



RISK ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT	EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK	PUBLISHED 31/01
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DESCRIPTION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

For detailed evolution of Respi-Radar indicators, see appendix

For detailed results of the surveillance of respiratory infections, see the bulletin [\[NL / FR\]](#)

- Syndromic surveillance of consultations for **Influenza Like Illnesses (ILI)** at the **General Practitioners** shows a strong increase and is in the red level. In particular, the number of consultations for ILI among children under 15 is very high and increasing.
- Syndromic surveillance of **ILI at Nursing Homes** shows an important increase and is in the red level.
- Syndromic surveillance of **hospitalizations for SARI** shows an important increase in the last week (week 3), and is in the orange level.
- The circulation and impact of **SARS-CoV-2** remains low in all surveillance systems.
- **RSV**
 - Wastewater surveillance: stable but elevated number of stations where RSV is detected.
 - Laboratory surveillance: decreasing number of positive tests over last weeks. The number of positive tests remains elevated among 65+.
 - SARI surveillance: slight increase in number of hospitalizations (week 3), after multiple weeks of decrease.
- **Influenza**
 - Wastewater surveillance: very high and increasing number of stations where Influenza is detected.
 - Laboratory surveillance: slight decrease in number of positive tests, but continued increase among children under 15 (week 3, not fully consolidated).
 - GP surveillance: high and increasing number of consultations (week 4).
 - SARI surveillance: high and increasing number of hospitalizations (week 3).

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL LEVEL

ORANGE

The epidemiological level of respiratory infections in Belgium is maintained at the orange level.

While the current epidemiological situation does not warrant an increase to the red level, experts stress that the situation is not stable. The increases observed in multiple indicators, notably indicators of circulation in the general population, suggest that a further deterioration is possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The **RAG supports the recommendations** associated with the orange level as described in the [Winter Plan for respiratory infections](#). Renewed emphasis on these measures, in particular ventilation, mask wearing, and staying home when ill, is urgently needed to improve adherence.

The RAG observes that the **communication** surrounding the upscaling to level orange earlier in January resulted in only **limited behavioural adjustments among the general public**. The RAG recommends to analyse the reasons underlying this muted response, and to adjust where possible.

Experts	Method
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APPENDIX: RESPI-RADAR WEEK 4

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

Week		ILI	ARI	Nursing homes	SARI	Wastewater	RAG evaluation
2024w47	18/11 - 24/11	75	984	3	10,0	0	green
2024w48	25/11 - 01/12	116	1166	4	11,7	1	green
2024w49	02/12 - 08/12	165	1088	6	12,6	3	yellow
2024w50	09/12 - 15/12	245	1190	12	13,8	1	yellow
2024w51	16/12 - 22/12	230	919	8	15,6	4	yellow
2024w52	23/12 - 29/12	331	704	12	14,1	4	yellow
2025w1	30/12 - 05/01	394	744	19	13,2	2	orange
2025w2	06/01 - 12/01	636	906	23	11,4	0	orange
2025w3	13/01 - 19/01	754	1185	18	17,2	1	orange
2025w4	20/01 - 26/01	926	1144	21		1	orange