



# Executive summary

12 July 2023

Reported case rates for the week ending 09 July 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. In the week ending 02 July, hospital admissions remained relatively stable; 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<sup>1</sup> case rates was 14.7 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 July 2023. This is a decrease compared to the previous week average (17.8 per 100,000 to 02 July 2023).

### Wastewater

The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 02 July 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends.<sup>2</sup>

### Hospitalisations<sup>i</sup>

In the week ending 02 July 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.67 per 100,000 population, this is relatively stable compared to the previous week (0.71 per 100,000 25 June 2023).

### Mortality<sup>ii</sup>

As of 25 June 2023, there were 544 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,558 deaths during 2022 and 50 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate was 0.04 per 100,000 population as of 02 July, similar to the 0.06 per 100,000 in the previous week (13 compared to 19 deaths).

### 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 15.0 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 July 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 18.5 per 100,000.

### Hospitalisations<sup>i</sup>

The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 02 July 2023 was 0.60 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.62 per 100,000).

### Mortality<sup>ii</sup>

As of 02 July 2023, there were 42 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 230 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

<sup>1</sup> The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.

<sup>2</sup> <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 11.1 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 July 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 13.6 per 100,000.

## Hospitalisations<sup>i</sup>

The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 02 July 2023 was 0.72 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared to the previous week (1.08 per 100,000).

## Mortality<sup>ii</sup>

As of 02 July 2023, there were 12 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 144 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.