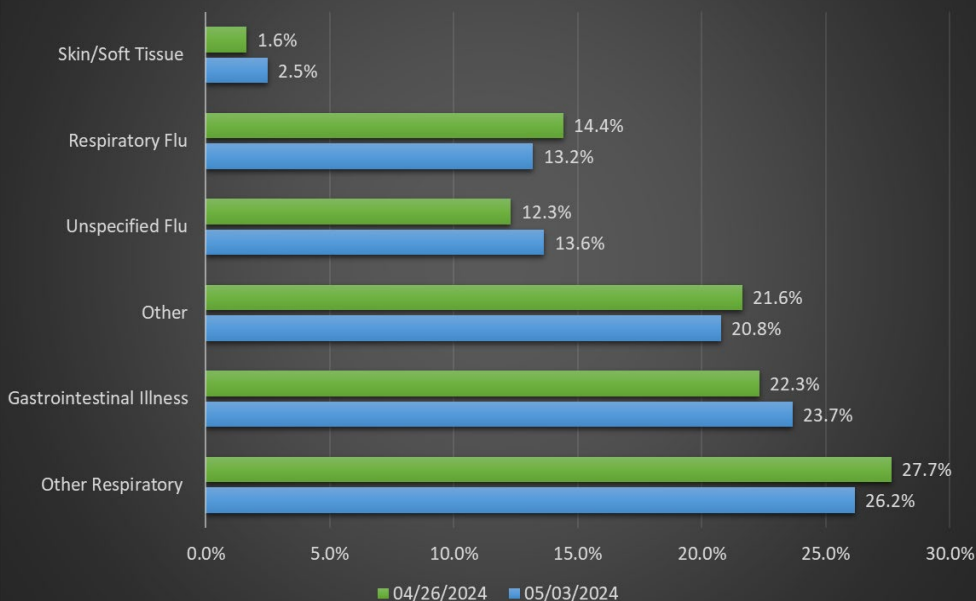


Kent County, Michigan, School Absenteeism Trends, Week of 04/29/2024 to 05/03/2024

Figure 1. Illnesses by Category in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 04/26/24 & 05/03/24



Schools are an important part of the public health system and information submitted by schools to the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) regarding student absences is critical to identifying disease trends that are occurring within the county. Schools submit a weekly report containing the number of student absences due to the following communicable diseases: “Flu-like” illnesses (respiratory and unspecified), respiratory infections (common cold, mononucleosis, strep throat, breathing issues, bronchitis, and COVID-19/COVID-19-like-illness [CLI]), gastrointestinal illnesses, and Skin/Tissue-related illnesses (head lice, pink eye, impetigo, Scarlet fever, scabies, and fifth disease). In addition to the above diseases, KCHD collects data related to absences due to illness that are diagnosed by a physician, such as Chickenpox, Measles, Rubella, Mumps, Hepatitis, Pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, Encephalitis and Meningitis. *Illnesses that were not diagnosed, or required more information, were listed under the “Other” category. *Staff COVID-19 cases are not included in absenteeism totals.

Figure 2. School Absences Due to Reportable Illnesses, Week Ending (05/03/24), Kent County

Reportable Illness	Number of Cases
Gastrointestinal Illness	739
Cold	703
Other	649
Unspecified Flu Symptoms	426
Respiratory Flu	412
Strep	62
Pink Eye	48
Head Lice	26
Covid	25
Breathing Issues	24
Mono	3
Scabies	2
Fifth Disease	1
Impetigo	1
Bronchitis	0
Scarlet Fever	0
Total	3121

04/29/24 – 05/03/24

- Schools Reporting: 188
- Students Enrolled: 61737
- Students Absent: 3121
- Staff Absent (COVID-19): 12
- Percent Absent: 5.1%
- Previous Week % Absent: 5.7%

- Figure 1: Percent Common Illness Reported Highest Percent
 - Other Respiratory: 26.2%
 - Gastrointestinal Illness: 23.7%
- Figure 2: Common Illnesses Reported Most Common Cases:
 - Gastrointestinal Illness: 739
 - Cold: 703
- Figure 3: Comparing Percentages to Last Year Higher
 - Gastrointestinal Illness: 23.7%
 - Unspecified Flu: 13.6%
 Lower
 - Other Respiratory: 26.2%
 - Other: 20.8%
 - Respiratory Flu: 13.2%
 - Skin/Soft Tissue: 2.5%

Figure 3. Comparison to Previous Year, Most Common Illnesses Reported in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 05/05/23 & 05/03/24

