



Executive summary

22 February 2023

Three of four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends continued to remain stable overall in the week ending 19 February 2023. Reported case rates for this week were similar compared to the previous week (ending 12 February 2023). Hospital admissions and mortality were similar to the previous week. The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 12 February slightly increased.

In the fortnight to 10 February 2023, CH.1.1 was the dominant variant, accounting for 38% of sequenced community cases. CH.1.1 is a descendant of the BA.2.75 variant. Proportions of BA.2.75 are similar to the previous reporting period (fortnight to 28 January 2023) at 11%. Proportions of XBB increased to 12%.



Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 22.2 per 100,000 population for the week ending 19 February 2023. This was similar to the previous week (21.9 per 100,000). The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.
Wastewater	Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends. ¹
Hospitalisations	In the week ending 12 February 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.6 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.6 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 12 February 2023, there were 122 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,336 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate, as of the week ending 12 February was similar to the previous week 05 February 2023.
Variants of Concern	Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. ²

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 22.3 per 100,000 population for the week ending 19 February 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 25.4 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 12 February 2023 was 0.7 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.7 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 12 February 2023, there were 13 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 193 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

Pacific peoples

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 14.1 per 100,000 population as of 19 February 2023, similar to the previous week (14.2 per 100,000).
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 05 February 2023 was 0.6 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.7 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 12 February 2023, there was 2 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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/>