



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 06/2024 (05/02/2024 – 11/02/2024)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- The number of influenza cases per 1,000 visits decreased compared to last week.

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness- SARI (ILI)

- The number of SARI cases per 1,000 visits slightly increased compared to last week.

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity slightly decreased compared to the previous week.
- The number of COVID-19 admissions (n=446) decreased 40% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks (n=747) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2023 (n=854).
- The number of new intubations (n=7) decreased compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks (n=20) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2023 (n=31).
- The cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 34.
- 40 deaths were reported (median age: 85 years, range: 55-98). The number of deaths decreased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=79) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2023 (n=113).
- The most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was JN.1 (68%), followed by EG.5 (21%) (last available data - week 01/2024).
- Viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed a decrease in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 8 out of 9 areas participating in the network.

Influenza virus

- The percentage of sentinel primary care specimens from patients presenting with ILI that tested positive for an influenza virus remained above the epidemic threshold of 10% and increased compared to last week. Test positivity of SARI samples decreased compared to last week.
- 10 new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU while 8 new deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded. 4 severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza admitted to ICU were retrospectively reported (1 with admission date within week 01/2024 and 3 with admission date within week 05/2024) and 1 death with death date within week 05/2024.
- From week 40/2023 to week 06/2024, 118 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 45 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported.
- From week 40/2023 to week 06/2024, 399 positive samples were typed (sentinel primary health care samples and hospital samples), 392 (99%) as A and 5 (1%) as B.
- Of the 370 type A viruses subtyped from the two Influenza Reference Centers, 26 (7%) were classified as subtype A(H3) and 344 (93%) were classified as subtype A(H1)pdm09.

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- Primary Health Care Sentinel RSV positivity increased compared to the previous week.