



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 43/2024 (21/10/2024 – 27/10/2024)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- The number of influenza cases per 1,000 visits is low.

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness- SARI (ILI)

- The number of SARI cases per 1,000 visits is low.

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity decreased compared to last week.
- 538 COVID-19 admissions were recorded, depicting a decrease compared to last week. The average weekly number of new admissions during the previous four weeks was 644.
- Four new intubations were recorded. The average weekly number of new intubations during the previous four weeks was seven.
- The current number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 17.
- 24 deaths were recorded. The average weekly number of deaths during the previous four weeks was 27.
- 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. The dominant variant in the country is 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 one of the ten monitored areas, viral load levels appear high (increased compared to last week), in two moderate and in the remaining seven low (decreased compared to last week).
- 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.
- No new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU and no deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported. In total, from week 40/2023 to week 43/2024 one severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza was admitted to ICU (A(H3)).
- From week 40/2024 to week 43/2024, among 367 samples (Sentinel Primary Health Care Surveillance, SARI surveillance and hospitals outside surveillance networks) one positive sample for influenza viruses, A(H3), was found.

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