



# Executive summary

08 February 2023

Three of the four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends continued decreasing. Reported case rates for the week ending 05 February 2023 decreased, as have levels of viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 29 January. In the week ending 29 January, hospital admissions decreased, whereas mortality increased compared to the previous week.

As of 28 January 2023, CH.1.1 variant was the dominant variant, accounting for 38% 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 15% and 8% respectively.

Please refer to the last COVID-19 Trends & Insights Report<sup>1</sup>, released 23 December, for a full report covering trends in 2022.

Please refer to the mortality report<sup>2</sup> for a detailed assessment of COVID-19 mortality from 01 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

---

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

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



# Key insights

## National Trends

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 24.1 per 100,000 population for the week ending 05 February 2023. This was a decrease from the previous week (28.9 per 100,000). The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.
<b>Wastewater</b>	Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	In the week ending 29 January 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.6 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared with the previous week (0.9 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 29 January 2023, there were 94 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,336 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022.
<b>Variants of Concern</b>	Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. <sup>4</sup>

## Māori

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 27.3 per 100,000 population for the week ending 05 February 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 34.5 per 100,000.
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 29 January 2023 was 0.7 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (1.4 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 29 January 2023, there were 9 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 193 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

## Pacific peoples

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 18.6 per 100,000 population as of 05 February 2023, a decrease from the previous week (25.2 per 100,000).
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 29 January 2023 was 1.0 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (0.9 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 29 January 2023, there was 1 death attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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

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