



Executive summary

17 May 2023

Reported case rates for the week ending 14 May 2023 were similar compared to the previous week. In the week ending 07 May, hospital admissions and viral RNA in wastewater remained stable, while mortality increased 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

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| Cases | The 7-day rolling average of reported ¹ case rates was 31.9 per 100,000 population for the week ending 14 May 2023. This is similar to the previous week average (33.4 per 100,000 as of 07 May 2023). |
| Wastewater | The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 07 May 2023 remained stable compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends. ² |
| Hospitalisationsⁱ | In the week ending 07 May 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.89 per 100,000 population the same rate as the previous week (ending 30 April 2023). |
| Mortalityⁱⁱ | As of 07 May 2023, there were 341 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,442 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate increased to 0.08 per 100,000 population to 07 May, compared to 0.06 per 100,000 in the previous week (31 compared to 25 deaths). |
| Variants of Concern | Please refer to Genomics Insights Report #37, released 05 May 2023. ³ |

Māori

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| Cases | The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 29.2 per 100,000 population for the week ending 14 May 2023. The rate was similar to the previous week, which was 30.0 per 100,000. |
| Hospitalisationsⁱ | The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 07 May 2023 was 0.76 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.73 per 100,000). |
| Mortalityⁱⁱ | As of 07 May 2023, there were 31 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 204 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 20.1 per 100,000 population for the week ending 14 May 2023. The rate slightly decreased compared to the previous week, which was 21.3 per 100,000. |
| Hospitalisationsⁱ | The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 07 May 2023 was 0.88 per 100,000 population, decreasing from the previous week (1.00 per 100,000). |

¹ The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.

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/>



Mortalityⁱⁱ

As of 07 May 2023, there were 5 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023.
There were 135 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

ⁱ 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.

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