



**Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections**  
**Weekly overview**  
**Week 44/2024 (28/10/2024 – 03/11/2024)**

**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 remained steady compared to last week.
- There was no significant change in the number of new admissions compared to last week. 547 COVID-19 admissions were recorded, while the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous four weeks was 610.
- 16 new intubations were recorded. The average weekly number of new intubations during the previous four weeks was six.
- The current number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 24.
- 17 deaths were recorded. The average weekly number of deaths during the previous four weeks was 24.
- 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.
- In one of the ten monitored areas, viral load levels in urban wastewater appear high (decreased compared to last week), in three moderate and in the remaining six low (showing mixed trends 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 44/2024 one severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza was admitted to ICU (A(H3)) while no death was recorded.
- From week 40/2024 to week 44/2024, among 470 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