

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – February 20, 2025

Reporting period: February 9-15, 2025 (Epi-week 7)

Influenza activity is high and continues to increase; RSV activity remains elevated; COVID-19 activity is low

Influenza

Influenza test positivity continues to increase and is at inter-seasonal highs. Wastewater trends have continued to increase and remain elevated in most sites across BC. In recent weeks, the number of reported influenza outbreaks have been high.

RSV

RSV test positivity continues to decrease. Wastewater viral loads remain elevated across BC.

COVID-19

COVID-19 activity indicators are decreasing or remain stable at low levels.

Health care visits

The proportions of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory illness remain elevated, with fluctuations in recent weeks.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, indicators of influenza activity are increasing. The percentage of tests positive for influenza has matched the highest value recorded since the start of the 2020-21 season.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated and is higher than it has been all season.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), all indicators point to continued widespread, intense influenza activity. Increasing trends continue to be observed in around a third of countries, while the remainder appear to be reaching, or have passed, peak activity.³

RSV

- In Canada, RSV percent positivity continues to decrease.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity remains elevated but is declining in most areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV activity overall is following a slowly decreasing trend, driven by roughly equal number of countries that have passed the peak of the epidemic and others that continue to report increases.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity continue to decrease. The percentage of tests positive for COVID-19 has reached its lowest value recorded since the start of the 2022-23 season.¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is elevated in many areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, COVID-19 activity is at very low levels.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated: February 14, 2025.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated: February 14, 2025.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on February 19, 2025.