



Emerging Infectious Diseases

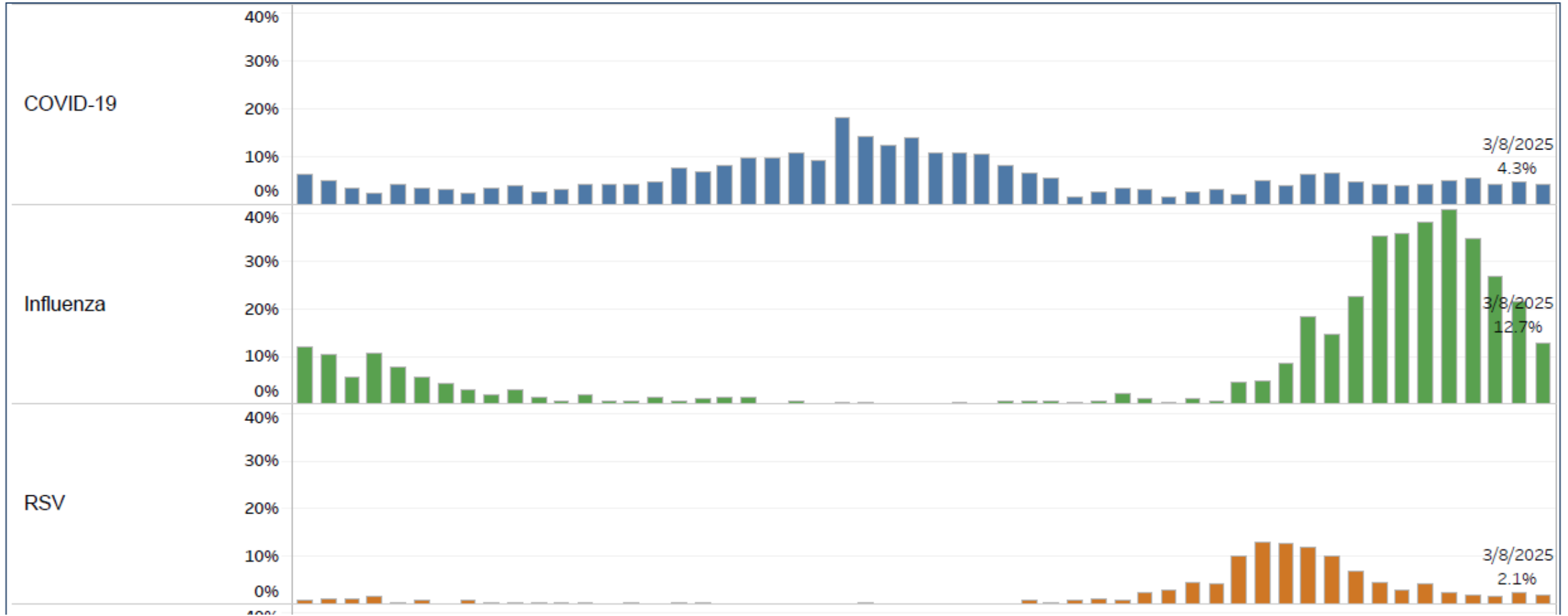
Dr Alexander Kuc & Dr Ammundeep Tagore

Respiratory Illnesses

- Emergency department visits and hospital admissions on a decline for influenza & RSV and remain stable for COVID-19
- Majority of admissions for COVID-19 and Influenza have been reported in persons 65 years and older.
- The predominant COVID-19 variants are covered by the 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine.
- The current predominant Influenza virus (type B) is included in the 2024-25 influenza vaccine.



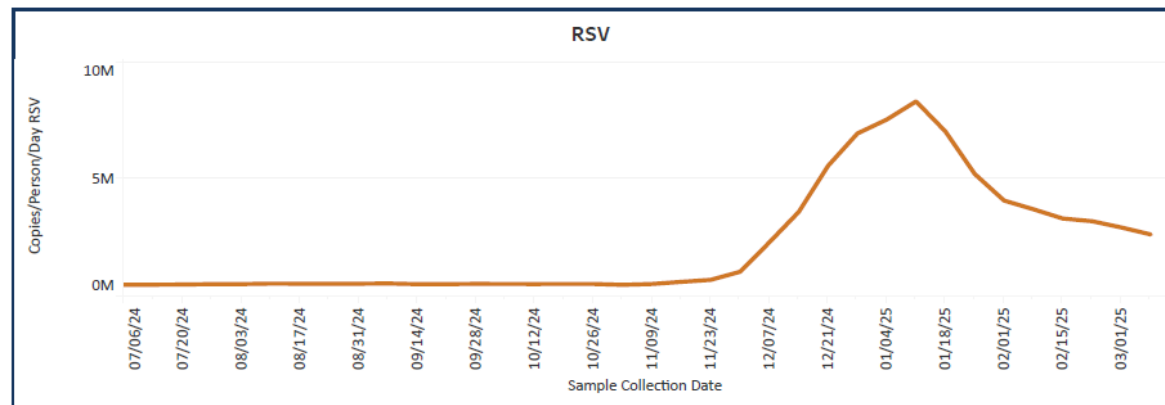
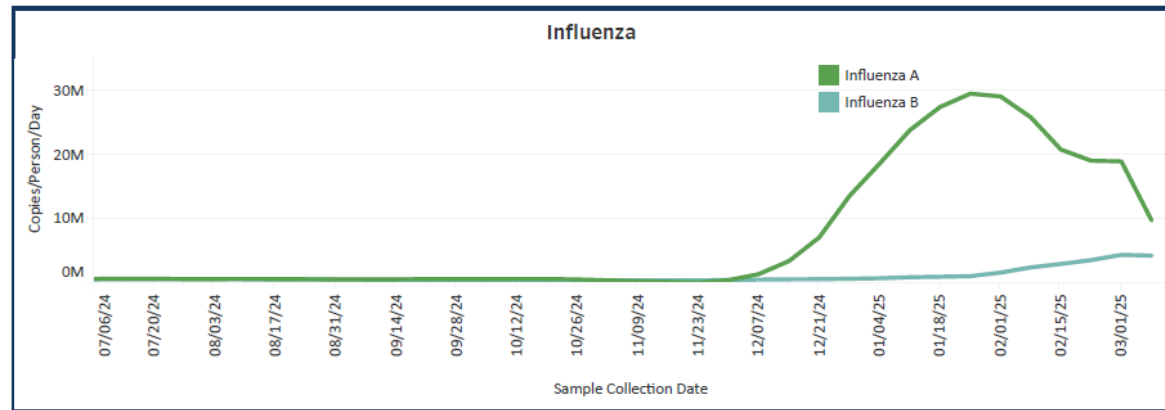
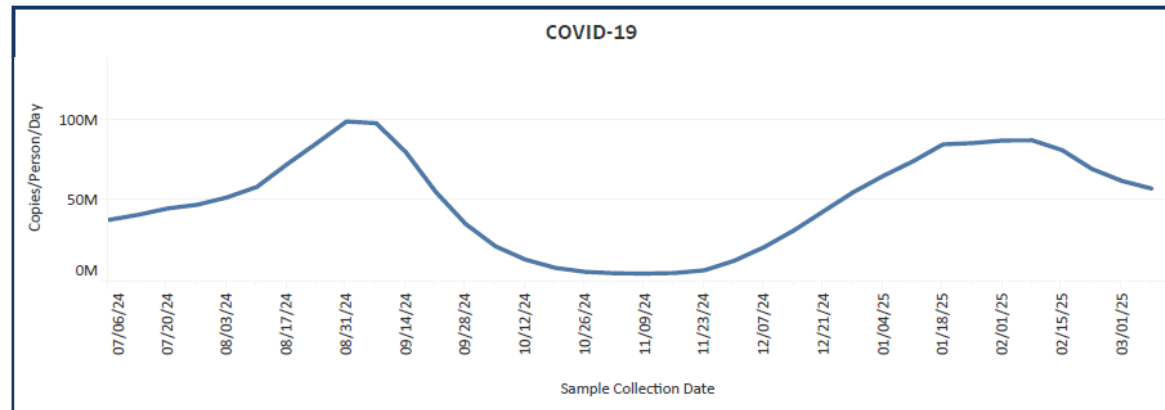
COVID, Flu, & RSV Trends



Other Dominant Viral Illnesses



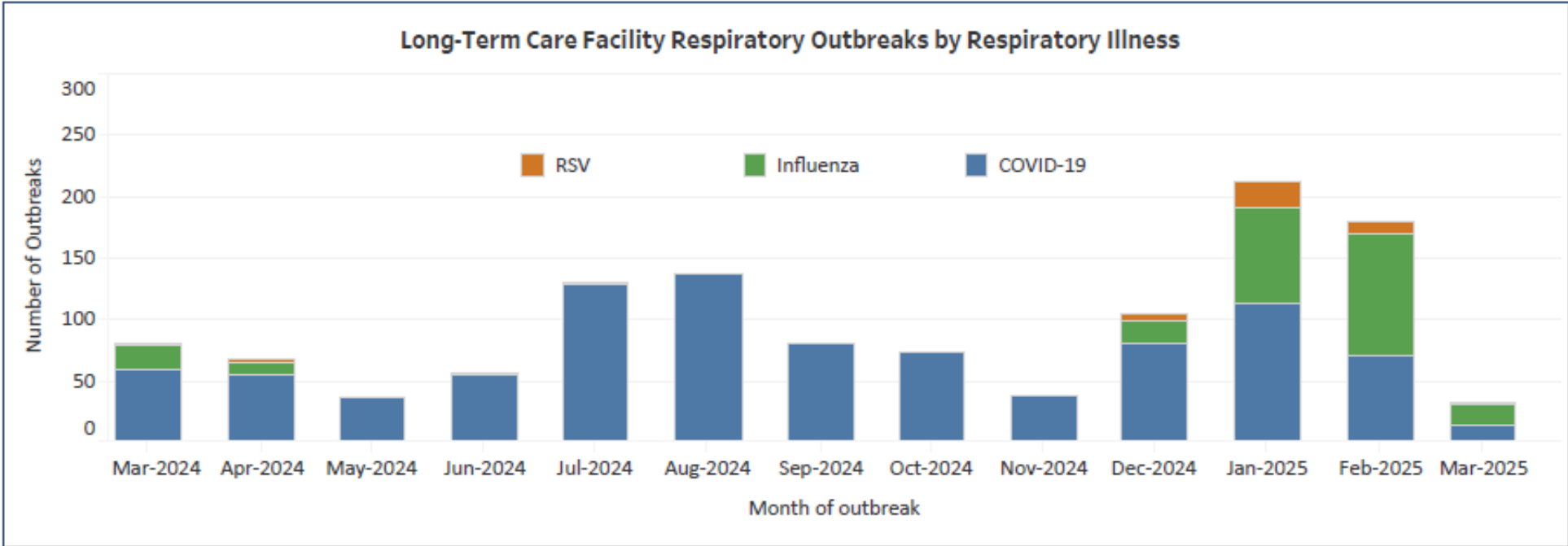
Wastewater Surveillance



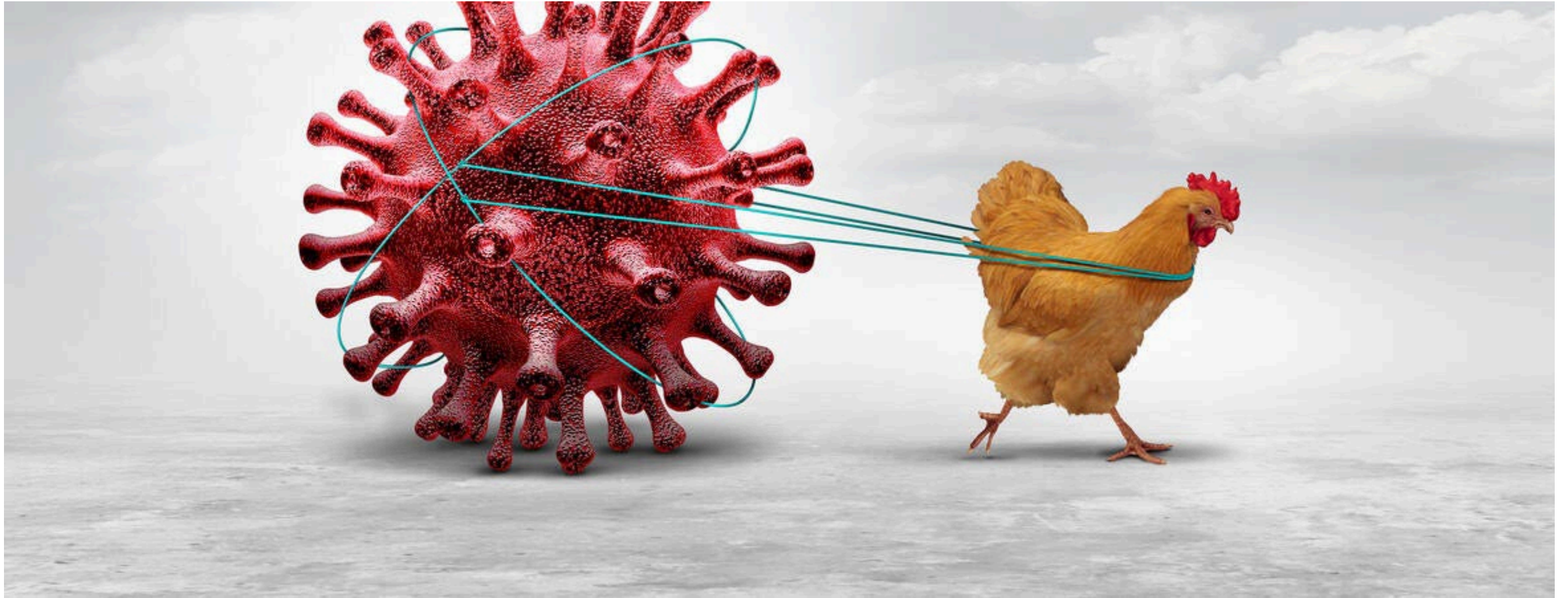
Long Term Care Facilities

Outbreaks in Long-Term Care

Respiratory outbreaks in long-term care facilities by month of outbreak as reported to NJDOH in the Communicable Disease Surveillance and Reporting System (CDRSS) are plotted below. Counts include COVID-19, influenza and RSV outbreaks.



H5N1 Bird Flu



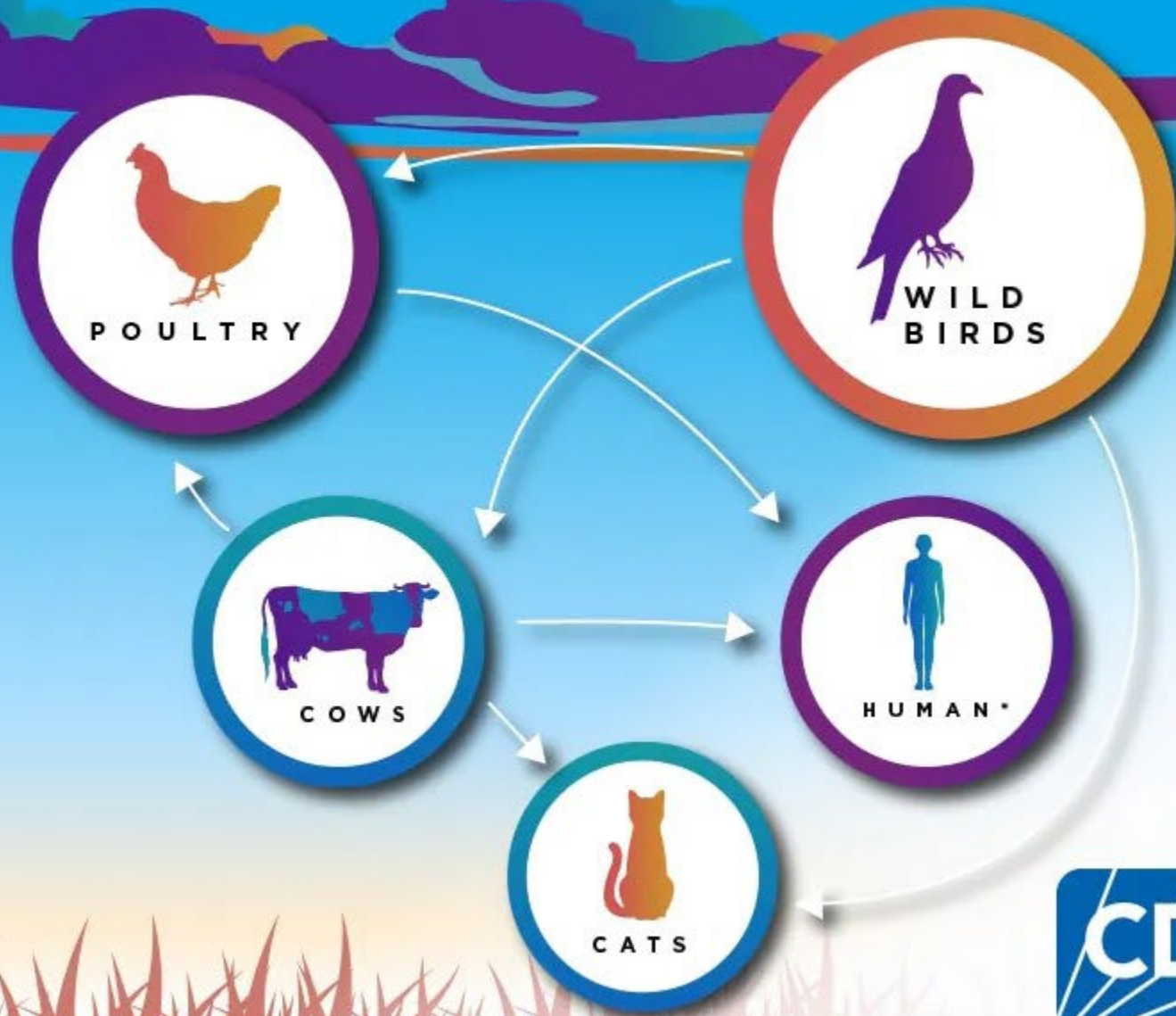
H5N1 Virus

- Detected in the United States since January 2022.
- The subsequent spread of these viruses among wild birds to all 50 states
- Infections have been reported in more than 200 wild terrestrial and marine mammals, as well as domesticated animals and livestock.
- A multistate outbreak in dairy cows was first reported on 3/25/24
- H5N1 viruses have been found in high concentrations in unpasteurized (raw) milk from infected cows.



H5N1 Bird Flu

How is it Spreading?



**No human-to-human spread of H5N1 has been detected during the current outbreak in dairy cows.*



Cats & Birds



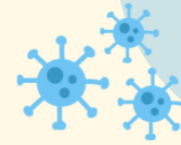
Bird Flu (H5N1) & Cats

*Experts' understanding of H5N1 avian influenza is continually evolving and **recommendations may change** as we learn more.



CATS

are very susceptible to H5N1 infection, but at this time the overall risk for exposure and infection is believed to be low.



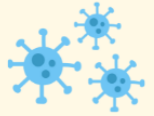
Cats Most at Risk:

- **Those who consume** unpasteurized dairy products or raw or undercooked poultry
- **Those with exposure** to sick or deceased wild birds, particularly waterfowl like geese and ducks
- **Those who come in contact** with poultry or dairy cows on farms or in backyard flocks and those in contact with infected people or animals

Your veterinarian is your best resource. Contact them if you have questions or if you suspect illness.

Signs of Infection:

- **Respiratory signs** (coughing, trouble breathing, nasal discharge, sneezing)
- **Lethargy**
- **Neurological disorders** (trouble walking, disorientation, etc.)
- **Sudden onset** of disease or death without prior signs of illness or injury



How to Limit Cat Risk:

- **Keep cats indoors** or in enclosed "catios"
- **Prevent contact** with dairy cows or poultry, including backyard flocks
- **Avoid feeding** unpasteurized dairy products or raw or undercooked poultry
- **Prevent exposure** to sick or deceased wild birds, particularly waterfowl (geese and ducks)



** DOGS

appear less susceptible to the current H5N1 strain though this could evolve.



Situation summary of confirmed and probable human cases since 2024

National Total Cases: 70

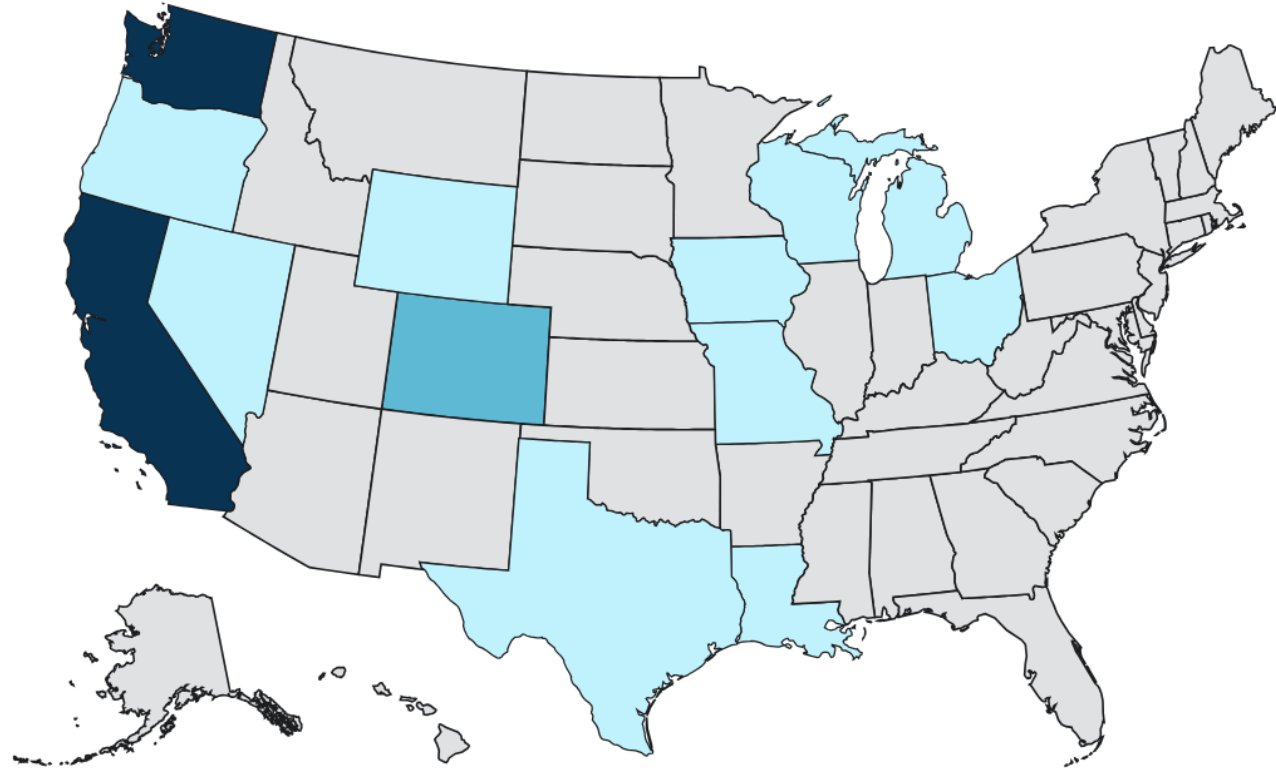
Cases	Exposure Source
41	Dairy Herds (Cattle)*
24	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations*
2	Other Animal Exposure†
3	Exposure Source Unknown‡

NOTE: One additional case was previously detected in a poultry worker in Colorado in 2022. Louisiana reported the first H5 bird flu death in the U.S.

*Exposure Associated with Commercial Agriculture and Related Operations

†Exposure was related to other animals such as backyard flocks, wild birds, or other mammals

‡Exposure source was not able to be identified



Total cases



Current Landscape

Current situation

National situation summary

Person-to-person spread

NONE

There is no known person-to-person spread at this time.

Current public health risk

LOW

The current public health risk is Low.

Cases in the U.S.

70 cases

Deaths in U.S.

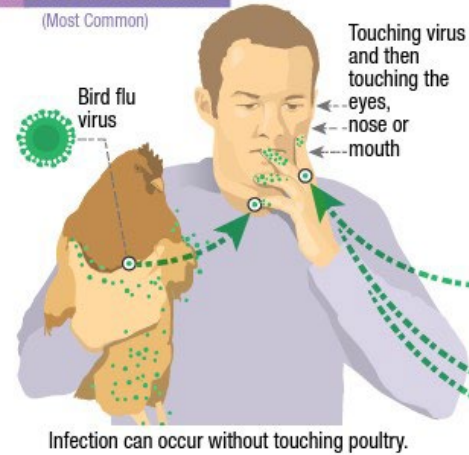
1 death

Spread of Disease

- Avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, and other animals and observe them only from a distance.
- When you have direct/close contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, or other animals, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Do not touch surfaces or materials (e.g., animal litter or bedding material) contaminated with saliva, mucous, or animal feces
- Do not touch or consume raw milk or raw milk products, especially from animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza A virus infection.

How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People Human Infections with Bird Flu Viruses Rare But Possible

1 Direct Contact (Most Common)



2 Contaminated Surfaces



3 Bird Flu Virus in the Air (in Droplets or Dust)

