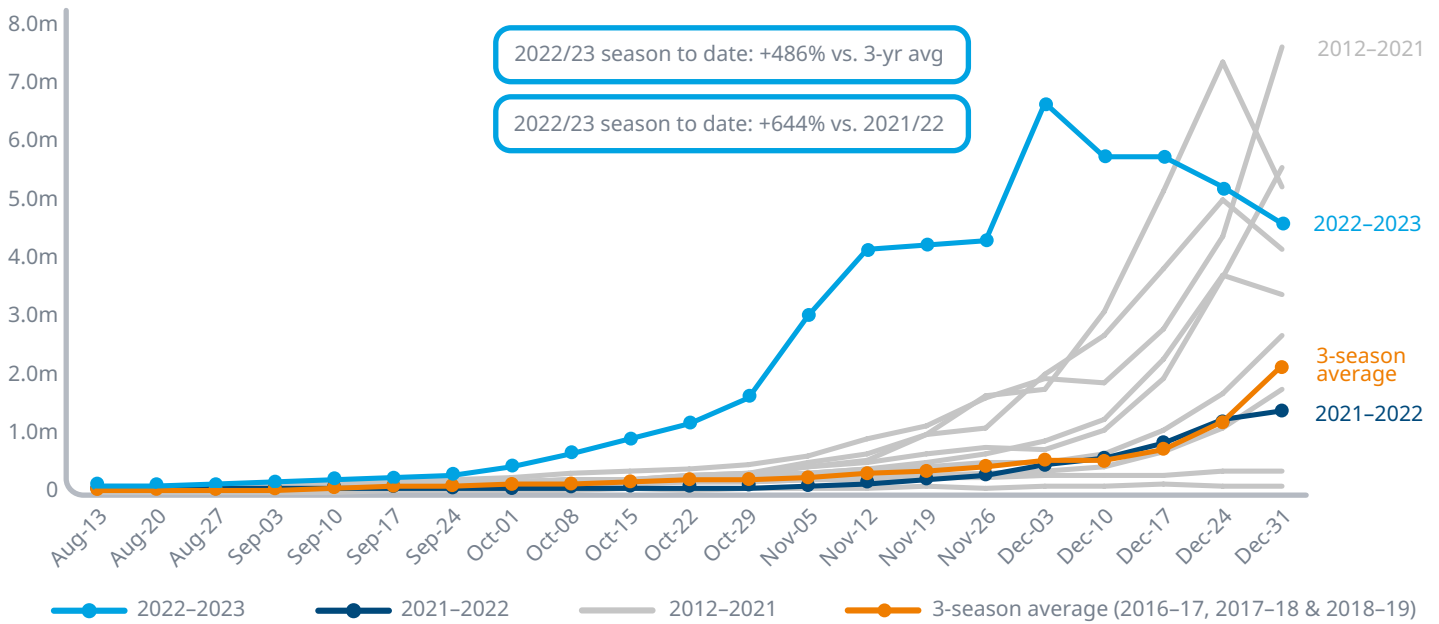
RETAIL PHARMACY VACCINATIONS RUNNING 6.0% ABOVE THE 2021/22 FLU SEASON

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

PHARMACY
VACCINATIONS
↑6.0%

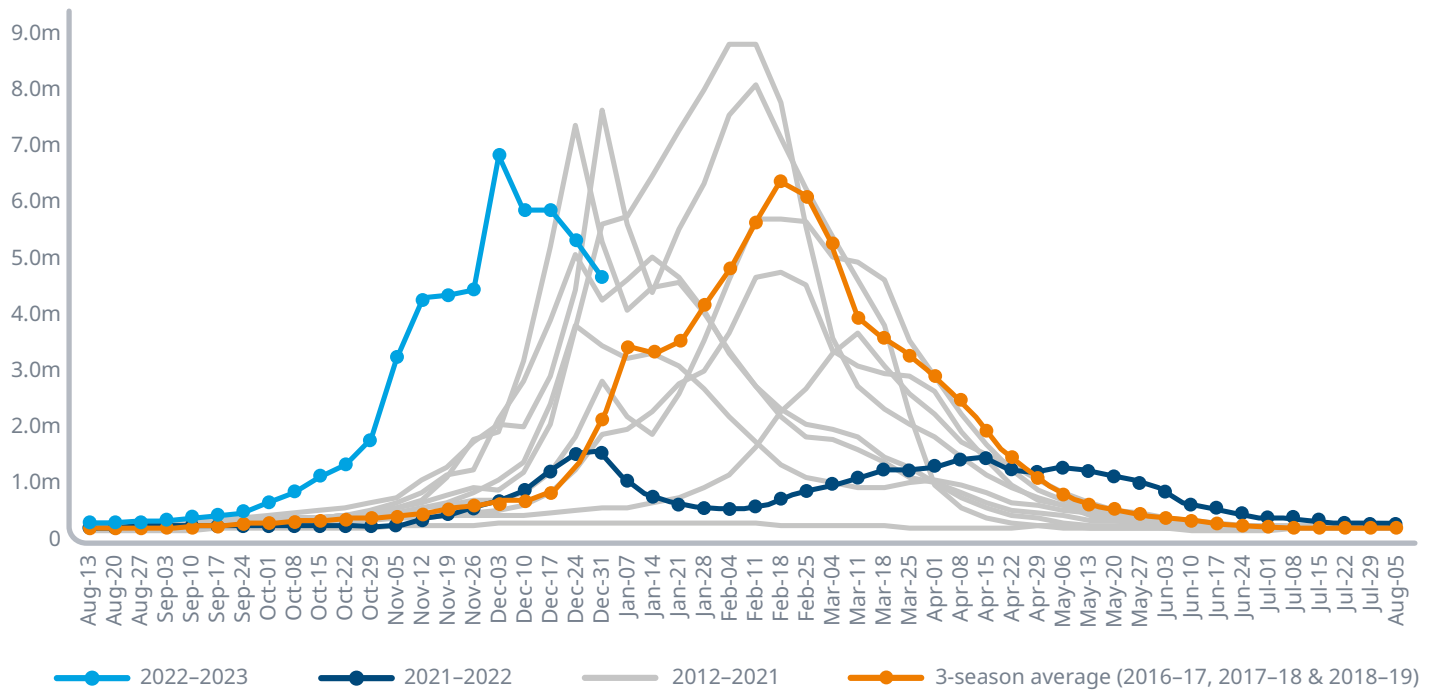
- Total retail pharmacy flu vaccinations through December 23, 2022 are 6.0% above the 2021/22 flu season, totaling 42.5 million this season to date
- During the week of December 23, the number of flu vaccines administered through retail pharmacies totaled almost 750,000, down 6.9% from the comparable week in 2021 and well down from the seasonal high levels of 4.5 million weekly vaccines reported in October 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 31, 2022



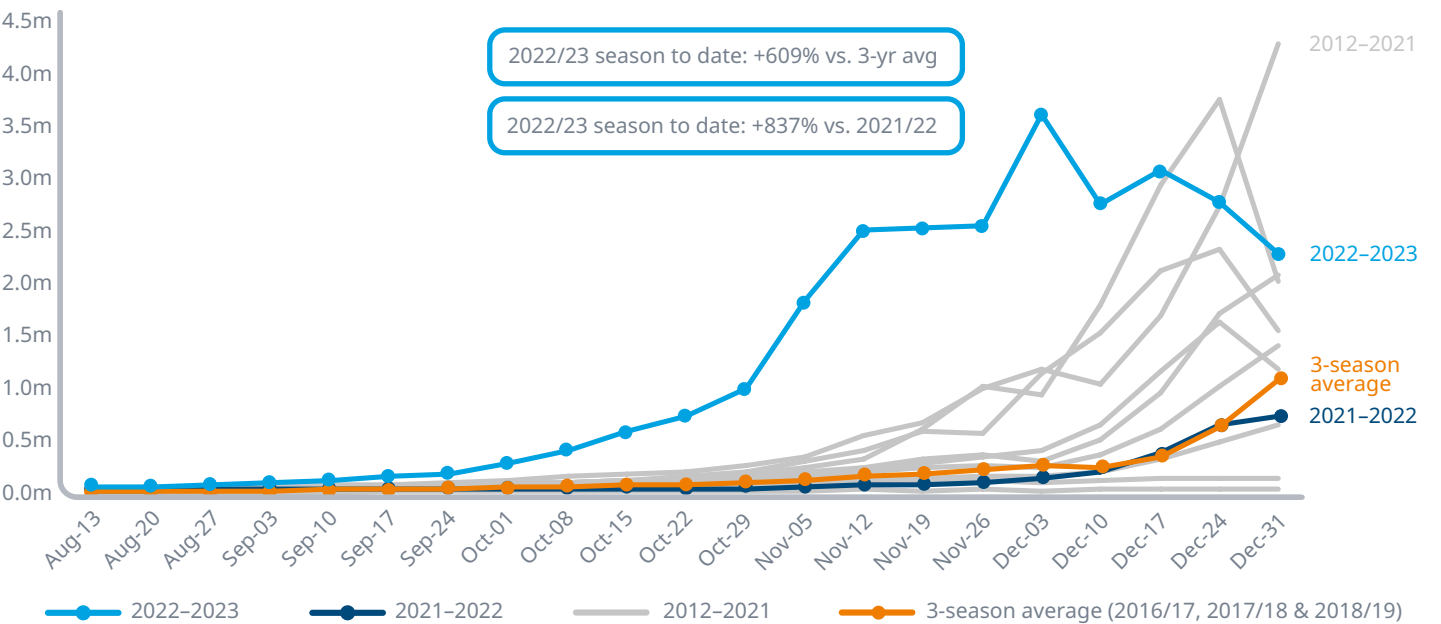
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 31, 2022.

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



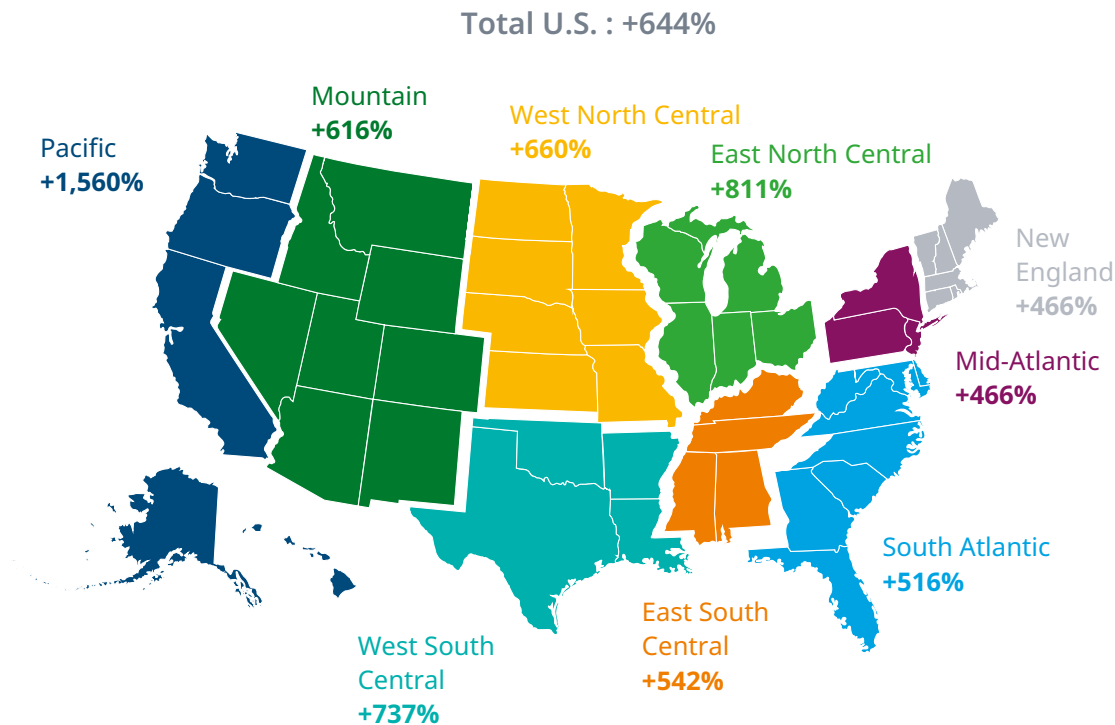
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 31, 2022.

Exhibit 3: Estimated number of pediatric U.S. influenza cases 2012–2022 through week ending December 31, 2022



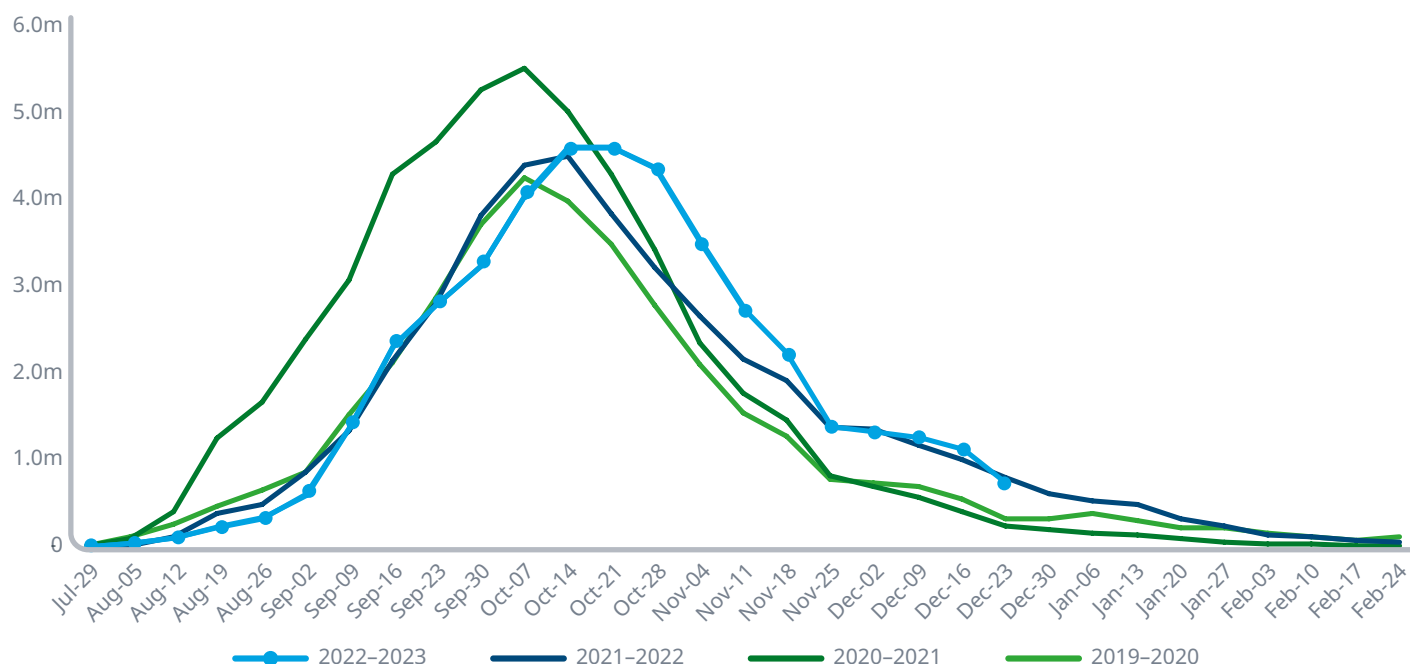
Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 31, 2022.

Exhibit 4: Regional increases in total U.S. influenza cases, season to date through week ending December 31, 2022



Source: IQVIA Consumer Health FAN, IQVIA Institute, Dec 31, 2022.

Exhibit 5: Total U.S. retail flu vaccinations 2019–22, through week ending December 23, 2022



Source: IQVIA RxInsight, IQVIA Institute, Dec 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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