

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – December 12, 2024

Reporting period: December 1 - 7, 2024 (Epi-week 49)

RSV and influenza activity are increasing; COVID-19 activity is decreasing

Influenza	RSV
Influenza activity remains low but is increasing.	RSV activity continues to increase, predominantly in children, and is comparable to last season.
COVID-19	Health care visits
COVID-19 activity continues to decrease or remain stable.	The proportion of health care visits for respiratory illness continues to increase in children and youth and is comparable to last season.

Report now available:

- [Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network \(SPSN\) Report #3](#), August 25 to November 30, 2024.
Key Takeaway: Across participating provinces, influenza activity remains low but is increasing alongside RSV, while entero/rhinoviruses show the highest, but declining, positivity. Testing for atypical bacteria including *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* in BC and Quebec shows ongoing detections exceeding prior seasons.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, indicators of influenza activity remain at interseasonal levels but are showing signs of increase.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains low nationally but continues to increase slowly.²

RSV

- In Canada, RSV percent positivity is increasing.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity is moderate and continues to increase in most areas of the country, particularly in young children.²

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report. Summary: Canadian respiratory virus surveillance report (FluWatch+) <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity are decreasing.¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity remains low in most areas but is expected to increase in the coming weeks.²
- The World Health Organization has published its [initial risk evaluation of XEC](#).

Key Takeaway: The public health risk posed by XEC, a globally increasing SARS-CoV-2 variant, is evaluated as low and the updated COVID-19 vaccines are expected to remain effective against symptomatic and severe disease by this variant. The continued spread of XEC alone is unlikely to increase the burden on national public health systems compared to other Omicron sub-lineages.

Other respiratory viruses

- In Canada, enterovirus/rhinovirus percent positivity is stable, and all other respiratory viruses are following historically observed trends.¹