



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

---

October 19, 2023

### Summary (Epidemiological week 41, 08 Oct to 14 Oct)

#### **Continued increased 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. However, there are some early indications of decreasing COVID-19 activity in select indicators, including testing positivity, cases and hospital admissions, in the last two epi-weeks. COVID-19 critical care admissions and deaths remain 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). The share of emergency department visits for respiratory symptoms increased in adults in the last epi-week and was comparable to historical averages (2021-2023 seasons). Pediatric emergency department visits were stable and below historical averages (2021-2023 seasons) in the last epi-week.

### National and international context

#### Influenza:

- In Canada and the USA, influenza activity remained stable and at levels normally observed between influenza seasons. Similar to BC, Influenza A H1 has been the predominant identified subtype since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season in both countries.

#### COVID-19:

- In Canada, most provinces and territories are observing stable or increasing trends in COVID-19 activity. While the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations increased nationally, weekly deaths remain low.
- In the USA, there are signs of COVID-19 stabilization since epi-week 37, 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 at expected levels at this time of year.