



RISK ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT	EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK	PUBLISHED 6/1
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DESCRIPTION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

For a detailed evolution of the Respi-Radar indicators, see appendix

For detailed results of the wastewater-based epidemiological surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, RSV, and Influenza, see the weekly report for week 52 2024

- Syndromic surveillance of consultations for **Influenza Like Illnesses (ILI)** at the **General Practitioners** shows an increase.
- Syndromic surveillance of **ILI at Nursing Homes** shows an increase.
- Syndromic surveillance of **hospitalizations for SARI** shows an increasing trend over the past weeks, but a slight decrease in the last week of data available (week 51).
- Circulation & impact of **SARS-CoV-2** remains low in all surveillance systems.
- **RSV**
 - Wastewater surveillance: decreasing number of stations where RSV is detected
 - Laboratory surveillance: decrease in 0 – 4 year olds; stable or slight increase in other age groups (week 51)
 - SARI surveillance: decreasing number of hospitalizations for RSV (week 49-week 50)
- **Influenza**
 - Wastewater surveillance: increasing number of stations where Influenza is detected
 - Laboratory surveillance: increasing number of Influenza-positive tests (week 51)
 - GP surveillance: epidemic threshold was passed
 - SARI surveillance: increased number of hospitalizations for Influenza (week 50)

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL LEVEL

YELLOW

- The epidemiological level of respiratory infections remains at the yellow level.
- The number of RSV infections and the incidence of SARI admissions for RSV seems to have stabilized or started to decrease. The circulation of Influenza and the incidence of SARI admissions for Influenza has increased over the last weeks for which data is available. The incidence of hospitalizations for SARI shows an increasing trend over the past weeks, but a slight decrease in the last week of data available (week 51). These trends are subject to uncertainty due to the holiday period and will need to be confirmed in coming weeks.
- Pressure on the health care system (first and second remains under control).
- Experience from previous years has shown that the resumption of normal activities after the holiday period (school, work, public transport, gatherings, ...) or a change in meteorological conditions (start of winter) might cause new surges in Influenza. A change in the epidemiological level in the coming weeks can therefore not be excluded.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The RAG stresses the importance of vaccination against respiratory viruses.
- The RAG also draws attention to the need for efficient vaccination registries for RSV and influenza, to provide reliable data essential for the analysis and evaluation of the epidemiological situation.

Experts	Method
Emmanuel André (UZ Leuven), Cedric Bosteels (UZ Gent), Caroline Boulouffe (AVIQ), Nathalie Bossuyt (Sciensano), Simon Couvreur (Sciensano), Peter Delputte (UAntwerpen), Laurane De Mot (Sciensano), François Dufrasne (Sciensano), Naima Hammami (DZ), Vicky Jespers (KCE), Yves Lafort (Sciensano), Quentin Mary (SSMG), Geert Molenberghs (KULeuven/UHasselt), Jorgen Stassijns (Sciensano), Adrae Taame (Vivalis), Eva Van Braeckel (UZ Gent), Steven Van Gucht (Sciensano)	Online meeting 3/1/2025

APPENDIX: RESPI-RADAR WEEK 52

For background on the indicators included in the Respi-Radar, please refer to the latest version (week 51) of the weekly bulletin on Acute Respiratory Infections [[NL](#) / [FR](#)].

		Indicators for respiratory infections					COVID-19 indicator	RAG evaluation
Week		ILI	ARI	Nursing homes	SARI	Severe SARI	Wastewater	RAG
2024w43	21/10 - 27/10	94	791	4	5,7	0,3	4	green
2024w44	28/10 - 03/11	46	513	4	4,9	0,6	6	green
2024w45	04/11 - 10/11	86	903	5	5,8	0,5	0	green
2024w46	11/11 - 17/11	88	781	6	6,0	0,6	1	green
2024w47	18/11 - 24/11	76	992	4	10,0	0,4	0	green
2024w48	25/11 - 01/12	117	1175	4	11,7	0,4	1	green
2024w49	02/12 - 08/12	166	1096	6	12,6	0,7	3	yellow
2024w50	09/12 - 15/12	246	1198	12	13,7	0,3	1	yellow
2024w51	16/12 - 22/12	236	931	8	11.4	0,3	4	yellow
2024w52	23/12 - 29/12	310	676	12			4	yellow