



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 37/2023 (11/9/2023 – 17/9/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- ILI rate remained low

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity increased compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions (n=733) increased compared to the previous week and there was a 14% increase compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks
- the number of new intubations (n=8) decreased compared to the previous week and compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks (n=13)
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 25
- 39 deaths were reported (median age: 83 years, range: 60-98)
- during the last weeks all sequenced samples were classified as Omicron sub-variant BA.2
- in week 35 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was EG.5 (35%) followed by XXB.1.16 (28%) and XBB.1.5 (26%)
- regarding the new sub-variant BA.2.86, which was designated as a variant under monitoring (VUM) by the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 17, 2023:
 - up to now the sub-variant has been detected in 20 countries and it is considered to have a global distribution
 - in Greece, 5 positive samples of BA.2.86 sub-variant, with sampling date from September 5 to September 7, have been recorded
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 4 out of 6 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 remains below 10% (sentinel)
- no severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza admitted to ICU or deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded in week 37/2023
- from week 40/2022 to week 37/2023, 71 cases were hospitalized in ICU and 27 deaths were reported
- during the same period, 378 samples positive for influenza viruses (sentinel samples and hospital samples) were detected in the two Influenza Reference Centers, of which 293 (77,5%) were type A and 85 (22,5%) were type B
- of the 291 type A viruses subtyped, 259 (89%) were classified as subtype A(H3N2) and 32 (11%) as subtype A(H1N1)pdm09

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- all samples were tested negative for RSV