

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – March 5, 2026

Reporting period: February 22-28, 2026 (Epi-week 8)

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

RSV activity remains elevated; influenza and COVID-19 are low.

Influenza

Influenza A test positivity remains low. Influenza B test positivity continues to increase and is at moderate levels. Wastewater levels are low for influenza A across the province. Influenza B levels in wastewater are increasing in some sites.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity has decreased over the past two weeks but remains elevated. Wastewater levels are stable or increasing at low-to-moderate 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 decreased, following a brief period of stability. Influenza A detections remain predominant but are decreasing. Influenza B detections were stable in week 7, following a period of increase; however, trends vary by region.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.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation, while still widespread, continues to decrease in most countries, with around half now reporting baseline or low levels of intensity. Hospitalisations also continue to decrease, with adults aged 65 years and above accounting for most admissions.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on February 27, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 27, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on March 4, 2026.

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were stable 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 and hospitalisations among infants and children 4 years and younger.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation remains high but has shown a slight decline over the past two weeks. This downward trend has not yet been observed in RSV hospitalisations, where children under five years continue to account for most admissions.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, with very few hospitalisations reported.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on February 27, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on February 27, 2026.

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