



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

December 07, 2023

Summary (Epidemiological week 48, 26 Nov to 02 Dec)

COVID-19 activity continues to decrease since early October; influenza A and RSV activity continue to increase.

- COVID-19 test positivity, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have decreased since early October.
- Influenza A levels continue to increase at various monitored sites throughout the province. Influenza test positivity continues to increase; among subtyped influenza A samples this season, the majority were H1 (79%).
- RSV activity continues to increase at wastewater plants in FH and Lulu Island (VCH). Test positivity remains high among children.
- Adult emergency department visits for respiratory symptoms and visits to community healthcare practitioners for respiratory symptoms have increased since late October. Pediatric emergency department visits continue to increase since the start of the respiratory season.

National and international context

COVID-19:

- In Canada, trends in indicators of COVID-19 activity vary across the provinces and territories. The national SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity has increased slightly in recent weeks.
- In the USA, COVID-19 indicators for emergency department visits diagnosed as COVID-19 and new hospital admissions has slightly increased since early November. Deaths due to COVID-19 have remained stable since the start of respiratory season.

Influenza:

- Nationally, the start of the influenza season was declared on December 1, 2023, but activity remains within expected levels for this time of year. Influenza A has been the most frequently reported influenza type since the start of the 2023/24 respiratory season; among those subtyped, 88% were H1.
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity is increasing in most parts of the country, most noticeably in the South Central, Southeast, Mountain, and West Coast regions. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type (80%); of those subtyped, 88% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity continues to increase and is within expected levels for this time of the year. The activity of other non-SARS-CoV-2 and non-influenza respiratory viruses is low and near expected levels this time of year.