



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 50/2023 (11/12/2023 – 17/12/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

- The number of influenza cases per 1,000 visits increased compared to last week.

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity increased compared to the previous week.
- The number of COVID-19 admissions (n=1.373) increased 45% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks and was higher compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=1.349).
- The number of new intubations (n=26) increased 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 (n=44).
- The cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 62.
- 60 deaths were reported (median age: 86,5 years, range: 57-98). The number of deaths increased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=44) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=158).
- In week 47/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was EG.5 (39%), followed by XBB.1.5 (30%) and BA.2.86 (20%).
- In Greece, a total of 101 variants of JN.1 (sub-variant of BA.2.86 which was recognized by WHO as a sub-variant of epidemiological interest from December 19th) have been detected (sampling dates from 3/10 to 3/12). The additional risk to public health from JN.1 is currently assessed as low.
- Viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 8 out of 10 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 remained above the epidemic threshold of 10%.
- 4 new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU while 1 new death from laboratory-confirmed influenza was recorded in week 50/2023.
- From week 40/2023 to week 50/2023, 18 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 5 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported.
- From week 40/2023 to week 50/2023, 57 samples (95%) were typed as A and 2 (3%) were typed as B by the two Influenza Reference Centers.
- Of the 57 type A viruses subtyped, 15 (26%) were classified as subtype A(H3) and 42 (74%) were classified as subtype A(H1)pdm09.

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- A significant increase in RSV positivity was recorded in non-sentinel hospital samples.