



RI Department of Health FY 2025 Budget Overview

Senate Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Respiratory Virus Response

- The federal government has ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, but COVID-19 is still a disease of public health importance and as such, remains reportable to the CDC. **RIDOH continues statewide surveillance of COVID-19** with a focus on outbreaks in congregate settings and expects that the COVID-19 variant will continue to evolve and may lead to occasional surges.
- RIDOH is sunsetting large, complex data systems used during the pandemic and transitioning to manageable, existing systems to maintain operations but at a reduced scale. RIDOH has and will continue to “right-size” while maintaining the necessary activities.
- In 2023, the Emergency Preparedness, Infectious Disease (EPID) team **identified 944 outbreaks** and provided one time or ongoing support to the impacted facilities and conducted 100 field visits to provide education and training were conducted by the COVID Prevention Field Team.
- RIDOH will continue to liaise with congregate settings to provide general guidance on cases and specific outbreak response support. The focus is on nursing homes, assisted livings, correctional facilities, group homes, shelters, and inpatient healthcare settings.

Respiratory Virus Response – Vaccinations

- A key preventive measure to reduce hospitalizations and death due respiratory viruses is vaccines, specifically flu, RSV and COVID vaccine.
- Rhode Island continues to be among the top states for vaccination coverage.

55%

Individuals 65 and Older that Received a **Flu Vaccine** this Season to Date

38%

Individuals 6 Months – 19 Years that Received a **Flu Vaccine** this Season to Date

35%

Adults 20 Years+ that Received a **Flu Vaccine** this Season to Date

17%

RI Residents Who Received the **2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine**

15%

60+ Population that Received the **RSV Vaccine**