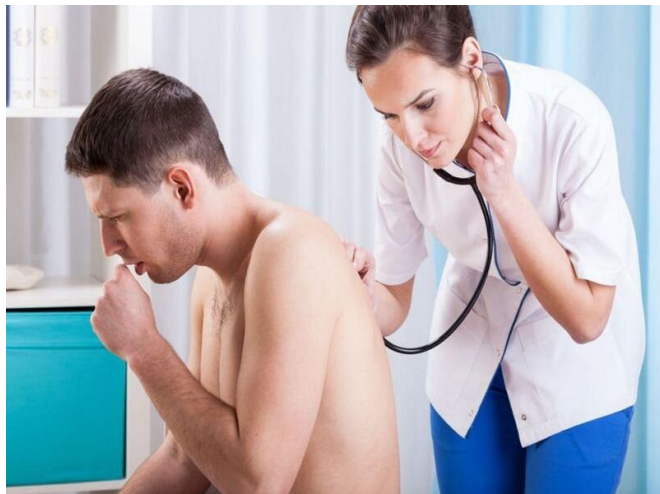


Respiratory virus detections decreased during COVID-19

22 June 2021



detections. Compared with 4,800 per month in previous seasons, winter seasonal viruses currently average 12 per month. There was also a decrease seen in other respiratory virus detections, from 560 per month pre-pandemic to 228 per month during the pandemic. Antibiotic prescribing rates increased during winter respiratory viral seasons during the pre-pandemic period, whereas prescribing rates decreased in the short term and remained low throughout the pandemic period. Monthly antibiotic prescriptions for [respiratory tract infections](#) decreased 79 percent, from 10.5 to 2.2 per 1,000 patient encounters after adjustment for seasonality.

"The data suggest that COVID-19 transmission mitigation strategies may help curb respiratory viral diseases beyond SARS-CoV-2 and, indirectly, decrease antibiotic prescribing," the authors write. "These findings may have important implications for future stewardship and [public health](#) strategies."

(HealthDay)—Respiratory virus detections decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic period, according to a research letter published online June 21 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Alexander J. Lepak, M.D., from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, and colleagues conducted a pre-post study including a pre-COVID-19 pandemic period (July 2018 to February 2020), a one-month run-in period in March 2020, and a COVID-19 pandemic period (April 2020 to February 2021). Weekly statewide surveillance polymerase chain reaction data for influenza, [respiratory syncytial virus](#), human parainfluenza [virus](#), human metapneumovirus, seasonal coronavirus, adenovirus, and enterovirus/rhinovirus were provided by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

The researchers found that during the pre-pandemic, but not the pandemic period, there was [seasonal variation](#) in respiratory virus

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical and publishing industries.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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