

Subject: ESR Wastewater Surveillance – Variant detection dates
Date: Thursday, 29 February 2024 at 5:02:26 PM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: Lucy Witkowski <lw@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
To: [REDACTED]
Attachments: image001.png

Kia ora ESR,

The McGuinness Institute is currently preparing our 2nd edition of [COVID-19 Nation Dates: A timeline of significant events in Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 pandemic](#). I am attempting to find the dates that each variant of COVID-19 (and subvariant) was first detected in New Zealand.

From the [ESR Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard](#) (specifically Figure 4: Change in the national percentage of variants per week over the last 12 months – see below) I have noted the first detections of the following variants/subvariants as:

- EG.5: 11 June 2023
- HK.3: 6 August 2023
- BA.2.86: 10 September 2023
- JN.1: 5 November 2023

Question 1: Are the above dates correct? If no, please provide the correct dates.

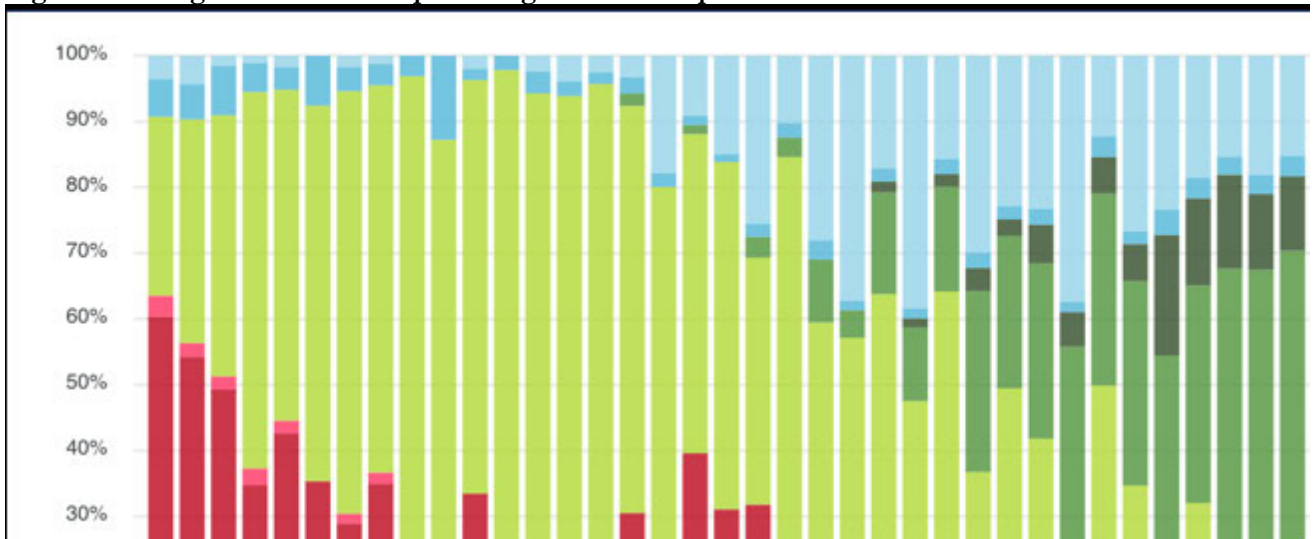
The other variants/subvariants I have listed are:

- Alpha
- Delta
- Omicron
- BA.1/BA.2
- XBC
- Recombinant
- XBB
- BA.4/BA.5
- CH.1.1
- BA.2.75

Question 2: What were the dates of first detection for the above variants/sub-variants.

Question 3: Are there any other variants/subvariants that have been detected that are not part of either list, including their dates of first detection.

Figure 4: Change in the national percentage of variants per week over the last 12 months



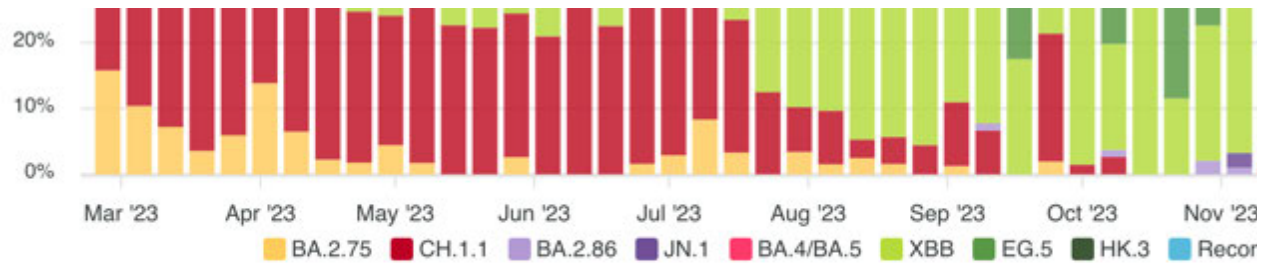


Figure 4: Change in the national percentage of variants per week over the last 12 months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or points of clarification.

Ngā mihi,

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Senior Research Analyst

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