

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – February 19, 2026

Reporting period: February 8-14, 2026 (Epi-week 6)

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

RSV activity is elevated; influenza is moderate; COVID-19 is low.

Influenza

Influenza A test positivity continues to decrease and is at low levels. Influenza B test positivity is slowly increasing but remains low. Wastewater levels are low for influenza A across all regions. Influenza B levels in wastewater are increasing in some sites.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity continues to increase and is at high levels. Wastewater levels remain low-to-moderate.

COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 test positivity remains stable and low. Wastewater levels are low-to-moderate. Severe outcomes remain low.

Health care visits

The proportions of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory illness remain at moderate levels.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, all indicators of influenza activity continued to decrease in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated. Influenza A activity is decreasing while influenza B activity is increasing nationally and in most areas of the country; however, trends vary by region.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation remains elevated but has shown a general decrease in recent weeks. Overall, hospitalisations have decreased since the beginning of the year, with adults 65 years old and above accounting for the most admissions during the season.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on February 13, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 13, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on February 18, 2026.

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were stable in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country, including emergency department visits among infants under 1 year and children 1-4 years old. Hospitalisations are highest among infants less than 1 year old.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation remains elevated and continues to increase, with the start of RSV season beginning later than in the previous two seasons. Hospitalisations are showing an overall increasing trend, with children under five years old accounting for the most admissions.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were decreasing or stable in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is elevated in some areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation remains low in all age groups, and the number of hospitalisations due to SARS-CoV-2 is currently limited compared with influenza and RSV.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on February 13, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 13, 2026.

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