



Executive summary

05 July 2023

Reported case rates for the week ending 02 July 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. In the week ending 25 June, hospital admissions decreased; RNA in wastewater, and mortality remained stable compared to the previous week.

XBB.1.16 has replaced XBB.1.5 as the most common genomic variant and is expected to continue to rise in frequency.



Key insights

National Trends

Cases

The 7-day rolling average of reported¹ case rates was 17.8 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 July 2023. This is a decrease compared to the previous week average (21.0 per 100,000 to 25 June 2023).

Wastewater

The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 25 June 2023 remained stable compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends.²

Hospitalisationsⁱ

In the week ending 25 June 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.68 per 100,000 population, this is a decrease compared to the previous week (0.79 per 100,000 18 June 2023).

Mortalityⁱⁱ

As of 25 June 2023, there were 522 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,558 deaths during 2022 and 50 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate was 0.06 per 100,000 population as of 25 June, remained stable compared to 0.05 per 100,000 in the previous week (19 compared to 18 deaths).

Variants of Concern

In the period 29 April to 26 May 2023, XBB.1.16 overtook XBB.1.5 as the most common subvariant of XBB, accounting for 24% of sequenced cases and expected to continue to rise in frequency. FK.1.1 and XBB.1.5 remain in circulation, accounting for 20% and 16% of sequenced cases respectively. Please refer to Genomics Insights Report #38, released 02 June 2023.³

Māori

Cases

The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 18.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 July 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 21.3 per 100,000.

Hospitalisationsⁱ

The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 25 June 2023 was 0.65 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared to the previous week (0.87 per 100,000).

Mortalityⁱⁱ

As of 25 June 2023, there were 40 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 230 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

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/>

³ <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/genomics-insights/>



Pacific peoples

Cases

The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 13.6 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 July 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 15.8 per 100,000.

Hospitalisationsⁱ

The 7-day rolling average rate for the week ending 25 June 2023 was 1.08 per 100,000 population, similar compared to the previous week (1.08 per 100,000).

Mortalityⁱⁱ

As of 25 June 2023, there were 12 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 144 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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.