



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

March 28, 2024

Summary (Epidemiological week 12, 17 to 23 Mar)

Influenza B activity remains low; RSV activity continues to decrease; influenza A and COVID-19 activity remains relatively stable.

- Influenza B test positivity has increased since late January but remained low overall.* Influenza B levels increased or remained stable at most wastewater sites across the province.
- Influenza A test positivity has remained relatively stable in the past few weeks, after a decrease since late December.* Influenza A levels at most wastewater sites continued to decrease or remained stable. 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.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations, critical care admissions, and deaths have remained relatively stable since early February. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels have decreased or remained stable at most sites.
- The proportion of primary care and adult emergency department (ED) visits for respiratory symptoms has been stable since mid-January. The proportion of pediatric ED visits for respiratory symptoms increased in the most recent epi-week, after remaining relatively stable since mid-January.

*Fraser Health and Northern Health testing data are unavailable for epi-week 12 (March 17-23, 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 B test positivity has stabilized in the past week following several weeks of increase, while influenza A test positivity has continued to decrease. Influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 85% were H1.
- In the USA, overall influenza activity remained elevated nationally, but percent positivity has decreased for both influenza A and influenza B. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type; of those subtyped, 73% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV percent positivity has decreased over recent weeks. Among other respiratory viruses, activity of human coronaviruses (types associated with the common cold) has increased above expected levels for this time of year.

COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity levels, SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity, 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.