

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – February 26, 2026

Reporting period: February 15-21, 2026 (Epi-week 7)

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

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

Influenza

Influenza A test positivity is stable at low levels after decreasing in recent weeks. Influenza B test positivity has increased in recent weeks 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 remains elevated. Wastewater levels are stable at varying levels across the province.

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, indicators of influenza activity have stabilized. Influenza A detections remain predominant but are decreasing while detections of influenza B increase; trends vary by region. This increase in influenza B activity is expected as influenza B often circulates later in the influenza season.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 been declining in recent weeks. Hospitalisations have decreased since the beginning of the year, with adults aged 65 years and above accounting for most of the admissions during the season.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on February 20, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 20, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on February 25, 2026.

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week. RSV activity is occurring later than in recent seasons; although levels are currently elevated, they remain below the peaks observed in some recent seasons.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country, including emergency department visits among infants and children 4 years and younger. Hospitalisations are highest among infants less than 1 year old.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation remains elevated and varies from country to country. Children under five years account for most of the admissions cumulatively this season.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were stable in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is decreasing nationally but remains 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 20, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 20, 2026.

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