



# Emergency Department Visits: COVID-Like Illness

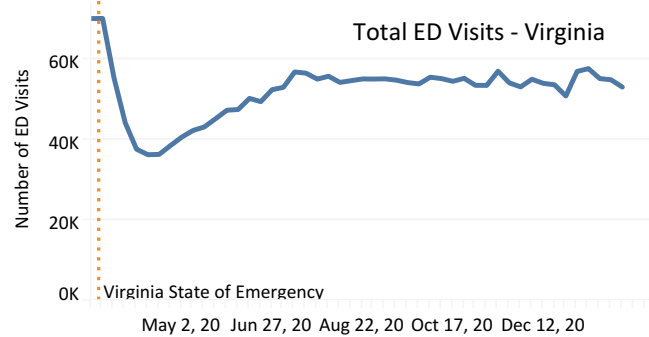


## Emergency Department (ED) Visits

VDH collects data on visits to 84 hospital emergency departments (EDs) and 19 free-standing EDs in order to monitor issues of public health concern, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, in near real-time.

By the last week of March, ED visit volume in Virginia dropped by 50% compared to the number of weekly visits observed in early 2020. This overall decrease in ED volume has been observed nationally during COVID-19 as patients with milder illnesses remain home or delay care.

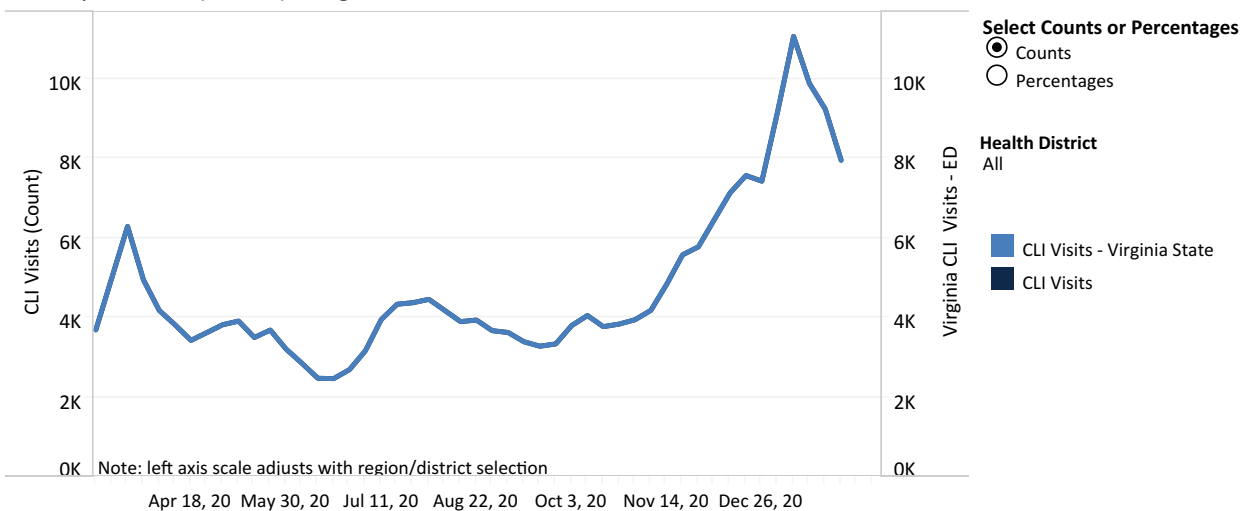
VDH Health Region  
(Affects All Graphs)  
All



## ED Visits for COVID-Like Illness (CLI)

VDH monitors ED visits to measure the number of patients seeking care for a COVID-like illness (CLI). Visits for CLI include visits noting symptoms of fever/viral infection with a respiratory complaint (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing), those with a coronavirus or severe respiratory diagnosis, or visits that mention COVID-19 as the reason for visit. These data **do not represent confirmed cases of COVID-19**, but they can assist with understanding the burden on healthcare systems and the community.

### Weekly CLI Visits (Counts) - Virginia

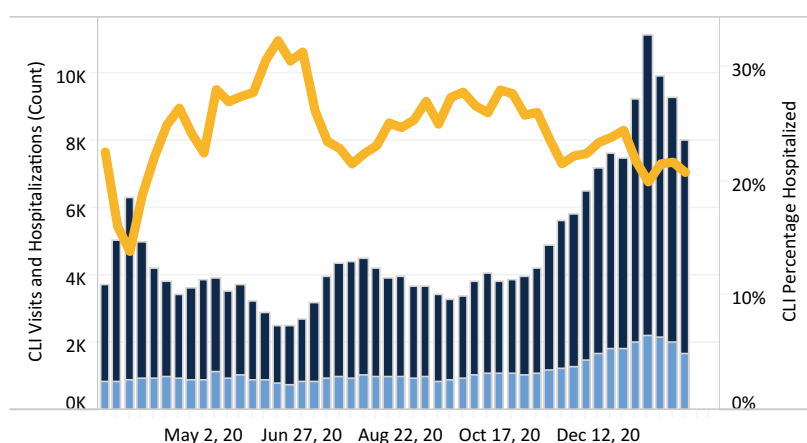


## CLI Hospitalizations

VDH also collects ED visit outcomes from most hospitals, which indicate if a patient was routinely discharged home from the ED or became hospitalized. It is important to note that COVID-19 related hospitalizations do not represent confirmed cases, which are reported by healthcare providers and laboratories to VDH. Note: Northern Region has low reporting of ED visit outcomes to VDH so hospitalizations are likely underreported for that region.

CLI Hospitalizations  
CLI Visits  
CLI Hospitalization %

### Weekly CLI Visits and Percentage Hospitalized - Virginia



Source: VDH ESSENCE data as of 1/30/2021