



Respiratory Epidemiological Summary

December 21, 2023

Summary (Epidemiological week 50, 10 Dec to 16 Dec)

Influenza A and RSV activity continues to increase; COVID-19 activity remains stable since mid-November.

- Influenza A levels in wastewater continue to increase across the province. Influenza facility outbreaks have remained elevated over the last three weeks.
- RSV levels are increasing at most monitored wastewater plants.
- COVID-19 test positivity, cases, critical care admissions, and deaths remains stable since mid-November.
- The proportion of emergency department and primary care visits for respiratory symptoms have increased since early October across the province, particularly among children.

National and international context

Influenza:

- In Canada, influenza activity continues to increase but is 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, 89% were H1.
- In the USA, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated in most parts of the country. Since the start of October, influenza A was the most frequently reported type (81%); of those subtyped, 84% were H1.

RSV and other viruses:

- In Canada, RSV activity is within 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 for this time of year.

COVID-19:

- In Canada, COVID-19 activity levels continue to vary across provinces and territories, with higher activity in Ontario and Québec. Overall, the national percent positivity of SARS-CoV-2 has been relatively stable in recent weeks.
- In the USA, COVID-19 activity for test positivity, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths have increased in recent weeks.

Note: This summary will not be produced during the week of December 24-30, 2023. The next update will be January 4, 2024.