



## Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

### Weekly overview

#### Week 47/2024 (18/11/2024 – 24/11/2024)

#### Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- The number of influenza cases per 1,000 visits is low, showing an increasing trend.

#### 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 increased compared to last week.
- The number of new admissions increased compared to last week. 614 COVID-19 admissions were recorded, while the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous four weeks was 538.
- 12 new intubations were recorded. The average weekly number of new intubations during the previous four weeks was 10.
- The current number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 22.
- 26 deaths were recorded. The average weekly number of deaths during the previous four weeks was 24. Since the beginning of the year, recorded deaths among severe cases (intubated and/or with ICU hospitalization) is 309.
- 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 low levels compared to historical data, presenting decrease compared to last week. In one of the nine monitored areas, viral load levels in urban wastewater appear increased (decreased compared to last week), moderate in one (increased compared to last week), whereas in the remaining areas it is low.

#### Influenza virus

- Influenza positivity as assessed by surveillance networks in primary health care (ILI specimens) and in hospitals (SARI specimens), remains at low levels, with only sporadic positive samples.
- Two new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU and one new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was reported. In total, from week 40/2023 to week 47/2024 three severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU and one death was recorded. Since the beginning of the year, recorded deaths in severe cases with laboratory confirmed influenza is 62.
- From week 40/2024 to week 47/2024, among 777 samples (Sentinel Primary Health Care Surveillance, SARI surveillance and hospitals outside surveillance networks) four positive samples for influenza viruses (type A) were found.
- From the four positive type A samples, one was A(H3) and three A(H1)pdm09.

#### Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- All samples were tested negative in both sentinel primary health care (ILI specimens) and hospitals (SARI specimens).
- Both influenza and COVID-19 are associated with a significant number of deaths among severe cases. It is recommended that persons who qualify for vaccination, particularly those at higher risk of severe outcomes (elderly and people with underlying diseases) should be vaccinated against both diseases.

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