

The Triple-demic overwhelms hospitals in the US

The seven-day average of new daily Covid cases is above 66,000 with hospitalizations above 40,000, the highest number since mid-September.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there have already been [13 million illnesses](#) and 7,300 deaths from flu this season, and those numbers are expected to rise in the coming months. And Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) has helped strain hospitals nationwide.

For the week ended Dec. 10th there were [4,391 cases](#) of RSV detected in the United States.

What impact does the triple-demic have on healthcare systems?

According to [The Lancet](#), respiratory infections are overwhelming hospital pediatric units across the USA, fueling drug and equipment shortages. Early and intense RSV and Flu seasons, joined now by climbing COVID-19 rates and rhinovirus admissions, are filling short-staffed hospitals to capacity. The situation is compounded by profits-driven closures of hospital pediatric units.

Children's hospitals are cancelling planned surgeries. The US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued blanket waivers permitting hospitals to care for patients in temporary expansion sites. In California, Colorado, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, children's hospitals have set up overflow tents. In New Mexico, where hospitals are over capacity with children infected with RSV, flu, and COVID-19, state health officials are monitoring hospital shortages of pediatric clinicians and respiratory therapists, and medical oxygen, pediatric oxygen delivery equipment, and endotracheal tubes.

What measures can help to reduce the spread of infection?

Flu, COVID-19, and RSV are all respiratory viruses, but there are differences in how they spread.

Flu can spread from respiratory droplets, aerosols, and through contaminated surfaces. RSV on the other hand, can spread from respiratory droplets through coughing or sneezing. It has been shown to maintain viability on hard surfaces for up to 8 hours and transmission from hands to surfaces has been demonstrated. With COVID, viruses are spread by touching contaminated surfaces (which makes hand hygiene important) and in the air.

Studies Confirm Value of Ultraviolet Light

Multiple studies have confirmed good results in using UV light in disinfecting surfaces and its effectiveness against problematic multi-resistant germs or biofilm-forming bacteria

*Additional studies confirm *Ultraviolet light should be used in concert with traditional cleaning and disinfection procedures utilized by environmental services teams.**

More than 700 hospitals and hospital groups in the US have selected and trust **The UV Box** from Advanced Ultra-Violet Systems (AUVS) to disinfect their handheld, shared and mobile devices. According to AUVS, anything that fits in the chamber will be disinfected.

Improving air quality has the potential to reduce not only infections with SARS-CoV-2 according to the [JAMA Network](#), but also infections with other respiratory viruses and bacteria, reactive airway disease (eg, asthma) triggered by antigens,⁹ pulmonary and cardiovascular injury from inhalation of harmful respiratory particulates (eg, wildfires, smog).

Indoor Air Disinfection Has Never Been More Critical

AUVS' **Big Room Air Disinfection (BRAD)** can help protect staff, visitors and customers from airborne contaminants that threaten health and meet the demands for safer environments.

BRAD comes in two versions. BRAD Basic can be integrated into an existing HVAC system and BRAD-SA (stand alone) is separate from an HVAC system and permanently mounts.

Both are:

- Safe. There is no Ozone or light leakage, as tested to UL standards by TUV.
- Rugged: built to military standards
- Simple to use, and modular with easy to exchange UV-lamps.
- Proactive. It will notify you when UVC lamps have met their life expectancy.
- Far less expensive and more effective than other solutions for improved air quality in large areas or rooms that need rapid air exchanges such as operating room