



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

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October 12, 2023

### Summary (Epidemiological week 40, 01 Oct to 07 Oct)

#### **Continued increase of COVID-19 activity across the province; influenza and RSV activity remains low.**

- SARS-CoV-2 levels have increased at all wastewater plants across the province. COVID-19 cases have slightly decreased since the last epi-week but remained elevated in the 60+ age group. Hospital admissions, critical care admissions, and deaths have remained relatively stable.
- Influenza A and B activity remained low over the last epi-week and below pre-pandemic historical levels (2014/15-2018/19 seasons). Influenza A H1 has been the predominant (80%) identified subtype since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season.
- Overall RSV activity remained low and comparable to pre-pandemic historical levels (2014/15-2018/19 seasons).
- The share of visits to community healthcare practitioners for respiratory symptoms has gradually increased since epi-week 33 (August 13-19).

### National and international context

- Influenza:
  - In Canada, from epi-weeks 35 (August 27 – September 2) to 39 (September 24-30), influenza activity remained stable and at levels normally observed between influenza seasons. Similar to BC, 91% of influenza detections from epi-weeks 35 to 39 were influenza A, among which 78% of detections were influenza A(H1N1).
  - In the USA, a similar trend was observed during epi-week 39, with 84.3% of detections being influenza A, of which 95.2% were A(H1N1)pdm09.
- COVID-19:
  - In Canada, most COVID-19 activity indicators (percent positivity, hospitalizations, and outbreaks) continue to increase. Weekly COVID-19 deaths remain low, although a gradual increasing trend has been observed since mid-July.
  - In the USA, there are early signs of COVID-19 stabilization since epi-week 37 (September 10-16), with a slight decrease in weekly cases, test positivity, emergency department visits and hospitalizations.
- RSV and other viruses:
  - In Canada, activity of RSV and other non-SARS-CoV-2 and non-influenza respiratory viruses is low and near expected levels at this time of year.