Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 46/2023 (13/11/2023 – 19/11/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- ILI rate remained low

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity remained stable
- the number of COVID-19 admissions (n=787) decreased 11% 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=20) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 42
- 27 deaths were reported (median age: 84 years, range: 64-97). The number of deaths decreased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=61) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- in week 44/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was XBB.1.5 (56%), followed by EG.5 (18%) and XBB.1.16 (12%)
- 163 positive samples of BA.2.86 sub-variant have been recorded (sampling dates between September 5 and November 3)
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 3 out of 9 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 while one new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was recorded in week 46/2023
- from week 40/2023 to week 46/2023, 4 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 3 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported
- from week 40/2023, 17 samples positive for influenza viruses were recorded (sentinel samples and hospital samples), of which 16 (94%) were typed as A and 1 (6%) was typed as B by the two Influenza Reference Centers
- of the 16 type A viruses subtyped, one (6%) was classified as subtype A(H3) and 15 (94%) were classified as subtype A(H1)pdm09

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- all samples were tested negative for RSV

* seasonal epidemic activity threshold