

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

- The respiratory disease outlook in TRPHD is primarily influenced by cases of Influenza A and COVID.
- Over 100 Flu A cases were recorded in the past week, a record for this year. Weekly case counts are about double the historic average expected for this time of the year in TRPHD.
- Flu hospitalizations have been climbing for 5 years now - over 36 beds were occupied by Influenza-like-Illness patients in the past week.

Data Insights

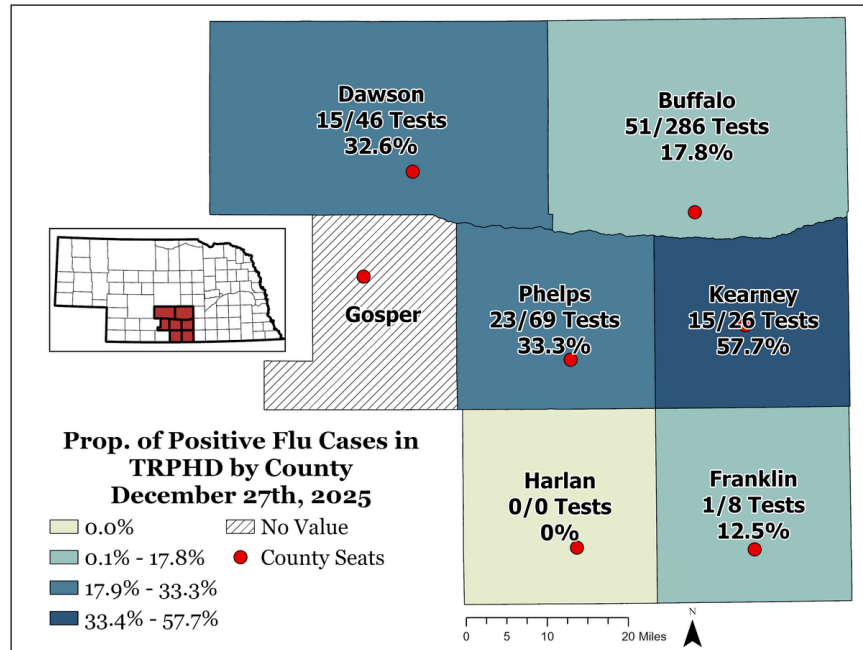
- Overall Respiratory Disease Positivity Rate is calculated by the following equation:
 - We applied a 3% overlap adjustment between Flu A and Flu B positive tests to account for the likelihood that a small percentage of individuals tested positive for both.

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

- 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.

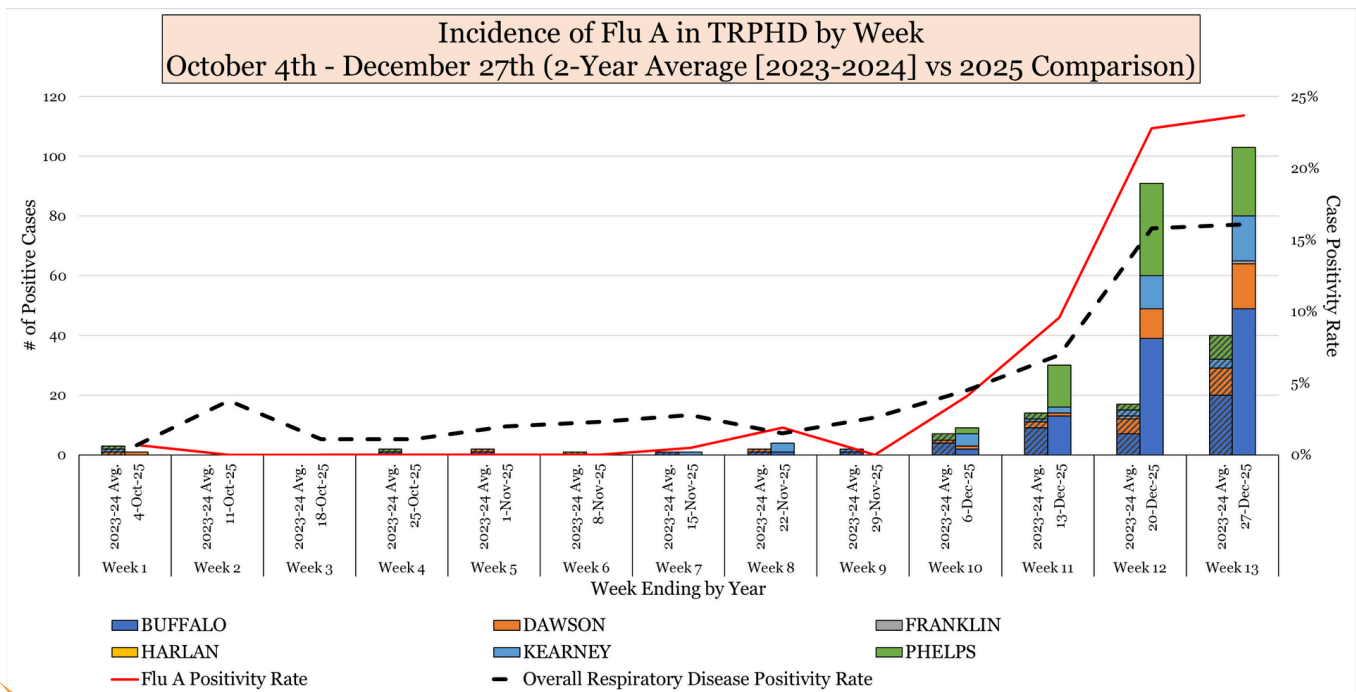
TRPHD Flu Cases

December 27, 2025



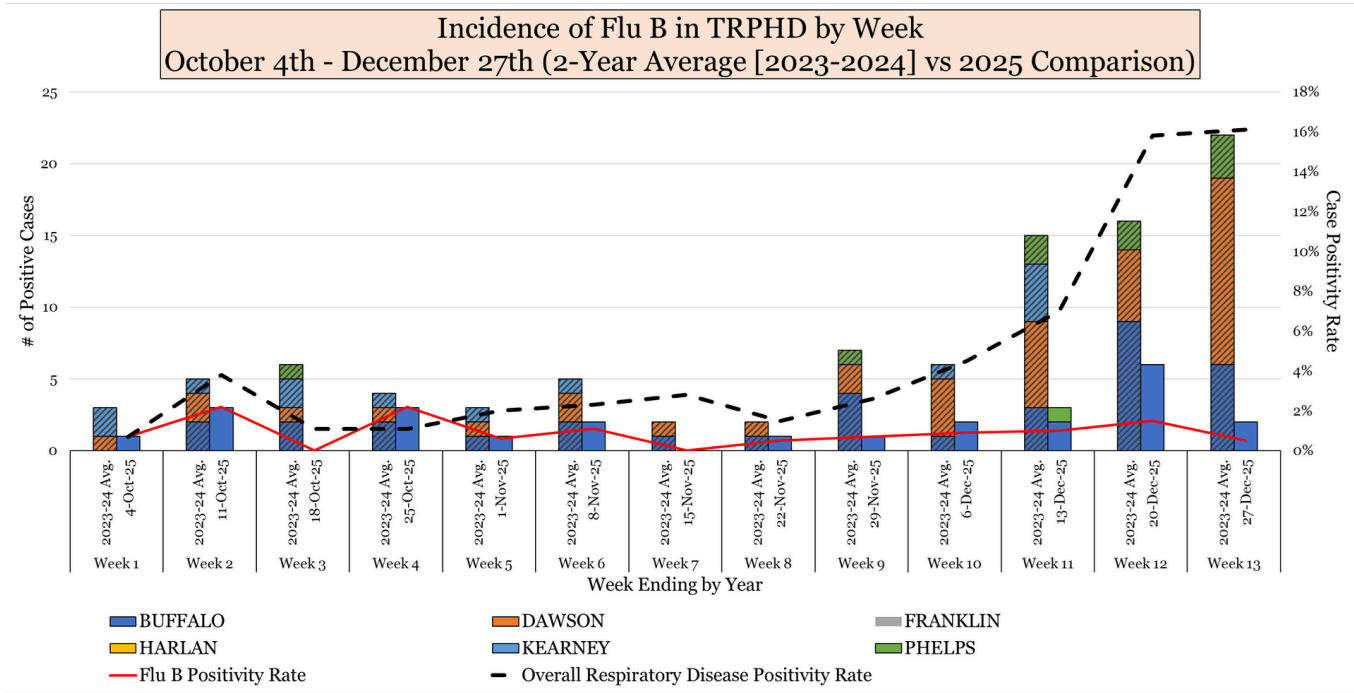
Influenza

- Rising Influenza A rates were recorded across all counties tracking in TRPHD - over 100 cases in 7 days.
- Influenza numbers are at their highest this year, and consistent with other parts of the country, are seeing a rapid increase in case load.



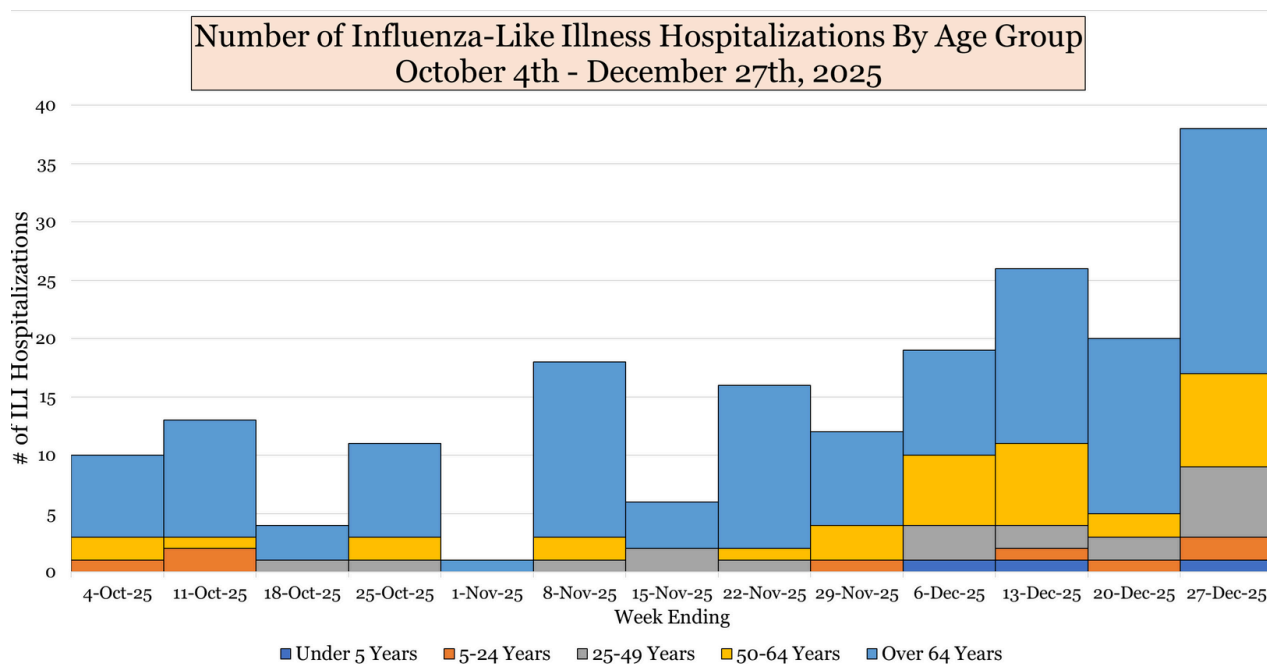
TRPHD Flu Cases

December 27, 2025



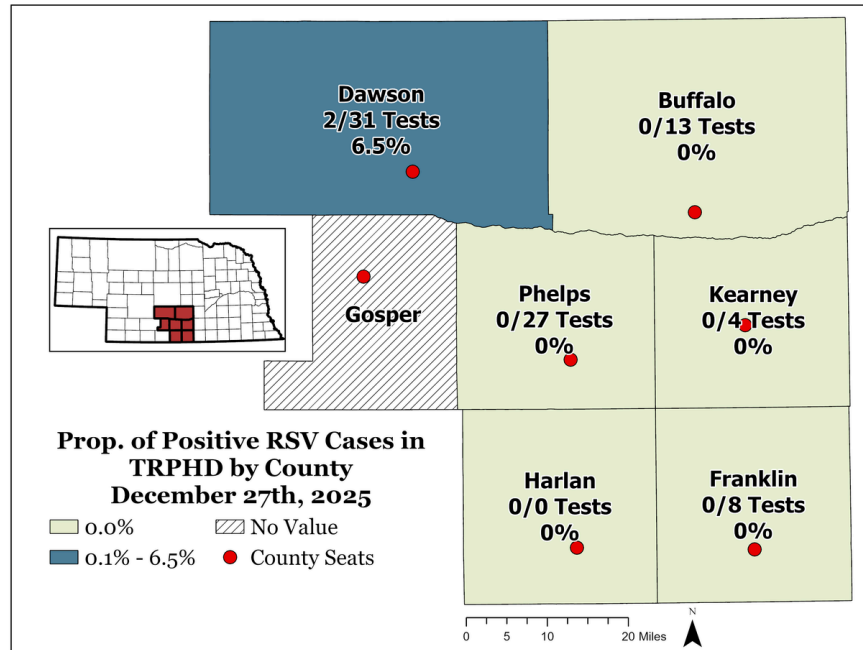
Influenza

- Influenza B numbers continue to track below the historic average in TRPHD.
- Just under 40 hospitalizations were recorded for Influenza-like-Illnesses (ILI) in the past week, which is the highest this year.



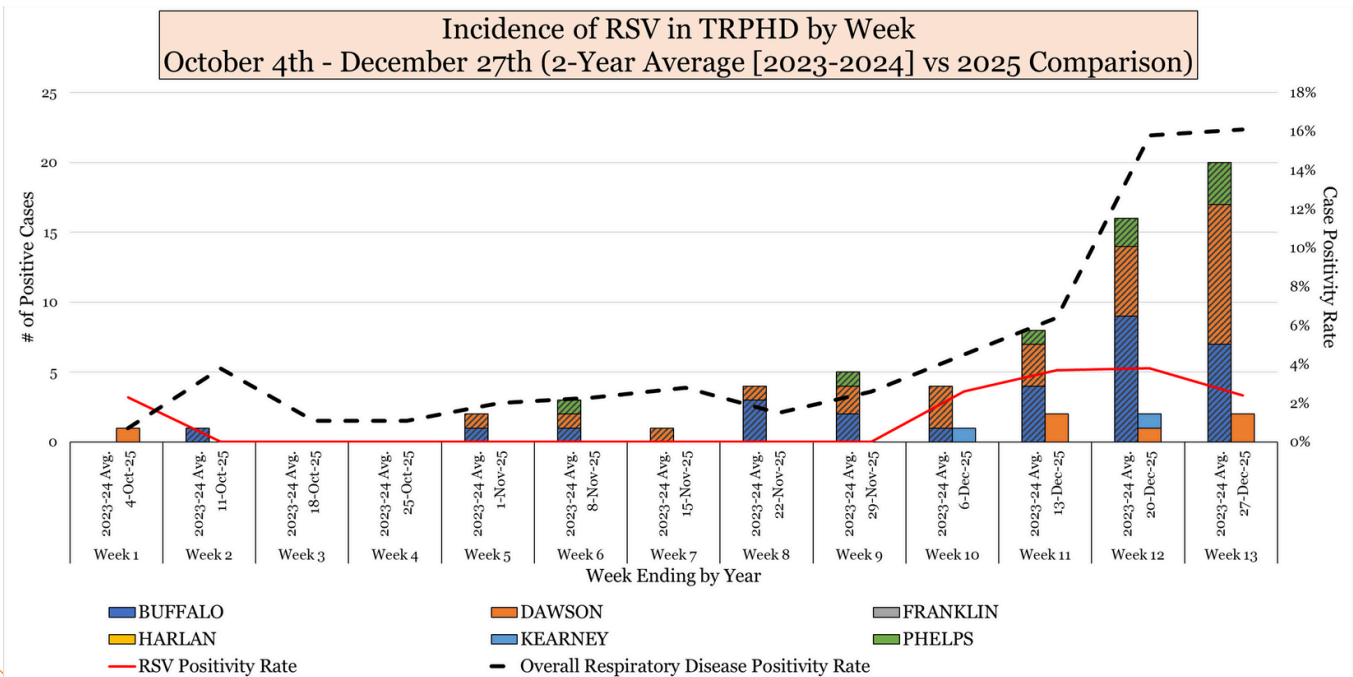
TRPHD RSV Cases

December 27, 2025



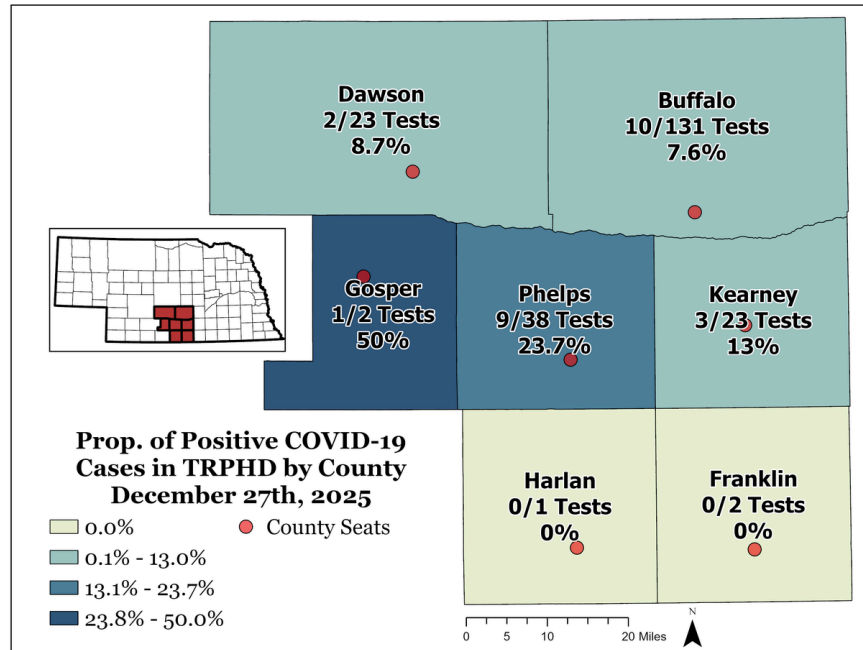
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- RSV incidence continues to remain low across TRPHD.



TRPHD COVID-19 Cases

December 27, 2025



COVID-19

- Over 22% of all COVID tests returned positive in the past week. COVID test positivity, along with Flu A, is the primary driver of respiratory disease in TRPHD currently.
- 25 COVID cases were recorded in the past week, which is the highest since this year's respiratory season began.

