Round 1 2025/26
Executive Summary Report

Dec 10, 2025

Flu ScenarioModelingHub

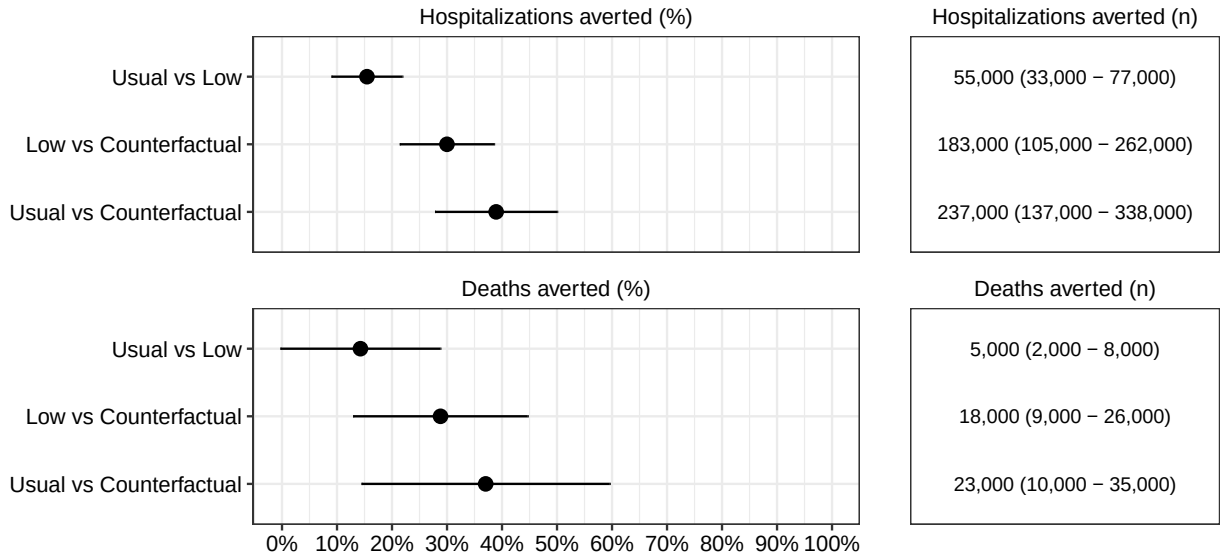
In the 6th round of influenza scenario projections (Round 1 2025/26), the US Flu Scenario Modeling Hub aimed to estimate the impact of three vaccination recommendation levels for the 2025-26 season: i) a "business-as-usual" scenario assuming 46% all-age vaccine coverage, similar to the 2023-24 season; ii) a pessimistic scenario assuming 34% all-age vaccine coverage based on a putative 35% decline in vaccine uptake in individuals under 65 years compared to 2023-24; iii) and a counterfactual scenario representing no vaccination in any age group.

Key Takeaways

- **The business-as-usual and pessimistic vaccination strategies are projected to significantly reduce disease burden. The greatest benefits will be seen with the highest (business-as-usual) vaccine coverage.**
- **Projected influenza activity is likely to remain below levels seen last season. Hospitalizations are projected to peak at a median of 29,000 weekly admissions.**

Vaccination Impact

Hospitalizations and Deaths averted by vaccination, US



Bars and ranges represent the 95% confidence intervals (CI)

Figure 1. Projected hospitalizations and deaths averted by vaccination scenarios in the US, August 10, 2025 to June 06, 2026.

- **Business-as-usual vaccination prevents 237,000 (95% CI: 137,000-338,000) hospitalizations and 23,000 (95% CI: 10,000-35,000) deaths nationally** over the projection period, compared to no vaccination. This equates to preventing 39% (95% CI: 28-50%) of influenza-related hospitalizations and 37% (95% CI: 14-60%) of influenza-related deaths.
- **Pessimistic vaccination prevents 183,000 (95% CI: 105,000-262,000) hospitalizations and 18,000 (95% CI: 9,000-26,000) deaths nationally**. This equates to preventing 30% (95% CI: 21-39%) of hospitalizations and 29% (95% CI: 13-45%) of deaths.
- **A business-as-usual vaccine coverage would prevent 15% more hospitalizations and 14% more deaths than a pessimistic coverage**

Season Burden and Trajectory

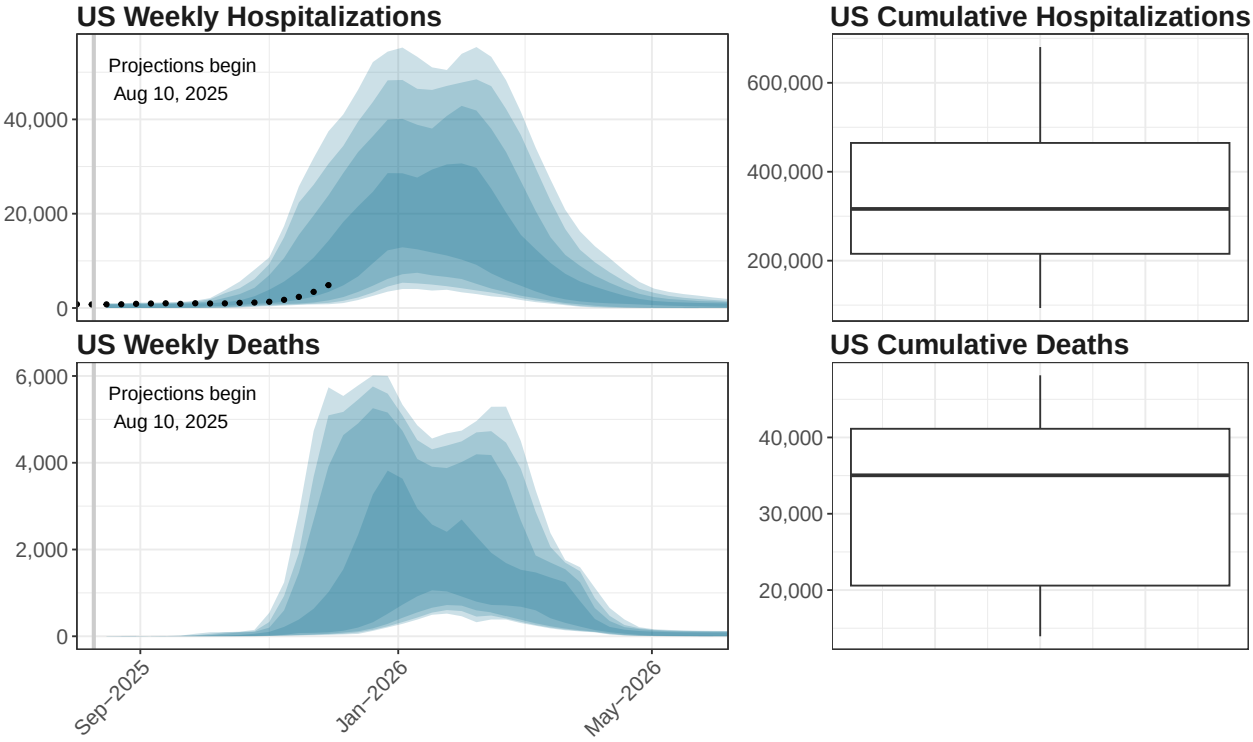


Figure 2. Weekly and cumulative ensemble projections of flu hospitalizations and deaths in the US, August 10, 2025 to June 06, 2026. From lightest to darkest, shading represents 95%, 90%, 80% and 50% projection intervals (PI).

- **Influenza activity is projected to likely remain below levels seen last season**.
- **Hospitalizations are projected to peak at 29,000 weekly admissions (95% PI 7,000-66,000)**, compared to 54,000 last season.
- **Hospitalization peak timing is not well defined, though expected to occur between the weeks of December 28, 2025 and February 1, 2026.**
- In the business-as-usual vaccination scenario, cumulative burden for this season is projected to reach 316,000 (95% PI: 94,000-680,000) hospitalizations and 35,000 (95% PI: 14,000-48,000) deaths.

The *US Flu Scenario Modeling Hub* aims to produce robust projections to provide real-time actionable modeling evidence to support ongoing public health needs and decision-making. For Round 1 2025/26, 12 teams contributed projections (including 11 contributing national projections) of the trajectory of Flu during Sunday, August 10, 2025 to June 06, 2026. Detailed scenario descriptions and setting assumptions are provided on the SMH GitHub site . See fluscenariomodelinghub.org for more results and details.

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