

Network Systems  
Science & Advanced  
Computing  
Biocomplexity Institute  
& Initiative  
University of Virginia

# Foresight and Analysis of Infectious Disease Threats to Virginia's Public Health

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

(data current to February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>)

Biocomplexity Institute Technical report: TR BI-2024-20



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**BIOCOMPLEXITY** INSTITUTE

[biocomplexity.virginia.edu](https://biocomplexity.virginia.edu)

# About Us

- Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia
  - Using big data and simulations to understand massively interactive systems and solve societal problems
- Over 20 years of crafting and analyzing infectious disease models
  - Pandemic response for Influenza, Ebola, Zika, and others



## Points of Contact

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## Model Development, Outbreak Analytics, and Delivery Team

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# Overview

- **Goal:** Understand impact of current and emerging Infectious Disease threats to the Commonwealth of Virginia using modeling and analytics
- **Approach:**
  - Provide analyses and summaries of current infectious disease threats
  - Survey existing forecasts and trends in these threats
  - Analyze and summarize the current situation and trends of these threats in the broader context of the US and world
  - Provide broad overview of other emerging threats

# Key Takeaways

## **COVID-19 indicators remain elevated, trends are mixed between steady and decline**

- Hospital admissions and Visits with Diagnosed COVID are higher than they were at this point last year
  - Hospital admissions peak was ~20% lower than last year, but the peak this year is broader.
- Wastewater continues to show high viral loads, though may be receding
- Together this suggest continued plateaus in activity with likely decline in coming weeks.

## **Influenza is remains elevated in VA and across the US**

## **RSV hospitalizations have reduced to minimal activity**

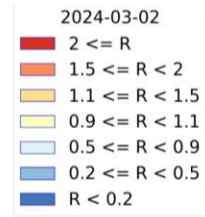
# COVID-19 Surveillance

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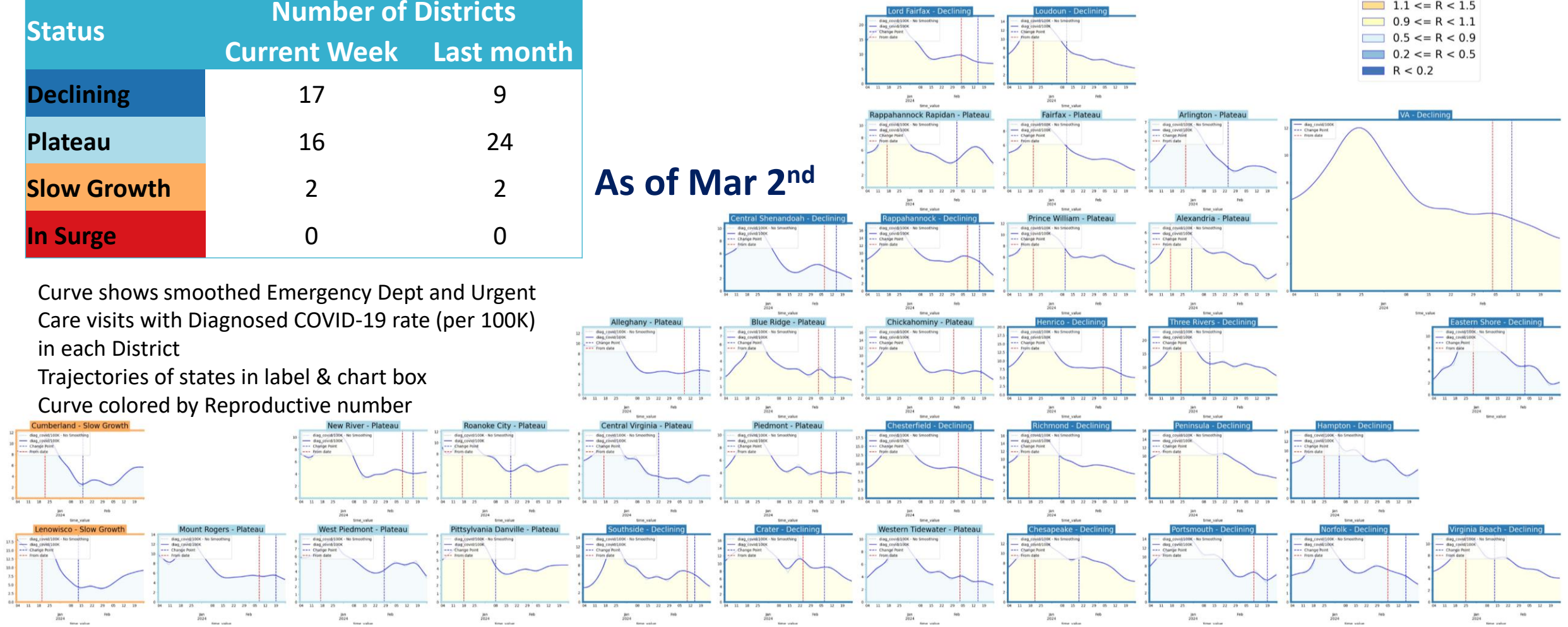
# District Diagnosed COVID Trajectories – last 10 weeks

| Status      | Number of Districts |            |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|
|             | Current Week        | Last month |
| Declining   | 17                  | 9          |
| Plateau     | 16                  | 24         |
| Slow Growth | 2                   | 2          |
| In Surge    | 0                   | 0          |

As of Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>



Curve shows smoothed Emergency Dept and Urgent Care visits with Diagnosed COVID-19 rate (per 100K) in each District  
Trajectories of states in label & chart box  
Curve colored by Reproductive number



# District Hospital Trajectories – last 10 weeks

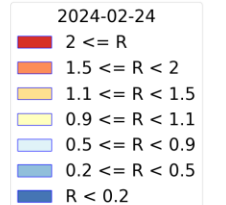
## Rt estimates from EpiNow2

| Status      | Number of Districts |           |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------|
|             | Current Week        | Last week |
| Declining   | 6                   | 8         |
| Plateau     | 21                  | 19        |
| Slow Growth | 8                   | 8         |
| In Surge    | 0                   | 0         |

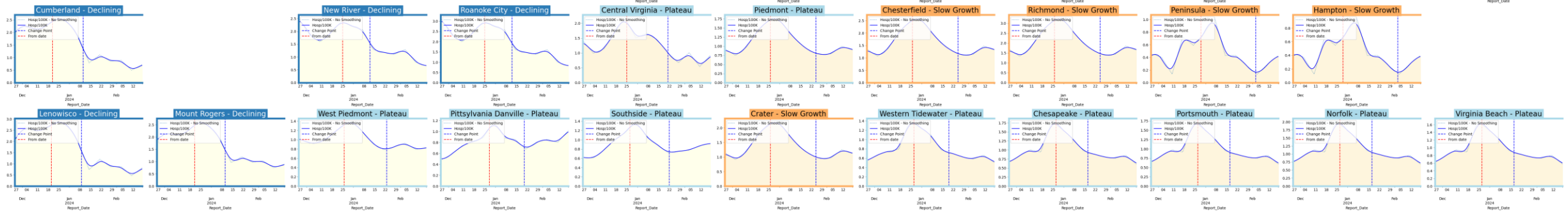
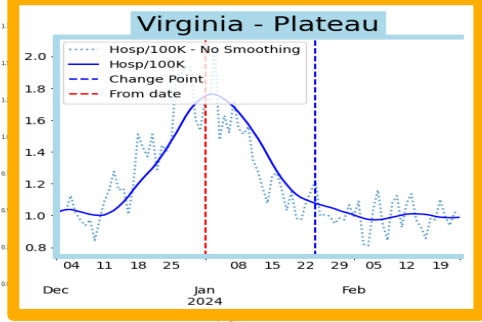
Hospitalization by county inferred from Facility data mapped to counties through Hospital Referral Regions.

**As of Feb 24<sup>th</sup>**

Curve shows smoothed hospitalization rate (per 100K) by district  
Hosp rate curve colored by  $R_e$  number



### State level Time Series



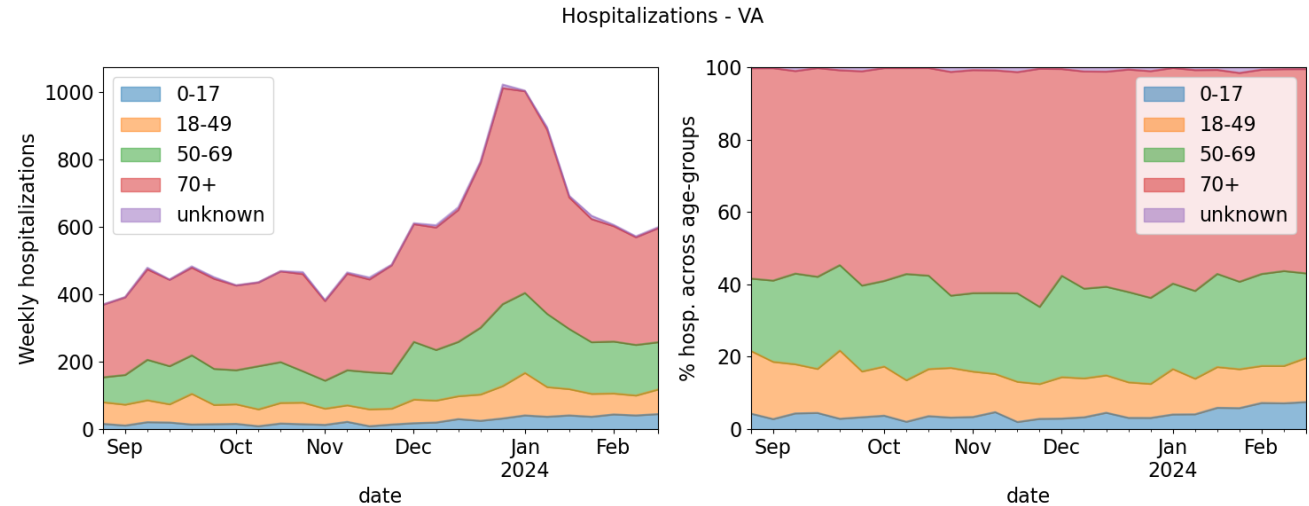
# Hospitalizations in VA by Age

## Age distribution in hospitals showing slight shift towards younger age groups

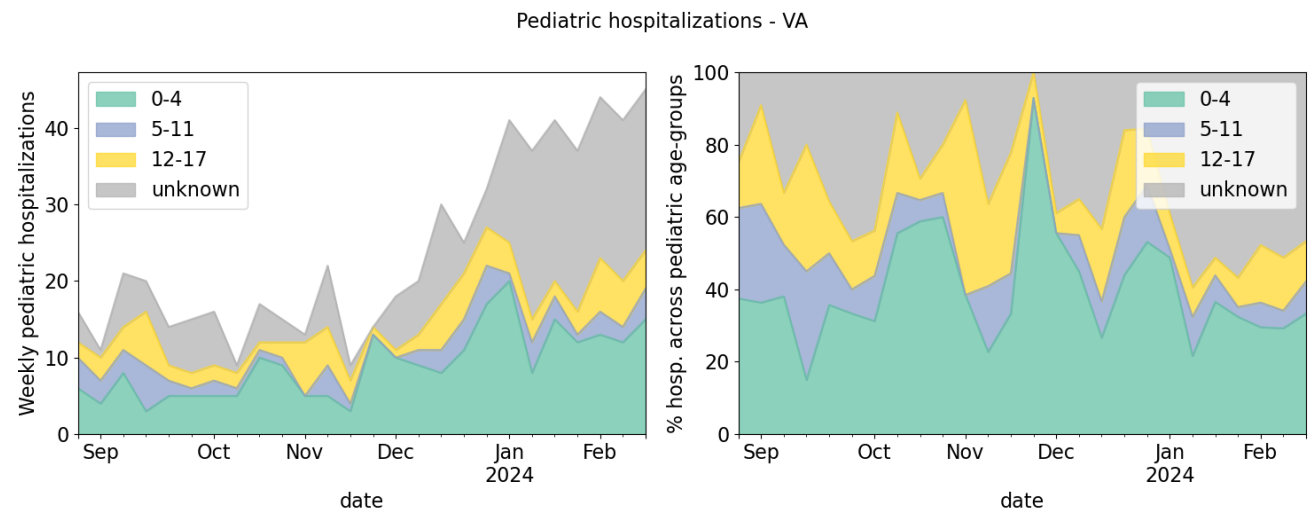
- Overall hospitalizations stable across all age groups
- Pediatric hospitalizations remain high compared to summer and fall

Note: These data are lagged and based on HHS hospital reporting

### Virginia Hospitalizations by Age (all ages)

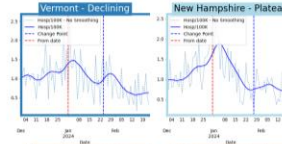
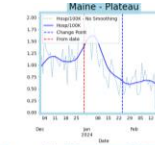
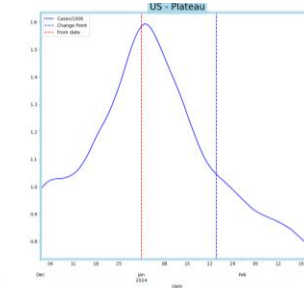
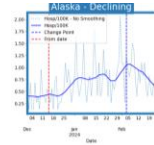


### Pediatric Hospitalizations by Age (0-17yo)

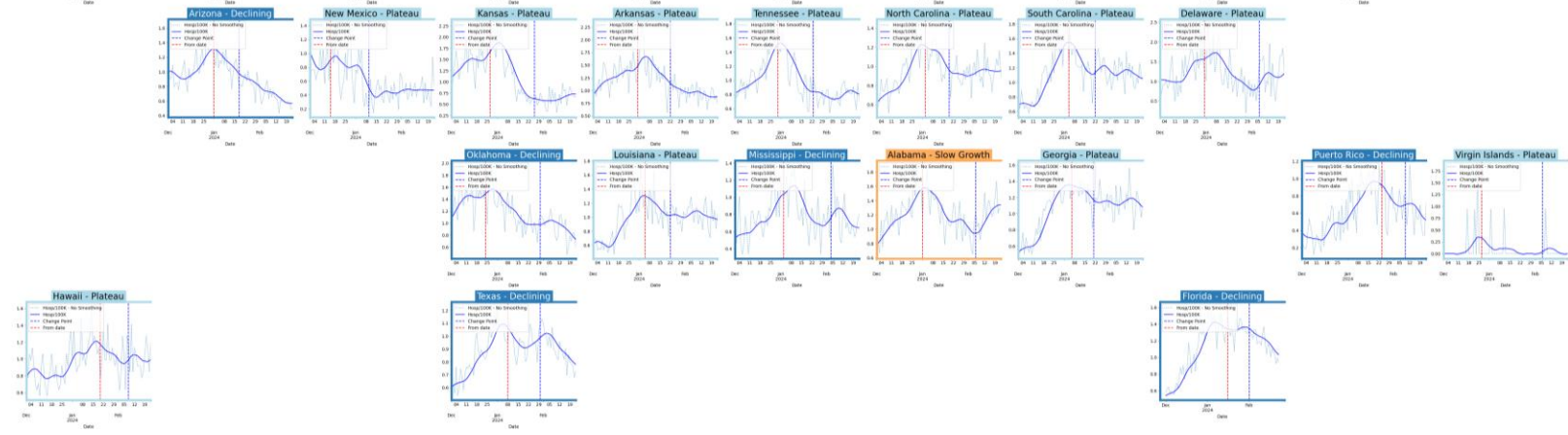
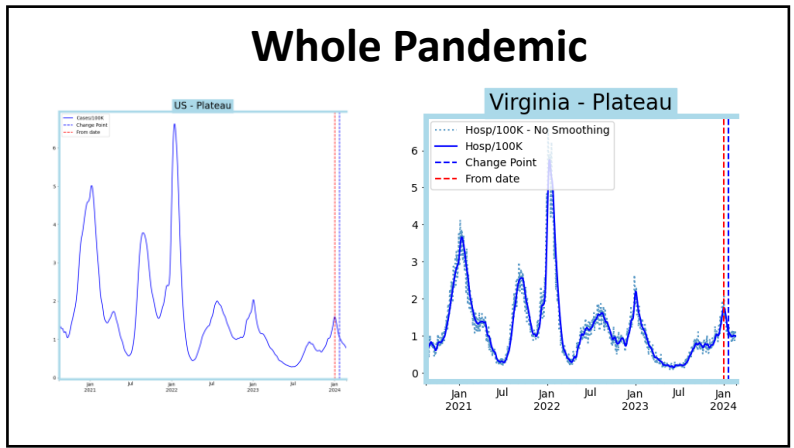
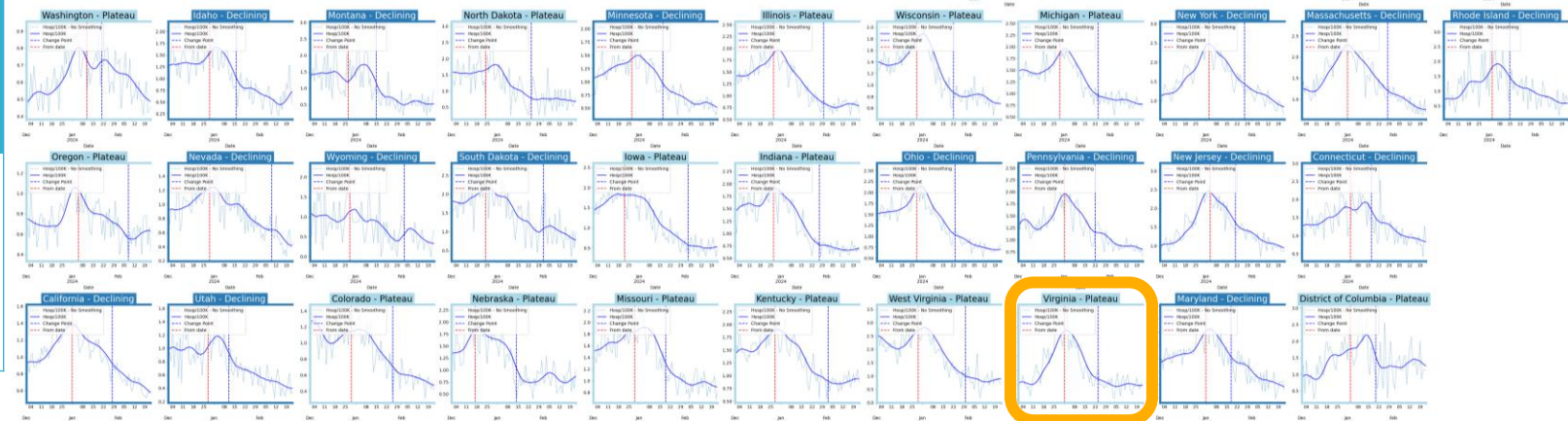




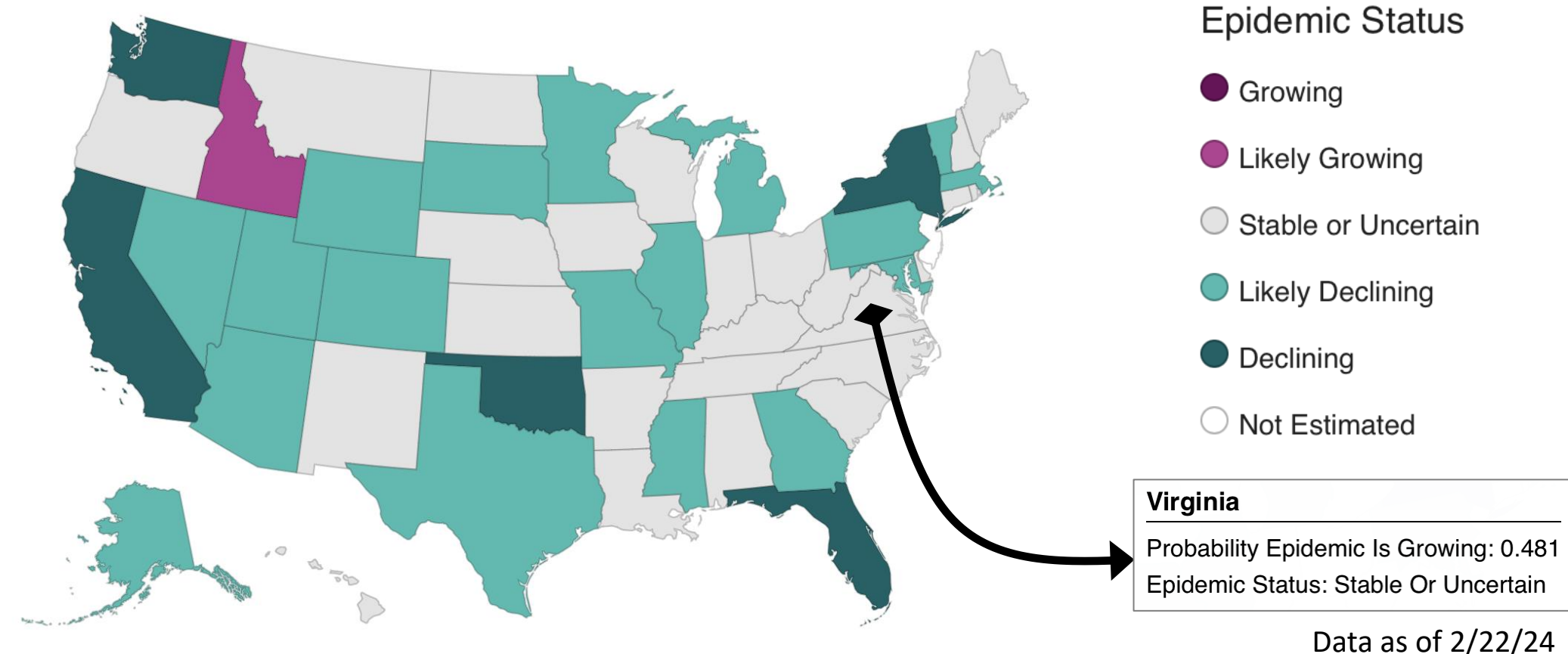
# United States Hospitalizations



| Status      | Current Week | Last Week |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Declining   | 25           | 27        |
| Plateau     | 27           | 25        |
| Slow Growth | 1            | 1         |
| In Surge    | 0            | 0         |



# COVID-19 Hospitalizations – Epidemic Growth



Territories **PR** **VI**



[CDC – CFA Epidemic Growth](#)



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# Estimating Daily Reproductive Number – EpiNow2 estimation

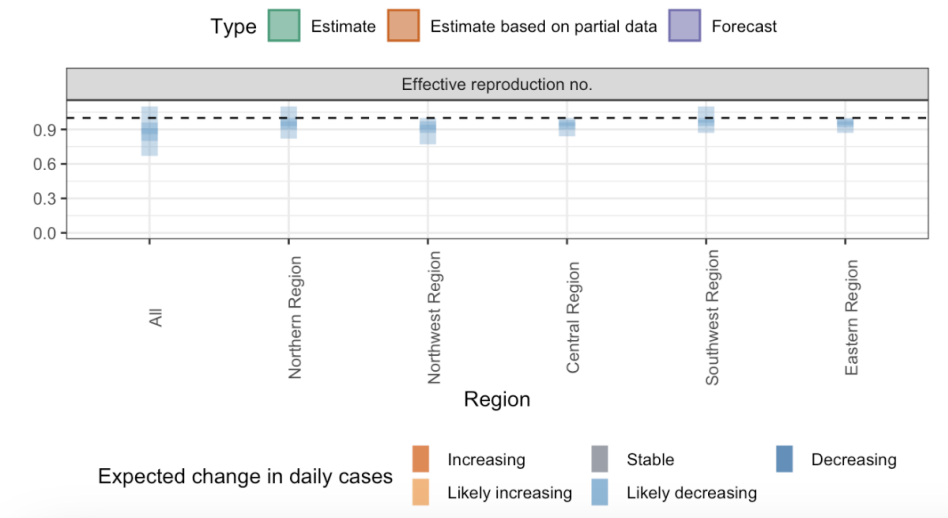
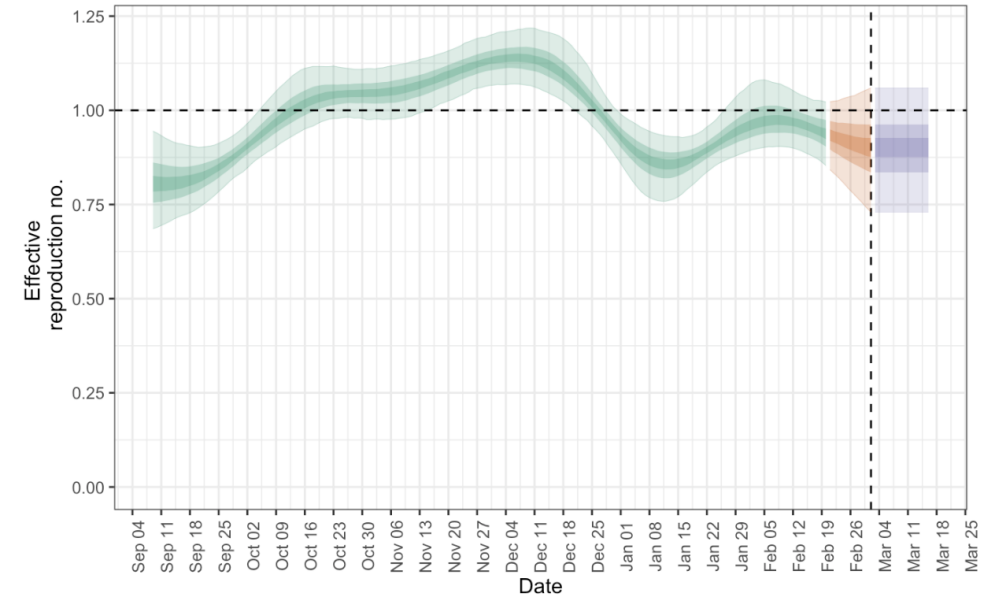
## Reproductive Estimate Summary, per data as of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

| Region     | Reproductive number estimate | Credible Interval | Trend forecast    |
|------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| State-wide | 0.89                         | (0.67 – 1.1)      | Likely decreasing |
| Central    | 0.94                         | (0.84 – 1)        | Likely decreasing |
| Eastern    | 0.95                         | (0.87 – 1)        | Likely decreasing |
| Northern   | 0.95                         | (0.82 – 1.1)      | Likely decreasing |
| Northwest  | 0.92                         | (0.77 – 1)        | Likely decreasing |
| Southwest  | 0.97                         | (0.87 – 1.1)      | Likely decreasing |

## Methodology

- Sam Abbott, Joel Hellewell, Katharine Sherratt, Katelyn Gostic, Joe Hickson, Hamada S. Badr, Michael DeWitt, Robin Thompson, EpiForecasts, Sebastian Funk (2020). **EpiNow2**: Estimate Real-Time Case Counts and Time-Varying Epidemiological Parameters. doi:10.5281/zenodo.3957489.
- COVID disease model parameters (including generation time and delay distributions) per CDC CFA blog: [https://www.cdc.gov/forecast-outbreak-analytics/about/technical-blog-rt.html#anchor\\_01204](https://www.cdc.gov/forecast-outbreak-analytics/about/technical-blog-rt.html#anchor_01204)
- Uses confirmation date but report date biases are accounted for; estimated date of infection is inferred using Bayesian smoothing techniques and used to produce Rt estimates.
- Source data: <https://data.virginia.gov/dataset/vdh-covid-19-publicusedataset-cli-by-healthdistrict>

## $R_e$ per confirmed ED diagnosis (last 6 months)

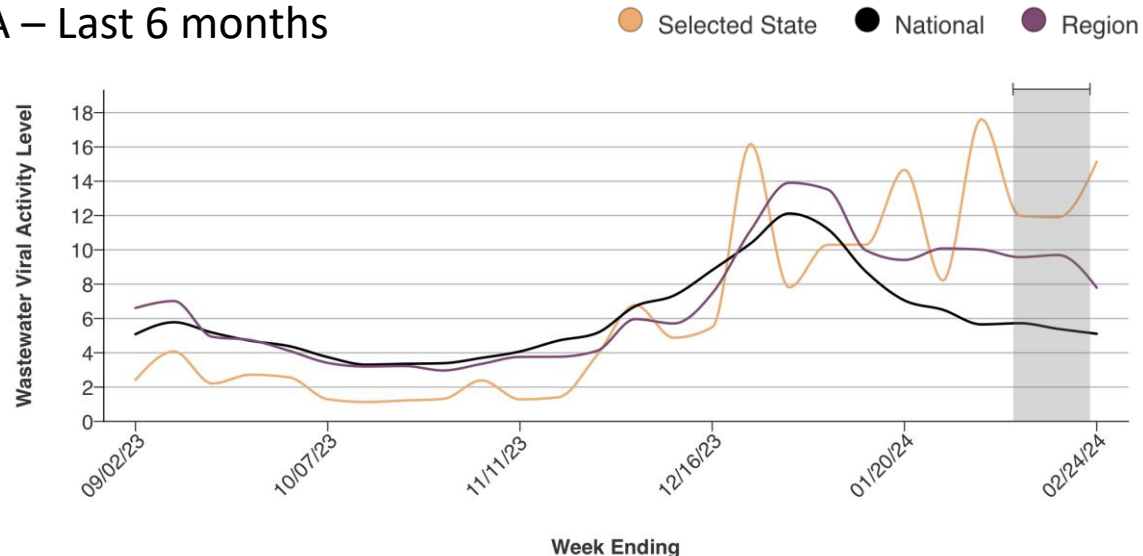


# Wastewater Monitoring – NWSS

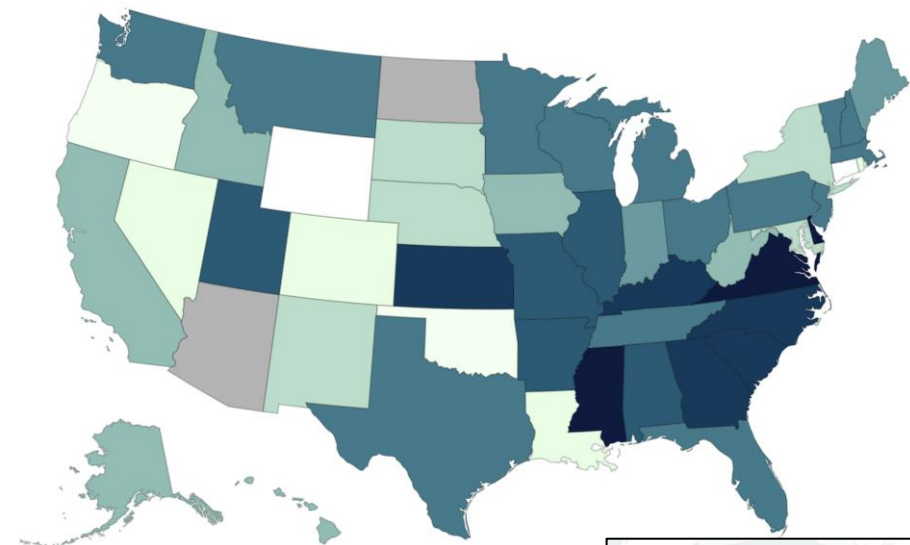
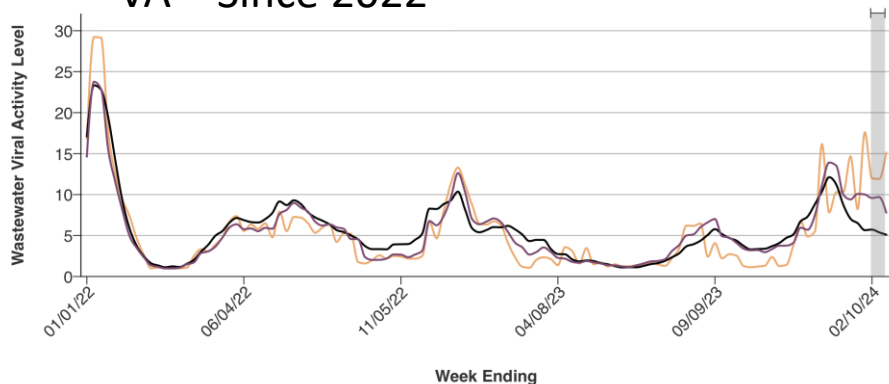
**Wastewater provides a coarse estimate of COVID-19 levels in communities**

- VA back to “Moderate” after being “Very High” due to artifacts last week
- Pervious, well observed, levels below region and national levels

VA – Last 6 months



VA – Since 2022



**State/Territory: Virginia**

Viral Activity Level: Very High

Sites Currently Reporting: 32

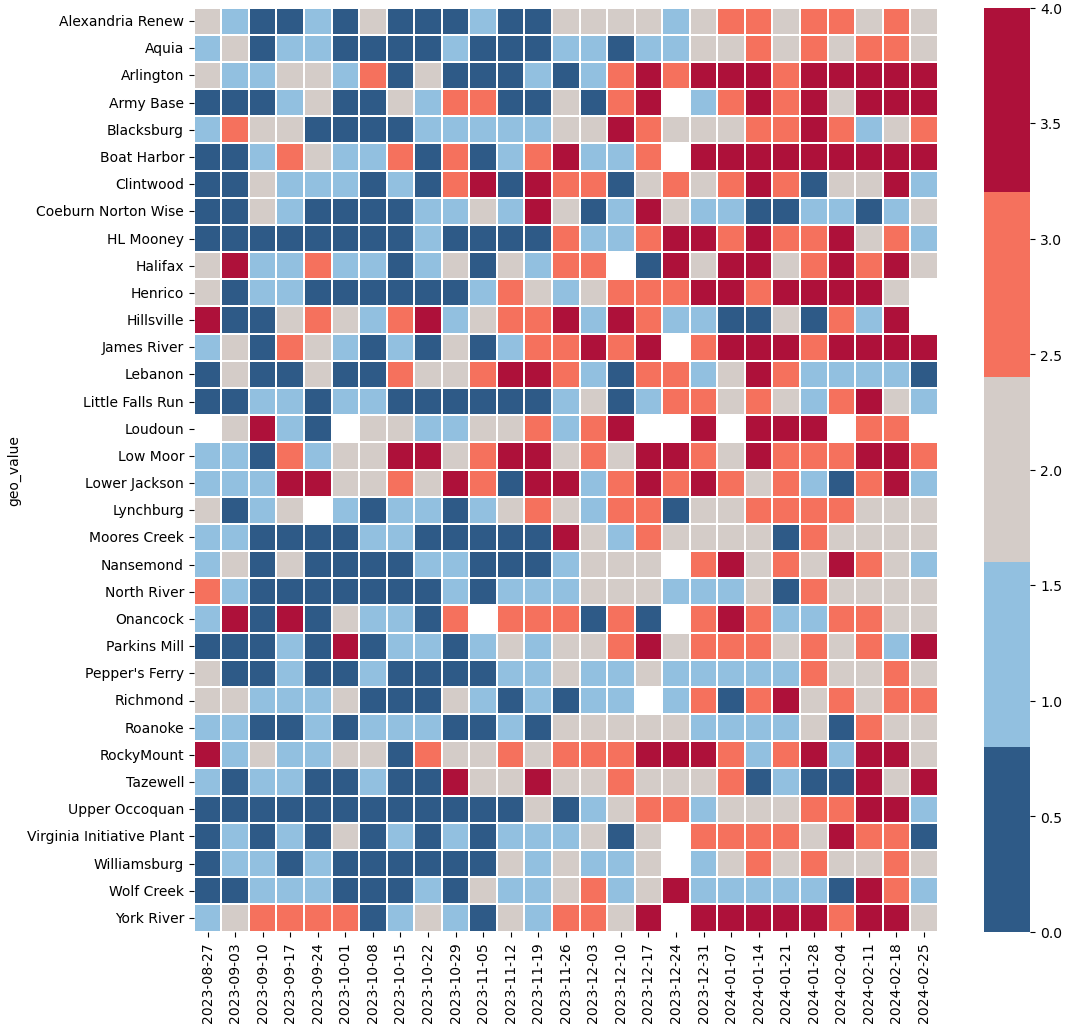
Current SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Viral Activity Level

Select a level to add or remove it from the visualization.

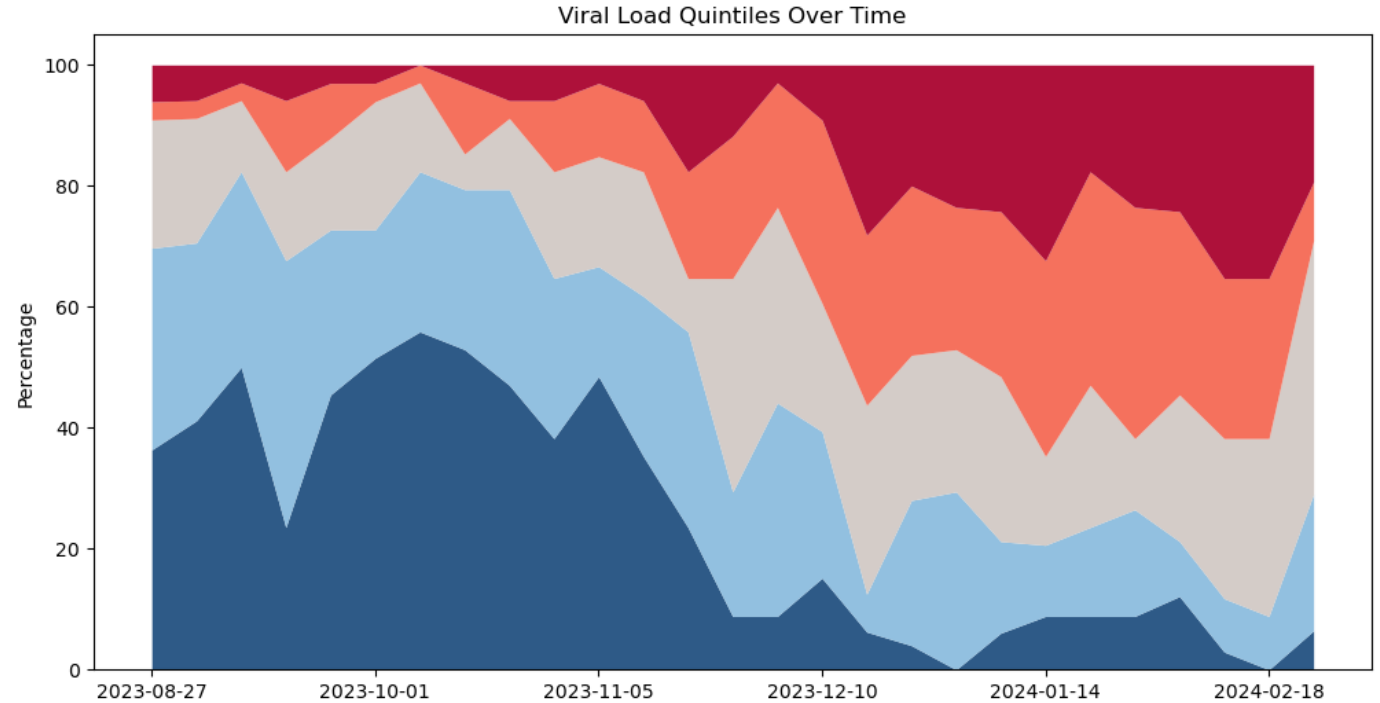
Very High High Moderate Low Minimal Insufficient Data

# Wastewater Monitoring – VA Sites

Wastewater provides COVID-19 levels in communities which correlate to disease burden



Last data point: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

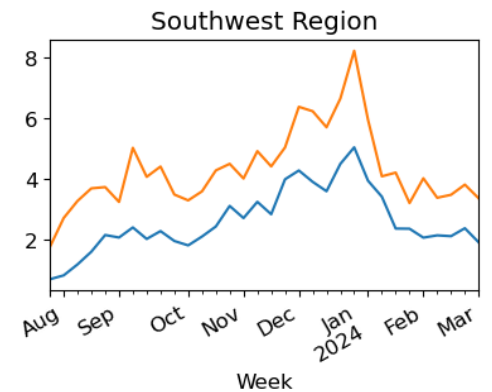
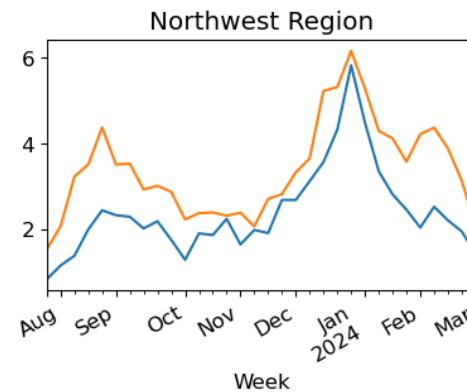
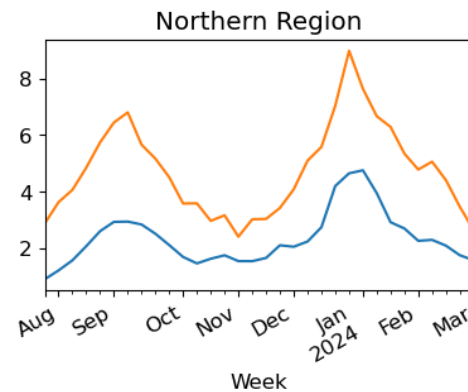
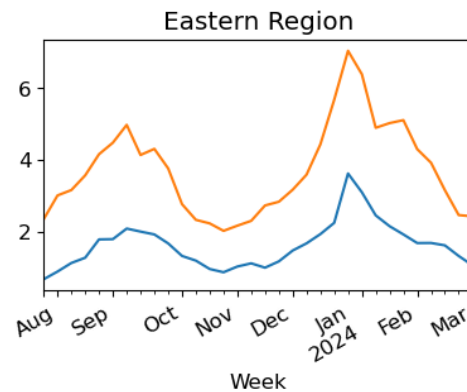
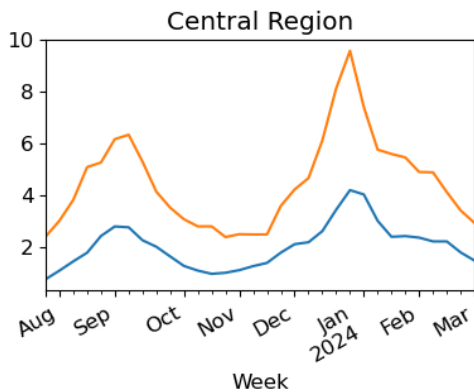
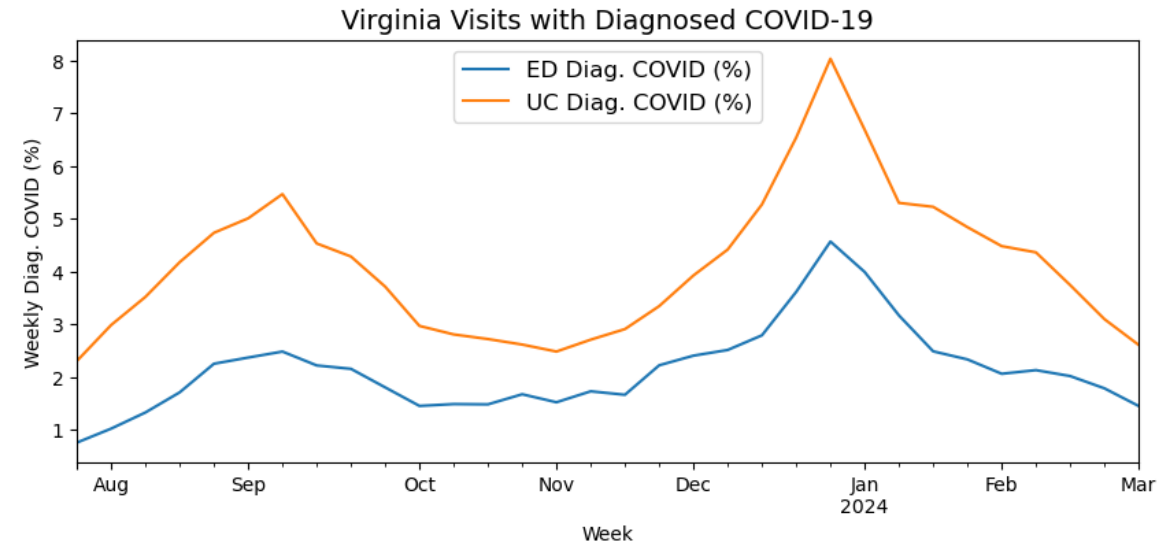


Quintile proportions over time  
Middle and higher are growing in past couple weeks

# ED & UC Visits with Diagnosed COVID-19

**National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) reports diagnosed COVID-19 from multiple healthcare settings**

- Week ending March 5<sup>h</sup>, 2024
- Diagnosed visits are a smoother more specific indicator than COVID-like Illness
- **COVID-19 Diagnosed visits show signs of further decline after a period so slowed decreases**

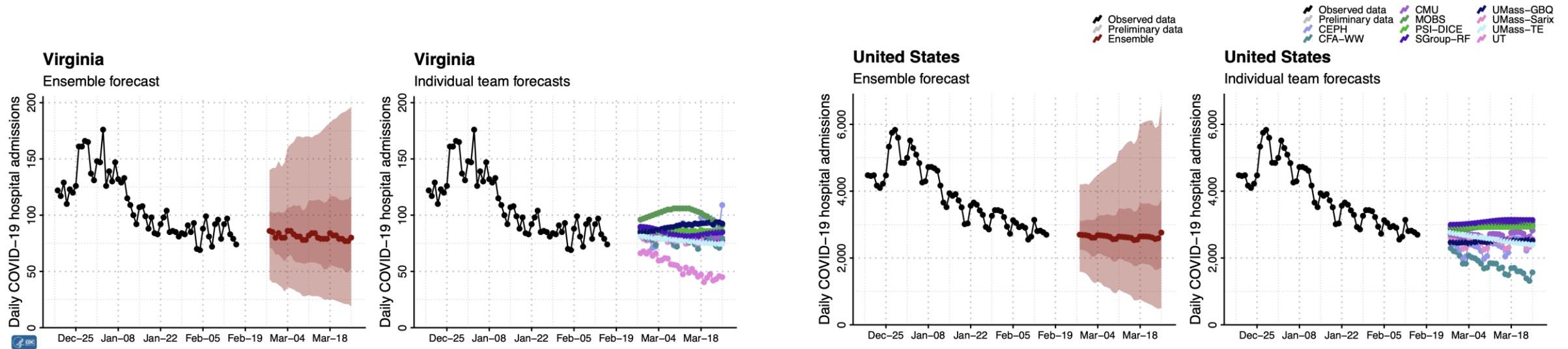


# Current COVID-19 Hospitalization Forecast

## Statistical models for submitting to CDC COVID Forecasting Hub

- Uses a variety of statistical and ML approaches to forecast weekly hospital admissions for the next 4 weeks for all states in the US

### Hospital Admissions for COVID-19 and Forecast for next 4 weeks (CDC COVID Ensemble) From February 26<sup>th</sup>



# COVID-19 Spatial Epidemiology

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# ZIP Code Level Case Rates Since Last Meeting

## New cases per 100k in the last four weeks

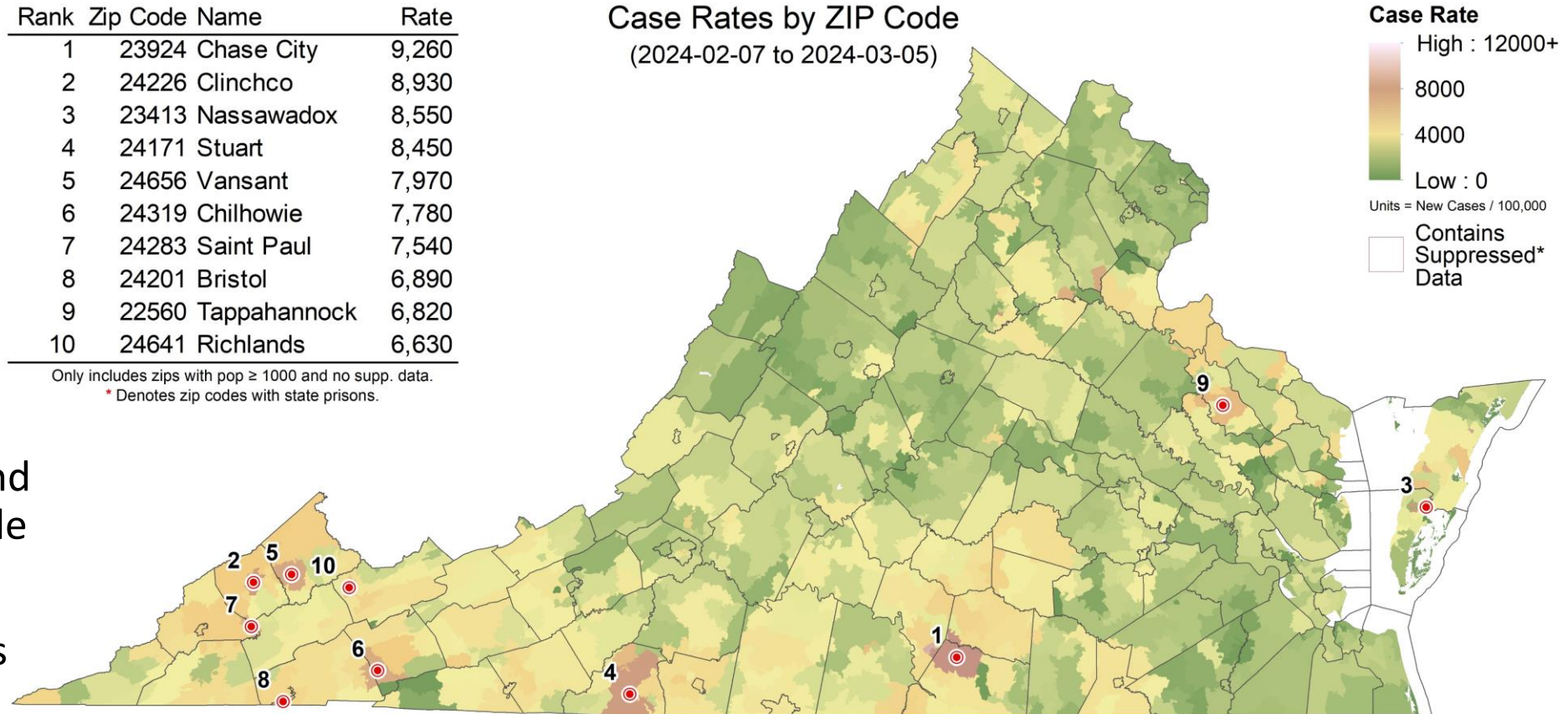
- Divide rates by **four** to calculate average weekly incidence.
- No change in color scale from last meeting.
- Case rates continue to decline across the Commonwealth.
- Rates remain elevated in far Southwest Virginia, and in a few isolated Southside ZIP codes.
- No ZIP codes with prisons appear in this week's top 10.

| Rank | Zip Code | Name         | Rate  |
|------|----------|--------------|-------|
| 1    | 23924    | Chase City   | 9,260 |
| 2    | 24226    | Clinchco     | 8,930 |
| 3    | 23413    | Nassawadox   | 8,550 |
| 4    | 24171    | Stuart       | 8,450 |
| 5    | 24656    | Vansant      | 7,970 |
| 6    | 24319    | Chilhowie    | 7,780 |
| 7    | 24283    | Saint Paul   | 7,540 |
| 8    | 24201    | Bristol      | 6,890 |
| 9    | 22560    | Tappahannock | 6,820 |
| 10   | 24641    | Richlands    | 6,630 |

Only includes zips with pop ≥ 1000 and no supp. data.

\* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Case Rates by ZIP Code  
(2024-02-07 to 2024-03-05)



Based on Spatial Empirical Bayes smoothed case rates, with an 8:1 ascertainment ratio, for four weeks ending 2024-02-06.

# Risk of Exposure / Spatial Clusters and Hot Spots

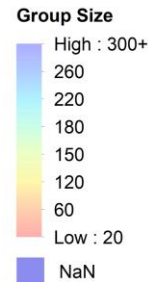
Case rates since last meeting by ZIP code used to calculate risk of encountering someone infected in a gathering of randomly selected people and find spatial hot spots

- **Group Size:** Assumes **8 undetected infections** per confirmed case (ascertainment rate from recent seroprevalence survey) and shows minimum size of a group with a 50% chance an individual is infected by ZIP code (e.g., in a group of 29 in Chase City, there is a 50% chance someone will be infected).
- **Spatial Clustering:** Getis-Ord  $G_i^*$  based hot spots compare clusters of ZIP codes with **four-week** case rates higher than nearby ZIP codes to identify larger areas with statistically significant deviations. SaTScan was used to corroborate this analysis and determine relative risk for identified clusters.

| Rank | Zip Code | Name         | Size |
|------|----------|--------------|------|
| 1    | 23924    | Chase City   | 29   |
| 2    | 24226    | Clinchco     | 30   |
| 3    | 23413    | Nassawadox   | 31   |
| 4    | 24171    | Stuart       | 31   |
| 5    | 24656    | Vansant      | 33   |
| 6    | 24319    | Chilhowie    | 34   |
| 7    | 24283    | Saint Paul   | 35   |
| 8    | 24201    | Bristol      | 39   |
| 9    | 22560    | Tappahannock | 39   |
| 10   | 24641    | Richlands    | 40   |

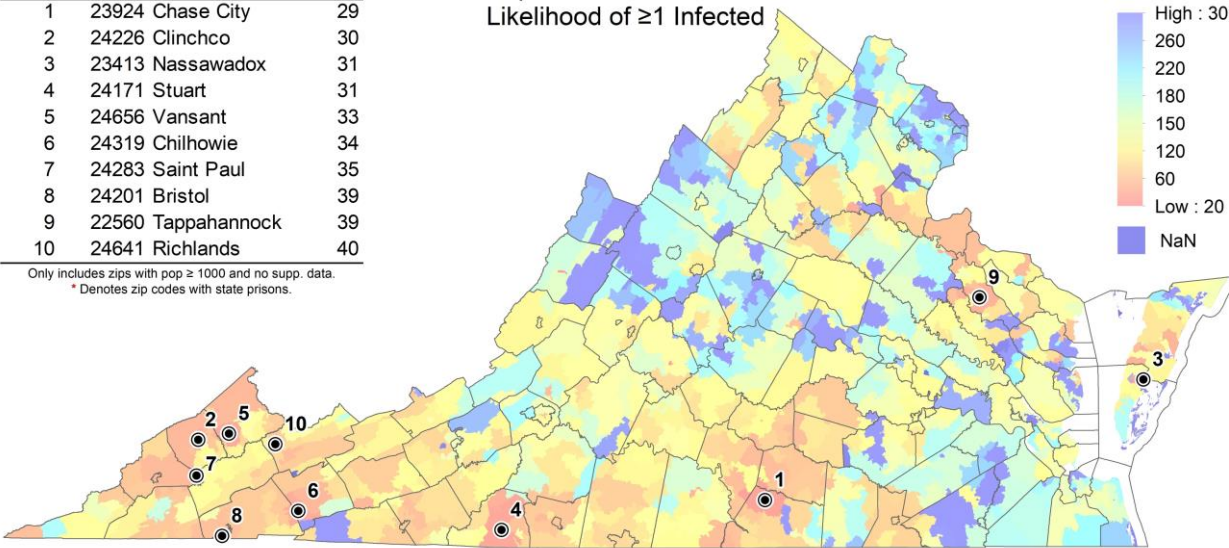
Only includes zips with pop ≥ 1000 and no supp. data.  
 \* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Group Size Needed for 50% Likelihood of ≥1 Infected

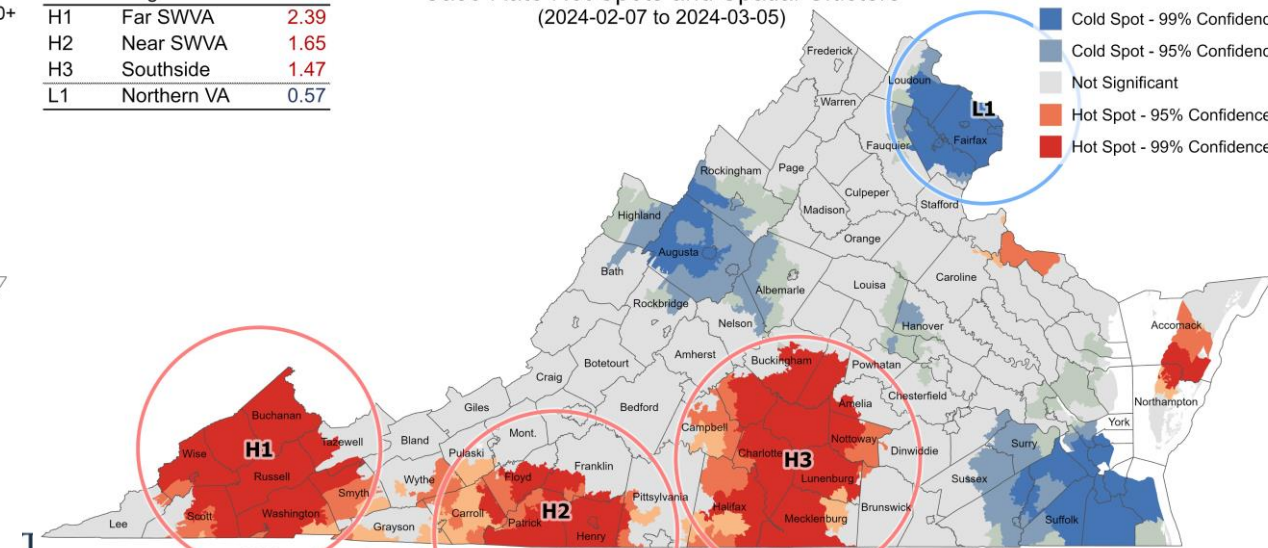


| Cluster | Region      | Rel. Risk |
|---------|-------------|-----------|
| H1      | Far SWVA    | 2.39      |
| H2      | Near SWVA   | 1.65      |
| H3      | Southside   | 1.47      |
| L1      | Northern VA | 0.57      |

Case Rate Hot Spots and Spatial Clusters (2024-02-07 to 2024-03-05)



Based on Spatial Empirical Bayes smoothed point prevalence, with an 8:1 ascertainment ratio, for four weeks ending 2024-03-05.



SaTScan clusters have a minimum population of 50,000 and 10 locations, a RR ≥1.4 or RR ≤ 0.6, and a max radius of 75 km. Optimized Hot Spots based on Global Empirical Bayes smoothed point prevalence for the four weeks ending 2024-03-05.

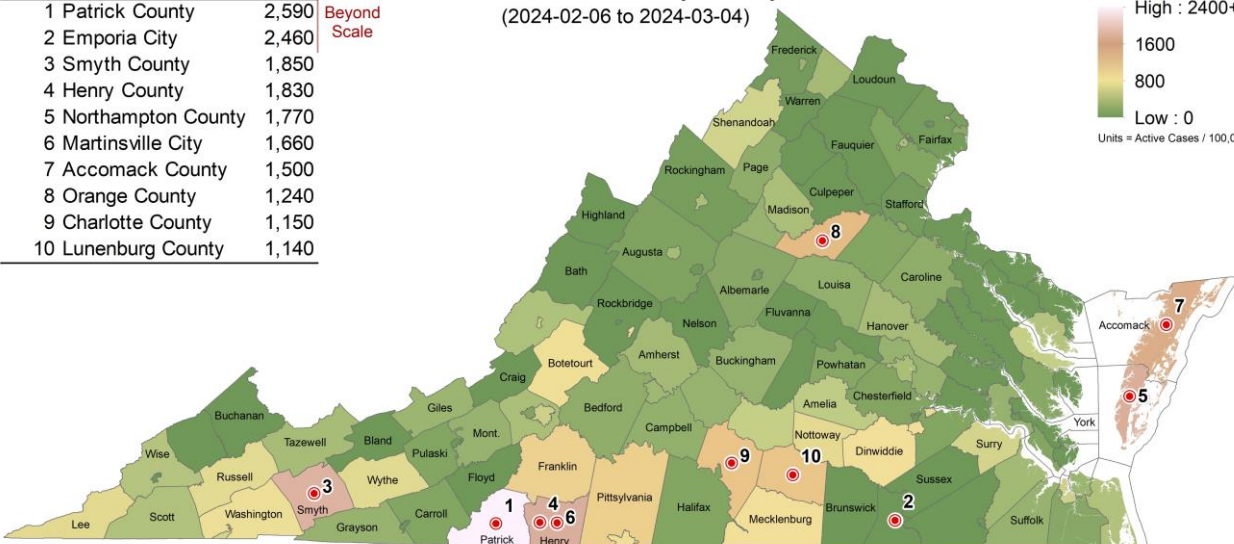
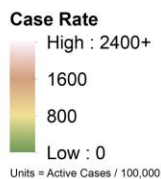
# COVID-19 among Healthcare Workers

**COVID-19 case rates for the public and for healthcare workers (HCW) were compared to find regions where HCW suffered unusually high burdens of disease**

- **HCW Rate:** Case rate among health care workers (HCW) over a four-week period ending January 8, 2024.
- **HCW Ratio:** Case rate among health care workers (HCW) over the same period using patient facing healthcare workers as the numerator, and the population’s case rate as the denominator.
- The healthcare case to public case ratio is well below one in most counties. Only a few show an elevation in HCW cases and a high healthcare worker to public case ratio (e.g. Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties).

| Rank | Name               | Prev  |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1    | Patrick County     | 2,590 |
| 2    | Emporia City       | 2,460 |
| 3    | Smyth County       | 1,850 |
| 4    | Henry County       | 1,830 |
| 5    | Northampton County | 1,770 |
| 6    | Martinsville City  | 1,660 |
| 7    | Accomack County    | 1,500 |
| 8    | Orange County      | 1,240 |
| 9    | Charlotte County   | 1,150 |
| 10   | Lunenburg County   | 1,140 |

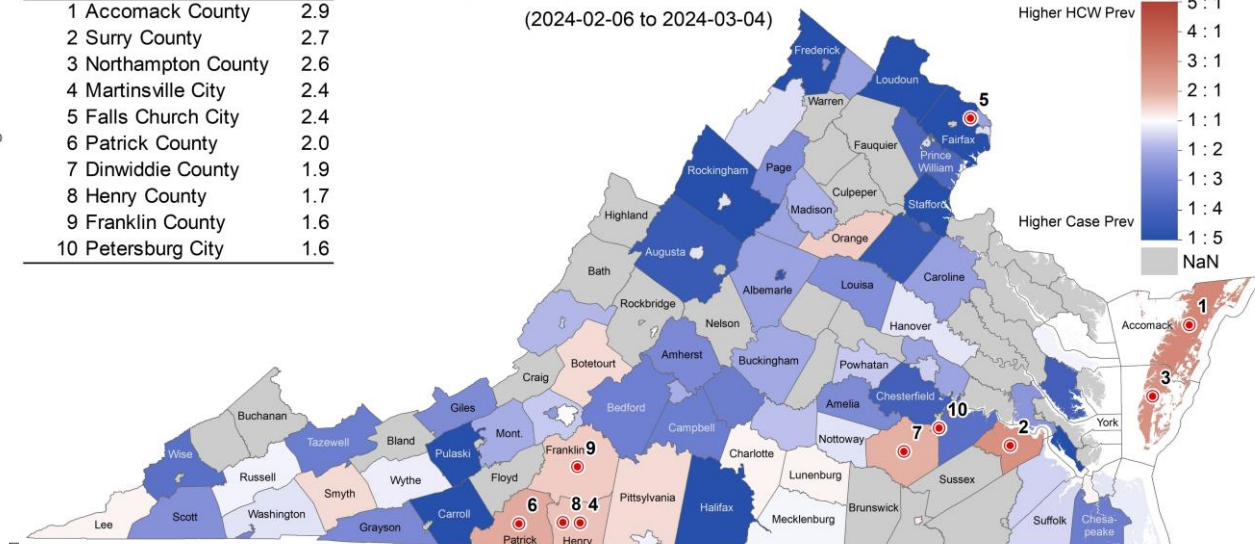
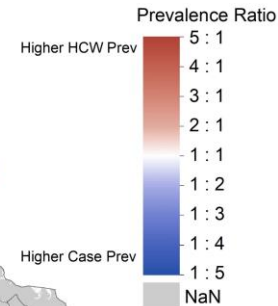
HCW Case Rate by County  
(2024-02-06 to 2024-03-04)



Note: Scale differs from general public prevalence maps.

| Rank | Name               | Ratio |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1    | Accomack County    | 2.9   |
| 2    | Surry County       | 2.7   |
| 3    | Northampton County | 2.6   |
| 4    | Martinsville City  | 2.4   |
| 5    | Falls Church City  | 2.4   |
| 6    | Patrick County     | 2.0   |
| 7    | Dinwiddie County   | 1.9   |
| 8    | Henry County       | 1.7   |
| 9    | Franklin County    | 1.6   |
| 10   | Petersburg City    | 1.6   |

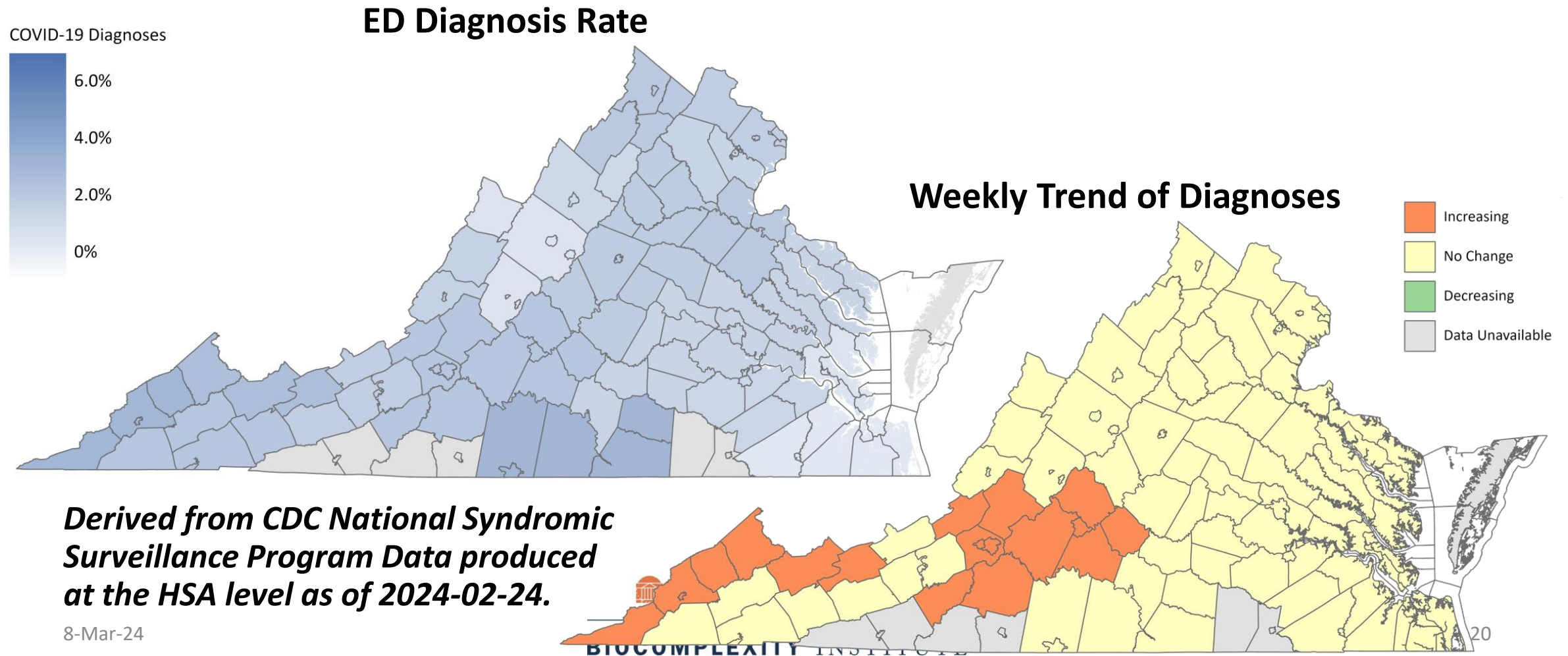
HCW Prevalence / Case Prevalence  
(2024-02-06 to 2024-03-04)



Note: This assumes that the ascertainment rate of healthcare workers is double that of the public.

# Emergency Department Diagnosis Rate – COVID-19

Southside and Far SW report the highest rates, though these are only about half what they were at last report (now 3%). Far SW and the Roanoke-Lynchburg area report increases.



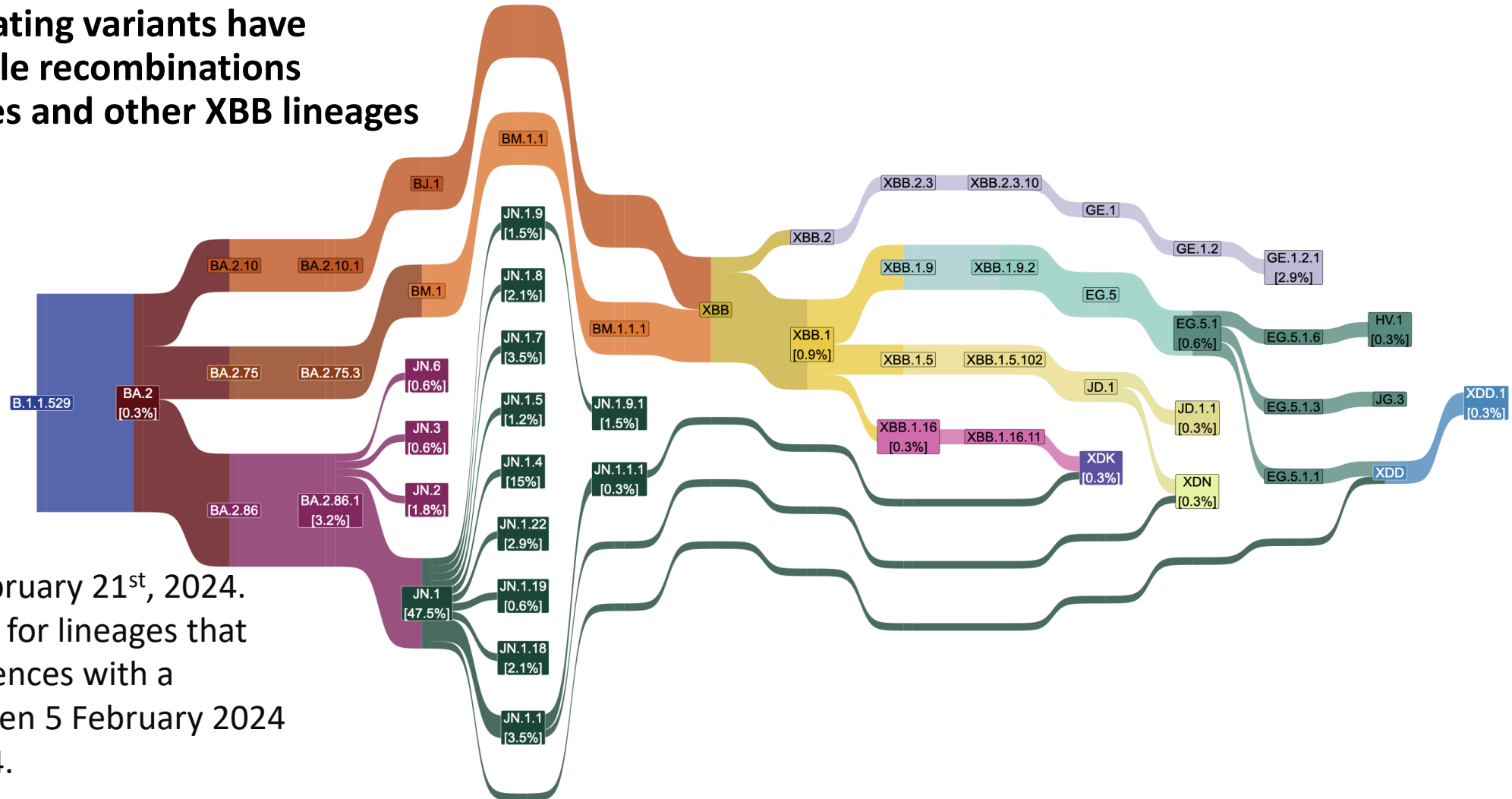
# COVID-19 Genomic Update

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# SARS-CoV2 Variants of Concern

A variety of co-circulating variants have emerged with multiple recombinations between JN.1 lineages and other XBB lineages



Data shown as of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Proportions are given for lineages that are observed in sequences with a specimen date between 5 February 2024 and 16 February 2024.

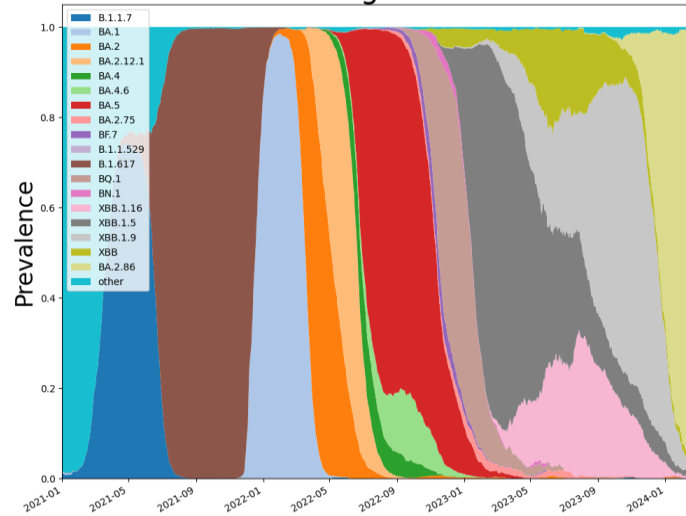
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sars-cov-2-genome-sequence-prevalence-and-growth-rate/sars-cov-2-genome-sequence-prevalence-and-growth-rate-update-21-february-2024>

# SARS-CoV2 Omicron Sub-Variants

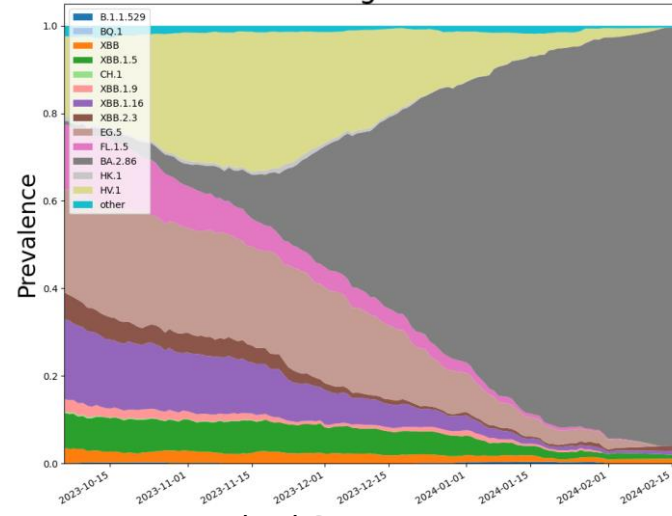
As detected in whole Genomes in public repositories

VoC Polynomial Fit Projections

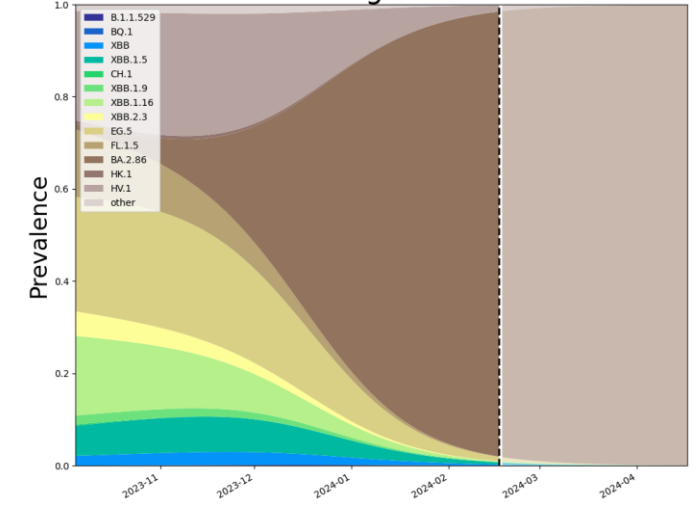
Virginia



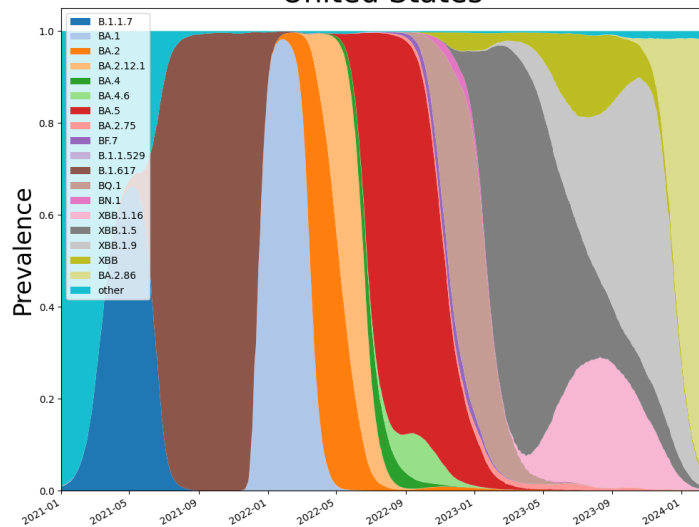
Virginia



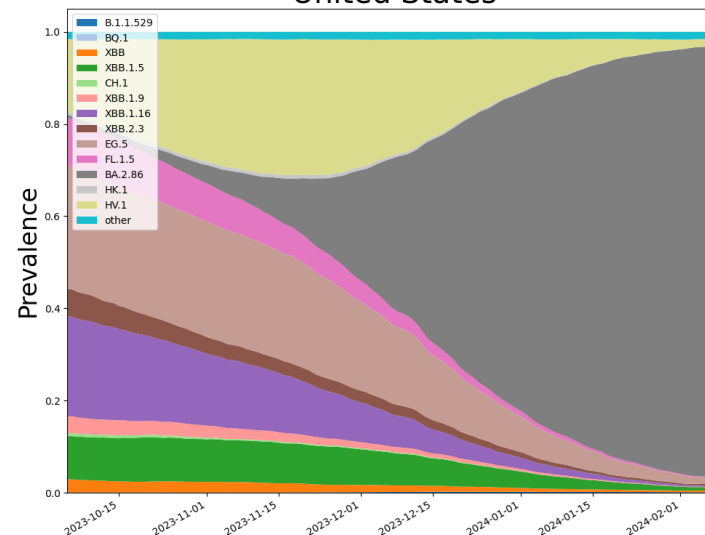
Virginia



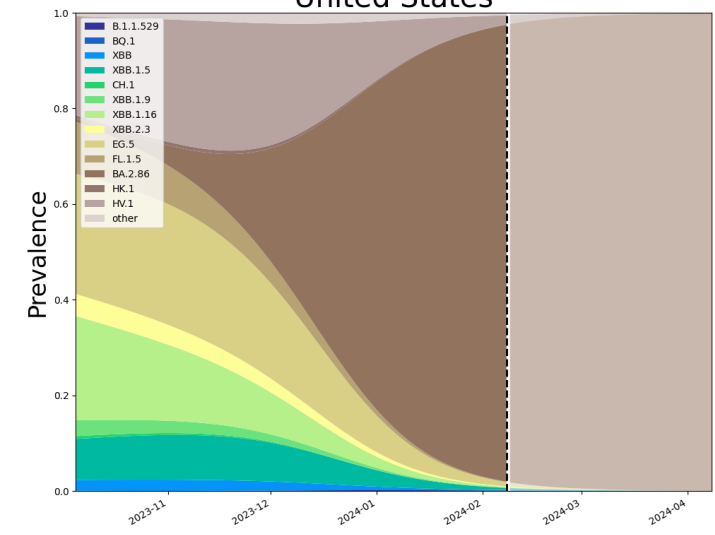
United States



United States



United States



Note:  
Everything  
from dotted  
line forward is  
a projection.



# SARS-CoV2 Omicron Sub-Variants

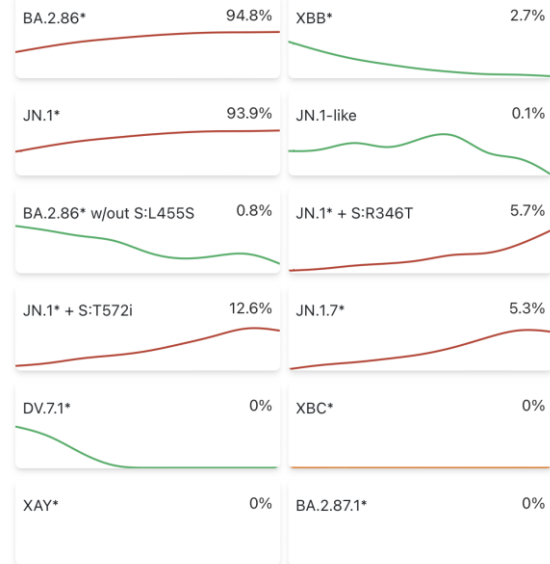
## COV-spectrum

“Editor’s choice”  
Variants to watch

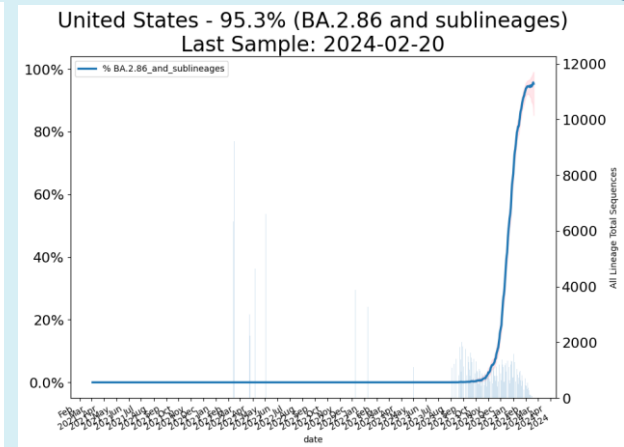
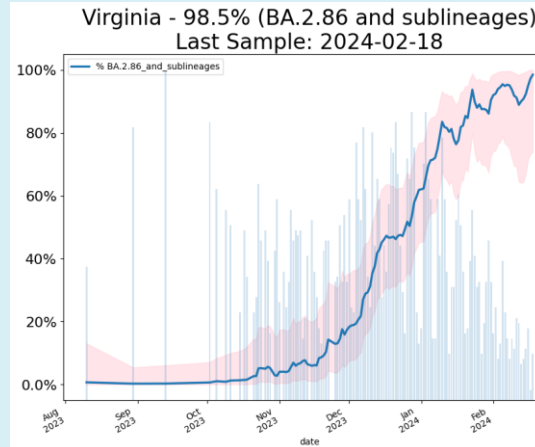
### Known variants

Which variant would you like to explore?

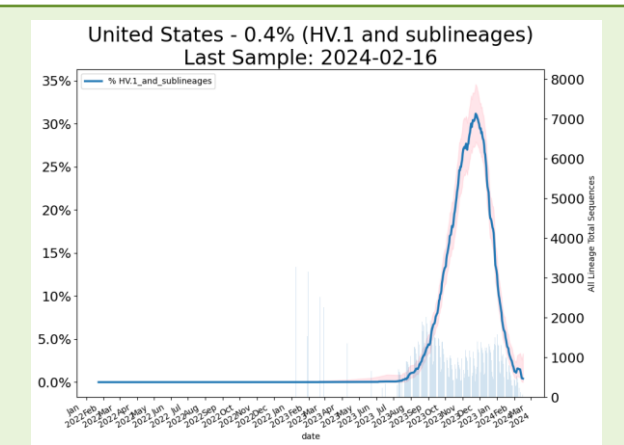
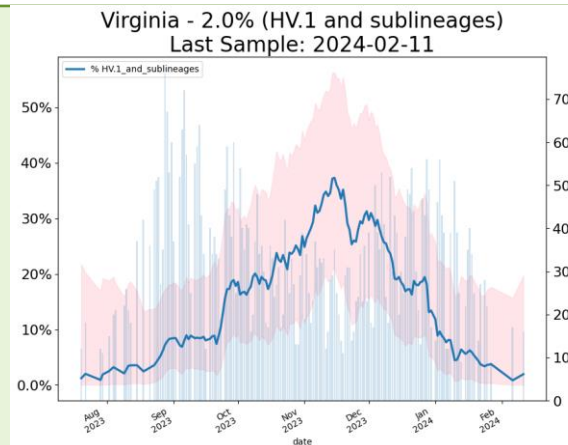
Editor's choice ▼



## BA.2.86\* (JN.1\*)



## HV.1\*



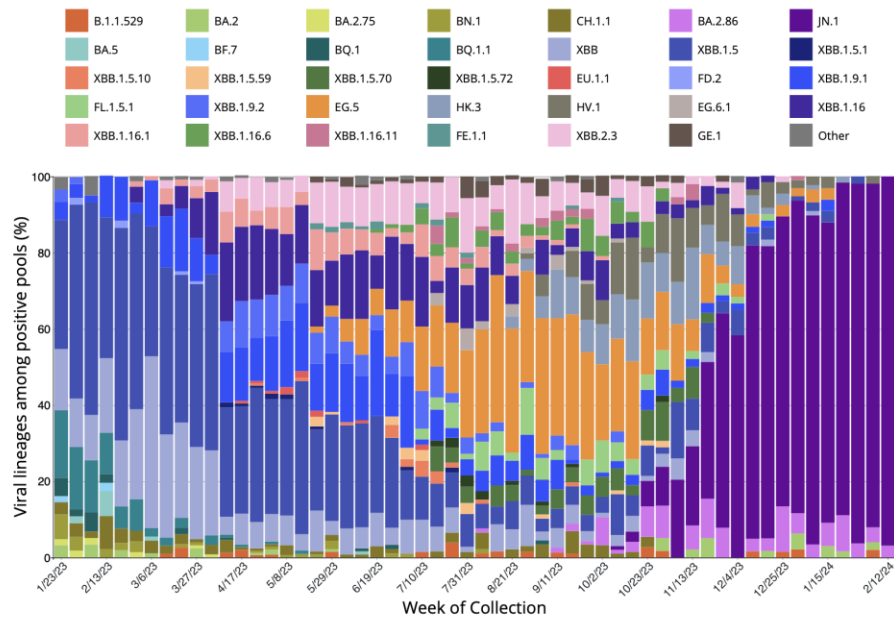
covSPECTRUM

Enabled by data from GISAID

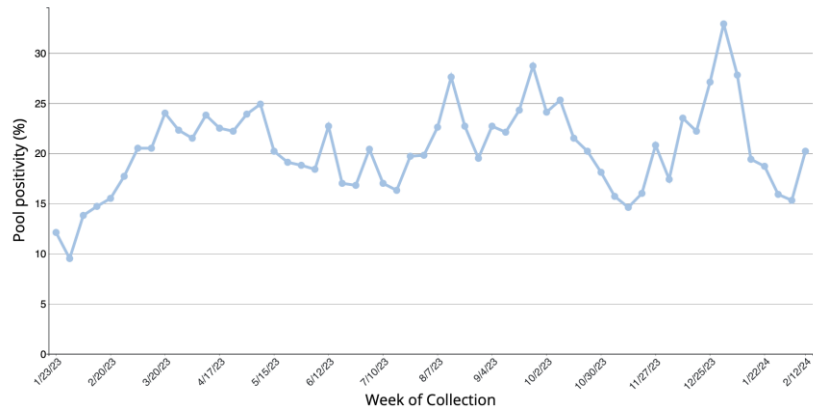
# Global SARS-CoV-2 Variant Status

## Traveller Surveillance

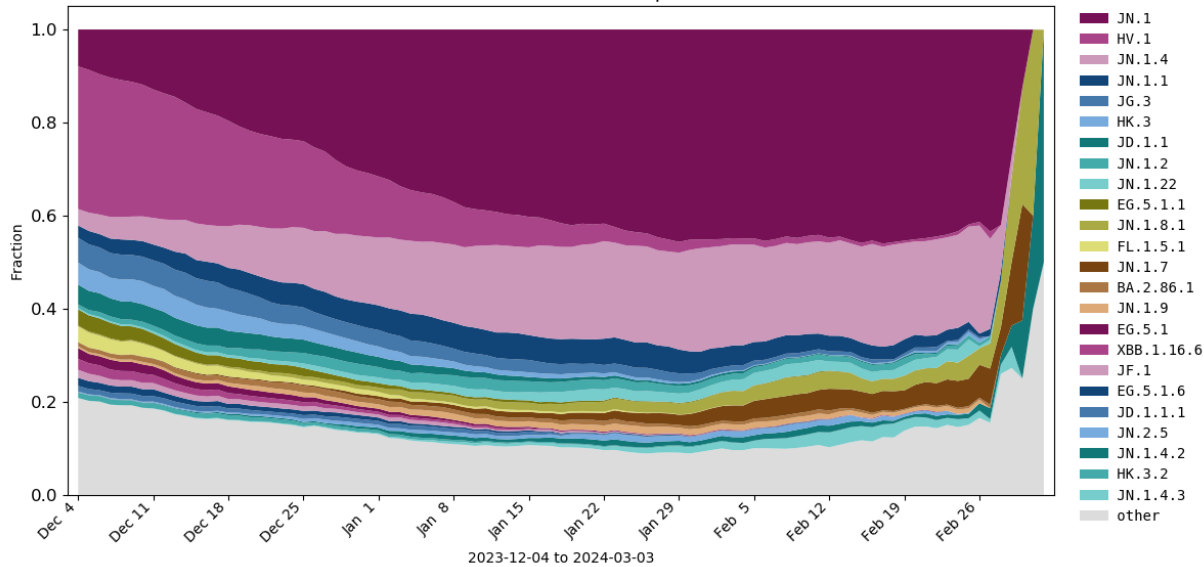
Variants Detected, by Collection Week



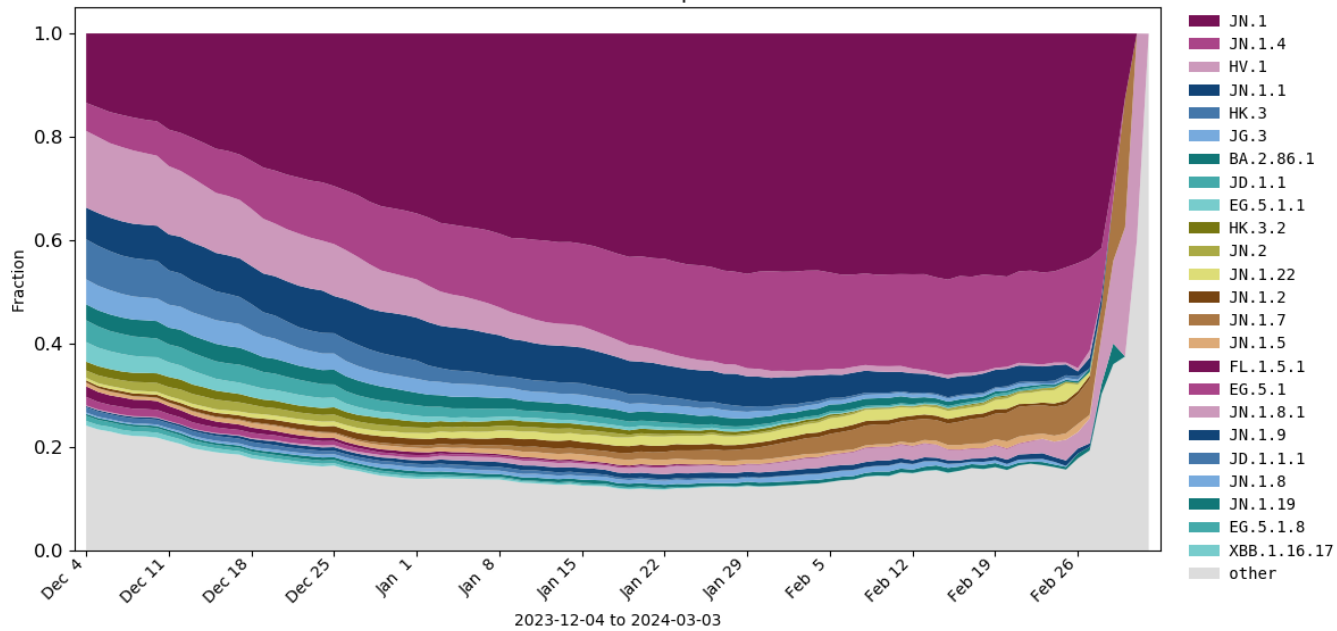
Positivity Rate for Pooled Samples, by Collection Week



North-America: 87135 sequences

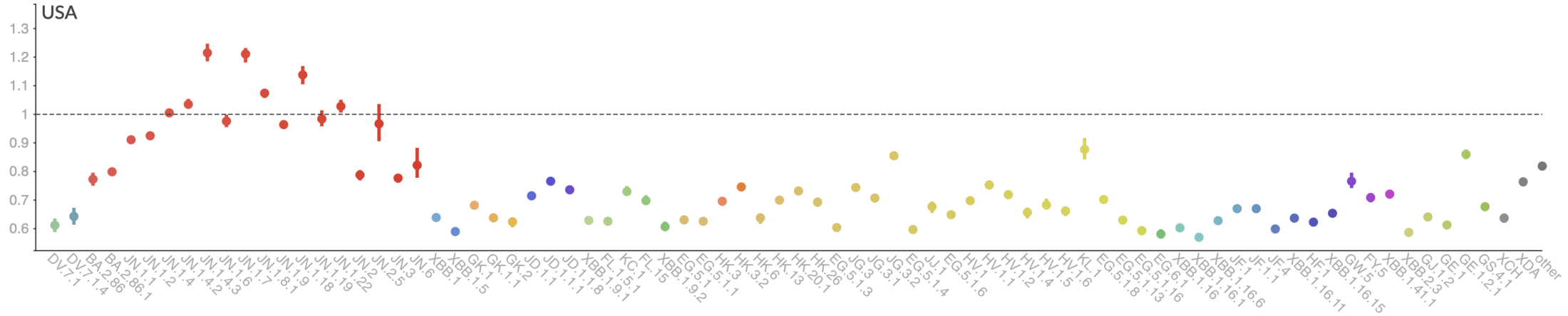


Global: 186317 sequences



# Global SARS-CoV2 Variant Status

<https://nextstrain.org/sars-cov-2/forecasts/>

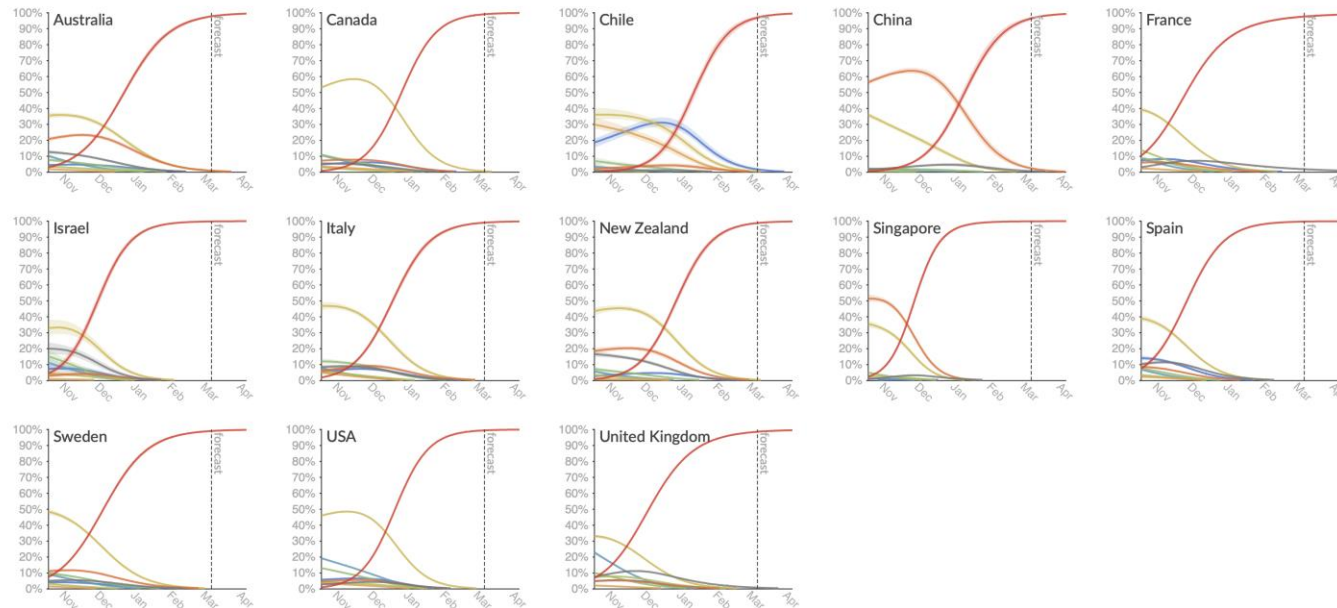


## Clade frequencies over time

Each line represents the estimated frequency of a particular clade through time. Equivalent Pango lineage is given in parenthesis, eg clade 23A (lineage XBB.1.5). Only locations with more than 100 sequences from samples collected in the previous 150 days are included. Results last updated 2024-03-05.

Logit transform  Daily raw data  Weekly raw data

● 23A (XBB.1.5) ● 23B (XBB.1.16) ● 23D (XBB.1.9) ● 23E (XBB.2.3) ● 23F (EG.5.1) ● 23G (XBB.1.5.70) ● 23H (HK.3) ● other ● 23I (BA.2.86)



## Lineage growth advantage

These plots show the estimated growth advantage for given Pango lineages relative to lineage JN.1. This describes how many more secondary infections a variant causes on average relative to lineage JN.1. Vertical bars show the 95% HPD. The "hierarchical" panel shows pooled estimate of growth rates across different locations. Results last updated 2024-03-05.

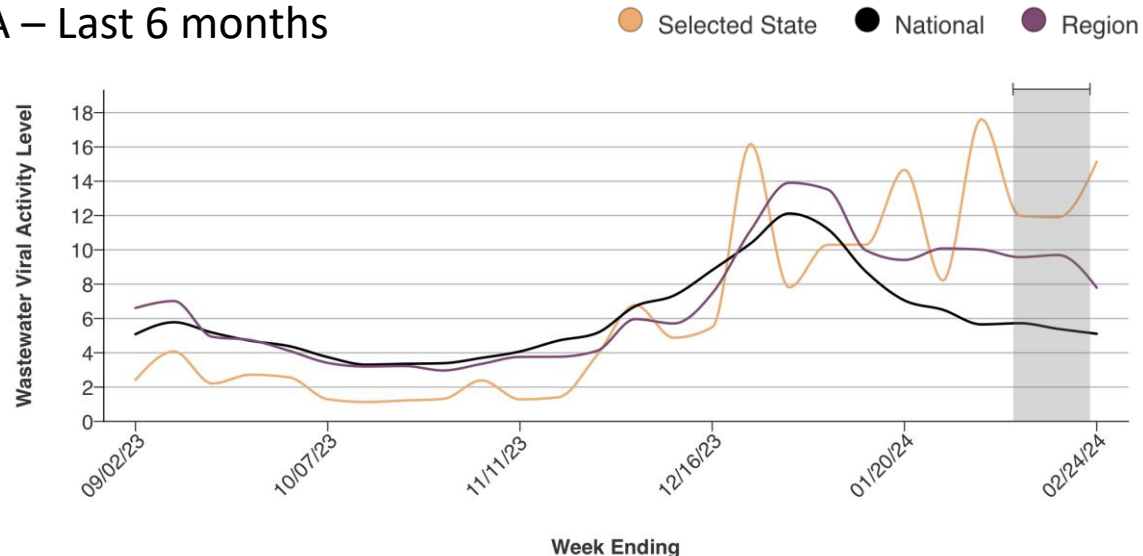
● DV.7.1 ● DV.7.1.4 ● BA.2.86 ● BA.2.86.1 ● JN.1.1 ● JN.1.2 ● JN.1.4 ● JN.1.4.2 ● JN.1.4.3 ● JN.1.7 ● JN.1.8.1 ● JN.1.9 ● JN.1.18 ● JN.1.19 ● JN.1.22 ● JN.2 ● JN.2.5 ● JN.3 ● JN.6 ● XBB.1 ● XBB.1.5 ● GK.1 ● GK.1.1 ● GK.2 ● JD.1.1 ● JD.1.1.1 ● JD.1.1.8 ● XBB.1.9.1 ● XBB.1.9.1.1 ● KC.1 ● FL.15 ● XBB.1.9.2 ● EG.5.1 ● EG.5.1.1 ● HK.3 ● HK.3.2 ● HK.6 ● HK.13 ● HK.20.1 ● HK.26 ● EG.5.1.3 ● JG.3.1 ● JG.3.2 ● EG.5.1.4 ● JI.1 ● EG.5.1.6 ● HV.1 ● HV.1.1 ● HV.1.2 ● HV.1.4 ● HV.1.5 ● HV.1.6 ● KL.1 ● EG.5.1.8 ● EG.5.1.13 ● EG.5.1.16 ● EG.6.1 ● XBB.1.16 ● XBB.1.16.1 ● XBB.1.16.6 ● JF.1 ● JF.1.1 ● JF.4 ● XBB.1.16.11 ● HF.1 ● XBB.1.16.15 ● GW.5 ● FY.5 ● XBB.1.41.1 ● XBB.2.3 ● GJ.1.2 ● GE.1 ● GE.1.2.1 ● GS.4.1 ● other

# Wastewater Monitoring – NWSS

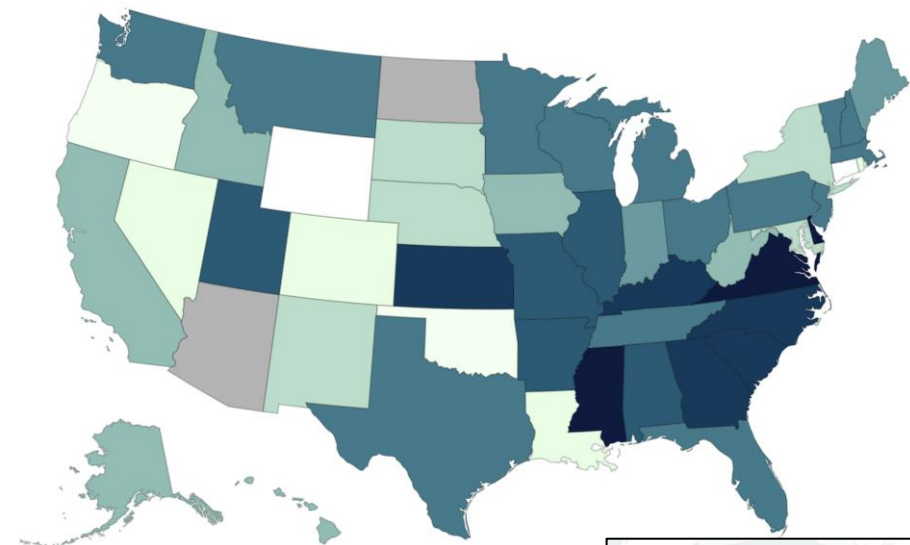
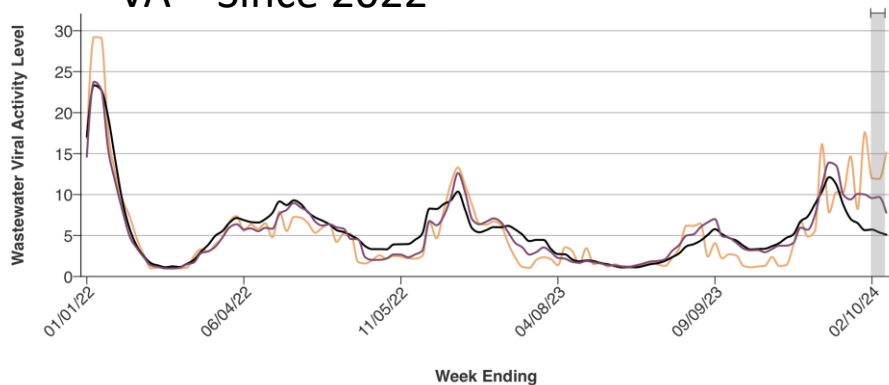
**Wastewater provides a coarse estimate of COVID-19 levels in communities**

- VA back to “Moderate” after being “Very High” due to artifacts last week
- Pervious, well observed, levels below region and national levels

VA – Last 6 months



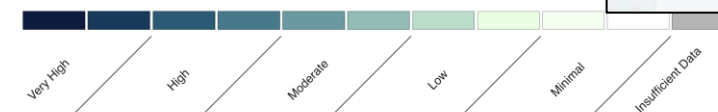
VA – Since 2022



**State/Territory: Virginia**  
 Viral Activity Level: Very High  
 Sites Currently Reporting: 32

Current SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Viral Activity Level

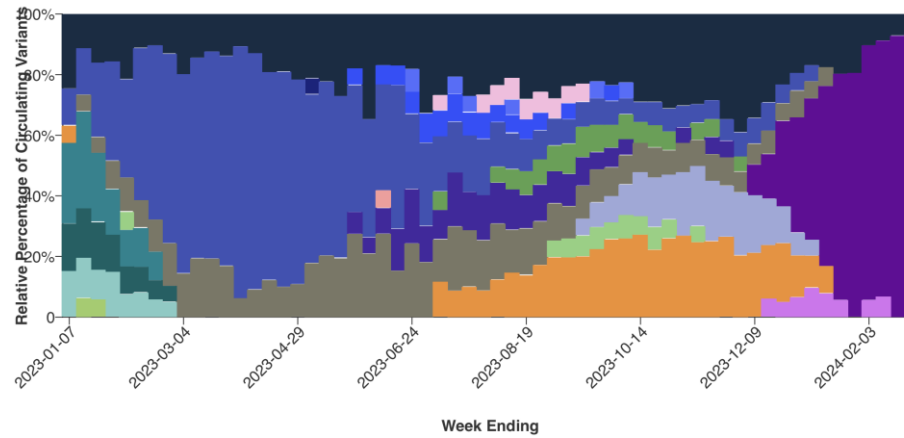
Select a level to add or remove it from the visualization.



# National Wastewater Variant Status

## CDC Wastewater

The BA.2.86 variant category includes all JN.\* sublineages except JN.1 which is separated out into its own callout group.



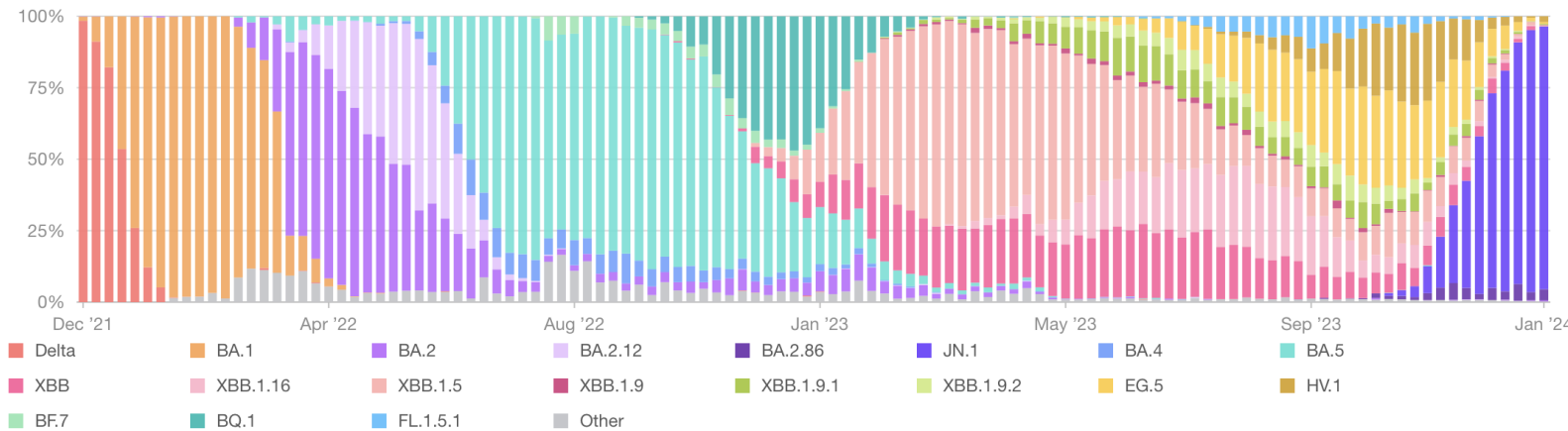
**Week Ending: 2024-02-24**  
 JN.1: 94%  
 Other: 6%

Select a variant to add or remove it from the visualization.

- BA.2
- BA.2.86
- BA.5
- BQ.1
- EG.5
- FL.1.5.1
- HK.3
- HV.1
- JN.1
- XBB
- XBB.1.16
- XBB.1.16.1
- XBB.1.16.6
- XBB.1.5
- XBB.1.5.1
- XBB.1.5.59
- XBB.1.9.1
- XBB.1.9.2
- XBB.2.3
- Other

## Biobot Wastewater

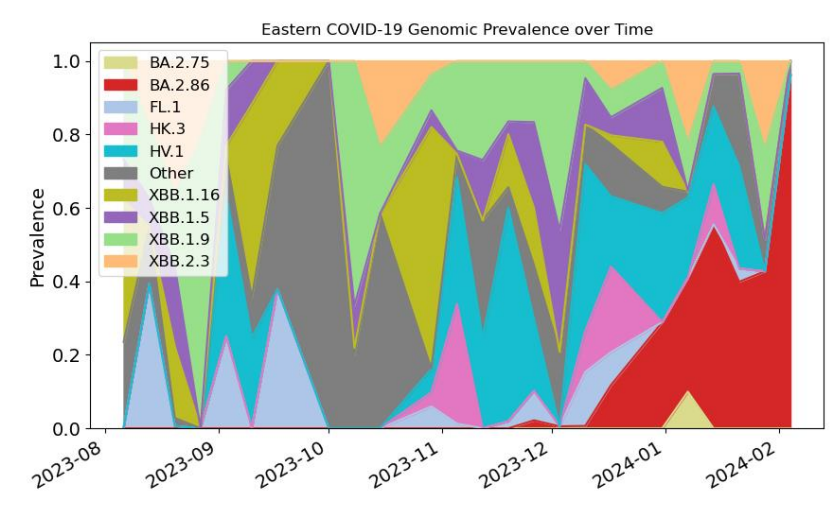
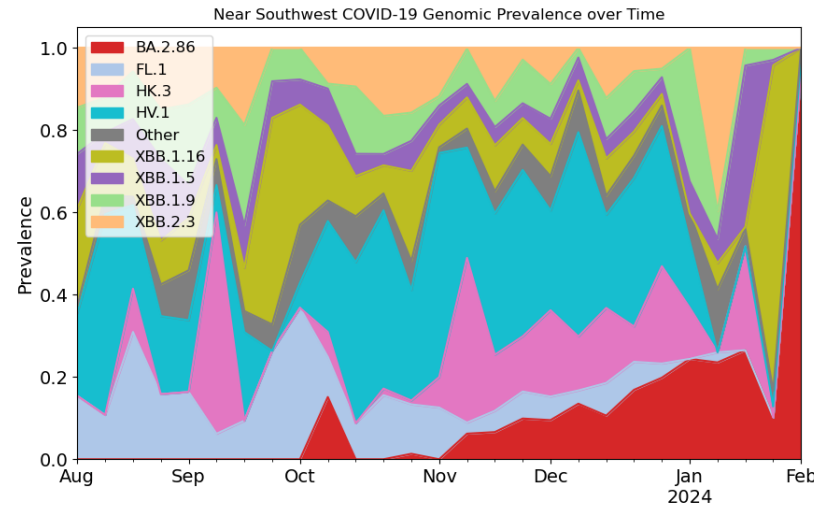
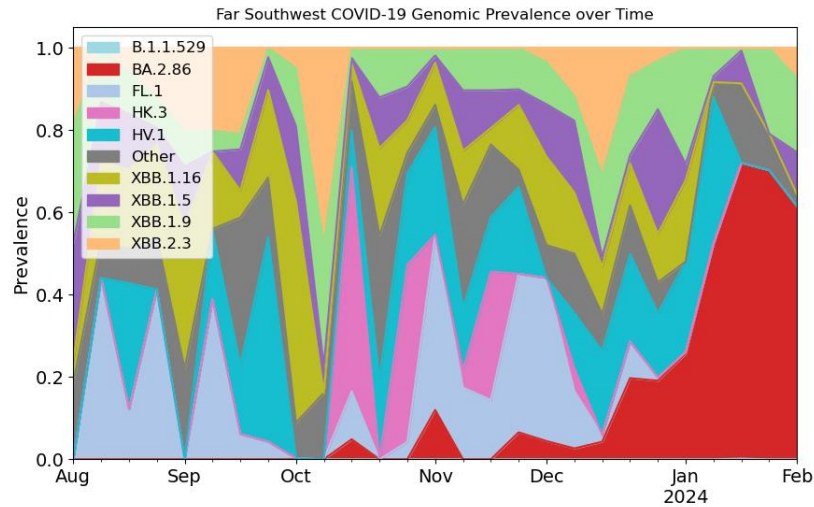
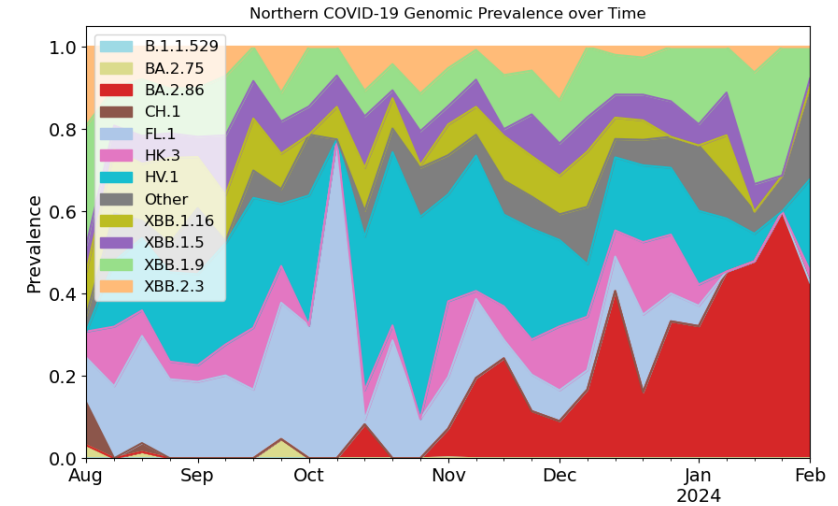
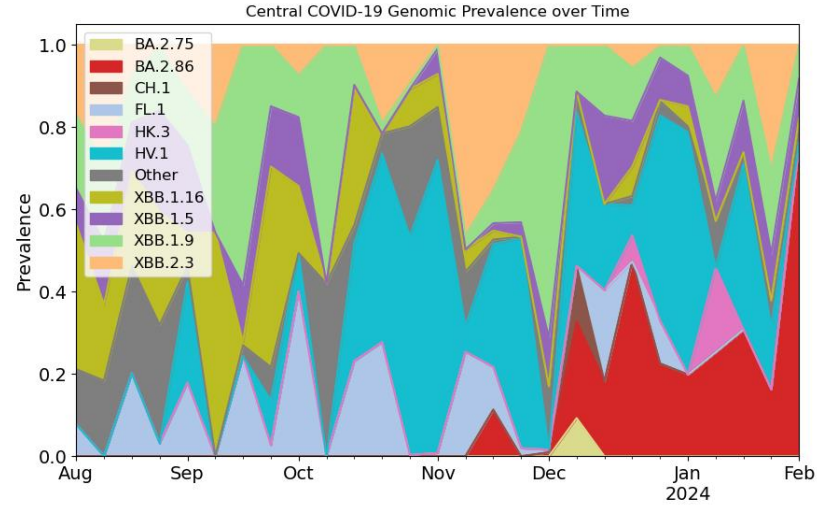
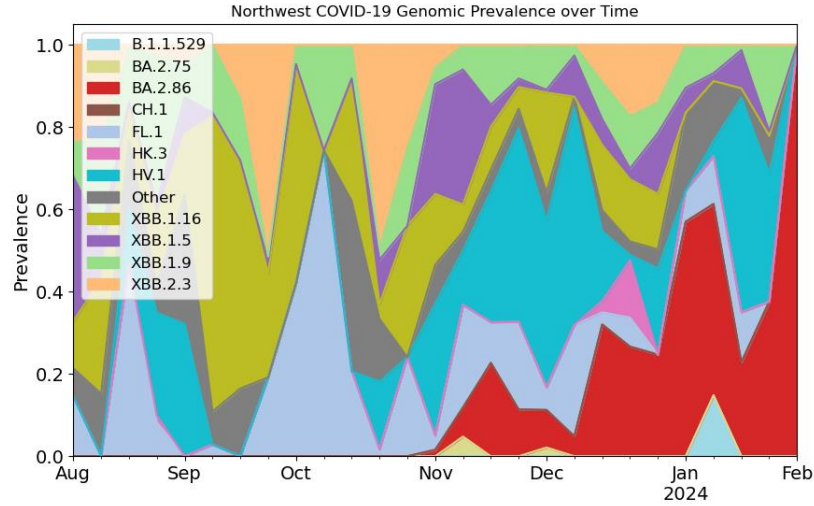
**Variants:** Percentage of variant lineage sequenced from SARS-CoV-2 genome found in wastewater



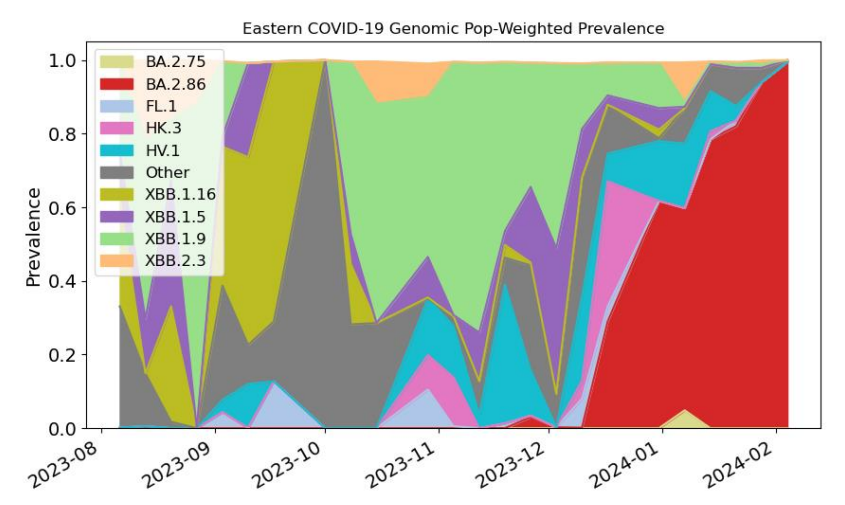
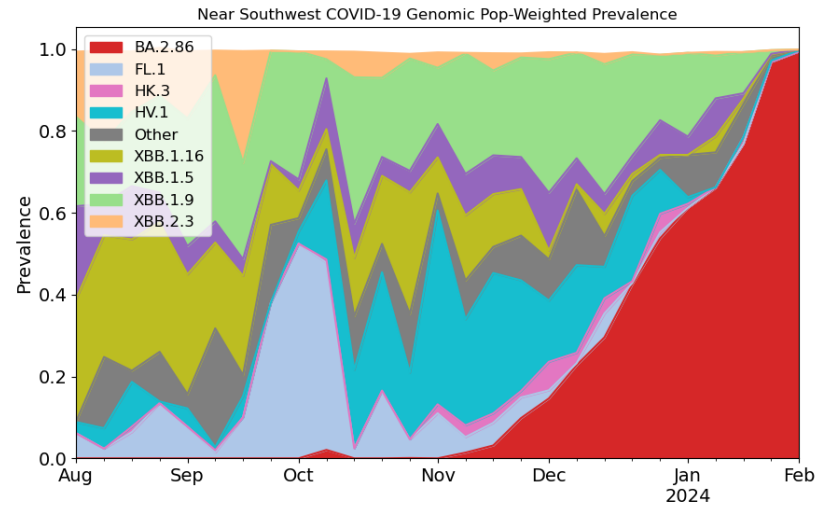
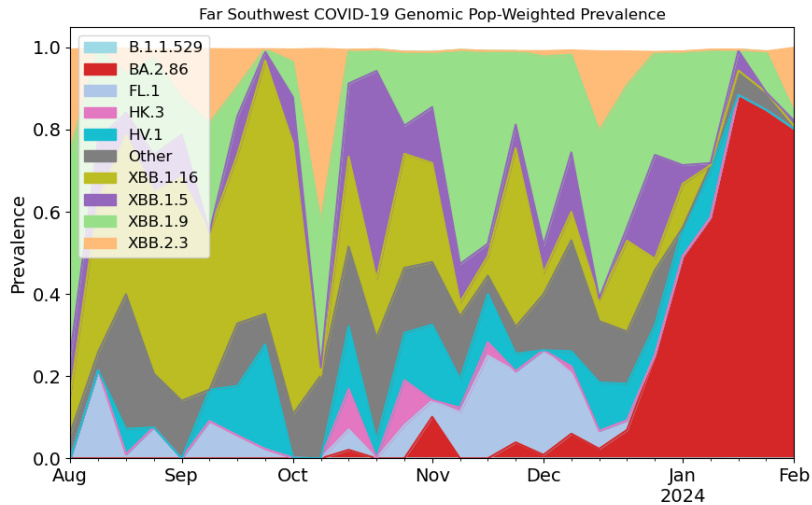
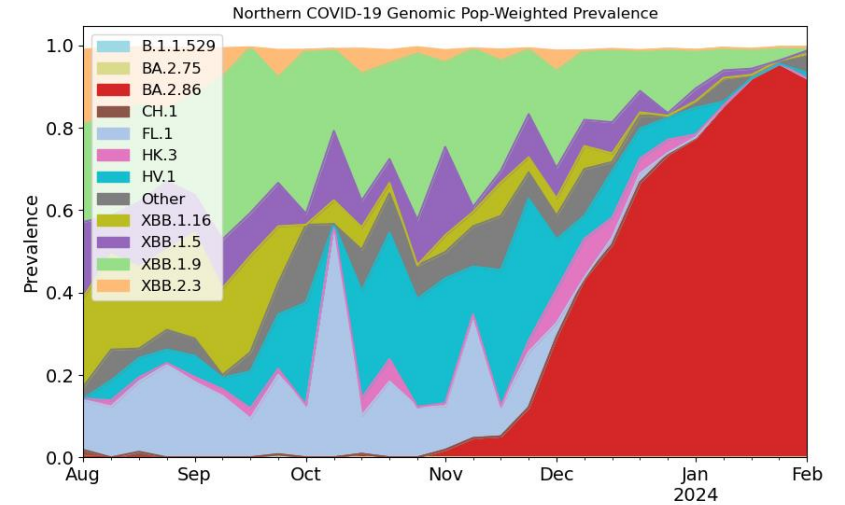
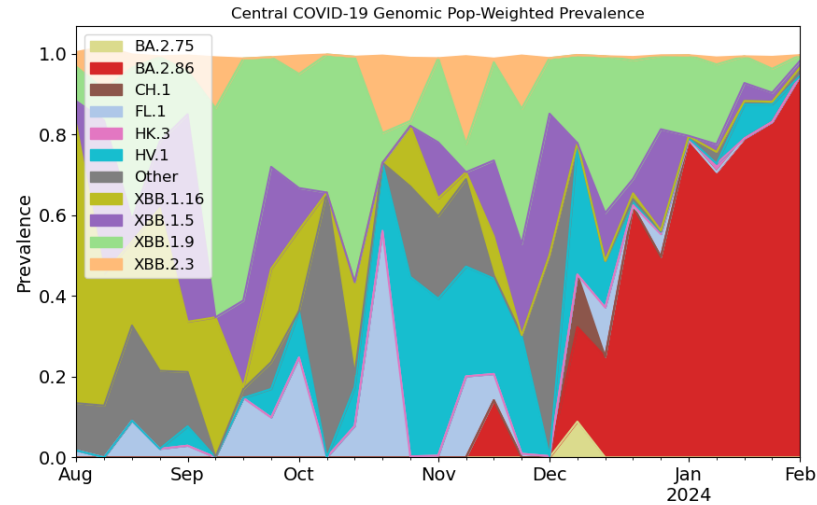
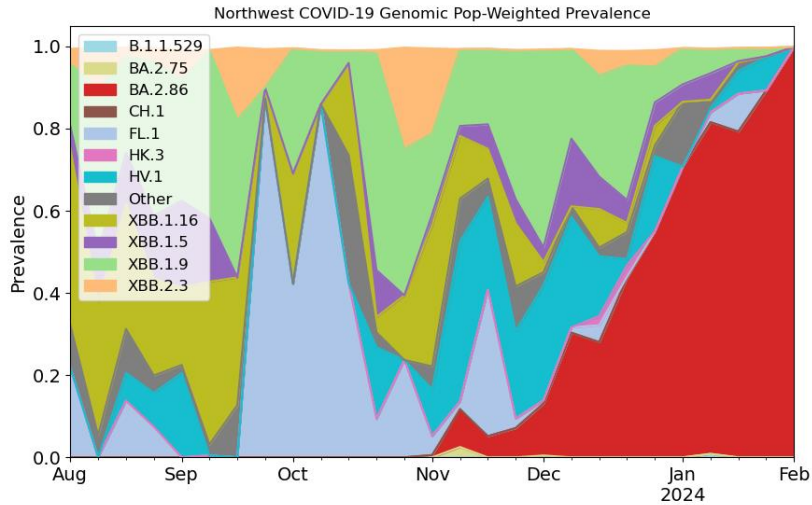
**February 14, 2024**

- JN.1: 96.2%
- BA.2.86: 2.5%
- EG.5: 0.4%
- Other: 0.4%
- XBB: 0.4%
- BA.2: 0.1%

# Virginia Regional Wastewater Variant Status (median)

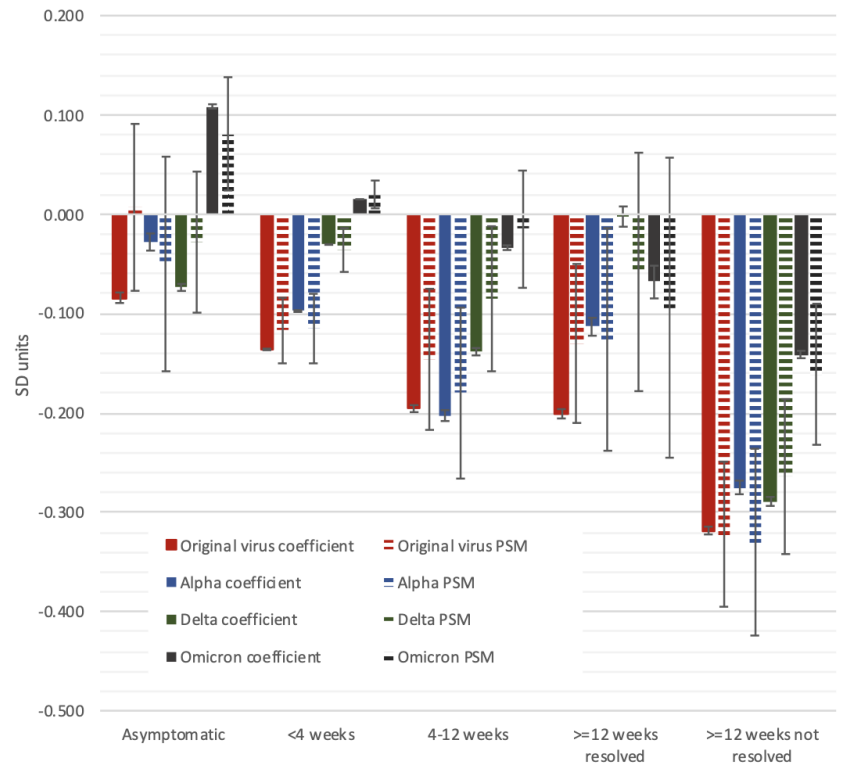
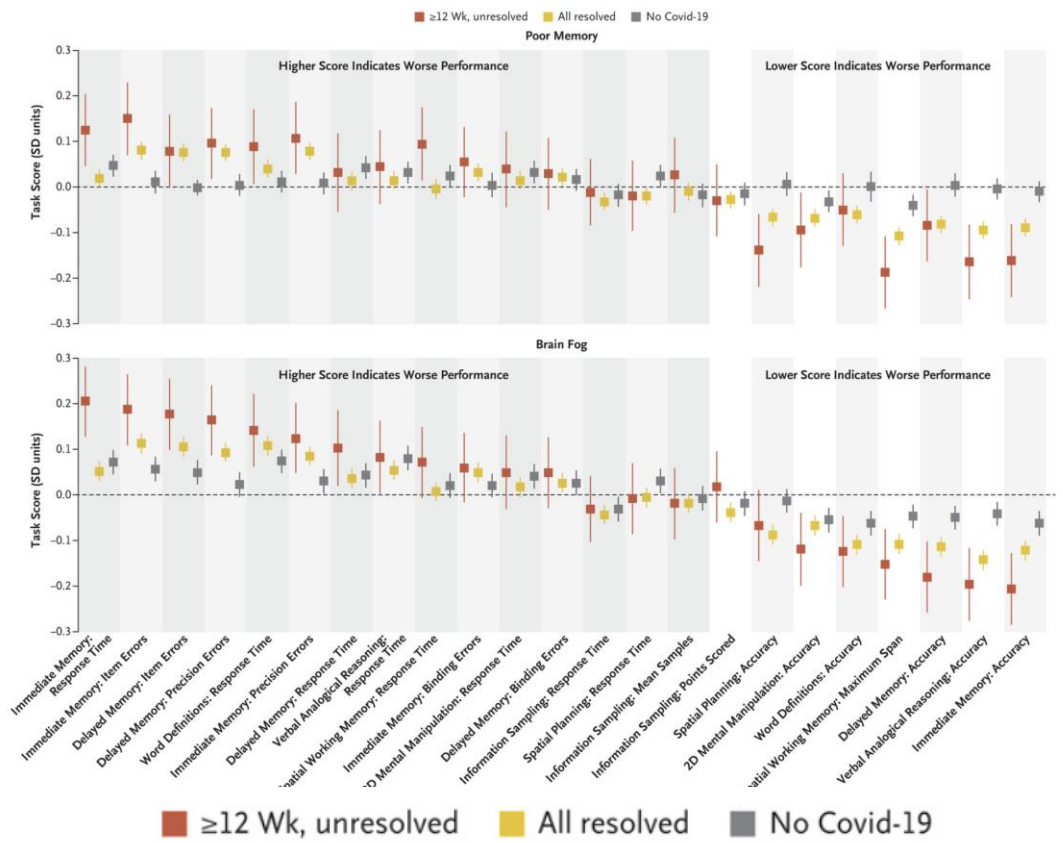


# Virginia Regional Population-Weighted Wastewater Variant Status



# Pandemic Pubs (March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

**Long COVID Cognitive Effect:** Study of 800K in England, provided a cognitive assessment online and measured performance over time for those infected with COVID-19. Those with short times to resolution of symptoms experienced lower overall deficits. ([New England Journal of Medicine, Feb 2024](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2311330))



In this observational study, we found objectively measurable cognitive deficits that may persist for a year or more after Covid-19. We also found that participants with resolved persistent symptoms had small deficits in cognitive scores, as compared with the no-Covid-19 group, that were similar to those in participants with shorter-duration illness. Early periods of the pandemic, longer illness duration, and hospitalization had the strongest associations with global cognitive deficits.



# Pandemic Pubs (March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

**Long COVID Prevented by Vaccination:** First of 2 studies summarized, Long COVID prevalence was 40-60% lower among vaccinated vs. unvaccinated in Michigan. Second study shows protective effect for adolescents against Long COVID across successive waves of SARS-CoV2 variants. ([Eric Topol, Ground Truths, Feb 2024](#))

## Two New Reports of Vaccination Protection Vs Long Covid

From a study [in the Annals of Epidemiology](#), Michiganders derived an important protective benefit against Long Covid: Long COVID prevalence was 40-60% lower among adults vaccinated (vs. unvaccinated) prior to their COVID-19. This level of protection is consistent with many recent reports and has not been emphasized enough regarding an added benefit of booster shots. The data were previously reviewed on Ground Truths [here](#).

And a [new preprint report on protection in children and adolescents](#) which looked at different variants (Delta and Omicron) and cause and effect relationship for direct benefit of vaccination, summarized in the Table below. More protection was found in teens than children with the range of 60 to 75%.

| Vaccine Effectiveness (in %) and 95 CI | Direct Effect     | Indirect Effect   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Delta study in adolescents</i>      |                   |                   |
| 95.4% (90.9, 97.7)                     | 1.08 (0.75, 1.55) | 0.04 (0.03, 0.05) |
| <i>Omicron study in children</i>       |                   |                   |
| 60.2% (40.3, 73.5)                     | 1.24 (0.92, 1.66) | 0.31 (0.23, 0.42) |
| <i>Omicron study in adolescents</i>    |                   |                   |
| 75.1% (50.4, 87.5)                     | 0.91 (0.69, 1.19) | 0.21 (0.16, 0.27) |

## Solving the puzzle of Long Covid

Long Covid provides an opportunity to understand how acute infections cause chronic disease

[ZIYAD AL-ALY AND ERIC TOPOL](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 22 Feb 2024 • Vol 383, Issue 6685 • pp. 830-832 • DOI: [10.1126/science.adl0867](#)

Essay in [Science](#) advocating for addressing Long COVID  
<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adl0867>



<https://erictopol.substack.com/p/towards-solving-the-long-covid-puzzle>

# Pandemic Pubs (March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

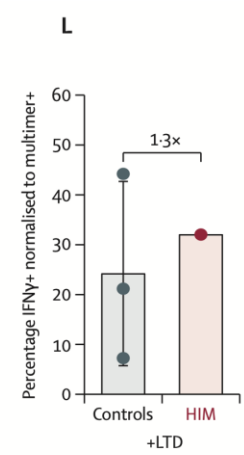
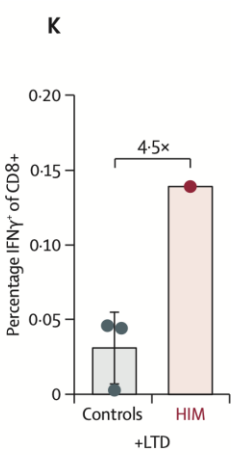
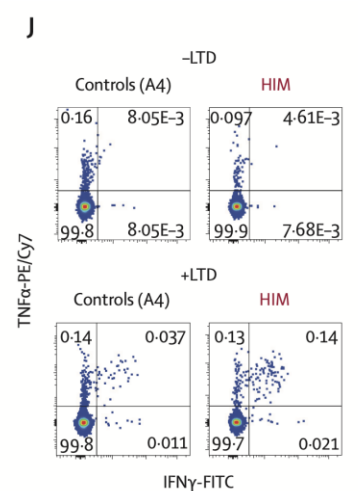
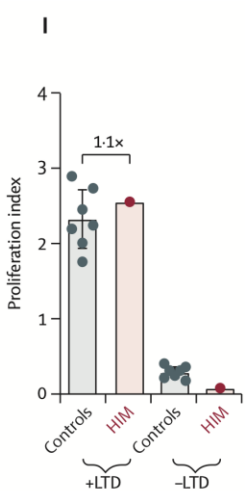
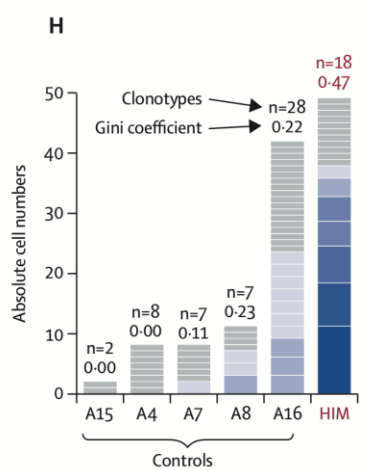
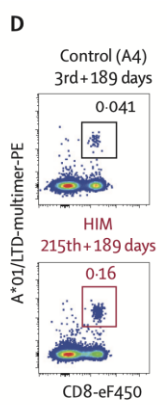
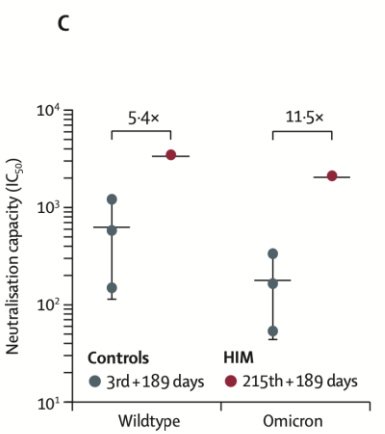
**Hyper-Vaccination:** German man received 217 vaccinations over the course of 2.5 years. This Hyper-vaccination led to no adverse events and increased the quantity of antibodies and T-cells and did not negatively effect the quality of his immune response.

([Lancet, March 2024](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099(24)00134-8.pdf))



**Hypervaccination increases the quantity, but not the quality, of adaptive immunity**

[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099\(24\)00134-8.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099(24)00134-8.pdf)



(C) Neutralisation capacity against wildtype and Omicron spike-protein of HIM's and controls' sera in a pseudotype neutralisation assay. (D-E) Frequency of spike epitope (HLA-A\*01/LTD)-specific CD8+ T cells. n=5 controls.

(H) T-cell clonality of LTD-specific CD8+ T cells determined by scRNAseq (10x Genomics, Pleasanton CA, USA). Segments of bars indicate individual clones (grey segments=1 cell; blue segments >1 cell). Numbers on top of the bars represent total number of clones and Gini coefficient to indicate clonality. (I) Proliferation index of LTD-specific CD8+ T cells upon stimulation with LTD-peptide for 14 days. n=7 control samples were collected from day 76 to 568 after last spike-exposure (vaccination or infection). (J-L) Cytokine expression of CD8+ T cells after LTD-peptide stimulation. (J) Representative plots of IFNγ/TNFα expression. (K) Quantification of IFNγ+ within CD8+ T cells after stimulation. (L) Normalisation of IFNγ+ to the LTD-specific fraction of CD8+ T cells. Connected dots represent individual donors (B,E). Data points represent individual donors, bars or solid lines and error bars indicate the mean +/- s.d. (C,G,I,K,L). HIM=hypervaccinated individual from Magdeburg, Germany. J&J=Johnson & Johnson Ad26.COV2.S vaccine. AZ=AstraZeneca Vaxzevria vaccine. Moderna=Spikevax vaccine. BNT Original=Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty original vaccine. BNT-BA 4-5=Comirnaty original/Omicron BA 4-5. BNT-BA.1=Comirnaty original/Omicron BA.1. GSK/Sanofi=Vidprevtyn Beta vaccine. BNT-XBB.1.5=Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5. nd=not detected. IC50=half-maximal inhibitory concentration. LTD=LTDemiaIQ epitope. PE=phycocerythrin. PBMC=peripheral blood mononuclear cells. A\*01/LTD-multimer-PE=peptide human leukocyte antigen (HLA) multimer for HLA-A\*01:01 presenting the LTD epitope peptide and conjugated to the PE dye. TN-like/SCM=naive-like and stem cell memory T cells. TCM=central memory T cells. TEM=effector memory T cells. TEMRA=effector memory T cells upregulating CD45RA

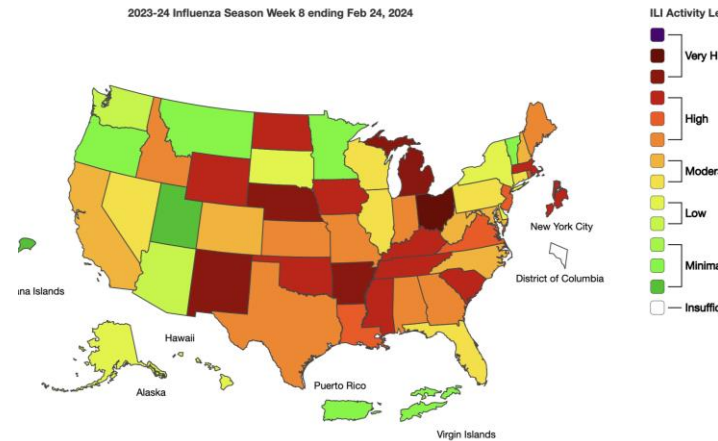
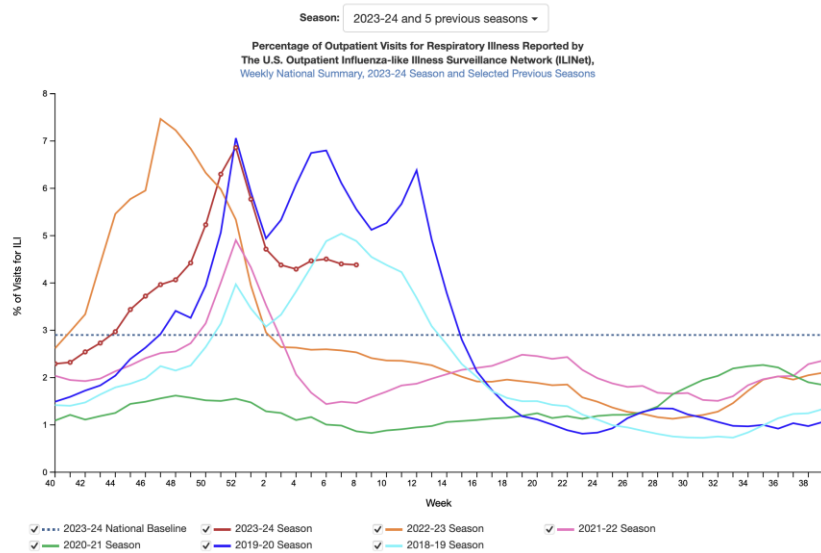
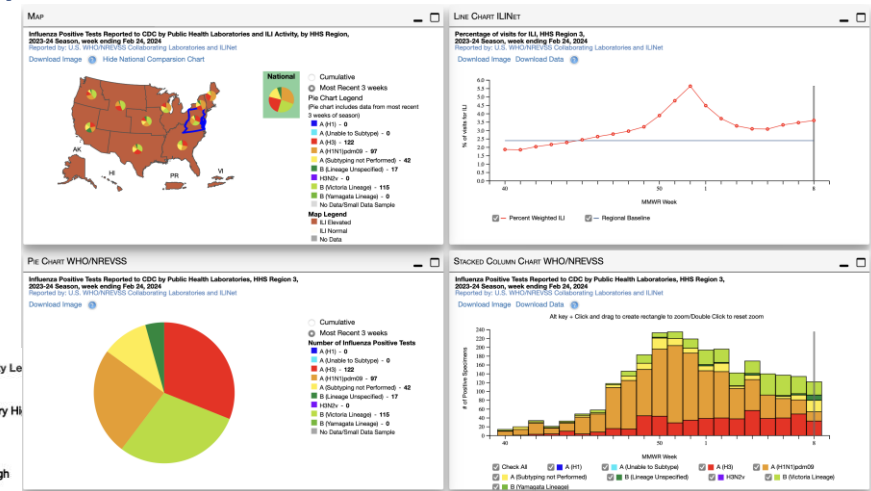
# Influenza Update

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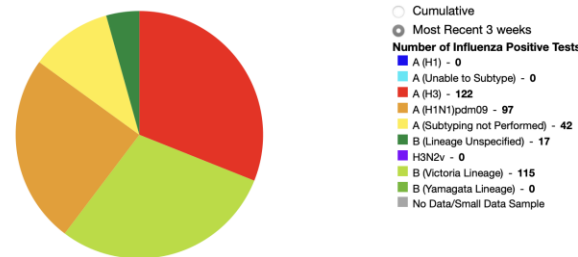
# Current Influenza Situation – ILI Activity

## All regions remain above threshold and many are steady

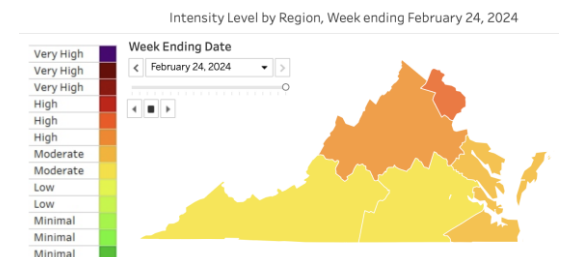
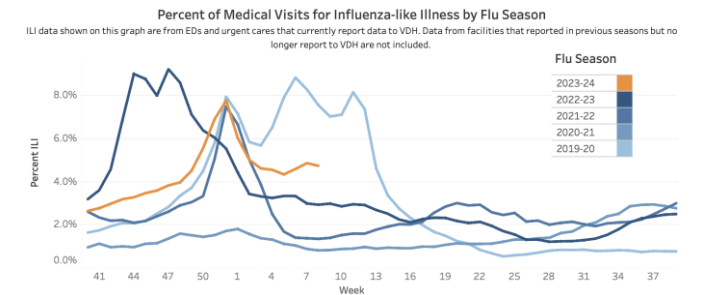
- Virginia remains a "High" level of Influenza activity
- National ILI activity has been at a steady high level for 6 weeks



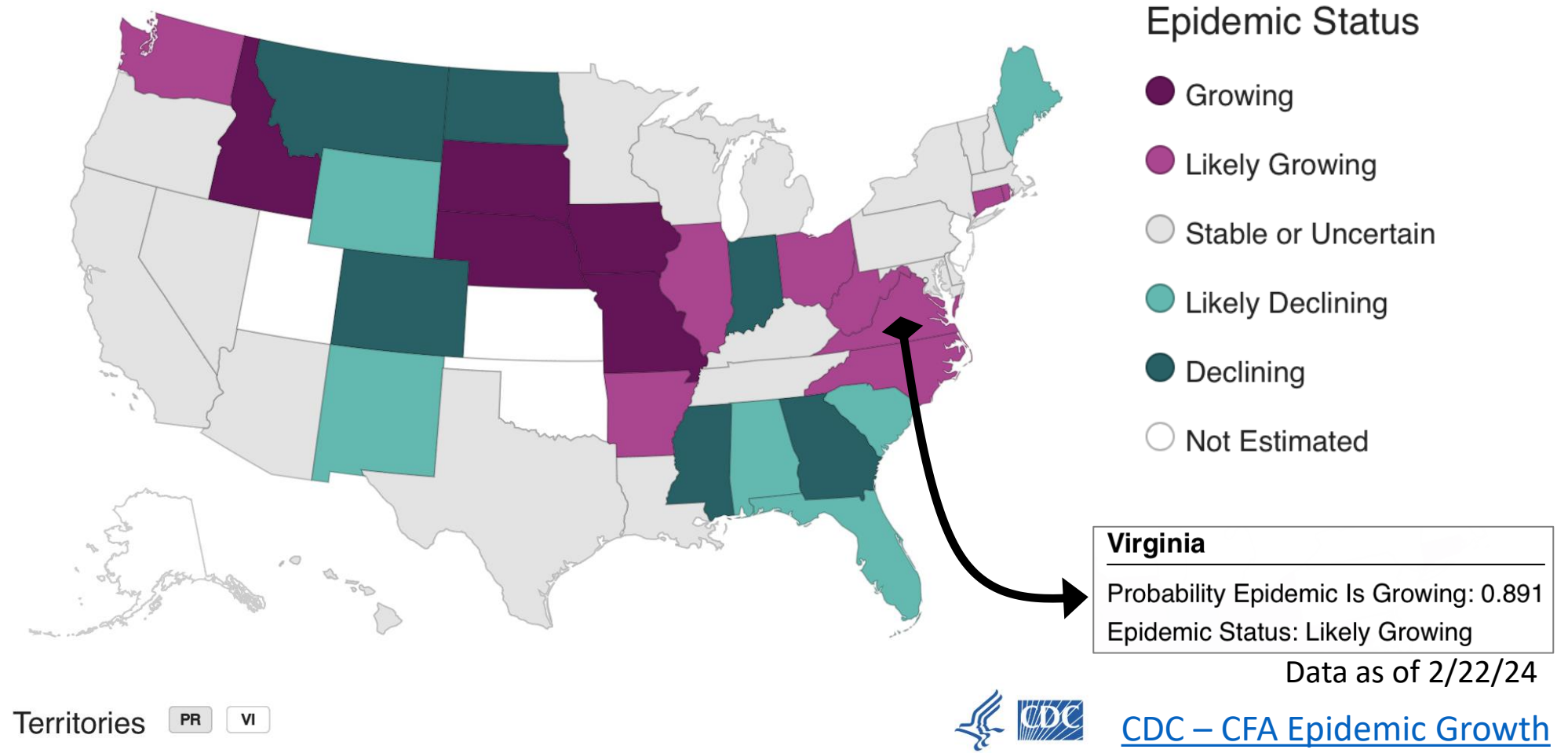
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by Public Health Laboratories, HHS Region 3, 2023-24 Season, week ending Feb 24, 2024



## Virginia (ED & UC Visits – Feb 24, 2024)

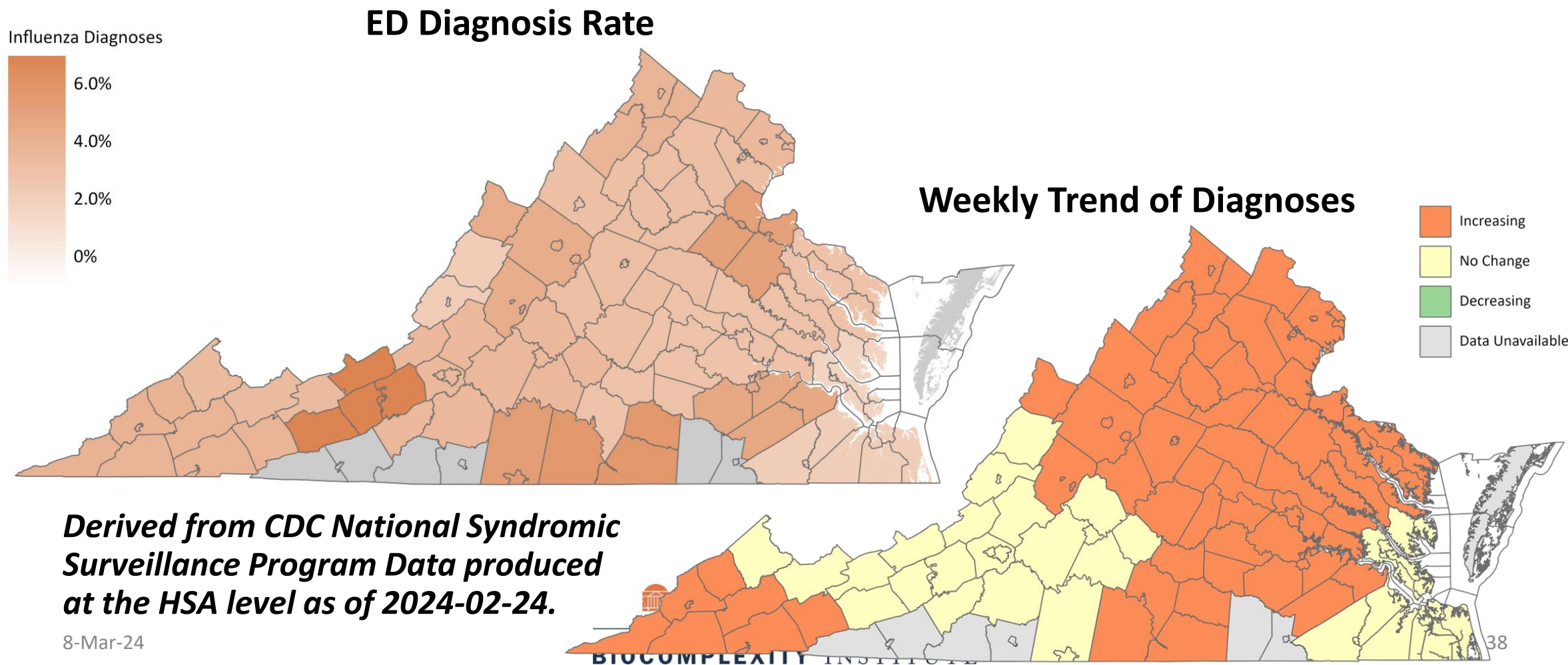


# Influenza Hospitalizations – Epidemic Growth



# Emergency Department Diagnosis Rate – Influenza

Flu diagnoses are still highest in the New River Valley, with rates rivaling last month's reports (over 6%). Most of the Commonwealth reported increases from the week prior.

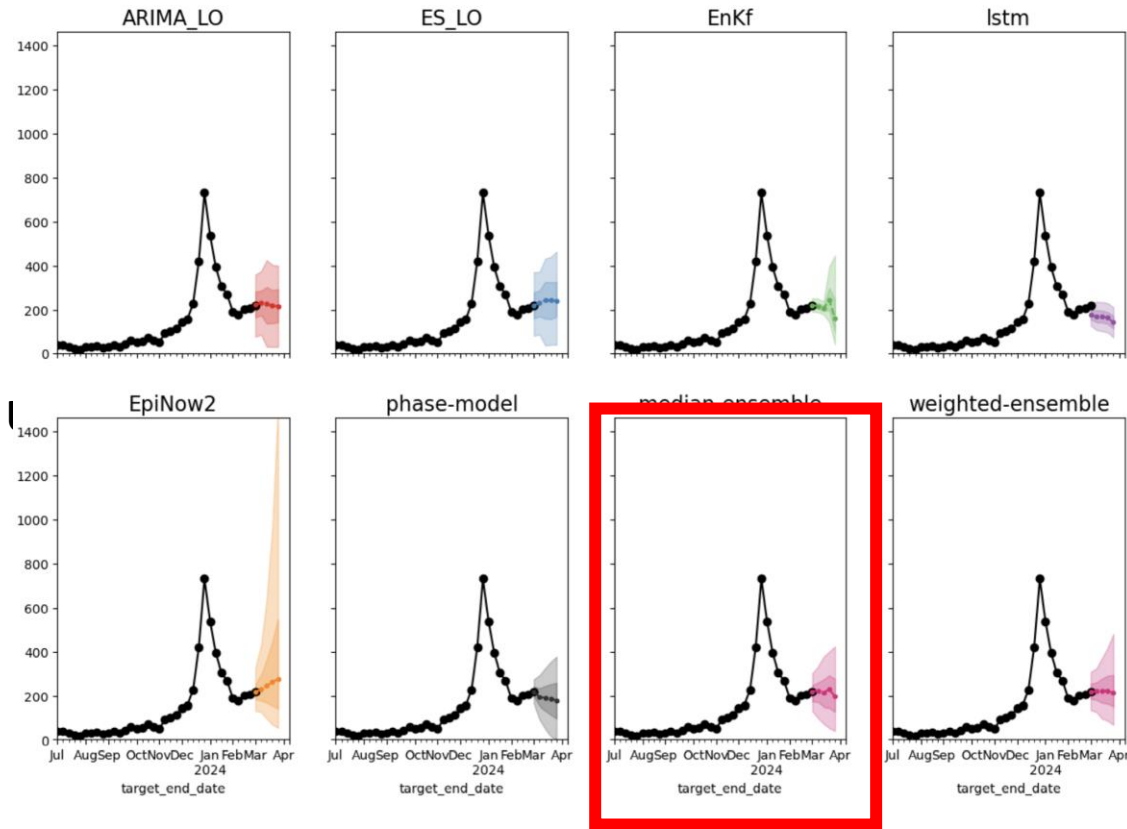


# Influenza Forecasts – Hospitalization Admissions

UVA forecast model only

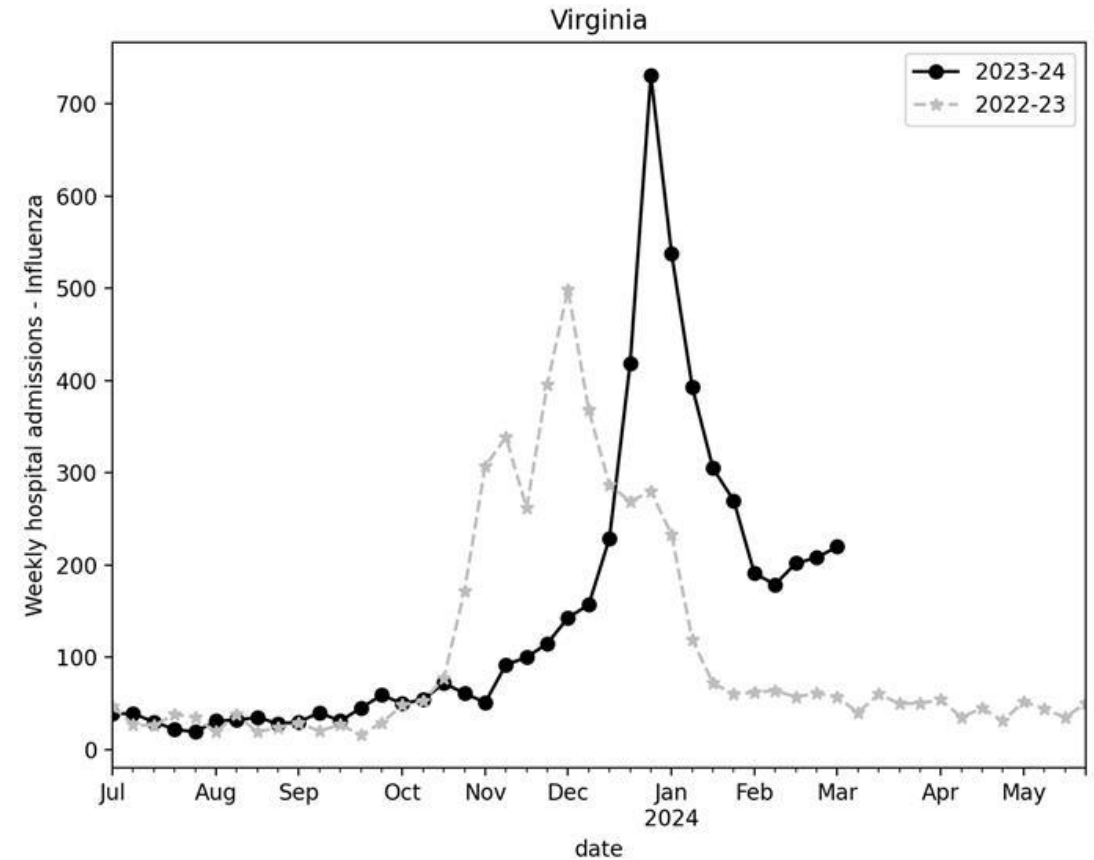
**Hospital Admissions for Influenza  
and Forecast for next 4 weeks**

Virginia



National Flu Hospital Admissions

**Weekly hospital admissions  
Last update: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**



Forecast from March 6<sup>th</sup>  
from data of Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Current Influenza Hospitalization Forecast

## Statistical models for submitting to [CDC Influenza Forecasting Hub](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/forecasting/)

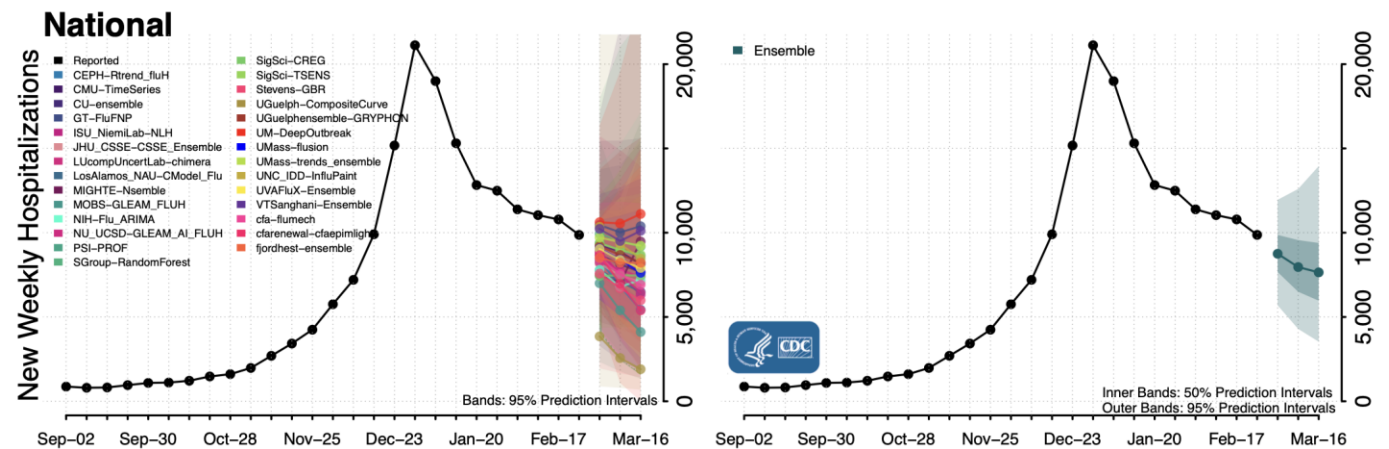
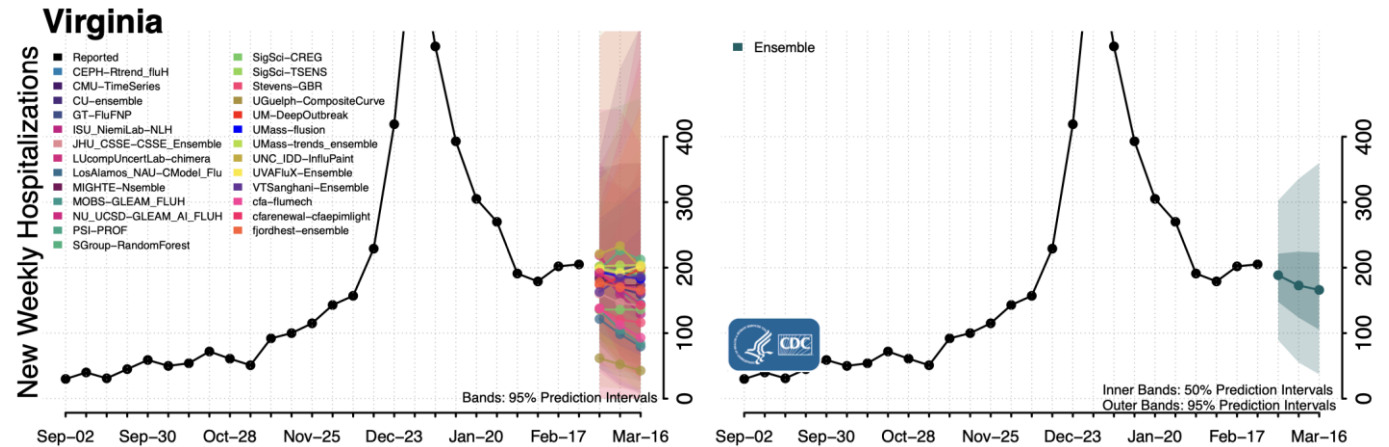
- Uses a variety of statistical and ML approaches to forecast weekly hospital admissions for the next 4 weeks for all states in the US

### Hospital Admissions for Influenza and Forecast for next 4 weeks (CDC Influenza Ensemble)

From February 28<sup>th</sup>

### CDC Flu Activity Surveillance

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>



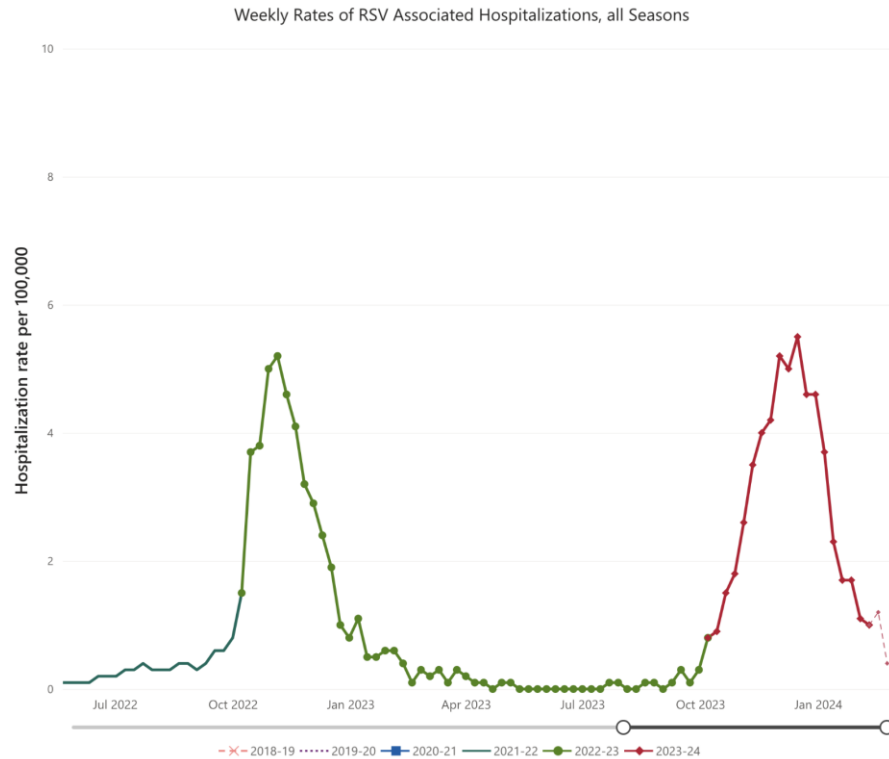


# RSV Update

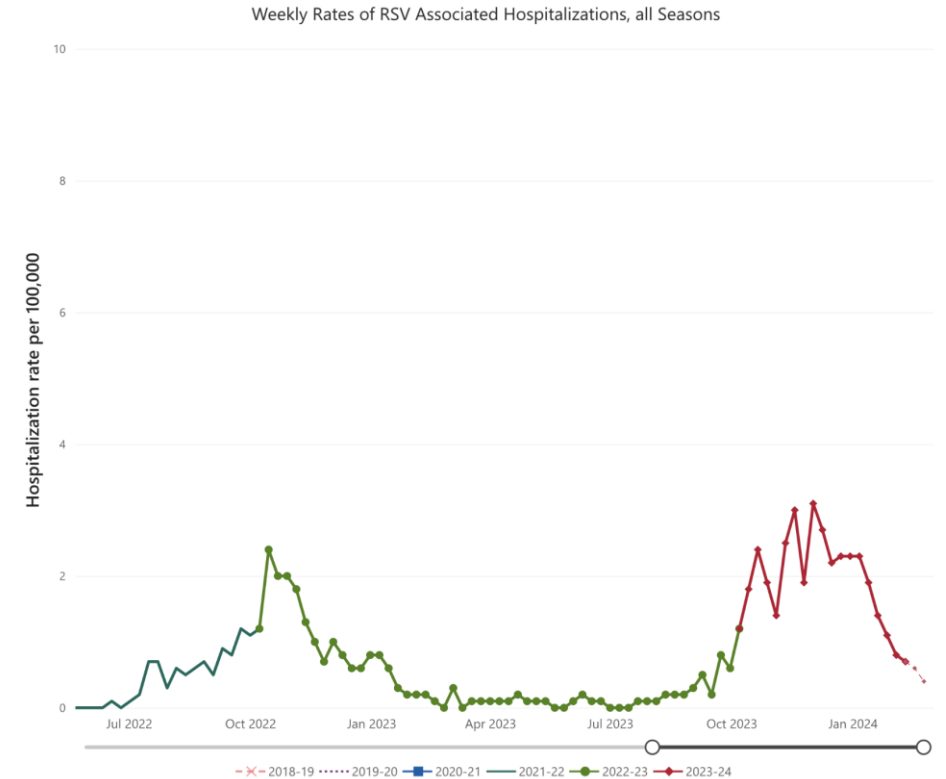
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# Current RSV Situation – Hospitalization Rates (RSV-Net)

## Maryland (RSV-Net)



## Tennessee (RSV-Net)



Surveillance data as of:

2/10 (last solid data)

2/24 (last recent but likely to be updated)

3/8/2024



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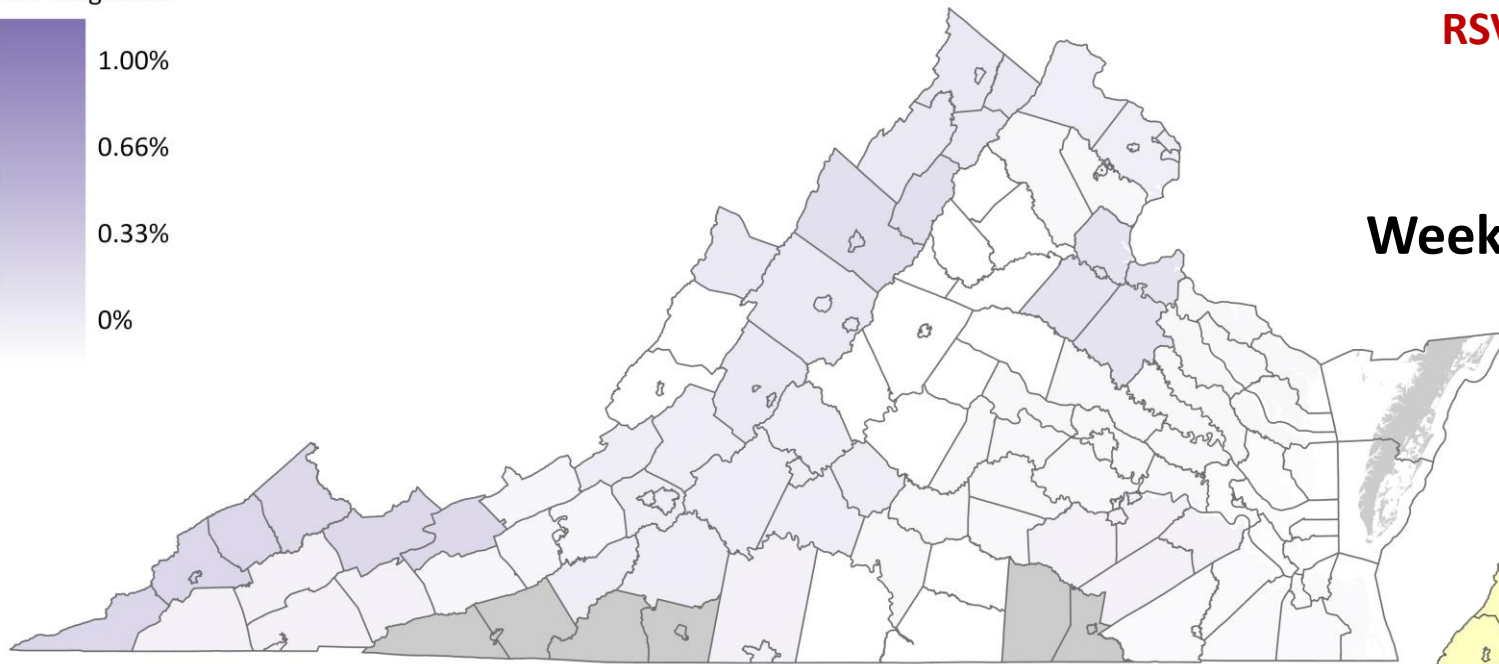
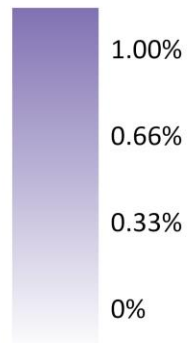
[RSV-Net Dashboard](#)

# Emergency Department Diagnosis Rate – RSV

RSV rates are so low that a different color scale was required for maps. No counties report a diagnosis rate higher than 0.28%. Most counties continue to report weekly decreases.

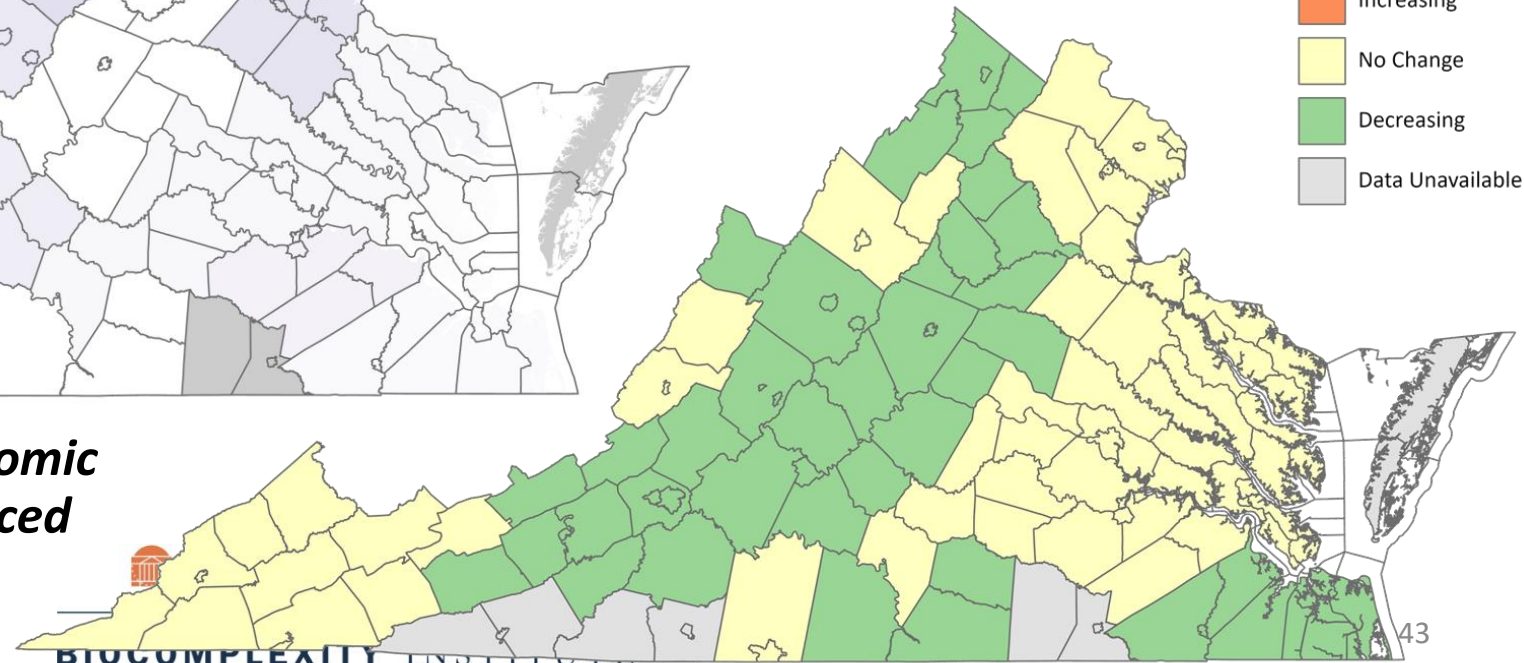
### ED Diagnosis Rate

RSV Diagnoses



Note color ramp stops at 1% for RSV as rates are very low compared to COVID-19 and Influenza.

### Weekly Trend of Diagnoses



*Derived from CDC National Syndromic Surveillance Program Data produced at the HSA level as of 2024-02-24.*

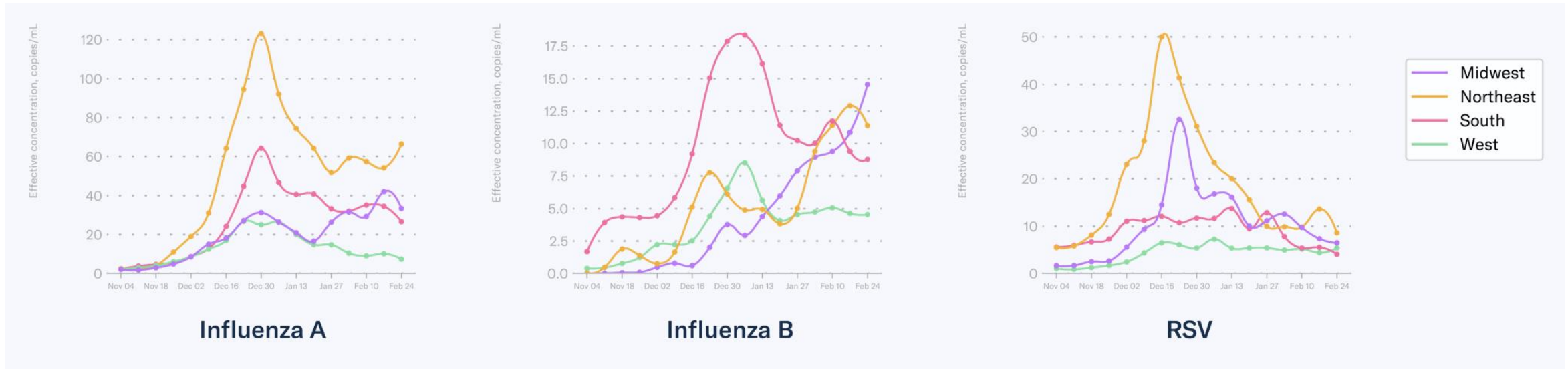
8-Mar-24

# Respiratory Illness Combined Update

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# Combined Respiratory Illness Viruses - Wastewater

## Regional Flu and RSV Wastewater Concentrations



Biobot Analytics

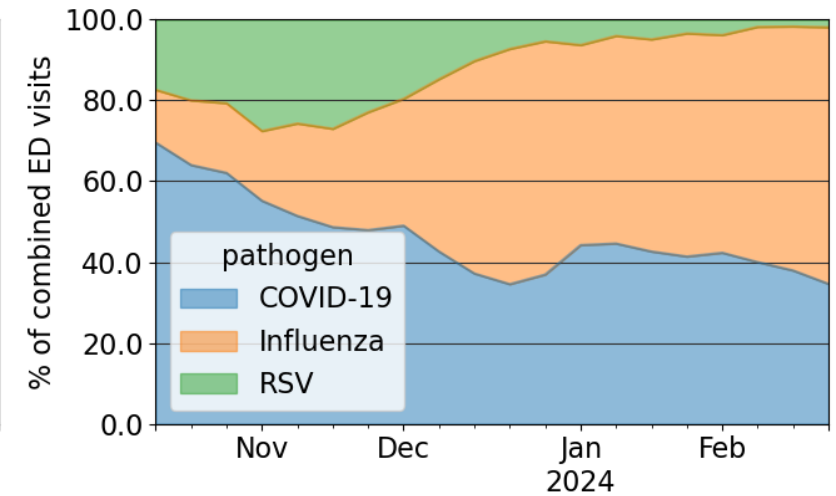
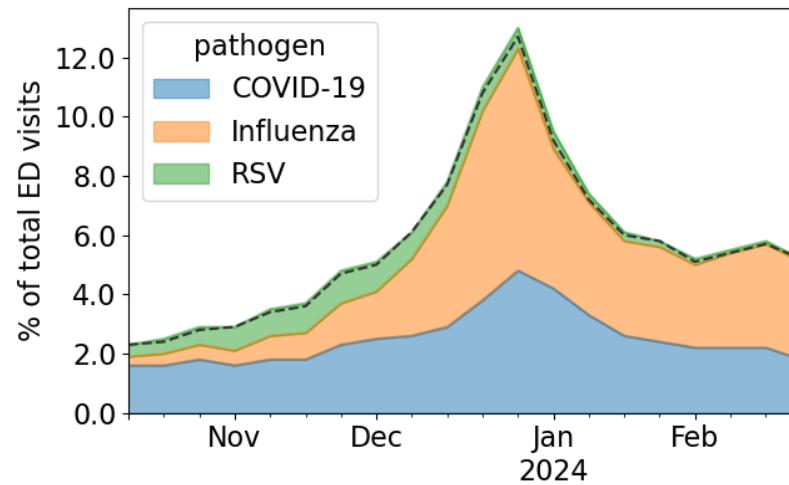
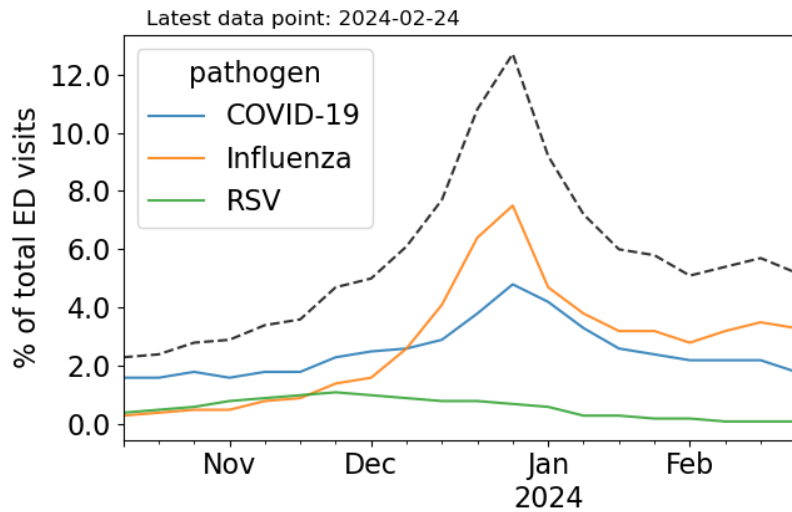
<https://biobot.io/data/>



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# Combined Respiratory Illness Viruses – NSSP VA ED Visit

Virginia - COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV ED visits - Source: NSSP



Data as of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Key Takeaways

## **COVID-19 indicators remain elevated, trends are mixed between steady and decline**

- Hospital admissions and Visits with Diagnosed COVID are higher than they were at this point last year
  - Hospital admissions peak was ~20% lower than last year, but the peak this year is broader.
- Wastewater continues to show high viral loads
- Together this suggest continued plateaus in activity with likely decline in coming weeks.

## **Influenza is remains elevated in VA and across the US**

## **RSV hospitalizations have reduced to minimal activity**

# Questions?

## Biocomplexity COVID-19 Response Team

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