



our

RISK ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT	EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK	PUBLISHED xx/03
13/03/2025	10	https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/coordination-risk-assessment-group

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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 an important decrease and is now in the green level.
- Syndromic surveillance of **ILI at Nursing Homes** is stable at a low level (green).
- Syndromic surveillance of **hospitalizations for SARI** shows a decrease in the last week (week 9), and is in the yellow level.
- The circulation and impact of **SARS-CoV-2** remains low in all surveillance systems.
- **RSV**
 - Wastewater surveillance: the number of stations where RSV A is detected is low, while the number of stations where RSV B is detected remains elevated.
 - Laboratory surveillance: below the epidemic threshold for all age groups
 - SARI surveillance: low and decreasing number of hospitalizations (week 9).
- **Influenza**
 - Wastewater surveillance: the number of stations where Influenza is detected remains elevated, both for Influenza A and B.
 - Laboratory surveillance: decreasing number of positive tests (week 9).
 - GP surveillance: the number of consultations shows a sustained declining trend but remains above the low activity threshold (week 10).
 - SARI surveillance: the number of hospitalizations is declining but remains elevated (week 9).

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL LEVEL

YELLOW

The epidemiological level of respiratory infections in Belgium is scaled down to the yellow level.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

The epidemiological situation for respiratory infections has improved markedly over the last weeks, with some regional differences (earlier improvement in Wallonia). The number of hospital admissions for SARI is declining but remains elevated, with RAG members noting similar regional differences. The number of GP consultations for ILI and ARI showed a substantial decline in the last two weeks. There may be an influence of the school holidays, both in terms of viral circulation and health care-seeking behaviour.

Some RAG members advocated to adopt the green level. The arguments in favour of this position were that some indicators have returned to baseline levels, and that a number of infection prevention and control measures in hospitals will be maintained irrespective of the Respi-Radar level.

The RAG decided to adopt the yellow level based on the fact that some indicators, notably SARI admissions (at the national level) remain elevated, and that it is not fully clear to what extent the sharp reductions in first line indicators reflect a true reduction in circulation or a lower rate of detection due to reduced health-care seeking behaviour.

Experts	Method
Nathalie Bossuyt (Sciensano), Claire Brugerolles (Sciensano), Simon Couvreur (Sciensano), Géraldine De Muylder (Sciensano), Pierre-Louis Deudon (CMG), Sébastien Fierens (Sciensano), Naïma Hammami (Departement Zorg), Yves Lafort (Sciensano), Laurens Liesenborghs (ITM), Christelle Meuris (CHR Verviers), Geert Molenberghs (KULeuven/UHasselt), Jorgen Stassijns (Sciensano), Stefan Teughels (Domus Medica), Gerlant van Berlaer (SPF Santé), Adrae Taame (Vivalis), Bertrand Draguez (SFP Santé), Eva Van Braeckel (UZ Gent), Reinout Naesens (ZAS), Sylvie Leenen (AVIQ), Steven Callens (UZ Gent)	Online meeting 13/03/2025

APPENDIX: RESPI-RADAR WEEK 10

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
2025w1	30/12 - 05/01	404	763	19	13,3	2	orange
2025w2	06/01 - 12/01	649	925	23	11,5	0	orange
2025w3	13/01 - 19/01	760	1198	18	14,3	1	orange
2025w4	20/01 - 26/01	1209	1289	18	13,6	1	orange
2025w5	27/01 - 02/02	1202	1218	16	15,3	1	orange
2025w6	03/02 - 09/02	833	1112	12	12,1	3	orange
2025w7	10/02 - 16/02	869	1040	8	14,2	0	orange
2025w8	17/02 - 23/02	705	1039	8	14,1	1	orange
2025w9	24/02 - 02/03	504	914	4	11,2	1	orange
2025w10	03/03 - 09/03	187	628	4		1	