



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 43/2023 (23/10/2023 – 29/10/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- ILI rate remained low

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity decreased compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions (n=903) decreased 9% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- the number of new intubations (n=13) decreased compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks (n=22) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 49
- 63 deaths were reported (median age: 83 years, range: 61-99). The number of deaths increased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- in week 41/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was XBB.1.5 (44%), followed by EG.5 (23%) and XBB.1.16 (20%)
- 96 positive samples of BA.2.86 sub-variant have been recorded (sampling dates between September 5 and October 16)
- 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 remains below 10%* (sentinel)
- one new severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza admitted to ICU and one new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded in week 43/2023.
- from week 40/2023 to week 43/2023, 3 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 2 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported
- from week 40/2023, 10 samples positive for influenza viruses were recorded (sentinel samples and hospital samples), of which 9 (90%) were typed as A and 1 (10%) was typed as B by the two Influenza Reference Centers
- of the 9 type A viruses subtyped, all were classified as subtype A(H1N1)pdm09

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- all samples were tested negative for RSV

* seasonal epidemic activity threshold