



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

February 08, 2024

Summary (Epidemiological week 5, 28 Jan to 03 Feb)

Influenza A and RSV have decreased from peaks in late December; influenza B activity has increased but remains low; COVID-19 activity has been relatively stable.

- Influenza A test positivity has stabilized over the past four weeks, while influenza A levels in wastewater continued to show decreasing trends. Among subtyped influenza A samples over the past four weeks, the majority were H1, as it has been so far this respiratory season.
- Influenza B test positivity has slightly increased in recent weeks while remaining low overall. At select wastewater sites within the Lower Mainland, influenza B levels have increased.
- RSV levels at most wastewater sites have continued to decrease while RSV test positivity has stabilized over the past three weeks.
- COVID-19 critical care admissions and deaths have remained relatively stable over the past several weeks, while hospital admissions have decreased. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels have been relatively stable at most sites.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms have decreased since a peak in late December.

National and international context

Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza A activity has remained relatively stable and is slightly below expected levels for this time of the year. Influenza B activity remains low. 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 remains elevated nationally with increases in some parts of the country. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 79% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity remains below expected levels for this time of the year. The activity of all other non-SARS-CoV-2 and non-influenza respiratory viruses is low and near expected levels for this time of the year.

COVID-19:

- In Canada, national trends in indicators of COVID-19 activity are stable or decreasing.
- In the USA, weekly SARS-CoV-2 test positivity, COVID-19 hospitalizations, and emergency department visits diagnosed as COVID-19 have decreased in recent weeks. Weekly deaths due to COVID-19 were relatively stable.