



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

January 11, 2024

Summary (Epidemiological week 1, 31 December 2023 to 06 January 2024)

Influenza A and RSV activity remain elevated; COVID-19 activity is variable across indicators, remaining relatively stable or slightly increasing over recent weeks.

- Influenza test positivity and influenza A levels in wastewater remain elevated across the province. Among subtyped influenza A samples this season, the majority remain H1. Influenza facility outbreaks continue to be elevated relative to early November.
- RSV test positivity and levels in wastewater remain elevated.
- SARS-CoV-2 test positivity slightly increased but is below peak levels observed earlier in the fall. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels at select sites in the Lower Mainland have slightly increased since mid-December.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms remains elevated since early October across health authorities and most age groups.

National and international context

COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity levels varied across provinces and territories, with most reporting stable trends. National SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity has fluctuated at elevated levels over recent weeks. Trends continue to vary by province/territory.
 - The proportion of JN.1 variant detections in Canada has continued to increase, in keeping with the growth advantage noted in a previous assessment by the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)).
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity for test positivity remained stable, while emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths increased over the prior month. COVID-19 variant tracking in the USA indicates that the proportion of JN.1 has continued to increase.

Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza activity continued to increase but was within expected levels for this time of year. Influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 89% were H1.
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity is elevated and has continued to increase in most parts of the country. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type (82%); of those subtyped, 82% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity is elevated but remains near 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 year.