The purpose of this brief is to provide an update on recent coronavirus activity in the City of Cleveland, Ohio. This brief uses data from September 29, 2024 through December 28, 2024, representing the 4th quarter of 2024.

What Matters Most

- All data show that COVID-19 has been on the rise in Cleveland since Thanksgiving week. The most recent wastewater testing shows a substantial increase in the level of COVID gene copies at one wastewater treatment facility. This means we may keep seeing a rise in COVID activity before it peaks.

- Getting your yearly COVID vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and the people around you. Vaccine protection decreases over time, so it is important to get your 2024–2025 COVID vaccine even if you got vaccinated in past years. People ages 65 and older are recommended to receive 2 doses of the 2024–2025 COVID vaccine, with at least 2 months between doses.

- Taking steps like choosing to wear a mask and practicing good hand hygiene can further lower your risk of COVID-19 infection. Even a mild case of COVID can lead to Post-Acute COVID-19 Syndrome (also called long COVID), so it's best to avoid infection altogether.

In the 4th quarter of 2024, Cleveland had...

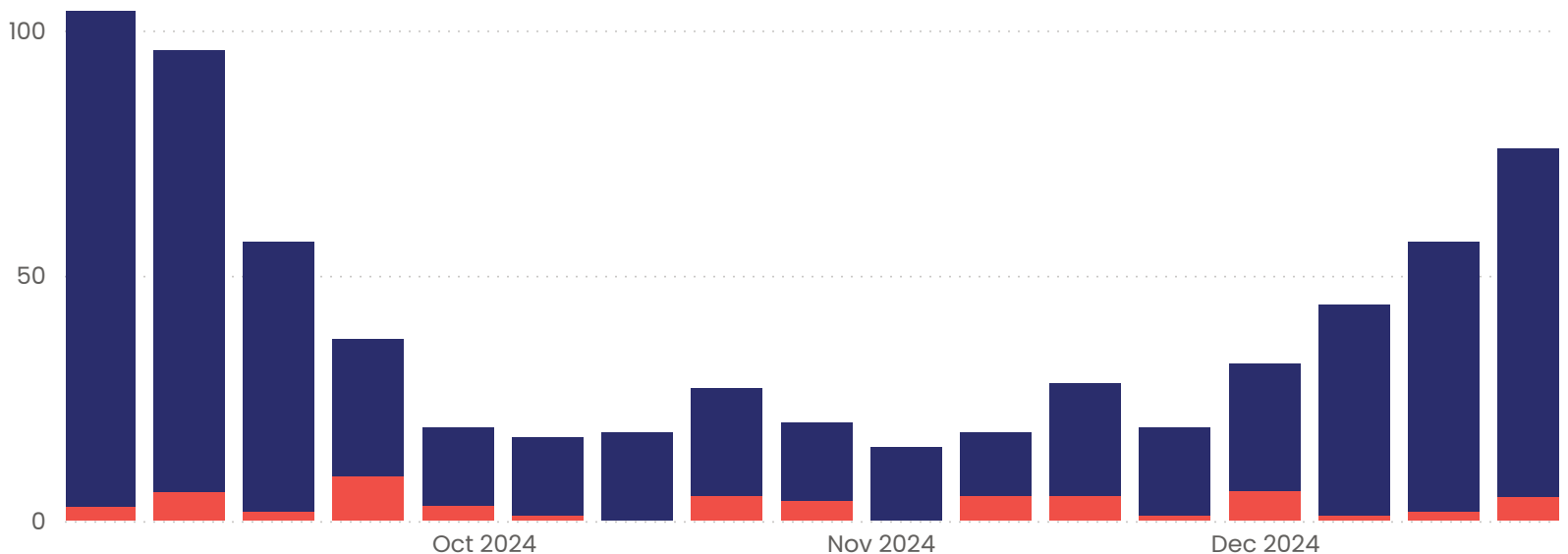| 1,202	38	3
Reported Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths

COVID-associated Emergency Room Visits and Hospitalizations by Week
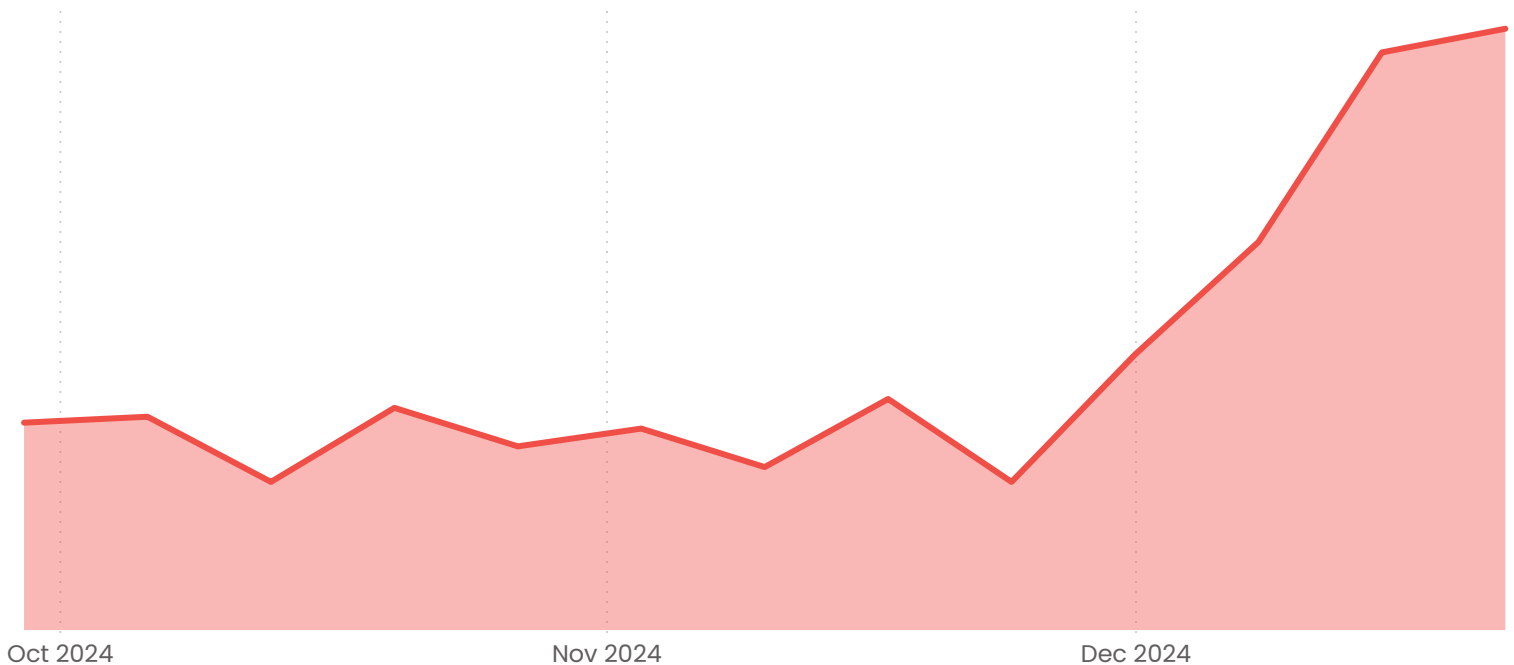
● Hospitalizations ● ER Visits

Wastewater Testing

Test Period December 3rd - December 17th

Wastewater Treatment Facility	Levels of COVID in Wastewater
NEORSD Easterly WWTP	Increasing
NEORSD Southerly WWTC	Steady
NEORSD Westerly WWTC	Steady

Our best metrics for assessing the current level of COVID activity are emergency room (ER) visits, hospital admissions, and wastewater test results. COVID case counts are no longer a good metric for several reasons, like the widespread use of unreported at-home tests and a reduction in testing overall. However, watching the general patterns of the rise and fall of reported cases can add to our understanding of local COVID activity.

Reported COVID Cases by Week

September 28 - December 28th

Metadata

Data is preliminary and subject to change. Data was extracted on December 31, 2024 via dataohio.gov and EpiCenter Version 3.5.18.

NEORSD: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

WWTP: Wastewater Treatment Plant   WWTC: Wastewater Treatment Center

Wastewater data represents results from the most recent testing period available. More information about wastewater testing and analysis can be found at https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-wastewater-monitoring-network