

About Us

The Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) serves a population of 97,423 across seven counties in South-Central Nebraska, spanning 4,663 square miles. TRPHD is the 4th largest health district in Nebraska, its population mostly clustered around the I-80 corridor. Over 3/4th of residents live in Buffalo & Dawson, 10% in Phelps, and 15% in Kearney, Harlan, Franklin and Gosper Counties in decreasing order. The largest cities are Holdrege (pop. 5,515), Lexington (pop. 10,348) and Kearney (pop. 33,790); over half of the residents of TRPHD live in these three cities, over a third in Kearney city alone. Currently, there are seven health systems reporting Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) surveillance data across the district: three in Buffalo and Dawson, two in Phelps, one each in Franklin, Harlan, and Kearney, and none Gosper Counties.

TRPHD engages collaborative partners, community leaders, and the public to promote healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district. TRPHD envisions a health district where all are able to safely and actively live, learn, work, and play in their communities. TRPHD facilitates collaborative, partnerships, and unique approaches that educate, empower, and engage local community partners, health providers, political decision-makers, community leadership, and the public.

Report Summary

- Influenza B cases are surging in TRPHD, replacing Flu A as the primary virus in circulation, in keeping with late-season trends in Nebraska.
- Influenza-like-Illness hospitalizations have been persistently high in 2026 in spite of the drop in Flu A incidence.
- The incidence of COVID and RSV across TRPHD continues to remain low.

Data Insights

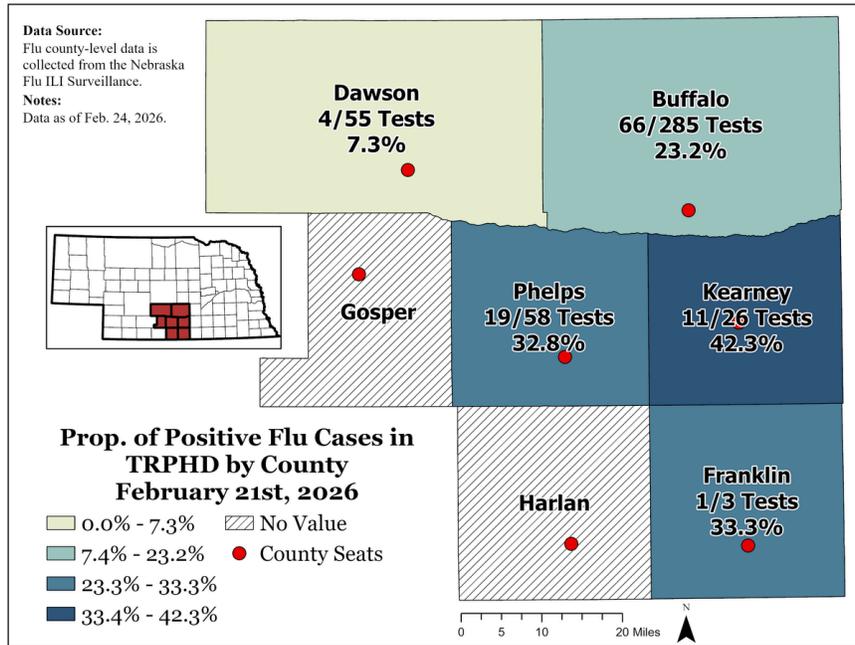
- Overall Respiratory Disease Positivity Rate is calculated by the following equation:
 - We applied a 3% overlap adjustment between Flu A and Flu B positive tests to account for the likelihood that a small percentage of individuals tested positive for both.

$$PR = \frac{((PosFluA + PosFluB - 0.03 \times (TotalFluTests)) + PosRSV + PosCOVID)}{(TotalFluTests + TotalRSVTests + TotalCOVIDTests)}$$

- Flu and RSV county data is collected from Nebraska Flu ILI Surveillance.
- COVID-19 county data is collected from the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS).
- Weekly Case counts of any infection exceeding 150% of the corresponding week in the previous year will trigger an alert for heightened incidence across the district.

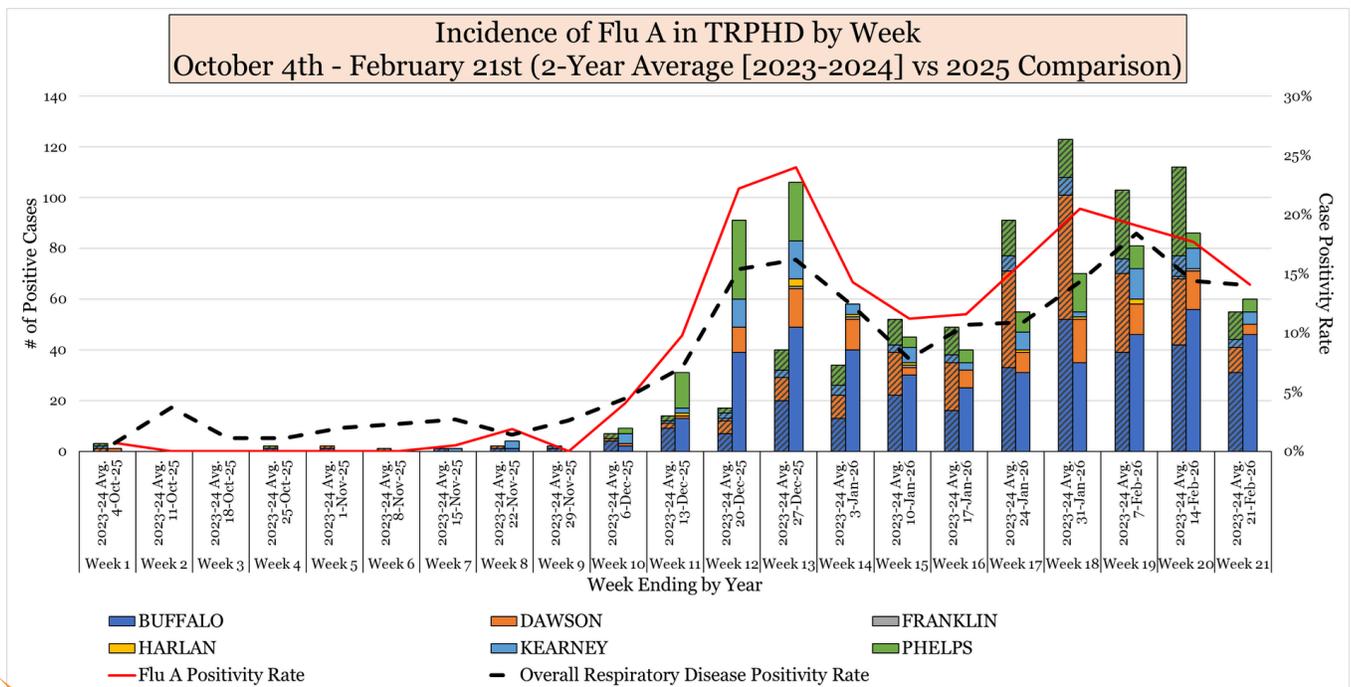
TRPHD Flu Cases

February 21, 2026



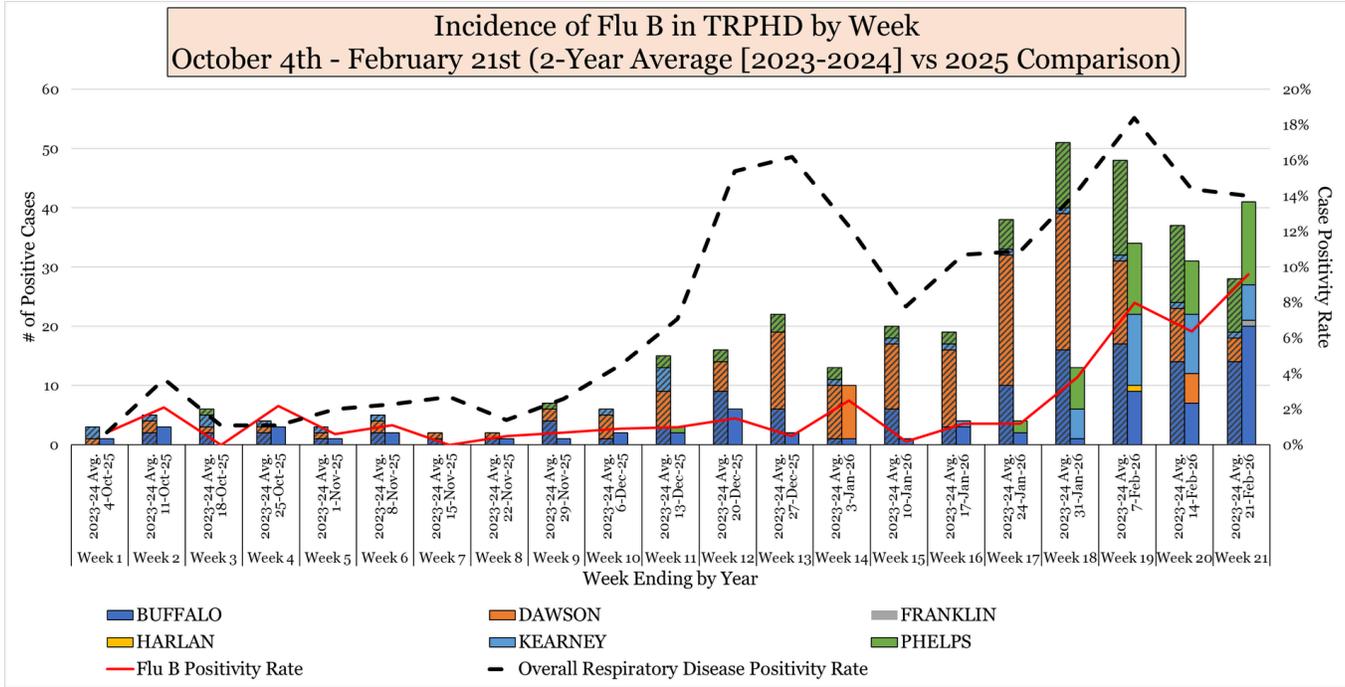
Influenza

- Influenza A rates have declined across TRPHD; less than 15% of all tests returned positive in the last week.
- Around a third of cases reported were from Phelps and Kearney Counties, indicating a possible clustering of cases within smaller populations.



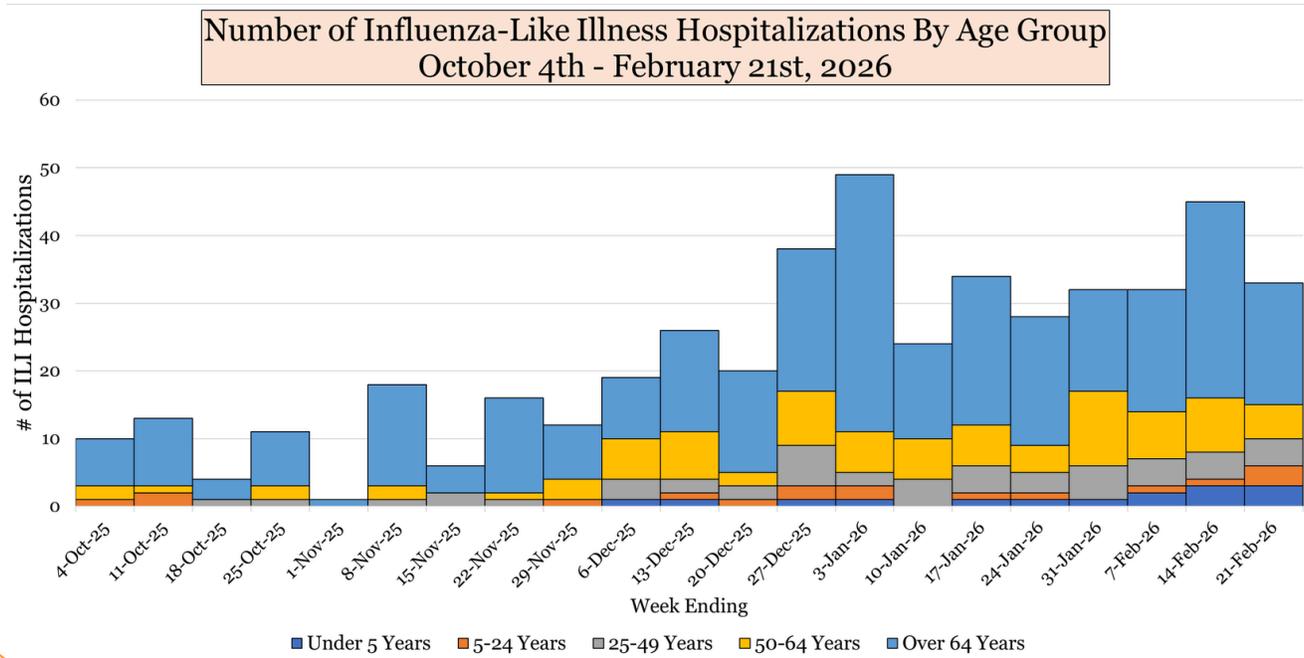
TRPHD Flu Cases

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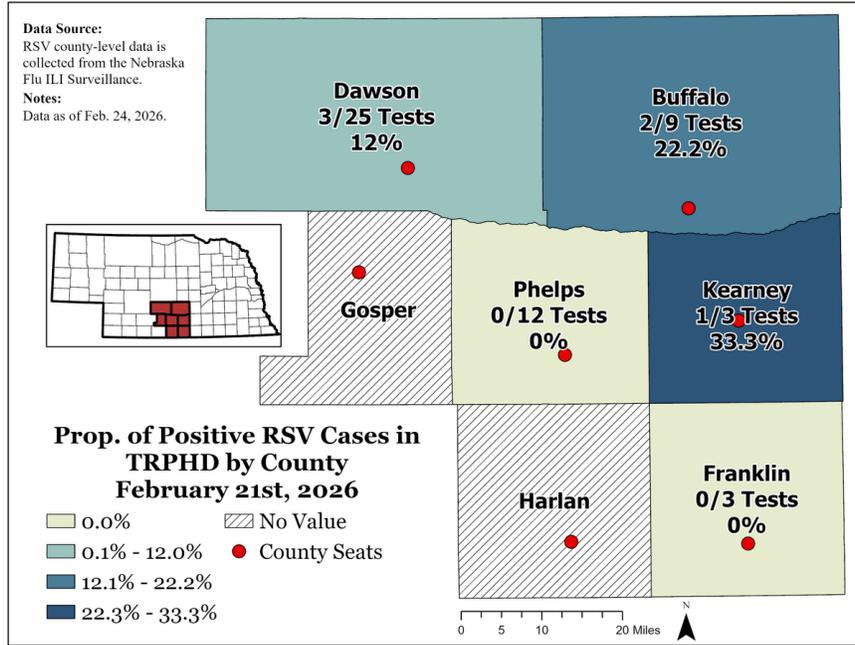
Influenza

- Influenza B cases have been rising in TRPHD in 2026, crossing 40 weekly cases for the first time last week.
- Influenza-like-illness hospitalizations have been consistently high in 2026, and the trend seems to hold steady.



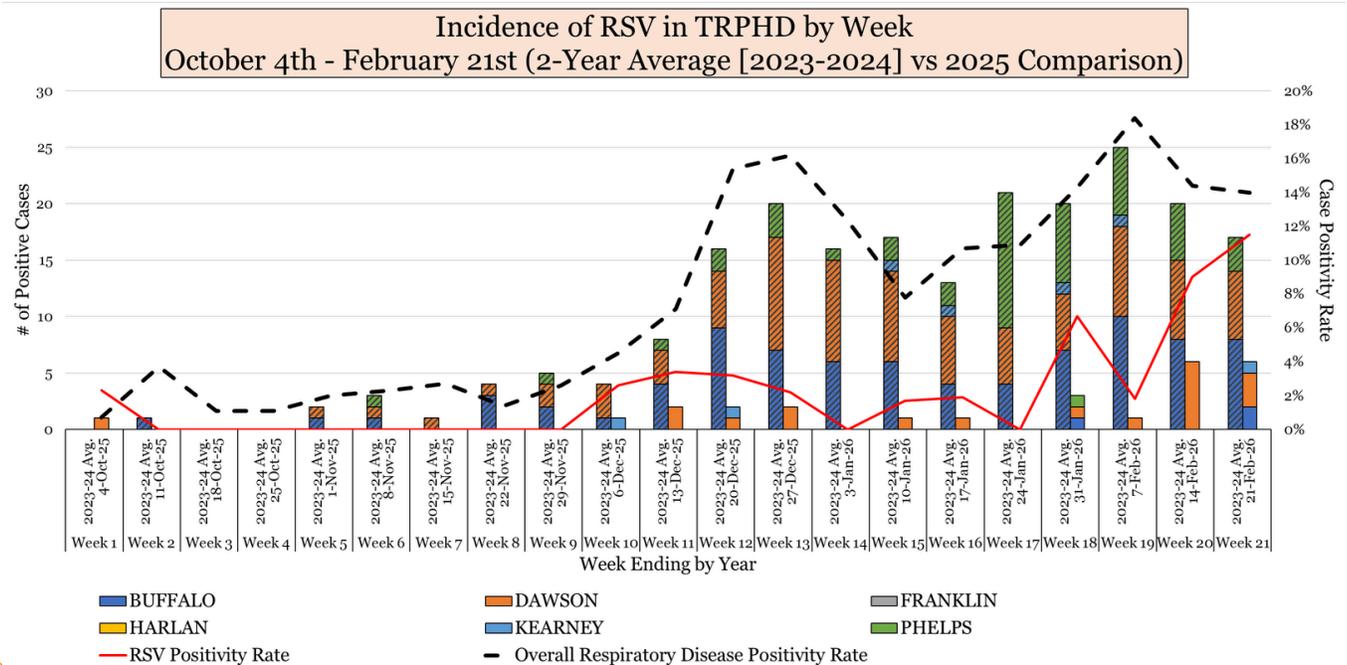
TRPHD RSV Cases

February 21, 2026



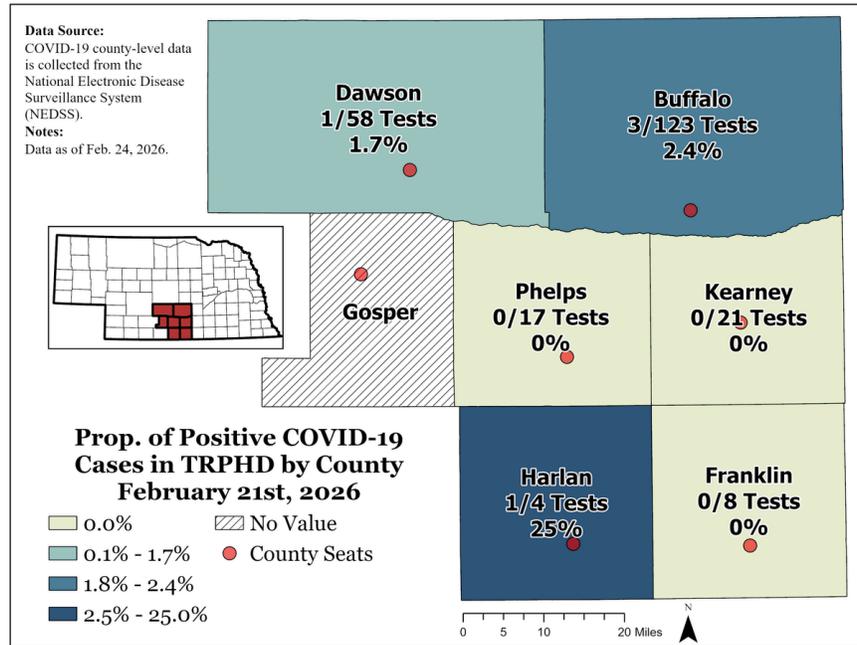
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- Despite low rates of testing, about 5 cases of RSV were detected across TRPHD in the past week.



TRPHD COVID-19 Cases

February 21, 2026



COVID-19

- COVID rates continue to decline as one of the lowest incidence on record since 2020.

