

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – February 5, 2026

Reporting period: January 25-31, 2026 (Epi-week 4)

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

Influenza and RSV activity are moderate; COVID-19 is low.

Influenza

Influenza A test positivity is stable at moderate levels after decreasing for the past four weeks. Influenza B test positivity is showing early signs of increase. Wastewater levels are low-to-moderate for influenza A and B.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity continues to increase and is at moderate-to-high levels. Wastewater levels remain low-to-moderate.

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. Trends are comparable to prior seasons.

National and international context

Influenza

- In Canada, all indicators of influenza activity continued to decrease in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated and increased this week after three weeks of decreasing trends.²
- In the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), influenza circulation remains high. Following four weeks of decreasing trends from the initial peak, data from surveillance in general practice show an increase compared to the previous week, mainly affecting children. Adults aged 65 years and above account for the highest numbers of admissions to hospital, ICU and in-hospital deaths during the season.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on January 30, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 30, 2026.

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

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity were either increasing or stable in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country, including emergency department visits among infants under 1 year and children 1-4 years old. Hospitalisations are highest among infants less than 1 year old.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV circulation is elevated and continues to increase in most countries. This season's RSV epidemic is several weeks later than in the last two years. Hospital admissions are rising in most reporting countries, primarily among children aged under five years.³

COVID-19

- In Canada, indicators of COVID-19 activity were stable or decreasing in the most recent reporting week.¹
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity is elevated in some areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation remains low in all age groups, and the number of hospitalisations due to SARS-CoV-2 is currently limited compared to influenza and RSV.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on January 30, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on January 30, 2026.

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