

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – March 26, 2026

Reporting period: March 15-21, 2026 (Epi-week 11)

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 continues to increase and is 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 stable or decreasing and are at low-to-moderate levels. 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. However, trends vary by region. The majority of influenza B laboratory detections have occurred in individuals aged 5-19 and 20-44 years. The lowest rate of weekly hospitalizations was reported in individuals aged 5-19 and 20-44 years.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated but is decreasing in most areas of the country. Influenza A activity continues to decrease while trends in influenza B activity vary by region.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation continues to decrease across all age groups. Hospitalisations are also decreasing, 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 March 20, 2026.

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

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

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were either stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity started later than expected in most regions, though illness is not more severe compared with recent seasons. This unusual timing means 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 activity and hospitalisations remain elevated, with children under five years accounting for most admissions.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were either stable or decreasing 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 in most 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 20, 2026.

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

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