



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 48/2023 (27/11/2023 – 03/12/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- ILI rate, although it remains at low levels, it shows an upward trend, especially in the 15-64 age group

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity increased compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions (n=991) increased 24% 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=21) slightly 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 54
- 44 deaths were reported (median age: 85 years, range: 34-97). The number of deaths decreased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=48) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022
- in week 45/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was EG.5 (38%), followed by XBB.1.5 (30%) and XBB.1.16 (12%)
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 5 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 exceeded the threshold of 10%, which is an indicative seasonal threshold for the onset of epidemic activity of influenza according to ECDC (sentinel)
- 2 new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU while no new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was recorded in week 48/2023. A severe case of laboratory-confirmed influenza admitted to ICU was retrospectively reported (admission date within week 47/2023).
- from week 40/2023 to week 48/2023, 9 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 4 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported
- from week 40/2023, 30 samples positive for influenza viruses were recorded (sentinel samples and hospital samples), of which 29 (97%) were typed as A and 1 (3%) was typed as B by the two Influenza Reference Centers
- of the 29 type A viruses subtyped, 6 (21%) were classified as subtype A(H3) and 23 (79%) were classified as subtype A(H1)pdm09

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- all samples were tested negative for RSV