

## Health Advisory

### Increased Need for Outpatient Pediatric Sick Appointments November 9, 2022

Similar to national trends, clinical laboratories in Philadelphia have reported increased respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections in recent weeks, particularly among [pediatric patients](#). Because of the increase in pediatric RSV cases combined with illnesses due to other respiratory viruses like influenza and COVID-19, pediatric emergency rooms have extremely long wait times (several hours) and pediatric inpatient units are operating near or at full capacity.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health is calling upon primary care pediatric practices to implement strategies to increase the availability of same day sick appointments so that lower acuity patients can be seen in primary care and not the emergency room. Such strategies could include deferring routine well child visits, extending after-hours appointment slots, and utilizing telemedicine for low acuity patients.

#### Reference:

- PDPH Advisory (October 28, 2022) – [2022-2023 Respiratory Virus Season Underway: Surveillance Updates and Reminders for Reporting and Prevention](#)