



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections Weekly overview - Week 08/2025 (17/02/2025 –23/02/2025)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

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

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness- SARI (ILI)

- The number of SARI cases per 1,000 hospital admissions decreased compared to last week.

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity from all tests performed in the country (COVID-19 registry data) is very low and did not change significantly compared to last week.
- 126 COVID-19 hospital admissions were recorded, while the average weekly number of new hospital admissions during the previous four weeks was 244.
- One new intubation was recorded. The average weekly number of new intubations for the past four weeks was six.
- The current number of ventilated patients with COVID-19 infection is eight.
- Seven deaths were recorded. The average weekly number of deaths for the past four weeks was 16. From week 01/2024 to week 08/2025, 379 deaths among severe cases (intubated and/or with ICU hospitalization) were recorded.
- The KP.3 and XEC sub-variants of BA.2.86 are the predominant variants. In week 33/2024 the first variants of XEC were detected, which since early October has been showing an upward trend. None of these variants are currently associated with an increased risk of severe disease.
- At the national level, the weighted viral load in urban wastewater is considered low compared to historical data, showing a decrease compared to the previous week. More specifically, the viral load level in urban wastewater is low in all areas participating in the network.

Influenza virus

- Influenza positivity in the community (as assessed by Sentinel surveillance in primary health care (ILI specimens)) remains above the limit that indicates the beginning of the activity of seasonal influenza, showing an increase compared to last week. Positivity of SARI specimens decreased compared to last week.
- In week 08/2025, six new ICU laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and four new deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded. Additionally, two severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU with admission dates within previous weeks. In total, from week 40/2023 to week 08/2025, 141 severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU and 43 deaths were recorded. From week 01/2024 to week 08/2025, 104 deaths in severe cases with laboratory confirmed influenza were recorded.
- From week 40/2024 to week 08/2025, among 2.682 samples (Sentinel Primary Health Care Surveillance, SARI surveillance and hospitals outside surveillance networks), 482 (17%) positive samples for influenza viruses were found. Of the 471 samples typed, 365 were type A and 106 type B.
- Among the 345 type A samples that were subtyped, 206 (60%) were A(H1)pdm09 and 139 (40%) were A(H3).

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- Positivity decreased in sentinel primary health care (ILI specimens), as well as in hospitals (SARI specimens), remaining overall low.
- Both influenza and COVID-19 are associated with a significant number of deaths among severe cases. It is recommended that persons who qualify for vaccination, particularly those at higher risk of severe outcomes (elderly and people with underlying diseases) should get vaccinated against both diseases.

NOTE: Retrospective inclusion of data reported with delay can result in modifications in the numbers presented