

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

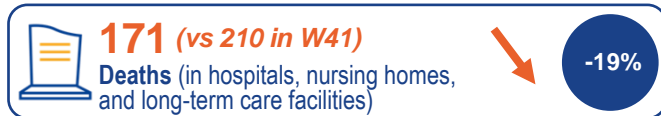
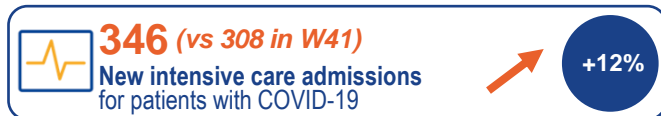
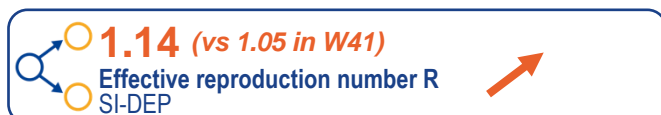
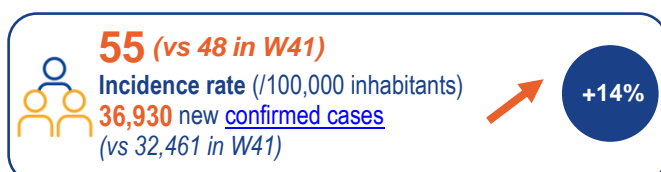
Weekly Report / Week 42 / 28 October 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners¹ as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 27 October 2021.

Key numbers

Week 42 (18-24 October 2021)

Compared to week 41 (11-17 October 2021)



On 26 October 2021

Compared to 19 October 2021



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 42, the rebound in circulation of the virus was confirmed in metropolitan France, with a new rise in the incidence rate and an upward trend for new hospitalisations.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Greater increase in the incidence rate among people aged 60 years and older
 - Incidence rate above 50/100,000 inhabitants in 44 departments
 - R number >1 and rising, leading to the accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2 across the country
 - Decline in the screening rate among adults aged 20 years and older, especially among 20-39 year-olds
 - Increasing or stable trend for new hospital and intensive care admissions in all regions
- Overseas France:
 - French Guiana: falling incidence and hospitalisation rates

Variants

- Delta variant identified in 100% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 28 September and 5 October 2021

Contact tracing

- Increase in the average number of contacts per case in a context marked by a rising number of cases
- Higher proportion of cases previously identified as contacts

Prevention

- Vaccination on 26 October 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose and 74.3% were fully vaccinated
 - 16.9% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster dose
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing and respect of preventive measures

¹Santé 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 42, the rebound in circulation of the virus was confirmed in metropolitan France, with a new rise in the incidence rate. The increase in the R number (>1 since week 41) points towards the accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2 throughout the country. The national incidence rate exceeded 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 44 metropolitan departments. Hospital and intensive care admissions were again on the rise. In French Guiana, the incidence and hospitalisation rates continued to fall. Contact tracing data indicated a higher proportion of cases previously identified as contacts, suggesting a better identification of transmission chains. On 26 October, 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.3% were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 16.9% had received a booster dose. Given the surge in the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and winter viruses, especially in older people, it is crucial to encourage the vaccination of unvaccinated people as well as the booster shot for all adults aged 65 years and older in addition to maintaining a high level of adherence to preventive measures given their effectiveness in limiting the epidemic and preserving the healthcare system.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

Nationally, the incidence rate increased again in week 42, reaching 55 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 48 in week 41, +14%). An average of 5,276 cases were diagnosed each day. The incidence rate increased in all age groups, except for 20-29 year-olds (57, -6%). The rise was moderate among 30-39 year-olds (71, +6%) but more pronounced among people aged 60 years and older. With the end of the systematic reimbursement of COVID-19 tests, the screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) dropped substantially (-21% in week 42) to reach 3,147 per 100,000 inhabitants. This fall was observed in all age groups, with the exception of young people under 20 years among whom the screening rate remained stable. The greatest declines were found among 20-39 year-olds. The positivity rate increased by 0.5 points to 1.7%. Among tested symptomatic individuals, the screening rate was stable, although the number of confirmed cases increased substantially (17,150, +25%). The positivity rate was 9.0% (+1.8 points).

An increase in the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was observed in SOS Médecins organisations (964, +24%), mostly driven by people aged 15-74 years (+33%). Emergency department consultations climbed slightly (1,470, +6%), especially among the elderly aged 75 years and older (+18%).

The number of new hospital admissions increased minimally (1,281, +2%), with a greater rise in new intensive care admissions (346, +12%). On 26 October, there were 6,506 COVID-19 in hospitals, including 1,062 in intensive care.

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was increasing or stable in all regions. It reached 73/100,000 inhabitants in Pays de la Loire (+52%) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (+1%), and 71 in Île-de-France (-0.2%). An upward trend was observed in almost three-quarters of departments. By contrast, the screening rate was down in all regions. New hospital and intensive care admissions were

rising or stable in all regions. The highest hospitalisation rates still occurred in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Île-de-France, and Pays de la Loire.

In overseas France, both the incidence and hospitalisation rate continued to fall in French Guiana (227, -15%). Although on a downward trend, [excess mortality](#) persisted in week 40.

The incidence rate was constant in Martinique (134, +5%) and Guadeloupe (49, -3%). The rate of new hospital admissions dropped in both overseas territories.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to 100% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #26 and #27 on 28 September and 5 October, respectively.

CONTACT TRACING

In week 42, the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) continued to increase (+14% and +28%, respectively). The number of contacts identified per case rose (2.85 vs 2.7 in week 41), as did the proportion of cases previously identified as contacts (23.2% vs 20.7%), thus suggesting a better identification of transmission chains. The number of cases who attended a cultural event (+43%), sporting event (+40%), or private gathering (+42%) was also on the rise.

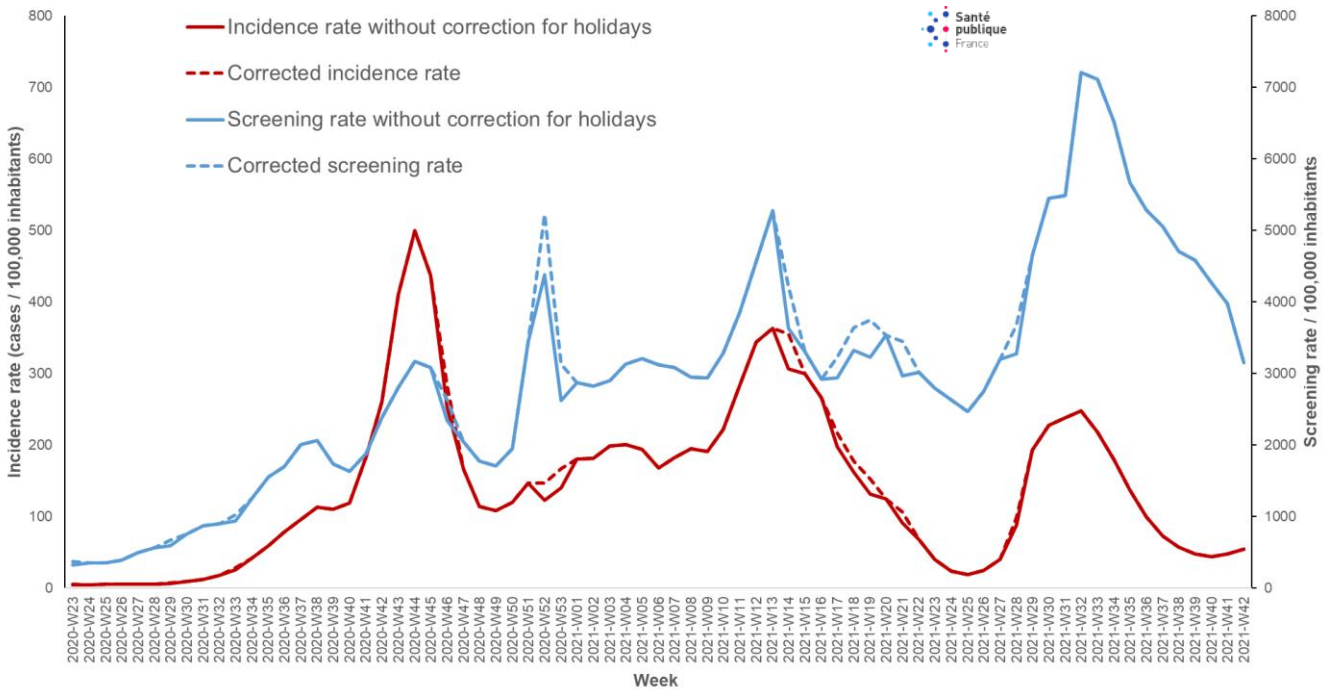
PREVENTION

On 26 October, 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.3% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage with the booster dose was 16.9% among people aged 65 years and older.

Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 55 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 42 (vs 48 in week 41, +14%), while the [screening rate](#) was 3,147 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 3,975 in week 41, -21%). The [positivity rate](#) increased to 1.7% (+0.5 points). Among the 1,887,708 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 90% were **asymptomatic**, a slightly lower proportion compared to week 41 (92%). The **positivity rate** was **on the rise** among both symptomatic (9.0% vs 7.2% in week 41) and asymptomatic individuals (1.0% vs 0.7% in week 41). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases increased slightly (51% vs 47% in week 41).

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 27 October 2021)



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

Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 42, the [incidence rate](#) was higher in all age groups except for 20-29 year-olds (57/100 000, -6%). Greater increases were observed among people aged 60 years and older. The rise was less pronounced among 30-39 year-olds (+6%) who had the highest incidence rate (71). The [screening rate](#) fell in all age groups except for 0-19 year-olds (stable). The largest declines were found among 20-29 year-olds (3,761/100,000, -37%) and 30-39 year-olds (3,984, -31%). The screening rate was the highest among 10-19 year-olds (4,476/100,000, -2%). The [positivity rate](#) increased in all age groups, being the lowest among 10-19 year-olds (1.3%, +0.2 points) and the highest among 70-79 year-olds (2.6%, +0.9 points).

Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 31, France (corrected for public holidays) (data on 27 October 2021)

119	137	130	111	89	69	45	32	35	27	29	38	90 yrs+
75	89	83	73	58	44	32	26	25	26	35	42	80-89 yrs
83	95	91	80	63	49	34	32	31	33	43	55	70-79 yrs
111	125	113	93	75	52	40	33	30	29	37	47	60-69 yrs
184	193	171	138	104	73	51	42	37	35	39	46	50-59 yrs
258	268	239	197	150	107	77	63	54	48	53	61	40-49 yrs
365	378	329	273	208	150	111	84	69	64	67	71	30-39 yrs
509	493	404	307	217	146	98	73	61	58	60	57	20-29 yrs
330	340	297	243	180	124	89	72	61	49	50	58	10-19 yrs
110	128	130	131	120	110	94	70	51	41	44	52	0-9 yrs
238	247	218	180	137	100	73	57	48	44	48	55	All ages
W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Santé publique France



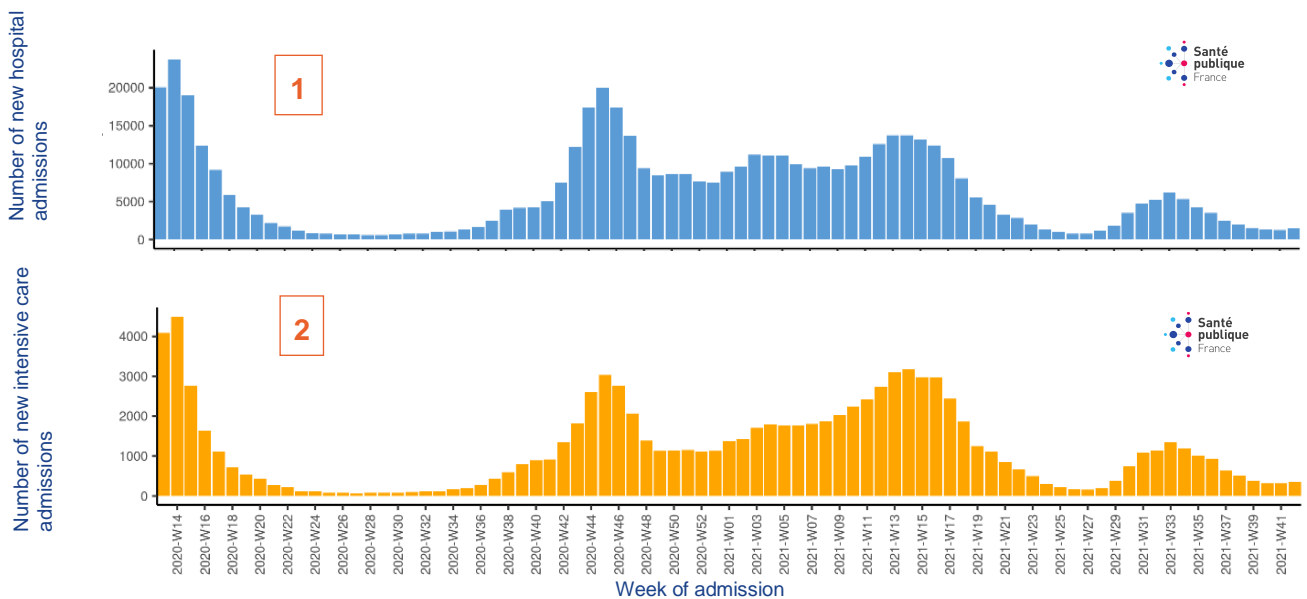
Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

To better understand the hospital dynamics, new hospital and intensive care admissions are analysed by date of patient admission to hospital. New deaths (in hospital and long-term care facilities) are analysed by date of occurrence. Data from week 42, up to 26 October 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.

- On 26 October 2021, **6,506** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,544 on 19 October, -0.6%), including **1,062** in intensive care (vs 1,059 on 19 October, +0.3%).
- At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission worsened, with **1,281 new hospital admissions** (+2% from week 41, +6% from week 40 to week 41) and **346 new intensive care admissions** (+12% from week 41, +4% from week 40 to week 41).

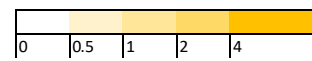
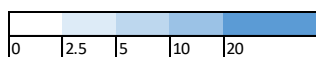
Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 26 October 2021)



- In week 42, the weekly rate of new hospital admissions remained stable or increased among adults aged 50 years and older (highest increase among those aged 90 years and over) but fell slightly among those under 50 years. New intensive care admissions rose among 50-79 year-olds and remained stable in the other age groups.

Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 35 to week 42, France

	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42		W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	
1	26.4	19.0	14.5	9.8	8.7	8.2	11.4	13.6	90 yrs +	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	90 yrs +
	16.5	12.4	9.2	7.8	6.8	6.7	7.5	7.4	80-89 yrs	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.0	80-89 yrs
	10.8	8.8	6.1	4.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.8	70-79 yrs	3.4	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.6	70-79 yrs
	8.2	5.8	5.1	3.2	2.7	2.0	2.5	2.5	60-69 yrs	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	60-69 yrs
	6.3	4.8	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.7	50-59 yrs	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	50-59 yrs
	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	40-49 yrs	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40-49 yrs
	4.1	3.4	2.7	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.0	30-39 yrs	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	30-39 yrs
	2.9	2.5	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	20-29 yrs	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	20-29 yrs
	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	10-19 yrs	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	10-19 yrs
	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0-9 yrs	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0-9 yrs
	5.6	4.4	3.3	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	All ages	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	All ages



- In week 42, the number of deaths fell slightly, with 165 deaths reported in hospital at the national level (-18% from week 41). In the previous week, this number increased by 4% compared to week 40. There were also 6 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 10 in week 41 and 7 in week 40).

Situation at the regional level

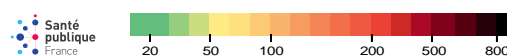
Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

- In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was above 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Pays de la Loire, Île-de-France, Corsica, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine**. Both the incidence and positivity rates showed an increasing or stabilising trend in all regions. Nevertheless, the screening rates, which dropped in all regions, were the highest in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Île-de-France. In week 42, a total of 44 departments exceeded the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 21 in week 41). The highest incidence rates were observed in Aveyron (102, +34%), Bouches-du-Rhône (97, -8%), Haute-Loire (92, +26%), and Vendée (88, +58%).
- Substantial increases in the incidence rate were observed in several metropolitan departments. These changes should nevertheless be compared with the initial value of the incidence rate, the population size, and the possible existence of clusters. However, these factors alone cannot explain the current increases in the incidence rate, which rather indicate the resumption of community transmission of the virus in a number of departments.
- In overseas France, the incidence rate fell in French Guiana (227/100,000 inhabitants, -15%) and stabilised in Guadeloupe (49, -3%) and Martinique (134, +5%).

Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region² from week 34, France (data on 27 October 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants							Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W42 vs W41 (%)	W42	W42 vs W41 (points)	W42	W42 vs W41 (%)
	Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	67	53	48	39	42	49	17	1.7	0.6	2,797
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	46	38	34	29	33	33	0	1.3	0.2	2,519	-19
Bretagne	52	37	27	29	34	44	29	1.9	0.7	2,270	-18
Centre-Val de Loire	52	39	30	28	33	46	36	2.2	0.9	2,098	-19
Corse	79	54	45	54	55	56	2	1.2	0.2	4,457	-15
Grand Est	69	47	37	32	35	42	18	1.3	0.5	3,161	-23
Hauts-de-France	49	38	30	31	34	45	34	1.6	0.6	2,773	-19
Île-de-France	87	72	63	64	71	71	0	1.8	0.4	3,894	-20
Normandie	32	31	25	24	31	33	7	1.2	0.3	2,717	-17
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	48	40	31	30	39	51	30	2.0	0.7	2,599	-17
Occitanie	67	54	43	34	38	47	24	1.6	0.6	3,029	-24
Pays de la Loire	43	41	40	38	48	73	52	2.9	1.3	2,515	-14
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	153	102	85	68	72	73	1	1.7	0.5	4,164	-28
Guadeloupe	172	118	78	69	51	49	-3	1.4	-0.2	3,527	8
Guyane	497	541	495	369	269	227	-15	10.0	0.0	2,272	-15
Martinique	221	163	135	154	128	134	5	2.4	-0.2	5,549	11
Mayotte	40	32	34	20	20	17	-13	1.6	0.3	1,077	-28
La Réunion	68	49	33	28	29	33	16	1.3	0.5	2,503	-24

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

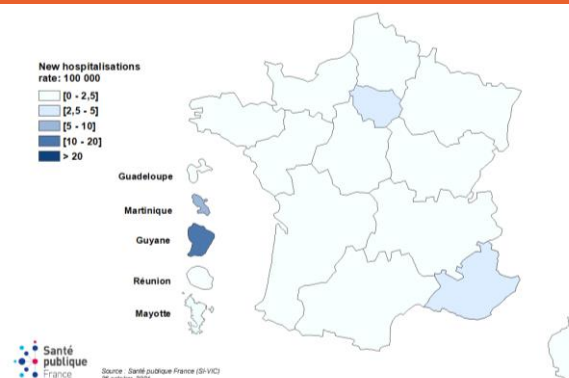


Hospital and intensive care admissions by date of admission

In **metropolitan France** in week 42, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **stable or increasing** in all regions. The highest hospitalisation rates were observed in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Île-de-France, and Pays de la Loire**.

In **overseas France**, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were the **highest in French Guiana**. In Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana, new hospitalisations were down, although new intensive care admissions were stable.

Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 42, France



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

² For further information on the epidemic situation in the regions, consult the [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

Variants of concern

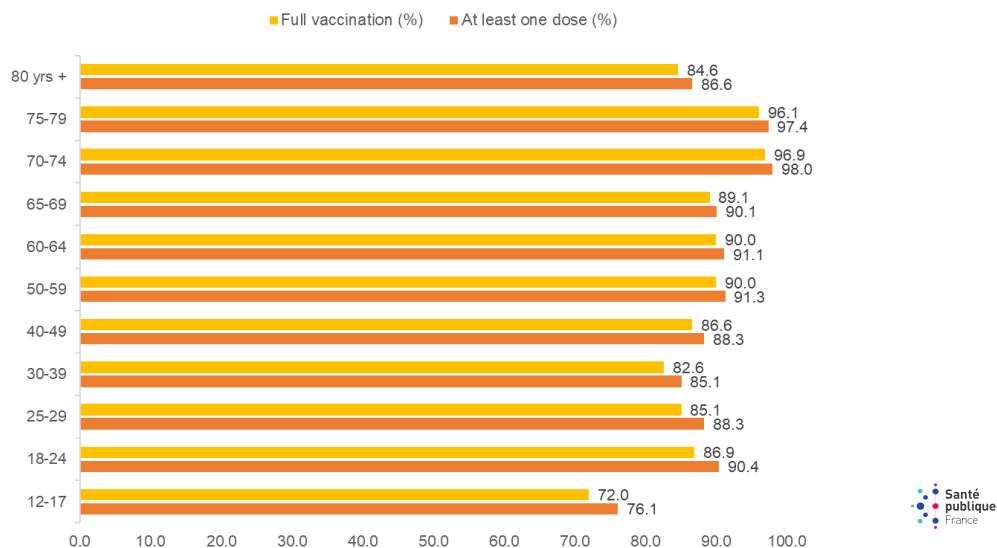
The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 96.4% of screened positive samples in week 42 (vs 95.8% in week 41). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was identified in **100% of interpretable sequences** in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #26 (28 September) and #27 (5 October) (unconsolidated data). In **overseas France**, Delta was also identified in **100% of interpretable sequences** in Flash Surveys #25 (21 September) and #26 (28 September, unconsolidated data).

At the international level, Delta was also the dominant strain, representing 98.9% of sequences between 26 September and 26 October according to the GISAID database. The **Delta sublineage AY.4.2**, which is under enhanced surveillance due to its higher circulation in the United Kingdom, was detected at very low levels in metropolitan France (see the [analysis of the risks associated with the emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2 on 21 October 2021](#)).

Vaccination

- On 26 October, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on data from Vaccin Covid was estimated at 76.2% (n=50,706,321) for at least one dose, 74.3% for full vaccination, and 4.0% (n=2,688,952) for the booster dose. Overall, 16.9% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,093,009 had received one dose (88.4%), and 49,877,764 (86.3%) were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 26 October 2021 (in %)



Sources: Vaccin Covid data, Cnam, data processing by Santé publique France

- On 26 October, 93.7% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.0% were fully vaccinated, and 50.0% had received a booster shot. Among healthcare professionals in private practice, 96.5% had received at least one vaccine dose, 95.9% were fully vaccinated, and 11.7% had received a booster dose. Vaccination coverage of people over 15 years living in a vulnerable situation was estimated at 75.3% for at least one dose, 73.3% for full vaccination, and 4.5% for the booster shot (detailed methodology given in the special study "[Point sur](#)" published 21 October 2021).

Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #25](#)
[Monitoring of the cases of paediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome](#)

For more information on COVID-19, the surveillance systems in place, and vaccination, consult the websites of [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](#).