

# Respiratory virus activity in BC:

## Weekly summary – January 15, 2026

Reporting period: January 4-10, 2026 (Epi-week 1)

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

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

#### Influenza

Influenza test positivity decreased this week in children and adults but remains at high levels in both age groups. Wastewater viral loads are increasing or remain stable at varying levels.

#### Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity continues to increase in adults and remains at moderate levels in all age groups. Wastewater viral loads are increasing or remain stable at low-to-moderate levels.

#### COVID-19

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.

#### Health care visits

The proportions of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory illness are elevated in adults and at moderate levels among children. Trends are comparable to prior seasons.

## National and international context

### Influenza

- In Canada, all indicators of influenza activity are high but were either stable or decreased in the most recent reporting week.<sup>1</sup>
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated across the country.<sup>2</sup>
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation continues to increase in most countries, although for some countries, the peak appears to have passed. All age groups are affected. Increases in hospitalisation are observed in many countries, primarily in adults aged 65 years and above.<sup>3</sup>

### RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity are increasing slowly.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on January 9, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 9, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on January 14, 2026.

- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation continues to slowly increase in several countries. Hospital data show rising RSV-related admissions in a few countries, primarily among children under five years of age. RSV-related hospitalisations are at levels below those observed at this time in the past four seasons.<sup>3</sup>

## COVID-19

- In Canada, some indicators of COVID-19 activity increased in the most recent reporting week.<sup>1</sup>
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is low but increasing nationally.<sup>2</sup>
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation continues to decrease in all age groups, and the impact on hospitalisations is currently limited.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on January 9, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 9, 2026.

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