

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – January 8, 2026

Reporting period: December 21, 2025 – January 3, 2026 (Epi-weeks 52-53)

Current respiratory activity is measured in consideration of recent past respiratory seasons.

Influenza activity is high; RSV is moderate; COVID-19 is low.

Influenza	RSV
Influenza test positivity continues to increase in adults and remains high in all age groups. Wastewater viral loads are increasing at varying levels in most sites.	RSV test positivity is increasing in all age groups and is at moderate levels. Wastewater viral loads are increasing or remain stable at low-to-moderate levels.
COVID-19	Health care visits
SARS-CoV-2 test positivity is stable at low levels. Wastewater viral loads are decreasing or remain stable at low-to-moderate levels in most sites. Severe outcomes remain low.	The proportions of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory illness have been elevated in recent weeks, particularly among children. Trends are comparable to prior seasons.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, the percentage of tests positive for influenza increased to 32.4% in week 51 (week ending December 20, 2025), from 28% in week 50. The weekly increase was smaller compared to previous weeks. In the syndromic surveillance indicator, the percentage of participants reporting cough and fever increased to 4.8% (from 4.1% in week 50). This also reflected a smaller increase compared to previous weeks.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity is elevated and continues to increase across the country.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation continues to increase in almost all countries. All age groups are affected and increases in hospitalisation are observed in many countries, primarily in adults aged 65 years and above.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Accessed on January 7, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 5, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on January 7, 2026.

RSV

- In Canada, the percentage of tests positive for RSV was stable in week 51 (week ending December 20, 2025).¹
- In the USA, RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country with emergency department visits and hospitalizations increasing among children 0-4 years old.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation is increasing slowly and remains at relatively low levels, below what was observed at this time in the past four seasons. Hospital data show rising RSV-related admissions in a few countries, primarily among children under five years.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, the percentage of tests positive for COVID-19 was stable in week 51 (week ending December 20, 2025).¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is low but increasing nationally.²
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation continues to decrease in all age groups, and the impact on hospitalisations is currently limited.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Accessed on January 7, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 5, 2026.

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