



San Diego County Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report: Supplemental Information

Prepared by Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

www.sdepi.org

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report can be found on the County of San Diego COVID-19 data [website](#).

COVID-19 Reporting in San Diego County

Facilities Certified Under CLIA to perform Non-waived Testing are required to report all laboratory-based SARS-CoV-2 NAAT results, including positive and non-positive (i.e., negative, indeterminate). Facilities with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver are required to report SARS-CoV-2 POSITIVE diagnostic results only. Laboratories that test San Diego County residents (regardless of the physical location of the laboratory) must register with CDPH for electronic laboratory reporting (ELR). Information about how to establish an electronic connection with CDPH to route positive and negative COVID-19 results to San Diego County can be found at the CDPH [Health Information Exchange Gateway](#). Laboratories waiting for ELR to be established are required to report laboratory-positive results to the County Epidemiology Unit by FAX at **(858) 715-6458**. Hospitalizations and deaths of patients due to COVID-19 must be reported within one day of identification using a [COVID-19 Confidential Morbidity Report Form](#).

NOTE: Self-administered tests are not reported to the County of San Diego and are not included in COVID-19 data reporting.

Influenza Reporting in San Diego County

Individual influenza cases are reportable to the County of San Diego Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch. Please report laboratory-positive influenza results to the County Epidemiology Unit by FAX **(858) 715-6458** using a [Confidential Morbidity Report Form](#), or an [Influenza Case Report Form](#), and/or a copy of the laboratory results. Also, please indicate if the patient died and/or is a resident of a congregate living facility (if known).

Influenza specimens may be sent to [Public Health Laboratory](#) (PHL) for confirmation and subtyping. Please contact PHL at **(619) 692-8500** before submitting or for questions and use the current PHL [Test Requisition Form](#). Contact the Epidemiology Unit by telephone **(619) 692-8499** or email (EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) with questions about influenza data. Influenza outbreaks should be reported by telephone to **(619) 692-8499**.

Resource Links

- § County of San Diego Epidemiology Unit www.sdepi.org
- § County of San Diego [2021-22 Influenza Season Summary](#)
- § County of San Diego [COVID-19 Data website](#)
- § County of San Diego Immunization Unit (SDIZ) www.sdiz.org
- § California [Immunization Registry](#) (CAIR2)
- § California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [COVID-19 Update](#)
- § California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Influenza Update](#)
- § Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [COVID-19 Surveillance](#)
- § Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Influenza Surveillance](#)



Data Sources and Definitions

- **Case reports:** Medical providers and laboratories report individual cases of PCR-confirmed and antigen-positive probable COVID-19 and individual cases of PCR and rapid or antigen test positive influenza via fax or electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) to Public Health Services Epidemiology Unit (Epidemiology). Self-administered tests are not reported. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) reporting is not mandated, but many San Diego County health systems voluntarily report positive RSV detections, primarily via ELR.
- **Deaths:** The County of San Diego requests that all deaths related to COVID-19 and influenza be reported for surveillance purposes. Pediatric flu deaths (under 18 years of age) are legally reportable in California. RSV deaths in children under age 5 are also legally reportable. COVID-19, RSV, and influenza-related deaths are also identified through death certificate registration. The County Office of Vital Records notifies Epidemiology when a new death is registered with COVID-19, RSV, or influenza listed as a cause of death or contributing condition. The Epidemiology Unit compiles the data, and only reports deaths that can be verified by a death certificate.
- **Percent pneumonia and influenza deaths:** The percentage of all deaths registered that had either pneumonia and/or influenza listed as a cause of death is obtained directly from the Vital Records data system on a weekly basis.
- **COVID-19 hospitalization data:** Data is from the [California COVID-19 State Dashboard](#). Hospitalization counts include all patients diagnosed with COVID-19 during their stay. This does not necessarily mean they were hospitalized because of COVID-19 complications or that they experienced COVID-19 symptoms. Hospitals report the total number of patients each day, not the number of new patients. Includes residents and non-residents hospitalized at San Diego County hospitals.
- **Emergency department syndromic surveillance:** Electronic emergency department data are reported to the Epidemiology Unit daily. The percent of ED visits for **influenza-like illness (ILI)** and **COVID-like illness (CLI)** based on chief complaints or diagnosis is calculated for each week. CLI is defined as fever and cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing OR coronavirus diagnostic codes. ILI is defined as fever and cough and/or sore throat.
- **Outbreaks:** Outbreaks in residential congregate settings, such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, group homes, correctional facilities, and homeless shelters, are included in this report. Epidemiology identifies outbreaks when facilities call to report. Other potential outbreaks are identified when multiple cases share an address or have a residential address that matches a skilled nursing or long-term care facility.
 - **COVID-19 outbreaks:**
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities: at least one facility-acquired case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in a resident.
 - Non-SNF Residential Congregate Settings: At least three suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in epidemiologically-linked residents and/or staff.
 - § **Influenza outbreaks:** In a congregate living setting, outbreaks are defined as at least one laboratory-confirmed influenza in the setting of a cluster (≥ 2 cases) of influenza-like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.
- **Vaccinations:** Number of COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations registered in the California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) by participating providers. Some providers, including the VA, DoD, other military, some tribal, and prisons do not report to CAIR2.
- **Wastewater surveillance:** WastewaterSCAN, a national consortia, provides weekly monitoring for levels of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza A in wastewater solids collected from the Point Loma processing plant.
- **Variant surveillance:** SARS-CoV-2 variant prevalence from genomic surveillance is based on clinical samples and is obtained from the California Department of Public Health COVIDNET (<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/covidnet/>) dashboard and GISAIID (<https://gisaid.org/>). Wastewater SARS-CoV-2 lineage prevalence was generated by the SEARCH (San Diego Epidemiology and Research for COVID Health) consortia (<https://searchcovid.info/dashboards/wastewater-surveillance/>).
- **SANDAG population estimates, vintage 2019:** Rates are calculated using 2019 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments.