

Weekly Respiratory Virus Update



Frequently Asked Questions

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When does the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update start weekly publication?

The Weekly Respiratory Virus Update starts weekly publication when local respiratory virus activity begins. While this fluctuates each year, this usually occurs in October or November each year.

This approach aligns with the needs of partners, as identified in the evaluation completed in Summer 2025.

When does the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update end weekly publication?

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit concludes publication of the WRVU when the respiratory season has concluded and viral activity for COVID-19, influenza and RSV is low. This usually occurs in May.

This approach aligns with the needs of partners, as identified in the evaluation completed in Summer 2025.

Where is the wastewater surveillance data that was available during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The provincial Wastewater Surveillance Initiative that previously provided funding for local wastewater sampling ended in 2024. It was replaced by a federal program that does not include sampling in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka.

For more information on wastewater surveillance activities in Ontario, please visit:

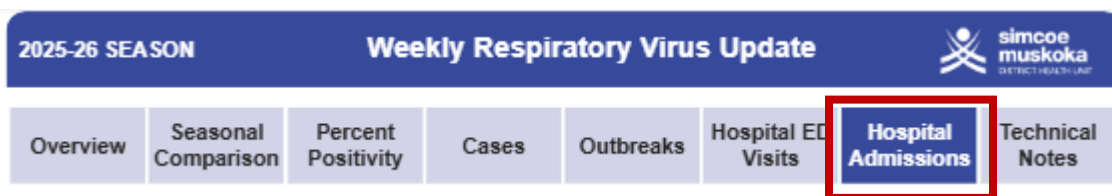
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19-Data-Surveillance/Wastewater>

Data from the federal wastewater monitoring dashboard for respiratory virus activity can be found here:

<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/wastewater/>

Where can I find measures of severity?

Hospitalization data is available on the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update under the Hospital Admissions tab.



Data is available for both active (ongoing) hospitalizations and new admissions related to COVID-19, influenza and RSV. Due to small numbers locally, number of deaths and ICU admissions are not published on our website.

Where can I find predictive analysis/projections throughout the respiratory season?

Provincial projections are available on Public Health Ontario's Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool (ORVT):

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

Due to testing eligibility and small numbers locally, projections at the local level can be quite variable.

Is it possible to include regional analysis in the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update?

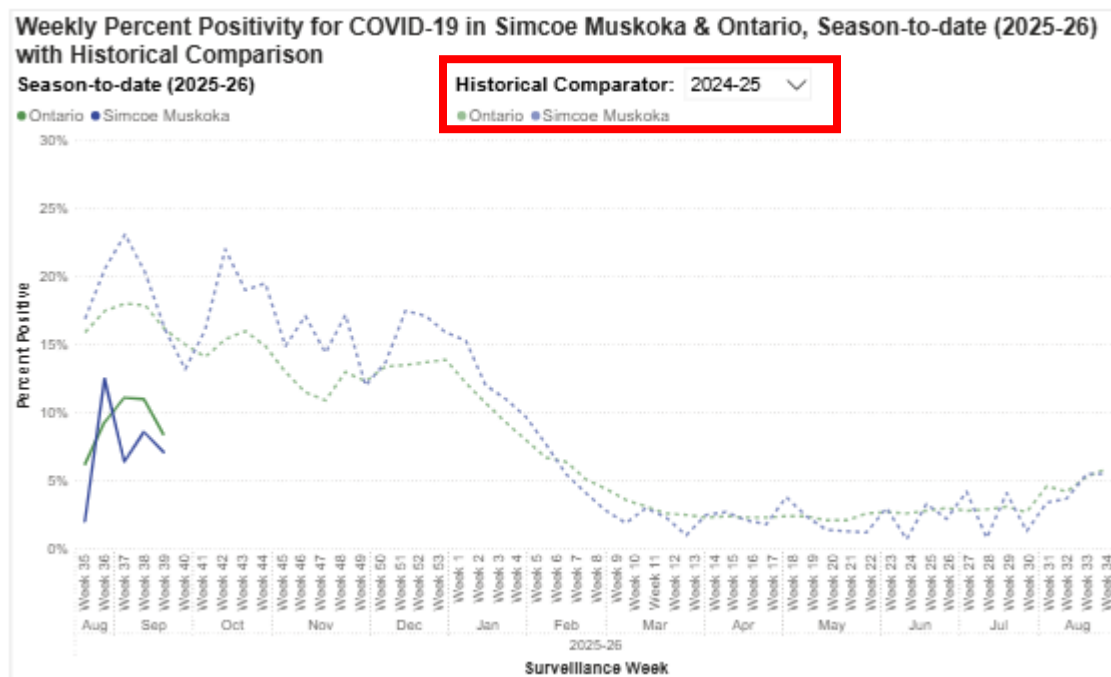
Due to a combination of small numbers for the Simcoe and Muskoka regions, and limitations within some of our data sources, analysis below the health unit level is not possible for weekly dissemination.

How can this respiratory season's activity be compared to previous respiratory seasons?

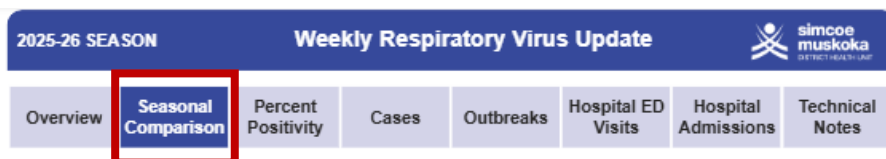
The Weekly Respiratory Virus Update includes indicator specific pages that include graphs of the current season's data by week alongside historical respiratory season's activity. On most pages, the historical season can be selected from the "Historical Comparator" drop-down that can be found at the top-centre or top-right of the graph under the title.

Historical data is depicted with a dotted line.

Example from Percent Positivity page:



Overall activity levels can be compared for the current season to previous seasons using the Seasonal Comparison tab.



Where can I find data on other diseases/viruses of concern?

Annual case counts and incidence for all Diseases of Public Health Significance can be found on our [Infectious Disease HealthSTATS dashboard](#). Data is updated each summer for the previous year to align with provincial data cleaning initiatives.

Disease activity of concern locally is published through our [Public Health Alerts](#).

How to cite the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update

SMDHU. *Weekly Respiratory Virus Update: 2025/26 Season* Dashboard [dashboard]. Barrie, ON: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit; Dashboard Last Updated: *Date* [Date Accessed: *Date*].