COVID-19 MONTHLY TRACKING REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023
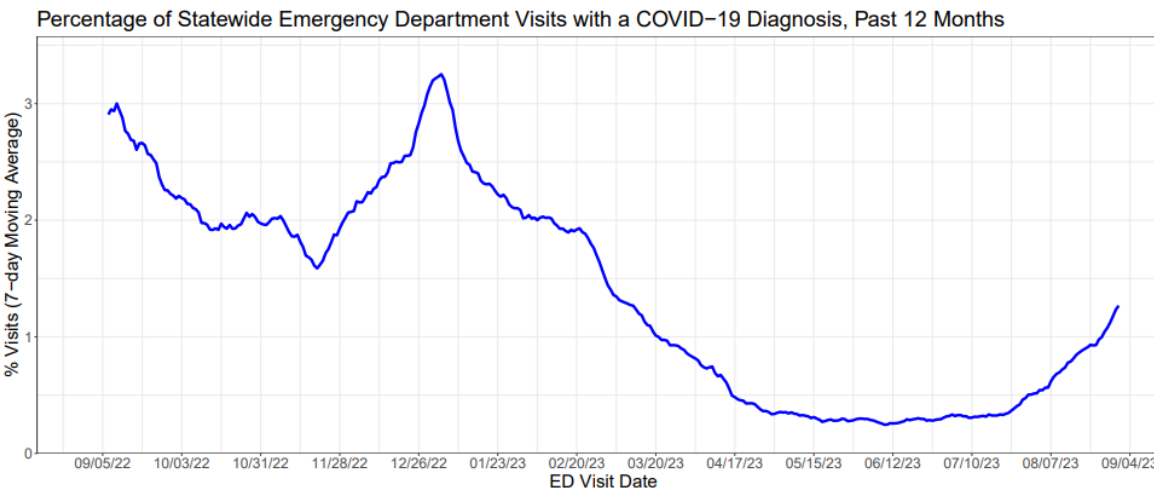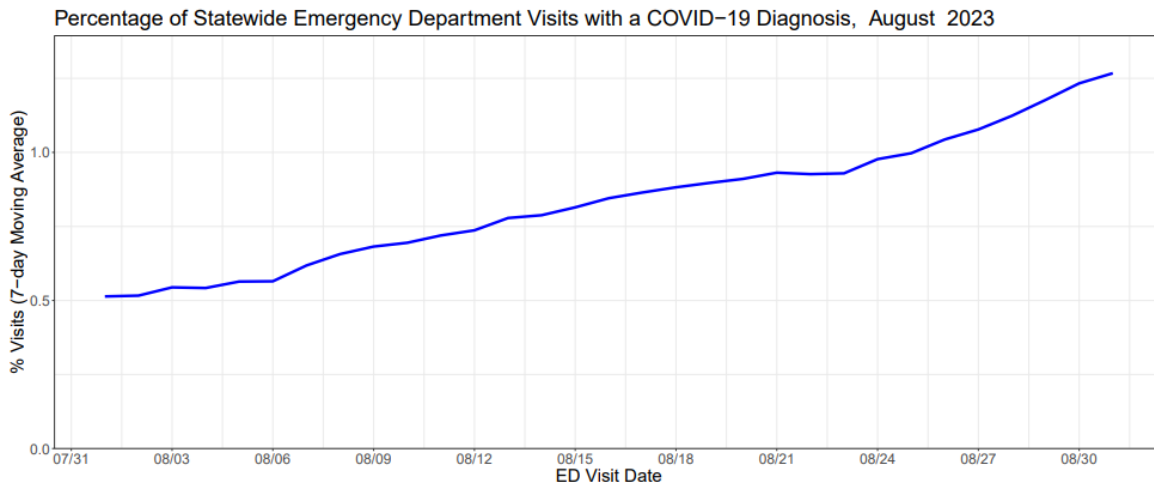
The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) continues to monitor trends in <u>clinically significant</u> COVID-19 disease in Pennsylvania. This report includes recent trends in PA:

- Emergency departments visit with a diagnosis of COVID-19
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19
- Deaths attributed to COVID-19
- COVID-19 variants
- Wastewater surveillance

Emergency Department Visit Data:

DOH collects near-real-time Emergency Department (ED) visit data from all PA hospitals. Trends are expressed as the percent of all ED visits where the person received a COVID-19 diagnosis.

The graphs below show the percent of ED visits that resulted in a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the previous month (August 2023) and over the past 12 months (September 2022 through August 2023).
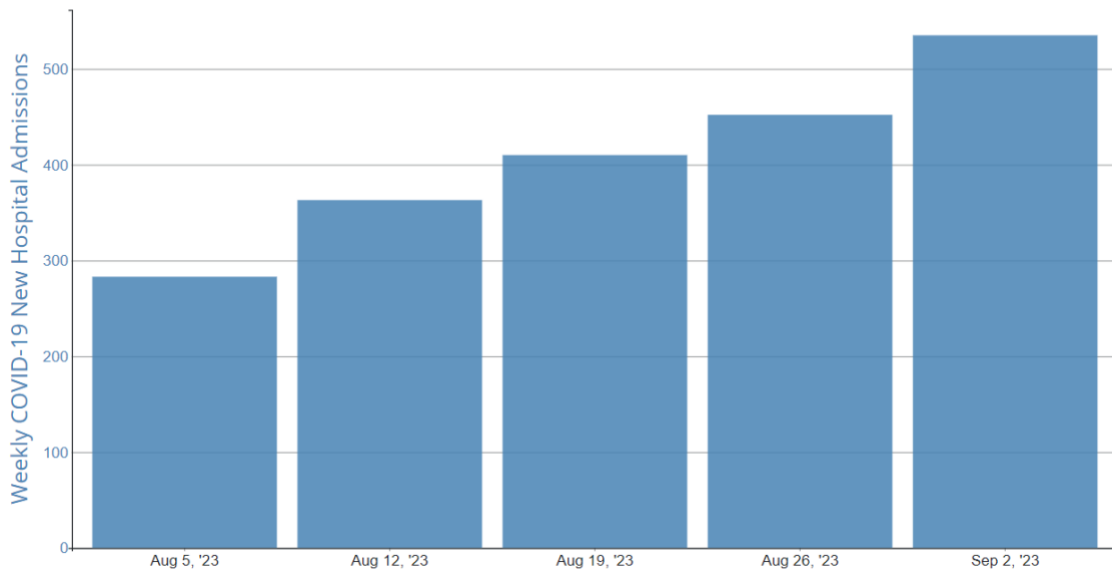

Percentage of Statewide Emergency Department Visits with a COVID−19 Diagnosis, August 2023

Percentage of Statewide Emergency Department Visits with a COVID−19 Diagnosis, Past 12 Months
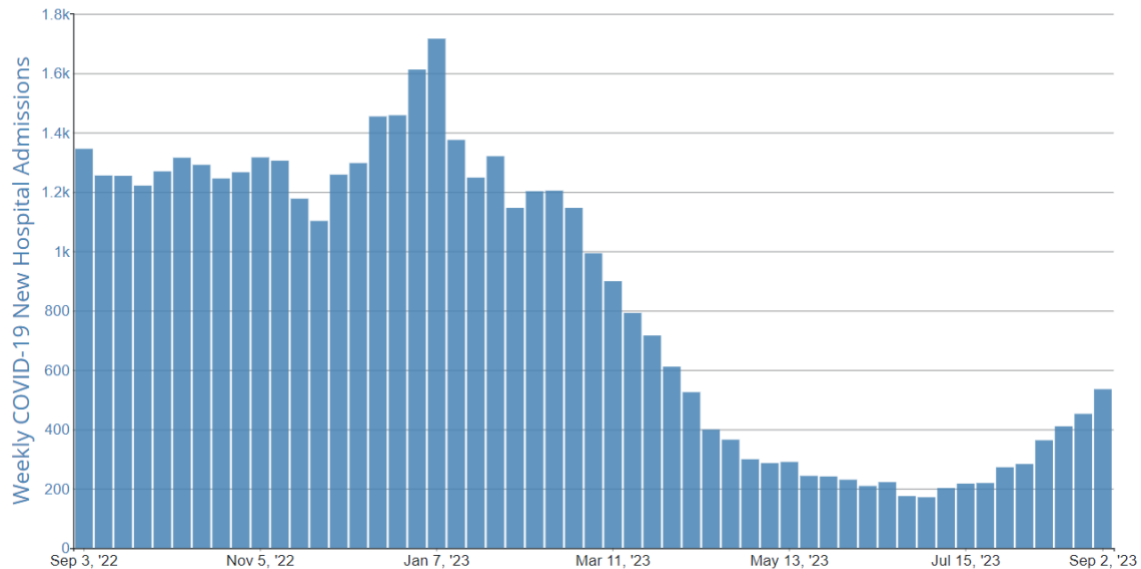
COVID-19 Hospitalization Data:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires hospitals to directly report COVID-19 admissions to them. The CDC Data Tracker website displays hospitalization and ICU census data, mapped to the county level (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-county). In addition to the map, trends in PA hospital admissions for COVID-19 can be found at https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions. Select Pennsylvania as the jurisdiction. The charts are updated weekly.

The graphs below show weekly PA COVID-19 hospitalizations for the previous month (August 2023), and over the last 12 months (September 2022 through August 2023), respectively.

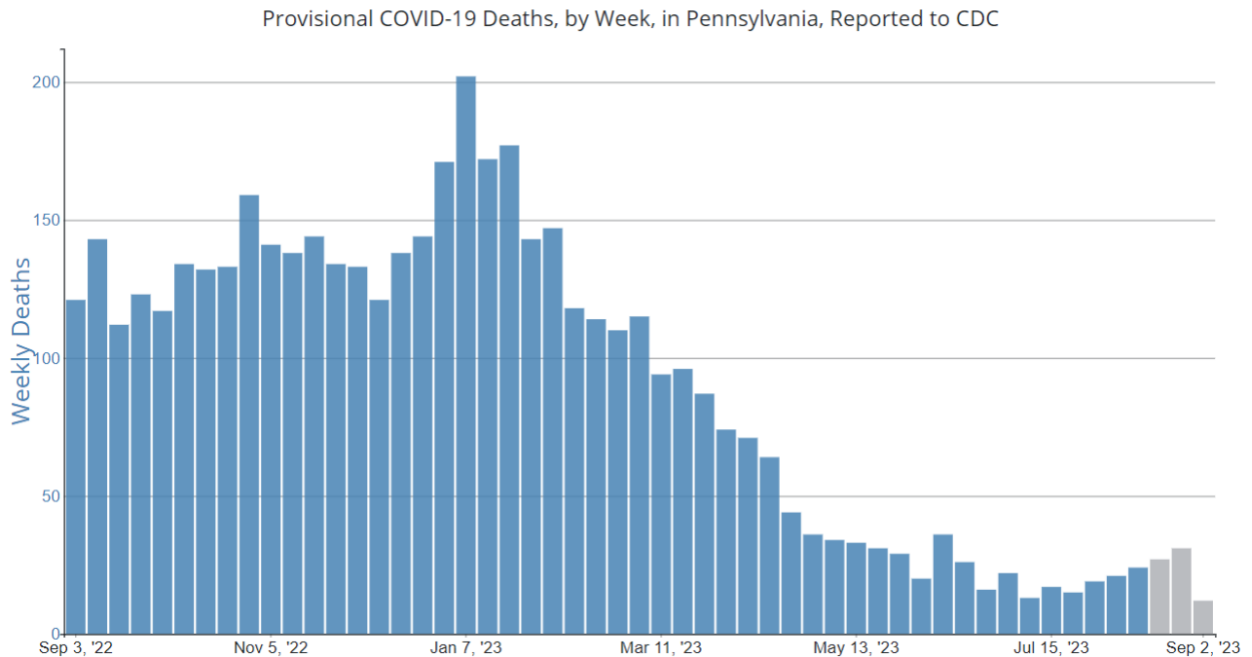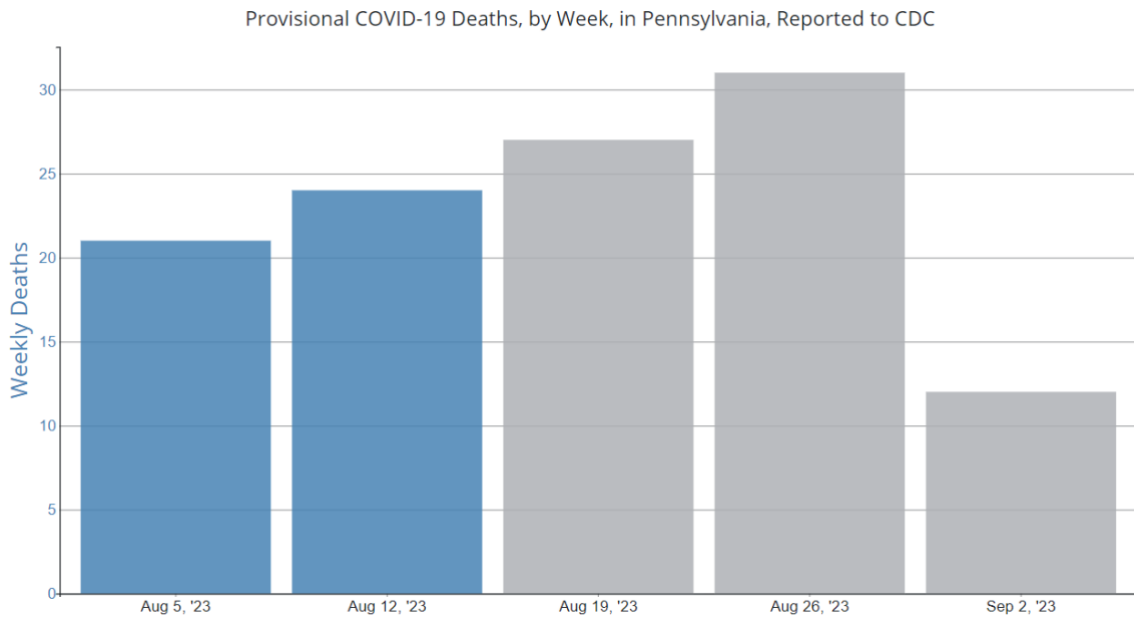COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions, by Week, in Pennsylvania, Reported to CDC

COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions, by Week, in Pennsylvania, Reported to CDC

Trends in Provisional COVID-19 Deaths:

The National Center for Health Statistics receives all death certificates in the country and analyzes them to attribute the cause of death. Trends in PA COVID-related deaths can be found at CDC COVID Data Tracker: Trends by Geographic Area. Death data by sex, age, and race/ethnicity can also be viewed by U.S. region.

The graphs below show weekly PA COVID-19 related deaths for the previous month (August2023), and over the last 12 months (September 2022 through August 2023), respectively.
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Provisional COVID-19 Deaths, by Week, in Pennsylvania, Reported to CDC

Provisional COVID-19 Deaths, by Week, in Pennsylvania, Reported to CDC

Note from CDC:

- Data during recent periods are incomplete because of the lag in time between when a death occurs and when a death certificate is completed, submitted to NCHS, and processed for reporting. This delay can range from 1 to 8 weeks or more, depending on the jurisdiction. The most recent 3 weeks of mortality counts are shaded grey and mortality rates shown as dotted lines because NVSS reporting is <95% during this period.

COVID-19 Variant Information:

CDC continues to post updated information on trends in COVID variants every two weeks on their Variant Proportions Nowcast page (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions). Analyses are available nationwide and at a regional level. Pennsylvania is in Region 3.

Wastewater Data:

The PA Wastewater Surveillance System (PaWSS) measures SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in wastewater. The PaWSS dashboard is updated weekly on Monday mornings and displays trends in SARS-CoV-2 concentrations measured in wastewater samples collected at sites across PA.