



## **Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections**

### **Weekly overview - Week 34/2025 (18/08/2025 –24/08/2025)**

#### **Influenza-like Illness (ILI)**

- The number of ILI cases per 1,000 visits has remained at low levels since week 20/2025, showing small weekly fluctuations. In week 34/2025, an increase was observed compared to the previous week.

#### **Severe Acute Respiratory Illness- SARI (ILI)**

- The number of SARI cases per 1,000 visits has remained at low levels since week 20/2025, with small weekly fluctuations. In week 34/2025, a slight decrease was recorded compared to the previous week.

#### **SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection**

- The positivity rate from all SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests across the country, has shown a gradual upward trend since the beginning of summer, remaining at lower levels compared to the corresponding period last year.
- The number of new hospital admissions shows signs of stabilization after week 31/2025, currently remaining significantly lower than during the same period last year. In week 34/2025, 236 new admissions were recorded. The average weekly number of new admissions over the past four weeks was 192.
- Since the beginning of the summer, sporadic cases of intubations and deaths have been recorded. In week 34, one new intubation and five new deaths were reported. From week 01/2024 to week 34/2025, the recorded deaths among severe cases (intubated and/or admitted to ICU) amount to 403.
- Throughout the summer, co-circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants LP.8.1, NB.1.8.1, and XFG (classified as Variants Under Monitoring by ECDC and WHO/EURO) has been observed, with XFG showing a trend for predominance. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest increased severity associated with any of these variants.
- Nationally, the weighted viral load of SARS-CoV-2 in urban wastewater is currently at moderate levels compared to historical data, showing a notable upward trend. In the majority of monitored areas, the load remains moderate, with either stable or increasing trends.

#### **Influenza virus**

- Influenza positivity in the community (as estimated by the Sentinel Primary Health Care Surveillance Network) remains below the seasonal epidemic threshold (10%), showing a decrease after week 31/2025. Positivity in secondary healthcare (as estimated by the SARI surveillance network) remains at very low levels.
- Since week 20/2025, only sporadic cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza and/or influenza-related deaths have been recorded. In week 34/2025, no new severe cases requiring ICU admission or deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported. One severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza with ICU admission (with admission date during week 33/2025) and one death from laboratory-confirmed influenza (with death date during week 33/2025) were reported.
- Overall, from week 40/2024 to week 34/2025, out of 6,203 tested samples (from Sentinel community, SARI surveillance, and non-surveillance network hospitals), 896 (15%) were positive for influenza viruses. Of these, 883 were subtyped, with 570 (64%) belonging to type A and 313 (36%) to type B.
- Among the 530 type A samples that were subtyped, 277 were A(H1) pdm09 and 253 were A(H3).

#### **Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV**

- Since week 20/2025, RSV activity has consistently remained at very low levels, both in the community (Sentinel Primary Health Care network) and in hospitals (SARI surveillance network), with only sporadic positive samples recorded.

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