



## Epidemiological Surveillance of Respiratory Infections

### Weekly overview

Week 12/2023 (20/3/2023 – 26/3/2023)

#### Influenza-like Illness

- an increase was observed in the community compared to the previous week
- increase was observed in the age groups 5-14, 15-64, >65 years, whereas in the age group 0-4 years a small decrease was recorded.

#### SARS-CoV2 virus - COVID-19 infection

- test positivity showed a decrease compared to the previous week
- the number of COVID-19 admissions showed a decrease compared to the previous week and a decrease of 20% compared to the average weekly number of new admissions during the previous 4 weeks
- the number of new intubations showed a decrease compared to the previous week and a 41% decrease compared to the average weekly number of new intubations during the previous 4 weeks
- the cumulative number of intubated patients with COVID-19 infection is 75
- 65 deaths were reported (median age: 84 years, range: 53-96 years)
- during the weeks 09-10/2023 all sequenced samples were classified as Omicron sub-variants BA.2 and BA.5
- during the last weeks, all samples sequenced belong to BA.2 and BA.5 Omicron sub-variants, with BA.2 being the dominant variant from week 9 onwards
- in week 10 the sub-variant BQ.1.1 was the most frequent sub-variant of BA.5 (70%)
- in week 10 the most frequent BA.2 sub-variants were XBB.1.5 (63%), followed by CH.1.1 (23%) and BA.2.75 (9%)
- viral load surveillance in municipal wastewater showed a decrease 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 showed a decrease
- no severe cases of laboratory- confirmed influenza admitted to ICU or deaths from laboratory-confirmed influenza were recorded in week 11
- from week 40/2022 to week 12/2023, 65 people with influenza were hospitalized in ICU and 22 deaths were reported
- during the same period, 321 samples positive for influenza viruses (sentinel samples and hospital samples) were detected in the two Influenza Reference Centers, of which 282 (88%) were type A and 39 (12%) were type B
- of the 280 type A viruses subtyped, 257 (92%) were classified as subtype A(H3N2) and 23 (8%) as subtype A(H1N1)pdm09
- during the last weeks, an excess of type B is recorded

#### Respiratory syncytial virus – RSV

- test positivity remained low