



Executive summary

03 May 2023

Reported case rates for the week ending 30 April 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. In the week ending 23 April, hospital admissions and mortality both increased, and RNA in wastewater decreased.

In the three weeks up until 31 March 2023, XBB was the most common variant, accounting for 52% of sequenced cases. XBB has been growing because of a specific variant of XBB called XBB.1.5, which is responsible for 36% of all cases. Other XBB lineages, including XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.1.16 are present in New Zealand and are being tracked. The second most common variant, CH.1.1 was responsible for 33% of all cases.



Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 30.1 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 April 2023. This is a decrease from the previous week (33.7 per 100,000 as of 23 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 23 April 2023 decreased compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends. ¹
Hospitalisations*	In the week ending 23 April 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 1.06 per 100,000 population; it increased slightly compared to the previous week (1.00 per 100,000 as of 16 April 2023).
Mortality**	As of 23 April 2023, there were 282 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,419 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. There were 27 deaths in the week ending 23 April, which is an increase compared to 17 in the previous week (ending 16 April 2023).
Variants of Concern	Please refer to Genomics Insights Report #36, released 06 April 2023. ²

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 25.0 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 April 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 29.8 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations*	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 23 April 2023 was 0.87 per 100,000 population, decreasing from the previous week (1.00 per 100,000).
Mortality**	As of 23 April 2023, there were 27 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 18.2 per 100,000 population for the week ending 30 April 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 23.0 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations*	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 23 April 2023 was 0.92 per 100,000 population, increased compared to the previous week (0.72 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 23 April 2023, there were 4 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.