



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

January 25, 2024

### Summary (Epidemiological week 3, 14 Jan to 20 Jan)

#### **Overall influenza and RSV activity has decreased; COVID-19 activity is relatively stable.**

- In epi-week 3 (January 14-20, 2024), 1 pediatric influenza-related death was reported to the BCCDC. In total, 4 influenza-related deaths in children aged <10 years have been reported this respiratory season. Influenza-related deaths refer to deaths where influenza was a contributing factor but not necessarily the primary cause of death.
- Influenza test positivity and influenza A levels at many wastewater sites have decreased. Among subtyped influenza A samples over the past four weeks, the majority were H1, similar to what is seen for the current respiratory season overall.
- RSV test positivity has decreased and RSV levels in wastewater remain elevated with some signs of stabilization.
- COVID-19 hospital and critical care admissions have fluctuated over the past several weeks, and deaths are relatively stable. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels are 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

#### COVID-19:

- In Canada, most provinces and territories have reported moderate to high COVID-19 activity levels with decreasing or stable trends. National SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity has decreased over the most recent four surveillance weeks. Trends continue to vary by province/territory.
- In the USA, as of January 13, 2024, SARS-CoV-2 test positivity and COVID-19 hospitalizations were relatively stable in recent weeks but remain elevated. Deaths are slightly increasing while emergency department visits have decreased in recent weeks.

#### Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza activity decreased since late December but remains at elevated levels. As of January 13, 2024, influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 87% were H1.
- In the USA, influenza activity decreased since late December but remains elevated in most parts of the country. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 81% were H1.

#### RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity is slightly below expected levels for this time of 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.