



Executive summary

05 April 2023

Two of the four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends continued to remain relatively stable over the past week. Reported case rates for the week ending 02 April 2023 increased compared to the previous week. Mortality increased in the week ending 26 March. Hospital admissions and the viral RNA in wastewater were stable in the week ending 26 March.

In the fortnight to 10 March 2023, XBB and CH.1.1 (a descendant of the BA.2.75 variant) were the most common variants, both accounting for 36% of sequenced community cases. XBB has been growing because of a specific variant of XBB called XBB.1.5, which is responsible for 22% of all cases. The next most common variants, BA.2.75 and XBF, are still present.



Key insights

National Trends

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| Cases | The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 33.2 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 April 2023. This is an increase from the previous week (30.7 per 100,000 as of 26 March 2023). The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity. |
| Wastewater | The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 26 March 2023 was similar to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends. ¹ |
| Hospitalisations | In the week ending 26 March 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.8 per 100,000 population; this is similar to the previous week (0.8 per 100,000 as of 19 March 2023). |
| Mortality | As of 26 March 2023, there were 214 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,419 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate, as of the week ending 26 March increased compared to the previous week (19 March 2023). |
| Variants of Concern | Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. ² |

Māori

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| Cases | The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 26.4 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 April 2023. The rate increased from the previous week, which was 22.3 per 100,000. |
| Hospitalisations | The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 26 March 2023 was 0.7 per 100,000 population, an increase from the previous week (0.5 per 100,000). |
| Mortality | As of 26 March 2023, there were 21 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 201 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022. |

Pacific peoples

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| Cases | The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 20.4 per 100,000 population for the week ending 02 April 2023. The rate increased compared to the previous week, which was 17.1 per 100,000. |
| Hospitalisations | The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 26 March 2023 was 0.4 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (0.7 per 100,000). |

¹ <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/wastewater-surveillance-dashboard/>

² <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/genomics-insights/>



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mortality

As of 19 March 2023, there were 3 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023.
There were 133 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.