



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

March 07, 2024

### Summary (Epidemiological week 9, 25 Feb to 02 Mar)

#### **Influenza A and RSV peaks have passed; influenza B activity increased but remained low; COVID-19 activity remained relatively stable.**

- Influenza B test positivity remained low and relatively stable over recent weeks, following an increase in late January. At wastewater sites across most health authorities, influenza B levels increased.
- Influenza A test positivity continued to decrease since late December. Influenza A levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease or remained stable over recent weeks. Among subtyped influenza A samples over the past four weeks, the majority were H1, as it has been so far this respiratory season.
- RSV test positivity continued to decrease since late December. RSV levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease or remained stable over recent weeks.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions, critical care admissions, and deaths have remained relatively stable since early February. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels have been relatively stable at most sites.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms has been 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 test positivity has decreased in recent weeks while influenza B test positivity has steadily increased; influenza A continued to remain higher than influenza B. 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.
- 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, 75% were H1.

#### RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity remained stable and below expected levels for this time of year. Among other respiratory viruses, activity of human coronavirus (types associated with the common cold) is increasing and above expected levels for this time of year.

#### COVID-19:

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