



Executive summary

15 February 2023

Two of the four metrics used to monitor COVID-19 trends continued decreasing. Reported case rates for the week ending 12 February 2023 decreased, as did levels of viral RNA in wastewater for the week ending 05 February. In the week ending 05 February, hospital admissions were stable, while mortality increased compared to the previous week.

As of 28 January 2023, CH.1.1 variant was the dominant variant, accounting for 38% of sequenced community cases. CH.1.1 is a descendant of BA.2.75 variant. Proportions of BA.2.75 and BA.5 both decreased, accounting for 15% and 8% respectively.

Please refer to the mortality report¹ for a detailed assessment of COVID-19 mortality from 01 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

¹ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-mortality-aotearoa-new-zealand-inequities-risk>



Key insights

National Trends

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 21.9 per 100,000 population for the week ending 12 February 2023. This was a decrease from the previous week (24.2 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. ²
Hospitalisations	In the week ending 05 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 05 February 2023, there were 117 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,336 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022.
Variants of Concern	Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. ³

Māori

Cases	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 25.4 per 100,000 population for the week ending 12 February 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 27.3 per 100,000.
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 05 February 2023 was 0.7 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week (0.7 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 05 February 2023, there were 11 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 15.2 per 100,000 population as of 12 February 2023, a decrease from the previous week (18.6 per 100,000).
Hospitalisations	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 05 February 2023 was 0.7 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (0.9 per 100,000).
Mortality	As of 05 February 2023, there was 1 death attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

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/>