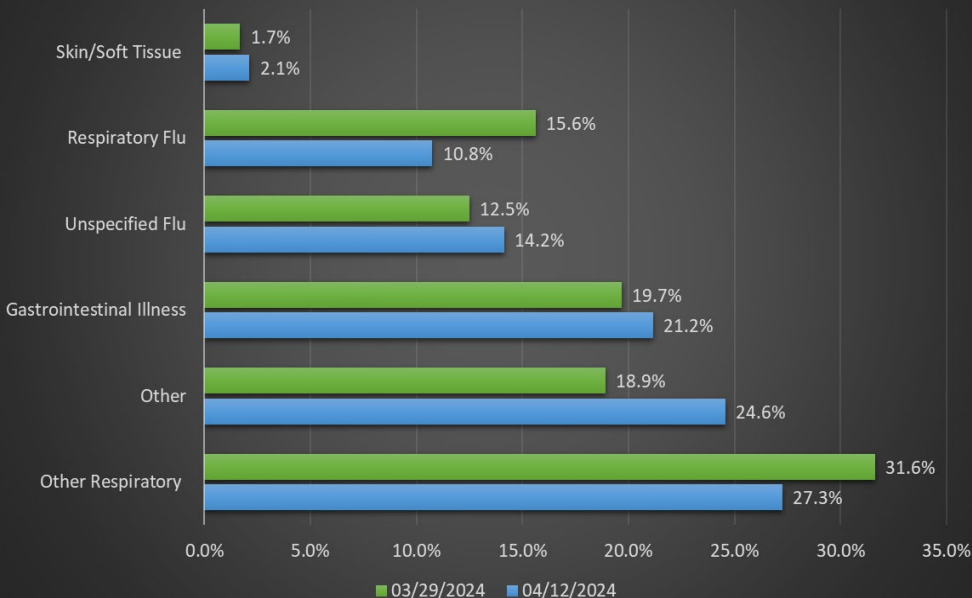


# Kent County, Michigan, School Absenteeism Trends, Week of 04/08/2024 to 04/12/2024

**Figure 1. Illnesses by Category in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 03/29/24 & 04/12/24**



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 (04/12/24), Kent County**

Reportable Illness	Number of Cases
Other	786
Cold	781
Gastrointestinal Illness	677
Unspecified Flu Symptoms	453
Respiratory Flu	344
Pink Eye	49
Strep	47
Covid	27
Head Lice	18
Breathing Issues	14
Bronchitis	2
Impetigo	1
Mono	1
Fifth Disease	0
Scabies	0
Scarlet Fever	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3200</b>

**04/08/24 – 04/12/24**

- Schools Reporting: 196
- Students Enrolled: 65426
- Students Absent: 3200
- Staff Absent (COVID-19): 11
- Percent Absent: 4.9%
- Previous Week % Absent: 5.6%

- Figure 1: Percent Common Illness Reported Highest Percent
  - Other Respiratory: 27.3%
  - Other: 24.6%
- Figure 2: Common Illnesses Reported Most Common Cases:
  - Other: 786
  - Cold: 781
- Figure 3: Comparing Percentages to Last Year Higher
  - Other: 24.6%
  - Gastrointestinal Illness: 21.2%
  - Unspecified Flu: 14.2%
  - Skin/Soft Tissue: 2.1%
- Lower
  - Other Respiratory: 27.3%
  - Respiratory Flu: 10.8%

**Figure 3. Comparison to Previous Year, Most Common Illnesses Reported in Kent County Schools, Weeks Ending 04/14/23 & 04/12/24**

