



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 40/2024 (30/09/2024 – 06/10/2024)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- The number of influenza cases per 1,000 visits is low, similar to that of 2023.

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness- SARI (ILI)

- The number of SARI cases per 1,000 visits is low, similar to that of 2023.

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity decreased compared to last week.
- 613 COVID-19 admissions were recorded, depicting a small decrease compared to last week. The average weekly number of new admissions during the previous four weeks was 592.
- Six new intubations were recorded. The average weekly number of new intubations during the previous four weeks was eight.
- The current number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 23.
- 17 deaths were recorded. The average weekly number of deaths during the previous four weeks was 28.
- As of 27/9, KP.3 was classified by the ECDC/WHO EURO as a Variant Of Interest, while XEC was classified as Variant Under Monitoring. During the last weeks, the dominant variant in the country has been KP.3, whereas the first XEC variants were detected in week 33/2024. These variants have not been associated with an increased risk of severe disease.
- At the national level, the weighted viral load in urban wastewater is at moderate levels compared to historical data, presenting no significant change compared to last week. In four of the ten monitored areas, viral load levels appear high, with an increasing trend, while in the remaining areas the observed levels are low/moderate.
- It is recommended for vulnerable population groups (elderly and people with underlying diseases) to scrupulously follow preventive measures against respiratory infections and seek medical advice if symptomatic, to receive timely treatment. At the same time, it is recommended to the general population, in the presence of respiratory infection symptoms, to limit contact with people belonging to vulnerable groups.

Influenza virus

- Influenza positivity as assessed by surveillance networks in primary health care (ILI specimens) and in hospitals (SARI specimens), remains at very low levels, with only sporadic positive samples.
- One new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza was admitted to ICU while no deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
- All samples were tested negative for influenza virus in both sentinel primary health care (ILI specimens) and hospitals (SARI specimens).

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- All samples were tested negative in both sentinel primary health care (ILI specimens) and hospitals (SARI specimens).

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