Executive summary

Reported case rate for the week ending 30 July remained stable compared to the previous week. In the week ending 23 July, hospital admissions, viral RNA in wastewater, and mortality decreased compared to the previous week.

The XBB variants are still the most common (~58%). XBB.1.16 continues to be the most common variant ~20%, followed by FK1.1 at 19% and CH1.1 at 9%.

Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported[1] case rates was 9.8 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 July 2023. This is stable compared to the previous weeks average (10.2 per 100,000 to 23 July 2023).
Wastewater	The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 23 July 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends.[2]
Hospitalisations[i]	In the week ending 23 July 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.42 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared to the previous week (0.58 per 100,000 16 July 2023).
Mortality[ii]	As of 23 July 2023, there were 595 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,568 deaths during 2022 and 50 deaths prior to 2022.
	The mortality rate was 0.03 per 100,000 population as of 23 July, stable compared to previous week (10 and 11 deaths respectively).
Variants of Concern	In the period 27 May to 30 June 2023, The XBB variants were still the most common (58% of sequenced cases in the past fortnight). The XBB.1.5 variant has been decreasing and now accounts for 5% of cases. The XBB.1.16 variant was stable, representing ~20% of cases. Other XBB variants accounted for 32% of cases, while FK.1.1 and CH.1.1 continue to circulate at 19% and 9%, respectively.

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 10.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 July 2023. This is a slight increase compared to the previous week, which was 9.9 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations[i]	The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 23 July 2023 was 0.41 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared to the previous week (0.49 per 100,000).
Mortality[ii]	As of 23 July 2023, there were 47 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 234 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

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[1] The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.

[2] https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/wastewater-surveillance-dashboard/

Pacific peoples

Cases　　　　　　The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 6.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 July 2023. This is a decrease from the previous week, which was 7.3 per 100,000.

Hospitalisations[i]　　The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 23 July 2023 was 0.52 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared to the previous week (0.64 per 100,000).

Mortality[ii]　　　As of 23 July 2023, there were 18 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 145 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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[i] Hospital admissions data provides information on hospitalisations "for" COVID-19. Data pertaining to recent trends (up to 90 days) is provisional. Admissions may be re-coded as hospitalised "with" COVID-19 and removed from the dataset.

[ii] The mortality figures are for deaths attributed to COVID-19. Recent trends should be interpreted with caution to account for death coding delays of months or years after death.