

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

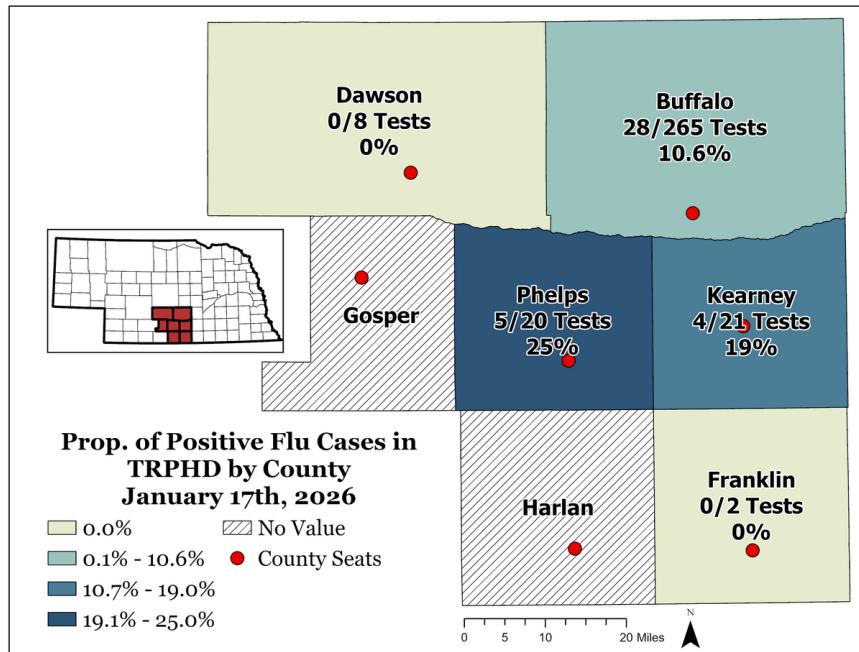
- The incidence of Influenza A fell across TRPHD for the third week, although Influenza-like-Illnesses (ILI) hospitalization rates rose again.
- Flu A shows some signs of abatement; RSV and Flu B rates are low.
- TRPHD has recorded increasing COVID rates for over a month now, indicating a heightened risk in the district of developing COVID.

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.

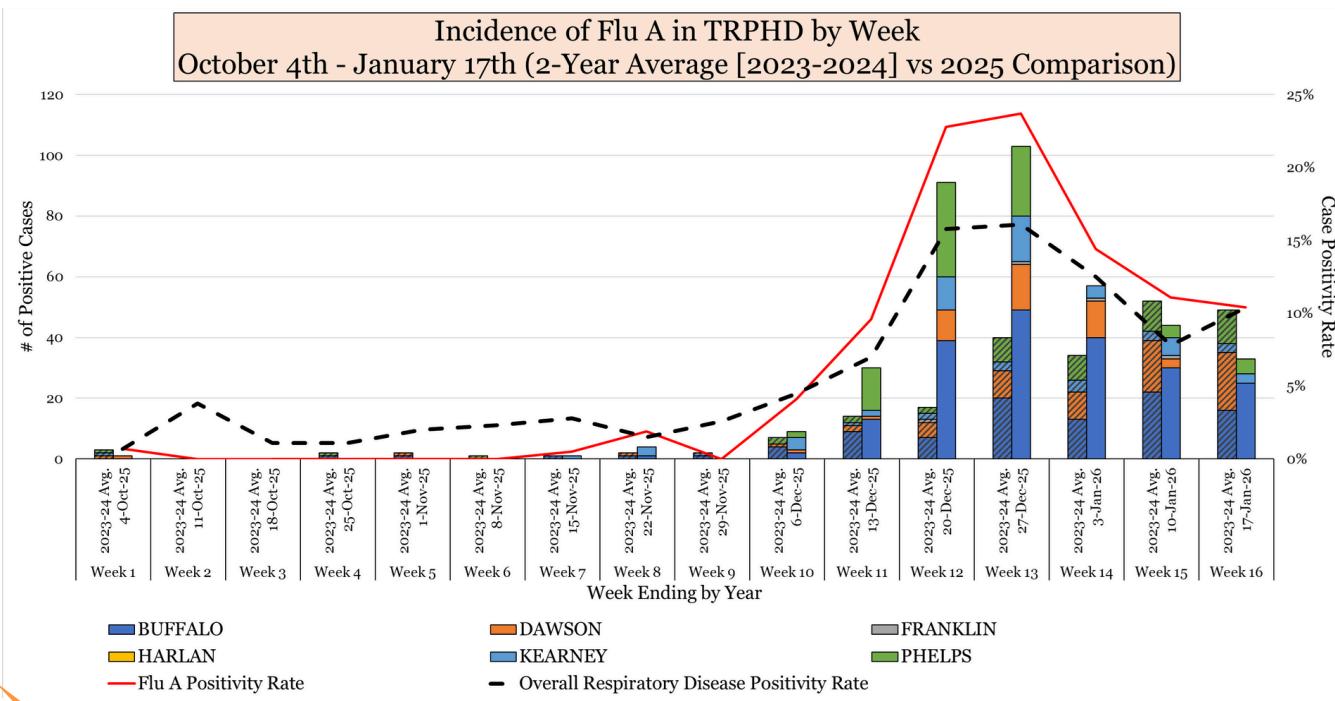
TRPHD Flu Cases

January 17, 2026



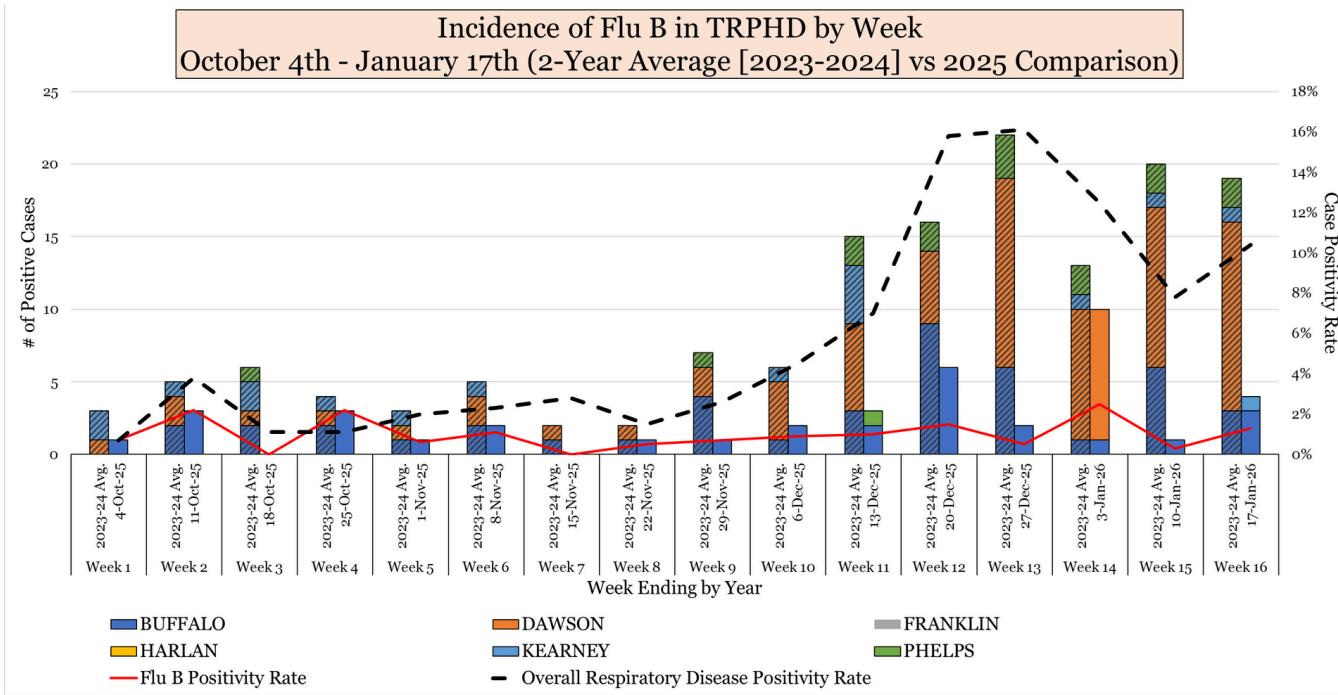
Influenza

- Cases of Influenza A dropped for the third straight week - increased testing in Buffalo and Kearney Counties has yielded positivity rates compared to previous months.
- A quarter of all Flu A tests in Phelps County returned positive, indicating heightened Flu activity in the County.



TRPHD Flu Cases

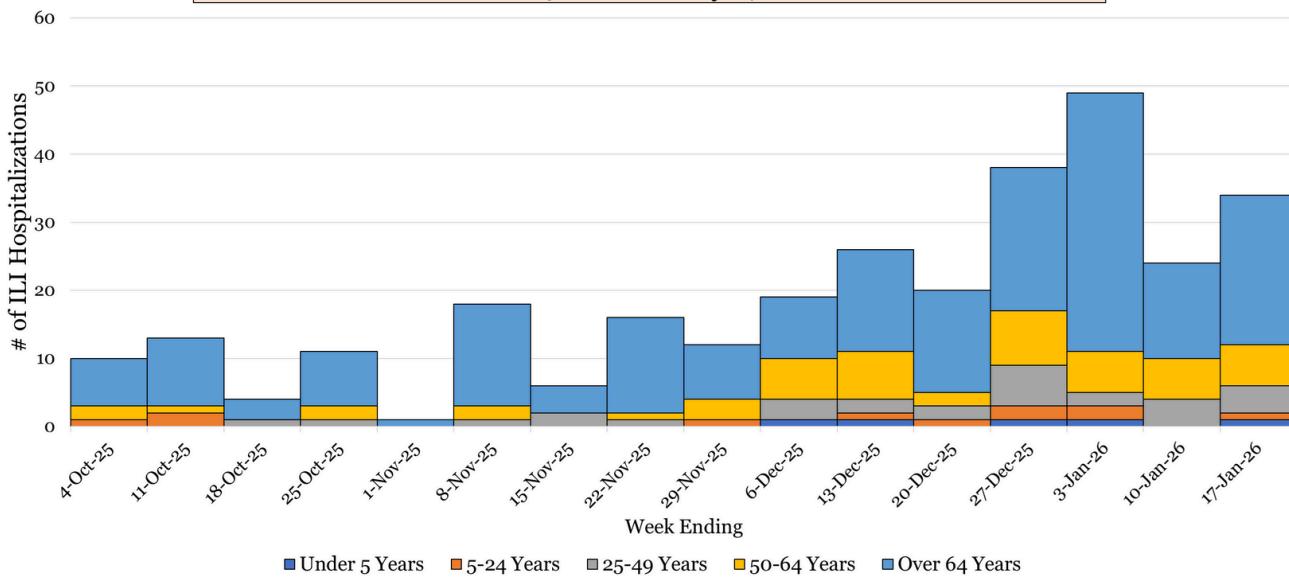
January 17, 2026



Influenza

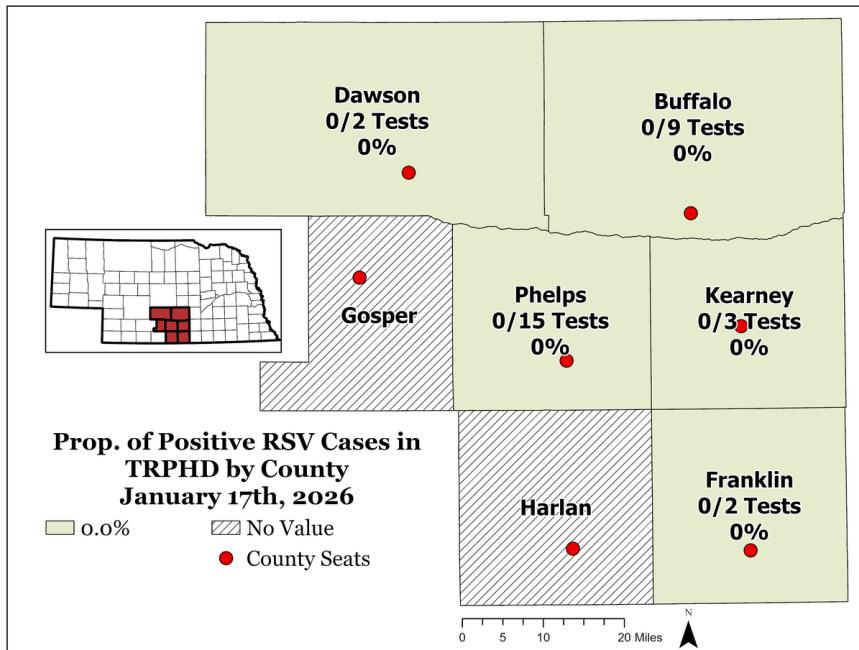
- 4 cases of Flu B were detected in TRPHD over the past week, continuing low incidence rates through the year.
- Influenza-like-Illness (ILI) related hospitalizations rose slightly compared to previous weeks.

Number of Influenza-Like Illness Hospitalizations By Age Group
October 4th - January 17th, 2026



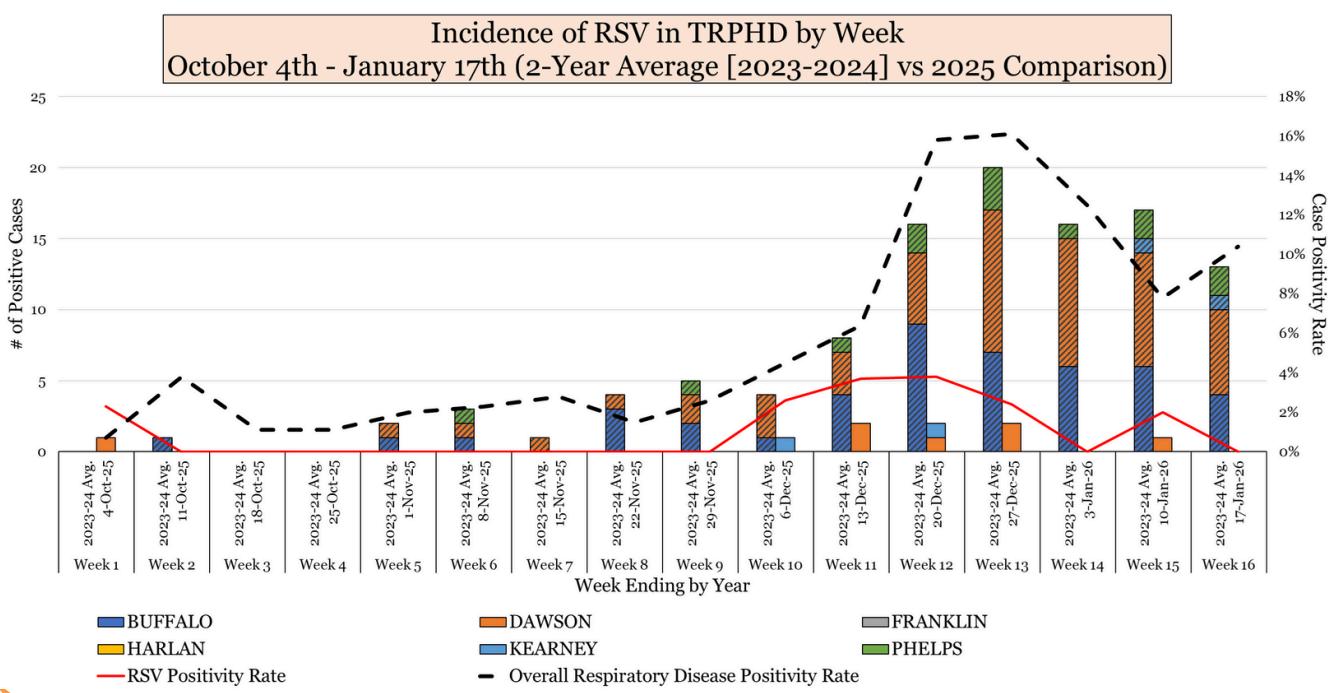
TRPHD RSV Cases

January 17, 2026



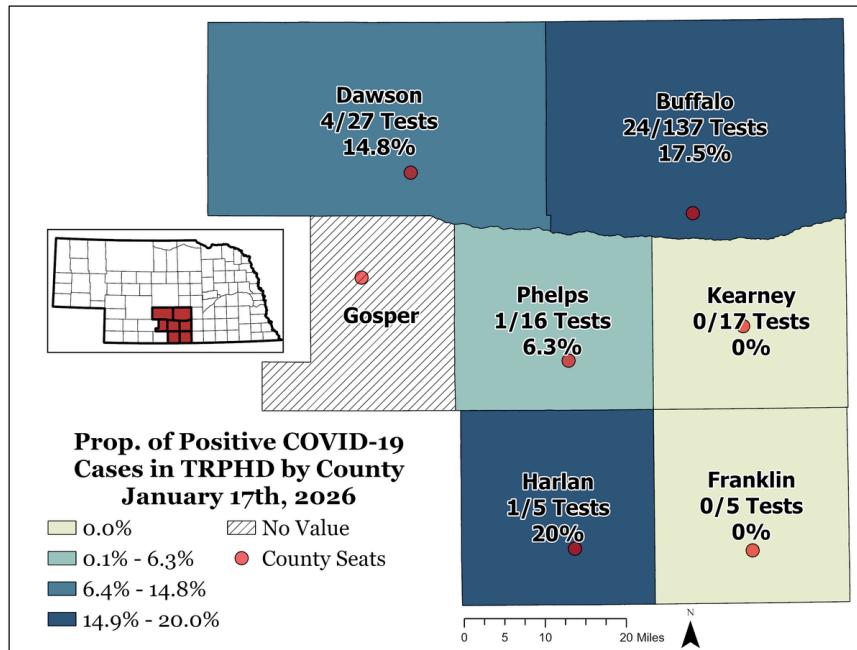
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- No RSV cases were recorded in TRPHD in the past week.



TRPHD COVID-19 Cases

January 17, 2026



COVID-19

- COVID cases rose sharply last week, marking only the second week during this respiratory season that TRPHD recorded over 30 cases in one week.
- COVID incidence has shown a general increasing trend over the past 5 weeks in TRPHD.

