



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

January 18, 2024

Summary (Epidemiological week 2, 07 Jan to 13 Jan)

Overall influenza and RSV activity remains elevated; COVID-19 activity is variable across indicators, with hospitalizations and deaths remaining stable or decreasing.

- Influenza test positivity and facility outbreaks have decreased over recent weeks. Influenza A levels in wastewater remain elevated. Among subtyped influenza A samples this season, the majority remain H1.
- RSV test positivity has decreased over the past week but remains elevated. RSV levels in wastewater remain elevated.
- While below peak levels observed earlier in the fall, SARS-CoV-2 test positivity has increased, but COVID-19 hospital admissions remain relatively stable, with fluctuations in critical care admissions, and a decrease in deaths. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels at select sites in the Lower Mainland have slightly increased.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms have decreased over the last two weeks across health authorities and most age groups.

National and international context

COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity levels continue to vary across provinces and territories, with most reporting 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 6, 2024, COVID-19 activity for test positivity, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths have slightly increased over the prior month.

Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza activity decreased in epi-weeks 1 and 2 but remained elevated and within expected levels for this time of year. As of January 6, 2024, influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 88% were H1.
- In the USA, influenza activity overall decreased in epi-week 1 but remained elevated in most parts of the country. Since the start of October, influenza A has been 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.