



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 51/2023 (18/12/2023 – 24/12/2023)

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=1.496) increased 37% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks (n=1.094) and was higher compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=1.250).
- The number of new intubations (n=13) decreased compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks (n=26) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=51).
- The cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 54.
- 62 deaths were reported (median age: 83 years, range: 39-99). The number of deaths increased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=53) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=170).
- In week 48/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was EG.5 (33%), followed by XBB.1.5 (29%) and BA.2.86 (22%).
- In Greece, a total of 102 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).
- Viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 5 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%.
- 3 new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU while no new deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded.
- From week 40/2023 to week 51/2023, 21 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 5 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported.
- From week 40/2023 to week 51/2023, 78 positive samples have been detected (9%). 76 samples have been typed from the two Influenza Reference Centers: 74 have been typed as A and 2 (3%) as B.
- Of the 71 type A viruses subtyped, 15 (21%) were classified as subtype A(H3) and 56 (79%) were classified as subtype A(H1)pdm09.

Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- RSV positivity from Primary Health Care Sentinel samples increased compared to the previous week.