



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 13/2023 (27/3/2023 – 2/4/2023)

Influenza-like Illness

- a decrease was observed in the community compared to the previous week

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity (COVID-19 registry data) showed an increase compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions showed a decrease compared to the previous week and a decrease of 14% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks
- the number of new intubations showed a decrease compared to the previous week and a 38% decrease compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 65
- 47 deaths were reported (median age: 84 years, range: 50-97 years)
- during the last weeks, all sequenced samples were classified as Omicron sub-variants BA.2 and BA.5, with BA.2 being the dominant variant from week 9 onwards
- in week 11 the sub-variant BQ.1.1 was the most frequent sub-variant of BA.5 (84%)
- in week 11 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variants were XBB.1.5 (69%), followed by BA.2.75 (21%)
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 3 out of 10 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 showed a small increase
- in week 12/2023 one new severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza admitted to ICU was recorded, while one new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was recorded in week 13/2023
- from week 40/2022 to week 13/2023, 66 people with influenza were hospitalized in ICU and 23 deaths were reported
- during the same period, 332 samples positive for influenza viruses (sentinel samples and hospital samples) were detected in the two Influenza Reference Centers, of which 285 (86%) were type A and 47 (14%) were type B
- of the 283 type A viruses subtyped, 257 (91%) were classified as subtype A(H3N2) and 26 (9%) as subtype A(H1N1)pdm09
- during the last weeks, an excess of type B is recorded

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- all tested samples (sentinel and non-sentinel) were negative for RSV