



# 2023–2024 COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Season Update

**Brian Borah, MD, MA, *Medical Director, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance***

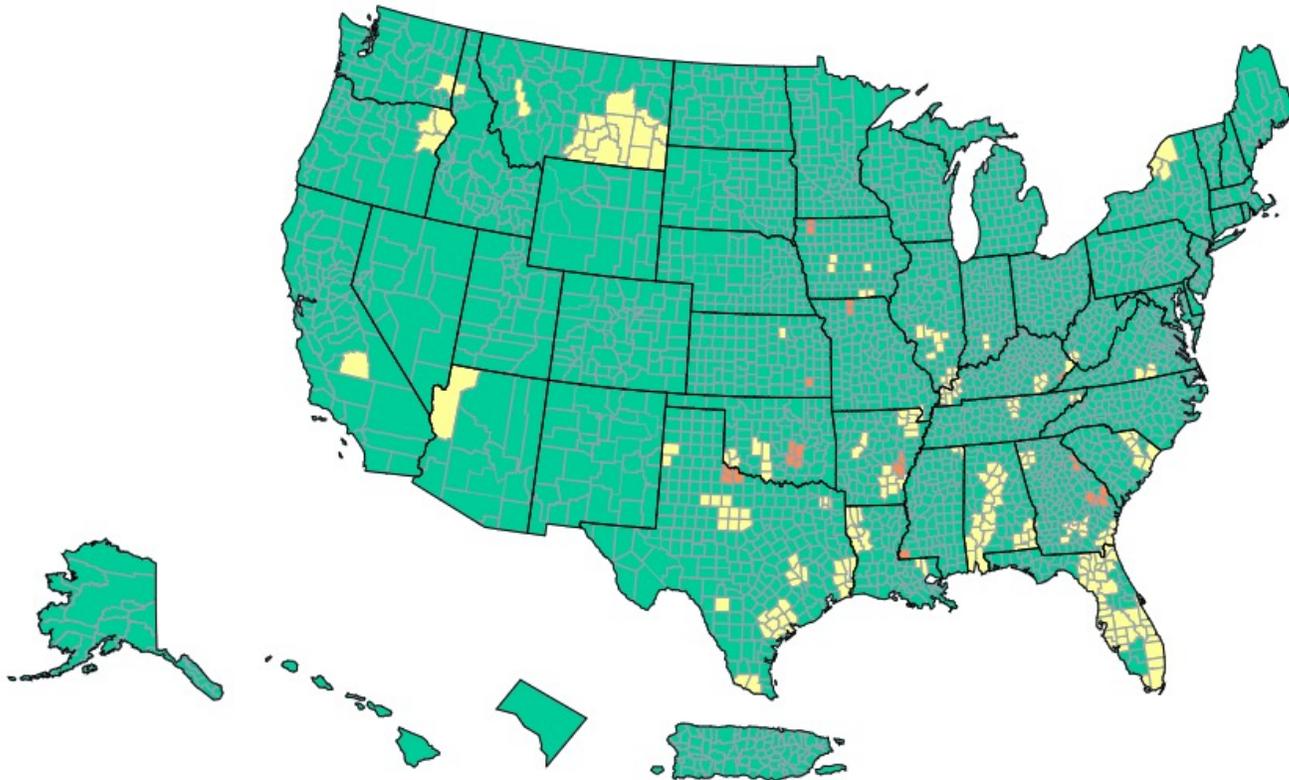
**Stephanie Black, MD, MSc, *Medical Director, Communicable Disease and Healthcare Programs***

**Geraldine Luna, MD, MPH *Medical Director, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Bureau***

 **Bottom line:**

- Updated COVID-19 vaccines have been approved.
- COVID-19 and other respiratory virus activity are expected to increase in the coming weeks
- Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine and a Flu shot this fall.

# ★ COVID-19 in Cook County remains **LOW**, but with some increased activity



**National currently:**

**5.68** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

**Illinois currently:**

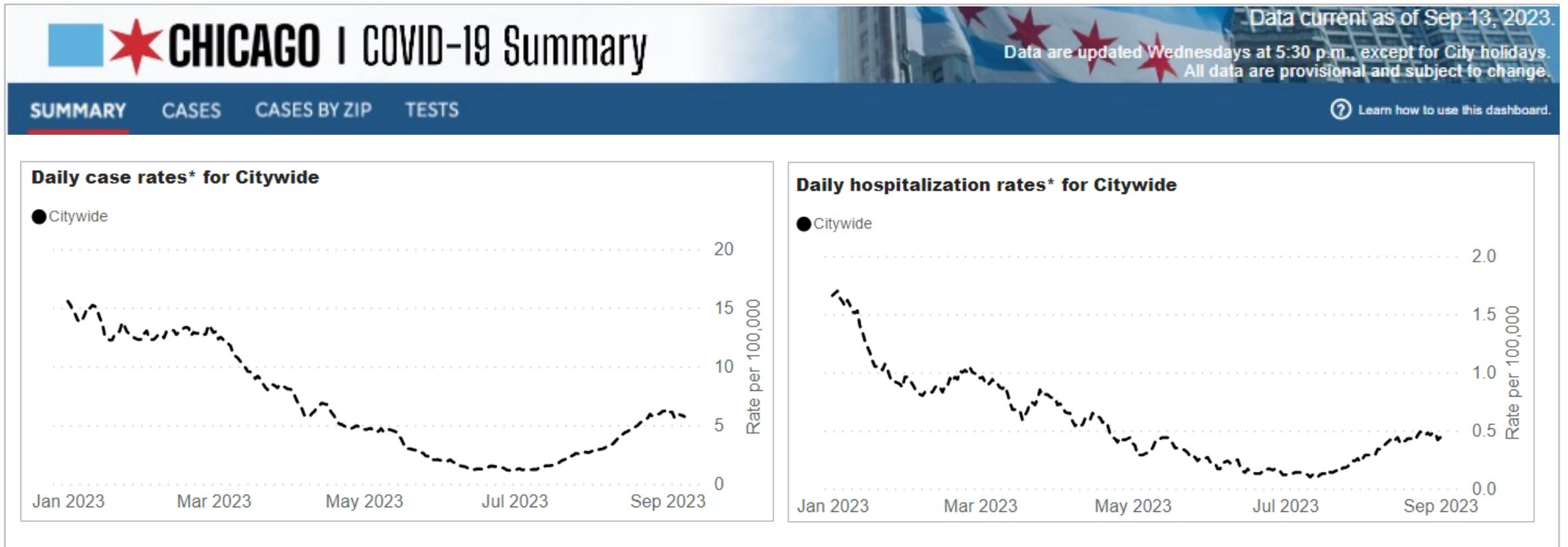
**4.71** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

**Cook County currently:**

**4.50** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

**22** US counties at **HIGH** hospital admissions level this past week; Florida and Washington DC at **MEDIUM**.

# ★ COVID-19 activity in Chicago has increased modestly since July.



\* Rate values based on a 7 day rolling average

[chi.gov/coronavirus](https://chi.gov/coronavirus)

# Other viral activity remains low.



Surveillance Week 35 (August 27 – September 2, 2023)

## Chicago Respiratory Virus Weekly Surveillance Report

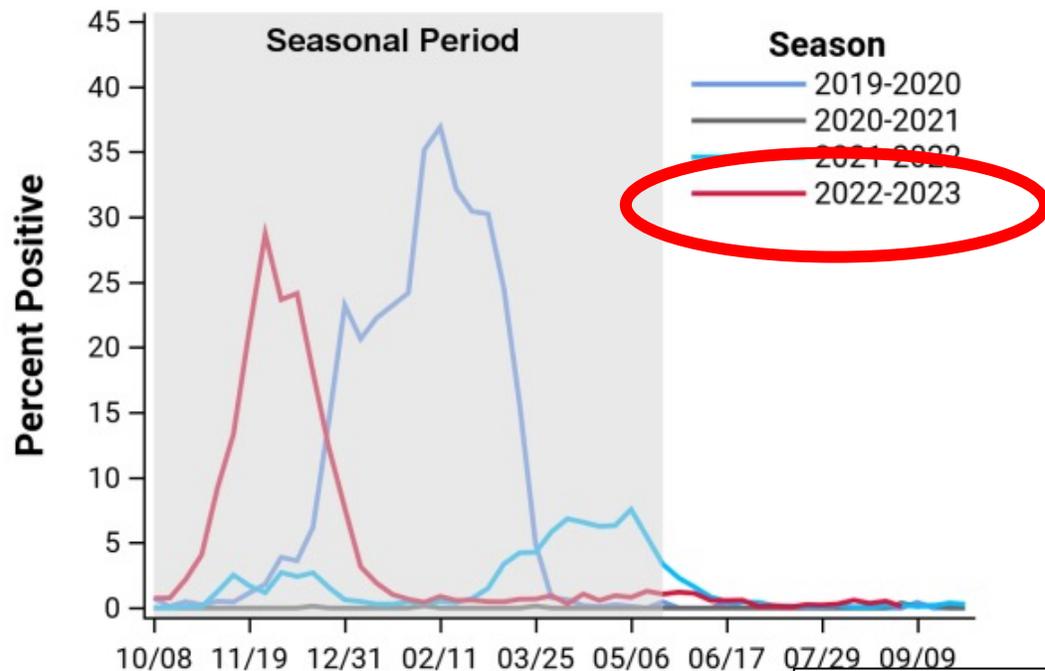


Brandon Johnson, Mayor

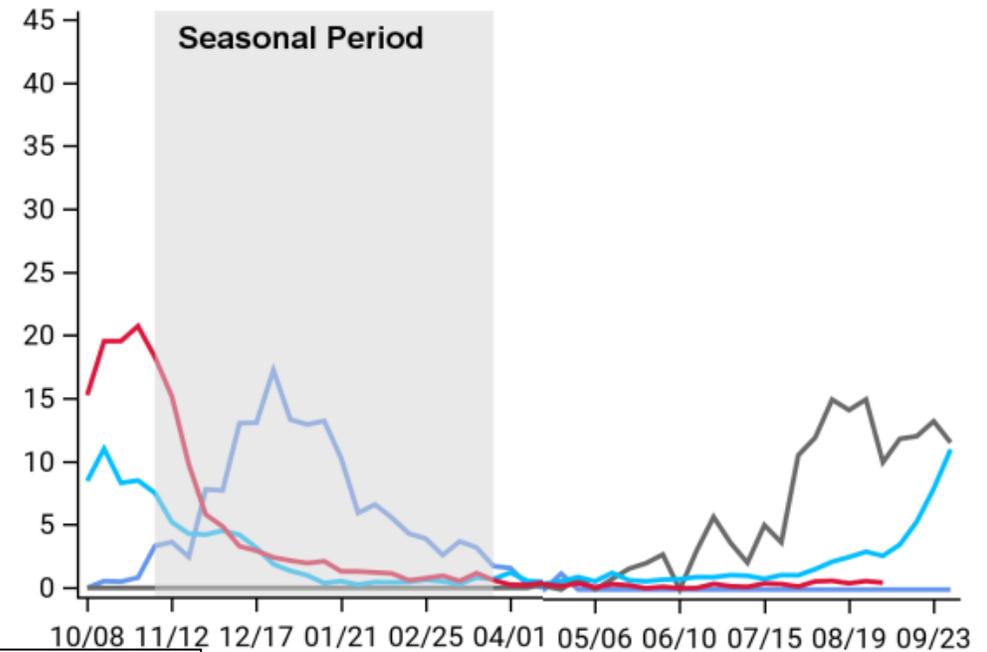
September 8, 2023

Fikirte Wagaw, MPH, Acting Commissioner

### Influenza



### RSV



[chi.gov/flu](http://chi.gov/flu)

# ★ Where to get COVID-19 & Flu vaccines this fall?

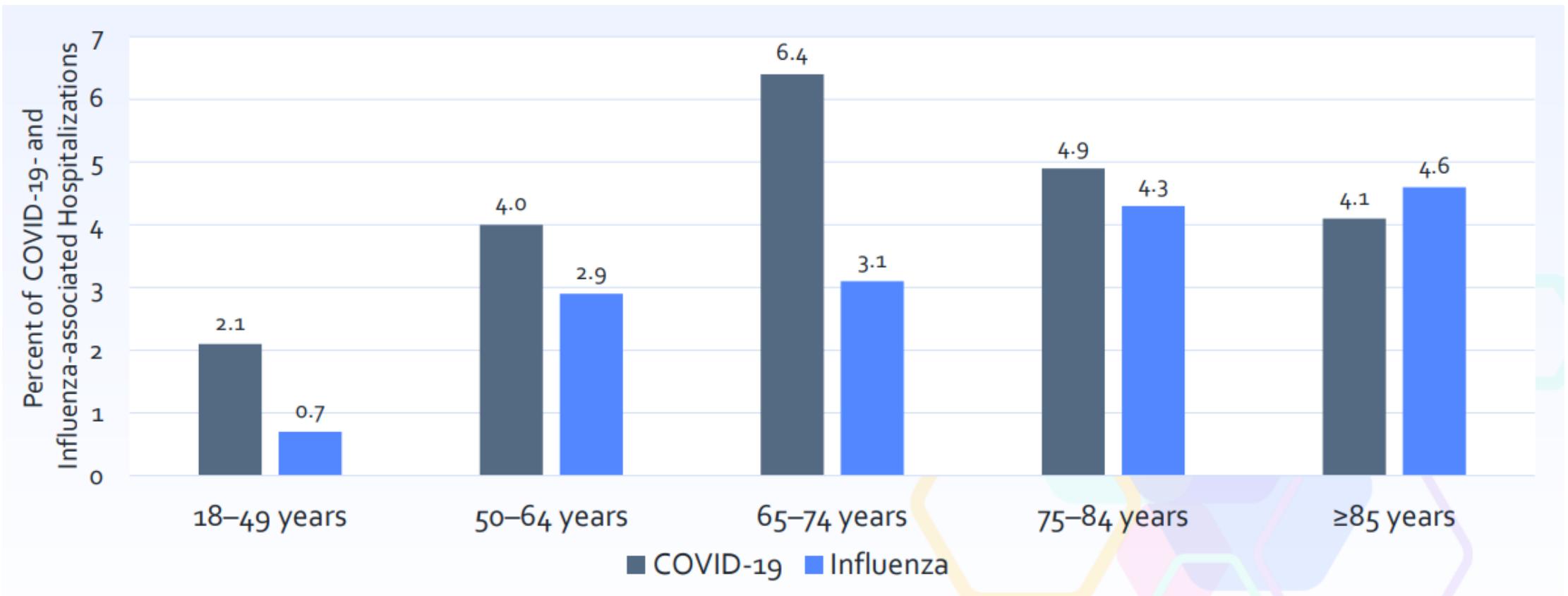
Private Insurance  
Medicaid/Medicare

Uninsured  
Under-insured

- **Healthcare provider or pharmacy**
- **CDPH Immunization Clinics**
  - Greater Lawn Clinic
  - Uptown WIC Clinic
  - Lower West Clinic
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**
- **CDPH's City Colleges Family Vaccination Clinics**
- **Some pharmacies (Bridge Access Program)**

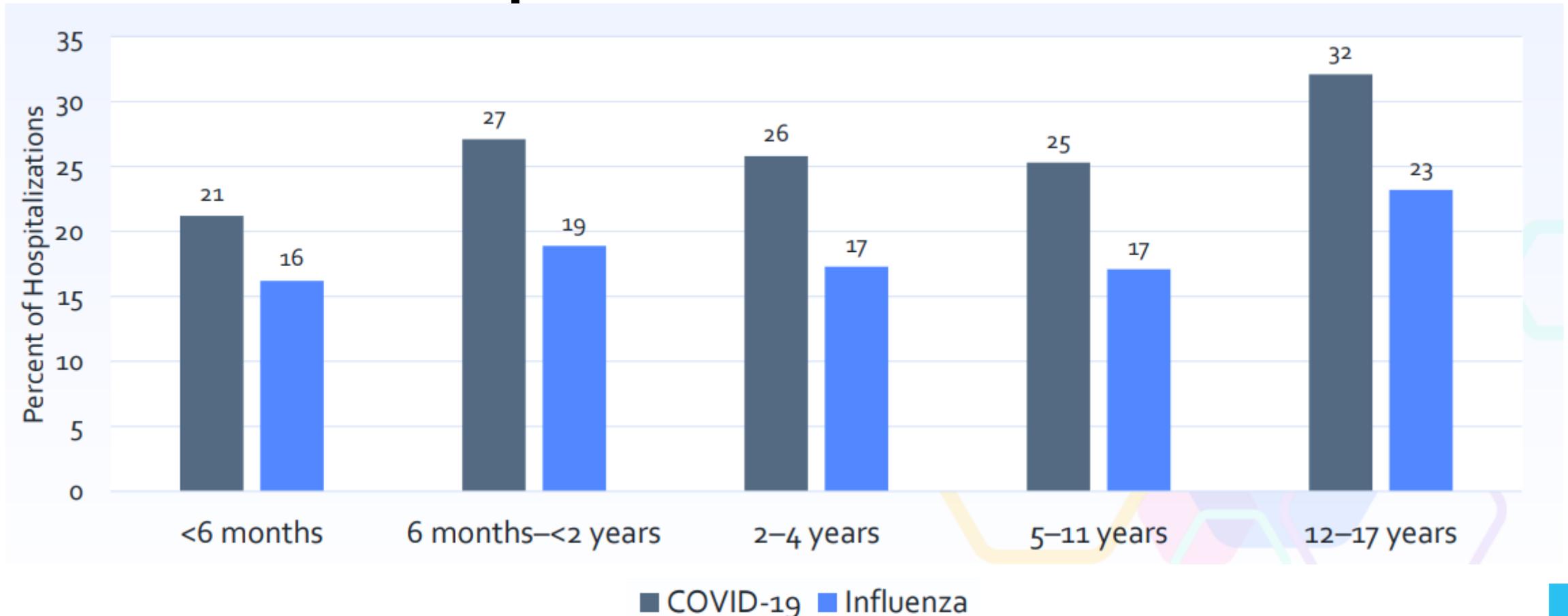


# Percent of COVID-19 and Flu-Associated Hospitalizations with in-hospital Death among Adults by Age Group, October 2022-April 2023



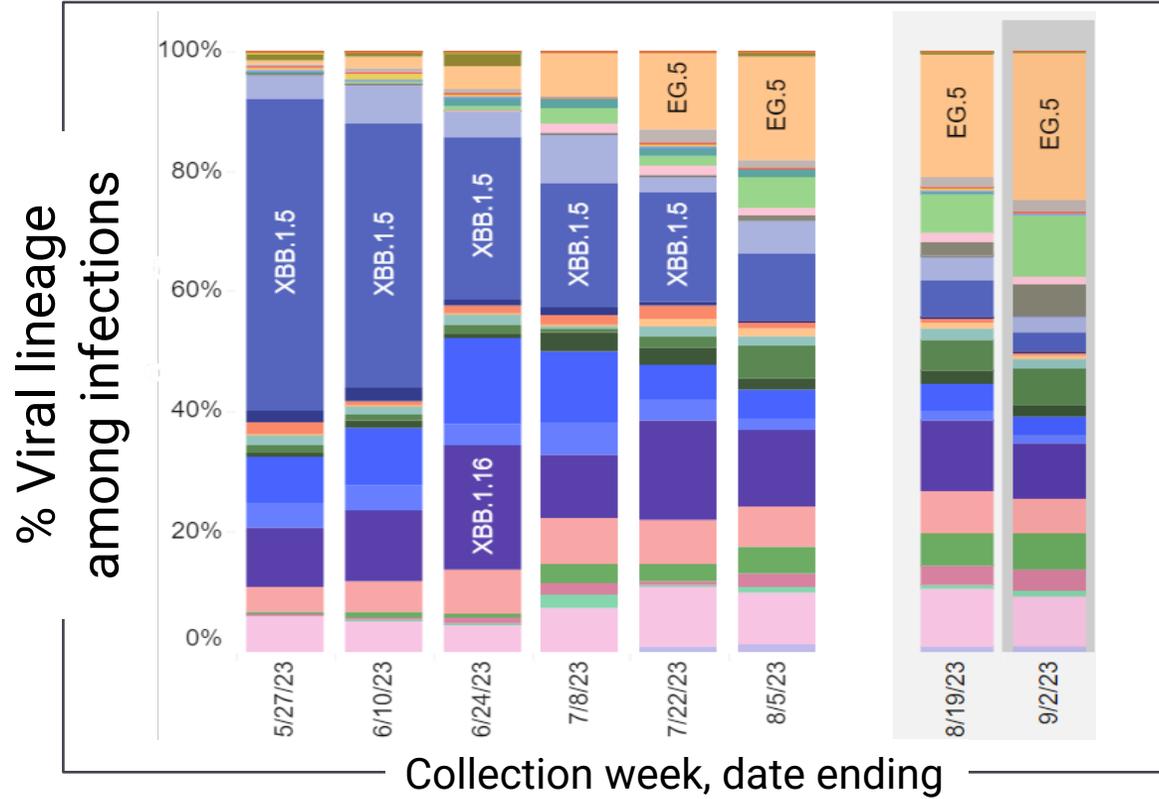


# Percent of COVID-19 and Flu-Associated Hospitalizations with ICU Admissions among Infants, Children and Adolescents by Age, October 2022-April 2023



# Why should I get the new COVID-19 vaccine?

- New vaccines prevent doctor visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19
- Evidence suggests protection against Long-COVID
- Specifically designed against Omicron
- Also protective against highly mutated BA.2.86



# It's ALL Still OMICRON

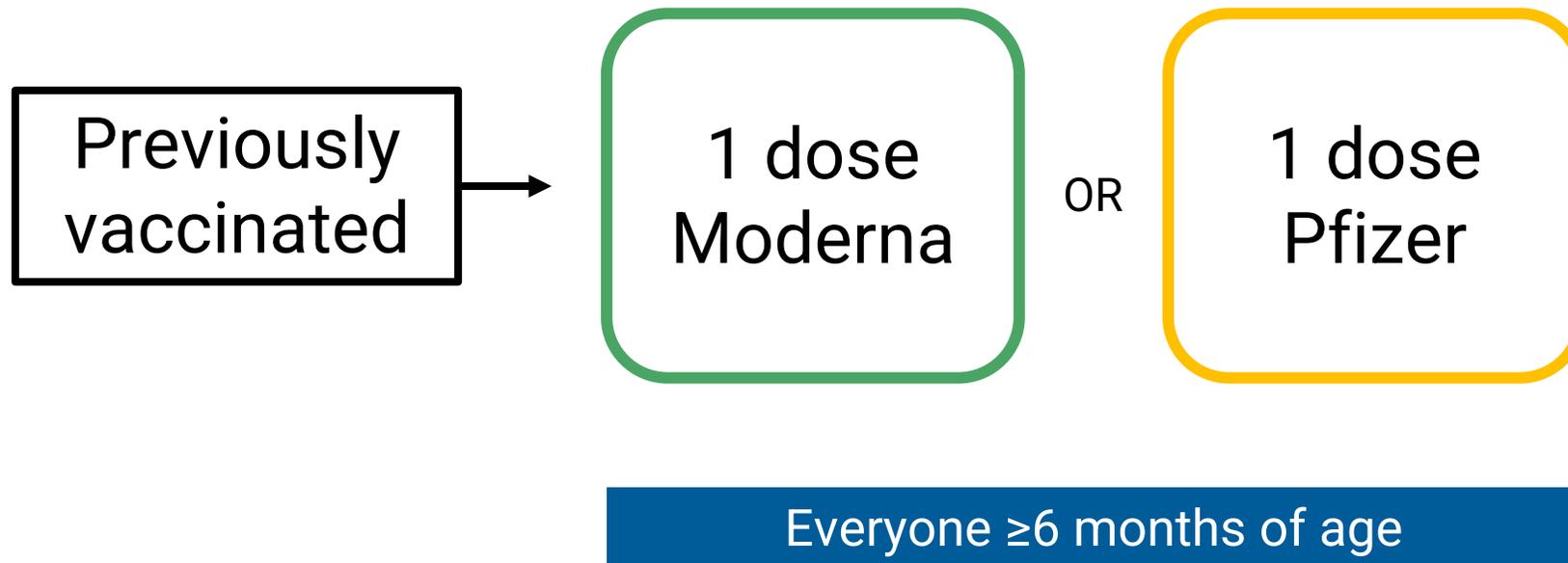
EG.5	24.5%	19.0-31.0%	
FL.1.5.1	10.0%	6.3-15.2%	
XBB.1.16	9.3%	7.8-10.9%	
XBB.2.3	8.4%	6.2-11.4%	
XBB.1.16.6	6.1%	4.7-7.7%	
XBB.1.5.70	6.0%	3.8-9.1%	
XBB.1.16.1	5.8%	4.7-7.1%	
HV.1	5.0%	2.4-9.5%	
XBB.1.16.11	3.3%	1.7-6.0%	
XBB.1.9.1	3.2%	2.6-4.0%	
XBB.1.5	3.1%	2.5-3.9%	
XBB	3.0%	2.1-4.3%	
XBB.1.5.72	2.0%	1.1-3.5%	
EG.6.1	1.8%	0.9-3.5%	
XBB.1.5.68	1.5%	0.9-2.6%	
GE.1	1.4%	0.6-2.8%	
XBB.1.9.2	1.1%	0.8-1.6%	
XBB.1.42.2	1.0%	0.5-1.7%	
XBB.2.3.8	0.8%	0.3-2.2%	
XBB.1.5.59	0.8%	0.4-1.7%	
XBB.1.5.10	0.6%	0.4-0.9%	

Source: CDC (updates every other week)



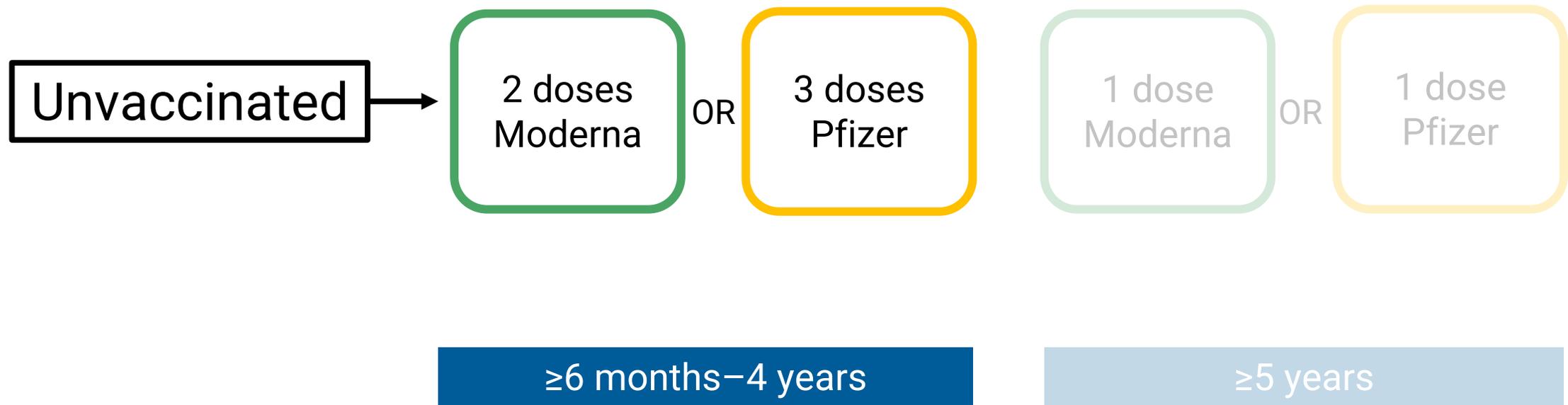


# Everyone over age 6 months is recommended to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine this fall



Note: those ages 6 months-4 years who have previously received a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech would need 2 additional doses. Additional doses are recommended for persons with immunocompromised conditions.

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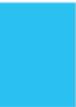


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# Protect yourself and your family

- Stay home if you are sick
- Get a COVID-19 test if you have cough, runny nose, sore throat, or fever
  - Find a free test: [testinglocator.cdc.gov](https://testinglocator.cdc.gov)
- Keep a high-quality mask available in case you find yourself in a crowded setting: this is especially important for those with immune compromise
- **GET THE UPDATED VACCINE**



# TAKE ACTION IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

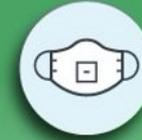


## DAY 1-5

### Stay home:

- Everyone - *regardless of vaccination status* - should stay home and away from others (isolate).

**People at high risk for severe illness:**  
Talk to your doctor about treatment



## DAY 6-10

### Wear a mask:

- If you take 2 antigen tests 48 hours apart and both are negative, you may remove your mask sooner
- Avoid people at high risk of getting very sick



## DAY 6 OR LATER

### End isolation:

- If you never had symptoms OR symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 24 hours.

# ★ Finding COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines



- **Where can someone get a vaccine?**
  - CDPH Walk-in Clinics, Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, and Retail pharmacies
- **Annual FLU/COVID Campaign**
  - Over 100 clinics Planned Citywide
  - Family Vaccination Clinics at City Colleges
  - Aldermanic Wards
  - CDPH Immunization Walk-in Clinics
  - DFSS Senior Center Clinics
  - City Hall - 10/16/2023, 11/15/2023, 12/12/2023
- **Questions**
  - [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
  - **Spanish version** - [Vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunas.gov)
  - City's COVID-19 helpline at 312-745-4835