

November 24, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Metaculus forecasters have increased their estimates of measles cases in 2026 to 959 (50% prediction interval [464, 2,261]) as weekly case counts remain elevated.
- Forecasters strongly expect that H3N2 will be the dominant flu strain this season (proportion of influenza A: 82.7% [69.9%, 91.7%]). They have slightly raised their estimates of a High severity season based on the number of observed H3N2 mutations.
- Vaccination coverage estimates have slightly decreased for the flu, COVID, and RSV based on early sales data.

A Closer Look

Measles

As measles cases in the US hold steady at roughly 20 per week, forecasters have significantly raised their estimates for the number of cases in 2026 from 721 to 959 (50% prediction interval [464, 2,261]), as well as their estimates for the number of cases in 2025 (1,874 to 1,963).

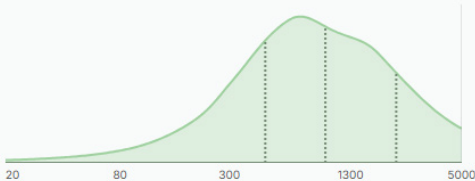
Influenza

Forecasters expect that 88.4% [80.0%, 94.2%] of tested influenza sequences will be influenza A, an increase from 82.0% the previous month. Estimates for the proportion of influenza A cases that will be H3N2 have risen significantly from below 50% to 82.7% [69.9%, 91.7%], with forecasters citing early subtyping data from the US and Canada.

The number of mutations identified in this year’s H3N2 strain has increased forecaster uncertainty regarding the severity of the disease, with the probability of High severity rising from 21% to 28% over the past month. However, forecasters assess that current evidence remains limited, and that residual immunity from the previous season’s severe wave and historical base rates are more informative at this stage. Accordingly, Very High severity forecasts remain at 3.5% and projected peak hospitalizations at 9.7 per 100,000.

How many measles cases will be reported in the United States in 2026?

959 cases



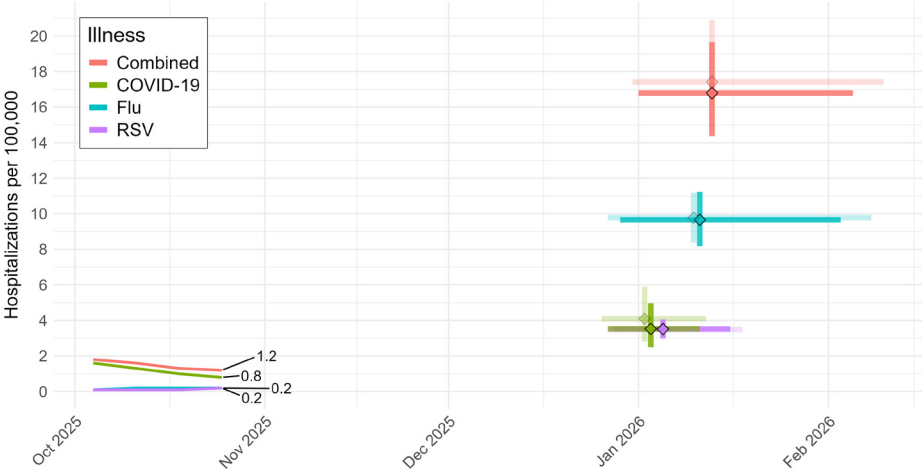
Based on 120 predictions by 25 forecasters

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Peak Hospitalization and Timing Forecasts

Forecasters have decreased their estimates of COVID-19 and RSV peak hospitalizations based on early data. Flu estimates and estimates for the timing of the disease peaks remain steady.

Weekly Rate of Respiratory Illness Hospitalizations per 100,000 in the US
With Metaculus Forecasts for Median and 50% Prediction Intervals of Peak Magnitude and Timing



Weekly hospitalization rates per 100,000 according to RESP-NET along with Metaculus forecasts for the peak hospitalization rate in the 2025-26 season and the associated timing. Diamonds reflect median forecasts for the magnitude and timing of the peak, vertical bars show 50% prediction intervals for the magnitude, and horizontal bars show 50% prediction intervals for the timing of the peak. Forecasts from last month (October 24) are shown with transparency.



Vaccinations

Vaccination coverage forecasts have shown small decreases across [Influenza](#), [COVID-19](#), and [RSV](#), based on reduced demand as shown in early sales and insurance claims data from [Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#), and [CSL](#).

Methodology

Influenza		COVID-19		RSV	
Group	Coverage	Group	Coverage	Group	Coverage
Children 6m to 17y	46.9% ↔ [44.5%, 49.2%]	Children 6m to 17y	11.4% ↔ [9.9%, 12.9%]	Pregnant women age 18–49	37.6% ↓ [32.5%, 42.8%]
	<i>47.1%</i> [43.9%, 49.8%]		<i>11.8%</i> [10.1%, 13.8%]		<i>40.1%</i> [33.5%, 48.9%]
	45.6% ↔ [43.3%, 47.7%]		20.7% ↔ [18.5%, 22.6%]		49.0% ↔ [43.6%, 54.3%]
Adults age 18+	<i>46.6%</i> [44.2%, 49.0%]	Adults age 18+	<i>21.4%</i> [19.4%, 23.3%]	Infants age <8m	<i>49.6%</i> [42.3%, 57.2%]
	70.8% ↓ [68.1%, 73.0%]		41.1% ↓ [37.5%, 44.7%]		55.5% ↓ [51.5%, 59.9%]
Adults age 65+	<i>72.3%</i> [69.9%, 74.8%]	Adults age 65+	<i>43.0%</i> [39.4%, 47.0%]	Adults age 75+	<i>57.3%</i> [52.2%, 64.3%]

This table displays the median and 50% prediction interval for vaccine coverage by age group for flu, COVID-19, and RSV, with values in italic representing the forecast from October 24.

[Metaculus](#) develops forecasting programs to improve decision-making and public coordination on topics of global importance and operates one of the world’s largest forecasting platforms. The [Respiratory Outlook 2025/26](#) initiative is designed to harness the effectiveness of crowd forecasting for real-time decision-making, aiding public health officials in responding to ongoing epidemiological changes and better anticipating future conditions. Five [Metaculus Pro Forecasters](#), among the most accurate forecasters on Metaculus, are contributing to the Respiratory Outlook 2025/26 initiative.