

# **Influenza Surveillance Report**

## **2023 MMWR Week 08 (ending Feb 25, 2023)**

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## Summary

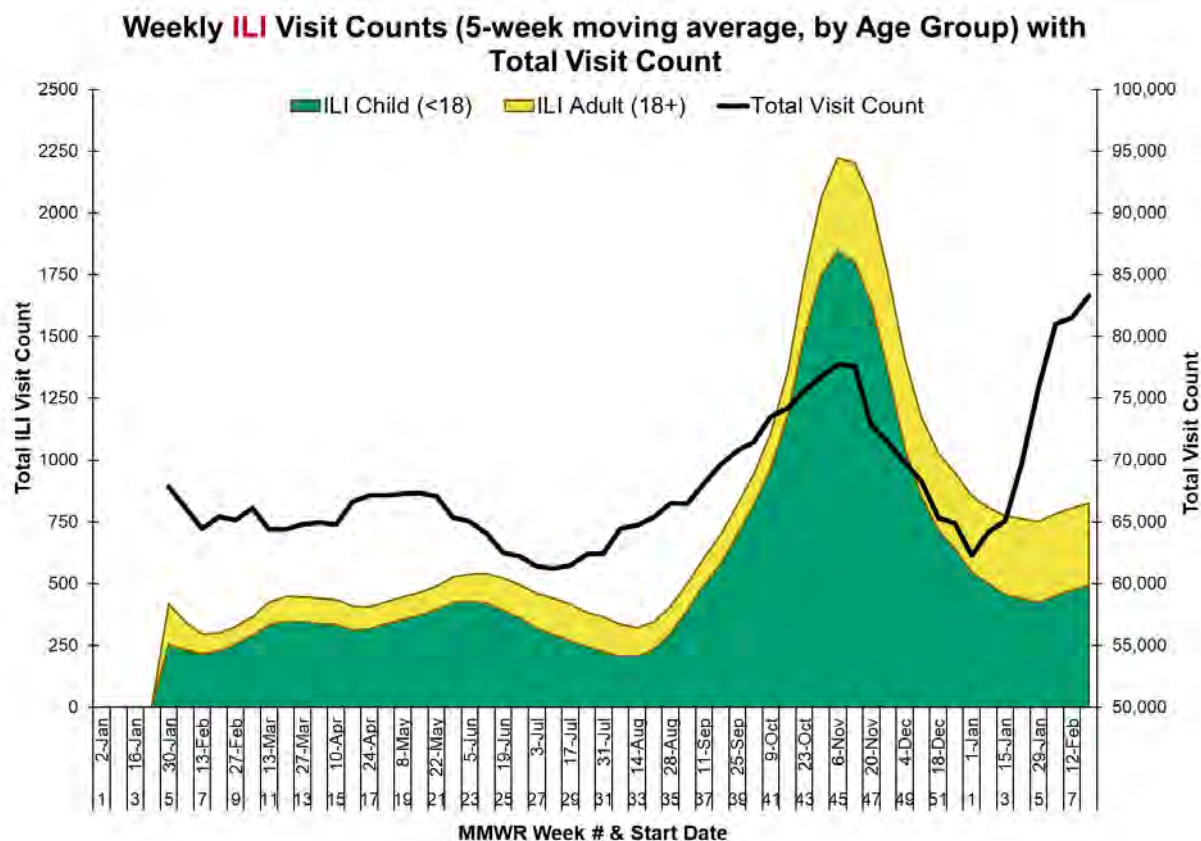
**Objective:** To monitor trends in influenza and influenza-like visits to facilities reporting to the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System (HHD-ESSENCE) in the Houston/Harris County region for public health intervention.

**Time Frame:** January 2, 2022 (start of 2022 MMWR Week 1) to February 25, 2023 (end of 2023 MMWR Week 08).

### Summary:

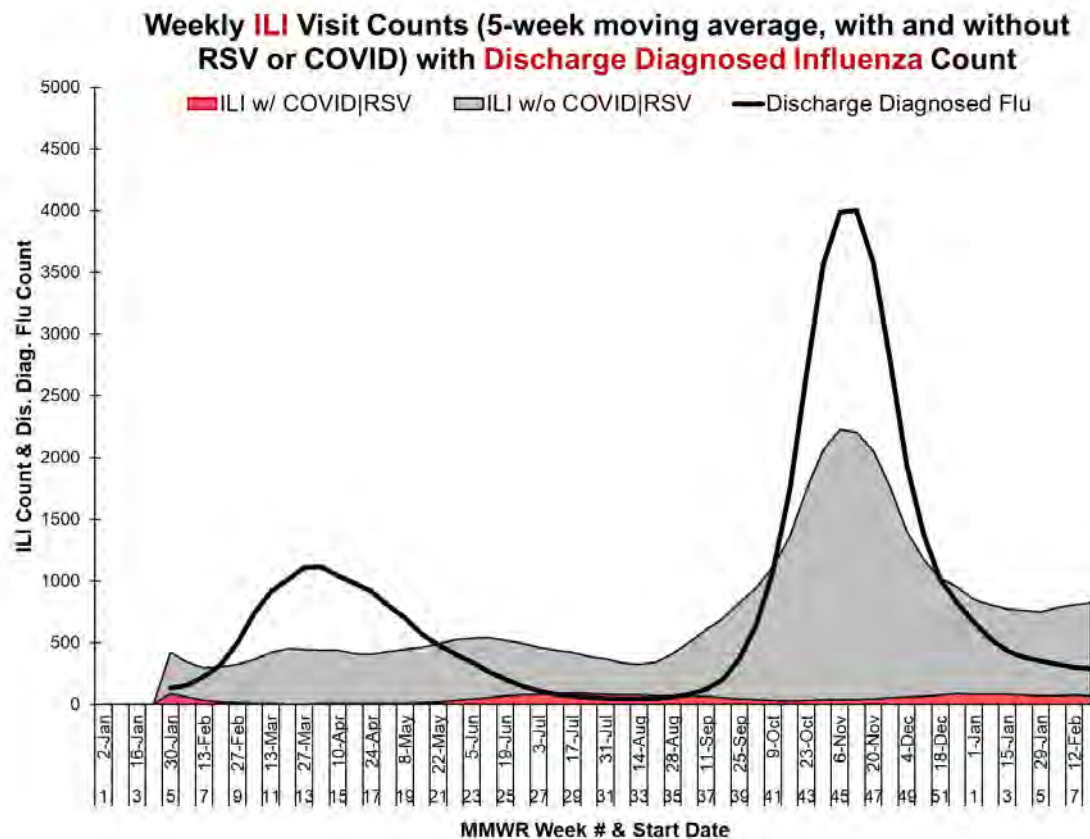
- Flu levels have reached an initial peak for the Houston/Harris County region, which is consistent to trends seen at both the state and national levels. Compared to the 2021-2022 season, where flu appeared to hit the area later in the season (February/March 2022), the current season has hit earlier, beginning in as early as late August/early September 2022.
- Since January, the 5-week average counts of ILI for both children under 18 and adults 18 and over are each showing a slight upward trend, after an initial wave from September to December.
- The 5-week average counts of ILI with an RSV or COVID diagnosis have been a downward trend since August, however, recent numbers indicate a slight upward to level trend. The ILI without and an RSV or COVID diagnosis count is on a slight upward, while the discharge diagnosed influenza count continues on a downward trend.
- In the past 5 weeks, the percentage of visits with ILI is on a slight upward trend, while the percentage of visits with discharge diagnosed influenza is on a downward trend.
- For 2023 Week 8, no schools tested positive for influenza A.

	5-week Trend	Change from Previous Week	Current Week (2023 MMWR Week 08)	Current Week (2023 MMWR Week 07)	<a href="#">Change from Previous Week in Texas</a>	<a href="#">Change from Previous Week in U.S.</a>
Percentage of Visits with ILI	Increasing	-0.03%	0.98%	1.01%	Decreasing	No change
Percentage of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza	Decreasing	-0.01%	0.29%	0.30%	N/A	N/A



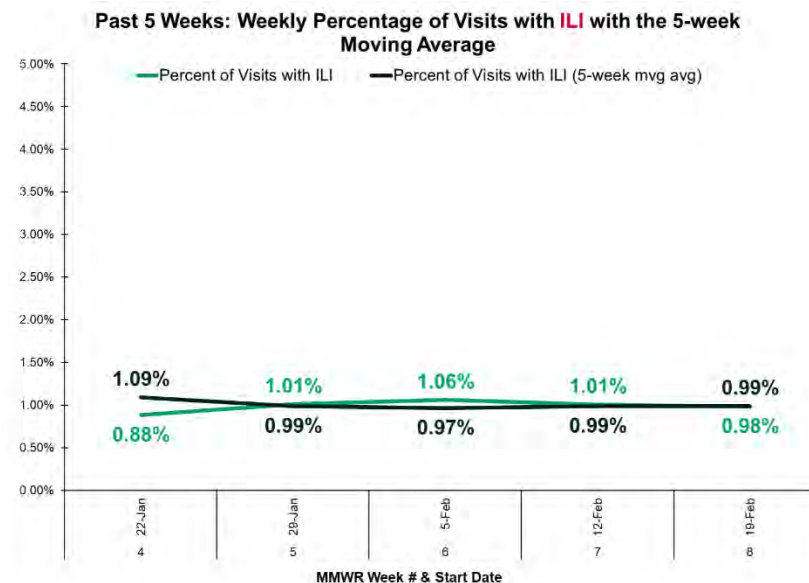
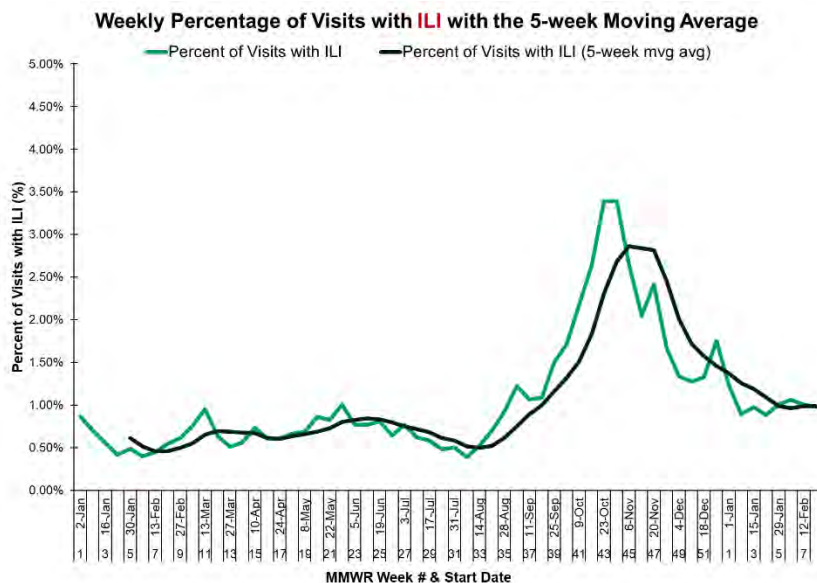
**Figure 1. The ILI Counts by Age Group with the Total Visit Count (5-week Moving Averages).**

As seen in Figure 1, the 5-week average counts of ILI for both age groups were trending upward from August to November 2022. Since November, these values have been trending downward until recently, when there have been slight ticks upwards.



**Figure 2. The Weekly ILI Visit Counts, with and without an RSV or COVID Diagnosis, with the Discharge Diagnosed Influenza Count (5-week Moving Averages).**

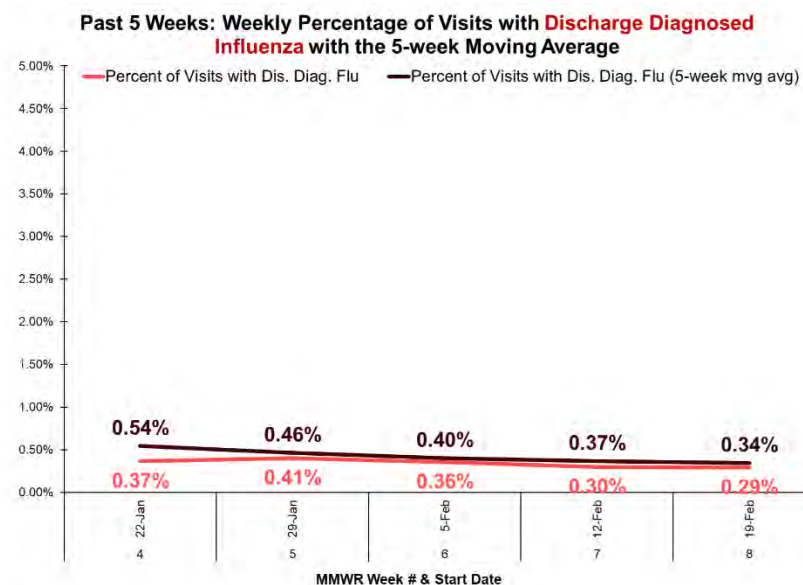
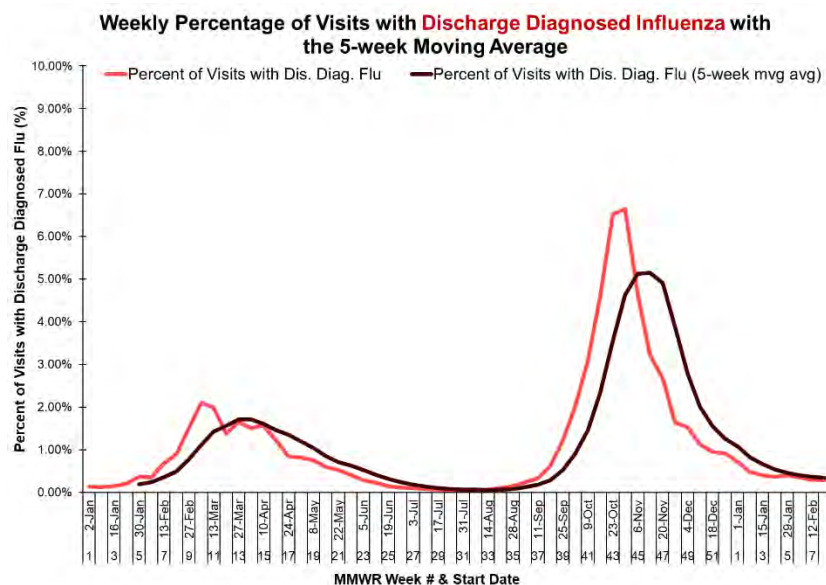
As seen in Figure 2, the 5-week average count of ILI with an RSV or COVID diagnosis is starting to trend downward again. The 5-week average count of ILI without an RSV or COVID diagnosis has recently begun to tick upward again, while the 5-week average count of discharge diagnosed influenza is continuing to trend downward.



**Figure 3. The Percentage of Visits with ILI with 5-week Moving Average.**

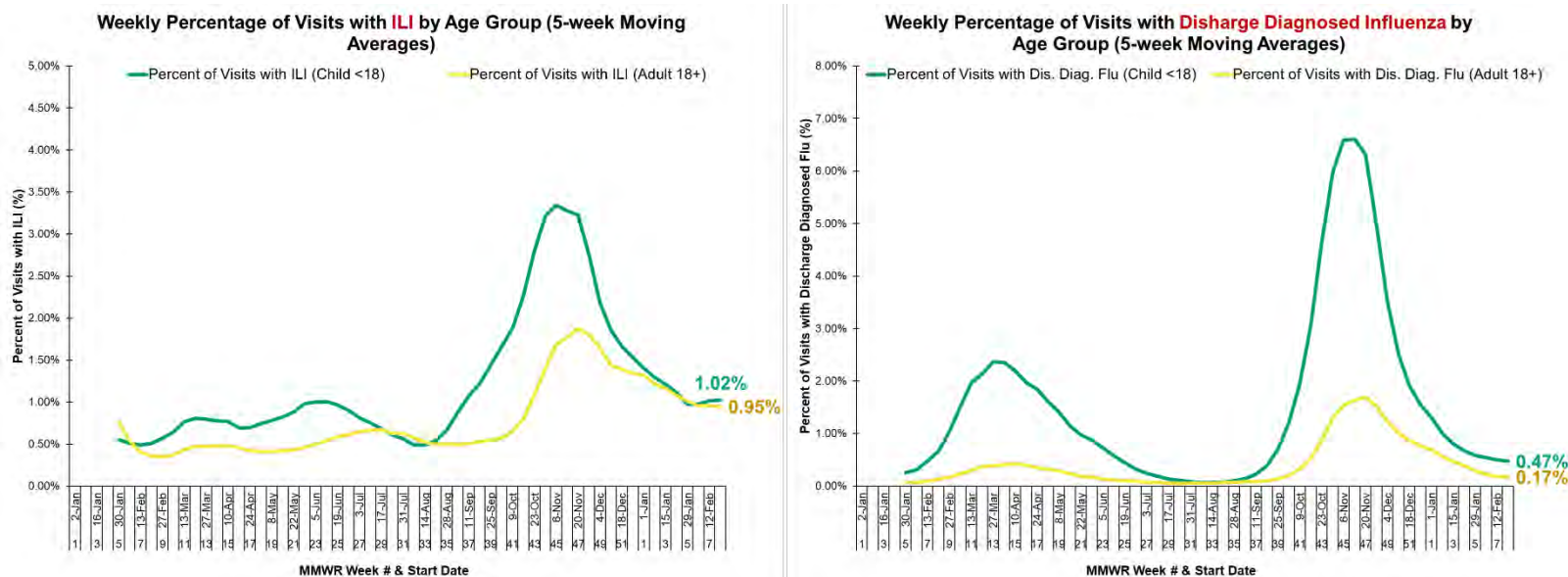
As seen in Figure 3, the percentage of visits with ILI is on a slight upward trend for the past 5 weeks.





**Figure 4. The Percentage of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza with 5-week Moving Average.**

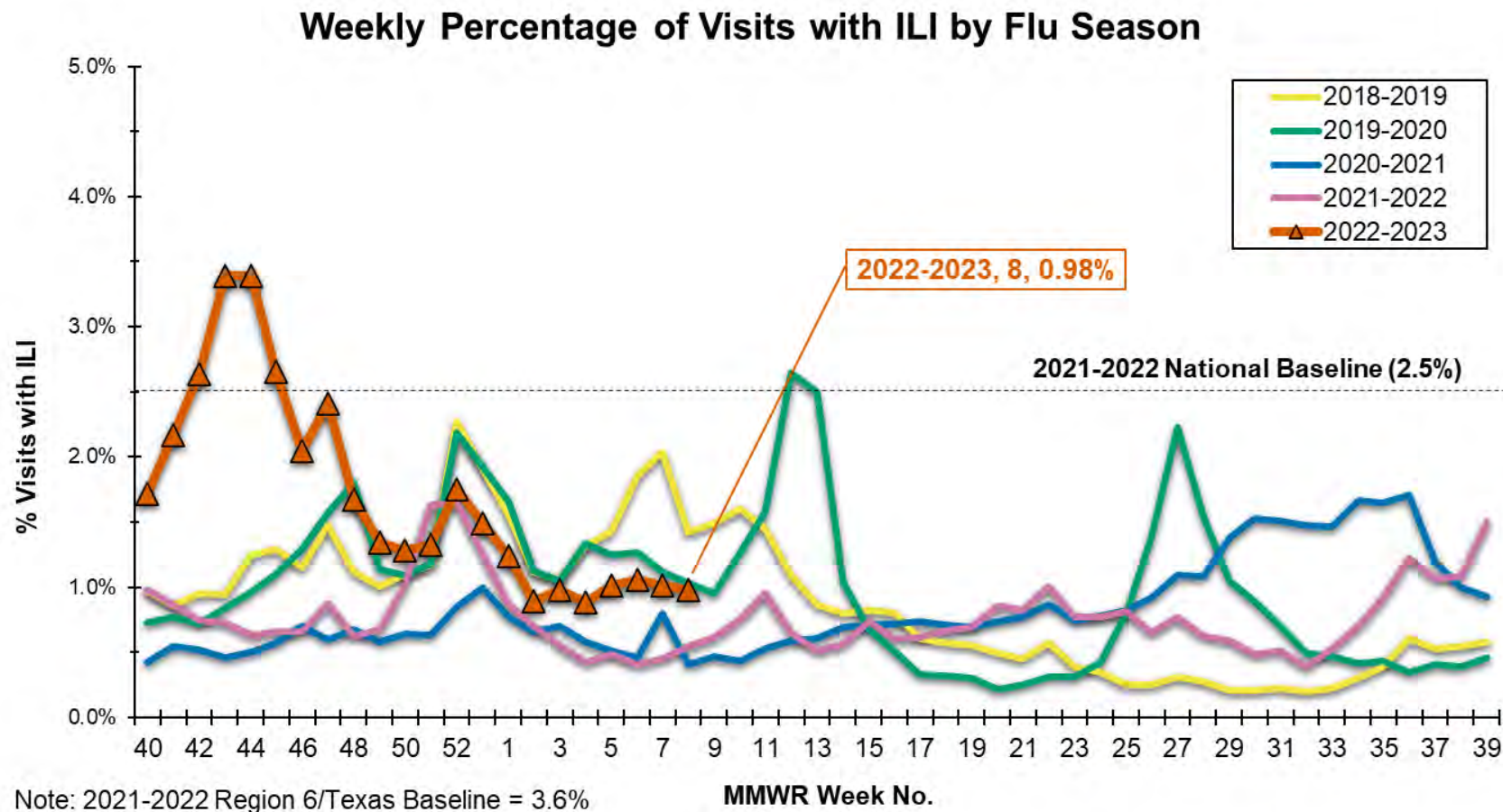
As seen in Figure 4, the percentage of visits with discharge diagnosed influenza is on a slight downward trend for the past 5 weeks.



**Figure 5. The Percentage of Visits with ILI by Age Group (left, 5-week moving averages) and the Percentage of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza (right, 5-week moving averages).**

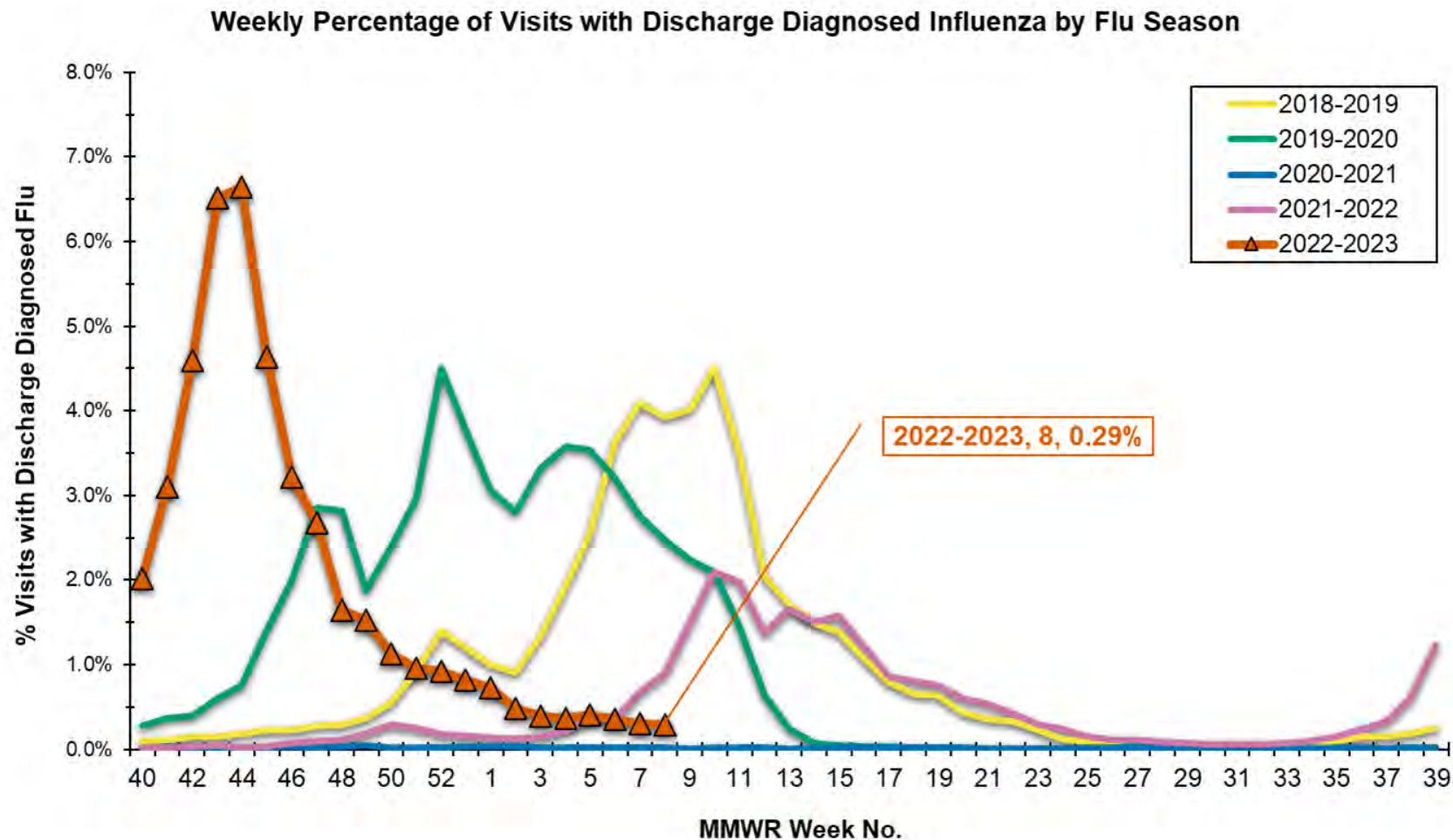
As seen in Figure 5, from August to December 2022, there were waves for both the percentage of visits with ILI and the percentage of visits with discharge diagnosed influenza for both age groups. Recent ILI values indicate a slight uptick in values, while the discharge diagnosed influenza value continues to trend downward for children and adults





**Figure 6. The Weekly Percentage of Visits with ILI for Current (2022-2023) and Previous Seasons.**

Note: 2020 has 53 weeks. Week 53 for 2019 and 2021 are the averages of Week 52 of the given year with Week 1 of the next year.

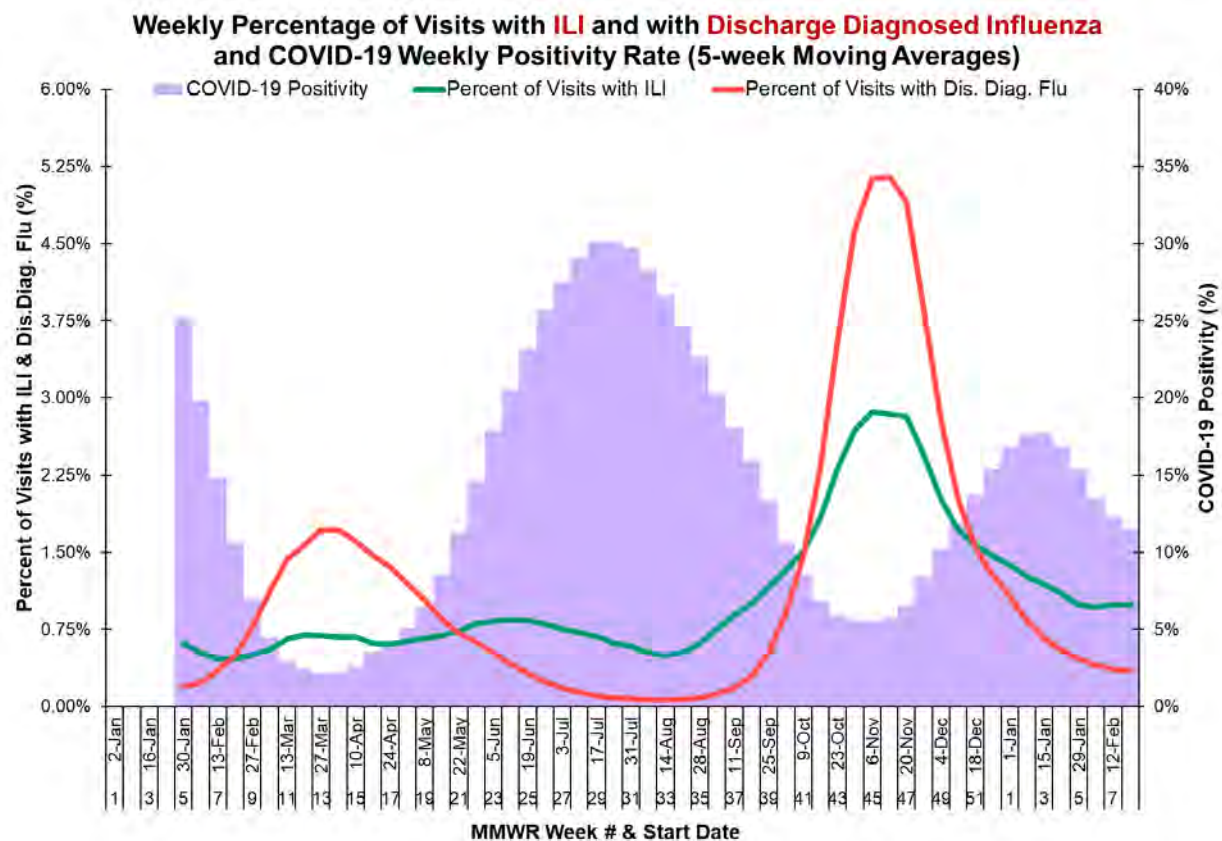


**Figure 7. The Weekly Percentage of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza for Current (2022-2023) and Previous Seasons.**

Note: 2020 has 53 weeks. Week 53 for 2019 and 2021 are the averages of Week 52 of the given year with Week 1 of the next year.

	Total Visits		ILI Visits		Discharge Diagnosed Influenza Visits	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 5	431,168	28%	6,933	30%	9449	30%
5 to 17	556,082	36%	13,732	59%	18547	58%
18 to 39	299,541	19%	1,505	7%	2377	7%
40 to 59	132,177	9%	493	2%	784	2%
60 to 79	96,234	6%	350	2%	548	2%
80 plus	29,537	2%	113	0%	174	1%
Total	1,544,739		23,126		31,879	

**Figure 8. For the 2022 to 2023 Flu Season starting MMWR 2022 Week 40 to 2023 Week 08 (October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 to February 25, 2023), the Count Breakdown for Total Visits, ILI Visits, and Discharge Diagnosed Influenza Visits by Age Group.**



**Figure 9. The Weekly Percentage of Visits with ILI and the Weekly Percentage of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza with the Weekly COVID-19 Positivity Rate.**

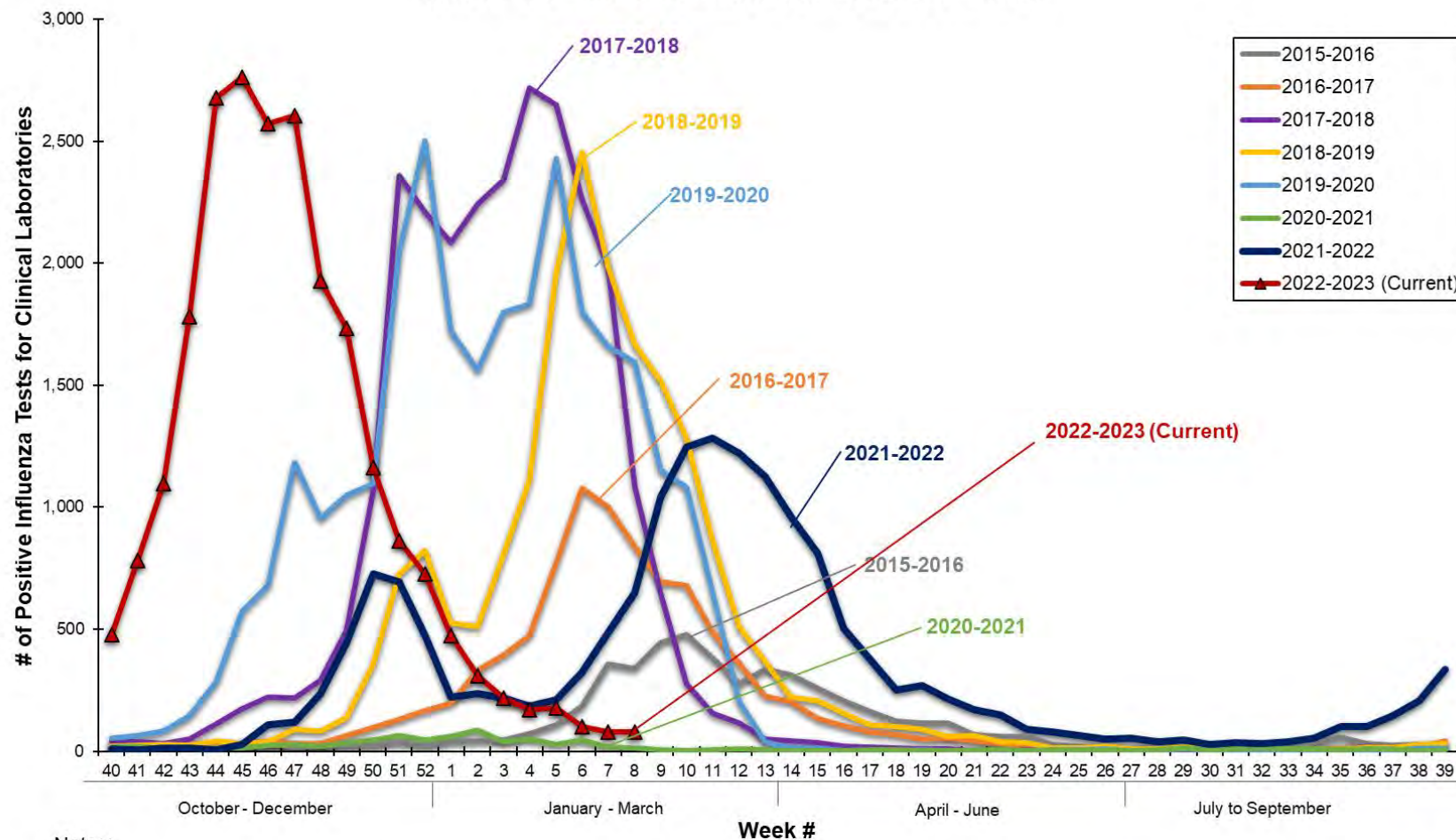
As seen in Figure 9 and previous figures, the percentage of visits with ILI and the percentage of visits with discharge diagnosed influenza have been trending downwards. However, the percent of visits with ILI may be ticking upward within the past few weeks. Recent COVID-19 positivity rate is trending downward.

*NOTE: COVID-19 positivity rate as of 03/01/2023.*



## The Statewide Positive Influenza Tests for Texas

### Statewide Positive Influenza Tests for Texas

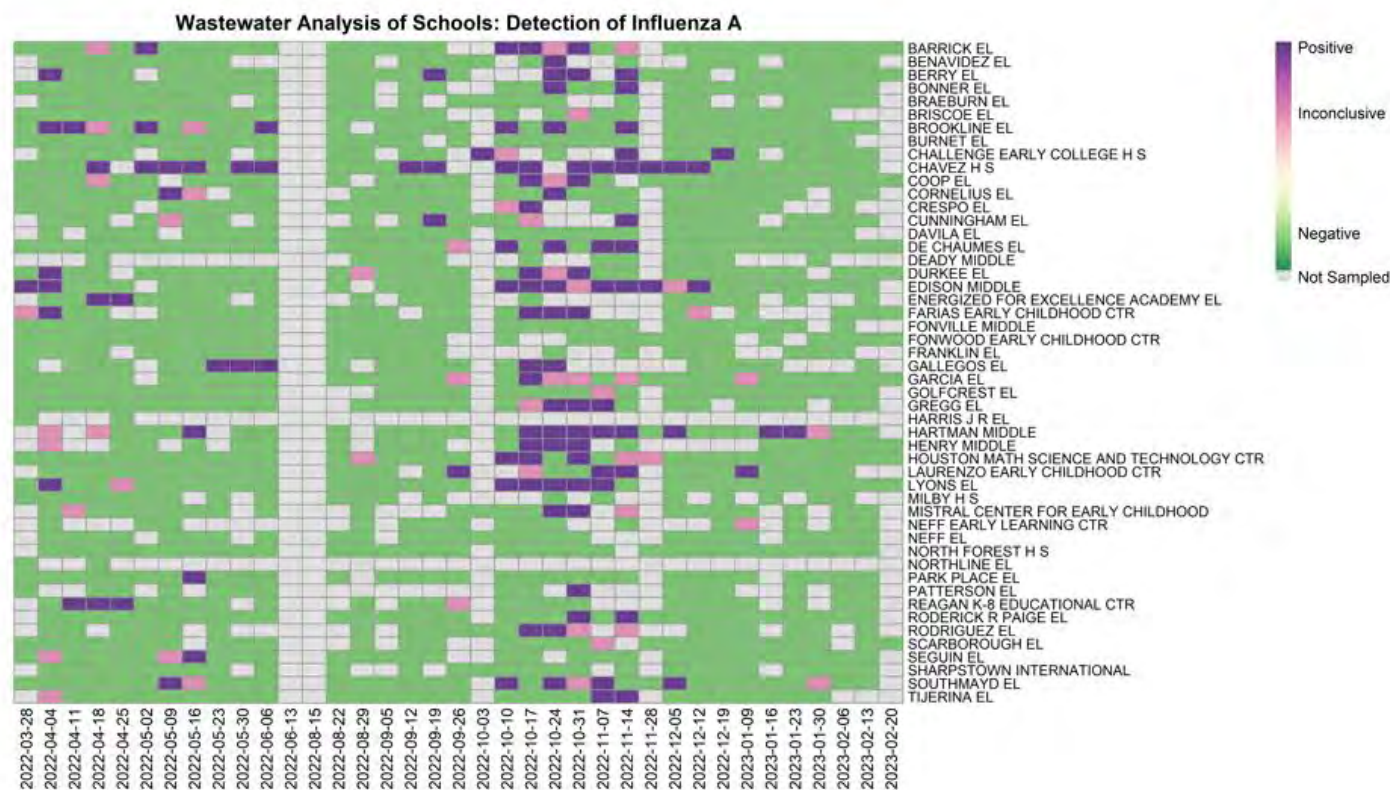


**Notes:**

1. Source: <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>
2. Months listed on the x-axis are approximate guidelines, as week numbers will correspond to different dates each year.
3. The 53rd week in 2020 is not shown in the figure.
4. Weekly counts for the current 2022-2023 season are subject to change moving forward.



## The Wastewater Analysis of Schools: Influenza A



## APPENDIX

**Data Source:** Three main types of visit data from the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System (HHD-ESSENCE) were used in this analysis: total visits to the facilities, influenza-like illness (ILI) visits, and discharge diagnosed influenza visits. The queries used searched for “ILI” in the Syndrome field and/or Influenza ICD codes in the Discharge Diagnosis field. ILI records are defined by the Chief Complaint field ([containing flu-like symptoms, e.g., fever plus cough or sore throat](#)) and could have other non-Influenza cases in the Discharge Diagnosis field (e.g., RSV or COVID). Any record where “Z23” (i.e., “Encounter for immunization”) was listed as the only code in Discharge Diagnosis was removed from ILI and Discharge Diagnosed Influenza records. Any record that did not have “Harris” in the county field or one of the 105 city of Houston-associated zip codes in the patient zip code field was removed.

### Method:

1. Weekly counts were calculated for ILI and discharge diagnosed influenza facility visits.
2. Weekly counts are shown in figures with a 5-week moving average (average of current week with previous 4 weeks) of the count.
3. The percentage of facility visits with ILI was calculated on a weekly basis:

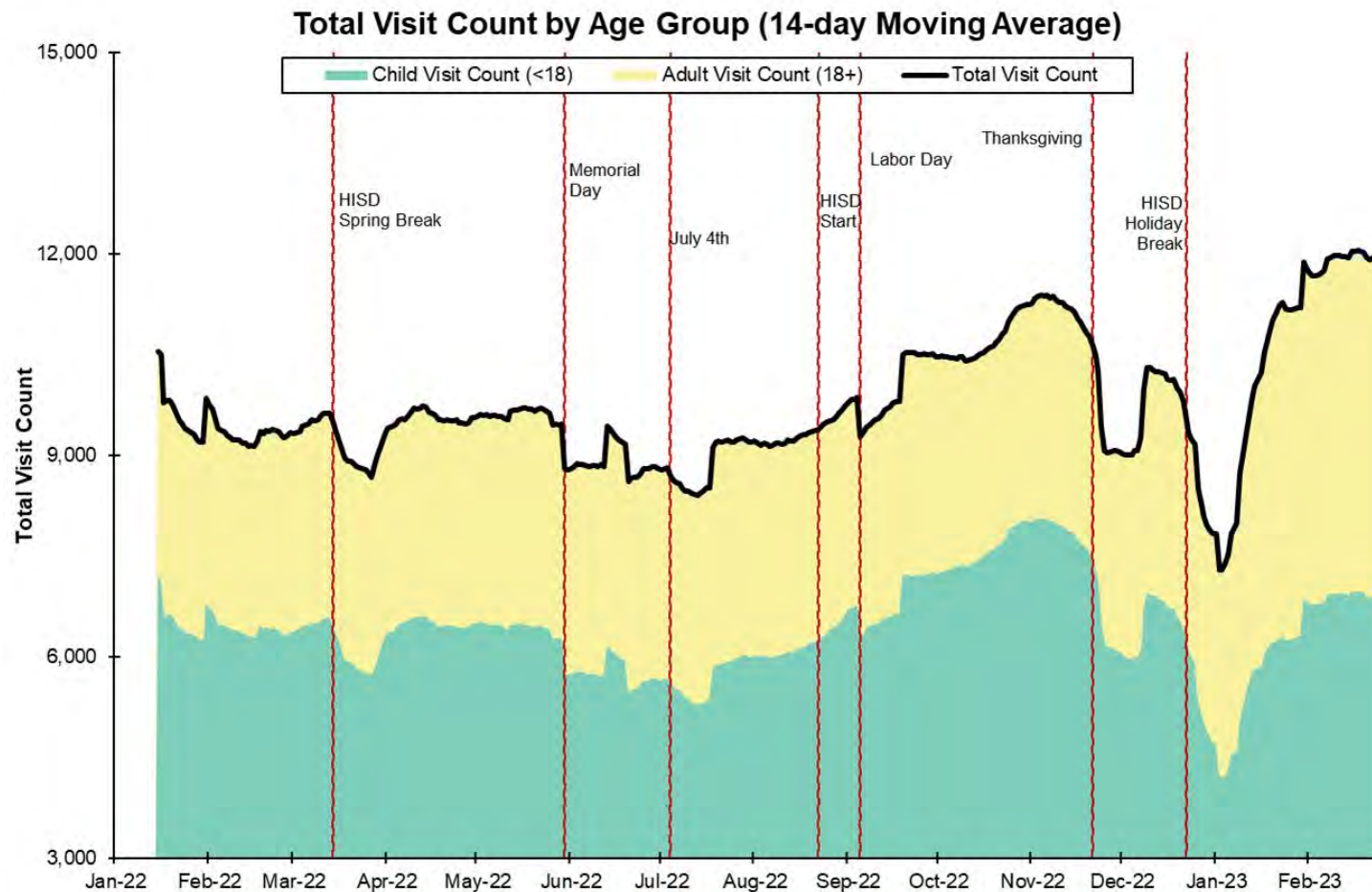
$$\% \text{ of Visits with ILI (weekly)} = \frac{\# \text{ of visits with ILI in week}}{\# \text{ of visits in week}}$$

4. The percentage of facility visits with discharge diagnosed Influenza was calculated.

$$\% \text{ of Visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza (weekly)} = \frac{\# \text{ of visits with Discharge Diagnosed Influenza in week}}{\# \text{ of visits in week}}$$

5. The 5-week moving average of these values was calculated and shown in figures.
6. Other tables and figures show similar values by age group or with respect to average temperature and relative humidity.

For more information on **wastewater sampling in schools**, please see the [City of Houston SARS-Cov-2 Wastewater Monitoring Dashboard FAQ](#), specifically questions 8 and 9 for school-related sampling.



Appendix Figure 1. The Total Visits by Age Group (14-day Moving Averages).

Total daily visit counts have stayed fairly consistent throughout the year, with drops in counts tending to coincide with major events or holidays (e.g., HISD Spring Break, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day). Since September, the daily total visit count is averaging above 10,000 visits a day.

	2020		2021		2022		2023	
MMWR Week #	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
1	12/29/2019	1/4/2020	1/3/2021	1/9/2021	1/2/2022	1/8/2022	1/1/2023	1/7/2023
2	1/5/2020	1/11/2020	1/10/2021	1/16/2021	1/9/2022	1/15/2022	1/8/2023	1/14/2023
3	1/12/2020	1/18/2020	1/17/2021	1/23/2021	1/16/2022	1/22/2022	1/15/2023	1/21/2023
4	1/19/2020	1/25/2020	1/24/2021	1/30/2021	1/23/2022	1/29/2022	1/22/2023	1/28/2023
5	1/26/2020	2/1/2020	1/31/2021	2/6/2021	1/30/2022	2/5/2022	1/29/2023	2/4/2023
6	2/2/2020	2/8/2020	2/7/2021	2/13/2021	2/6/2022	2/12/2022	2/5/2023	2/11/2023
7	2/9/2020	2/15/2020	2/14/2021	2/20/2021	2/13/2022	2/19/2022	2/12/2023	2/18/2023
8	2/16/2020	2/22/2020	2/21/2021	2/27/2021	2/20/2022	2/26/2022	2/19/2023	2/25/2023
9	2/23/2020	2/29/2020	2/28/2021	3/6/2021	2/27/2022	3/5/2022	2/26/2023	3/4/2023
10	3/1/2020	3/7/2020	3/7/2021	3/13/2021	3/6/2022	3/12/2022	3/5/2023	3/11/2023
11	3/8/2020	3/14/2020	3/14/2021	3/20/2021	3/13/2022	3/19/2022	3/12/2023	3/18/2023
12	3/15/2020	3/21/2020	3/21/2021	3/27/2021	3/20/2022	3/26/2022	3/19/2023	3/25/2023
13	3/22/2020	3/28/2020	3/28/2021	4/3/2021	3/27/2022	4/2/2022	3/26/2023	4/1/2023
14	3/29/2020	4/4/2020	4/4/2021	4/10/2021	4/3/2022	4/9/2022	4/2/2023	4/8/2023
15	4/5/2020	4/11/2020	4/11/2021	4/17/2021	4/10/2022	4/16/2022	4/9/2023	4/15/2023
16	4/12/2020	4/18/2020	4/18/2021	4/24/2021	4/17/2022	4/23/2022	4/16/2023	4/22/2023
17	4/19/2020	4/25/2020	4/25/2021	5/1/2021	4/24/2022	4/30/2022	4/23/2023	4/29/2023
18	4/26/2020	5/2/2020	5/2/2021	5/8/2021	5/1/2022	5/7/2022	4/30/2023	5/6/2023
19	5/3/2020	5/9/2020	5/9/2021	5/15/2021	5/8/2022	5/14/2022	5/7/2023	5/13/2023
20	5/10/2020	5/16/2020	5/16/2021	5/22/2021	5/15/2022	5/21/2022	5/14/2023	5/20/2023
21	5/17/2020	5/23/2020	5/23/2021	5/29/2021	5/22/2022	5/28/2022	5/21/2023	5/27/2023
22	5/24/2020	5/30/2020	5/30/2021	6/5/2021	5/29/2022	6/4/2022	5/28/2023	6/3/2023
23	5/31/2020	6/6/2020	6/6/2021	6/12/2021	6/5/2022	6/11/2022	6/4/2023	6/10/2023
24	6/7/2020	6/13/2020	6/13/2021	6/19/2021	6/12/2022	6/18/2022	6/11/2023	6/17/2023
25	6/14/2020	6/20/2020	6/20/2021	6/26/2021	6/19/2022	6/25/2022	6/18/2023	6/24/2023
26	6/21/2020	6/27/2020	6/27/2021	7/3/2021	6/26/2022	7/2/2022	6/25/2023	7/1/2023
27	6/28/2020	7/4/2020	7/4/2021	7/10/2021	7/3/2022	7/9/2022	7/2/2023	7/8/2023



28	7/5/2020	7/11/2020	7/11/2021	7/17/2021	7/10/2022	7/16/2022	7/9/2023	7/15/2023
29	7/12/2020	7/18/2020	7/18/2021	7/24/2021	7/17/2022	7/23/2022	7/16/2023	7/22/2023
30	7/19/2020	7/25/2020	7/25/2021	7/31/2021	7/24/2022	7/30/2022	7/23/2023	7/29/2023
31	7/26/2020	8/1/2020	8/1/2021	8/7/2021	7/31/2022	8/6/2022	7/30/2023	8/5/2023
32	8/2/2020	8/8/2020	8/8/2021	8/14/2021	8/7/2022	8/13/2022	8/6/2023	8/12/2023
33	8/9/2020	8/15/2020	8/15/2021	8/21/2021	8/14/2022	8/20/2022	8/13/2023	8/19/2023
34	8/16/2020	8/22/2020	8/22/2021	8/28/2021	8/21/2022	8/27/2022	8/20/2023	8/26/2023
35	8/23/2020	8/29/2020	8/29/2021	9/4/2021	8/28/2022	9/3/2022	8/27/2023	9/2/2023
36	8/30/2020	9/5/2020	9/5/2021	9/11/2021	9/4/2022	9/10/2022	9/3/2023	9/9/2023
37	9/6/2020	9/12/2020	9/12/2021	9/18/2021	9/11/2022	9/17/2022	9/10/2023	9/16/2023
38	9/13/2020	9/19/2020	9/19/2021	9/25/2021	9/18/2022	9/24/2022	9/17/2023	9/23/2023
39	9/20/2020	9/26/2020	9/26/2021	10/2/2021	9/25/2022	10/1/2022	9/24/2023	9/30/2023
40	9/27/2020	10/3/2020	10/3/2021	10/9/2021	10/2/2022	10/8/2022	10/1/2023	10/7/2023
41	10/4/2020	10/10/2020	10/10/2021	10/16/2021	10/9/2022	10/15/2022	10/8/2023	10/14/2023
42	10/11/2020	10/17/2020	10/17/2021	10/23/2021	10/16/2022	10/22/2022	10/15/2023	10/21/2023
43	10/18/2020	10/24/2020	10/24/2021	10/30/2021	10/23/2022	10/29/2022	10/22/2023	10/28/2023
44	10/25/2020	10/31/2020	10/31/2021	11/6/2021	10/30/2022	11/5/2022	10/29/2023	11/4/2023
45	11/1/2020	11/7/2020	11/7/2021	11/13/2021	11/6/2022	11/12/2022	11/5/2023	11/11/2023
46	11/8/2020	11/14/2020	11/14/2021	11/20/2021	11/13/2022	11/19/2022	11/12/2023	11/18/2023
47	11/15/2020	11/21/2020	11/21/2021	11/27/2021	11/20/2022	11/26/2022	11/19/2023	11/25/2023
48	11/22/2020	11/28/2020	11/28/2021	12/4/2021	11/27/2022	12/3/2022	11/26/2023	12/2/2023
49	11/29/2020	12/5/2020	12/5/2021	12/11/2021	12/4/2022	12/10/2022	12/3/2023	12/9/2023
50	12/6/2020	12/12/2020	12/12/2021	12/18/2021	12/11/2022	12/17/2022	12/10/2023	12/16/2023
51	12/13/2020	12/19/2020	12/19/2021	12/25/2021	12/18/2022	12/24/2022	12/17/2023	12/23/2023
52	12/20/2020	12/26/2020	12/26/2021	1/1/2022	12/25/2022	12/31/2022	12/24/2023	12/30/2023
53	12/27/2020	1/2/2021						