

Respiratory virus activity in BC:

Weekly summary – April 23, 2026

Reporting period: April 12-18, 2026 (Epi-week 15)

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

Influenza B activity remains elevated; RSV is moderate; 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 are moderate-to-high, with recent signs of decrease in some sites.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV test positivity remains at moderate levels. Wastewater levels are low across the province.

COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 test positivity remains low. Wastewater levels are stable or decreasing and are 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 have decreased in recent weeks, especially among children, and remain at moderate levels.

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 continued to gradually increase while influenza A has stabilized 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 circulation and hospitalisations reported in all age groups.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on April 17, 2026.

² Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>. Last updated on April 17, 2026.

³ European Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary (ERVISS), <https://erviss.org/>. Accessed on April 22, 2026.

RSV

- In Canada, indicators of RSV activity decreased 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 higher levels of RSV activity may continue through April in many regions.²
- In the EU/EEA, RSV activity in primary care and hospitals remain elevated, although the overall peak for the EU/EEA, and in most countries, has passed. Hospital admissions in children aged 0-4 years have fallen steadily in recent weeks.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 low in most areas of the country.²
- In the EU/EEA, SARS-CoV-2 circulation remains at very low levels in all countries and all age groups.³

¹ Canadian Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report, <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/respiratory-virus-surveillance/>. Last updated on April 17, 2026.

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