



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 39/2023 (25/9/2023 – 1/10/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- ILI rate remained low

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity slightly increased compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions (n=868) slightly decreased compared to the previous week and there was a 19% increase compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks
- the number of new intubations (n=14) decreased compared to the previous week and increased compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks (n=11)
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 36
- 53 deaths were reported (median age: 82 years, range: 66-102)
- during the last weeks all sequenced samples were classified as Omicron sub-variant BA.2
- in week 37 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was XBB.1.5 (42%) followed by EG.5 (25%) and XBB.1.16 (24%)
- 19 positive samples of BA.2.86 sub-variant, with sampling date from September 5 to September 19, have been recorded
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 4 out of 8 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, whereas one death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was recorded in week 39/2023
- from week 40/2022 to week 39/2023, 71 cases were hospitalized in ICU and 28 deaths were reported
- during the same period, 381 samples positive for influenza viruses (sentinel samples and hospital samples) were detected in the two Influenza Reference Centers, of which 296 (78%) were type A and 85 (22%) were type B
- of the 294 type A viruses subtyped, 261 (89%) were classified as subtype A(H3N2) and 33 (11%) as subtype A(H1N1)pdm09

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- test positivity remained low