



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

March 21, 2024

### Summary (Epidemiological week 11, 10 to 16 Mar)

#### **Influenza B activity remains low; influenza A and RSV peaks have passed; COVID-19 activity remains relatively stable.**

- Influenza B test positivity has increased since late January but remained low overall. Influenza B levels increased at many wastewater sites across the province.
- Influenza A test positivity has decreased since late December. Influenza A levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease or remained stable at low levels over recent weeks. Among subtyped influenza A samples over the past four weeks, the majority were H1, as it has been so far this respiratory season.
- RSV test positivity continued to decrease since late December. RSV levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease or remained stable at low levels over recent weeks.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions, critical care admissions, and deaths have remained relatively stable since early February. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels have been relatively stable at most sites.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms has been stable since mid-January, following a decrease from a peak in late December.

### National and international context

#### Influenza:

- In Canada, most influenza activity indicators have remained similar compared to the previous epi-week and are within or below expected levels typical of this time of year. Influenza A test positivity has decreased in recent weeks while influenza B test positivity has steadily increased. Influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 86% were H1.
- In the USA, influenza activity remained elevated nationally with increases in some parts of the country. Overall influenza percent positivity has increased compared to the previous week; however, trends in percent positivity of influenza A and influenza B varied by region. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 74% were H1.

#### RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity has decreased in recent weeks. All other non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory viruses were within expected levels typical for this time of year.

#### COVID-19:

- In Canada, SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity, COVID-19 activity levels, hospitalizations and deaths have continued to decrease or remain at low levels.
- In the USA, weekly SARS-CoV-2 test positivity, COVID-19 new hospital admissions, emergency department visits diagnosed as COVID-19, and weekly deaths due to COVID-19 have continued to decrease.