



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

March 14, 2024

### Summary (Epidemiological week 10, 3 to 9 Mar)

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

- Influenza B test positivity remained low and relatively stable over recent weeks, following an increase in late January.\* Influenza B levels increased at many wastewater sites across the province.
- Influenza A test positivity continued to decrease since late December.\* Influenza A levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease 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 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.

\* Fraser Health data are unavailable for epi-week 10 (March 3-9, 2024).

### National and international context

#### Influenza:

- In Canada, most influenza activity indicators have remained similar compared to the previous epi-week and 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. Overall influenza percent positivity remained stable, while trends in percent positivity of influenza A and influenza B varied by region. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 74% were H1.

#### RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity remained stable and below expected levels for this time of year. All other non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory viruses were within expected levels typical for this time of year.

#### COVID-19:

- In Canada, SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity, COVID-19 activity levels, hospitalizations and deaths have continued to slowly decrease or remain at low levels.
- 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 continued to decrease.