COVID-19 epidemiology update: Summary

Last updated: 2023-05-24   **⬇ 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 24, 2023, 9 am ET.

Weekly highlights

General trends

- Nationally, in the latest reporting week, COVID-19 activity decreased or remained relatively stable in most reporting provinces and territories, with all reporting low to moderate COVID-19 activity levels.
- The number of weekly reported COVID-19 cases decreased, while percent positivity remained stable in the latest reporting week. Longer-term trends show gradual decreases in both new cases, and percent positivity 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.
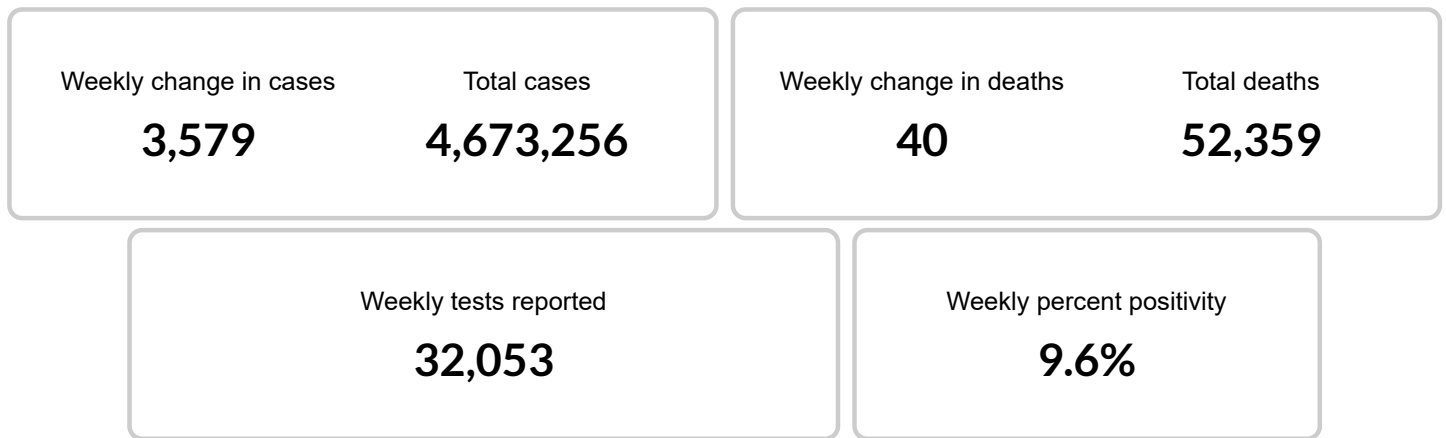
Hospitalizations and deaths

- From May 9 to May 16, 2023, the number COVID-19 patients in hospital decreased nationally.
- COVID-19 deaths have been decreasing since January 2023.
- The weekly rates of COVID-19 cases hospitalized and admitted to ICU remained highest among individuals aged 80 years and older.

Variants

- Nationally, XBB.1.16, XBB.1.9, FD.1.1, 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 24, 2023, 9 am ET)

Weekly change in cases	Total cases
3,579	4,673,256

Weekly change in deaths	Total deaths
40	52,359

Weekly tests reported
32,053

| Weekly percent positivity |
|---|
| 9.6% |

- Case and death information are up to May 13, 2023.
- Weekly change in cases includes data from 5 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of May 7 to May 13, 2023. Weekly change in deaths includes data from 5 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of May 7 to May 13, 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 May 13, 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 for the week of May 7 to May 13, 2023 (Last updated May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)
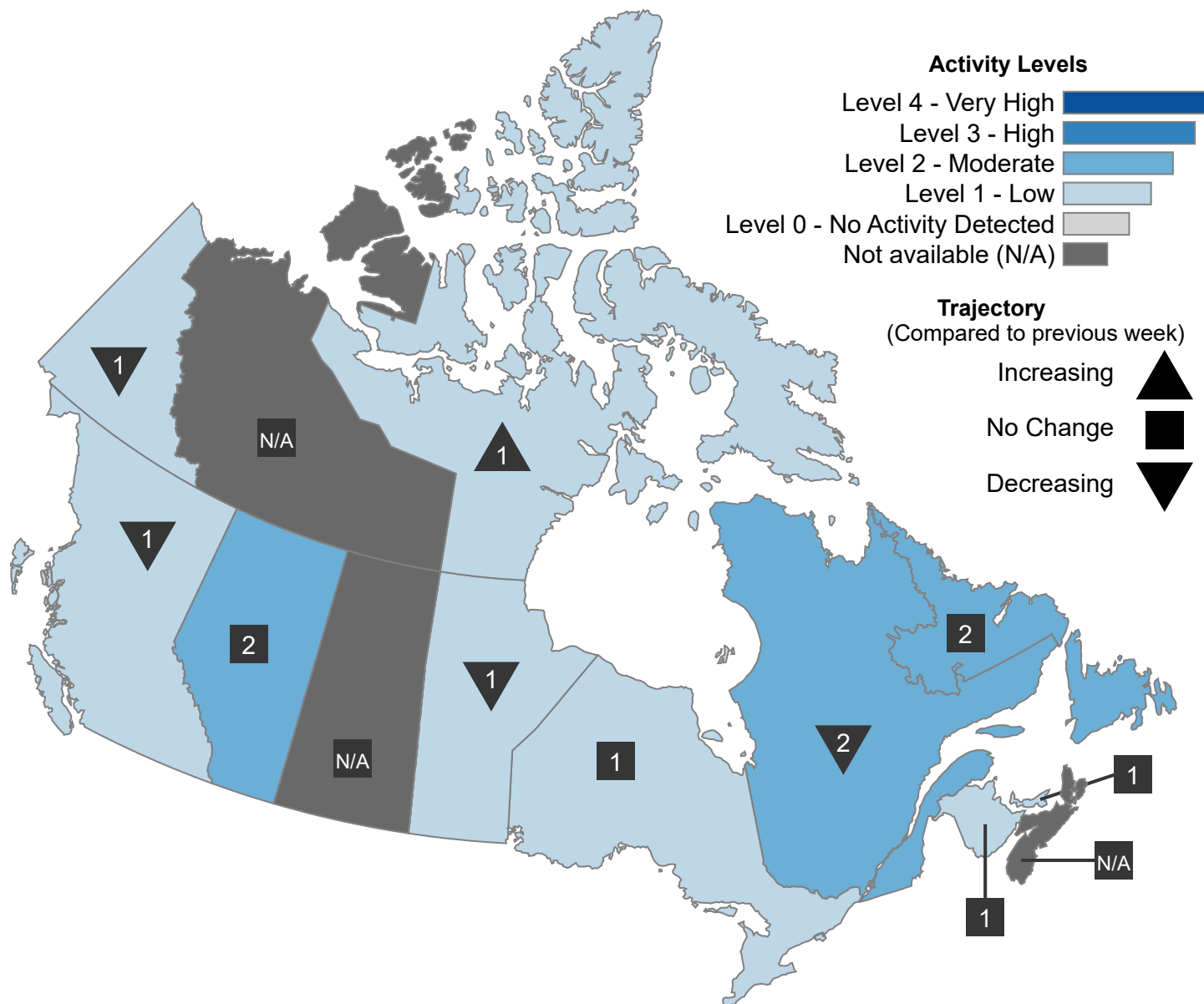
COVID-19 activity levels in Canada, by province or territory for the week of May 7 to May 13, 2023 (Last updated May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)

Province or territory	Overall COVID-19 activity level	Overall change
British Columbia	Low Activity (1)	Decreasing
Alberta	Moderate Activity (2)	No change
Saskatchewan	Not available (N/A)	Not available (N/A)
Manitoba	Low Activity (1)	Decreasing
Ontario	Low Activity (1)	No change
Quebec	Moderate Activity (2)	Decreasing

Newfoundland and Labrador	Moderate Activity (2)	No change
New Brunswick	Low Activity (1)	No change
Nova Scotia	Not available (N/A)	Not available (N/A)
Prince Edward Island	Low Activity (1)	No change
Yukon	Low Activity (1)	Decreasing
Northwest Territories	Not available (N/A)	Not available (N/A)
Nunavut	Low Activity (1)	Increasing

a. COVID-19 activity level assessments are based on data from provincial and territorial partners for the week of May 7 to May 13, 2023. 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.

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○ The answer I need is missing
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COVID-19 epidemiology update: Current situation

Last updated: 2023-05-24   ⬇ PDF

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Latest COVID-19 numbers (Last data update May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)

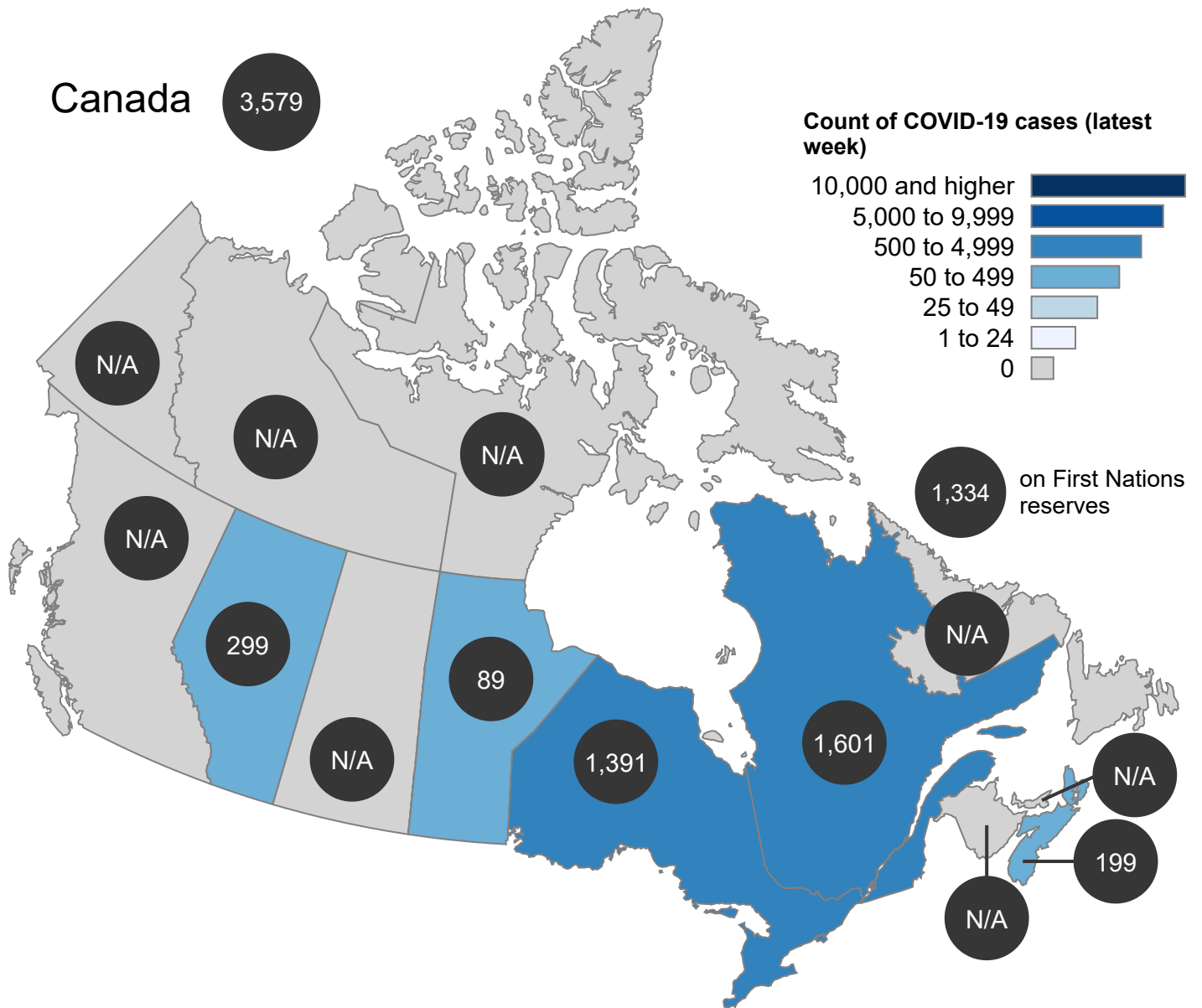| Weekly change in cases	Total cases		Weekly change in deaths	Total deaths
3,579	4,673,256		40	52,359

- Case and death information are up to May 13, 2023.
- Weekly change in cases includes data from 5 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of May 7 to May 13, 2023. Weekly change in deaths includes data from 5 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories reporting updates for the week of May 7 to May 13, 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.
- 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.

National and regional trends

Figure 1. [Count ⌄] of [cases (latest week) ⌄] of COVID-19, [province/territory ⌄] for the week of May 07 to May 13, 2023

(Last data update May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)

Canada 3,579

Count of COVID-19 cases (latest week)

10,000 and higher	
5,000 to 9,999	
500 to 4,999	
50 to 499	
25 to 49	
1 to 24	
0	

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

1,334 on First Nations reserves

N/A

299

89

N/A

1,391

1,601

N/A

199

N/A

The count of cases of COVID-19 for the week of May 07 to May 13, 2023 in **Canada** was **3,579**.

- This information is based on data our provincial and territorial partners published on cases and deaths. The numbers provided reflect cases, deaths up to November 26, 2022. For the most up to date data for any province, territory or city, please visit their website. The number of cases or deaths reported may differ slightly from those on the provincial and territorial websites as these websites may update historic case and death counts as new information becomes available.
- Due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021, case counts are under-estimated.
- On April 23, 2023, BC started reporting on people who had had multiple COVID-19 infections. Previously, BC only reported 1 COVID-19 infection per person. For this reason, BC data after April 23, 2023 shouldn't be compared to earlier data.
- As of April 11, 2022, Nunavut no longer publishes regular COVID-19 updates.

- As of June 13, 2022, Northwest Territories no longer publishes regular COVID-19 updates.
- As of November 16, 2022, Yukon no longer publishes regular COVID-19 updates.

Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19

Location	Total cases		Cases (latest week)		Cases (latest 2 weeks)		Total deaths		Deaths (latest week)		Deaths (latest 2 weeks)	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
British Columbia	400,661	7,532	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,520	104	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alberta	632,715	13,927	299	7	615	14	5,732	126	9	0.2	15	0.3
Saskatchewan	155,381	13,005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,960	164	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manitoba	156,138	11,080	89	6	194	14	2,501	177	0	0.0	2	0.1
Ontario	1,619,036	10,715	1,391	9	2,835	19	16,535	109	9	0.1	30	0.2
Quebec	1,342,687	15,441	1,601	18	3,547	41	17,858	205	17	0.2	43	0.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	55,360	10,525	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	341	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Brunswick	90,652	11,163	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	883	109	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia	143,306	14,053	199	20	366	36	864	85	5	0.5	14	1.4
Prince Edward Island	57,276	33,556	N/A	N/A	25	15	104	61	N/A	N/A	1	0.6
Yukon	4,989	11,393	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	73	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northwest Territories	11,511	25,241	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22	48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nunavut	3,531	8,713	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada	**4,673,256**	**12,004**	**3,579**	**9**	**7,612**	**20**	**52,359**	**135**	**40**	**0.1**	**104**	**0.3**

a. * Rate per 100,000 population

Epidemic curve

As of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET, PHAC has received detailed case report data on 4,385,395 cases.

The shaded area for Figures 2 and 3 represents a period of accumulating data where it is known or expected that cases, and severe outcomes have occurred but have not yet been reported nationally. We update this information as it becomes available.

Due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021, case counts are under-estimated.

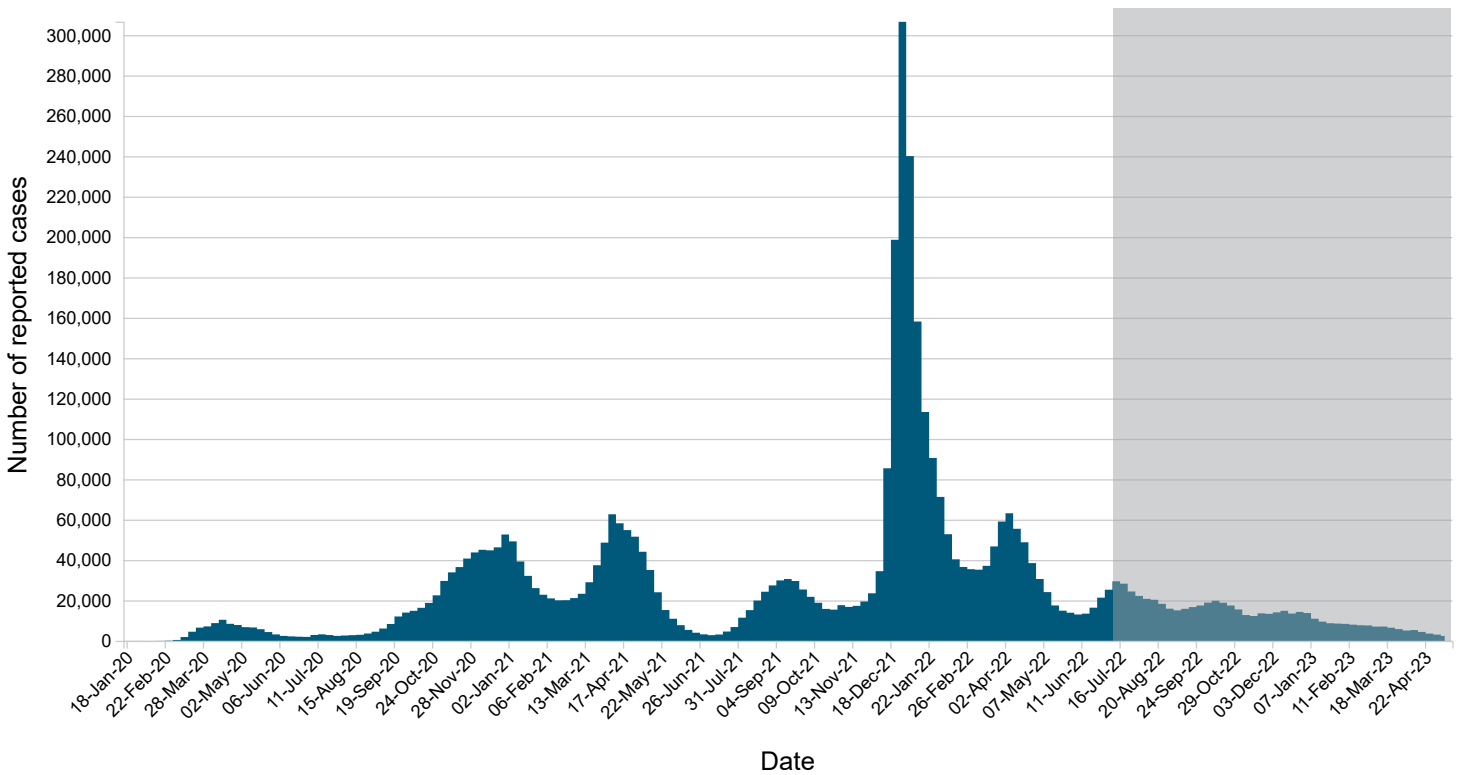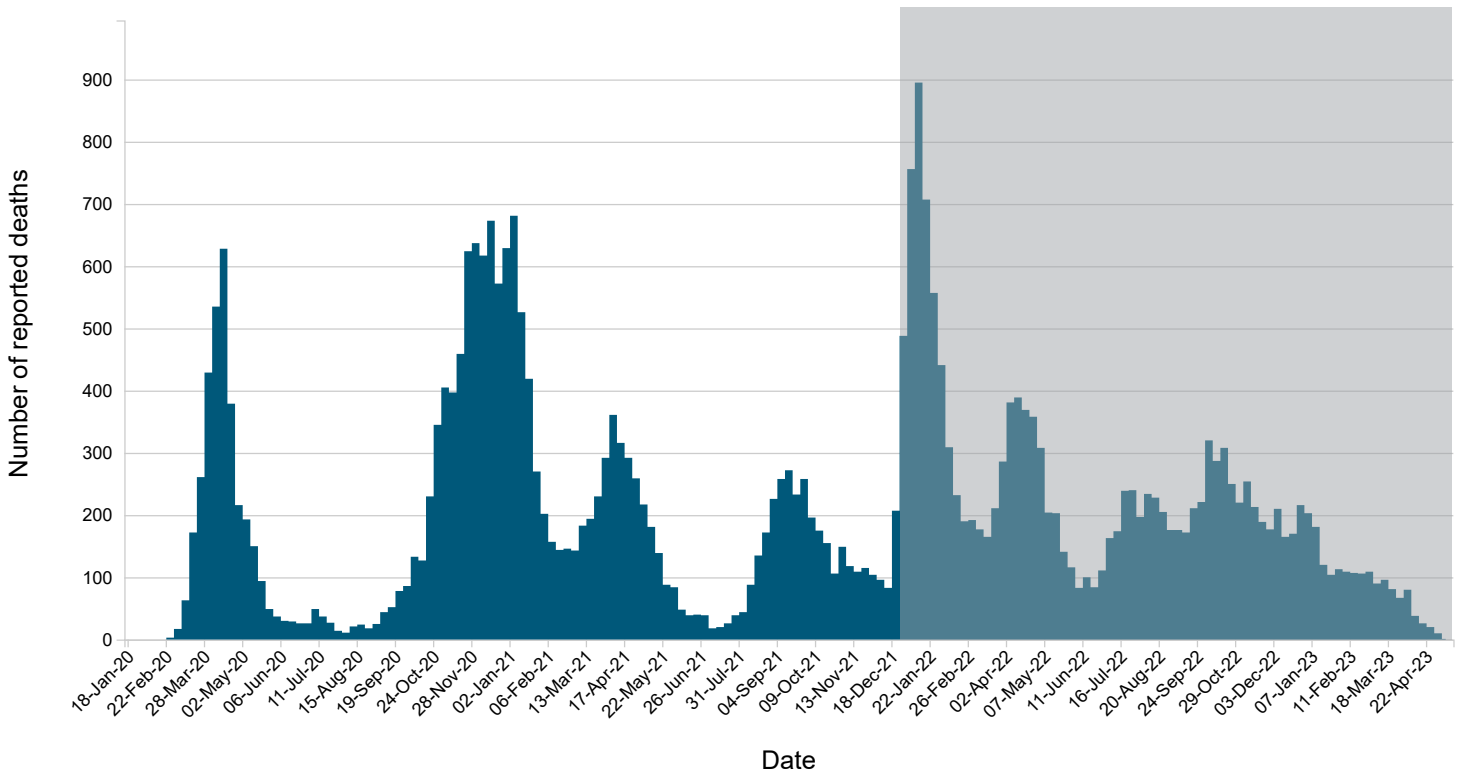## Figure 2a. COVID-19 cases (n=4,385,251) in Canada by date as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (total cases)

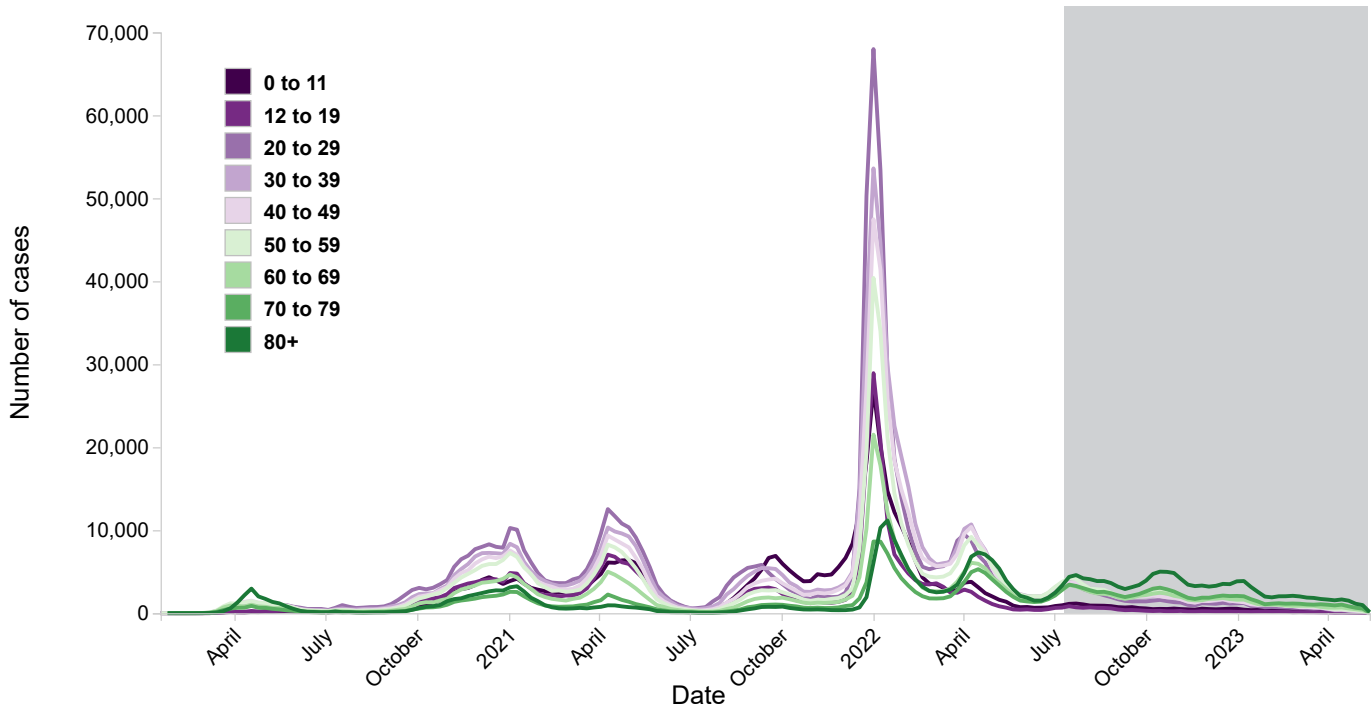# Figure 2b. COVID-19 deaths (n=34,492) in Canada by date as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (total deaths)

a. This figure reflects detailed case information provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) by health authorities in the provinces and territories. This data is updated every week. It may change as we get more information about cases.

b. The earliest of the following dates were used to determine the week in which a case or death is presented: Onset date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Testing Date, Date Reported to Province or Territory, or Date Reported to PHAC.

Cases by age and gender

We have detailed case report data from 4,385,395 cases. We know the age of patients in 99.9% of cases, and both age and gender in 99.6% of cases.

Of the cases reported in Canada so far, 54.9% were female and 33.7% were between 20 and 39 years old (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Weekly `number ⌄` **of COVID-19** `cases ⌄` **by age group in Canada as of May 13, 2023**

a. This figure reflects detailed case information provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) by health authorities in the provinces and territories. This data is updated every week. It may change as we get more information about cases.

b. The earliest of the following dates were used to determine the week in which a case or death is presented: Onset date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Testing Date, Date Reported to Province or Territory, or Date Reported to PHAC.

c. Due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021, case counts are under-estimated

d. As of October 19, 2022, the Statistics Canada population estimates as of July 1, 2022 are being used for denominators in rate calculations.

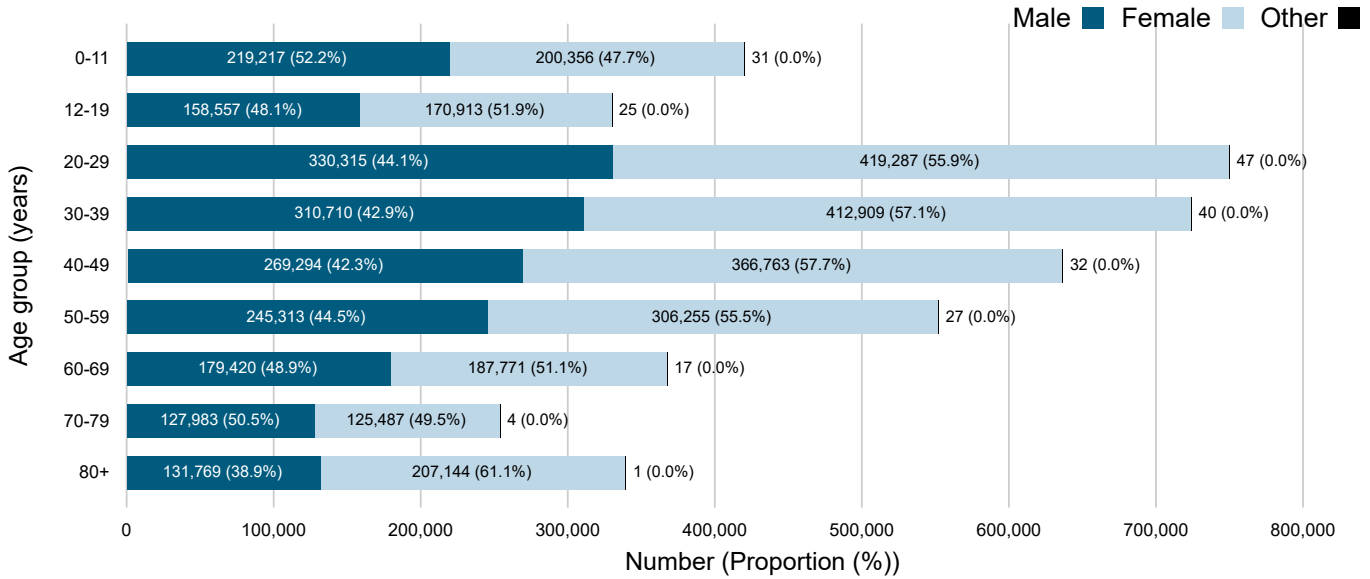**Figure 4a. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=4,369,687)**

Figure 4b. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=245,336)
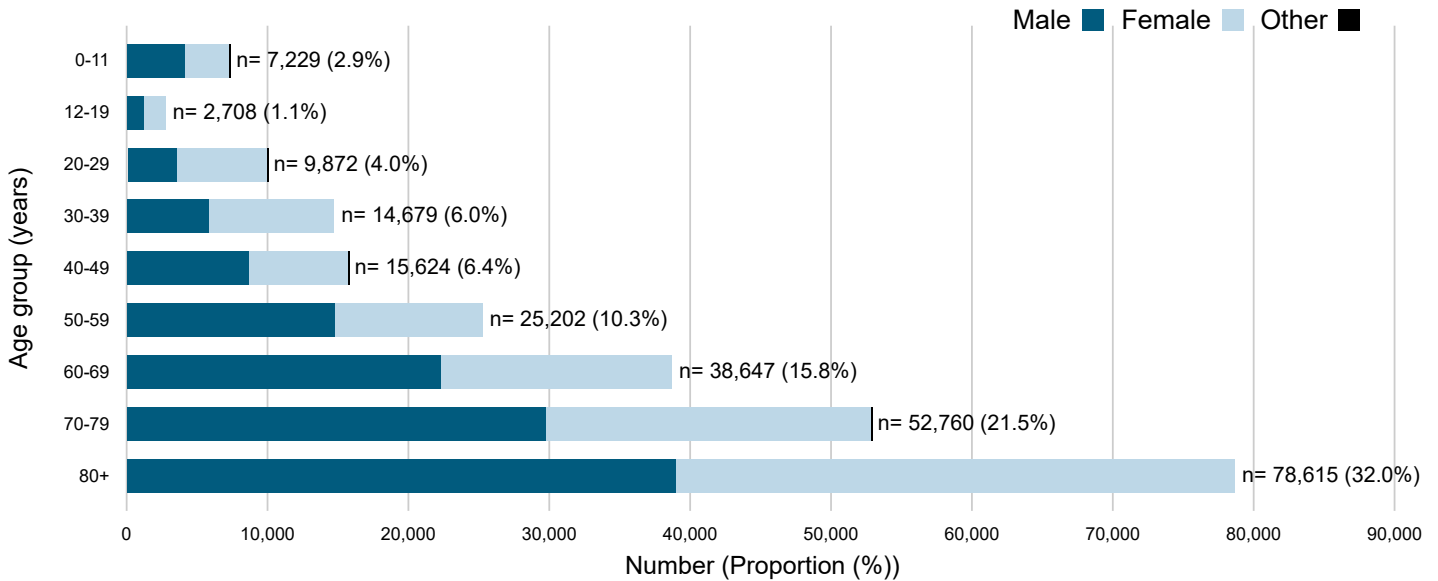
Figure 4c. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases admitted to ICU in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=35,597)
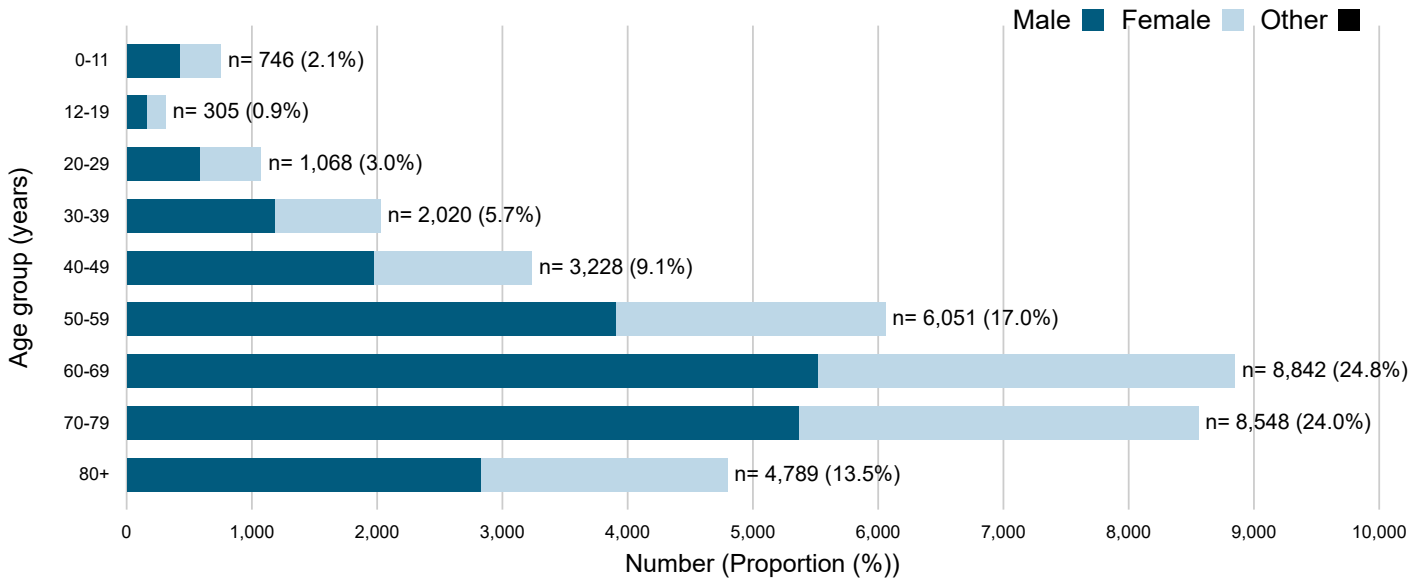

Figure 4d. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases deceased in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=34,418)

a. This figure reflects detailed case information provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) by health authorities in the provinces and territories. This data is updated every week. It may change as we get more information about cases.

b. This figure includes COVID-19 cases hospitalized, admitted to ICU, and deceased for which age and gender information were available. Therefore, some COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths may not be included.

Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=4,369,687)

Age group (years)	Number of cases with case reports (percentage)	Number of male cases (percentage)	Number of female cases (percentage)	Number of other cases (percentage)
0-11	421,692 (9.6%)	219,217 (11.1%)	200,356 (8.4%)	31 (13.8%)
12-19	331,120 (7.6%)	158,557 (8.0%)	170,913 (7.1%)	25 (11.2%)
20-29	753,213 (17.2%)	330,315 (16.7%)	419,287 (17.5%)	47 (21.0%)
30-39	726,040 (16.6%)	310,710 (15.8%)	412,909 (17.2%)	40 (17.9%)
40-49	637,851 (14.5%)	269,294 (13.7%)	366,763 (15.3%)	32 (14.3%)
50-59	553,034 (12.6%)	245,313 (12.4%)	306,255 (12.8%)	27 (12.1%)
60-69	368,079 (8.4%)	179,420 (9.1%)	187,771 (7.8%)	17 (7.6%)
70-79	253,937 (5.8%)	127,983 (6.5%)	125,487 (5.2%)	4 (1.8%)
80+	339,450 (7.7%)	131,769 (6.7%)	207,144 (8.6%)	1 (0.4%)

Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=245,336)

Age group (years)	Number of cases with case reports (percentage)	Number of male cases (percentage)	Number of female cases (percentage)	Number of other cases (percentage)
0-11	7,229 (2.9%)	4,054 (1.7%)	3,174 (1.3%)	1 (0.0%)
12-19	2,708 (1.1%)	1,151 (0.5%)	1,557 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)
20-29	9,872 (4.0%)	3,544 (1.4%)	6,327 (2.6%)	1 (0.0%)
30-39	14,679 (6.0%)	5,827 (2.4%)	8,852 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)
40-49	15,624 (6.4%)	8,634 (3.5%)	6,989 (2.8%)	1 (0.0%)
50-59	25,202 (10.3%)	14,757 (6.0%)	10,445 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)
60-69	38,647 (15.8%)	22,269 (9.1%)	16,378 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)
70-79	52,760 (21.5%)	29,711 (12.1%)	23,048 (9.4%)	1 (0.0%)
80+	78,615 (32.0%)	38,978 (15.9%)	39,637 (16.2%)	0 (0.0%)

Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases admitted to ICU in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=35,597)

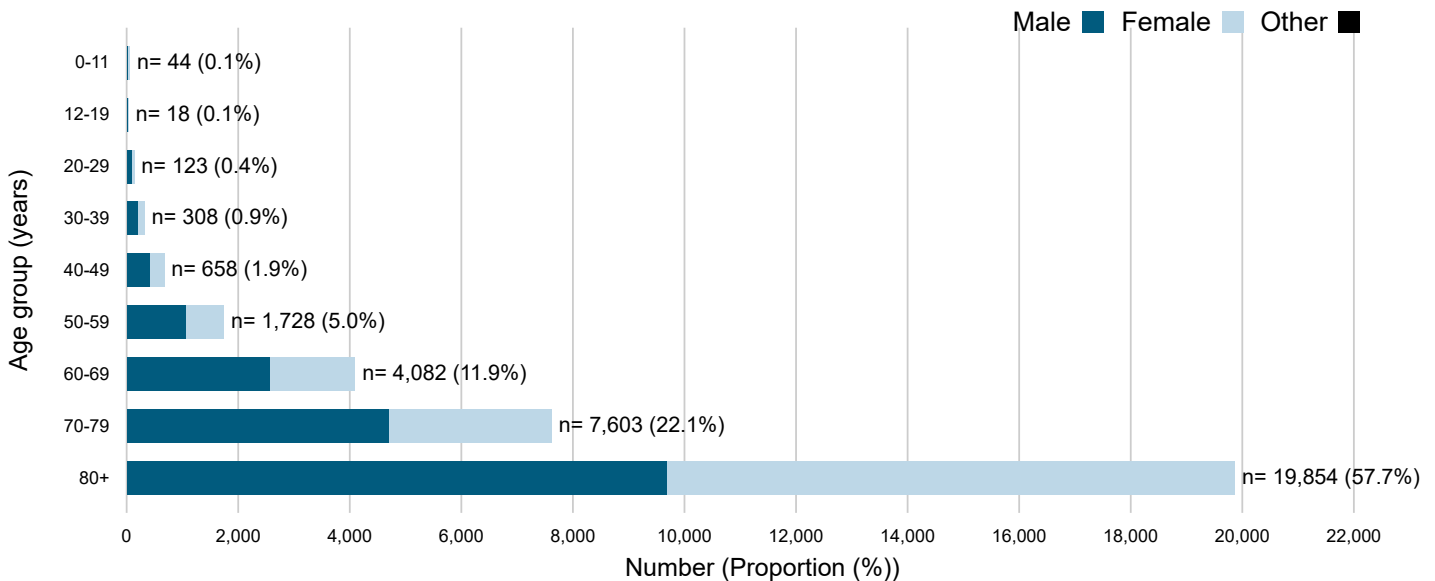| Age group (years)	Number of cases with case reports (percentage)	Number of male cases (percentage)	Number of female cases (percentage)	Number of other cases (percentage)
0-11	746 (2.1%)	421 (1.2%)	325 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)
12-19	305 (0.9%)	161 (0.5%)	144 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)
20-29	1,068 (3.0%)	581 (1.6%)	487 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)
30-39	2,020 (5.7%)	1,174 (3.3%)	846 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)
40-49	3,228 (9.1%)	1,972 (5.5%)	1,256 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)
50-59	6,051 (17.0%)	3,897 (10.9%)	2,154 (6.1%)	0 (0.0%)
60-69	8,842 (24.8%)	5,513 (15.5%)	3,329 (9.4%)	0 (0.0%)
70-79	8,548 (24.0%)	5,361 (15.1%)	3,187 (9.0%)	0 (0.0%)
80+	4,789 (13.5%)	2,820 (7.9%)	1,969 (5.5%)	0 (0.0%)

Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases deceased in Canada as of May 24, 2023, 8 am ET (n=34,418)

Age group (years)	Number of cases with case reports (percentage)	Number of male cases (percentage)	Number of female cases (percentage)	Number of other cases (percentage)
0-11	44 (0.1%)	20 (0.1%)	24 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
12-19	18 (0.1%)	10 (0.0%)	8 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
20-29	123 (0.4%)	73 (0.2%)	50 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
30-39	308 (0.9%)	193 (0.6%)	115 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
40-49	658 (1.9%)	407 (1.2%)	251 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)
50-59	1,728 (5.0%)	1,049 (3.0%)	679 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)
60-69	4,082 (11.9%)	2,559 (7.4%)	1,523 (4.4%)	0 (0.0%)
70-79	7,603 (22.1%)	4,698 (13.6%)	2,905 (8.4%)	0 (0.0%)
80+	19,854 (57.7%)	9,681 (28.1%)	10,173 (29.6%)	0 (0.00%)

Hospital use

Figure 5. Daily number of hospital beds and ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients as of May 16, 2023

Total patients hospitalized

Patients in non-ICU

Patients in ICU

Patients mechanically vented
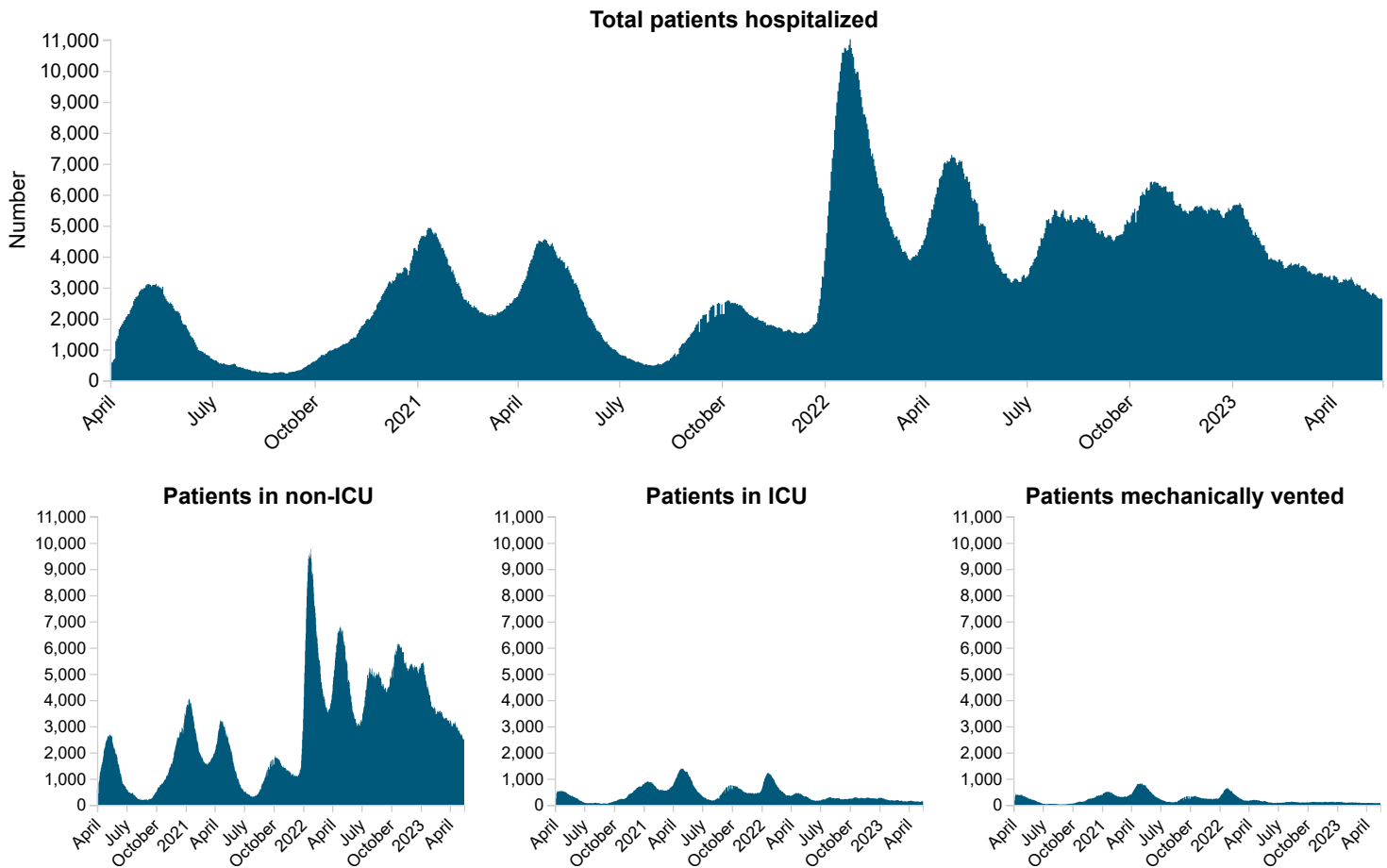
Between May 9, 2023 and May 16, 2023:

- the total number of **hospital beds** occupied by COVID-19 patients **decreased** from **2,774** to **2,610** beds.
- the number of **non-ICU beds** occupied by COVID-19 patients **decreased** from **2,655** to **2,476** beds.
- the number of **ICU beds** occupied by COVID-19 patients **increased** from **119** to **134** beds.
- the number of **COVID-19 patients who were mechanically vented decreased** from **72** to **67**.

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

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COVID-19 epidemiology update: Cases following vaccination

Last updated: 2023-05-24   ⬇ 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 <u>archived reports page</u>.

> ℹ **Changes to COVID-19 cases following vaccination reporting**
>
> We no longer report data on cases following vaccination. Historical data on cases following vaccination are still available on the <u>archived reports page</u>. The most recent report was on October 14, 2022.

We no longer report data on cases following vaccination. We used to publish data on the vaccination status of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths to help understand the impact of vaccination on COVID-19. We can no longer use this data for this purpose for the following reasons.

- A rapid increase in cases (starting in December 2021) led to changes in testing policies in order to preserve testing capacity. People at high risk of severe disease were now prioritized for laboratory testing. These same people were also <u>prioritized for COVID-19 boosters</u>. This meant that the people being tested were more likely than the general population to have received boosters and to get severe illness. This leads to a data bias which could cause people to mistakenly conclude that more vaccines lead to severe disease.
- Most Canadians, whether vaccinated or not, have had COVID-19 at least once. This makes it difficult to separate the impacts of immunity from disease, immunity from vaccine and immunity from both. Learn more about <u>hybrid immunity</u>.

There are other resources that provide analyses and evidence of the impact of vaccination on COVID-19 outcomes, including:

- <u>Provincial and territorial data</u>
- <u>COVID-19 vaccine chapter</u> of the *Canadian Immunization Guide*
- <u>Statements and guidance documents</u> published by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization

You might also be interested in

<u>COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard</u>

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

<u>COVID-19 vaccination</u>

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

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Answers to frequently asked questions can be found in the <u>Understanding the data section</u>!

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○ Other reason

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COVID-19 epidemiology update: Testing and variants

Last updated: 2023-05-24   ⬇ 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 'Key COVID-19 testing updates' and 'Testing in Canada' every Tuesday. We update 'COVID-19 variants in Canada' every Friday. This page was last updated on May 24, 2023, 9 am ET.

Key COVID-19 testing updates (Last data update May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)
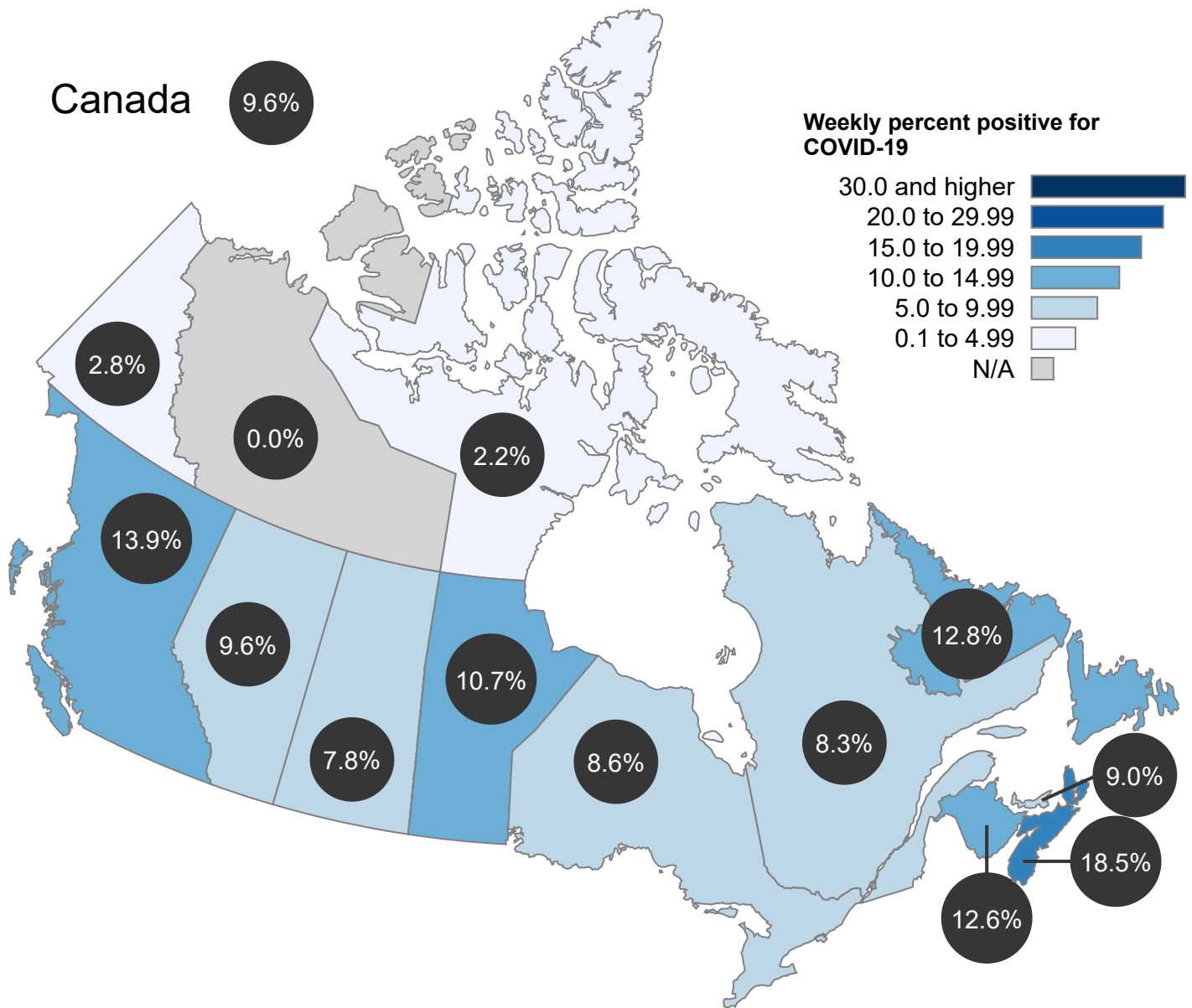
Weekly tests reported	Weekly percent positivity
32,053	**9.6%**

- 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 May 13, 2023.
- Due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021, case counts are under-estimated.

Testing in Canada

Figure 1. [Weekly percent positive ⌄] for COVID-19 by select laboratories, by province or territory up to May 13, 2023 (Last data update May 24, 2023, 9 am ET)

Canada 9.6%

Weekly percent positive for COVID-19

- 30.0 and higher
- 20.0 to 29.99
- 15.0 to 19.99
- 10.0 to 14.99
- 5.0 to 9.99
- 0.1 to 4.99
- N/A

2.8% · 0.0% · 2.2% · 13.9% · 9.6% · 10.7% · 7.8% · 8.6% · 8.3% · 12.8% · 9.0% · 18.5% · 12.6%

The percentage of weekly positive tests up to May 13, 2023 in **Canada** was **9.6%**.

- This 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.
- Case counts are under-estimated due to changes in COVID-19 testing policies in many jurisdictions since December 2021.

- The data represent surveillance data available through RVDSS up to May 13, 2023. N.A represents missing data. We update data retroactively when we receive delayed data reports.

Testing in Canada for COVID-19

Location	Weekly tests reported	Weekly percent positive
British Columbia	2,794	13.9%
Alberta	3,285	9.6%
Saskatchewan	1,633	7.8%
Manitoba	1,226	10.7%
Ontario	7,457	8.6%
Quebec	12,911	8.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	421	12.8%
New Brunswick	666	12.6%
Nova Scotia	1,370	18.5%
Prince Edward Island	100	9.0%
Yukon	36	2.8%
Northwest Territories	18	0.0%
Nunavut	136	2.2%
Canada	**32,053**	**9.6%**

On December 5, 2022, we changed surveillance systems for monitoring laboratory testing of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. We now use the Respiratory Virus Detection Surveillance System (RVDSS). Before December 5, we used the System for Analyzing Laboratory Test counts (SALT).

SALT was set up early in the COVID-19 pandemic to monitor daily SARS-CoV-2 testing volumes, and the percent of tests that were positive.

RVDSS is a longstanding surveillance system that collects data from laboratories across Canada on:

- the number of tests performed in participating laboratories and
- the number of positive tests for respiratory viruses

RVDSS mostly collects data from the tests of people who had COVID-19 symptoms or exposures, in order to assess trends in transmission via test positivity. RVDSS allows us to monitor COVID-19 in the context of other respiratory viruses.

The SALT and RVDSS data are not directly comparable.

- RVDSS data on COVID-19 is available starting the week of August 28, 2022 (Week 1 of the 2022/23 influenza season). SALT data are available starting February 1, 2020.

- Test positivity is higher in RVDSS than SALT. This is because tests reported to RVDSS are usually collected for clinical investigations, meaning people with symptoms or exposure to COVID-19, resulting in a higher proportion of positive tests.
- RVDSS presents all data by epidemiological week, while SALT presented daily data. Historical SALT testing data is available.

The number of laboratories participating in RVDSS can vary week to week and across provinces and territories. As a result, the numbers of tests performed cannot be directly compared between provinces and territories. The number of tests reported may be used to add context to interpret weekly percent positivity.

For information on other respiratory viruses circulating in Canada, and comparisons with COVID-19, please visit the weekly RVDSS report.

COVID-19 variants in Canada

All viruses, including COVID-19, change over time. These changes are called mutations, and result in variants of the virus. Not all mutations are of concern. Most do not cause more severe illness. However, some mutations result in variants of concern or variants of interest.

A variant of concern has mutations that are significant to public health. Before a variant of interest is considered one of concern, scientists and public health professionals must determine if the mutations result in an actual change in the behaviour of the virus. For example, it might:

- spread more easily
- cause more severe illness
- require different treatments, or
- reduce vaccine effectiveness

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) works with provincial and territorial partners and the Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network (CanCOGeN) to sequence a percentage of all positive COVID-19 test results. Sequencing reveals the genetic code of the virus, which tells us which variant is involved in a specific case of COVID-19. We report the proportion of COVID-19 variants in Canada every week.

We collect evidence to determine if new variants meet the definition for a variant of concern or a variant of interest. Many variants are being tracked across Canada and around the world.

Currently, Omicron and its sub-lineages are the primary variants of COVID-19 circulating in Canada. Evidence demonstrates that Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants of concern.

Previous variants of concern in Canada are as follows:

- Alpha
- Beta
- Gamma
- Delta

Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccination continues to be one of the most effective ways to protect against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Canada now has access to two updated bivalent vaccines that are expected to provide better protection against the Omicron variant of concern.

Figure 2. Weekly variant breakdown Updated: May 19, 2023, 4 pm EDT

ⓘ The graphic shows the percentage mix of COVID-19 variants detected in Canada through whole genome sequencing, by week of sample collection. You can see the numbers for each date by hovering over, tabbing to, or long-pressing any of the bars. To see a specific variant or variant grouping, click or press return. Repeat to restore the complete graph. Sublineages or offshoots for some variants can be revealed or hidden by clicking on the name of the variant in the legend.
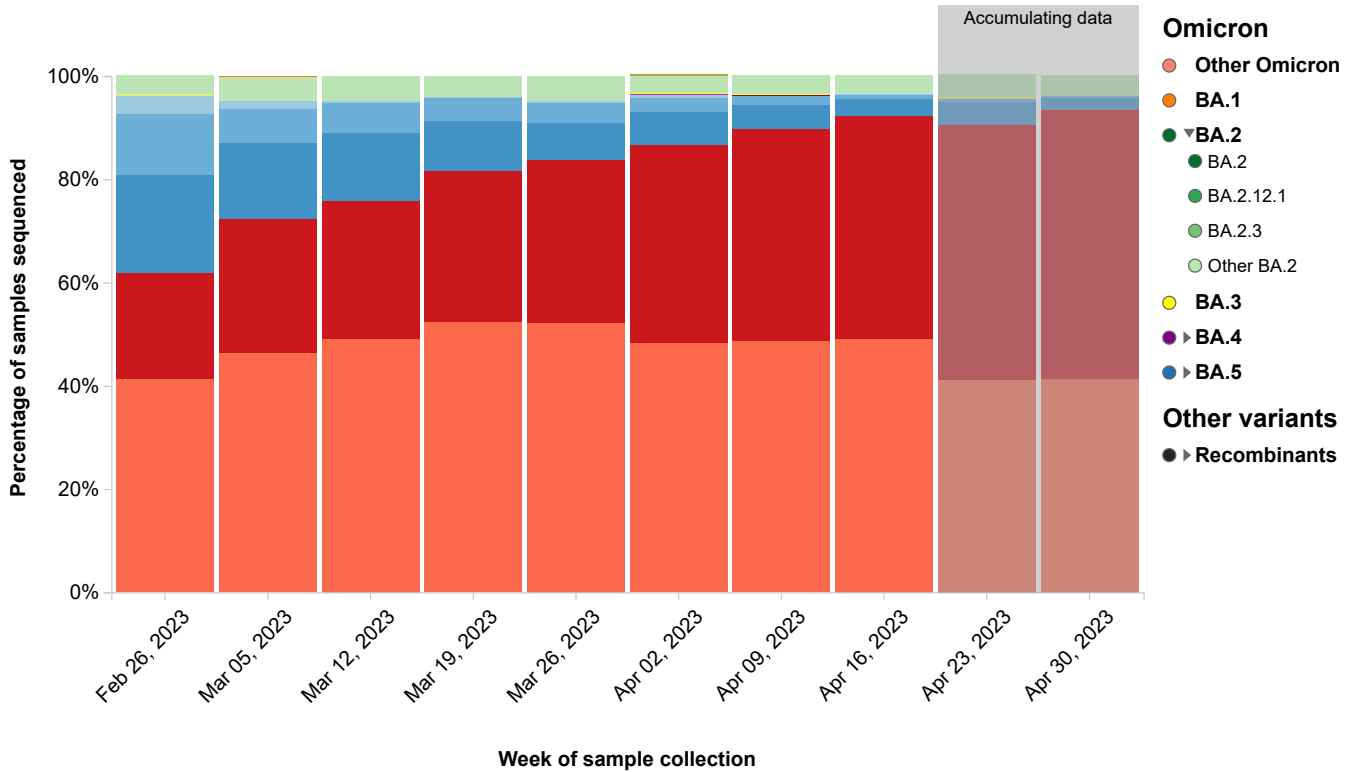
This information is based on whole genome sequencing from surveillance testing in all provinces and territories. In addition to sequencing done by the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, data is included from provincial and territorial laboratories.

Sequencing takes from 1 to 3 weeks to complete, so the proportions for recent weeks may change as more data are added. Surveillance in each province or territory is organized and prioritized according to local needs and may change from time to time. Because of differences in local sampling and reporting, the percentages illustrate trends rather than precise measurements.

Weekly variant breakdown

Percentage of COVID-19 cases identified through whole genome sequencing, presented by variant and by week of sample collection.

Percentage of COVID-19 cases identified through whole genome sequencing, presented by variant and by week of sample collection.

Variant Grouping	Feb 26, 2023 (n=2,467)	Mar 05, 2023 (n=2,679)	Mar 12, 2023 (n=2,684)	Mar 19, 2023 (n=2,588)	Mar 26, 2023 (n=2,402)	Apr 02, 2023 (n=2,063)	Apr 09, 2023 (n=2,194)	Apr 16, 2023 (n=2,125)	Apr 23, 2023 (n=1,787)
Omicron	**38.2%**	**27.7%**	**24.2%**	**18.3%**	**16.3%**	**13.6%**	**10.4%**	**7.7%**	**9.6%**
Other Omicron	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-
BA.1	0.0%	0.1%	-	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-
BA.2	3.5%	4.6%	4.7%	3.9%	4.7%	3.5%	3.6%	3.3%	4.3%
BA.2	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BA.2.12.1	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-
BA.2.3	-	-	-	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-
Other BA.2	3.5%	4.6%	4.7%	3.9%	4.7%	3.4%	3.6%	3.3%	4.3%
BA.3	0.1%	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.1%	0.1%	-	0.1%
BA.4	0.0%	-	-	-	-	0.2%	0.2%	-	-
BA.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.1%	0.2%	-	-
BA.4.6	-	-	-	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-
Other BA.4	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BA.5	**34.6%**	**23.0%**	**19.5%**	**14.4%**	**11.6%**	**9.7%**	**6.5%**	**4.4%**	**5.2%**
BA.5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1%	0.1%
BA.5.2	-	0.0%	-	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-
BA.5.2.1	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	0.1%	0.1%
BQ.1	3.5%	1.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
BQ.1.1	11.8%	6.6%	5.8%	4.6%	3.9%	2.7%	1.6%	0.9%	0.4%
Other BA.5	19.1%	14.9%	13.2%	9.6%	7.2%	6.4%	4.8%	3.1%	4.5%
Other variants	**61.8%**	**72.2%**	**75.8%**	**81.6%**	**83.7%**	**86.7%**	**89.7%**	**92.4%**	**90.6%**
Recombinants	**61.8%**	**72.2%**	**75.8%**	**81.6%**	**83.7%**	**86.7%**	**89.7%**	**92.4%**	**90.6%**
Other Recombinants	20.4%	25.8%	26.6%	29.2%	31.4%	38.5%	40.9%	43.2%	49.5%

Variant Grouping	Feb 26, 2023 (n=2,467)	Mar 05, 2023 (n=2,679)	Mar 12, 2023 (n=2,684)	Mar 19, 2023 (n=2,588)	Mar 26, 2023 (n=2,402)	Apr 02, 2023 (n=2,063)	Apr 09, 2023 (n=2,194)	Apr 16, 2023 (n=2,125)	Apr 23, 2023 (n=1,787)
XBB.1.5	41.4%	46.4%	49.2%	52.4%	52.3%	48.2%	48.8%	49.2%	41.1%

Downloadable data (in .csv format).

Note: The shaded columns on the right represent a period of accumulating data.

Contributing laboratories:

- Saskatchewan - Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL)
- Public Health Ontario (PHO)
- Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Newfoundland and Labrador - Eastern Health
- New Brunswick - Vitalité Health Network
- Manitoba Cadham Provincial Laboratory
- Laboratoire de santé publique du Québec (LSPQ)
- BCCDC Public Health Laboratory
- Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
- National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) - supplemental sequencing for all provinces and territories

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You might also be interested in

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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.

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COVID-19 epidemiology update: Outbreaks

Last updated: 2023-05-24   ⬇ 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 this page every Tuesday. This page was last updated on May 24, 2023, 9 am ET.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) regularly receives COVID-19 outbreak data from health authorities in the provinces and territories. This page summarizes outbreaks in Canada by setting and by size, and is updated weekly. Data may change retroactively if there are changes to:

- provincial or territorial COVID-19 testing strategies
- provincial or territorial reporting of outbreaks
- data collection methods, or
- outbreak management methods

Outbreak definitions vary across the country, but we use a national outbreak definition for all outbreaks. An outbreak is 2 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 which are epidemiologically linked to a specific setting or location. It does **not** include:

- households (since household cases may not be declared or managed as an outbreak if the risk of transmission is contained)
- cases that are geographically clustered (such as in a region, city, or town) but not epidemiologically linked
- cases attributed to community transmission

In December 2021, the highly contagious Omicron variant caused a rapid increase in cases. This surge affected public health and testing capacity, which led to a change in testing strategies and limited contact tracing. This made it harder for provinces and territories to link cases. As a result, outbreaks were undercounted. The provinces and territories still consistently report cases of COVID-19 in high-priority settings. However, most no longer report cases in community settings, such as schools, recreational facilities and stores.

- **Acute care**: Hospital or similar setting where patients receive short-term treatment for an injury or severe episode of illness, an urgent medical condition, or during recovery from surgery. Acute care

settings include:

- hospitals
- emergency departments
- urgent care
- transitional care
- convalescent care
- short-term inpatient rehabilitation centres

- **Congregate living** includes:
  - retirement residences
  - assisted/supportive living
  - group homes
  - residential treatment centres
  - transition centres
  - shelters
  - student dormitories

- **Correctional facilities** include:
  - provincial jails and prisons
  - federal jails and prisons
  - youth correction centres

- **Long-term care facilities** include both public and private facilities that provide living accommodations for people who require full-time supervised care, including professional health services, personal care, and other services (meals, laundry, cleaning)

Showing outbreaks data from 2021-01-09 to 2023-05-13.

The shaded area on the far right of Figure 1 and Figure 2 represents a period of accumulating data. This is the period of time (1 to 2 weeks) before the latest outbreaks are reported to PHAC. This delay is a result of the time required to identify cases and declare outbreaks. We update this figure as more data becomes available.

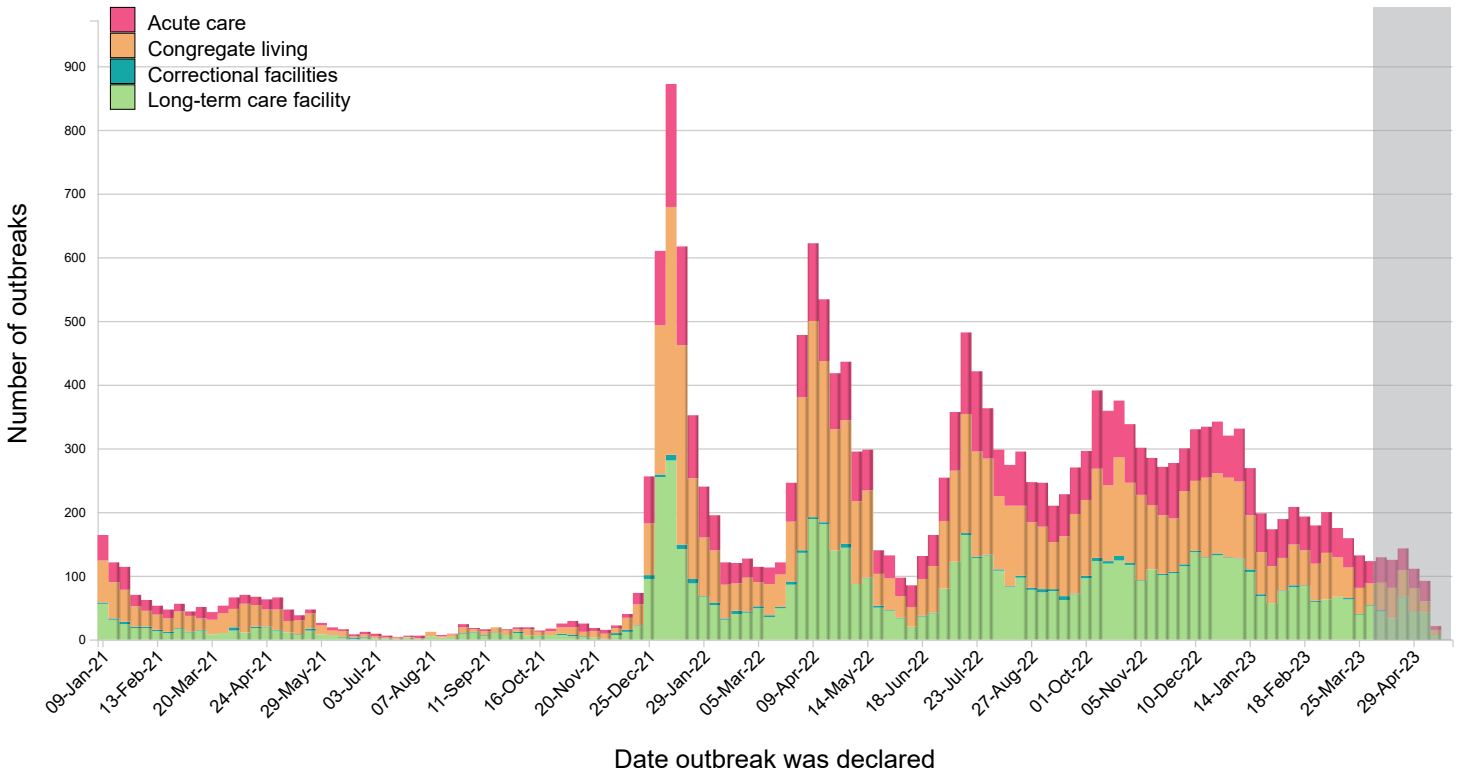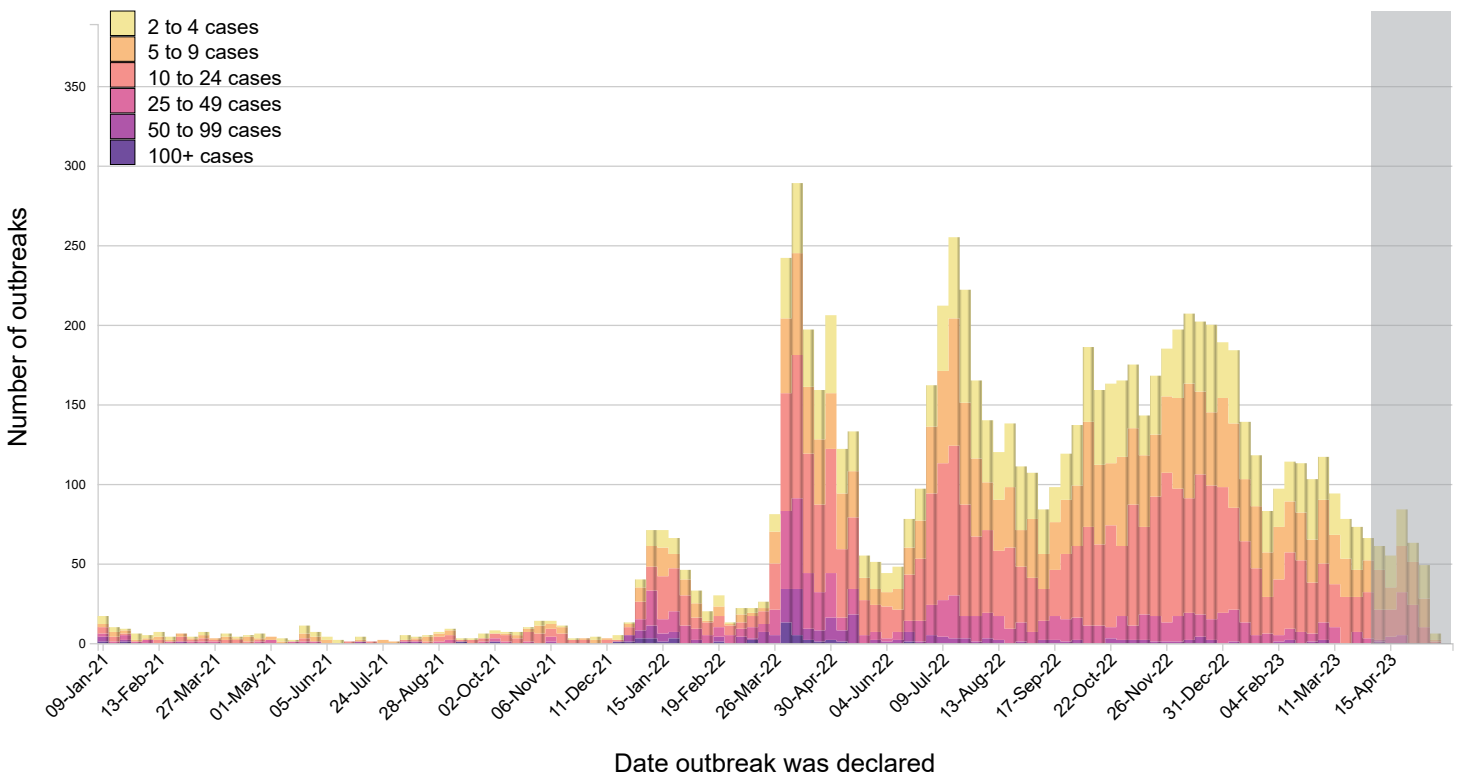## Figure 1. Weekly number of outbreaks by setting

Figure 2. Weekly number of outbreaks by outbreak size for all settings ⌄

Between January 2, 2022 and May 13, 2023:

- Acute care accounted for 29% of outbreaks. The median outbreak size was 7 cases per outbreak.

- Congregate living accounted for 33% of outbreaks. The median outbreak size was 11 cases per outbreak.
- Correctional facilities accounted for 0% of outbreaks. Median outbreak size was 15 cases per outbreak.
- Long-term care facilities accounted for 38% of outbreaks. Median outbreak size was 10 cases per outbreak.

Table 1. Summary statistics of COVID-19 outbreak size by setting, all time ⌄

Setting	Median case count	Average case count	Number of outbreaks
Acute care	7	10	2,424
Congregate living	11	16	2,813
Correctional facilities	15	35	27
Long-term care facility	10	15	3,187

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