

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – May 7, 2026

Reporting period: April 26 – May 2, 2026 (Epi-week 17)

With the end of the 2025/26 respiratory virus season, reporting has shifted to a spring–summer schedule. During this period, the Wastewater Surveillance dashboard will continue to be updated weekly. Updates to the Facility Outbreaks dashboard will be paused until fall. All other respiratory virus dashboards will be updated on the first Thursday of each month.

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

Influenza B activity remains elevated; influenza A, RSV, and COVID-19 are low.

Influenza

Influenza B test positivity remains elevated. Influenza A test positivity is low. Wastewater levels remain moderate-to-high for influenza B in most sites, with some recent decreases. Influenza A levels in wastewater are low across the province.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity continues to decrease and is at low levels. Wastewater levels are stable or decreasing at low levels across the province.

COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 test positivity remains low. Wastewater levels are stable or decreasing at low levels across the province. Severe outcomes remain low.

Health care visits

The proportions of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory illness continue to decrease and are at low-to-moderate levels.

Special report now available

- [Updated influenza strain characterization for the 2025/2026 influenza season](#) (Jul 2025–Feb 2026)
Key takeaway: The predominant influenza A (H1N1) subclade shifted from D.3.1 to D.3.1.1 over the course of the season. Among influenza A (H3N2) viruses, subclade K remained predominant and increased in proportion over time, accounting for all successfully sequenced viruses in February. All characterized H1N1 viruses were antigenically similar to the 2025–2026 Northern Hemisphere vaccine strain, whereas H3N2 subclade K viruses showed antigenic distinction from the vaccine reference strain.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, most indicators of influenza activity were low and stable in the most recent reporting week. Influenza B activity was stable while influenza A remained at interseasonal levels. Influenza B is circulating within expected levels for this time of year; however, trends vary by region.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity continues to decrease. Influenza A activity is low across all regions and influenza B activity continues to trend downward.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza activity has returned to inter-seasonal levels in almost all countries, with low levels of detections and hospitalisations reported in all age groups.³

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were decreasing or stable 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. RSV activity has peaked in many regions of the country. This unusual timing means higher levels of RSV activity may continue into May for some regions.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation is low and returning to baseline levels.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were 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 low in most areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 activity remains at very low levels in all countries and in all age groups.³

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

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on May 1, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on May 6, 2026.