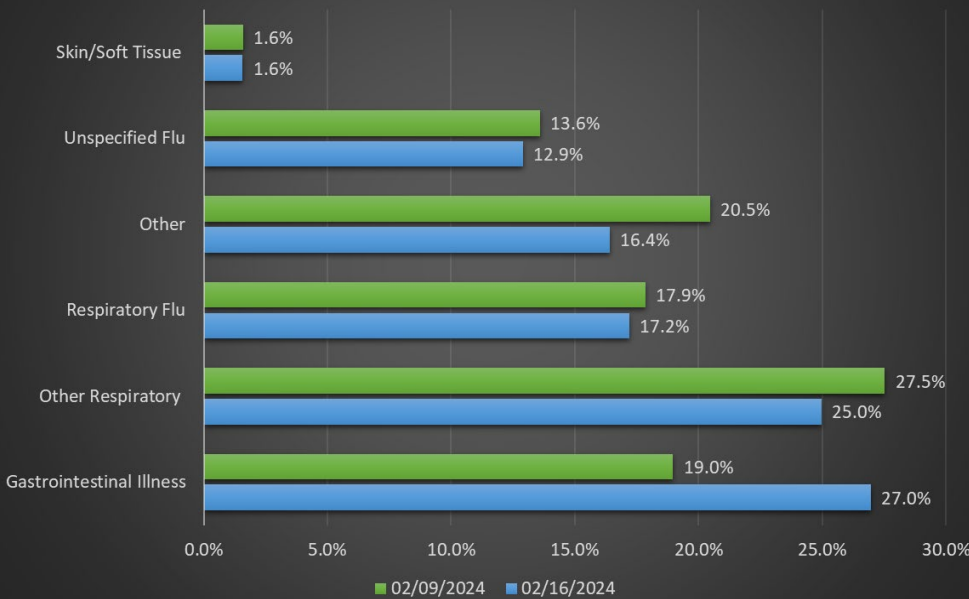


Kent County, Michigan, School Absenteeism Trends, Week of 02/12/2024 to 02/16/2024

Figure 1. Illnesses by Category in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 02/09/24 & 02/16/24



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 (02/16/24), Kent County

Reportable Illness	Number of Cases
Gastrointestinal Illness	1374
Cold	1038
Respiratory Flu	877
Other	836
Unspecified Flu Symptoms	658
Covid	123
Strep	80
Pink Eye	50
Breathing Issues	23
Head Lice	23
Bronchitis	7
Impetigo	3
Fifth Disease	2
Mono	1
Scabies	1
Scarlet Fever	1
	5097

02/12/24 – 02/16/24

- Schools Reporting: 191
- Students Enrolled: 62478
- Students Absent: 5097
- Staff Absent (COVID-19): 27
- Percent Absent: 8.2%
- Previous Week % Absent: 7.3%

Figure 1: Percent Common Illness Reported Highest Percent

- Gastrointestinal Illness: 27.0%
- Other Respiratory: 25.0%

Figure 2: Common Illnesses Reported Most Common Cases:

- Gastrointestinal Illness 1374
- Cold: 1038

Figure 3: Comparing Percentages to Last Year Higher

- Gastrointestinal Illness: 27.0%
 - Respiratory Flu: 17.2%
 - Unspecified Flu: 12.9%
- Lower
- Other Respiratory: 25.0%
 - Other: 16.4%
 - Skin/Soft Tissue: 1.6%

Figure 3. Comparison to Previous Year, Most Common Illnesses Reported in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 02/17/23 & 02/16/24

