



## Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

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November 23, 2023

### Summary (Epidemiological week 46, 12 Nov to 18 Nov)

#### **COVID-19 activity continues to decrease since early October; influenza A and RSV activity is increasing.**

- Most COVID-19 indicators continue to decrease, including test positivity, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Influenza A activity continues to increase and is the most detected influenza type (96%) in the 2023/24 respiratory season to date. Among subtyped influenza A samples this season, the majority were H1 (81%).
- RSV test positivity continues to increase and is above pre-pandemic historical averages.

#### **Special reports now available:**

- [Enterovirus – Fall 2023 Surveillance Bulletin](#) - This bulletin summarizes BCCDC enterovirus fall 2023 surveillance findings and trends, from the EV-D68 specific identification by real-time PCR to the enterovirus molecular typing to identify any other serotype.
  - Key takeaways:
    - There was an absence of EV-D68 activity in BC this year, with no documented locally acquired cases of EV-D68 infection among BCCDC's surveillance cohort from July 27 to October 31, 2023.
    - There are opportunities to improve the molecular surveillance of enteroviruses for severe outcomes. Clinicians are recommended to ask for molecular typing for patients testing positive with EV presenting with meningitis, or with severe clinical presentations.
- [Influenza strain characterization in preparation for the 2023/2024 influenza season](#) - This bulletin summarizes genetic characterization of influenza A from May to September 2023.
  - Key takeaways:
    - Comparison of circulating influenza clades in BC to reference strains included in the 2023-2024 Northern Hemisphere egg-based vaccine indicates a predominant clade match to this season's vaccine.

#### **National and international context**

##### COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity levels (e.g., outbreaks and test positivity) have stabilized nationally in epi-week 45 (November 5-11) with all reporting provinces and territories reporting stable or decreasing trends.



- In the USA, COVID-19 indicators for test positivity, new hospital admissions, and emergency department visits diagnosed as COVID-19 have decreased since early September. Deaths due to COVID-19 have remained stable in the same time period.

#### Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza activity increased but remains low and below the seasonal threshold level. Influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 84% were H1.
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity is increasing in most parts of the country, most noticeably in the South Central, Southeast, and West Coast regions. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type (79%); of those subtyped, 90% were H1.

#### RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity is increasing and slightly above expected levels for this time of the year. The activity of all other non-SARS-CoV-2 and non-influenza respiratory viruses is low and near expected levels this time of year.

#### International jurisdictional scan:

- We're closely monitoring the statement and follow up from the World Health Organization (WHO) about the recent trends of circulating respiratory diseases in China. See the [WHO statement](#).