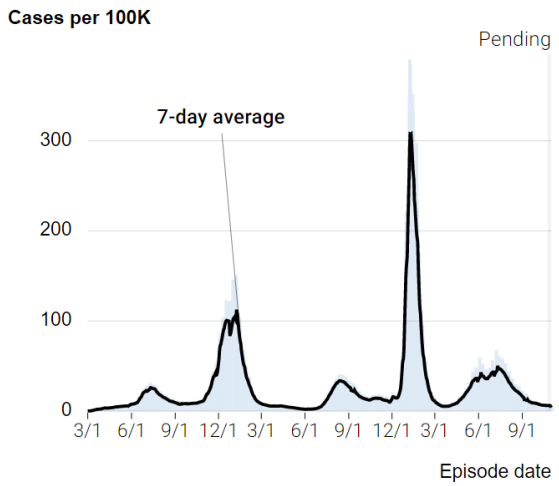
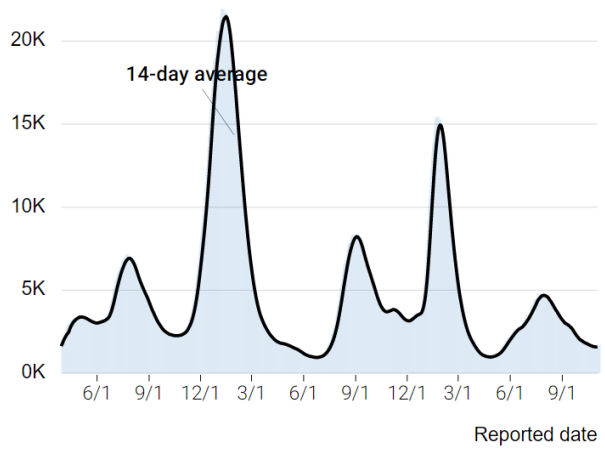
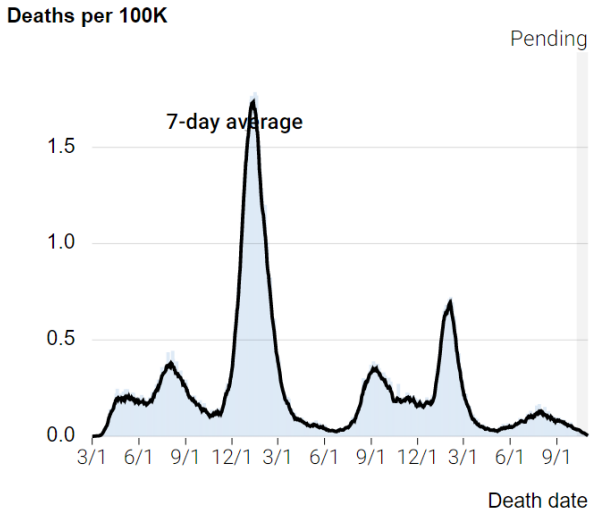
Testing Taskforce: New California COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths



14 day average Hospitalizations

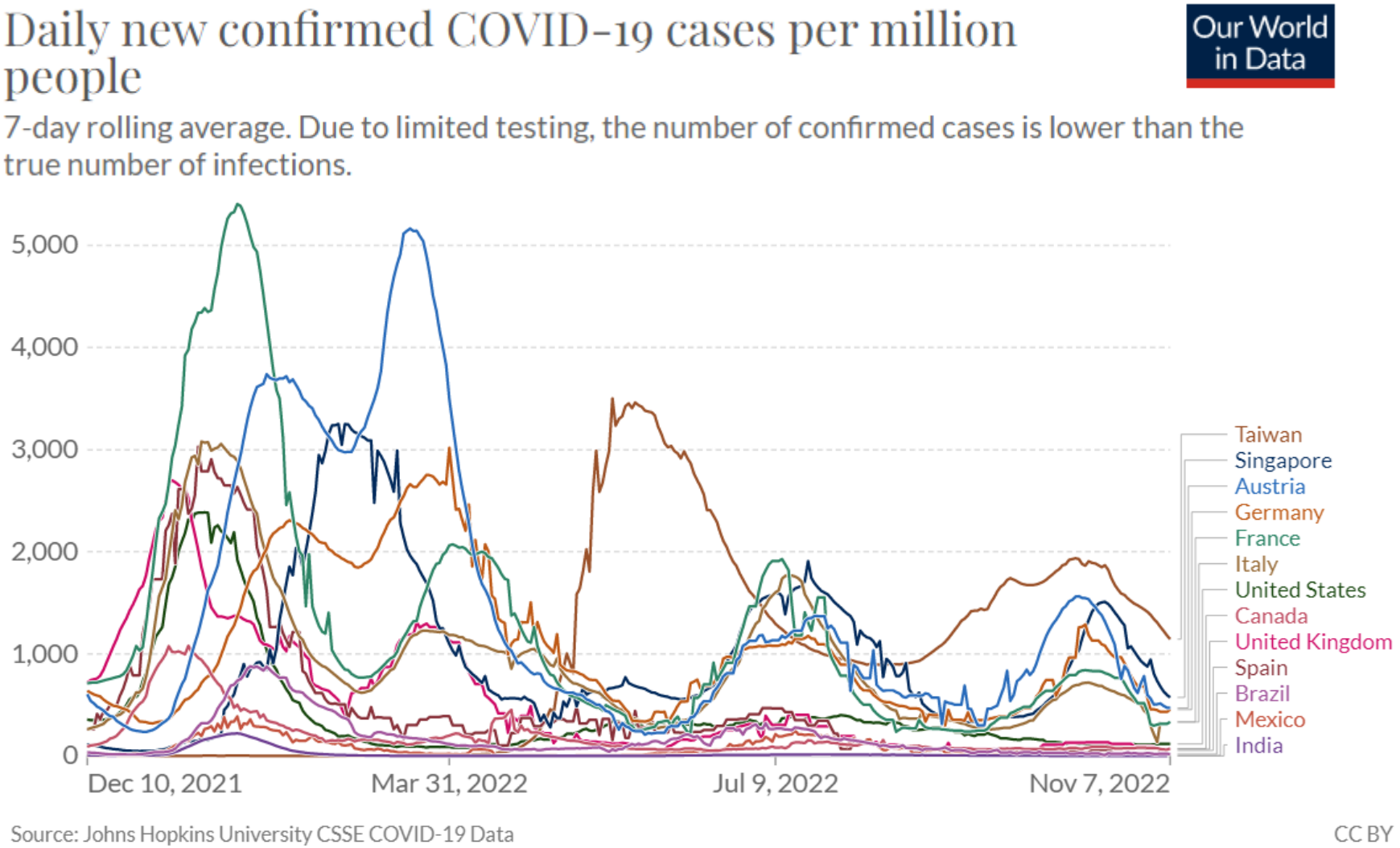


7 day Average Deaths



Average test positivity past 7 days 4.5%, Up 0.4% from last week
Cases have fallen from the peak, test positivity remains moderately high
14 day average hospitalizations have declined but are about 1.5 times the previous low level
7 day average deaths remain at low levels.
For the week ending 10/30, 91% of molecular tests resulted in less than 24 hours and 98% of tests resulted in less than 48 hours.

Nov 3 2022 with data as of Nov 1, 2022.
https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/ **https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/**
COVID-19 Cases Dashboard v2.0 - CA OpeNn Data | Tableau Pub



COVID-19 cases are falling in Europe and Singapore from about the level of the BA.5 peak. High levels of cases in Europe have often preceded rising cases in the US.
Waning pop. immunity likely contributed to rise of cases in addition to new immune evasive variants BQ.1, BQ1.1 and XBB
Highlighting the importance of booster vaccination

Variant update

	USA (%)	California (%)
BA.5	39.2	44.3
BQ1.1	**18.8**	**20.6**
BQ.1	**16.5**	**16.3**
BF.7	9.5	7.8
A.4.6	9	4
BA.2.75	2.3	2.7
BA.5.2.6	1.3	2.4
BA.2.75.2	0.2	1.5
BA.4	0.2	0.2

Decline in BA.5 as other variants emerge and recategorization of variants

Emerging variants have immune evasive properties affecting use of monoclonal antibodies

Cases across the US are stable and at low levels, but hospitalizations are beginning to rise

BF.7, BQ.1, BQ1.1, XBB

- BF.7 (BA.5.2.1.7),
  - US: 9.0%
  - California 6.7%, cases are rising, Growth advantage 10-15% over BA.5
- BQ.1 (daughter of BA.5)
  - 23% growth advantage over BA.5, first reported in the UK
  - Overall Cases have now plateaued in Europe after a period of exponential growth, but cases of BQ.1 are rising as a proportion of overall cases
  - Has immune evasive mutations impairing use of monoclonal antibodies (Evusheld and Bebtelovimab)
  - US 16.5%, California 16.3%
  - BQ.1.1 – US 18.8%, California 20.6%. 90% Growth advantage over BA.5. In New York BQ.1.1 and BQ.1 represent approximately 42% of sequenced cases and this is growing week over week. However overall cases of COVID-19 are not rising in New York currently although hospitalizations are rising.
- XBB – XBB is a daughter of BA.2 and has mutations that prompt immune evasion. Responsible for exponential growth in cases that has now plateaued and are falling led to a rise hospitalizations in Singapore. ~1.5% of cases in USA

BA.2.75 and BA.2.75.2

- First detected in India
- BA.2.75 has multiple mutations in the spike protein of the virus which may increase infectivity and may evade the immune system. Estimated 5% growth advantage over BA.5
- Daughter strain BA.2.75.2 has a 10% growth advantage and is emerging in California

  Resistance to Bebtelovimab and Evusheld

- BA.2.75 California: 2.7% of sequenced cases, US 1.8%, no big changes to growth
- BA.2.75.2 California: 1.5% of sequenced cases, US 1.2%

Convergent mutations in different strains

- Noticing similar mutations in the emerging strains across lineages that confer fitness advantage, immune evasion or more infectious

California Nowcast for variants: CalCAT

CDC Nowcast for variants: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions

Paxlovid Resistance Currently Not Seen

- Currently we are **NOT** seeing signs of mutations in SARS-CoV-2 likely to impact the effectiveness of Paxlovid

- We are monitoring the genomic sequencing data for known Paxlovid resistance mutations

Highlights

▲ 7.9%
Laboratory
flu positivity

▲ 3.7%
Outpatient
ILI activity

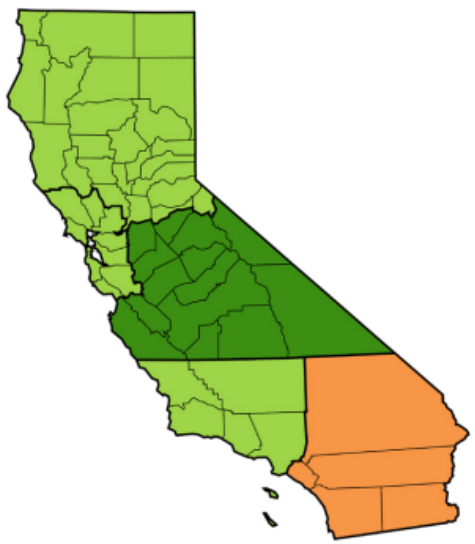
▼ 0.1%
Hospital
flu admissions

10
Deaths
since 10/2/2022

1
Outbreaks
since 10/2/2022

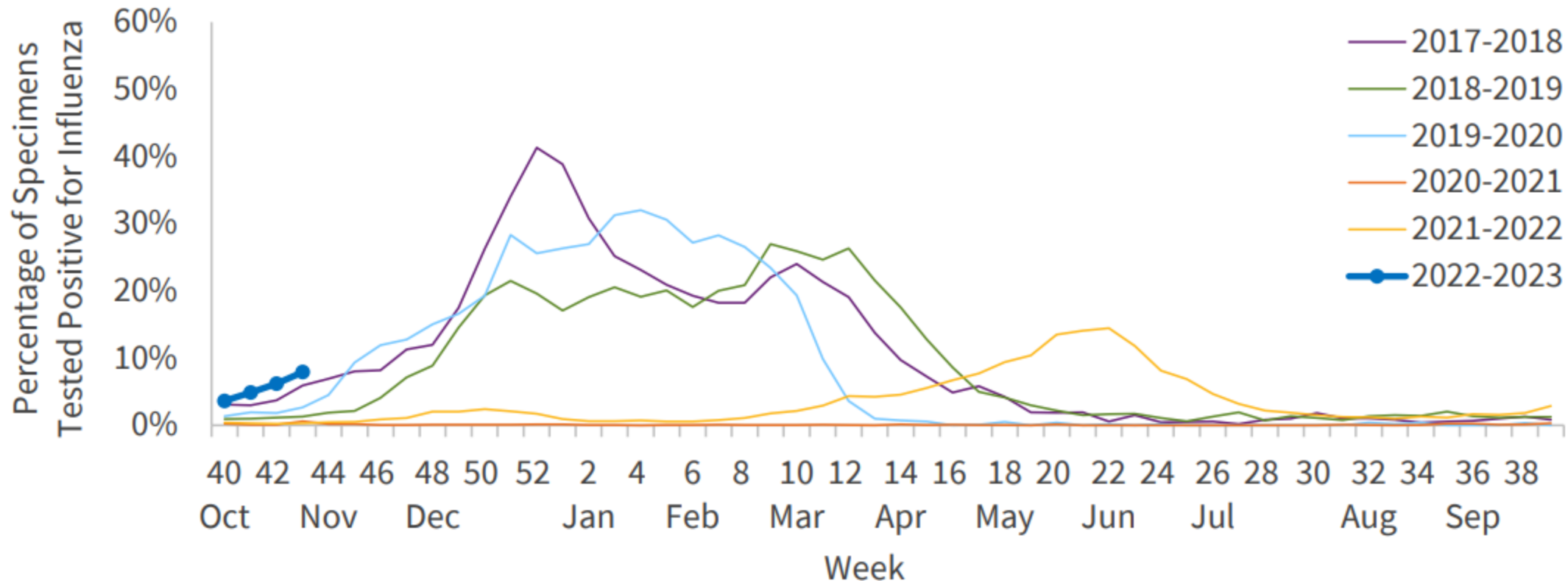
Influenza Activity Levels+

Minimal Low Moderate High Very High

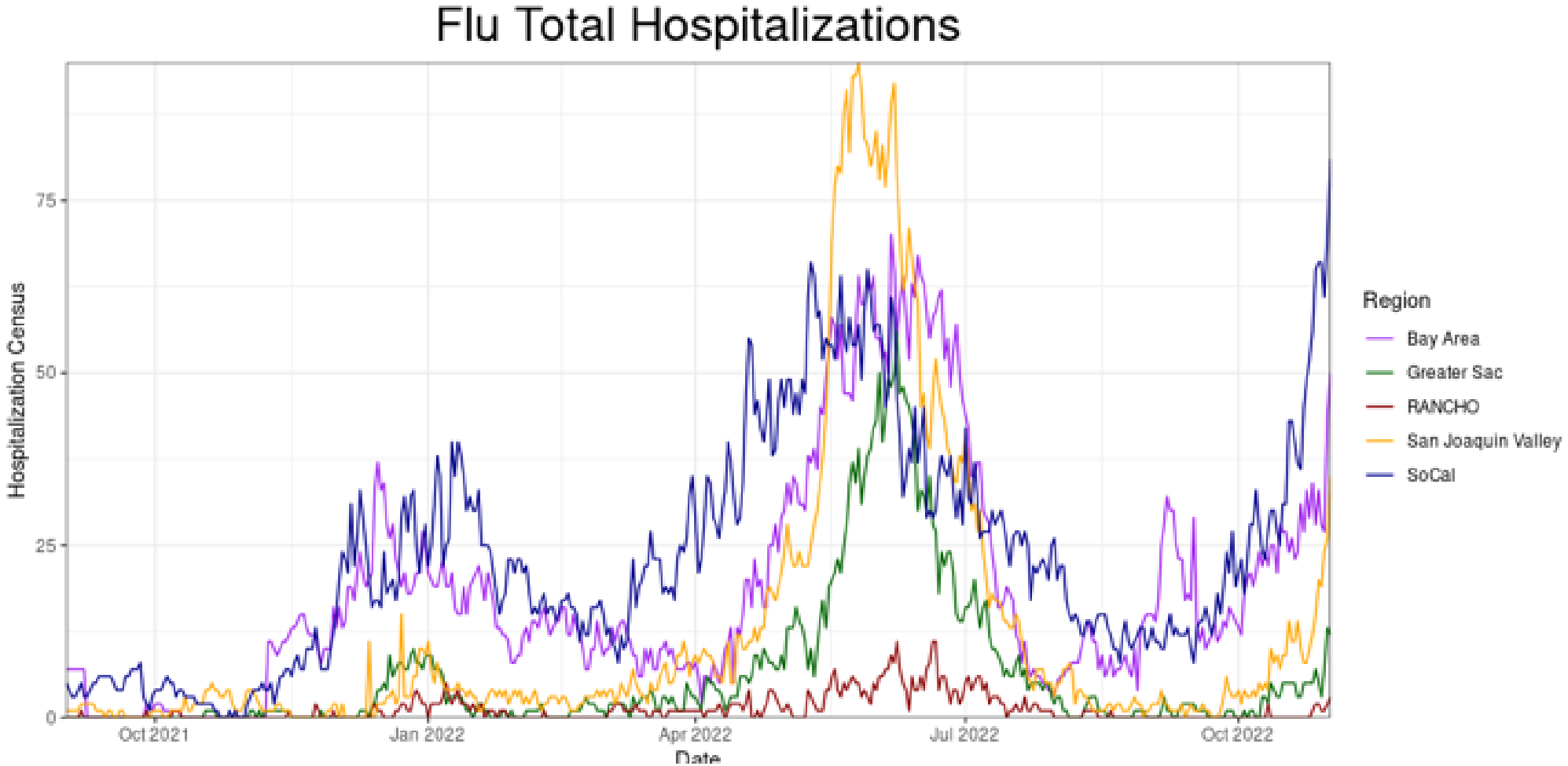


Geographic Area	Activity Level
California Statewide	**Low**
Northern Region	Low
Bay Area Region	Low
Central Region	Minimal
Upper Southern Region	Low
Lower Southern Region	High

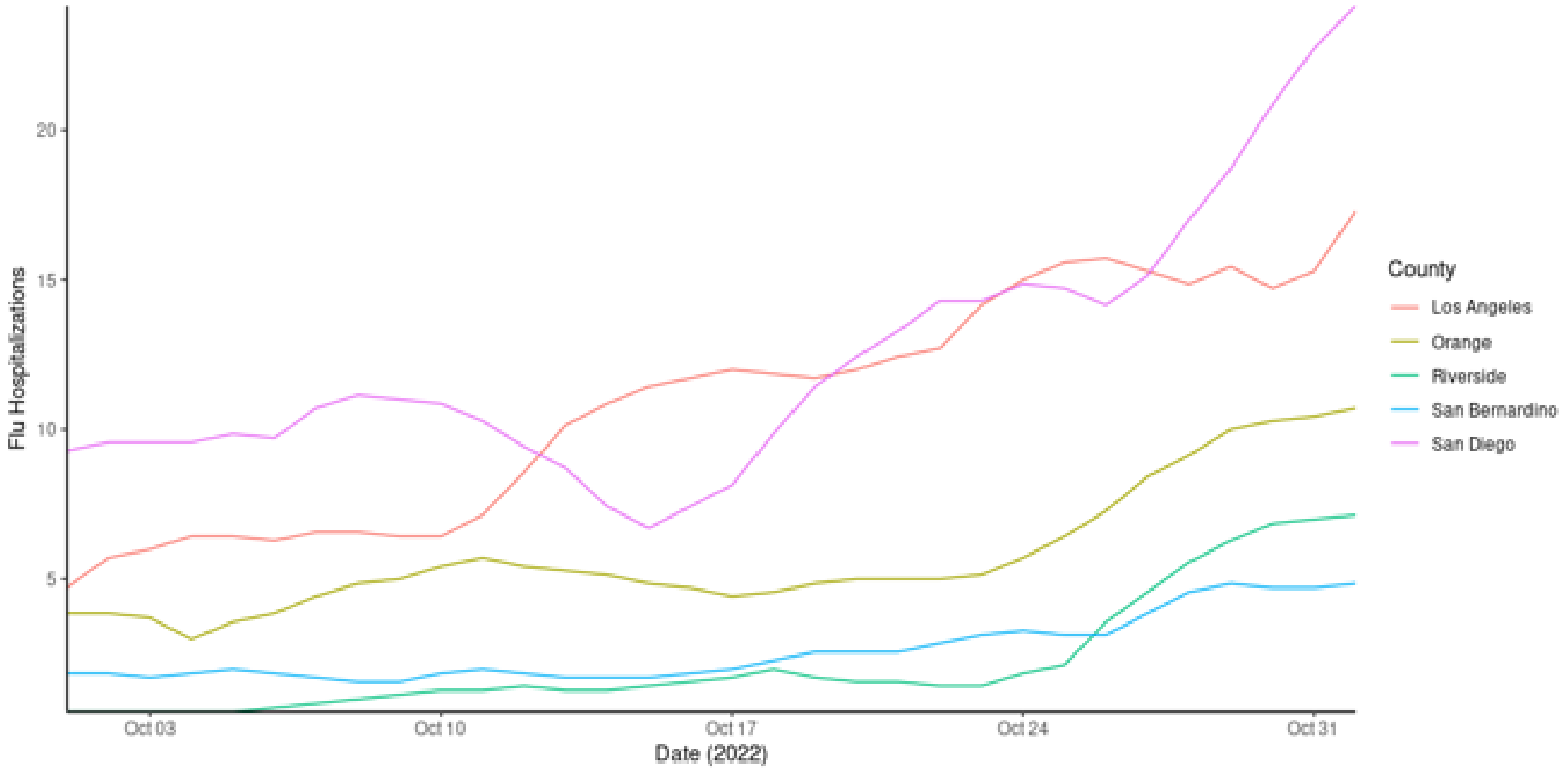
Figure 1. Percentage of Influenza Detections at Clinical Sentinel Laboratories, 2017–2023 Season to Date



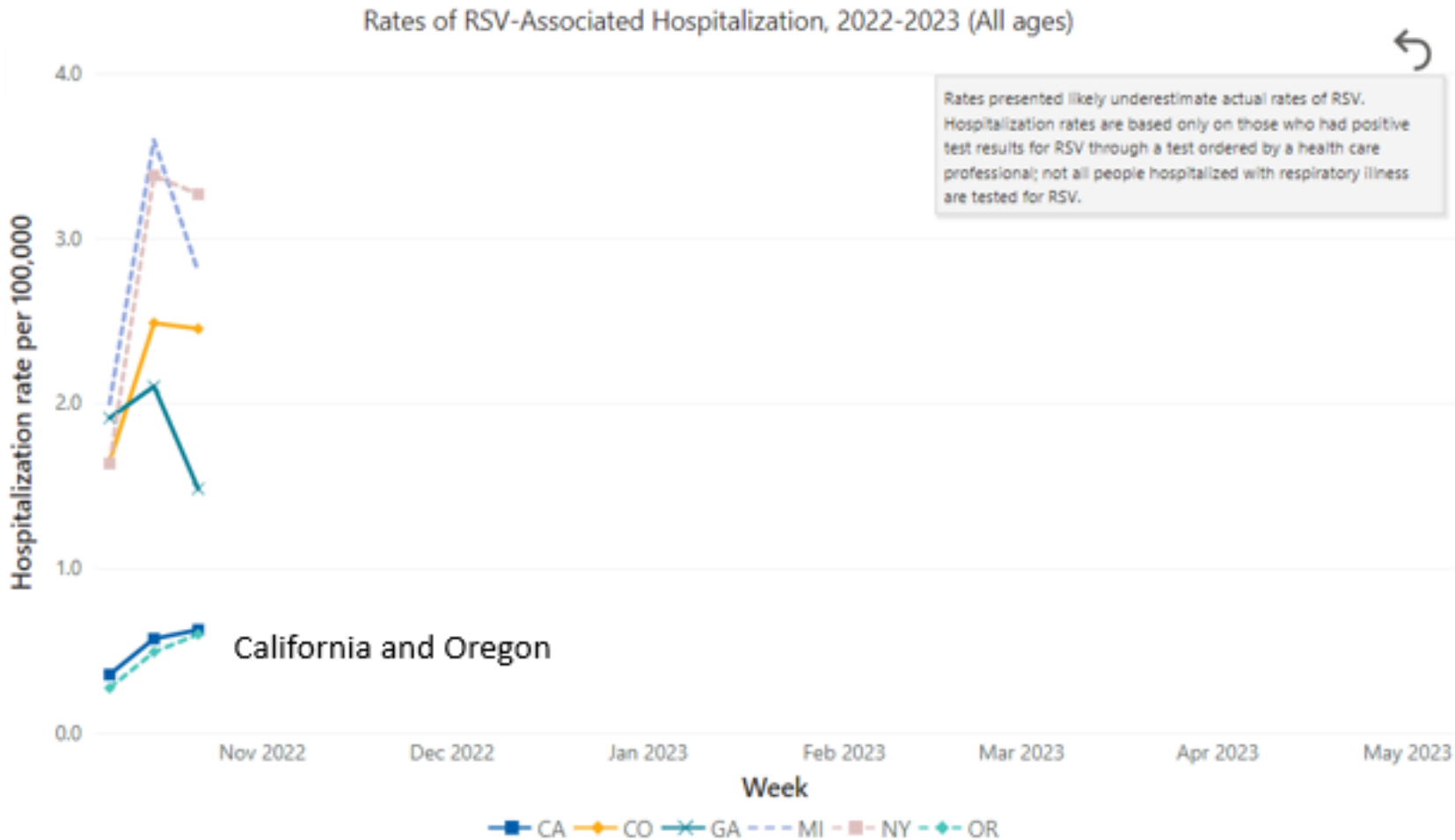
Flu hospitalizations in SoCal are above their 2021-22 season peak. While low compared with historical flu seasons, this is a very early start.



Many Southern California counties experiencing increase in flu hospitalizations in last couple weeks: LA, Orange, Riverside, SB, SD



RSV-NET shows increasing RSV activity nationwide with California lagging behind East Coast



The RSV season in CA (Bay Area only) is “starting” early compared with past seasons, according to RSV-NET