

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

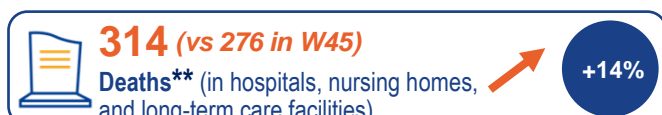
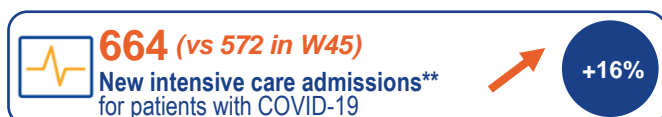
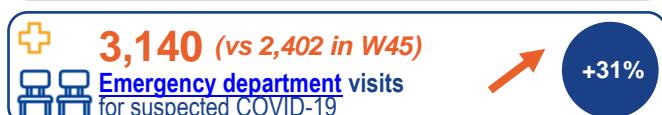
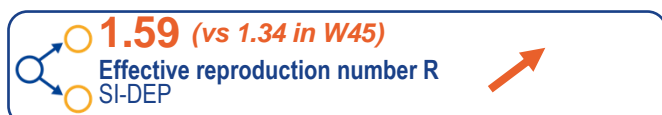
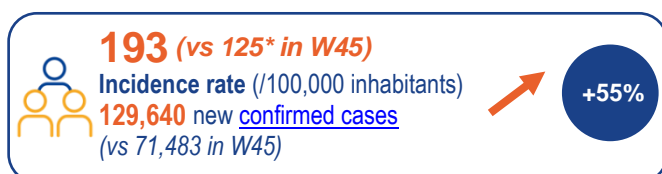
Weekly Report / Week 46 / 25 November 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners<sup>1</sup> as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 24 November 2021.

## Key numbers

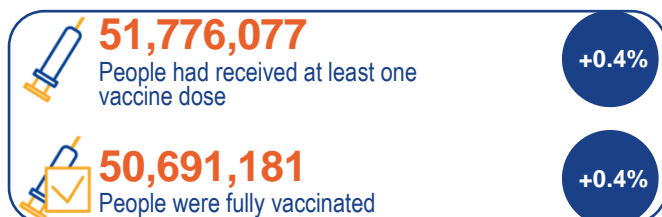
Week 46 (15-21 November 2021)

Compared to week 45 (8-14 November 2021)



On 23 November 2021

Compared to 16 November 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 46, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated markedly throughout metropolitan France, and the rise in new hospital and intensive care admissions escalated.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Increase in the incidence rate in all age groups and in all regions
  - Effective reproduction rate up sharply to 1.59
  - New hospital and intensive care admissions rising in most regions
- Overseas France:
  - High and increasing incidence rate in Martinique and Reunion Island

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in more than 99% of sequenced samples in the Flash Surveys from week 43 (25-29 October) and week 44 (1-5 November)

### Contact tracing

- Substantial increase in the number of cases and contacts
- Lower proportion of new cases linked to known transmission chains

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 23 November 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 77.1% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.5% were fully vaccinated
  - 35.5% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster shot, representing 73.3% of the eligible population in this age group
- CoviPrev Survey, Wave 29 (28 October-5 November):
  - Slight fall in anxiety (23%, -3 points) and sleep disorders (66%, -4 points) since the previous wave (28 September-5 October)
  - Rise in depression since July (17%, +4 points)
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster shot for the eligible population, adherence to contact tracing, and respect of preventive measures

[New dashboard](#)

[InfoCovidFrance](#)

Key figures and evolution of COVID-19 in France and worldwide

\*Rate corrected for the public holiday effect (11 November). \*\*Unconsolidated data.

<sup>1</sup>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.

## Week 46 (15 to 21 November 2021)

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 46, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated markedly throughout metropolitan France, and the rise in new hospital and intensive care admissions escalated. The effective reproduction rate also increased substantially to reach 1.59. At the national level, the incidence rate was 193 cases per 100,000 inhabitants and exceeded 200 cases among 6-14 year-olds and 20-49 year-olds. The majority of metropolitan regions also had an incidence rate above or close to 200 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. In overseas France, the situation remained worrying in Reunion Island, with a new rise in the incidence rate, which reached 223 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Contact tracing data showed a significant increase in the proportion of cases who attended school or participated in a group activity (i.e., sport, cultural event, professional or private meeting). On 23 November, 75.5% of the French population were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 35.5% had received a booster dose. In the current epidemic context, vaccination, including booster shots, as well as a strict adherence to preventive measures are of utmost importance. Implementing the screening and isolation strategy at the slightest symptom and using contact tracing in the case of positive test results are essential to limit the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and winter viruses as well as preserve the healthcare system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**Nationally**, the incidence rate surged in week 46 (+55%) to reach 193 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 125 in week 45, rate corrected for the public holiday effect on 11 November). An average of 18,520 cases were diagnosed each day. Substantial increases were observed in all age groups. The incidence rate exceeded the threshold of 200 cases per 100,000 inhabitants among 6-10 year-olds (346, +111%), 11-14 year-olds (212, +81%), and 20-49 year-olds. For all ages combined, the screening rate was 3,948 per 100,000 inhabitants (+18%). Two weeks after the end of the school holidays, the largest increases occurred among 6-10 year-olds (8,018, +101%) and 3-5 year-olds (4,774, +98%). The positivity rate of tests reached 4.9% (+1.2 points), rising in all age groups except 3-5 year-olds (3.6%, +0 points) and 6-10 year-olds (4.3%, +0.2 points) in whom it was stable.

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 climbed significantly in emergency departments (3,140, +31%) and SOS Médecins organisations (2,035, +24%).

The number of new hospital admissions escalated (2,899, +20%), as did new intensive care admissions (664, +16%) (unconsolidated data). On 23 November, 8,586 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,468 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate increased sharply in all regions. It exceeded 150 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in all regions, with the exception of Brittany (141, +25%) and Normandy (120, +58%). Overall, 4 regions and 34 departments had an incidence rate above 200. The rate of new hospital admissions increased throughout most of metropolitan France, primarily among people aged 60 years and older. The highest rates were observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Corsica.

**In overseas France**, the situation remained worrying in Reunion Island, with the incidence rate continuing to rise (223, +14%) but with stable hospital indicators.

In Martinique, the incidence rate increased for the second consecutive week (163, +17%), with high rates of new hospitalisations.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented 99.6% of interpretable sequences in the latest Flash Survey (1-5 November).

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 46, the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) continued to rise rapidly and markedly (+79% and +76%, respectively), with a large increase in the number of cases who participated in sport or cultural activities as well as in professional or private meetings. These data suggest that the number of cases will keep rising if preventive measures are not rigorously respected during these events. The return to school after the holidays and the use of screening in schools was accompanied by a +170% increase in cases identified in this milieu.

### PREVENTION

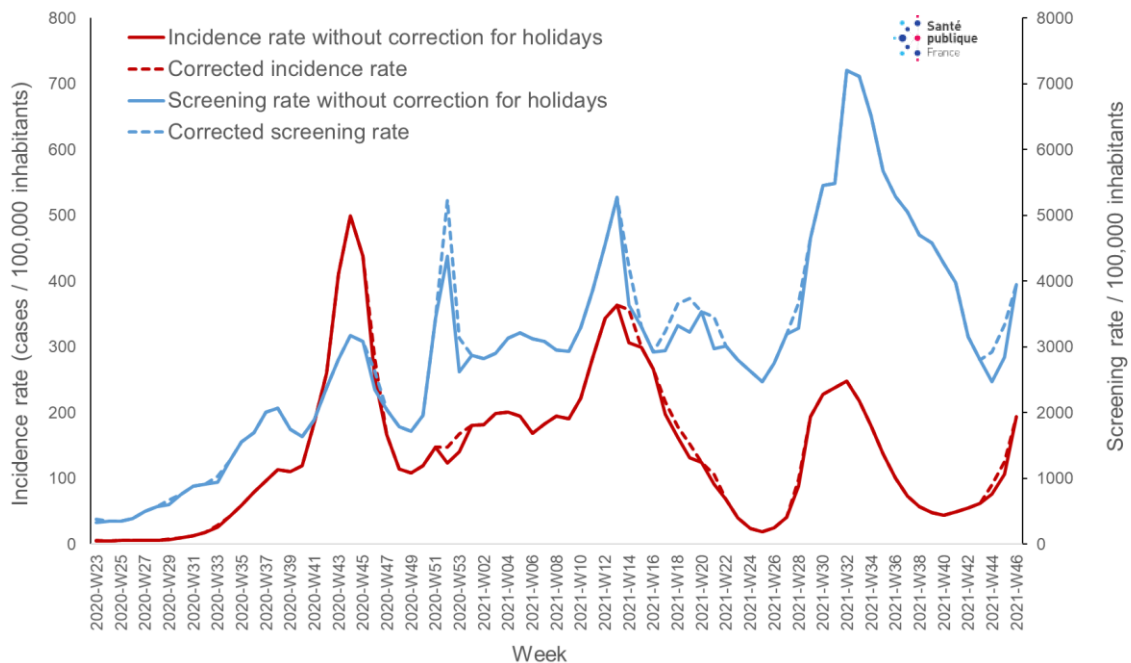
In the CoviPrev Survey, Wave 29 (28 October-5 November), the mental health of the interviewed people was worrying, with nevertheless a slight decline in anxiety (23% vs 26% of respondents one month earlier) and sleep problems (66% vs 70%). Overall, 31% of respondents experienced signs of anxiety or depression.

On 23 November, 77.1% of the total population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.5% were fully vaccinated. Furthermore, 35.5% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot. The rate reached 73.3% for the eligible population.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 193 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 46 (vs 125 in week 45, +55%), while the [screening rate](#) was 3,948 per 100,000 inhabitants (3,334 in week 45, +18%). The [positivity rate](#) increased (4.9%, +1.2 points). Among the 2,398,649 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 86% were asymptomatic, once again slightly down this week (88% in week 45). The positivity rate increased among both symptomatic (18.9% vs 17.2% in week 45) and asymptomatic individuals (2.7% vs 2.0%). Overall, 53% of cases were symptomatic (vs 54% in week 45).

### Weekly evolution in the incidence and screening rates since week 23, 2020, France (corrected and uncorrected for public holidays) (data on 24 November 2021)



Source: S-I-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

### Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 46, the [incidence rate](#) rose significantly in all age groups, especially in children aged 0-9 years (210, +98%) and 10-19 year-olds (195, +74%). The highest rates were observed in 30-39 year-olds (268, +48%), 40-49 year-olds (225, +54%), and 20-29 year-olds (217, +44%). The [screening rate](#) increased sharply, being the highest in 0-9 year-olds (5,081, +94%) followed by 10-19 year-olds (4,796, +26%). In other age groups, the increase ranged from +3% to +13%. The [positivity rate](#) increased in all age groups except for 0-9 year-olds in whom it was stable (4.1%, +0.1 points). It was the highest among 40-49 year-olds (5.9%, +1.6 points) and the lowest among those aged 90 years and older (3.4%, +0.7 points).

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 35, France (data on 24 November 2021)

89	69	45	32	35	27	29	38	48	55	79	108	90 yrs +
58	44	32	26	25	26	35	43	43	56	66	85	80-89 yrs
63	49	34	32	31	33	43	56	63	80	99	133	70-79 yrs
75	52	40	33	30	29	37	47	57	81	108	154	60-69 yrs
104	73	51	42	37	35	39	46	58	83	116	177	50-59 yrs
150	107	77	63	54	48	53	61	72	110	146	225	40-49 yrs
208	150	111	84	69	64	67	72	85	132	181	268	30-39 yrs
217	146	98	73	61	58	61	57	69	105	151	217	20-29 yrs
180	124	89	72	61	49	50	58	58	80	112	195	10-19 yrs
120	110	94	70	51	41	44	52	44	66	106	210	0-9 yrs
137	100	73	57	48	44	48	55	62	90	125	193	All ages
W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44*	W45*	W46	

Santé publique France

Source: S-I-DEP

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



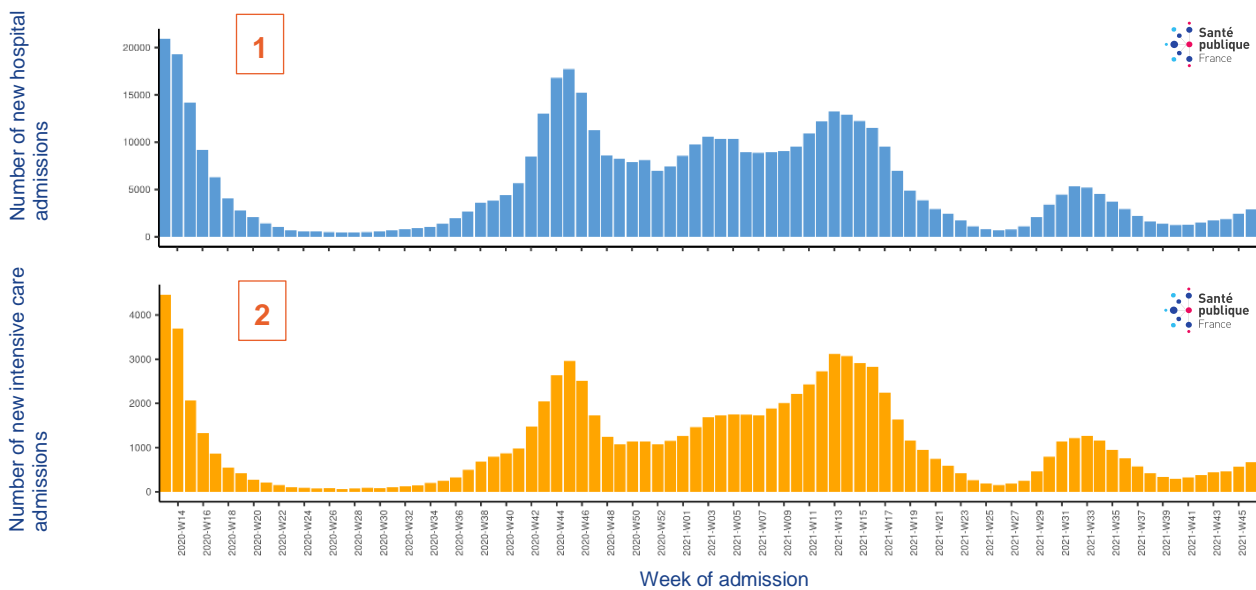
# Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

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 46, up to 23 November 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.**

On 23 November 2021, **8,586** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 7,596 on 16 November, +13%), including **1,468** in intensive care (vs 1,290 on 16 November, +14%).

At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission revealed **2,899 new hospital admissions** in week 46 (+20% from week 45, vs +26% between weeks 44 and 45) and **664 new intensive care admissions** (+16% from week 45, vs +21% between weeks 44 and 45) (unconsolidated data from week 46).

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



W46: unconsolidated data

In week 46, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions remained stable or increased slightly in the population under 60 years. New hospital admissions rose more substantially among the elderly.

## Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 39 to week 46, France

		1								2							
		W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46
	<b>90 yrs +</b>	9.1	8.7	12.1	16.5	19.0	18.5	27.8	36.8	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.1
	<b>80-89 yrs</b>	7.1	7.0	8.0	8.6	10.8	11.8	16.2	18.7	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1
	<b>70-79 yrs</b>	4.0	4.1	4.4	5.7	6.2	7.8	8.9	10.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.6	2.8	3.1
	<b>60-69 yrs</b>	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.8	4.9	6.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2
	<b>50-59 yrs</b>	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.3	3.0	3.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.3
	<b>40-49 yrs</b>	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
	<b>30-39 yrs</b>	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
	<b>20-29 yrs</b>	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
	<b>10-19 yrs</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<b>0-9 yrs</b>	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
	<b>All ages</b>	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.6	4.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0

At the national level, there were **311 deaths in hospital** in week 46 (+16% from week 45; unconsolidated data from week 46). In the previous week, this number had risen by 28% compared to week 44. There were also **3 deaths in long-term care facilities** in week 46 (vs 8 in week 45).

## Situation at the regional level

### Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

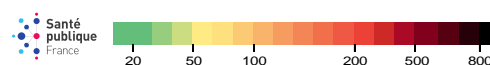
In **metropolitan France**, the incidence rate was up, exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 habitants in all regions, with four regions having a rate above 200. The positivity rate ranged from 3.5% in Normandy to 5.9% in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. The screening rate was the highest in Corsica and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. In week 46, the incidence rate exceeded 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 93 departments (vs 61 in week 45) and 200 cases in 34 departments (vs 2 in week 45). The highest incidence rates were observed in Ardèche (393, +62%), Haute-Corse (352, +45%), Bouches-du-Rhône (289, +51%), Haut-Rhin (279, +40%), and Landes (276, +65%).

In **overseas France**, the incidence rate fell in French Guiana (77/100 000 inhabitants, -34%). Nevertheless, it increased in Reunion Island (223, +14%) and Martinique (163, +17%). Due to the current social unrest in Guadeloupe, the fall in the incidence rate recorded in week 46 was closely linked to the lower screening rates. The epidemiological interpretation of the evolution of COVID-19 in Guadeloupe based on all the available indicators is thus disrupted.

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region since week 41, France (data on 24 November 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						Positivity rate (%)			Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W41	W42	W43	W44*	W45*	W46	W46 vs W45* (%)	W46	W46 vs W45 (points)	W46	W46* vs W45* (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	42	49	55	85	131	218	67	5.9	1.6	3,670	20
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	33	33	44	73	94	174	84	5.1	1.7	3,390	24
Brittany	34	44	54	76	113	141	25	4.4	0.2	3,180	21
Centre-Val de Loire	34	46	55	77	102	158	56	5.4	1.0	2,911	28
Corsica	55	56	90	131	218	305	40	5.6	1.0	5,481	15
Grand Est	35	42	52	85	124	204	64	4.8	1.2	4,238	24
Hauts-de-France	34	46	55	86	123	193	57	5.0	1.0	3,838	26
Île-de-France	71	71	74	96	117	190	62	4.4	1.3	4,303	13
Normandy	31	33	37	55	76	120	58	3.5	0.5	3,412	34
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	39	51	58	85	124	193	55	5.4	1.0	3,564	27
Occitanie	38	48	54	79	117	190	63	5.1	1.3	3,735	20
Pays de la Loire	48	73	84	108	156	198	27	5.4	0.2	3,651	22
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	72	73	78	107	160	243	52	5.1	1.4	4,754	11
Guadeloupe	51	50	53	57	69	44**	-37	1.7	0.1	2,590	-42
French Guiana	270	234	172	159	117	77	-34	3.8	-1.5	2,010	-8
Martinique	129	135	116	115	140	163	17	2.7	0.6	5,947	-7
Mayotte	20	17	30	50	34	36	6	2.7	0.5	1,336	-13
Réunion Island	29	33	61	120	196	223	14	5.1	0.2	4,376	9

\*Data corrected for public holidays (1 and 11 November). \*\* Data non-interpretable due to national social movements.



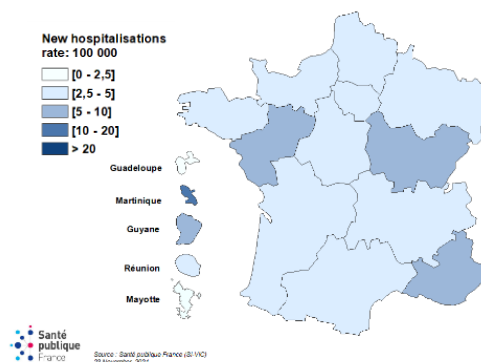
Source: SI-DEP

### Hospital and intensive care admissions by date of admission

In **metropolitan France** in week 46, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions **increased** in all regions with the exception of Brittany and Normandy where the hospital indicators were stable. These trends should nevertheless be confirmed once the data are consolidated. The highest rates of new hospitalisations were observed in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** and **Corsica**.

In **overseas France**, new hospital and intensive care admissions were the **highest** and slightly up in **Martinique**. In French Guiana, they declined slightly, while they remained stable in Reunion Island.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 46, France



Source: Santé publique France (SI-VIC) 23 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 96.8% of screened positive samples in week 46 (vs 96.6% in week 45). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was respectively identified in more than **99.9% and 99.6% of interpretable sequences in metropolitan France** in Flash Surveys from week 43 (25-29 October) and week 44 (1-5 November) (unconsolidated data). In **overseas France**, **Delta** was identified in **100% of interpretable sequences** in Flash Surveys from week 42 (19 and 22 October), week 43 (25-29 October), and week 44 (1 to 5 November, unconsolidated data).

**Delta** is also the dominant strain **at the international level**, representing more than 99% of 299,208 samples sequenced between 23 October and 22 November according to the international database GISAID. The variant **B.1.640**, classified as **VUM** (variant under monitoring) since the [preliminary risk assessment on 12 November 2021](#), is still rarely detected in France and abroad.

## Vaccination

On 23 November 2021, [vaccination coverage](#) based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 77.1% for at least one dose, **75.5% for full vaccination**, and 9.0% (n=6,069,301) for the booster dose. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,753,157 had received one dose (89.6%), and 50,673,624 (87.7%) were fully vaccinated.

Overall, **35.5% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot** (+6.4 points compared to week 45). 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.

**Moreover, it is estimated that 73.3% (+5.2 points from week 45) of people aged 65 years and older who were eligible for the booster dose on 23 November 2021 had received it.** This 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 who received the booster. 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. The mRNA vaccine dose recommended for people who received one dose of the Janssen vaccine is thus counted as a booster shot. However, in a recent [recommendation](#), the National Health Authority (HAS) proposed considering this dose as an additional dose to complete the initial vaccine series. To give eligible people the time to receive their booster shots, the measuring point for this indicator is taken to be 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 23 November, 93.9% of **residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities** had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.5% were fully vaccinated, and 56.2% had received a booster shot.

### Vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals in France on 16 and 23 November 2021 (in %)

	At least one dose (%)		Full vaccination (%)		Booster dose (%)	
	16 November	23 November	16 November	23 November	16 November	23 November
Professionals in nursing homes and long-term care facilities	92.2	92.4	91.3	91.5	4.6	6.9
Professionals in private practice	96.8	96.8	96.4	96.5	22.2	28.0
Salaried healthcare workers in healthcare establishments	92.2	92.3	91.4	91.6	5.6	8.1

### Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #30](#)

Update on the evolution of mental health with the [CoviPrev Survey, wave 29](#)

Report on [monitoring of 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](#).

All data open access and available on [Géodes](#).