



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

February 29, 2024

Summary (Epidemiological week 8, 18 Feb to 24 Feb)

Influenza A and RSV peaks have passed; influenza B activity has increased but remains low; COVID-19 activity has been relatively stable.

- Influenza A test positivity and influenza A levels at most wastewater sites have continued to decrease since late December. 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 wastewater sites across most health authorities, influenza B levels have increased.
- RSV levels at most wastewater sites and RSV test positivity have continued to decrease since late December.
- 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 been relatively stable since mid-January, following a decrease from a peak in late December.

National and international context

Influenza:

- In Canada, most influenza activity indicators have remained similar compared to the previous epi-week. All surveillance indicators are within or below expected levels typical of 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, 86% were H1. Influenza B activity has steadily increased over the past 6 weeks but remained low.
- In the USA, influenza activity remained elevated nationally with increases in some parts of the country. The percent positivity for influenza A has decreased and percent positivity for influenza B remained stable. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 77% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity is stable and remained 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.

COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity level trends, SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity, and outbreak incidence are overall stable or have decreased.
- In the USA, weekly SARS-CoV-2 test positivity, COVID-19 new hospital admissions, emergency department visits diagnosed as COVID-19, and weekly deaths due to COVID-19 have decreased since early January.