



Executive summary

Overall, the key measures of infection used to monitor the COVID-19 epidemic showed a decrease in the past week. Case rates and hospital admissions were decreasing; mortality has been relatively stable. The most recent wastewater quantification data, which was for the week ending 25 December 2022, indicated a slight decrease in infections. As of mid-December 2022, the proportion of the BA.2.75 variant was an estimated 39% of cases which surpassed the BA.5 variant (33% of cases).

Please refer to the last Trends & Insights report for a full report covering trends in 2022.

Please refer to the mortality report¹ for a detailed assessment of mortality from 01 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

¹ <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 52.3 per 100,000 population for the week ending 15 January 2023. This was a decrease from the previous week (59.1 per 100,000). The proportion of infections being reported as cases is unknown and may vary by variables such as age or ethnicity.
Wastewater	Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends ² .
Hospitalisations	In the week ending 08 January 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 1.6 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared with the previous week (1.8 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 08 January 2023, there were 43 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 ³ .

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 60.6 per 100,000 population for the week ending 15 January 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 64.1 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 08 January 2023 was 2.0 per 100,000 population, an increase from the previous week (1.8 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 08 January 2023, there were 5 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 49.7 per 100,000 population as of 15 January 2023, a decrease from the previous week (55.1 per 100,000).
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 08 January 2023 was 2.6 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (2.9 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 08 January 2023, there were 0 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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/>