

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

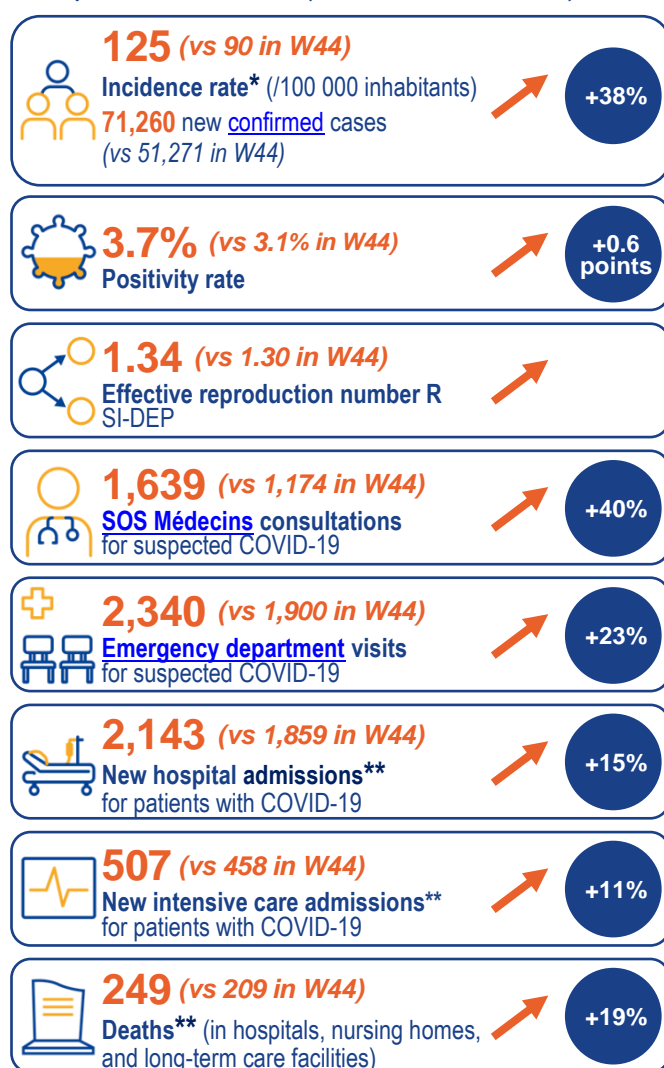
Weekly Report / Week 45 / 18 November 2021

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 17 November 2021.

Key numbers

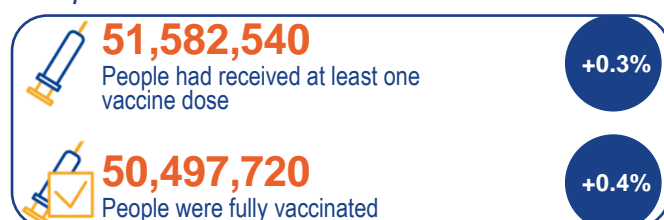
Week 45 (8-14 November 2021)

Compared to week 44 (1-7 November 2021)



On 16 November 2021

Compared to 9 November 2021



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 45, SARS-CoV-2 circulation intensified in metropolitan France, and the upward trend for new hospitalisations was confirmed.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Incidence rate* rising in all age groups and regions
 - Screening rate* sharply increasing in children with the return to school after the holidays
 - Stable or increasing new hospital admissions in all regions
- Overseas France:
 - Worrying situation in Reunion Island with a sharp increase in the incidence rate
 - Lower SARS-CoV-2 circulation and improved hospital indicators in French Guiana

Variants

- Delta variant identified in almost 100% of sequenced samples in the latest Flash Survey (25-29 October 2021)

Contact tracing

- With the end of the school holidays, higher number of cases attending school and lower number of cases travelling outside their region of residence
- Shorter delay between first clinical signs and testing: 2.2 days following a substantial rise in week 44

Prevention

- CoviPrev Survey, Wave 29 (28 October-5 November):
 - Higher proportion of unvaccinated people refusing to be tested in case of symptoms
- Vaccination on 16 November 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 76.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.2% were fully vaccinated
 - Among the population aged 65 years and older, 29.1% had received a booster shot, representing 68.1% of eligible persons in this age group
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster shot for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing, and respect of preventive measures

*Rate corrected for the effect of public holidays (1 and 11 November). **Unconsolidated data

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 45, SARS-CoV-2 circulation intensified in metropolitan France, and the rise in new hospitalisations was confirmed. An increase in the corrected incidence rate (taking into account the public holiday effect) was observed in all age groups. The use of screening tests also augmented, especially among children under 10 years due to the resumption of screening in the school environment. The corrected incidence rate was on the rise in all metropolitan regions, exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 61 departments. In overseas France, the situation remained worrying in Reunion Island, with the corrected incidence rate continuing to increase over the past 3 weeks to reach 195 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Contact tracing data showed an improvement in the delay between the onset of clinical signs and testing (2.2 days, a similar level to that of previous months). On 16 November, 75.2% of the French population were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 29.1% had received a booster dose. In the current epidemic context, it is crucial to encourage vaccination in addition to the administration of the booster shot for eligible persons. Implementing the screening and isolation strategy at the slightest symptom, using contact tracing in the case of positive test results, and maintaining a high level of adherence to preventive measures are all essential given their effectiveness in limiting the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 and other winter viruses as well as preserving the healthcare system.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

Nationally, the incidence rate corrected for the public holiday effect on 11 November reached 125 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in week 45 (vs 90 in week 44, +38%). On average, more than 10,000 cases were diagnosed per day. The corrected incidence rate was on the rise in all age groups, exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the population under 70 years. The corrected screening rate was 3,335 per 100,000 inhabitants (+14%); it increased by 228% among children under 10 years with the resumption of screening campaigns associated with the return to school after the holidays. The positivity rate rose in all age groups, with the exception of children under 10 years, and reached 3.7% in week 45 (+0.6 points).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 climbed substantially in SOS Médecins organisations (1,639, +40%) and emergency departments (2,340, +23%).

The number of new hospital and intensive care admissions rose by 15% and 11%, respectively (unconsolidated data). On 16 November, 7,596 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,290 in intensive care.

In metropolitan France, the corrected incidence rate was on the rise in all regions, exceeding 100/100,000 inhabitants in almost all regions. It was above 50/100,000 in all departments and 100/100,000 in 61 departments. New hospitalisation rates were stable or increasing in all regions, with the highest rates once again observed in Pays de la Loire and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

In overseas France, the situation deteriorated in Reunion Island, where the corrected incidence rate reached 195/100,000 inhabitants (+63%) with a deterioration in hospital indicators.

In French Guiana, the incidence rate and new hospital admissions continued to fall, allowing for the gradual lifting of collective preventive measures.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented 99.9% of interpretable sequences in the latest Flash Survey (25-29 October 2021).

CONTACT TRACING

In week 45, the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) increased by 45% and 42%, respectively. The number of contacts identified per case (2.61, unconsolidated data) appeared stable. The proportion of people aged 65 years and older among cases and contacts continued to fall for the second consecutive week. The number of cases attending school (n=5,477) returned to a level similar to that observed in the week preceding the school holidays (n=4,585 in week 42). After increasing in week 44, the delay between the onset of clinical signs and the date of testing (2.2 days) returned to the level observed before the month of October.

PREVENTION

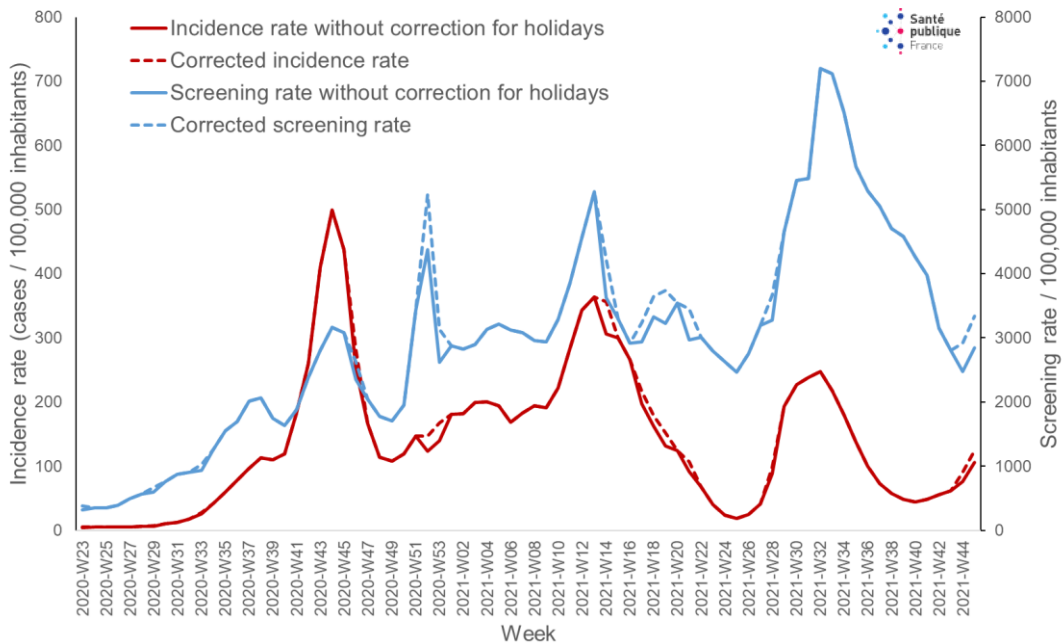
Wave 29 of the CoviPrev Survey (28 October-5 November) indicated that the proportion of unvaccinated people who refused to be tested in the event of symptoms has risen since the end of free testing (22% vs 15% in September). Furthermore, adherence to certain preventive measures has fallen, such as greetings without handshaking or kissing (54% vs 59% in early October).

On 16 November, 76.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.2% were fully vaccinated. Overall, 29.1% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot, corresponding to 68.1% of the eligible population.

Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) corrected for the public holiday effect on 11 November reached 125 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in week 45 (vs 90 in week 44, +38%), while the corrected [screening rate](#) was 3,335 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 2,917 in week 43, +14%). The [positivity rate](#) increased (3.7%, +0.6 points). Among the 1,711,937 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 88% were **asymptomatic**, a proportion that has been **falling** for several weeks (92% in week 40). The **positivity rate** increased among both symptomatic (17.2% vs 15.4% in week 44) and asymptomatic individuals (2.0% vs 1.6%). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases remained unchanged at 54%.

Weekly evolution in the incidence and screening rates since week 23, 2020, France, corrected and uncorrected for public holidays (data on 17 November 2021)



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

Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 45, the corrected [incidence rate](#) rose sharply in all age groups, especially among children aged 0-9 years where the increase was substantial (106, +62%). The highest rates were observed among 30-39 year-olds (181, +38%), 20-29 year-olds (150, +44%), and 40-49 year-olds (145, +32%). The corrected [screening rate](#) surged among 0-9 year-olds (2,615, + 228%). In the other age groups, the increase fluctuated between 2% and 11%. The highest screening rates were observed among 30-39 year-olds (4,399) and 20-29 year-olds (4,400). The [positivity rate](#) increased in all age groups, except among 0-9 year-olds (4.1%, -4.1 points). It was the highest among 40-49 year-olds (4.3%, +0.8 points) and the lowest among people aged 90 years and older (2.7%, +0.7 points).

Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 34, France (data on 17 November 2021)

111	89	69	45	32	35	27	29	38	48	55	79	90 yrs +
73	58	44	32	26	25	26	35	43	43	55	66	80-89 yrs
80	63	49	34	32	31	33	43	56	63	80	99	70-79 yrs
93	75	52	40	33	30	29	37	47	56	81	108	60-69 yrs
138	104	73	51	42	37	35	39	46	58	83	116	50-59 yrs
197	150	107	77	63	54	48	53	61	72	110	145	40-49 yrs
273	208	150	111	84	69	64	67	72	85	131	181	30-39 yrs
307	217	146	98	73	61	58	61	57	69	104	150	20-29 yrs
243	180	124	89	72	61	49	50	58	58	80	112	10-19 yrs
131	120	110	94	70	51	41	44	52	44	66	106	0-9 yrs
180	137	100	73	57	48	44	48	55	62	90	125	All ages
W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44*	W45*	

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*W44 and W45: rate corrected for the public holiday effect (1 and 11 November)



Source: SI-DEP

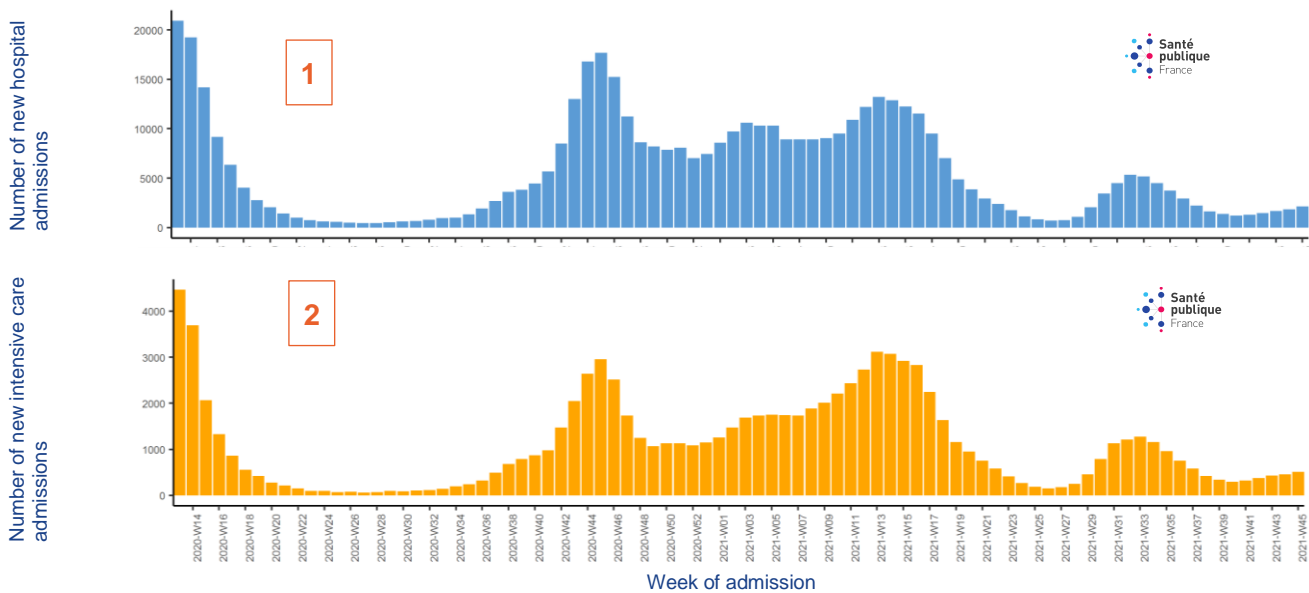
Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

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 45, up to 16 November 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.**

On 16 November 2021, **7,596** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,912 on 9 November, +10%), including **1,290** in intensive care (vs 1,153 on 9 November, +12%).

At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission revealed **2,143 new hospital admissions** in week 45 (+15% from week 44, vs +10% between weeks 43 and 44) and **507 new intensive care admissions** (+11% from week 44, vs +6% between weeks 43 and 44) (unconsolidated data from week 45).

Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 16 November 2021)



W45: unconsolidated data

In week 45, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions remained stable or slightly increased in all age groups, although a more substantial rise in new hospitalisations was observed for those aged 80 years and older.

Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 37 to week 44, France

Age group	New hospital admissions (1)								New intensive care admissions (2)							
	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45
90 yrs +	9.9	9.1	8.5	11.8	16.2	18.2	17.5	23.7	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.7
80-89 yrs	7.8	7.1	6.9	8.0	8.5	10.6	11.2	14.8	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.9
70-79 yrs	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.3	5.6	6.0	7.7	7.9	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.5	2.6
60-69 yrs	3.2	2.8	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.6	3.8	4.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6
50-59 yrs	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.6	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9
40-49 yrs	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
30-39 yrs	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3
20-29 yrs	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
10-19 yrs	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0-9 yrs	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
All ages	2.4	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8

At the national level, there were **243 deaths in hospital** in week 45 (+19% from week 44; unconsolidated data from week 45). In the previous week, this number had fallen by 5% compared to week 43. There were also **6 deaths in long-term care facilities** in week 45 (vs 4 in week 44).

Situation at the regional level

Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

In **metropolitan France**, the **corrected incidence rate** exceeded **100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants** in all regions, except for Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (94) and Normandy (76). It increased throughout metropolitan France, as did the positivity and screening rates. The screening rate was the highest in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Île-de-France. In week 45, all departments had a corrected incidence rate above the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 87 in week 44), while 61 had a rate above 100 (vs 22 in week 44). The highest incidence rates were observed in Ardèche (242, +74%), Haute-Corse (242, +71%), Haut-Rhin (200, +49%), Bouches-du-Rhône (191, +40%), and Lozère (186, -3%).

In **overseas France**, the corrected incidence rate fell in French Guiana (116/100,000 inhabitants, -27%) and Mayotte (34, -33%). It increased in Reunion Island (195, +63%), Martinique (138, +20%), and Guadeloupe (68, +19%).

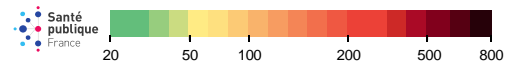
Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region since week 40, France (data on 17 November 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						W45* vs W44* (%)	Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44*	W45*		W45	W45 vs W44 (points)	W45*	W45* vs W44* (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	39	42	49	55	85	130	53	4.3	1.0	3,047	18
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	29	33	33	44	73	94	29	3.5	0.4	2,722	13
Brittany	29	34	44	54	76	113	47	4.3	0.8	2,635	21
Centre-Val de Loire	28	34	46	55	77	101	32	4.5	0.7	2,279	12
Corsica	54	55	56	90	131	217	65	4.6	1.6	4,759	9
Grand Est	32	35	42	52	85	124	46	3.6	0.6	3,410	20
Hauts-de-France	31	34	46	54	86	123	43	4.0	0.4	3,037	29
Île-de-France	64	71	71	74	96	117	22	3.1	0.3	3,819	12
Normandy	24	31	33	37	55	76	38	3.0	0.2	2,544	28
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	30	39	51	58	85	124	46	4.4	0.8	2,819	19
Occitanie	34	38	48	54	79	117	48	3.7	0.9	3,119	13
Pays de la Loire	38	48	73	84	108	156	44	5.2	0.7	2,996	24
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	68	72	73	78	106	159	50	3.7	1.1	4,272	5
Guadeloupe	69	51	50	53	57	68	19	1.5	0.1	4,456	9
French Guiana	369	270	234	172	159	116	-27	5.3	-1.4	2,170	-8
Martinique	155	129	135	116	114	138	20	2.2	0.0	6,381	23
Mayotte	20	20	17	30	50	34	-33	2.2	-1.5	1,541	14
Réunion Island	28	29	33	61	120	195	63	4.8	0.9	4,032	33

*Data corrected for public holidays (1 & 11 November)

Source: SI-DEP

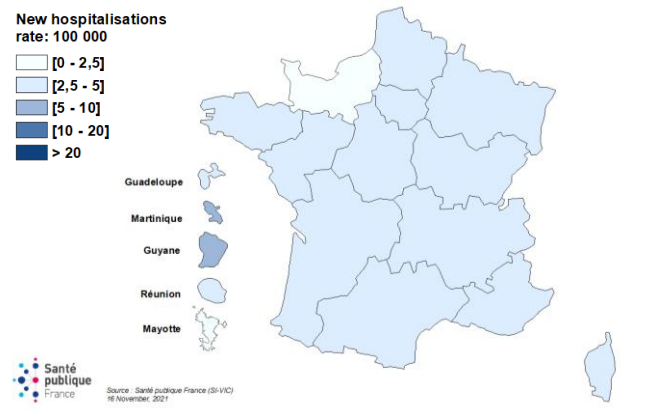
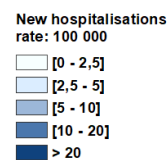
Hospital and intensive care admissions by date of admission



In **metropolitan France**, the weekly rate of [new hospital admissions](#) was stable or increasing in week 45. New intensive care admissions were also stable or increasing, except in Île-de-France where they fell. These trends should nevertheless be confirmed once the data are consolidated. The highest rates of new hospitalisations occurred in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** and **Pays de la Loire**.

In **overseas France**, both hospital indicators remained the **highest in French Guiana** despite a fall in new hospitalisations. The rates dropped in Martinique and remained stable in Guadeloupe. In Reunion Island, both hospital indicators continued to worsen.

Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 45, France



Source: Santé publique France (SI-VIC) 16 November, 2021

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

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 96.7% of screened positive samples in week 45 (vs 96.3% in week 44). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was respectively identified in more than **99.9% and 99.8% of interpretable sequences in metropolitan France** in Flash Surveys #29 (19 and 22 October) and #30 (25 to 29 October) (unconsolidated data). In **overseas France**, **Delta** was identified in **100% of interpretable sequences** in Flash Surveys #27 (5 October), #28 (12 October), and #29 (19 and 22 October, unconsolidated data).

Delta is also the dominant strain **at the international level**, representing more than 99% of 248,247 sequenced samples between 17 October and 16 November according to the international database GISAID.

A **non-Delta variant**, known as **B.1.640**, was detected during the investigation of a cluster in Brittany in October 2021. The index case of this cluster had previously travelled to Africa. The variant B.1.640 was classified as **VUM** (variant under monitoring) but remains rarely detected in France and abroad. For more information, refer to the [preliminary risk assessment from 12 November 2021](#).

Vaccination

On 16 September, [vaccination coverage](#) based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 76.9% for at least one dose, **75.2% for full vaccination**, and 7.2% (n=4,832,300) for the booster dose. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,560,101 had received one dose (89.2%), and 50,480,641 (87.4%) were fully vaccinated.

Overall, **29.1% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot** (+4.9 points compared to week 44). This indicator corresponds to the ratio between the number of injections and the population of this age group, which allows the level of protection to be assessed in this population.

It is estimated that 68.1% of people aged 65 years and older who were eligible for the booster dose on 16 November 2021 had effectively received it. This alternative estimation follows the dynamics of the booster campaign in the eligible population while taking into account the delay required before receiving the booster shot. This percentage can theoretically diminish over time if the number of eligible persons evolves faster than the number of those who received the booster dose. In the current calculation, the following elements are taken into account: in people aged 65 years and older, the [booster dose](#) is recommended 6 months after full vaccination for those who received the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca vaccines; this delay is reduced to 4 weeks for those who received one dose of the Janssen vaccine. To give eligible people the time to receive their booster shots, the measuring point for this indicator is taken as at least 7 months after the last injection for people who were fully vaccinated with Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca, and at least 2 months for Janssen.

On 16 November, 93.9% of **residents in care homes for the elderly and long-term care facilities** had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.3% were fully vaccinated, and 54.4% had received a booster shot. Vaccination coverage for one dose was 92.2% for **professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities** (full vaccination: 91.3%; booster dose: 4.6%), 96.8% for **healthcare professionals in private practice** (full vaccination: 96.4%; booster dose: 22.2%), and 92.2% for **professionals working in healthcare establishments** (full vaccination: 91.4%; booster dose: 5.6%). Vaccination coverage of people aged 15 years and over living in a **vulnerable situation** was estimated at 76.1% for at least one dose, 74.3% for full vaccination, and 7.8% for the booster shot.

Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #28](#)
 Update on the adherence to preventive measures with [CoviPrev Survey, Wave 29](#)
 Latest results of the [monitoring of COVID-19 cases among professionals working in healthcare establishments](#)

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](#).