

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

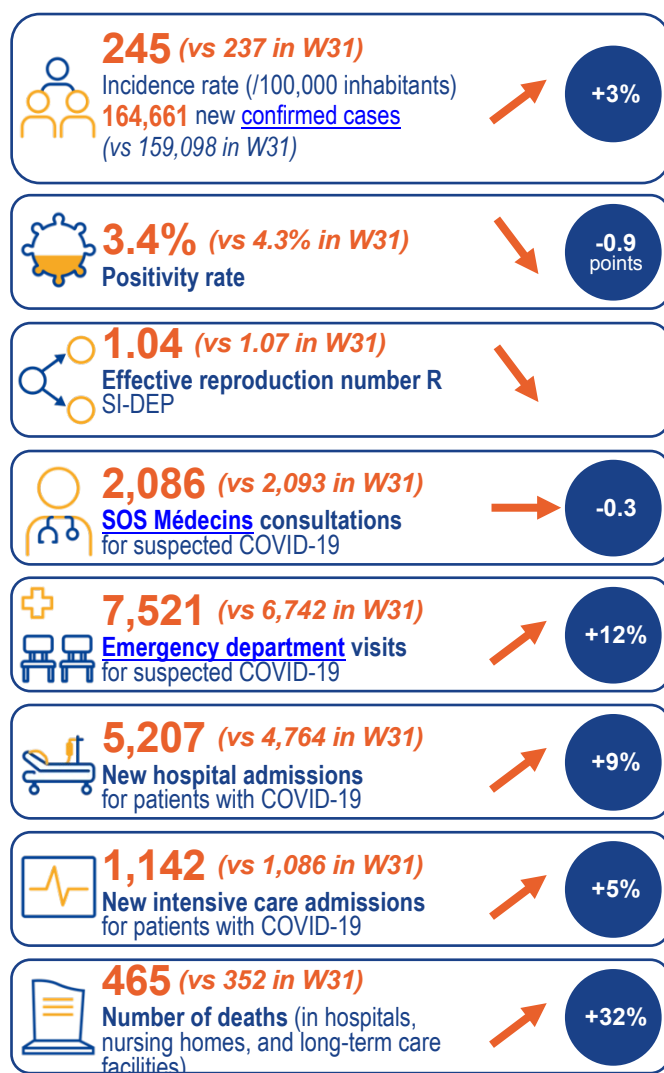
Weekly report / Week 32 / 19 August 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 18 August 2021.

## Key numbers

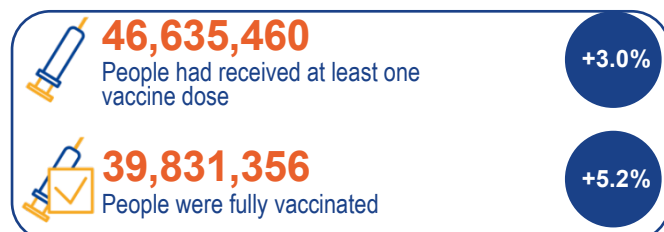
Week 32 (9-15 August 2021)

Compared to week 31 (2-8 August 2021)



As of 17 August

Compared to 10 August 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 32, the intense circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued across the country with a modest increase in the incidence rate and hospital indicators in metropolitan France but a very critical situation in Martinique and Guadeloupe

- Slowing down of the increase in hospital and intensive care admissions in metropolitan France
- Very high screening rate with a sharp increase
- Metropolitan France:
  - Incidence and hospitalisation rates still the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Corsica, and Occitania
- Overseas France:
  - Guadeloupe: extremely high incidence rate with a sharp increase
  - Martinique: high incidence rate but slightly decreasing
  - Ongoing hospital tension with excess mortality (all-cause and all-age) in both territories

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 98.7% of sequenced samples in metropolitan France on 3 August 2021

### Contact tracing

- Decrease in the number of reported contacts, suggesting the less exhaustive identification of contacts

### Prevention

- Vaccination coverage in the general population as of 17 August: 69.5% with at least one dose and 59.3% fully vaccinated
- CoviPrev Survey from 15 to 21 July:
  - Sleep problems declining for the first time in a year
  - States of depression decreasing since late April
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination, preventive measures, and contact tracing

\* Santé publique France thanks the large network of actors on which it relies to ensure its COVID-19 surveillance: private practice doctors, medico-social emergency (SAMU), Centre 15, hospital doctors, hospital and private medical biology laboratories, learned societies for infectious diseases, resuscitation, and emergency medicine, CNAM, INSERM, and INSEE.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 32, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 remained intense across the country with a moderate increase in the incidence rate and hospital indicators in metropolitan France. By contrast, the situation was very critical in Martinique and Guadeloupe, with an extremely high incidence rate, saturated hospital capacity, and high excess mortality. At the national level, the implementation of the health pass was accompanied by a sharp increase in the screening rate, which contributed to the slight increase in the incidence rate. The incidence rate remained the highest among 10-39 year-olds. The number of contacts reported by cases continued to decrease, suggesting the less exhaustive identification of contact persons. As of 17 August, 69.5% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 59.3% were fully vaccinated. In this context, the vaccination of all eligible people should continue to be highly encouraged. Vaccination should be combined with a high level of adherence to other preventive measures, notably by respecting protective measures, limiting contacts at risk, and self-isolating in the case of symptoms, confirmed infection, or contact with a confirmed case. The acceleration of the vaccination campaign combined with these different actions to limit the transmission rate may have a major impact on hospital dynamics.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

At the national level, the incidence rate was 245/100,000 inhabitants, rising slightly this week (+3%) with a small drop in the reproduction number (1.04 vs 1.07 in week 31). The incidence rate remained the highest among 20-29 year-olds (489, -3%). The number of symptomatic cases fell compared to week 31 (72,242 vs 74,406). The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) sharply increased (+31%), reaching 7,191/100,000 inhabitants. The highest rates were still observed among 20-29 year-olds (16,987, +39%) and 30-39 year-olds (13,374, +41%). The positivity rate decreased slightly to 3.4% (-0.9 points).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 remained stable in SOS Médecins organisations (2,086) but increased in emergency departments (7,521, +12% vs +19% in week 31).

In hospitals, the indicators were still on the rise but more moderately this week, with 5,207 new hospital admissions (+9% vs +35% in week 31) and 1,142 new intensive care admissions (+5% vs +46% in week 31). The number of hospitalised COVID-19 patients reached 10,280 (+12%) in week 32, including 1,966 (+14%) in intensive care. COVID-19-related deaths increased in hospitals and long-term care facilities (436, +31%).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate remained the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (589/100,000, -1%), Corsica (510, -19%), and Occitania (391, -6%). The screening rate rose in all regions, being the highest in Corsica (13,238/100,000) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (12,058). The hospitalisation rate by date of admission on 17 August was stable or increasing in all regions with the exception of Occitania, where it diminished. The highest rates were observed in Corsica (17.7/100,000), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (17.3), and Occitania (10.6).

In overseas France, the situation continued to be highly critical in Guadeloupe and Martinique with saturated hospital capacity and the incidence rate reaching 2,156/100,000 (+13%) in Guadeloupe and 1,149/100,000 (-3%) in Martinique. High [excess mortality](#) (all-cause and all-age) was observed in both territories in week 31. The incidence rate remained elevated and rising in Guyana (373, +43%) but decreased in Reunion Island (323, -19%).

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant now represents nearly all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, representing 98.7% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #18 on 3 August. In Guadeloupe, sequencing data show the predominance of Delta over Alpha since Flash Survey #16 on 20 July 2021.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 32, the number of [contacts](#) diminished and reached an average of 1.4 per case. The attendance of tourist accommodation and leisure centres for children was on the rise among cases, while that of bars and nightclubs was on the decline. The implementation of the health pass in establishments open to the public in week 31 was still too recent to observe its effects on contact-tracing indicators.

### PREVENTION

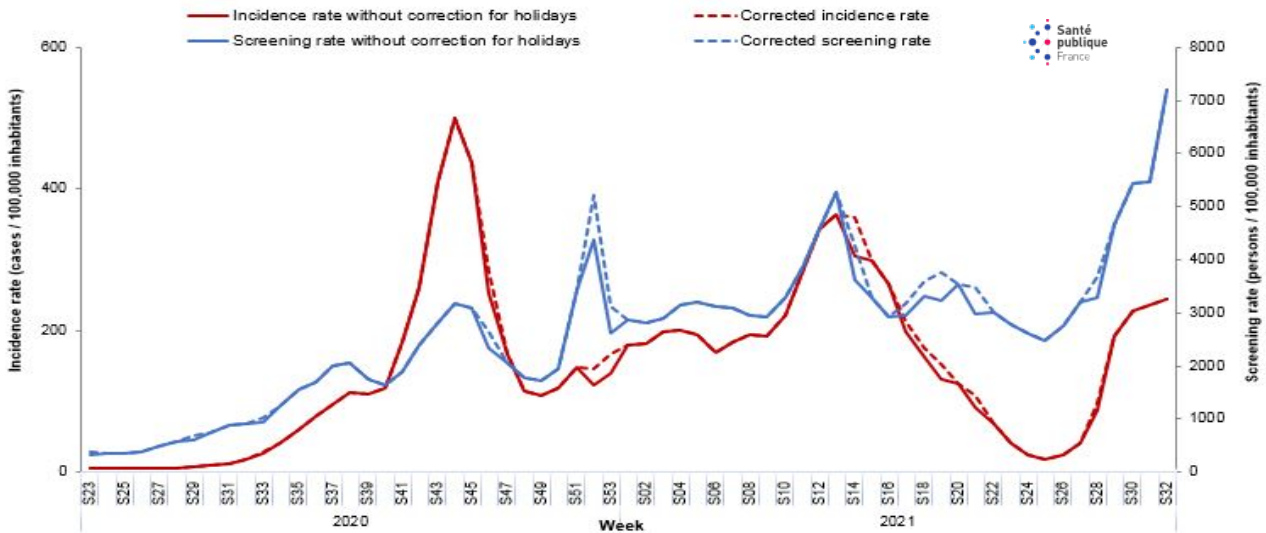
As of 17 August, 69.5% of the population in France had received at least one vaccine dose, and 59.3% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage for persons aged 12 years and older was 80.8% with one dose and 69.1% with full vaccination. Vaccination coverage continues to slowly increase among people aged 80 years and older: 83.9% for one dose and 79.9% for full vaccination.

The [CoviPrev Survey](#) from 15 to 21 July 2021 indicated a decrease in sleep problems compared to the previous survey (21-28 June): 59% vs 66%, with an overall decline in states of depression since late April (13% vs 22%).

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 245 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 32 (vs 237 in week 31, +3%), while the [screening rate](#) sharply increased to 7,191 per 100,000 inhabitants (5,478 in week 31, +31%). The [positivity rate](#) was 3.4% (vs 4.3% in week 31, -0.9 points). Among tested individuals reporting the presence or absence of symptoms, 95% were asymptomatic, on the rise from week 31 (92%). Among cases, 72,242 (48%) were symptomatic, down from week 31 (74,406, 51%). The positivity rate increased among the 233,664 symptomatic individuals (31% vs 29% in week 31) but decreased among the 4,218,922 asymptomatic individuals (1.8% vs 2.3% in week 31).

### Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (as of 18 August 2021)

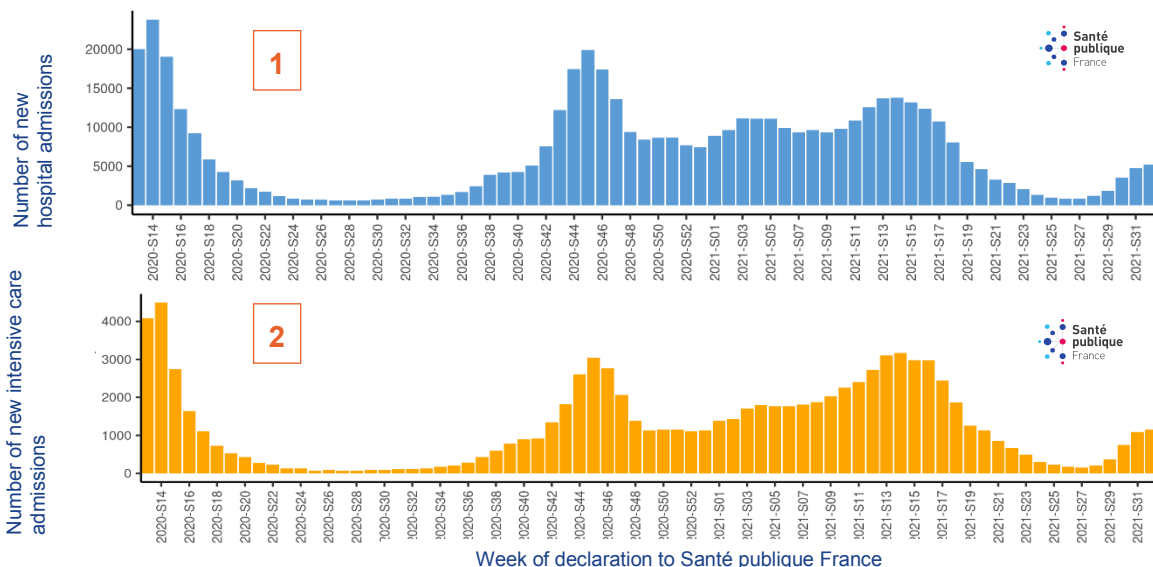


Source: SI-DEP

## Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

- On 17 August 2021, **10,280 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France** (vs 9,213 on 10 August, +12%), including **1,966 in intensive care** (vs 1,725 on 10 August, +14%). At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of declaration showed a moderate increase, with **5,207 new hospital admissions** in week 32 (+9% from week 31) and **1,142 new intensive care admissions** (+5%).

### Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (as of 15 August 2021)



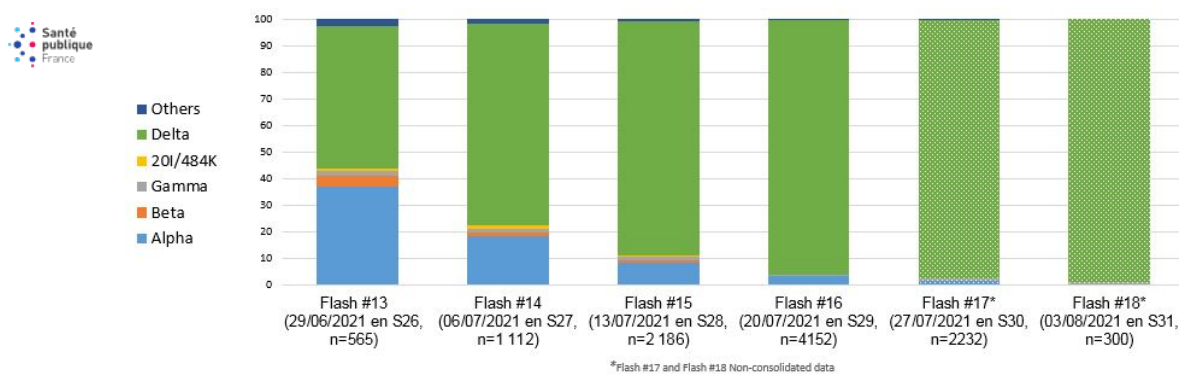
Source: SI-VIC

- At the national level, there were **436 deaths in hospital** in week 32, **up from week 31** (+31%), as well as 29 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 20 in week 31).

## Variants of concern

The L452R mutation (essentially driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 94.7% of screened positive samples in week 32 (vs 93.2% in week 31). [Sequencing data](#) confirm that the Delta variant has been the dominant [variant](#) in metropolitan France since week 26, representing 98.7% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #18 on 3 August (vs 97.4% in Flash #17). In overseas France, recent sequencing data are very incomplete, although screening data from the past few weeks indicate the predominance of Delta in Reunion Island, Mayotte, Guyana, and the Antilles. In Guadeloupe, current sequencing data confirm the predominance of Delta over Alpha since Flash Survey #16.

### Proportions of variants of concern detected by sequencing during the Flash Surveys (#13 to #18) (29 June to 3 August 2021) in metropolitan France

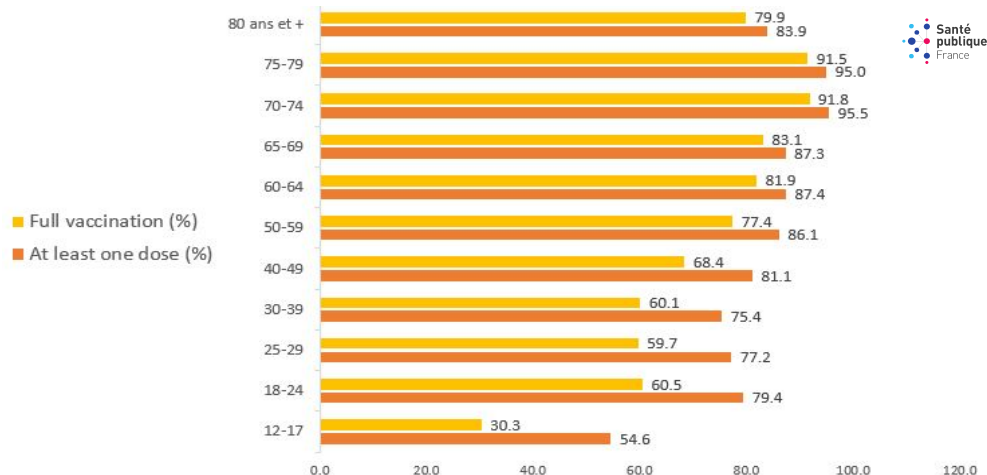


Source: EMERGEN, Data processing by Santé publique France

## Vaccination

On 17 August 2021, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 69.5% with at least one vaccine dose and 59.3% with full vaccination. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 46,621,177 had received one dose (80.8%), and 39,825,300 (69.1%) were fully vaccinated. For residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, 91.5% had received one dose (88.0% fully vaccinated). Among healthcare professionals, vaccination coverage with one dose was 84.0% for professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities vs 81.0% on 10 August (72.3% vs 68.2% for full vaccination), and 91.0% for healthcare professionals in private practice vs 89.7% on 10 August (86.0% vs 84.3% for full vaccination). For professionals working in healthcare establishments, vaccination coverage with one dose was estimated at 83.9% on 17 August vs 81.3% on 10 August (73.8% vs 70.1% for full vaccination).

### Vaccination coverage by age group in France as of 17 August 2021 (in %)



Sources: Data from Vaccin Covid, Cnam Data processing by Santé publique France

### Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #16](#)

Update on mental health with [CoviPrev Survey](#)

Consult the [Santé Publique France](#) website for more information on COVID-19 and the surveillance systems in place.

Find all the open access data on [Géodes](#).

For more information on the regional data, see [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#)