



Executive summary

10 May 2023

Reported case rates for the week ending 07 May 2023 increased compared to the previous week. In the week ending 30 April, hospital admissions and viral RNA in wastewater decreased, while mortality remained stable compared to the previous week.

In the period 01 April to 28 April 2023, XBB was the most common variant; with the subvariant XBB.1.5 being the most dominant, accounting for 30% of sequenced cases. FK.1.1, a newly designated variant of CH.1.1 has been rising in proportions, accounting for 22%. FK1.1, XBB.1.16 and XBB.1.5 are the fastest growing variants.



Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 33.4 per 100,000 population for the week ending 07 May 2023. This is an increase from the previous week average (30.2 per 100,000 as of 30 April 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 30 April 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends. ¹
Hospitalisations*	In the week ending 30 April 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.89 per 100,000 population; it decreased compared to the previous week (1.08 per 100,000 as of 23 April 2023).
Mortality**	As of 30 April 2023, there were 309 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,420 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. There were 25 deaths in the week ending 30 April, which is a similar to the 27 deaths in the previous week (ending 23 April 2023).
Variants of Concern	Please refer to Genomics Insights Report #37, released 05 May 2023. ²

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 30.0 per 100,000 population for the week ending 07 May 2023. The rate increased compared to the previous week, which was 25.0 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations*	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 30 April 2023 was 0.79 per 100,000 population, decreasing from the previous week (0.95 per 100,000).
Mortality**	As of 30 April 2023, there were 29 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 201 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

Pacific peoples

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 21.3 per 100,000 population for the week ending 07 May 2023. The rate increased compared to the previous week, which was 18.2 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations*	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 30 April 2023 was 1.00 per 100,000 population, increased compared to the previous week (0.88 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/>



Mortality**

As of 30 April 2023, there were 5 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023.
There were 133 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

* 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.

** The mortality figures are for deaths attributed to COVID-19. Recent trends should be interpreted with caution to account for death coding delays.