



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: February 23, 2026

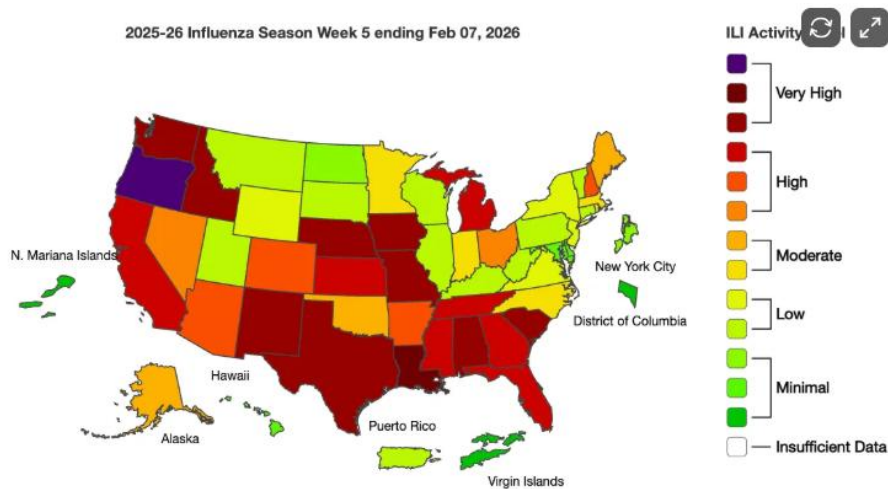
Resources used: CDC, COH Flu Report, Harris County HAN Alert, FDA and USDA recalls.

Priority Alerts: Influenza like Illness, measles, Salmonella.

- **Influenza-like Illness (ILI):** The 2025 - 2026 U.S. flu season remains high activity, with Texas at “Very High” as of Feb 7, 2026. A mutated H3N2 strain dominates, followed by Flu B. Influenza and RSV activities are moderate in healthcare encounters and wastewater monitoring (COH Flu Report, NREVSS).
- **Measles:** As of February 19, 2026, [982 confirmed measles](#) cases have been reported in the United States in 2026, with ongoing transmission in multiple states. Texas confirmed two cases at the detention facility, South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley, TX).
- Harris County issued a HAN alert for healthcare providers. No confirmed cases in Harris County or Houston.
- **Salmonella:** A new multistate outbreak of extensively drug-resistant Salmonella linked to Rosabella moringa powder capsules affected 7 people, with 3 hospitalized. FDA recalled 52 lot numbers expiring in 2027; usual first-line antibiotics are ineffective.
- **Recall Alert:** [Ajinomoto Foods North America](#) recalled 3.3 million lbs. of frozen chicken fried rice (including [Trader Joe's brand](#)) due to possible glass contamination. BEST BY dates 9/8/26 - 11/17/26.

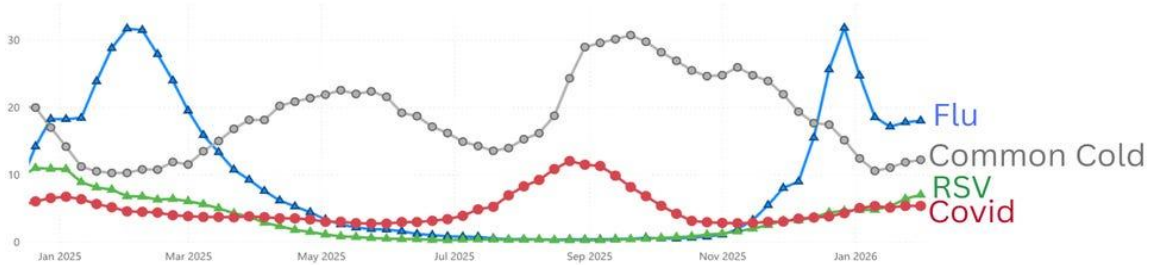
Influenza like illness:

The 2025 - 2026 U.S. flu season continues to show high activity, with rising rates of the common cold and RSV. For Texas, activity remains at “[Very High](#)” level as of February 7, 2026. A mutated H3N2, influenza A strain has been a dominant driver this season followed by Influenza B. According to the latest [COH Flu Report](#), ending February 7th, 2026. Influenza and RSV activities are at moderate levels both in healthcare encounters and wastewater surveillance.





Number of positive tests, by disease over time (January 2025 - 2026)



Source: NREVSS

Key Highlights for MMWR Week 2026-05 (ending February 7, 2026)

COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Healthcare Encounter Level: LOW	Healthcare Encounter Level: MODERATE	Healthcare Encounter Level: MODERATE
5-week Encounter Trend: STABLE	5-week Encounter Trend: STABLE	5-week Encounter Trend: STABLE
Wastewater Level: LOW	Wastewater Level: Flu A: MODERATE Flu B: LOW	Wastewater Level: MODERATE
Wastewater Trend: STABLE	Wastewater Trend: Flu A: STABLE Flu B: STABLE	Wastewater Trend: STABLE

Source: Flu report. Levels (**LOW**, **MODERATE**, **HIGH**) indicate how the current respiratory activity compares to that of the previous season's low activity weeks.

Measles update: In Texas, two measles cases were confirmed at the [South Texas Family Residential Center South Texas Family Residential Center](#) (Dilley, TX), and public health actions were implemented. Harris county issued a HAN Alert on February 19, 2026, regarding those two cases, and the advisory was intended for health care providers to remain alert. There are currently no confirmed cases of measles in Harris County or City of Houston.





Salmonella:

- CDC public health officials in seven states, and FDA are investigating a new multistate outbreak of [extensively drug-resistant Salmonella](#) infections linked to certain lots of Rosabella brand moringa powder capsules. Texas has no case yet.
- Those who got sick had purchased it from Amazon or other online retailers. The outbreak is small thus far (seven people, three hospitalized). But typically, Salmonella can be treated with antibiotics, and this is a drug-resistant strain that cannot be treated with first-line antibiotics. The [FDA recall](#) is related to 52 lot numbers those expire in 2027.



Rosabella brand moringa powder capsules distributed by Ambrosia brands, LLC.

HHD Implications

Influenza Like Illness

BoE (Bureau of Epidemiology) continues routine monitoring and reporting of influenza cases to allow early detection of seasonal spikes and emerging trends. Our recommendation to Communications is to post social media reminders of Flu still circulating, encourage vaccination, and reminders to stay home if sick. This team will continue to monitor the weekly Flu report produced by Data Science and case counts monitored by BoE.

Measles

Communications to continue social media messaging on symptoms, transmission, and the availability of MMR vaccination services.

Salmonella

HHD Consumer Health has the FDA recall posted on its consumer health page but amplifying recall notices through the landing page and social platforms will engage more public attention and early steps to toss the recalled lots.

Reference: The content of this report has relevant links marked in Blue. Please hit CTRL, click to go to the link directly, and read the full content.