

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

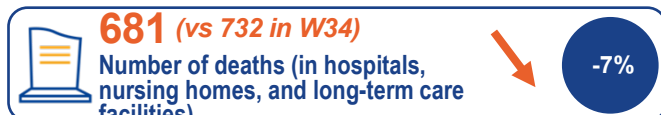
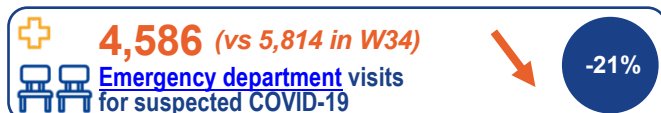
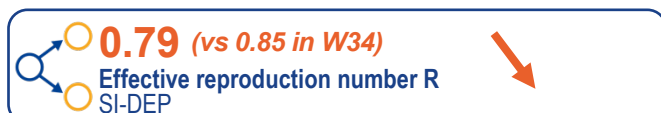
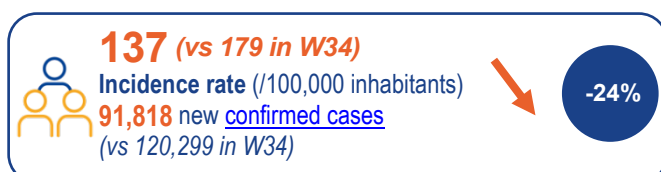
Weekly report / Week 35 / 9 September 2021

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 8 September 2021.

## Key numbers

Week 35 (30 August-5 September 2021)

Compared to week 34 (23-29 August 2021)



On 7 September 2021

Compared to 31 August 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 35, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued to fall throughout the country, accompanied by a decrease in hospital admissions in all metropolitan regions. The situation started to improve in the overseas territories (except for Mayotte) but still remained critical in Martinique and Guadeloupe in terms of hospital pressure.

#### • Metropolitan France:

- Incidence and hospitalisation rates still the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitanie
- New hospital admissions down in almost all regions

#### • Overseas France:

- Guadeloupe and Martinique: very high incidence rate but on a downward trend, with ongoing hospital tensions in these two territories
- French Guiana: high incidence rate and hospital indicators but stabilising
- Mayotte: rapid rise in the incidence rate but still at a moderate level

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 98.3% of sequenced samples on 17 August 2021

### Contact tracing

- Low number of contacts declared per case, indicating the incomplete identification of contacts by cases

### Prevention

- Vaccination coverage on 7 September: 73.2% with at least one dose and 68.3% fully vaccinated
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination, preventive measures, and contact tracing

\* Santé publique France acknowledges the large public health network that contributes to COVID-19 surveillance: healthcare professionals working in private practice and hospitals, emergency departments, hospital and private biology laboratories, learned societies for infectious diseases, resuscitation, and emergency medicine, CNAM, INSERM, and INSEE.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 35, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 decreased for the third consecutive week. The declining trend in hospital and intensive care admissions was confirmed, although hospital tensions remained high in the south of metropolitan France and in the French West Indies. The incidence rate, though high, was down in all age groups, except for 3-5 year-olds (stable). Nevertheless, it was still elevated among children under 18 years, calling for the utmost vigilance given the start of the new school year. The number of contacts reported by cases remained low, indicating the incomplete identification of contact persons and the low capacity to identify and control transmission chains. On 7 September 2021, 73.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 68.3% were fully vaccinated. In view of the new school year and the return to work after the summer holidays, vaccination remains crucial. It should be combined with a high level of adherence to other preventive measures, notably by respecting protective measures, limiting contacts at risk, and respecting self-isolation in the case of symptoms, confirmed infection, or contact with a confirmed case. Combining these different measures is necessary to consolidate the current epidemic trend and preserve the hospital system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**At the national level**, the incidence rate declined for the third consecutive week, reaching 137/100,000 inhabitants (-24%), which corresponded to an average of 13,117 diagnosed cases per day in week 35. The incidence rate was down in all age groups but remained high, especially among 20-39 year-olds (above 200). The positivity rate also fell to 2.4% (-0.4 points) and dropped to 19.3% among symptomatic individuals (24.1% in week 34). The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) continued to diminish but remained high (5,667/100,000 inhabitants, -13%).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 declined in SOS Médecins organisations (1,640, -5%) and emergency departments (4,586, -21%).

In terms of hospital indicators, new admissions were down for the second consecutive week, with 4,248 new hospital admissions (-20%) and 1,022 new intensive care admissions (-14%). The hospital load nevertheless remained high with 10,707 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 hospitalised on 7 September, including 2,272 in intensive care. COVID-19-related deaths (in hospitals and long-term care facilities) also decreased (681, -7%), thus confirming the downward trend from the previous week.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate dropped in all regions and remained the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (328/100,000, -26%) and Occitanie (160, -31%). The screening rate also fell in all regions. On 7 September, data by date of admission showed declining or stable hospital indicators in all regions. The highest hospitalisation rates were still observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Occitanie, and Corsica.

**In overseas France**, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 clearly decreased in Guadeloupe and Martinique where the incidence rate fell to 520/100,000 (-52%) and 419 (-35%), respectively. Nevertheless, despite falling admissions, strong hospital tensions and

[excess mortality](#) persisted. In French Guiana, the incidence rate stabilised (419, -8%). In Mayotte, it has rapidly increased over the past few weeks but remains at a moderate level (53, +50%); nevertheless, vigilance is required given the limited hospital capacity of the territory.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented nearly all viruses circulating in France, corresponding to 98.3% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #20 on 17 August (in the process of data consolidation).

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 35, the decrease in the number of cases and [contacts](#) at risk continued (-23% and -18%, respectively). The mean number of contacts declared per case (1.6) increased slightly but remained at a low level, indicating the incomplete identification of contacts by cases. Given the start of the new school year, there was a sharp increase in the number of cases who reported attending school before or after the onset of symptoms. As the school year began in the middle of week 35, it is unlikely that these cases were contaminated in the school environment. This indicator will continue to be monitored in the following weeks, as will the number of contacts per case among children and teenagers.

### SEROPREVALENCE

The seroprevalence of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 sharply increased in week 23 (7-13 June) to 52.4% (vs 13.7% in week 6), indicating a substantial gain in immunity through vaccination. It reached 79.5% among those aged 80 years and older and 60.1% in Ile-de-France. However, it was lower among children and in overseas France (less than 45%).

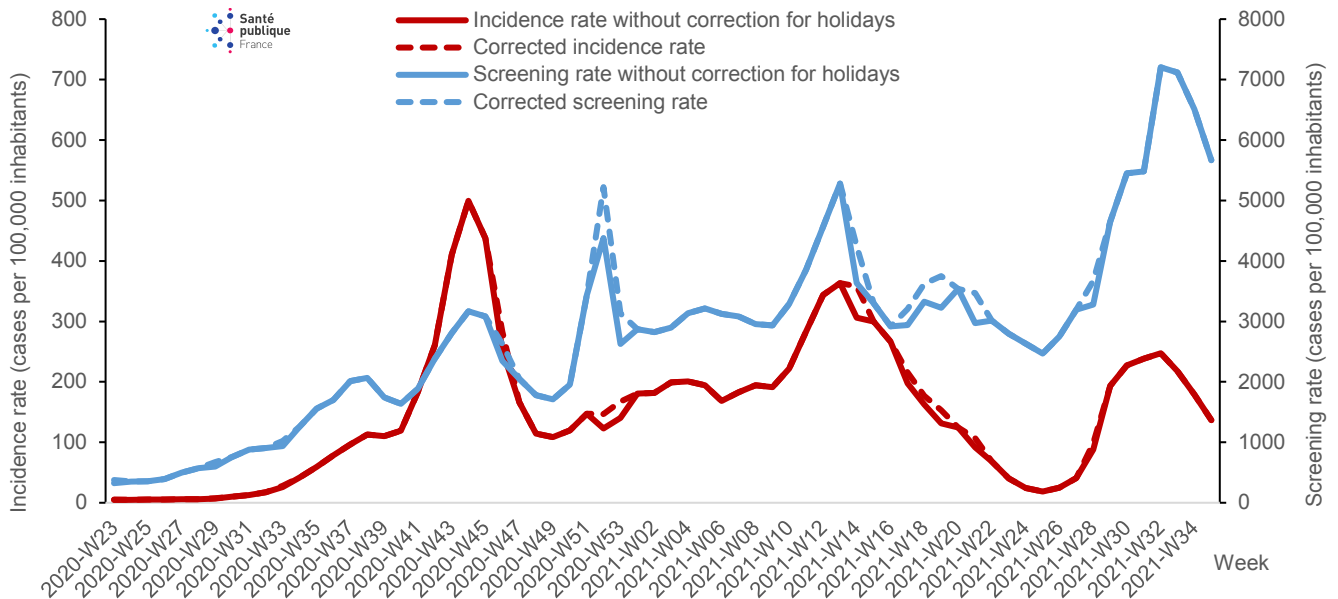
### PREVENTION

On 7 September, 73.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 68.3% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage remained particularly low in Guadeloupe (30.1% and 23.0%) and Martinique (31.0% and 24.4%).

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 137 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 35 (vs 179 in week 34, -24%), while the [screening rate](#) was 5,667 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 6,510 in week 34, -13%). The [positivity rate](#) fell by 0.4 points (2.4% vs 2.8% in week 34). Among tested individuals who provided information about their possible symptoms, 94% were asymptomatic, which was stable compared to week 34. The number of asymptomatic confirmed cases diminished (44,086, -23%), as did the number of symptomatic cases (38,698, -25%). Overall, 47% of cases were symptomatic (stable compared to week 34). The positivity rate decreased among the 200,598 tested symptomatic individuals (19% vs 24% in week 34) and, to a lesser extent, among the 3,299,881 tested asymptomatic individuals (1.3% vs 1.5% in week 34).

### Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (up to 8 September 2021)

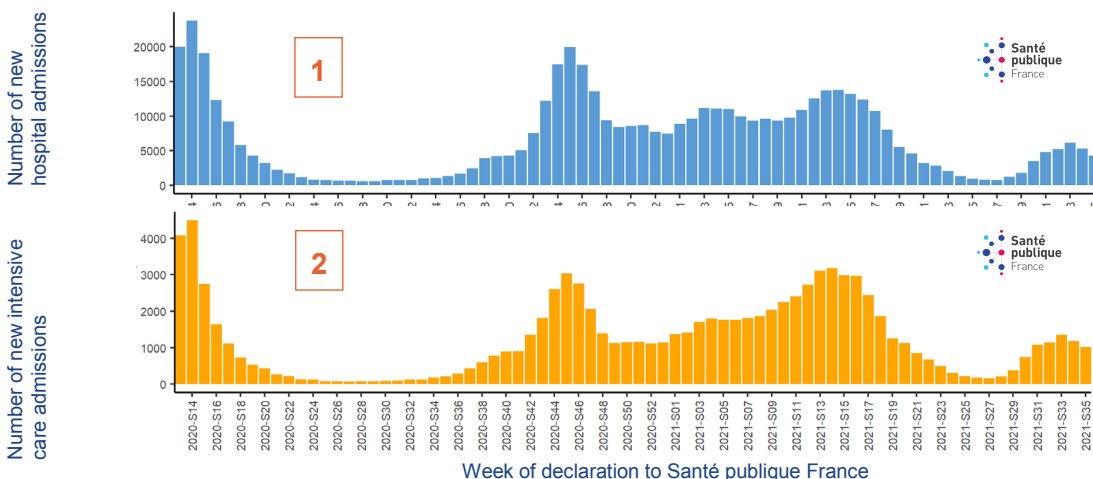


Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

## Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

On 7 September 2021, **10,707** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 11,181 on 31 August, -4%), including **2,272** in intensive care (vs 2,305 on 31 August, -1%). At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of declaration were down, with **4,248 new hospital admissions** (-20% from week 34) and **1,022 new intensive care admissions** (-14%).

### Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (up to 5 September 2021)



Source: SI-VIC, data processing by Santé publique France

At the national level, there were 647 [deaths](#) in hospital in week 35, down from week 34 (-5%), and 34 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 48 in week 34). Data from long-term care facilities in week 35 are not consolidated.

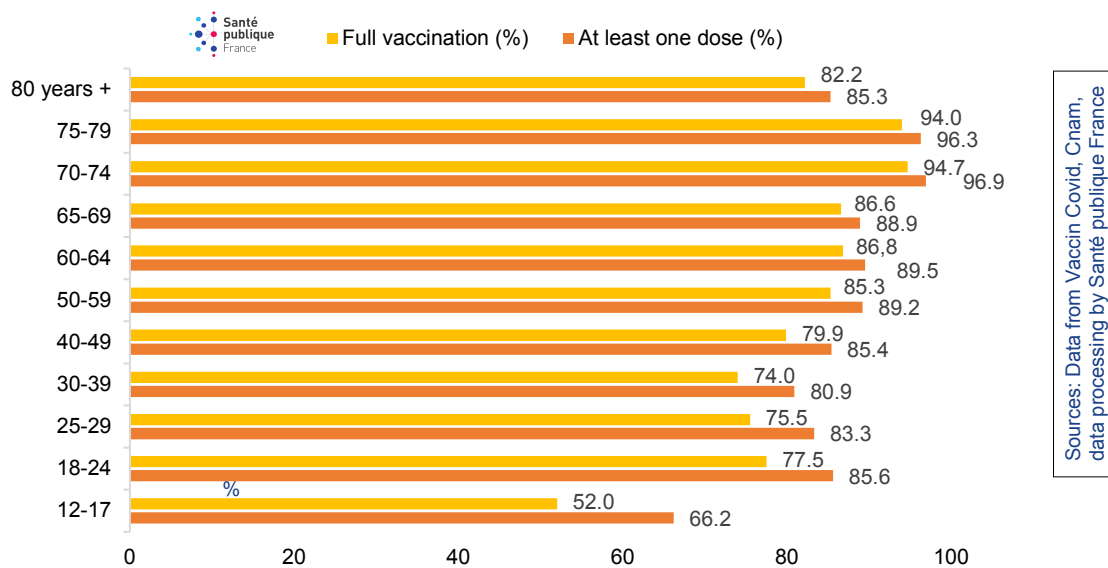
## Variants of concern

The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 95.4% of screened positive samples in week 35 (vs 95.2% in week 34). [Sequencing data](#) confirm that Delta has been the dominant [variant](#) in metropolitan France since early July. In the last five Flash Surveys (#17 to #21), Delta was detected in more than 96% of interpretable sequences. In overseas France, the screening and sequencing data indicate the predominance of Delta. In week 35, the L452R mutation was identified in 86.7% of screened positive tests in Guadeloupe, 83.7% in Martinique, 95.0% in French Guiana, and 86.5% in Reunion Island.

## Vaccination

On 7 September, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 73.2% for at least one dose and 68.3% for full vaccination. Among the population aged 12 years and older, 49,132,211 had received at least one dose (85.0%), and 45,848,547 (79.3%) were fully vaccinated.

### Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 7 September 2021 (in %)



On 7 September, 92.5% of residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one dose (89.9% for full vaccination). Vaccination coverage continued to progress among health professionals: for full vaccination, it reached 83.9% among healthcare workers in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, 84.1% among healthcare employees in health facilities, and 91.1% among professionals in private practice.

### Vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals in France

	AT LEAST ONE VACCINE DOSE (%)		FULL VACCINATION (%)	
	7 September	31 August	7 September	31 August
PROFESSIONALS IN NURSING HOMES AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES	88.6	87.4	83.9	80.7
PROFESSIONALS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE	93.9	92.9	91.1	89.6
HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES IN HEALTH FACILITIES	88.1	87.0	84.1	81.3

### Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #18](#)  
Update on the [health situation among children before the new school year](#)

For more information on COVID-19, the surveillance systems in place, and vaccination, consult the website for [Santé publique France](#) and [Vaccination Info Service](#).

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

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