**Sentinel SARI surveillance in Belgium in times of COVID-19 pandemic**

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**Background**

**BELSARI-net**
- 6 hospitals
- operating since 2011

**SARI case definition** (pre-COVID)
- fever (or history)
- cough or dyspnea
- at least overnight hospitalisation
- symptoms before admission and within 10 days before sampling

* based on WHO case definition

**COVID-19 pandemic phases and ILI-incidence rate** (per week, Jan-2020 to Jul-2022)
- COVID cases: number of cases recorded and reported to ECDC/WHO-EURO
- ILI-incidence rate (per 100000 inhabitants) as calculated based on GP sentinel network reports

1. Early phase

- SARS-CoV-2 detection PCR implemented early Feb 2020 (based on Corman, Eurosurv, 2020)
- Normal influenza season from week 02 till 11
- Detection of 1st SARS-CoV-2 positive on week 10 (sampling date), same week as 1st local case reported by National COVID-19 monitoring platform
- Follow up of SARS-CoV-2 initial surge before lockdown

2. 2020: First waves

- Lockdowns and strong NPI* measures
- SARI surveillance interrupted (because of workload in hospitals)

3. 2021: PIV and RSV epidemics

- Recruitment improved as burden in hospital decreased
- Follow up of SARS-CoV-2: Omicron wave
- Influenza virus epidemic, but slightly delayed compared to pre-COVID seasons

4. 2022: Influenza is back!

- Follow up of SARS-CoV-2
- Recruitment improved as burden in hospital decreased
- Follow up of SARS-CoV-2: Omicron wave
- Influenza virus epidemic, but slightly delayed compared to pre-COVID seasons

**CONCLUSION**

- Good follow up of SARS-CoV-2 waves
- Year-round: important to follow new patterns of circulation for other respiratory viruses
- Collected data (patients’ risk factors and complication during hospitalization): useful to evaluate relative burden of disease of the different viruses

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