

# Respiratory virus activity in BC:

## Weekly summary – March 12, 2026

Reporting period: March 1-7, 2026 (Epi-week 9)

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

### RSV and influenza B activity are elevated; influenza A and COVID-19 are low.

#### Influenza

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

#### Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity remains elevated. Wastewater levels are stable and remain in the low-to-moderate range in most sites.

#### COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 test positivity remains stable and low. Wastewater levels are low-to-moderate, with gradual increases in some sites. Severe outcomes remain low.

#### Health care visits

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

## Statement

- [The Provincial Health Officer has declared the end of the 2025-26 respiratory-illness season in B.C.](#)

## National and international context

### Influenza

- In Canada, indicators of influenza activity were either stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week. Influenza A and B are now co-dominating with influenza A activity gradually decreasing while influenza B gradually increases. However, trends vary by region.<sup>1</sup>
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated. Influenza A activity is decreasing in most areas of the country while trends in influenza B activity vary by region.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on March 6, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on March 6, 2026.

- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation, while still widespread, continues to decrease in most countries, with over half now reporting baseline or low intensity levels. Hospitalisations are also decreasing, with adults aged 65 years and above accounting for most admissions.<sup>3</sup>

## RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were either 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.<sup>1</sup>
- In the USA, RSV activity has started later than expected in most regions, though severity is not higher compared with recent seasons. This atypical season indicates that higher levels of RSV activity may continue into April in many regions. Emergency department visits and hospitalisations for RSV are highest among infants and children less than 4 years old.<sup>2</sup>
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation remains high but has begun to slowly decline. RSV hospitalisations appear to have peaked overall, but not in children under five years old, who continue to account for most admissions.<sup>3</sup>

## COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were either stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week.<sup>1</sup>
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is decreasing nationally but remains elevated in some areas of the country.<sup>2</sup>
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation remains low in all age groups, with very few hospitalisations reported.<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 March 6, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on March 6, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on March 11, 2026.