

# WEEKLY REPORT – WASTEWATER-BASED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF THE SARS-COV-2

## — RESULTS OF 01/12/2021

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In collaboration with:



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# 1. Summary

The circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the environment is assessed in the present work based on three indicators. The analysis of wastewater samples collected in 42 wastewater treatment plants covers 45% of the Belgian population, with increased accuracy in the urban areas. The results of the wastewater surveillance is a source of complementary information to the infection cases number as the populations represented are different. Indeed, the wastewater results do notably include all asymptomatic persons, and are independent of the testing strategy.

Here are the conclusions based on the latest results of December 01th 2021:

- At the national level: the reduction observed last week of the Fast increase indicator is confirmed this week as now the numbers of areas, in which the high, fast and increasing trend indicators are fulfilled, are decreasing. This decrease is overestimated due to two events. On one side, last week results are affected by an unusual high precipitation resulting in a dilution of the viral concentrations measured (impacting mostly the sample results of Wednesday 01/12). On the other side, 8 stations were not considered in this week's report due to technical issues<sup>1</sup> at the sample level. Therefore, the extent of the current decrease will be assessed next week with a higher level of certainty.
- At the provincial level: Brussels, Hainaut, Liège and Luxembourg are the provinces positive to at least one of the three alerting indicators. It should be noted that due to technical issues, the epidemiological situation in the provinces of Namur, Limburg and Brabant Wallon, cannot be properly assessed and are hence not reported this week. Brussels' region shows this week a Fast increase, which was not the case last week. That possible newly Increasing trend should be confirmed with the upcoming results.
- At the covered areas level: among the 33 areas covered<sup>2</sup>, the number of treatment plants with at least one alerting indicator positive is 11, 8 belonging to the High circulation indicator, 3 belonging to the "Fast increase" indicator, and 3 belonging to the "Increasing trend" indicator. Last week (results of November 24th 2021), 37 areas had at least one alerting indicator positive.
- An alerting situation is evidenced for the covered area of Basse Wavre (Dyle) as all three indicators are fulfilled.
- The appearance of the Omicron Variant of Concern was estimated to have a negligible impact on the present wastewater surveillance report as the unmodified N2 target gene is monitored in this project. Deeper investigation on the impacts of this variant are currently performed.

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The wastewater situation can be followed on a weekly basis on:

- The graphics available on the public [COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- The Risk Assessment Group (RAG) updating the weekly epidemiological situation through a report validated by the Risk Management Group (RMG) and published every Friday in [French](#) and [Dutch](#).
- Further details on the methodology applied for the wastewater surveillance can be found in [the Appendix Methodology document \(access online\)](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The reasons of the 8 areas missing are due to issues which occurred both at the sampling and transport, and the laboratory level (i.e. presence of inhibitors).

<sup>2</sup> Due to the recent flooding events, the treatment plants from Wegnez (Verviers) and Grosses-Battes (Liège) are temporarily out of order. These two areas had therefore not been screened for SARS-CoV-2. Liège is still well represented within this surveillance, however Verviers is not. Since the 13th of October, the covered area of Soumagne is added to the surveillance. Due to technical issues with the samples, the stations of Gent, Tessenderlo, Houthalen-Centrum, Genk, Hasselt, Turnhout, Namur-Brumagne and Vallée du Hain are not considered in this report.

## 2. Introduction

In mid-September 2020 started the SARS-CoV-2 national wastewater surveillance project. The present report is an outcome of this project aiming to assess weekly the wastewater-based epidemiological situation of Belgium.

The surveillance is based on the analysis of water samples collected twice per week from the influent of 42 WasteWater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) spread over Belgium. The evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 viral concentrations measured over time in the different treatment plants is analyzed at different levels: regional, provincial, and the catchment area covered by the individual treatment plants. Also, alerting indicators were developed to highlight areas of concern regarding the high circulation, the fast evolution, and the increasing trend of the observed viral concentrations.

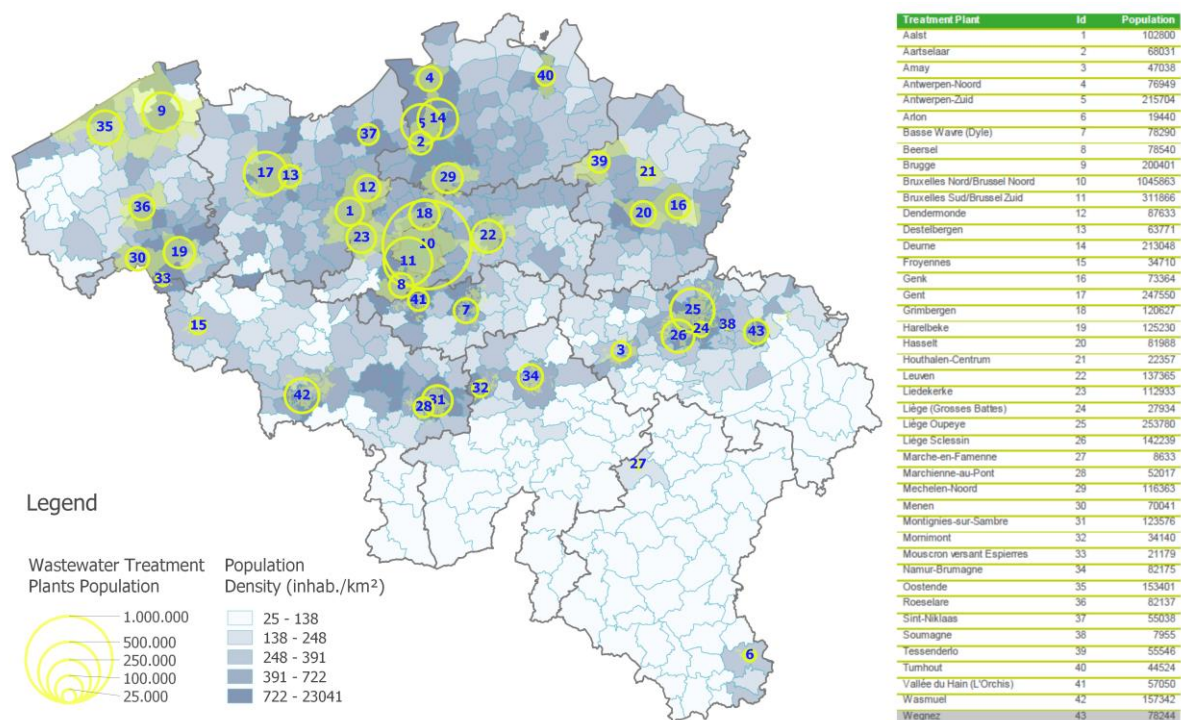
In this report, the weekly wastewater-based epidemiological situation is presented and discussed at the above-mentioned levels based on the three categories of alerting indicators. Moreover, the remaining sources of uncertainties are discussed together with their expected impacts on the wastewater results interpretation.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. SAMPLE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The surveillance project, which started in mid-September 2020 covers around 45% of the Belgian population. The population covered is 40% in the Flemish region, 35% in the Walloon region, and nearly 100% in the Brussels region. Figure 1 shows the catchment areas covered by the 42 WWTPs included in the project, which are located in high population density areas. A catchment area is defined by the area delimiting the population covered by a specific wastewater sample, collected at the inlet of the WWTPs. Further coverage details can be found in Table 1 by province (see also Table A1 in the [Appendix Methodology document \(access online\)](#) ) and on the [Sciensano public dashboard](#).

In practice, 24-hour composite samples are collected twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from the influent of WWTP and are analysed for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA by three different laboratories. The resulting SARS-CoV-2 concentrations (3 targeted genes) are delivered to Sciensano within 2 days for data analysis purpose. Concretely, the results which are representative of Mondays and Wednesdays are respectively available on Wednesdays and Fridays.



**Figure 1: The population located in the areas covered by the wastewater treatment plants (highlighted in yellow) and the population density for each municipality (indicated by the blue scale). Note that due to the recent flooding, the treatment plant of Wegnez is out of order. This area is, hence, not considered anymore in the wastewater surveillance and has been replaced by the treatment plant of Soumagne.**

### 3.2. WASTEWATER RESULTS

The quantification of SARS-CoV-2 in RNA copies/ ml (concentration) was generalized in mid-February 2021 to all the treatment plants investigated. Before this date, the quantitative values were estimated based on the retrospective application of the quantification method (see details in Appendix) from mid-September 2020 to mid-February 2021 for Flanders and Brussels. In Wallonia, the quantitative results were available since the start.

Preliminary results allowed for estimating the limit of quantification of the analytical method at 20 copies/ml.

### 3.3. ALERTING INDICATORS

To highlight the areas of possible concerns, the three following types of alerting indicators are assessed twice a week, based on the viral concentration (RNA copies/ml) measured for the three targeted gene fragments (E, N1, and N2):

1. The **High circulation** indicator highlights the catchment areas where the viral concentrations are high. It corresponds to a situation where the viral concentrations exceed half of the highest value recorded during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of May).
2. The **Fast increase** indicator highlights the catchment areas where the viral concentrations have rapidly increased for the last week. It corresponds to a situation where the moving average on the past 7 days of the viral concentration has increased faster than 70% per week if being above the estimated limit of quantification. The increasing slope is normalized for each treatment plant.

3. The **Increasing trend** indicator highlights the catchment areas where the viral concentrations have been increasing for more than 6 days. The indicator is computed based on the moving average on the past two weeks of the viral concentration has increased during more than 6 days.

The indicators were developed in order to be able to track the different phases of an outbreak. Typically, when the viral concentrations in wastewaters start to increase in an area, the indicator Increasing trend will be the first fulfilled. If the concentrations increase quickly, the Fast increase indicator will then be fulfilled. Finally, after the initial increasing phase, the concentrations in an area will be sufficiently high to result in the High circulation to be fulfilled.

### 3.4. CASES RESULTS

The cases number data presented in this report come from the COVID-19 laboratory-confirmed cases database centralized by Sciensano. The cases number, used to compute the 14 days-incidence, only accounts for the physical areas covered by the wastewater project (see Figure 1).

### 3.5. CAUTION POINTS FOR THE RESULTS INTERPRETATION

Only the trends, observed through the alerting indicators, should be assessed for the comparison of different areas. Absolute values should not be compared as the concentration values differ from an WWTP to another, notably due to the differences in population sizes covered. Additionally, the situation comparison between the regions should be considered with caution. The degree of comparability is not yet known and depends on the comparability of the results between the different laboratories performing the analysis (see [the Appendix Methodology document \(access online\)](#)).

Moreover, the wastewater concentrations and the cases numbers presented in this report do not originate from the same population, even though the positive cases are selected only for the municipalities covered by the wastewater surveillance. For instance, the wastewater results account for all infected persons (whatever age or symptomatic condition) while the cases include only the persons tested clinically positive. Likewise, an infected person covered by the wastewater results could be associated with another area in the clinical surveillance as the person's postal code is used for clinical statistics (mobility bias). Therefore, the correlation between the wastewater concentrations and the cases number varies according to the area considered. The wastewater results are thus complementary and independent information to the results of the cases.

The correlation between the wastewater viral concentrations and the cases numbers could also be influenced by the vaccination campaign and the circulation of variants.

Finally, all values below the limit of quantification (< 20 RNA copies/ml) should be considered as non-quantitatively reliable values. A reported value lower than 20 copies/ml only shows that SARS-CoV-2 has been detected in the sample at an undetermined concentration.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. REGIONS

Figure 2 presents the quantitative SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentration in the wastewaters and the 14 days incidence for each region, compiling the incidence data of the area covered by the wastewater surveillance. The estimated viral concentrations can also be seen for the period before mid-February (see 2.2. in [the Appendix Methodology document \(access online\)](#) for more details).

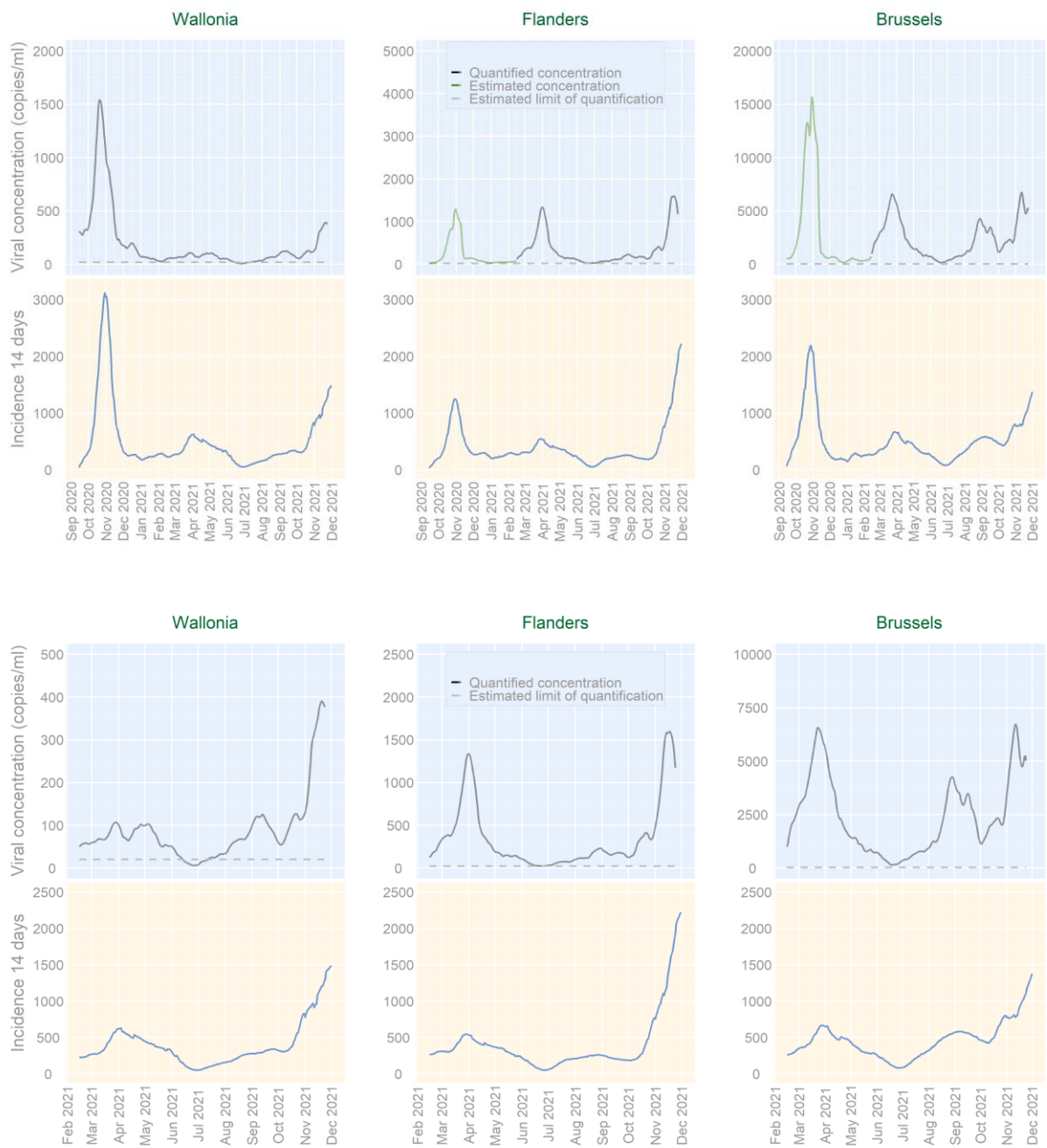
The second wave peak occurring in November 2020 can be seen in the three regions in Figure 2 below. This remains true for the third wave, but to a lower extent in Wallonia. Several hypotheses could explain this: (1) the sizes of the treatment plants in Wallonia are smaller than the ones located in the two other regions, affecting the viral concentrations measured; (2) the extent to which the results are comparable between the different laboratories is unknown (see [Methodology](#) for more details).

Recently, the viral concentrations in the wastewater were increasing since the beginning of October, illustrating the fourth wave (Figure 2). The last results seem to indicate that the viral concentrations in Wallonia and Flanders may have reached a peak, while its less clear for Brussels.

It should be noted that the last viral concentrations in wastewaters are not displayed in the figure as the regional corresponding trends are still to be validated with the next week results<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The trends of SARS-CoV-2 circulation in wastewater, given by the dark line on the graphs, corresponds to a 14 days centred mean of the concentrations measured.



**Figure 2: The SARS-CoV-2 RNA estimated and quantified concentrations expressed as copies/ml (two weeks centered moving average applied on the linear interpolation), the estimated limit of quantification of 20 SARS-CoV-2 RNA copies/ ml, and the 14 days incidence in the population covered by the wastewater surveillance since the surveillance starting date (graph set above) and mid-February 2021 (graph set below).**



## 4.2. PROVINCES

Table 1 shows, for each Province, the results associated with the samples of Wednesday December 01th 2021, for the three alerting indicators:

- Last week on Wednesday November 24th 2021, 10 provinces had at least one alerting indicator positive: Antwerpen, Brabant Wallon, Hainaut, Liège, Limburg, Luxembourg, Namur, Oost-Vlaanderen, Vlaams-Brabant, and West-Vlaanderen.
- This week on Wednesday December 01th 2021, 4 provinces had at least one alerting indicator positive: Brussels, Hainaut, Liège and Luxembourg. However, due to missing samples, the epidemiological situation in the provinces of Namur, Limburg and Brabant Wallon, cannot be properly assessed and are hence not reported this week.
- Brussels' region shows this week a Fast increase, which was not the case last week. That possible newly Increasing trend should be confirmed with the upcoming results.
- All other provinces, except for Namur, Limburg and Brabant Wallon, where the data are missing, are from this week showing a decreasing trend which was not the case last week.

Table 1 allows to track the changes between the situation as of today (December 01th 2021) and the situation as of last week (November 24th 2021). Hereby, three distinct cases are taken into account:

1. If a province has at least one indicator fulfilled this week and it was not the case last week, **its name is displayed in bold** in the table;
2. If a province has at least one indicator fulfilled this week and if it also was the case last week, any change in indicator fulfilment (i.e. if the value for any indicator has changed from 0 to 1 or from 1 to 0) is indicated **in coloured bold text**;

**Table 1: Alerting indicators fulfilled (1) or not (0) on December 01th 2021 and the percentage of population covered by the provinces. Columns represent the population coverage of the WWTP within the Province (Pop. coverage), the High Circulation indicator (High), the Fast increase indicator (Fast) and the Increasing trend indicator (Incr.). The specifications of the four last columns are explained in the footnotes 1-4 below the table. Missing data is indicated with a “/”.**

Province	Pop. coverage	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc. (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral. cc. (c./ml) <sup>2</sup>	Norm. evol. (%/w) <sup>3</sup>	Incr. days <sup>4</sup>
Antwerpen	39%	0	0	0	22	124	-36	3
Brabant Wallon	33%	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
<b>Brussels</b>	100%	0	1	0	29	2432	138	0
Hainaut	29%	1	0	0	70	142	-27	0
Liège	43%	1	0	0	100	222	-6	2
Limburg	26%	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Luxembourg	10%	1	0	0	52	103	-24	0
Namur	23%	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Oost-Vlaanderen	38%	0	0	0	19	154	-70	0
Vlaams-Brabant	49%	0	0	0	13	402	-43	0
West-Vlaanderen	52%	0	0	0	5	130	-83	0

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration

### 4.3. CATCHMENT AREAS

Table 2 shows, for each catchment area, the values of the three alerting indicators obtained based on the results of last Wednesday's sample. The number of treatment plants with at least one alerting indicator positive is 11 (out of 33 areas covered). Last week (results of November 24th 2021), 37 areas (out of 41 areas covered) had at least one alerting indicator positive.

- The indicator High circulation is fulfilled in 8 covered areas: Liège Oupeye (132%), Froyennes (105%), Montignies-sur-Sambre (101%), Marche-en-Famenne (91%), Mechelen-Noord (86%), Basse Wavre (Dyle) (68%), Liège Sclessin (66%), and Wasmuel (59%) (see Appendix A1 for more details). In several areas, the measured viral concentration exceeded the maximal concentration registered during the 3rd wave. The full list of these areas can be found in the different tables in the appendices.
- The indicator "Fast increase" is fulfilled in 3 covered areas: Brussel-South (181% increase per week), Brussels-North (125% increase per week) and Basse Wavre (Dyle) (79% increase per week). Further details can be found in Appendix A2.
- The indicator "Increasing trend" is fulfilled in 3 covered areas: Mechelen-Noord (16 days) and Basse Wavre (Dyle) (14 days) and Amay (9 days). Further details can be found in Appendix A3.
- An alerting situation is evidenced for the covered area of Basse Wavre (Dyle) as all three indicators are fulfilled.
- 8 areas are not considered in this report due to technical issues: Gent, Tessengerlo, Houthalen-Centrum, Genk, Hasselt, Turnhout, Namur-Brumagne and Vallée du Hain.

The wastewater results can be accessed online for each area on the [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Table 2 is a snapshot of the number of areas highlighted by the indicators for the last results obtained, which correspond to the 24h-representative samples of last Wednesday December 01th 2021.

Table 2 allows to track the changes between the situation as of today (December 01th 2021) and the situation as of last week (November 24th 2021). Hereby, three distinct cases are taken into account:

1. If an area has at least one indicator fulfilled this week and it was not the case last week, **its name is displayed in bold** in the table;
2. If an area has at least one indicator fulfilled this week and if it also was the case last week, any change in indicator fulfilment (i.e. if the value for any indicator has changed from 0 to 1 or from 1 to 0) is indicated **in coloured bold text**;
3. Any area which had at least one indicator fulfilled last week but not this week is listed below Table 1.

**Table 2: Alerting indicators fulfilled (1) or not (0) on December 01th 2021 for the catchment areas covered by the wastewater treatment plants. Columns represent the population coverage of the WWTP within the Province (Pop. coverage), the High circulation indicator(High), the Fast increase indicator (Fast) and the Increasing trend indicator (Incr.). The specifications of the four last columns are explained in the footnotes 1-4 below the table.**

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sup>2</sup>	Norm evol. (%/w) <sup>3</sup>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>
Liège	Amay	<b>0</b>	0	<b>1</b>	47	69	64	9

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sup>2</sup>	Norm evol. (%/w) <sup>3</sup>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>
Brabant Wallon	Basse Wavre (Dyle)	1	1	1	68	94	79	14
Brussels	<b>Brussels-North</b>	0	1	0	33	2560	125	0
Brussels	<b>Brussel-South</b>	0	1	0	19	2003	181	0
Hainaut	Froyennes	1	0	0	105	137	19	0
Liège	Liège Oupeye	1	0	0	132	300	8	2
Liège	Liège Sclessin	1	0	0	66	145	-51	0
Luxembourg	Marche-en-Famenne	1	0	0	91	181	23	0
Antwerpen	Mechelen-Noord	1	0	1	86	221	-60	16
Hainaut	Montignies-sur-Sambre	1	0	0	101	255	-6	0
Hainaut	Wasmuel	1	0	0	59	94	-61	0

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

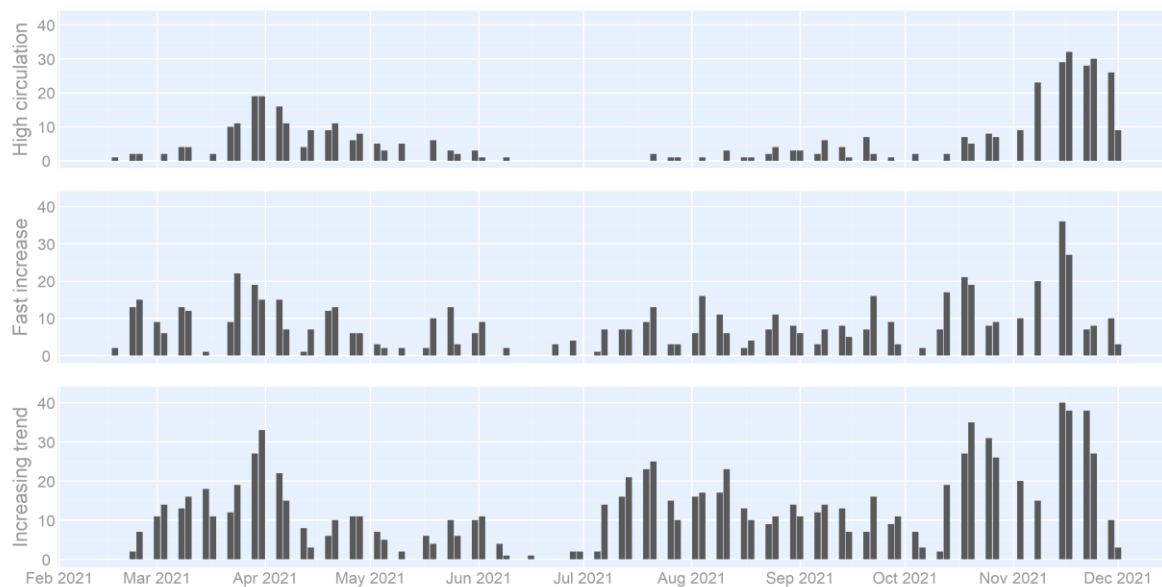
<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration.

The covered areas of Aalst, Aartselaar, Antwerpen-North, Antwerpen-South, Arlon, Beersel, Brugge, Dendermonde, Deurne, Grimbergen, Harelbeke, Leuven, Liedekerke, Marchienne-au-Pont, Menen, Mornimont, Mouscron versant Espierres, Oostende, Roeselare, Sint-Niklaas and Soumagne had at least one indicator fulfilled last week but not this week. Details on covered area without fulfilled indicators can be found in Table A4.

Figure 3 was developed to offer a dynamic view of the three indicators over time. For further insights on the dynamic of the different indicators, see Section 3.3.

The reduction of the Fast increase indicator observed last week is confirmed this week as now the numbers of areas in which the high, fast and increasing trend indicators are fulfilled, are decreasing. This decrease is overestimated due to two events. On one side, last week results are affected by an unusual high precipitation resulting in a dilution of the viral concentrations measured (impacting mostly the sample results of Wednesday 01/12). On the other side, 8 stations were not considered in this week's report due to technical issues at the sample level. Therefore, the extent of the current decrease will be assessed next week with a higher level of certainty.



**Figure 3: The number of areas (among the 33 covered by the wastewater surveillance this week and the 42 normally considered), with positive alerting indicators (latest results on December 01th 2021).**

## 5. Appendix – Areas classified by alerting indicator

**A 1: Covered areas (8 out of 33 on December 01th 2021) characterized as High circulation sorted in the descending order of importance.**

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sub>2</sub>	Norm evol. (%/w) <sub>3</sub>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>	Date Max cc <sup>5</sup>
Liège	Liège Oupeye	1	0	0	132	300	8	2	15/11/2021
Hainaut	Froyennes	1	0	0	105	137	19	0	15/11/2021
Hainaut	Montignies-sur-Sambre	1	0	0	101	255	-6	0	15/11/2021
Luxembourg	Marche-en-Famenne	1	0	0	91	181	23	0	29/11/2021
Antwerpen	Mechelen-Noord	1	0	1	86	221	-60	16	24/11/2021
Brabant Wallon	Basse Wavre (Dyle)	1	1	1	68	94	79	14	29/11/2021
Liège	Liège Sclessin	1	0	0	66	145	-51	0	24/11/2021
Hainaut	Wasmuel	1	0	0	59	94	-61	0	15/11/2021

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration.

<sup>5</sup> : date at which the measured viral concentration was the highest since the beginning of the measurements. If the date was between 15th February and 15th May 2021, the date is considered to be during the third wave and mentioned as such.

**A 2: Covered areas (3 out of 33 on the December 01th 2021) characterized as Fast increase sorted in the descending order of importance.**

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sub>2</sub>	Norm evol. (%/w) <sub>3</sub>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>	Date Max cc <sup>5</sup>
Brussels	Brussel-South	0	1	0	19	2003	181	0	29/11/2021
Brussels	Brussels-North	0	1	0	33	2560	125	0	29/11/2021
Brabant Wallon	Basse Wavre (Dyle)	1	1	1	68	94	79	14	29/11/2021

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration.

<sup>5</sup> : date at which the measured viral concentration was the highest since the beginning of the measurements. If the date was between 15th February and 15th May 2021, the date is considered to be during the third wave and mentioned as such.

**A 3: Covered areas (3 out of 33 on the December 01th 2021) characterized as Increasing trend sorted in the descending order of importance.**

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sub>2</sub>	Norm. evol. (%/w) <sub>3</sub>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>	Date Max cc <sup>5</sup>
Antwerpen	Mechelen-Noord	1	0	1	86	221	-60	16	24/11/2021
Brabant Wallon	Basse Wavre (Dyle)	1	1	1	68	94	79	14	29/11/2021
Liège	Amay	0	0	1	47	69	64	9	27/10/2021

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration.

<sup>5</sup> : date at which the measured viral concentration was the highest since the beginning of the measurements. If the date was between 15th February and 15th May 2021, the date is considered to be during the third wave and mentioned as such.

**A 4: Covered areas (29 out of 33 on the December 01th 2021) in which no alerting indicator are fulfilled.**

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm. viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sub>2</sub>	Norm. evol. (%/w) <sub>3</sub>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>	Date Max cc <sup>5</sup>
Oost-Vlaanderen	Aalst	0	0	0	7	142	-67	0	15/11/2021
Antwerpen	Aartselaar	0	0	0	19	114	59	0	29/11/2021
Antwerpen	Antwerpen-North	0	0	0	46	147	-10	0	29/11/2021
Antwerpen	Antwerpen-South	0	0	0	4	74	-29	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Luxembourg	Arlon	0	0	0	35	68	-45	0	22/11/2021
Vlaams-Brabant	Beersel	0	0	0	5	328	-38	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
West-Vlaanderen	Brugge	0	0	0	5	47	-91	0	17/11/2021
Oost-Vlaanderen	Dendermonde	0	0	0	43	155	-66	0	22/11/2021
Oost-Vlaanderen	Destelbergen	0	0	0	2	101	-73	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Antwerpen	Deurne	0	0	0	2	144	-76	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Limburg	Genk	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	15/11/2021
Oost-Vlaanderen	Gent	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	17/11/2021
Vlaams-Brabant	Grimbergen	0	0	0	21	562	-48	0	15/11/2021
West-Vlaanderen	Harelbeke	0	0	0	6	149	-67	0	18/10/2021
Limburg	Hasselt	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	08/11/2021
Limburg	Houthalen-Centrum	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	08/11/2021

Province	WWTP	High	Fast	Incr.	Norm . viral cc (%) <sup>1</sup>	Mean viral cc (c./ml) <sub>2</sub>	Norm evol. (%/w) <sub>3</sub>	Incr days <sup>4</sup>	Date Max cc <sup>5</sup>
Vlaams-Brabant	Leuven	0	0	0	7	221	-38	0	17/11/2021
Vlaams-Brabant	Liedekerke	0	0	0	18	502	-47	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Hainaut	Marchienne-au-Pont	0	0	0	19	42	-7	0	15/11/2021
West-Vlaanderen	Menen	0	0	0	2	370	-76	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Namur	Mornimont	0	0	0	8	13	-83	0	15/11/2021
Hainaut	Mouscron versant Espierres	0	0	0	49	89	-12	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Namur	Namur-Brumagne	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	15/11/2021
West-Vlaanderen	Oostende	0	0	0	7	182	-83	0	17/11/2021
West-Vlaanderen	Roeselare	0	0	0	0	5	-91	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Oost-Vlaanderen	Sint-Niklaas	0	0	0	22	237	-40	0	3 <sup>rd</sup> wave
Liège	Soumagne	0	0	0	6	28	-42	0	15/11/2021
Limburg	Tessengerlo	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	22/11/2021
Antwerpen	Turnhout	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	24/11/2021
Brabant Wallon	Vallée du Hain (L'Orchis)	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	24/11/2021

<sup>1</sup> : the viral concentration normalized with the maximum viral concentration measured in the corresponding catchment area during the third wave (i.e. from mid-February 2021 till begin of July).

<sup>2</sup> : the viral concentration computed on the replicate of the three targeted gene fragments.

<sup>3</sup> : the slope (%/week) of the past 7 days moving average of the viral concentration if being above the estimated limit of quantification.

<sup>4</sup> : the cumulative number of days of increase of the past 14 days moving average of the viral concentration.

<sup>5</sup> : date at which the measured viral concentration was the highest since the beginning of the measurements. If the date was between 15th February and 15th May 2021, the date is considered to be during the third wave and mentioned as such.