



Executive summary

01 February 2023

Three of the four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends continued decreasing. Reported case rates for the week ending 29 January 2023 decreased, as have levels of viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 22 January. In the week ending 22 January, hospital admissions decreased, whereas mortality remained stable.

As of 19 January 2023, CH.1.1 variant was the dominant variant, accounting for 34% of sequenced community cases. CH.1.1 is a descendant of BA.2.75 variant. Proportions of BA.2.75 and BA.5 both decreased, accounting for 17% and 9% respectively.

Please refer to the last Trends & Insights report¹, released 23 December, for a full report covering trends in 2022.

Please refer to the mortality report² for a detailed assessment of mortality from 01 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

¹ [COVID-19 Trends and Insights | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

² <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-mortality-aotearoa-new-zealand-inequities-risk>



Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 28.8 per 100,000 population for the week ending 29 January 2023. This was a decrease from the previous week (37.8 per 100,000). The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.
Wastewater	Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends. ³
Hospitalisations	In the week ending 22 January 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.9 per 100,000 population, a slight decrease compared with the previous week (1.1 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 22 January 2023, there were 85 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,336 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022.
Variants of Concern	Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. ⁴

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 34.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 29 January 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 45.9 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 22 January 2023 was 1.4 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (1.7 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 22 January 2023, there were 8 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 193 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

Pacific peoples

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 25.2 per 100,000 population as of 29 January 2023, a decrease from the previous week (36.1 per 100,000).
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 22 January 2023 was 0.9 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (1.5 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 22 January 2023, there was 1 death attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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

⁴ <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/genomics-insights/>