

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – March 19, 2026

Reporting period: March 8-14, 2026 (Epi-week 10)

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

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity has decreased over recent weeks but remains elevated. Wastewater levels are stable and are at low-to-moderate levels 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.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, indicators of influenza activity were either stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week. Influenza B activity continued to gradually increase while influenza A gradually decreased; influenza B detections have surpassed influenza A detections as the two viruses co-circulate at low levels. However, trends vary by region. The majority of influenza B laboratory detections have occurred in individuals aged 5-19 and 20-44 years.¹
- 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.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation continues to decrease. Hospitalisations are also decreasing, with adults 65 years old and above accounting for most admissions.³

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

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

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

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were either stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week. RSV detections decreased in all age groups in the most recent week; detections have been decreasing in pediatric age groups for several weeks.¹
- 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.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation remains high. RSV hospitalisations remain elevated, with children under five years old accounting for most admissions.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity decreased in the most recent reporting week. Indicators are at or near the lowest levels recorded this season.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 few hospitalisations.³

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

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

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