



Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

Weekly overview

Week 52/2023 (25/12/2023 – 31/12/2023)

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

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

SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- Test positivity increased significantly compared to the previous week.
- The number of COVID-19 admissions (n=1.818) increased 44% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks (n=1.259) and was higher compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=1.519).
- The number of new intubations (n=31) increased compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks (n=24) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=60).
- The cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 70.
- 57 deaths were reported (median age: 84 years, range: 67-102). The number of deaths decreased compared to the average weekly number of deaths during the previous 4 weeks (n=59) and was lower compared to the respective week of 2022 (n=154).
- In week 49/2023 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variant was EG.5 (40%), followed by BA.2.86 (38%) and XBB.1.5 (14%).
- In Greece, a total of 179 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 8/12).
- Viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed an increase in SARS-CoV-2 virus circulation in 6 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 remained above the epidemic threshold of 10%, with an increasing trend.
- 8 new severe cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to ICU while 3 new deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded in week 52/2023.
- From week 40/2023 to week 52/2023, 29 laboratory-confirmed cases were hospitalized in ICU and 8 laboratory-confirmed deaths were reported.
- From week 40/2023 to week 52/2023, 113 positive samples have been detected (9%). 112 samples have been typed from the two Influenza Reference Centers: 110 have been typed as A and 2 as B.
- Of the 93 type A viruses subtyped, 15 (16%) were classified as subtype A(H3) and 78 (84%) 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.