

COVID-19 epidemiology update: Summary

Last updated: 2023-05-09 – PDF

Summary of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, cases following vaccination, testing and variants of concern across Canada and over time. Older versions of this report are available on the [archived reports page](#).

Update schedule: We update all sections of this page every Tuesday, except for 'Hospital use', which we update every Thursday. This page was last updated on May 9, 2023, 4 pm ET.

Weekly highlights

General trends

- Nationally, in the latest reporting week, COVID-19 activity has decreased or remained relatively stable across reporting provinces and territories with low to moderate activity levels being reported.
- The number of weekly reported COVID-19 cases decreased in the latest reporting week, while percent positivity remained relatively stable. The latest data is in line with long-term trends observed since January 2023.
- Overall outbreak incidence has been relatively stable or decreasing in all outbreak settings since January 2023, with small fluctuations in different setting types over time.
- There continues to be variation in COVID-19 trends across provinces and territories.

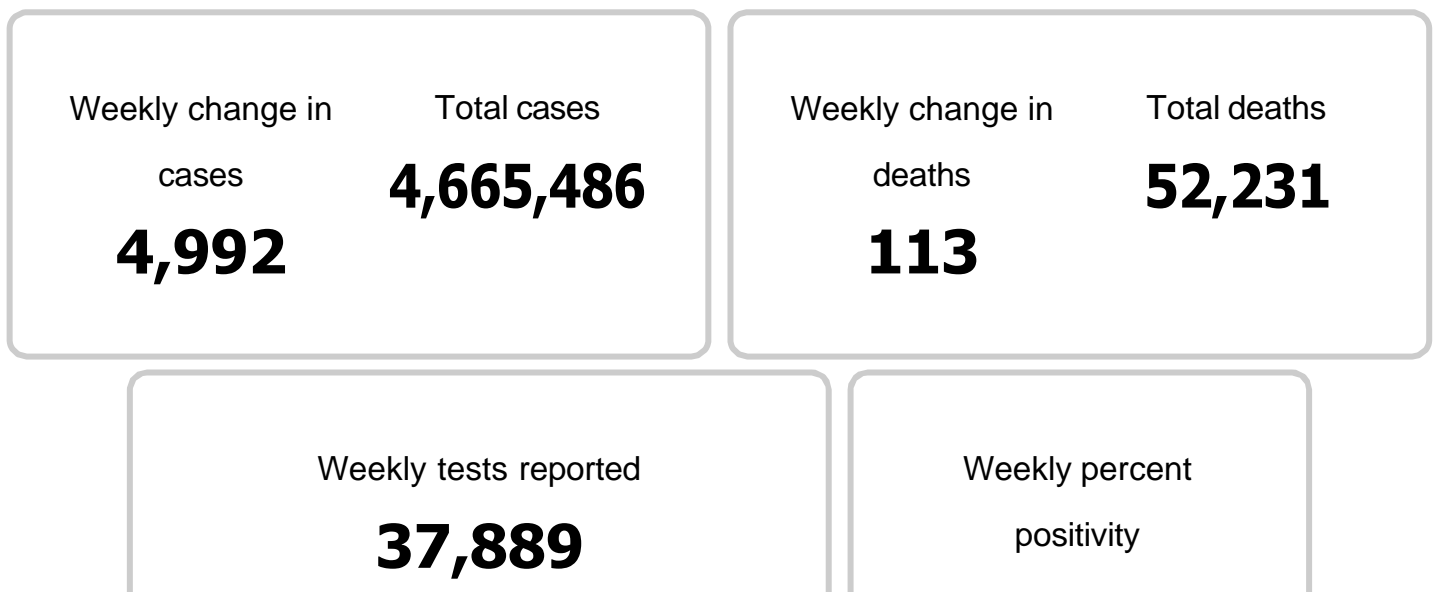
Hospitalizations and deaths

- Nationally, the number COVID-19 patients in hospital decreased in the latest reporting week.
- COVID-19 deaths have been decreasing since January.
- The weekly rates of COVID-19 cases hospitalized and admitted to ICU remained highest among individuals aged 80 years and older.

Variants

- Nationally, XBB.1.9, XBB.1.16, and XBB.2.3 are the only lineages that are increasing in proportion; all other lineages are either stable or decreasing.
- While the data we publish under Latest COVID-19 numbers in the Current Situation tab may include provincial or territorial data corrections or backfill (sometimes described as bulk reporting) in the week they are reported, the weekly highlights account for these data corrections and focus on recent trends.

Latest COVID-19 numbers (Last data update May 9, 2023, 4 pm ET)



10.0%

- Case and death information are up to April 29, 2023.
- Weekly change in cases includes data from 8 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of April 23 to April 29, 2023. Weekly change in deaths includes data from 8 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of April 23 to April 29, 2023.
- These reflect the changes in the case and death counts at the end of the week compared to the end of the previous week.
- Laboratory testing information is based on data from the Respiratory Virus Detection Surveillance System (RVDSS) (see [Data notes](#)).
- Weekly percent positivity is calculated as the number of positive tests divided by the total number of tests performed during the epidemiological week.
- Laboratory data represents specimens received by labs up to April 29, 2023.
- Due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021, case counts are under-estimated.
- As of October 19, 2022, the Statistics Canada population estimates as of July 1, 2022 are being used for denominators in rate calculations.

COVID-19 Activity Levels

COVID-19 activity levels provide a high-level summary to describe when and where COVID-19 is circulating across Canada. The level of COVID-19 activity for each jurisdiction is determined by provincial and territorial ministries of health. The weekly COVID-19 activity level is based on:

- ♦ percent positivity
- ♦ long-term care facility outbreaks per 1,000,000 population, and
- ♦ wastewater trends.

Figure 1. Map of COVID-19 activity levels in Canada, by province or territory (Last updated)

COVID-19 activity levels in Canada, by province or territory
(Last updated)

Province or territory	Overall COVID-19 activity level	Overall change
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a. COVID-19 activity level assessments are based on data from provincial and territorial partners . For more information on public health recommendations or risk assessments, please refer to the provincial and territorial websites. More information on COVID-19 activity levels, how they are calculated, and relevant data caveats, can be found in the Technical Notes.

COVID-19 activity levels are based on data from provincial and territorial (PT) partners. National COVID-19 activity levels were developed with PT partners to monitor COVID-19 activity at the national and PT levels using a standard set of core indicators. Based on these indicators, COVID-19 activity can range from level 0 (no activity) to level 4 (high activity). They are presented with the overall change (increase, decrease, no change) from the previous week.

Indicators: The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

1. **Weekly percent positivity**

Weekly number of lab positive tests / Weekly total number of tests x 100.

Note: This indicator is only incorporated into overall assessment if the testing rate is greater than or equal to 100 tests per 100,000 population per week. This indicator is used to provide information about overall activity level and trajectory.

2. **Weekly long term care facility (LTCF) outbreaks per 1,000,000 population**

Weekly number of LTCF outbreaks / Total population in jurisdiction x 1,000,000.

Note: This indicator is used to provide information on overall activity level and trajectory.

3. **Weekly COVID-19 wastewater trajectory**

Trajectory of weekly COVID-19 wastewater viral levels compared to the previous week.

Note: This indicator is used to provide information on overall trajectory only.

Assessment process: The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

- Each indicator is assigned a level ranging from 'no activity detected' (level 0) to 'very high activity' (level 4), based on established thresholds (increasing, decreasing, or no change) of a change of 10% or more compared to the previous week.
- Overall activity level is then determined using the average level of the available indicators (rounding to the nearest whole number).
- Overall trajectory, or the direction of change (based on 10% change compared to the previous week), is calculated based on the mode of the trajectories from available indicators.

Data assessment caveats: The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

- This information is based on data from PT partners. For more up to date information and for public health recommendations or risk assessments, please refer to PT websites.
- Weekly changes in tests performed, and LTCF outbreaks reflect changes in counts between the end of the latest epidemiological week and the end of the previous epidemiological week. Data are updated on an ongoing basis and are subject to change.
- PT testing practices, data sources and reporting to PHAC vary across jurisdictions.
- There may be variations in the COVID-19 activity across a jurisdiction. It's possible that if there are outbreaks occurring in one area, it may result in a higher level of COVID-19 activity. Weekly activity level assessments are intended to provide a high-level overview of COVID-19 spread using standard indicators at the national and PT level. They may not reflect the true extent of geographic spread of COVID-19.

COVID-19 data products

COVID-19 surveillance

- [COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard](#)
- [Interactive data map of COVID-19 cases around the world](#)

COVID-19 vaccination

- [Reported side effects following vaccination](#)
- [Number of people vaccinated in Canada](#)
- [Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in Canada](#)

- ♦ Vaccines distributed in Canada

COVID-19 and mental health

- ♦ Mental Illness during the Pandemic: Survey on COVID-19 and Mental Health (Cycles 1 and 2)
- ♦ Map of Canadian mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ♦ Inequalities in the mental health of adults before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

Impacts of COVID-19

- ♦ Frequency and impact of longer-term symptoms following COVID-19 in Canadian adults
- ♦ Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Canadian Children with Cognitive, Behavioural or Emotional Disabilities

COVID-19 inequalities

- ♦ Social inequalities in COVID-19 deaths in Canada

Provincial, territorial and international reporting

For more information, please refer to provincial or territorial COVID-19 webpages:

- ♦ [British Columbia](#)
- ♦ [Alberta](#)
- ♦ [Saskatchewan](#)
- ♦ [Manitoba](#)
- ♦ [Ontario](#)
- ♦ [Quebec](#)
- ♦ [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- ♦ [New Brunswick](#)
- ♦ [Nova Scotia](#)
- ♦ [Prince Edward Island](#)
- ♦ [Yukon](#)
- ♦ [Northwest Territories](#)
- ♦ [Nunavut](#)

For more information, please refer to international COVID-19 webpages:

- ♦ [World Health Organization](#)
- ♦ [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- ♦ [European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

You might also be interested in

COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard

Trend data about the levels of COVID-19 in the wastewater.

COVID-19 vaccination

Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses that have been administered in Canada.

[All Health Infobase data products](#)

Did you find what you were looking for?

What was wrong?

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found in the [Understanding the data section!](#)

- The answer I need is missing
- The information isn't clear
- I'm not in the right place
- Something is broken or incorrect
- Other reason

Please provide more details

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