



# Executive summary

12 April 2023

Three of the four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends remained relatively stable or decreased over the past week. Reported case rates for the week ending 09 April 2023 remained stable compared to the previous week. Hospital admissions for the weeks ending 02 April 2023 also remained stable compared to the previous week. Mortality decreased in the week ending 02 April. RNA in wastewater increased in the week ending 02 April.

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

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 33.0 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 April 2023. This is stable from the previous week (33.3 per 100,000 as of 02 April 2023). The proportion of infections reported as cases is unknown and may vary by factors such as age and ethnicity.
<b>Wastewater</b>	The viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 02 April 2023 increased compared to the previous week. Please visit the ESR website for information on wastewater trends. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	In the week ending 02 April 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 0.8 per 100,000 population; this is similar to the previous week (0.8 per 100,000 as of 19 March 2023).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 02 April 2023, there were 223 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,419 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022. The mortality rate, as of the week ending 02 April decreased compared to the previous week (26 March 2023).
<b>Variants of Concern</b>	Please refer to Genomics Insights Report #36, released 06 April 2023. <sup>2</sup>

## Māori

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 26.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 April 2023. The rate remained stable from the previous week, which was 26.4 per 100,000.
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 02 April 2023 was 0.8 per 100,000 population, an increase from the previous week (0.7 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 02 April 2023, there were 22 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 201 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

## Pacific peoples

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 17.1 per 100,000 population for the week ending 09 April 2023. The rate decreased compared to the previous week, which was 20.4 per 100,000.
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 02 April 2023 was 0.8 per 100,000 population, an increase from the previous week (0.4 per 100,000).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/wastewater-surveillance-dashboard/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/genomics-insights/>



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**Mortality**

As of 02 April 2023, there were 3 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023.  
There were 133 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.