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COVID-19 Pandemic—Related Reductions in Pediatric Asthma Exacerbations Corresponded with an Overall Decrease in Respiratory Viral Infections



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What is already known about this topic? Although respiratory viruses, air pollutants, and aeroallergens are implicated in worsening pediatric asthma symptoms, the interplay between these factors and asthma exacerbations is not well understood. Asthma exacerbations decreased significantly during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, allowing for the investigation of these asthma triggers relative to asthma activity.

What does this article add to our knowledge? The sustained reductions in viral infections and acute asthma activity we observed during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic support a strong link between respiratory virus infections and pediatric asthma exacerbations.

How does this study impact current management guidelines? Our findings suggest that viral respiratory infections are a primary driver of pediatric asthma exacerbations and that preventive measures taken to control exposure to these viruses may help limit exacerbating asthma symptoms

BACKGROUND: Respiratory viruses, air pollutants, and aeroallergens are all implicated in worsening pediatric asthma symptoms, but their relative contributions to asthma exacerbations are poorly understood. A significant decrease in asthma exacerbations has been observed during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, providing a unique opportunity to study how major asthma triggers correlate with asthma activity. **OBJECTIVE:** To determine whether changes in respiratory viruses, air pollutants, and/or aeroallergens during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic were concomitant with decreased asthma exacerbations.

METHODS: Health care utilization and respiratory viral testing data between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2020, were extracted from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Care Network's electronic health record. Air pollution and allergen data were extracted from US Environmental Protection Agency public databases and a National Allergy Bureau—certified station, respectively. Pandemic data (2020) were compared with historical data.

RESULTS: Recovery of in-person asthma encounters during phased reopening (June 6 to November 15, 2020) was uneven: primary care well and specialty encounters reached 94% and

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Abbreviations used

CHOP- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 COVID-19- coronavirus disease 2019
 ED- emergency department
 ICS- inhaled corticosteroid
 IFV-A- influenza A
 IFV-B- influenza B
 RSV- respiratory syncytial virus
 SARS-CoV-2- severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

74% of pre-pandemic levels, respectively, whereas primary care sick and hospital encounters reached 21% and 40% of pre-pandemic levels, respectively. During the pandemic, influenza A and influenza B decreased to negligible frequency when compared with pre-pandemic cases, whereas respiratory syncytial virus and rhinovirus infections decreased to low (though non-negligible) pre-pandemic levels, as well. No changes in air pollution or aeroallergen levels relative to historical observations were noted.

CONCLUSIONS: Our results suggest that viral respiratory infections are a primary driver of pediatric asthma exacerbations. These findings have broad relevance to both clinical practice and the development of health policies aimed at reducing asthma morbidity. © 2021 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract 2022;10:91-9)

Key words: Asthma; COVID-19; Respiratory virus; Pediatric to asthma; Aeroallergen; Pollution

INTRODUCTION

Symptoms of asthma, a common pediatric respiratory disease,¹ worsen with exposure to respiratory viruses, air pollution, and aeroallergens.² In addition, patients with asthma have more frequent, severe, and longer-lasting symptoms with respiratory viral infections than do people without asthma.^{3,4} Exposure to air pollutants, including particulate pollution (particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns [PM_{2.5}] and PM with diameter of less than 10 microns [PM₁₀]), ozone, and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), has been associated with increased risk of asthma development, exacerbations, and hospitalizations.⁵⁻⁹ In children with atopic asthma, aeroallergens are also a cause of asthma exacerbations.^{10,11}

Public health interventions to mitigate the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the causative virus of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), included social distancing, mask-wearing, and quarantining of sick or exposed individuals.¹²⁻¹⁵ Although it was initially suspected that asthma might be a COVID-19 risk factor—a concern that may have increased preventive health behaviors among those with asthma^{16,17}—subsequent studies showed that people with asthma who contract SARS-CoV-2 were at a lower risk for adverse outcomes.^{18,19} The institution and modulation of COVID-19—related public health measures offer a unique opportunity to study their effects on health outcomes beyond those directly infected, including asthma.^{20,21} Asthma symptoms and exacerbations decreased during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic,²²⁻²⁵ along with factors that impact asthma, such as respiratory viral infections.^{23,26-29} In a previous publication, we

found that during the first 2 months following public health interventions in Philadelphia, in-person asthma visits and steroid prescriptions decreased by more than 80%, with a concomitant decrease in rhinovirus infections and no change in air pollution compared with historical data for the years 2015-2019.²³ Given that public health measures changed throughout 2020 and health systems resumed more in-person services, we sought to determine whether the decreased patterns of asthma activity we initially observed were maintained throughout 2020, and whether levels of respiratory viral infections, air pollution, and aeroallergens mirrored asthma activity.

METHODS**Study population and timeline**

Patient-level demographic characteristics of our study population are presented in Table E1 in this article's Online Repository at www.jaci-inpractice.org. We extracted asthma patient data corresponding to January 1-December 31 encounters for the years 2015 to 2020 from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Care Network, which consists of 48 outpatient primary and specialty care clinical sites, 4 urgent care sites, 15 community hospital alliances, and a 557-bed quaternary care center in the greater Delaware River Valley area; the network has maintained the same number and type of providers during this time period. Asthma diagnosis was established on the basis of encounters having International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code J45.nn. Public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic in Philadelphia and surrounding counties were divided into phases. The *prelockdown* phase occurred from January 1 to March 17, 2020. The first *lockdown* occurred from March 18 to June 5, 2020, while the *phased reopening* consisted of an initial reopening between June 6 and June 26, 2020, and a further reopening between June 27 and November 15, 2020. The second lockdown was instituted on November 16 and lasted through January 4, 2021. A more thorough description of these time frames may be found in this article's Online Repository at www.jaci-inpractice.org.

Variable selection

For each encounter, its type (ie, primary-well, primary-sick, specialty [Allergy and Pulmonary], emergency department [ED], inpatient, and intensive care unit) and date were extracted, along with the patient's sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and payer type. Race was based on self- or parent/guardian-selection of 1 of the following categories: "white," "Black," "Asian or Pacific Islander," or "Other." Subjects without a race selection were coded as "Unknown." Asthma-related drug prescription data for all outpatient asthma-related encounters (both primary and secondary diagnosis) and inpatient asthma-related encounters (primary diagnosis only) were obtained from CHOP prescription records (see Table E2 in this article's Online Repository at www.jaci-inpractice.org). *Outpatient* encounters included primary-well, primary-sick, and specialty care outpatient visits, whereas *hospital* encounters included those in the ED, intensive care unit, or inpatient stays. Inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), leukotriene modifier, and ICS + long-acting β_2 -agonist drugs were considered asthma *maintenance medications*, whereas short-acting β -agonist, systemic steroid, anticholinergic, and ED/inpatient magnesium were considered *acute management medications*.

Viral infection data

Results for respiratory viral testing from CHOP ED and satellite sites for adenovirus, influenza A (IFV-A), influenza B (IFV-B),

metapneumovirus, non-COVID-19 coronavirus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, parainfluenza 1, parainfluenza 2, parainfluenza 3, and COVID-19 were extracted from CHOP's Respiratory Virus Prevalence database (see Table E3 in this article's Online Repository at www.jaci-inpractice.org). Four viruses most relevant to asthma exacerbations (IFV-A, IFV-B, RSV, and rhinovirus^{23,30}), as well as COVID-19, were selected for further analysis. Data for the total weekly number of positive test results during 2020 and, separately, for 2015-2019 were obtained. Data for January 1 to March 31, 2021, were also obtained.

Air pollution data

Hourly PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, ozone, and NO₂ measures obtained at US Environmental Protection Agency monitoring sites in Philadelphia for the time period January 1 to December 31, 2020, were extracted from AirNow (an air quality data management system that reports real-time and forecast air quality estimates).³¹ Historical data from 2015 to 2019 for these pollutants were downloaded from Air Data (a US Environmental Protection Agency resource that provides quality-assured summary air pollution measures collected from outdoor regulatory monitors across the United States³²). AirNow did not provide historical data for pollutants considered, and Air Data did not contain 2020 data, because its data are released months after the data are reported in AirNow. For regulatory monitors included in our study, AirNow and AirData measures were obtained at the same monitoring sites.

Aeroallergen data

Aeroallergen concentrations for trees, weed, mold, and grass pollen were measured per Burkard device guidelines at The Asthma Center, National Allergy Bureau-certified station in Mt Laurel, NJ, during the period March 17 to October 29, 2020.³³ Station measures were reported as categorical variables based on historical concentrations: trees, weed, and grass pollen levels were categorized as *not present*, *low concentration*, *moderate concentration*, *high concentration*, and *very high concentration* for weekly average estimate ranges 0, 1 to 9, 10 to 29, 30 to 59, and 60+ particles/m³ of air, respectively; weed pollen was binned into the same levels according to weekly average ranges 0, 50 to 599, 600 to 999, 1000 to 2499, and 2500+ particles/m³ of air. Historical data for the time period 2015 to 2019 from this site were not available, but the ranges used are based on historical levels observed by the same National Allergy Bureau station that collected the 2020 data.

Data analysis

Summary statistics for rates of health care encounters and asthma-related medication prescriptions from 2020 were compared with those from 2015 to 2019. Comparisons were made between the prelockdown and the first lockdown period by comparing the average weekly encounter or medication prescription activity during the 8 weeks before and after the week of March 18, 2020. Comparisons were made between the phased-reopening time period and previous years by determining the "peak" weekly encounter or medication prescription activity, as defined as the highest 8-week moving average, between week 26 and 45 of 2020 or 2015-2019. Viral testing analysis was performed via 2 comparisons whereby summary statistics for historical data from 2015 to 2019 were compared with (1) 2020 data and (2) September 2020 to March 2021 data to cover the full influenza and RSV seasons expected for 2020-2021, which often span November to March. Weekly averages of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, ozone, and NO₂ measures were calculated for the year 2020 and across the years 2015-2019. SD was calculated for

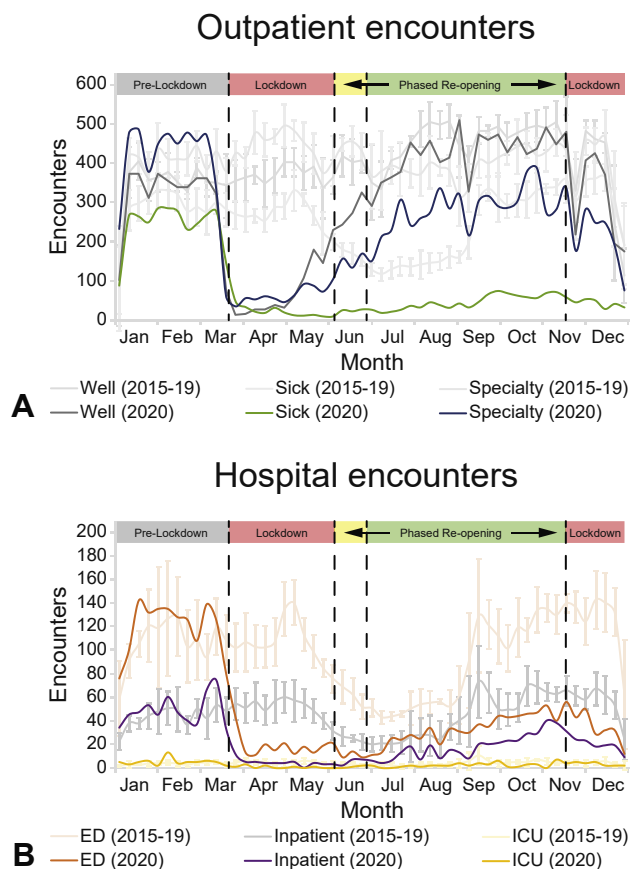


FIGURE 1. Outpatient and hospital asthma encounters during 2020. **(A)** Weekly averages for outpatient asthma encounters from January 1 to December 31, 2020. Primary care well visits (Well), primary care acute care visits (Sick), and specialty care visits (Specialty; Allergy and Pulmonary) are shown. **(B)** Weekly averages for hospital asthma encounters from January 1 to December 31, 2020. ED, inpatient admissions (Inpatient), and pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) admissions are shown. Five-year historical averages (January 1-December 31, 2015-2019) with 1 SD from the mean are shown. Phases of Philadelphia COVID-19-related public health measures are shown.

historical data. Aeroallergen data were visualized according to categorical level for each week of 2020.

Data availability

The epidemiologic data supporting the conclusions of this article are available in the Zenodo repository (<https://zenodo.org/record/5736294>).

Ethical and regulatory oversight

The CHOP Institutional Review Board reviewed our study and determined it did not meet the definition of Human Subjects research.

RESULTS

Before enacting COVID-19-related public health measures on March 18, 2020, in Philadelphia, pediatric asthma health care visit numbers and encounter types at CHOP were similar to

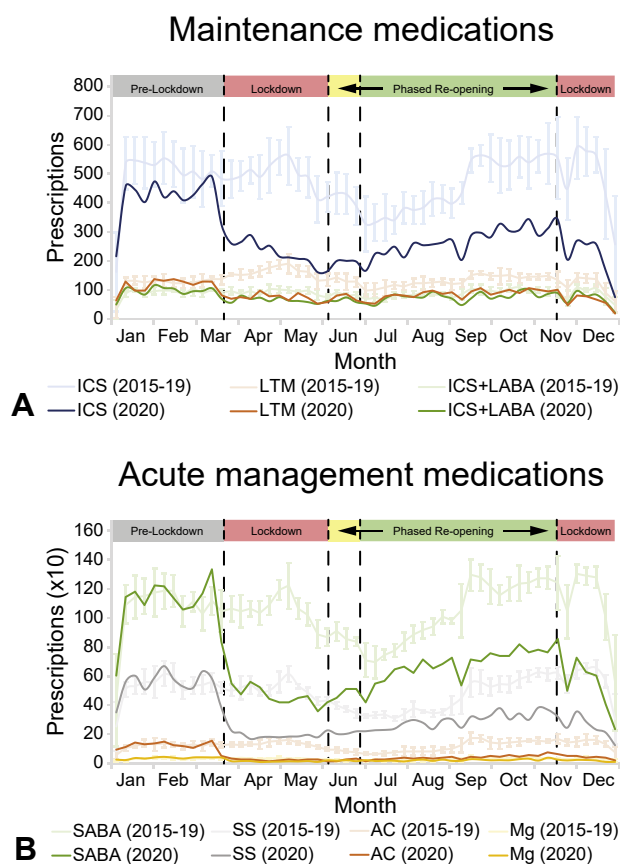


FIGURE 2. Asthma prescriptions during 2020. **(A)** Weekly averages for asthma maintenance medication prescriptions from January 1 to December 31, 2020. ICS, leukotriene modifiers (LTM), and ICS + long-acting β -agonist (ICS + LABA) prescriptions are shown. **(B)** Weekly averages for asthma acute management medication prescriptions from January 1 to December 31, 2020. Short-acting β -agonist (SABA), systemic steroid (SS), anticholinergic (AC), and magnesium (Mg) prescriptions are shown. Five-year historical averages (January 1–December 31, 2015–2019) with 1 SD from the mean are shown. Phases of Philadelphia COVID-19–related public health measures are shown.

2015–2019 historical averages. Comparison of asthma encounters during the prelockdown to the first lockdown period showed that the average number of weekly outpatient encounters decreased to 12% of pre-pandemic levels (1069 encounters/wk vs 130 encounters/wk), with primary-well decreasing to 10% (351 vs 36 encounters/wk), specialty decreasing to 12% (455 vs 53 encounters/wk), and primary-sick decreasing to 16% (263 vs 41 encounters/wk) (Figure 1, A). During this time period, the average number of weekly hospital encounters decreased to 20% of pre-pandemic levels (186 vs 37 encounters/wk; Figure 1, B). In the case of both outpatient and hospital encounters, weekly rates of historical data were at similar levels before and after the week of March 18.

During the phased reopening June 6 to November 15, there was a gradual return of nonacute asthma-related outpatient encounters to historical and pre-pandemic levels. Specifically, primary-well and specialty outpatient encounters rose to 94%

(456 vs 486 encounters/wk) and 74% of historical levels (317 vs 429 encounters/wk), respectively (Figure 1, A). In contrast, primary-sick encounters increased to 21% of historical levels (66 vs 319 encounters/wk; Figure 1, A), and hospital encounters increased to 40% of historical levels (75 vs 188 encounters/wk; Figure 1, B).

Before enacting COVID-19–related public health measures, pediatric asthma prescription patterns at CHOP were similar to 2015–2019 historical averages. Comparison of CHOP prescription patterns during the prelockdown to the first lockdown period found that prescriptions for each asthma maintenance (Figure 2, A) and acute management (Figure 2, B) medication decreased relative to their pre-pandemic levels: ICS to 59% (436 vs 258 prescriptions/wk), ICS + long-acting β_2 -agonist to 70% (98 vs 68 prescriptions/wk), leukotriene modifier to 63% (122 vs 77 prescriptions/wk), short-acting β -agonist to 46% (1146 vs 530 prescriptions/wk), systemic steroids to 36% (580 vs 211 prescriptions/wk), anticholinergic to 20% (129 vs 26 prescriptions/wk), and ED/inpatient magnesium to 38% (36 vs 14 prescriptions/wk). For each of these drug classes, their levels remained similar from January to June according to historical data. We did not observe an asthma medication shortage in Philadelphia during the early stages of the pandemic.

When examining the phased reopening period, prescription patterns for all medications showed a recovery toward historical and pre-pandemic levels, but all remained lower through December 2020 (Figure 2). Specifically, short-acting β -agonist prescriptions were 61% of historical levels (761 vs 1240 prescriptions/wk), systemic steroid prescriptions were 58% of historical levels (338 vs 576 prescriptions/wk), anticholinergic prescriptions were 34% of historical levels (53 vs 153 prescriptions/wk), and ED/inpatient magnesium prescriptions were 66% of historical levels (23 vs 35 prescriptions/wk). In comparison, ICS prescriptions were 56% of historical levels (308 vs 551 prescriptions/wk), leukotriene modifier prescriptions were 65% of historical levels (97 vs 149 prescriptions/wk), and ICS + long-acting β_2 -agonist prescriptions were 84% of historical levels (85 vs 101 prescriptions/wk).

Testing for all viruses continued during 2020 though the number of non-COVID-19 tests performed decreased when compared with historical testing figures. During the prelockdown phase, an increase in the number of positive IFV-A and IFV-B test results was observed as compared with historical averages.²³ In addition, both the number of positive RSV and positive rhinovirus test results decreased during this time period when compared with historical averages. Just as the first lockdown was instituted, the number of positive results for rhinovirus increased. However, this increase (as a percentage of total rhinovirus test results) was similar to the historical average (see Table E3). The weekly total positive test results for IFV-A, IFV-B, RSV, and rhinovirus during the first lockdown, phased reopening, and second lockdown were significantly lower than 2015–2019 historical averages even as the number of positive COVID-19 test results increased (Figure 3). When investigating seasonal trends, and focusing on months of peak viral transmission, the respiratory viral data from September 2020 to March 2021 showed that positive test results for IFV-A, IFV-B, and RSV were at or near zero when compared with their historical averages. Positive rhinovirus test results, while nonzero, also remained significantly lower than antecedent averages (Figure 4).

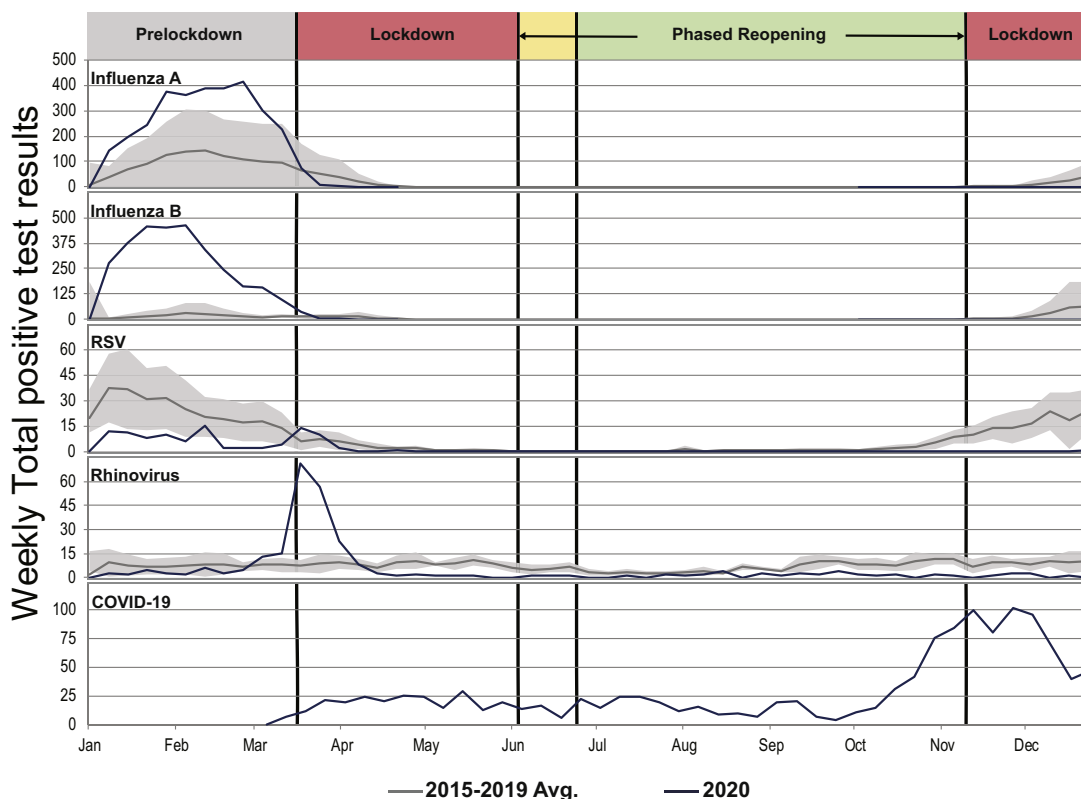


FIGURE 3. Viral respiratory testing data using deidentified institutional ED and satellite sites virology testing results for the period 2015 to 2020. Time series plots comparing historical average data (dark gray lines) and ± 1 SD (light gray shaded areas) from 2015 to 2019 to 2020 data (dark blue lines) for total number of weekly positive IFN-A, IFV-B, RSV, rhinovirus, and COVID-19 test results, respectively. Phases of Philadelphia COVID-19–related public health measures are shown.

Air pollution and aeroallergen trends did not substantially change during the pandemic compared with historical or expected seasonal data,^{11,28} respectively (Figure 5). Although seasonal variability in daily average PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO₂, and ozone was observed, the variability was similar to historical trends across the years 2015–2019. Aeroallergen concentrations during most weeks of 2020 were *not present* or *low concentration*, with *high concentration* of weed pollen in September, *very high concentration* of tree pollen in March–May, *high concentration* to *very high concentration* of mold pollen in mid-March–October, and *moderate concentration* of grass pollen in May–June.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the devastating morbidity and mortality arising directly from COVID-19,^{29,30,34–36} there have been indirect negative effects on various health outcomes.^{20,21,26,28} In the case of asthma, however, COVID-19–related public health measures during the initial months of the pandemic reduced disease burden.^{23–25,27,37,38} As a continuation of our previous initial observations,²³ the in-depth analyses of the effects of COVID-19–related public health measures on asthma activity over a longer period of time provide a unique opportunity to study the environmental triggers of asthma exacerbations. Our current results show that although the relaxation of COVID-19–related public health measures resulted in a recovery of nonacute asthma care to near pre-pandemic levels, there was a persistence of

historically low acute asthma care that corresponded with low respiratory virus positivity until the end of 2020. The current study allows for the analysis of viral trends following deviations from public health interventions during the course of the study, as well as a closer look at the seasonality of the viruses when compared with historical averages due to the increased duration of the observation period. Allergen data during this span have also been included in the current analysis. In addition, analysis of well versus sick outpatient encounters was performed, as was a more detailed analysis of asthma medication prescriptions during this time frame.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a substantial decrease in respiratory viral infections,^{23,26,29,38} including influenza.^{23,28,39,40} Consistent with these reports, our results show that the number of positive virus test results decreased and remained lower than the historical average. Specifically, in the ED and satellite care centers between September 2020 and March 2021, when peaks in the number of IFV-A, IFV-B, and RSV infections were observed in previous years, no positive IFV-A, IFV-B, or RSV infections were identified. In addition, the number of positive cases of rhinovirus, a key virus linked to asthma exacerbations,^{41,42} remained lower than historical averages. These trends may not be solely due to behavioral responses or public health interventions, in that after the major US 2020 fall and winter holidays that were accompanied by ill-advised gatherings (eg, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve), the number of respiratory viruses, other than SARS-CoV-2,

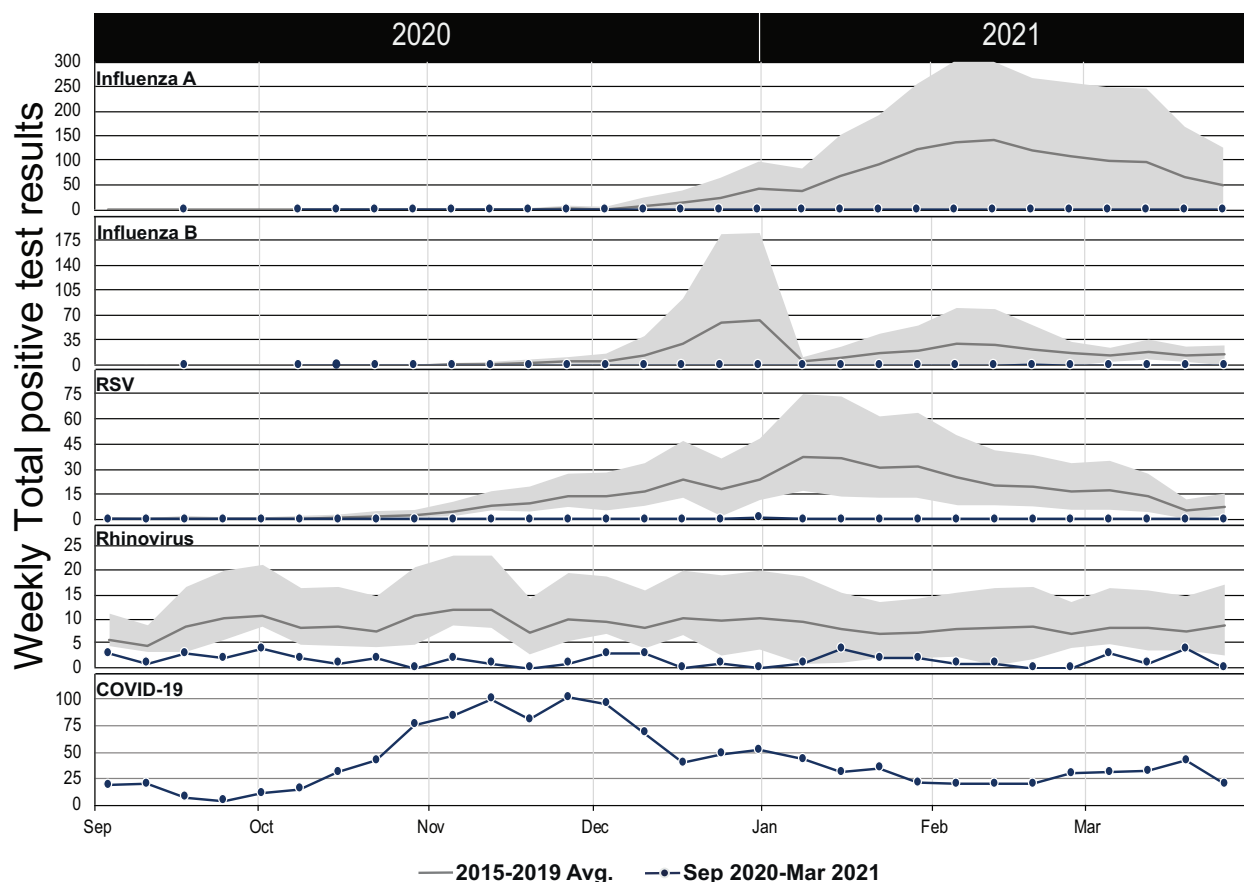


FIGURE 4. Viral respiratory testing data comparing September 2020 to March 2021 to historical data (2015-2019). Total number of weekly positive IFV-A, IFV-B, RSV, rhinovirus, and COVID-19 testing data (dark blue lines with blue markers) from the ED and satellite sites are compared with the 2015-2019 historical average (dark gray lines) \pm SD (light gray shaded areas) during the same period. Weeks during which tests were not performed are without markers.

remained very low even as COVID-19 rates increased. Given the known role of respiratory viral infections as a trigger of asthma exacerbations, it is likely that the sustained decrease in respiratory virus levels strongly contributed to the decrease in asthma encounters in 2020.

Exposure to air pollution and aeroallergens contributes to asthma exacerbations.⁵⁻¹¹ Consistent with our previous publication that studied the early phases of the pandemic,²³ we did not observe changes to levels of air pollutants that diverged from historical trends; that is, seasonal variability in PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and ozone, which peaked during summer 2020, and NO₂, which peaked during winter 2020, was consistent with 2015-2019 trends.^{43,44} Similarly, seasonal peaks were observed among aeroallergens from April to June and early September, according to pollen type,^{11,45} but these changes were consistent with historical trends. Previously, we explicitly confirmed that the seasonal decrease in levels of 4 air pollutants in the 2-month period following Philadelphia's first lockdown period was not statistically significant when compared with historical trends via interrupted time series analysis.²³ Here, having expanded the time period of observation, there were even fewer differences between pollution levels across 2020 compared with historical patterns, suggesting that the implementation

and relaxation of COVID-19-related public health measures had little effect on levels of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, ozone, and NO₂ in Philadelphia as measured with regulatory monitors. Similarly, COVID-19-related measures did not influence aeroallergen levels, as illustrated by our results for weed, tree, mold, and grass pollens, which followed expected seasonal trends. We note however that our data have limitations. First, the US Environmental Protection Agency data used comprised monitoring sites that sparsely cover the greater Philadelphia region and do not account for all pollutants that may have changed as a result of public health measures. Second, our aeroallergen data were sourced from a single monitoring site and did not have detailed historical measures available (only ranges). Third, public health interventions may have altered the outdoor pollution and aeroallergen exposure profiles of children due to increased usage of masks, decreased outdoor activity and commuting, and school closures.^{46,47} Given the complex behavioral, environmental, and biological issues relevant to fully understanding the effects of public health interventions on asthma studies, capturing individual-level data is necessary to more fully quantify changes in children's exposure profiles, as well as to distinguish the impact of these changes on atopic versus nonatopic children with asthma.⁴⁸

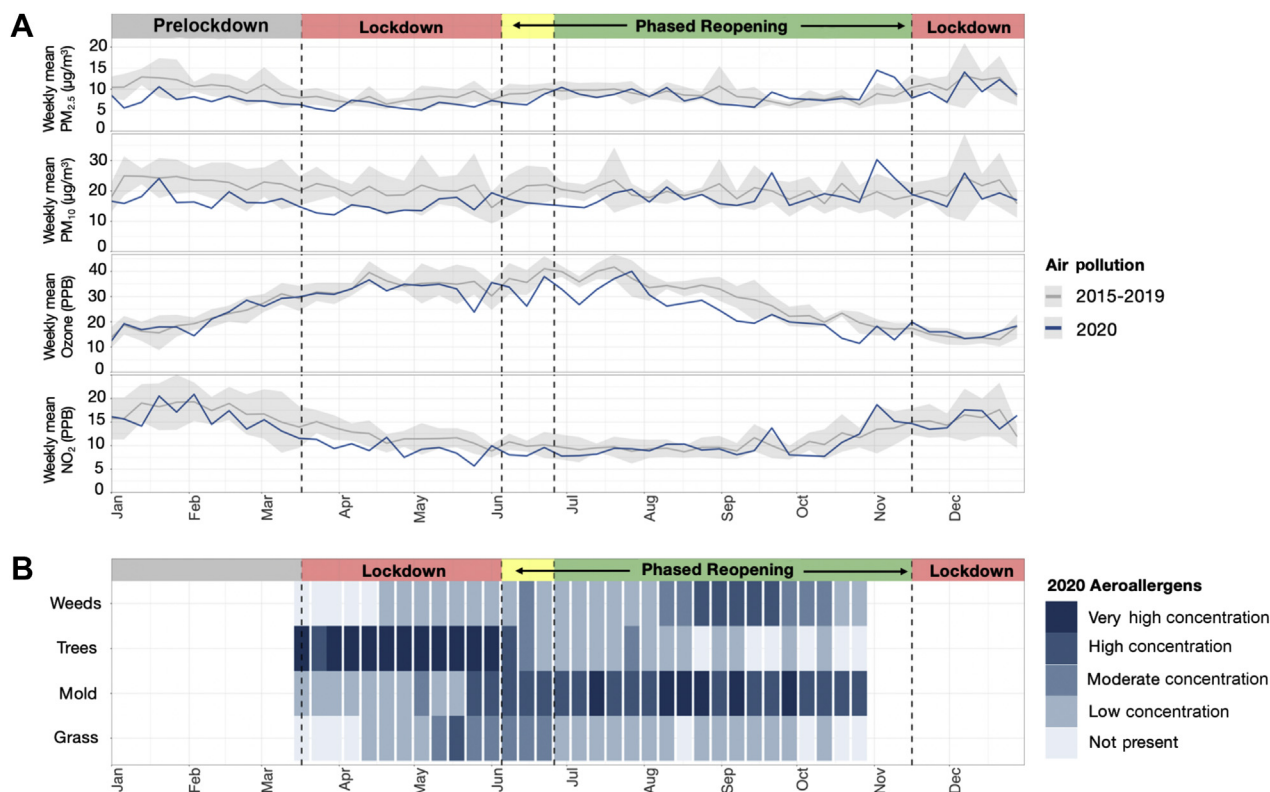


FIGURE 5. Levels of air pollutants and aeroallergens in Philadelphia during the COVID-19 pandemic. **(A)** Trend lines of weekly averages of daily NO_2 , ozone, PM_{10} , and $PM_{2.5}$ measures from 2020 and 2015-2019 sourced from AirNow and AirData, respectively, for the period January 1 to December 31 in Philadelphia. **(B)** Heatmap of weekly aeroallergen concentrations for tree, weed, mold, and grass pollen measured by a National Allergy Bureau–certified station near Philadelphia during the period March 17 to October 29, 2020. Phases of Philadelphia COVID-19–related public health measures are shown. *ppb*, Parts per billion.

The recovery of nonacute asthma care during the reopening phases suggests that people were willing and able to access health care during this time. Thus, reduced access was not a major driver of the persistently low acute outpatient and inpatient asthma encounters. The persistently decreased prescription levels of maintenance and acute management medications during phases in which routine asthma care encounters were recovering further support that a decrease in asthma exacerbations and symptoms occurred. However, it is possible that fear of coming to the pediatrician’s office or hospital, out of concern for increased SARS-CoV-2 infection risk, drove some of the effect on acute asthma care that we observed. There are additional limitations to our study. Our results showing a substantial decrease in the number of asthma exacerbations along with extremely low levels of respiratory viral infections reflect a single pediatric health care network and may not generalize to other populations. Using an International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision classification of asthma may potentially miss asthma admissions that were coded primarily as COVID-19–related. Nevertheless, the observed trends of a decrease in weekly positive respiratory virus test results during the first lockdown, phased reopening, and second lockdown, together with the decrease in acute asthma episodes during the same time frame, suggest that limiting routes through which respiratory viruses are communicable likely substantially decreased asthma exacerbations.

Although the restrictive COVID-19 public health interventions would not be feasible or acceptable long-term given their detrimental consequences on other aspects of health,⁴⁹⁻⁵¹ the insights gained during this period may foster greater awareness for the importance of practicing effective strategies to reduce exacerbations. Continued education of patients with asthma and their parents to encourage handwashing, provide anticipatory guidance about travel, adhere to asthma action plans as children return to school,⁵² consider voluntary masking during respiratory viral seasons in certain settings (eg, large indoor gatherings or while traveling), and follow other Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to reduce viral transmission^{53,54} could effectively curb asthma exacerbations. As the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and related public health measures are reduced, continued studies of the relationship between viral infection rates and asthma are needed to identify the most effective and acceptable long-term strategies that will maintain reduced asthma exacerbations.

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ONLINE REPOSITORY

During the first *lockdown* that occurred from March 18 to June 5, 2020, social distancing measures were mandated, and schools, nonessential businesses, and dine-in restaurants/bars were closed. A *phased reopening* consisted of (1) an initial reopening between June 6 and June 26, 2020, when most businesses in Philadelphia county could remain open at limited capacity consistent with public health guidelines, and (2) an expanded reopening between June 27 and November 15, 2020, during which time restaurants could increase to 50% capacity for indoor dining and increased crowd capacity limits for indoor and outdoor events were allowed. November 16,

2020, marked the beginning of the second *lockdown* with restrictions that included no indoor dining at restaurants, capacity limits at retail stores and religious institutions, the closure of gyms, libraries, and certain entertainment businesses, telework for office workers unless not possible, no indoor gatherings, reduced size limits on outdoor gatherings, and no youth or school sports. This second lockdown was lifted January 4, 2021, though previously mandated social distancing and masking policies remained. In addition, although there was substantial variability in primary and secondary school opening, public Philadelphia county schools remained entirely virtual until March 8, 2021, when a phased reopening began with K-2 schools.

TABLE E1. Demographic characteristics of subjects with asthma by time period and encounter type

Characteristic	Cohort (n)				
	2015-2019	January 1-December 31, 2020			
	All (88,039)	Outpatient	Inpatient	Video	All (28,157)
Sex, n (%)					
Male	50,281 (57)	13,996 (57)	1739 (57)	2804 (58)	16,160 (57)
Female	37,756 (43)	10,392 (43)	1290 (43)	2017 (42)	11,997 (43)
Race, n (%)					
Asian/Pacific Islander	2926 (3)	824 (3)	73 (2)	140 (3)	934 (3)
Black	33,495 (38)	8995 (37)	2117 (70)	1328 (28)	10,690 (38)
White	38,943 (44)	10,881 (45)	461 (15)	2558 (53)	12,282 (44)
Other	12,204 (14)	3537 (15)	373 (12)	757 (16)	4082 (14)
Unknown	471 (1)	151 (1)	5 (0)	38 (1)	169 (1)
Ethnicity, n (%)					
Non-Hispanic/Latino	79,886 (91)	21,875 (90)	2717 (90)	4231 (88)	25,209 (90)
Hispanic/Latino	7452 (8)	2330 (10)	305 (10)	538 (11)	2737 (10)
Unknown	701 (1)	183 (1)	7 (0)	52 (1)	211 (1)
Birth year, n (%)					
Before 2000	6979 (8)	183 (1)	6 (0)	74 (2)	237 (1)
2000-2004	18,668 (21)	3677 (15)	281 (9)	665 (14)	4189 (15)
2005-2009	25,468 (29)	7564 (31)	591 (20)	1224 (25)	8468 (30)
2010-2014	26,448 (30)	7932 (33)	963 (32)	1572 (33)	9168 (33)
2015 or later	10,476 (12)	5032 (21)	1188 (39)	1286 (27)	6095 (22)
Payer type, n (%)					
Non-Medicaid	49,551 (56)	13,069 (54)	762 (25)	2865 (59)	14,842 (53)
Medicaid	38,488 (44)	11,319 (46)	2267 (75)	1956 (41)	13,315 (47)

ICU, Intensive care unit.

Outpatient (Primary-Well, Primary-Sick, Specialty); Inpatient (ED, Inpatient, ICU); Video (Primary-Video, Specialty-Video).

TABLE E2. Asthma medication classes

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
61180	Decadron IJ	Systemic steroid
61181	Decadron IV	Systemic steroid
61183	Decadron OR	Systemic steroid
132559	Dex Combo 8-4 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132710	Dex Combo IJ	Systemic steroid
132560	Dex LA 16 16 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132711	Dex LA 16 IJ	Systemic steroid
132561	Dex LA 8 8 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132712	Dex LA 8 IJ	Systemic steroid
130359	Dexameth SOD PHOS-BUPIV-LIDO	Systemic steroid
90302	Dexamethasone (glucocorticosteroids)	Systemic steroid
61547	Dexamethasone (PAK) OR	Systemic steroid
200200162	Dexamethasone 0.1 mg/mL (D5W) injection custom	Systemic steroid
200200163	Dexamethasone 0.1 mg/mL (NSS) injection custom	Systemic steroid
2762	Dexamethasone 0.5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200499	Dexamethasone 0.5 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic Steroid
2759	Dexamethasone 0.5 mg/5 mL OR ELIX	Systemic Steroid
2760	Dexamethasone 0.5 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
2763	Dexamethasone 0.75 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
2764	Dexamethasone 1 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200201009	Dexamethasone 1 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
200200164	Dexamethasone 1 mg/mL (D5W) injection custom	Systemic steroid
200200874	Dexamethasone 1 mg/mL (NSS) injection custom	Systemic steroid
21292	Dexamethasone 1 mg/mL OR CONC	Systemic steroid
200200501	Dexamethasone 1 mg/mL OR CONC (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
135377	Dexamethasone 1.5 mg OR TBPK	Systemic steroid
135378	Dexamethasone 1.5 mg OR TBPK	Systemic steroid
135379	Dexamethasone 1.5 mg OR TBPK	Systemic steroid
2765	Dexamethasone 1.5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200502	Dexamethasone 1.5 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
2766	Dexamethasone 2 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200201008	Dexamethasone 2 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
2767	Dexamethasone 4 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200503	Dexamethasone 4 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
200200504	Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL (undiluted) injection (CHEMO) custom	Systemic steroid
200200165	Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL (undiluted) injection custom	Systemic steroid
2768	Dexamethasone 6 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200505	Dexamethasone 6 mg OR TABS (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
132777	Dexamethasone ACE & SOD PHOS	Systemic steroid
132551	Dexamethasone ACE & SOD PHOS 8-4 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132713	Dexamethasone ACE & SOD PHOS IJ	Systemic steroid
90303	Dexamethasone acetate	Systemic steroid
29197	Dexamethasone acetate 16 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
2769	Dexamethasone acetate 8 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
61549	Dexamethasone acetate IJ	Systemic steroid
2770	Dexamethasone acetate POWD	Systemic steroid
27267	Dexamethasone base POWD	Systemic steroid
200200166	Dexamethasone injection custom orderable	Systemic steroid
200200506	Dexamethasone injection custom orderable (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
2758	Dexamethasone intensol 1 mg/mL OR CONC	Systemic steroid
61551	Dexamethasone intensol OR	Systemic steroid
61554	Dexamethasone OR	Systemic steroid
18270	Dexamethasone POWD	Systemic steroid
130355	Dexamethasone SOD PHOS & BUPIV	Systemic steroid

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
130356	Dexamethasone SOD PHOS-LIDO	Systemic steroid
121371	Dexamethasone SOD phosphate PF 10 mg/mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
121730	Dexamethasone SOD phosphate PF IJ	Systemic steroid
200201236	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate (CHEMO) 4 mg/mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
90304	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate (glucocorticosteroids)	Systemic steroid
2771	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 10 mg/mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
200201160	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 10 mg/mL IJ SOLN (CHEMO)	Systemic steroid
128185	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 100 mg/10 mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
128184	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 120 mg/30 mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
128183	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 20 mg/5 mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
2772	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 4 mg/mL IJ SOLN	Systemic steroid
200201065	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 4 mg/mL INH SOLN CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
61557	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate IJ	Systemic steroid
61558	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate IV	Systemic steroid
2776	Dexamethasone sodium phosphate POWD	Systemic steroid
135753	Dexpak 10 day 1.5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
97925	Dexpak 10 day OR	Systemic steroid
135749	Dexpak 13 day 1.5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
61586	Dexpak 13 day OR	Systemic steroid
135755	Dexpak 6 day 1.5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
100127	Dexpak 6 day OR	Systemic steroid
130145	Douledex 10 mg/mL IJ KIT	Systemic steroid
130264	Douledex IJ	Systemic steroid
70802	Medrol (PAK) OR	Systemic steroid
17892	Medrol 16 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
5790	Medrol 2 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
5792	Medrol 32 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
17891	Medrol 4 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
135742	Medrol 4 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
5793	Medrol 8 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
70803	Medrol OR	Systemic steroid
71141	Methylpred 40 IJ	Systemic steroid
130360	Methylprednisol & BUPIV & LIDO	Systemic steroid
90309	Methylprednisolone	Systemic steroid
128079	Methylprednisolone & lidocaine IJ	Systemic steroid
200200507	Methylprednisolone (CHEMO) injection custom orderable	Systemic steroid
71143	Methylprednisolone (PAK) OR	Systemic steroid
5957	Methylprednisolone 16 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
12408	Methylprednisolone 2 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
12410	Methylprednisolone 32 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
5958	Methylprednisolone 4 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
135372	Methylprednisolone 4 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
12411	Methylprednisolone 8 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
128116	Methylprednisolone ACE-LIDO	Systemic steroid
132562	Methylprednisolone ACE-LIDO 40-10 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132542	Methylprednisolone ACE-LIDO 80-10 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
132732	Methylprednisolone ACE-LIDO IJ	Systemic steroid
90310	Methylprednisolone acetate	Systemic steroid
132539	Methylprednisolone acetate 100 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
5959	Methylprednisolone acetate 20 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
5960	Methylprednisolone acetate 40 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
200201903	Methylprednisolone acetate 40 mg/mL IJ SUSP (IR use only) C*	Systemic steroid
5961	Methylprednisolone acetate 80 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
71145	Methylprednisolone acetate IJ	Systemic steroid

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
121372	Methylprednisolone acetate PF 40 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
121373	Methylprednisolone acetate PF 80 mg/mL IJ SUSP	Systemic steroid
121778	Methylprednisolone acetate PF IJ	Systemic steroid
20399	Methylprednisolone acetate POWD	Systemic steroid
200200293	Methylprednisolone injection custom orderable	Systemic steroid
71147	Methylprednisolone OR	Systemic steroid
20398	Methylprednisolone POWD	Systemic steroid
200200508	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 1 mg/mL (NSS) INJECT*	Systemic steroid
200200509	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 1000 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200200510	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 125 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200201004	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 125 mg/mL (SWFI) INJ*	Systemic steroid
200200511	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 40 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200201002	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (CHEMO) 40 mg/mL (SWFI) INJE*	Systemic steroid
90311	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC (glucocorticosteroids)	Systemic steroid
52078	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 1 g IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200200294	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 1 mg/mL (NSS) injection CUST*	Systemic steroid
12412	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 1000 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
12413	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 125 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200201001	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 125 mg/mL (SWFI) injection C*	Systemic steroid
12414	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 2000 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
12415	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 40 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
200200999	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 40 mg/mL (SWFI) injection CU*	Systemic steroid
12416	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC 500 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
71149	Methylprednisolone sodium SUCC IJ	Systemic steroid
89026	Millipred 10 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
97492	Millipred 5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
135762	Millipred DP 12-day 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
111603	Millipred DP 12-day OR	Systemic steroid
135756	Millipred DP 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
135757	Millipred DP 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
100265	Millipred DP OR	Systemic steroid
89183	Millipred OR	Systemic steroid
33929	Orapred 15 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
51263	Orapred ODT 10 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
50493	Orapred ODT 15 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
51264	Orapred ODT 30 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
73649	Orapred ODT OR	Systemic steroid
73650	Orapred OR	Systemic steroid
97196	Pediapred 6.7 (5 base) mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
74412	Pediapred OR	Systemic steroid
90312	Prednisolone	Systemic steroid
100776	Prednisolone 15 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
13018	Prednisolone 15 mg/5 mL OR SYRP	Systemic steroid
135373	Prednisolone 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
135374	Prednisolone 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
7711	Prednisolone 5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
90313	Prednisolone acetate (glucocorticosteroids)	Systemic steroid
108953	Prednisolone acetate 16.7 (15 base) mg/5 mL OR SUSP	Systemic steroid
75589	Prednisolone acetate IJ	Systemic steroid
109427	Prednisolone acetate OR	Systemic steroid
7716	Prednisolone acetate POWD	Systemic steroid
20923	Prednisolone anhydrous POWD	Systemic steroid
75593	Prednisolone OR	Systemic steroid
7712	Prednisolone POWD	Systemic steroid

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
75595	Prednisolone SOD phosphate OR	Systemic steroid
90314	Prednisolone sodium phosphate (glucocorticosteroids)	Systemic steroid
51252	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 10 mg OR TBDP	Systemic steroid
89025	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 10 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
50481	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 15 mg OR TBDP	Systemic steroid
200201856	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 15 mg/5 mL (SWISH & SPIT) OR S*	Systemic steroid
33930	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 15 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
200200533	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 15 mg/5 mL OR SOLN (CHEMO) CUS*	Systemic steroid
97477	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 20 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
121526	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 25 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
51253	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 30 mg OR TBDP	Systemic steroid
96082	Prednisolone sodium phosphate 6.7 (5 base) mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
75598	Prednisolone sodium phosphate OR	Systemic steroid
20439	Prednisolone sodium phosphate POWD	Systemic steroid
90315	Prednisone	Systemic steroid
75601	Prednisone (PAK) OR	Systemic steroid
200200351	Prednisone 0.5 mg/mL OR SOL CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
7721	Prednisone 1 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200492	Prednisone 1 mg OR TABS (CHEMO) CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
120527	Prednisone 1 mg OR TBEC	Systemic steroid
135431	Prednisone 10 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
135432	Prednisone 10 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
7722	Prednisone 10 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200493	Prednisone 10 mg OR TABS (CHEMO) CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
120528	Prednisone 2 mg OR TBEC	Systemic steroid
7723	Prednisone 2.5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200494	Prednisone 2.5 mg OR TABS (CHEMO) CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
7724	Prednisone 20 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200495	Prednisone 20 mg OR TABS (CHEMO) CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
135375	Prednisone 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
135376	Prednisone 5 mg OR TBPk	Systemic steroid
7725	Prednisone 5 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
200200496	Prednisone 5 mg OR TABS (CHEMO) CUSTOM	Systemic steroid
120529	Prednisone 5 mg OR TBEC	Systemic steroid
7720	Prednisone 5 mg/5 mL OR SOLN	Systemic steroid
7718	Prednisone 5 mg/mL OR CONC	Systemic steroid
7726	Prednisone 50 mg OR TABS	Systemic steroid
22674	Prednisone intensol 5 mg/mL OR CONC	Systemic steroid
75602	Prednisone intensol OR	Systemic steroid
75603	Prednisone OR	Systemic steroid
7727	Prednisone POWD	Systemic steroid
7732	Prelone 15 mg/5 mL OR SYRP	Systemic steroid
75620	Prelone OR	Systemic steroid
8767	Solu-Medrol 1000 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
8768	Solu-Medrol 125 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
8769	Solu-Medrol 2 g IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
8770	Solu-Medrol 40 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
8771	Solu-Medrol 500 mg IJ SOLR	Systemic steroid
79793	Solu-Medrol IJ	Systemic steroid
79797	Solurex IJ	Systemic steroid
79798	Solurex LA IJ	Systemic steroid
80064	Sterapred 12 day OR	Systemic steroid
80065	Sterapred DS 12 day OR	Systemic steroid
80066	Sterapred DS OR	Systemic steroid

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
80067	Sterapred OR	Systemic steroid
36549	Accuneb 0.63 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
36550	Accuneb 1.25 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
53821	Accuneb IN	β-agonist
54377	Airet IN	β-agonist
91225	Albuterol	β-agonist
54543	Albuterol IN	β-agonist
20261	Albuterol POWD	β-agonist
91226	Albuterol sulfate	β-agonist
311	Albuterol sulfate (2.5 mg/3 mL) 0.083% INH NEBU	β-agonist
312	Albuterol sulfate (5 mg/mL) 0.5% INH NEBU	β-agonist
200200745	Albuterol sulfate (5 mg/mL) 0.5% NEB continuous custom	β-agonist
36541	Albuterol sulfate 0.63 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
36542	Albuterol sulfate 1.25 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
132129	Albuterol sulfate 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AEPB	β-agonist
315	Albuterol sulfate 2 mg OR TABS	β-agonist
314	Albuterol sulfate 2 mg/5 mL OR SYRP	β-agonist
316	Albuterol sulfate 4 mg OR TABS	β-agonist
39219	Albuterol sulfate ER 4 mg OR TB12	β-agonist
39220	Albuterol sulfate ER 8 mg OR TB12	β-agonist
123418	Albuterol sulfate ER OR	β-agonist
21155	Albuterol sulfate HFA 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AERS	β-agonist
200200995	Albuterol sulfate HFA 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AERS (ED HOM*)	β-agonist
200200994	Albuterol sulfate HFA 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AERS (OR USE*)	β-agonist
98773	Albuterol sulfate HFA INH	β-agonist
54545	Albuterol sulfate INH	β-agonist
54546	Albuterol sulfate OR	β-agonist
317	Albuterol sulfate POWD	β-agonist
2002001992	Albuterol sulfate variable dose for pyxis	β-agonist
91234	Levalbuterol HCL (sympathomimetics)	β-agonist
37337	Levalbuterol HCL 0.31 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
29159	Levalbuterol HCL 0.63 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
44604	Levalbuterol HCL 1.25 mg/0.5 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
29160	Levalbuterol HCL 1.25 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
69516	Levalbuterol HCL INH	β-agonist
91235	Levalbuterol tartrate	β-agonist
49020	Levalbuterol tartrate 45 μg/ACT INH AERO	β-agonist
69517	Levalbuterol tartrate INH	β-agonist
50377	Proair HFA 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AERS	β-agonist
75956	Proair HFA IN	β-agonist
132126	Proair respiclick 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AEPB	β-agonist
132374	Proair respiclick INH	β-agonist
21277	Proventil HFA 108 (90 base) μg/ACT INH AERS	β-agonist
76250	Proventil HFA INH	β-agonist
76251	Proventil INH	β-agonist
76252	Proventil OR	β-agonist
200200406	Terbutaline 0.1% nebulization SOLN custom	β-agonist
91239	Terbutaline sulfate	β-agonist
200200937	Terbutaline sulfate 0.1 mg/mL IJ SOLN custom	β-agonist
13430	Terbutaline sulfate 1 mg/mL IJ SOLN	β-agonist
200201165	Terbutaline sulfate 1 mg/mL IJ SOLN (SC use only)	β-agonist
200200407	Terbutaline sulfate 1 mg/mL SUSP custom	β-agonist
13432	Terbutaline sulfate 2.5 mg OR TABS	β-agonist
13433	Terbutaline sulfate 5 mg OR TABS	β-agonist

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
81143	Terbutaline sulfate IJ	β-agonist
200200938	Terbutaline sulfate injection custom orderable	β-agonist
81144	Terbutaline sulfate OR	β-agonist
20433	Terbutaline sulfate POWD	β-agonist
37396	Xopenex 0.31 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
29270	Xopenex 0.63 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
29271	Xopenex 1.25 mg/3 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
44598	Xopenex concentrate 1.25 mg/0.5 mL INH NEBU	β-agonist
83997	Xopenex concentrate INH	β-agonist
49017	Xopenex HFA 45 μg/ACT INH AERO	β-agonist
83998	Xopenex HFA INH	β-agonist
83999	Xopenex INH	β-agonist
54262	Aerobid INH	ICS
54263	Aerobid-M INH	ICS
127561	Aerospan 80 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
127718	Aerospan INH	ICS
96592	Alvesco 160 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
96591	Alvesco 80 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
97729	Alvesco INH	ICS
130919	Arnuity ellipta 100 μg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
130920	Arnuity ellipta 200 μg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
130972	Arnuity ellipta IN	ICS
47449	Asmanex 120 metered doses 220 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
55726	Asmanex 120 metered doses IN	ICS
47450	Asmanex 14 metered doses 220 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
55727	Asmanex 14 metered doses INH	ICS
89591	Asmanex 30 metered doses 110 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
47447	Asmanex 30 metered doses 220 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
55728	Asmanex 30 metered doses INH	ICS
47448	Asmanex 60 metered doses 220 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
55729	Asmanex 60 metered doses INH	ICS
111284	Asmanex 7 metered doses 110 μg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
111529	Asmanex 7 metered doses INH	ICS
130881	Asmanex HFA 100 μg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
130893	Asmanex HFA 200 μg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
130973	Asmanex HFA INH	ICS
56112	Azmacort INH	ICS
91254	Beclomethasone dipropionate (steroid inhalants)	ICS
33588	Beclomethasone dipropionate 40 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
33589	Beclomethasone dipropionate 80 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
56626	Beclomethasone dipropionate INH	ICS
56627	Beclovent INH	ICS
91255	Budesonide (steroid inhalants)	ICS
33341	Budesonide 0.25 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
33342	Budesonide 0.5 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
200201034	Budesonide 0.5 mg/2 mL NEB for PO use	ICS
85108	Budesonide 1 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
98957	Budesonide 180 μg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
98956	Budesonide 90 μg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
98788	Budesonide INH	ICS
98448	Ciclesonide (steroid inhalants)	ICS
96103	Ciclesonide 160 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
96102	Ciclesonide 80 μg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
97832	Ciclesonide INH	ICS

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
98924	Flovent diskus 100 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
98925	Flovent diskus 250 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
53294	Flovent diskus 50 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
64815	Flovent diskus INH	ICS
46255	Flovent HFA 110 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
46256	Flovent HFA 220 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
46254	Flovent HFA 44 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
64816	Flovent HFA INH	ICS
64817	Flovent INH	ICS
64818	Flovent rotadisk INH	ICS
91256	Flunisolide (steroid inhalants)	ICS
127699	Flunisolide HFA	ICS
127438	Flunisolide HFA 80 µg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
127758	Flunisolide HFA INH	ICS
64856	Flunisolide INH	ICS
20361	Flunisolide POWD	ICS
131120	Fluticasone furoate (steroid inhalants)	ICS
130716	Fluticasone furoate 100 µg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
130717	Fluticasone furoate 200 µg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
131018	Fluticasone furoate INH	ICS
91257	Fluticasone propionate (INHAL)	ICS
32750	Fluticasone propionate (INHAL) 100 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
32751	Fluticasone propionate (INHAL) 250 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
32749	Fluticasone propionate (INHAL) 50 µg/BLIST INH AEPB	ICS
64934	Fluticasone propionate (INHAL) INH	ICS
91258	Fluticasone propionate HFA	ICS
46046	Fluticasone propionate HFA 110 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
46047	Fluticasone propionate HFA 220 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
46045	Fluticasone propionate HFA 44 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
134419	Fluticasone propionate HFA INH	ICS
91259	Mometasone furoate (steroid inhalants)	ICS
130882	Mometasone furoate 100 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
89590	Mometasone furoate 110 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
130883	Mometasone furoate 200 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS
47345	Mometasone furoate 220 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS
71565	Mometasone furoate INH	ICS
33535	Pulmicort 0.25 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
33536	Pulmicort 0.5 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
85111	Pulmicort 1 mg/2 mL INH SUSP	ICS
99899	Pulmicort flexhaler 180 µg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
99900	Pulmicort flexhaler 90 µg/ACT INH AEPB	ICS
76405	Pulmicort flexhaler INH	ICS
76406	Pulmicort INH	ICS
76407	Pulmicort turbuhaler INH	ICS
33585	Qvar 40 µg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
33586	Qvar 80 µg/ACT INH AERS	ICS
76802	Qvar INH	ICS
91260	Triamcinolone acetonide (steroid inhalants)	ICS
85453	Triamcinolone acetonide INH	ICS
83089	Vanceril double strength INH	ICS
83090	Vanceril INH	ICS
105585	Advair diskus 100-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
105588	Advair diskus 250-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
105589	Advair diskus 500-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
54204	Advair diskus INH	ICS + LABA
50623	Advair HFA 115-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
50624	Advair HFA 230-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
50622	Advair HFA 45-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
54205	Advair HFA INH	ICS + LABA
125719	Breo ellipta 100-25 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
132901	Breo ellipta 200-25 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
125944	Breo ellipta INH	ICS + LABA
91246	Budesonide-formoterol fumarate	ICS + LABA
53024	Budesonide-formoterol fumarate 160-4.5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
53023	Budesonide-formoterol fumarate 80-4.5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
57629	Budesonide-formoterol fumarate INH	ICS + LABA
110610	Dulera 100-5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
110611	Dulera 200-5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
110811	Dulera INH	ICS + LABA
126085	Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol	ICS + LABA
125641	Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol 100-25 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
132806	Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol 200-25 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
125999	Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol IN	ICS + LABA
91247	Fluticasone-salmeterol	ICS + LABA
105249	Fluticasone-salmeterol 100-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
50619	Fluticasone-salmeterol 115-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
50620	Fluticasone-salmeterol 230-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
105250	Fluticasone-salmeterol 250-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
50618	Fluticasone-salmeterol 45-21 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
105251	Fluticasone-salmeterol 500-50 µg/dose INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
64938	Fluticasone-salmeterol INH	ICS + LABA
111224	Mometasone furo-formoterol FUM	ICS + LABA
110576	Mometasone furo-formoterol FUM 100-5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
110577	Mometasone furo-formoterol FUM 200-5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
110835	Mometasone furo-formoterol FUM IN	ICS + LABA
53239	Symbicort 160-4.5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
53238	Symbicort 80-4.5 µg/ACT INH AERO	ICS + LABA
80691	Symbicort INH	ICS + LABA
128121	Umeclidinium-vilanterol	ICS + LABA
127865	Umeclidinium-vilanterol 62.5-25 µg/INH INH AEPB	ICS + LABA
128105	Umeclidinium-vilanterol INH	ICS + LABA
30756	Accolate 10 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
21303	Accolate 20 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
53764	Accolate OR	Leukotriene modulators
91262	Montelukast sodium (leukotriene modulators)	Leukotriene modulators
26447	Montelukast sodium 10 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
31645	Montelukast sodium 4 mg OR CHEW	Leukotriene modulators
41211	Montelukast sodium 4 mg OR PKT	Leukotriene modulators
26448	Montelukast sodium 5 mg OR CHEW	Leukotriene modulators
71666	Montelukast sodium OR	Leukotriene modulators
26454	Singulair 10 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
31649	Singulair 4 mg OR CHEW	Leukotriene modulators
41210	Singulair 4 mg OR PKT	Leukotriene modulators
26451	Singulair 5 mg OR CHEW	Leukotriene modulators
79047	Singulair OR	Leukotriene modulators
91263	Zafirlukast	Leukotriene modulators
30767	Zafirlukast 10 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
21309	Zafirlukast 20 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
84136	Zafirlukast OR	Leukotriene modulators
91261	Zileuton	Leukotriene modulators
22305	Zileuton 600 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
85485	Zileuton ER 600 mg OR TB12	Leukotriene modulators
120894	Zileuton ER OR	Leukotriene modulators
84194	Zileuton OR	Leukotriene modulators
22304	Zyflo 600 mg OR TABS	Leukotriene modulators
85530	Zyflo CR 600 mg OR TB12	Leukotriene modulators
85882	Zyflo CR OR	Leukotriene modulators
84345	Zyflo OR	Leukotriene modulators
134493	Mepolizumab	Biologics
134274	Mepolizumab 100 mg SC SOLR	Biologics
134437	Mepolizumab SC	Biologics
134298	Nucala 100 mg SC SOLR	Biologics
134446	Nucala SC	Biologics
91264	Omalizumab	Biologics
41330	Omalizumab 150 mg SC SOLR	Biologics
73347	Omalizumab SC	Biologics
41342	Xolair 150 mg SC SOLR	Biologics
83995	Xolair SC	Biologics
120900	Acidinium bromide	Anticholinergics
120515	Acidinium bromide 400 µg/ACT INH AEPB	Anticholinergics
120732	Acidinium bromide INH	Anticholinergics
46720	Atrovent HFA 17 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
55931	Atrovent HFA IN	Anticholinergics
55932	Atrovent IN	Anticholinergics
134491	Glycopyrrolate (bronchodilators-anticholinergics)	Anticholinergics
134424	Glycopyrrolate INH	Anticholinergics
130918	Incruse ellipta 62.5 µg/INH INH AEPB	Anticholinergics
131033	Incruse ellipta INH	Anticholinergics
91220	Ipratropium bromide (bronchodilators-anticholinergics)	Anticholinergics
14727	Ipratropium bromide 0.02% INH SOLN	Anticholinergics
91221	Ipratropium bromide HFA	Anticholinergics
46527	Ipratropium bromide HFA 17 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
68438	Ipratropium bromide HFA INH	Anticholinergics
68439	Ipratropium bromide IN	Anticholinergics
20367	Ipratropium bromide POWD	Anticholinergics
134455	Seebri neohaler INH	Anticholinergics
43683	Spiriva handihaler 18 µg INH CAPS	Anticholinergics
79945	Spiriva handihaler INH	Anticholinergics
133764	Spiriva respimat 1.25 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
130566	Spiriva respimat 2.5 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
130663	Spiriva respimat INH	Anticholinergics
91222	Tiotropium bromide monohydrate	Anticholinergics
133714	Tiotropium bromide monohydrate 1.25 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
43672	Tiotropium bromide monohydrate 18 µg INH CAPS	Anticholinergics
130394	Tiotropium bromide monohydrate 2.5 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
81562	Tiotropium bromide monohydrate INH	Anticholinergics
120704	Tudorza pressair 400 µg/ACT INH AEPB	Anticholinergics
120880	Tudorza pressair INH	Anticholinergics
131119	Umeclidinium bromide	Anticholinergics
130705	Umeclidinium bromide 62.5 µg/INH INH AEPB	Anticholinergics
131098	Umeclidinium bromide INH	Anticholinergics
91245	Ipratropium-albuterol	Anticholinergics

(continued)

TABLE E2. (Continued)

Medication ID no.	Name	Class
97202	Ipratropium-albuterol 0.5-2.5 (3) mg/3 mL INH SOLN	Anticholinergics
16477	Ipratropium-albuterol 18-103 µg/ACT INH AERO	Anticholinergics
119838	Ipratropium-albuterol 20-100 µg/ACT INH AERS	Anticholinergics
98087	Ipratropium-albuterol INH	Anticholinergics

AERS, AERO, Aerosolized; CAPS, capsule; CHEMO, chemotherapy; CONC, concentrate; CUST, custom; Dex, dexamethasone; D5W, dextrose 5% in water; ELIX, elixer; ER, extended release; HCL, hydrochloride; HFA, hydrofluoroalkane; IJ, IN, INJ, INJECT, injection; INH, INHAL, inhalation; LABA, long-acting β -agonist; LIDO, lidocaine; NEBU, NEB, nebulizer; NSS, normal saline solution; OR, oral; PAK, pack; PHOS, phosphage; PKT, packet; PO, per os (by mouth); POWD, powder; SC, subcutaneous; SOD, sodium; SOLN, SOL, solution; SUCC, succinate; SUSP, suspension; SWFI, sterile water for injection; SYRP, syrup; TABS, tablets; TBEC, enteric-coated tablet; TBPK, tablet pack.

TABLE E3. Summary of virus-specific tests ordered and % of virus-specific positive test results

Virus	Yearly averages (range)									
	Average 2015-2019		2020		2020 (Jan-Mar)		2020 (Apr-Dec)		2021 (Jan-Apr)	
	Total tests	% positive test results	Total tests	% positive test results	Total tests	% positive test results	Total tests	% positive test results	Total tests	% positive test results
IFV-A	458 (19.8-1479)	7.24 (0-27.0)	1586 (1.00-5528)	7.19 (0-28.0)	4692 (3452- 5528)	21.6 (17.8- 28.0)	32.5 (1.00-123)	0 (0)	32.5 (2.00-56.0)	0 (0)
IFV-B	458 (19.8- 1479)	3.31 (0- 8.69)	1586 (0- 5528)	7.08 (0- 30.5)	4692 (3452- 5528)	20.4 (8.66- 30.5)	32.5 (1.00-123)	0.43 (0- 2.56)	32.5 (2.00-56.0)	0.64 (0- 2.56)
RSV	258 (40.2- 825)	12.7 (1.77- 38.0)	108 (17- 630)	4.69 (0- 26.1)	308 (136- 630)	16.5 (5.08- 26.1)	41.0 (17.0-126)	0.74 (0- 5.88)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	3.39 (0- 9.38)
Rhinovirus	87.2 (39.0-129)	39.7 (24.6-56.1)	91.3 (17.0-577)	20.1 (7.69- 38.5)	244 (76.0- 577)	22.8 (16.3- 31.0)	40.3 (17.0-121)	19.2 (7.69- 38.5)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	27.1 (9.09- 37.5)
COVID-19			2250 (1258- 4928)	5.29 (2.05- 11.5)	2250 (1258- 4928)	5.29 (2.05- 11.5)	2250 (1258- 4928)	5.29 (2.05- 11.5)	2148 (1501- 2648)	7.27 (5.40- 8.32)
Adenovirus	87.2 (39.0-129)	10.3 (5.56- 13.8)	91.3 (17.0-577)	3.85 (0- 11.6)	244 (76.0- 577)	9.00 (7.50- 11.6)	40.3 (17.0-121)	2.13 (0- 4.96)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	5.40 (3.13- 7.69)
Non-COVID-19 coronavirus	87.2 (39.0-129)	3.40 (0.60- 9.06)	91.3 (17.0-577)	4.03 (0- 17.5)	244 (76.0- 577)	13.2 (10.4- 17.5)	40.3 (17.0-121)	0.95 (0- 5.26)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	1.82 (0- 4.17)
Metapneumovirus	87.2 (39.0-129)	5.80 (0.30-12.2)	91.3 (17.0-577)	3.54 (0-11.8)	244 (76.0- 577)	11.5 (11.3- 11.8)	40.3 (17.0-121)	0.89 (0- 4.13)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	0.52 (0- 2.08)
Parainfluenza 1	87.2 (39.0-129)	2.60 (0.37- 6.89)	91.3 (17.0-577)	0.36 (0- 2.50)	244 (76.0- 577)	1.45 (0.52- 2.50)	40.3 (17.0-121)	0 (0)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	0 (0)
Parainfluenza 2	87.2 (39.0-129)	0.89 (0-2.74)	91.3 (17.0-577)	0.13 (0- 1.25)	244 (76.0- 577)	0.53 (0- 1.25)	40.3 (17.0-121)	0 (0)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	0 (0)
Parainfluenza 3	87.2 (39.0-129)	6.09 (1.10- 17.8)	91.3 (17.0-577)	0.44 (0- 3.03)	244 (76.0- 577)	0.46 (0- 1.39)	40.3 (17.0-121)	0.43 (0- 3.03)	32.0 (22.0-48.0)	1.56 (0- 6.25)