



# Executive summary

Overall, the key measures of infection used to monitor the COVID-19 epidemic showed a decrease in the past week. Case rates and hospital admissions decreased; mortality has been relatively stable. The most recent wastewater quantification data, which was for the week ending 15 January 2023, indicated a slight decrease in infections. As of 19 January 2023, CH.1.1 variant was the dominate variant, accounting for 34% 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 17% and 9% respectively.

Please refer to the last Trends & Insights report<sup>1</sup>, released 23 December, for a full report covering trends in 2022.

Please refer to the mortality report<sup>2</sup> for a detailed assessment of mortality from 01 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> [COVID-19 Trends and Insights | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-mortality-aotearoa-new-zealand-inequities-risk>



# Key insights

## National Trends

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 37.8 per 100,000 population for the week ending 22 January 2023. This was a decrease from the previous week (52.3 per 100,000). The proportion of infections being reported as cases is unknown and may vary by variables such as age or ethnicity.
<b>Wastewater</b>	Please visit the ESR website for further information on wastewater trends. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	In the week ending 15 January 2023, the 7-day rolling average of hospital admissions was 1.1 per 100,000 population, a decrease compared with the previous week (1.6 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 15 January 2023, there were 59 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 2,336 deaths during 2022 and 49 deaths prior to 2022.
<b>Variants of Concern</b>	Please refer to the latest Genomics Insights Report. <sup>4</sup>

## Māori

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 45.8 per 100,000 population for the week ending 22 January 2023. The rate decreased from the previous week, which was 60.6 per 100,000.
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 15 January 2023 was 1.7 per 100,000 population, an increase from the previous week (2.0 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 15 January 2023, there were 7 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 193 deaths during 2022 and 15 deaths prior to 2022.

## Pacific peoples

<b>Cases</b>	The 7-day rolling average of reported case rates was 36.1 per 100,000 population as of 22 January 2023, a decrease from the previous week (49.7 per 100,000).
<b>Hospitalisations</b>	The 7-day rolling average for the week ending 15 January 2023 was 1.6 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the previous week (2.6 per 100,000).
<b>Mortality</b>	As of 08 January 2023, there were 0 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2023. There were 129 deaths during 2022 and 4 deaths prior to 2022.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/wastewater-surveillance-dashboard/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/covid19-insights/genomics-insights/>