

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

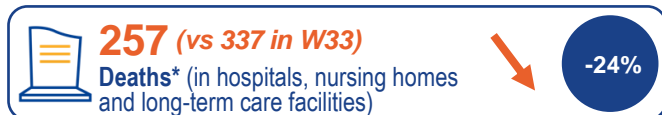
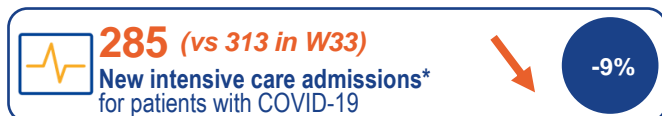
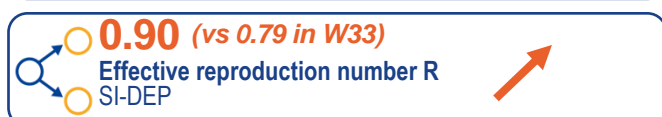
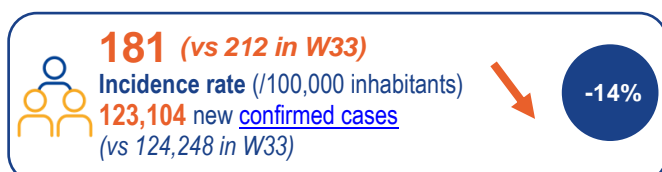
N° 131 / Week 34 / 1 September 2022

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 submitted to Santé publique France up to 31 August.

## Key numbers

Week 34 (22-28 August 2022)

Compared to week 33 (15-21 August 2022)



On 29 August 2022

Compared to 22 August 2022



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 34, on the eve of the start of the new academic year, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued to decrease, with a drop in hospital admissions at national level. However, virological indicators remained very high in Reunion Island.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Decrease in incidence rate in all regions
  - Incidence rate declining in most age groups but slightly rising in the under-10s
  - Hospital admission rates continue to fall in most regions
- Overseas France:
  - Incidence rate very high and still slightly rising in Reunion Island

### Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent, accounting for 95% of sequences in the week 33 Flash Survey (16 August)

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 29 August 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - Vaccination coverage for the booster dose stable at 75.4% in the population aged 18+ years and 85.3% in the 65+ age group
  - Second booster dose: 27.0% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 32.9% of those eligible given the date of their last injection) and 35.1% of people aged 80+ (46.2% of those eligible)
  - In the context of the end of the summer holidays and the imminent start of the school year, compliance with the combined measures remains essential:
    - staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations;
    - self-isolation in case of a positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptoms;
    - application of precautionary measures, including wearing a mask systematically around vulnerable people and in enclosed spaces favourable to transmission (especially public transport and large gatherings), and frequent hand washing. During heatwaves, ventilation of enclosed spaces should be limited to the cooler hours of the day.

\*W34: 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 34 (22 to 28 August 2022)

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 34, the situation continued to improve at national level with a further drop in the incidence rate observed in the vast majority of regions. The incidence, although lower, stabilised in the younger age groups with a slight increase in the rate among 0-9 year-olds. In addition, hospital admissions were still decreasing at national level. As for overseas France, virological indicators remained very high in Reunion Island. On 29 August, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 32.9% of 60-79 year-olds and 46.2% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. Similarly, the ongoing active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, together with the epidemic dynamics among young people in the context of the new academic year, make it essential to improve vaccination coverage. Current coverage remains insufficient, particularly in the French overseas territories and among the elderly, especially for the second booster dose. It is also important to take all necessary precautions to protect vulnerable people and to follow the recommended measures in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 34, the incidence rate continued to decrease for the seventh consecutive week (-14% vs -7% in week 33). It amounted to 181 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, which represents an average of more than 17,500 new cases per day. This was the lowest rate seen since November 2021 and the arrival of Omicron. Moreover, the incidence was falling in all age groups except among 0-9 year-olds, where it was slightly up (90, +6%), and 10-19 year-olds, where it stabilised. Rates remained above 200/100,000 in the 20-59 age group.

The positivity rate fell by 1.2 points (19.0%) this week. However, the trend was not the same in all age groups. This indicator increased by more than 2 points among the under-20s and reached 22.4% among 0-9 year-olds, one of the highest values observed this week along with that for 40-49 year-olds (22.7%, -1.0 point). It stabilised among 30-39 year-olds (21.5%, -0.5 points) and decreased in the other age groups. The screening rate was also down in week 34 (957, -9% vs -5% in week 33). It decreased across all age groups, falling by at least 10% in the population aged 10-49 years and 90+ years. It nevertheless remained highest in the latter age group (1,738, -13%). It was less than 1,000 among 10-19 year-olds and 40-59 year-olds and dropped to 500 among 0-9 year olds.

In week 34, consultations for suspected COVID-19 were down in emergency departments (2,227, -13%) and in SOS Médecins associations (1,985, -19%) for the fifth consecutive week.

A continued decline was also observed for hospital indicators. A total of 2,304 new hospital admissions were recorded in week 34, which represents a decrease of 25% (unconsolidated data). Intensive care admissions were also down but less significantly than in previous weeks (285, or -9% vs -24% in week 33). The [number of deaths](#) in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 257 in week 34 (vs 337 in week 33, i.e. -24%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate has decreased throughout the territory, ranging from -5% in Brittany to -22% in Grand Est. It was highest in

Corsica (274, -21%), Occitanie (216, -16%) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (213, -21%). Hospital admission rates were down in the majority of regions and showing stabilisation in Corsica and Pays de la Loire. They were highest in Corsica followed by Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

In overseas France, the incidence rate was decreasing in all territories except Reunion Island, where it was very high and rising slightly (807, +7%), although lower than during the BA.2 wave when it exceeded 1,800. Regarding hospital admissions, the rates have decreased in all regions, except in French Guiana, where a slight increase has been noted. However, the highest rates are still observed in Reunion Island (12.4/100,000, unconsolidated data).

### VARIANTS

Omicron circulates almost exclusively in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage is currently omnipresent. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) represented 95% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey of week 33 (16 August). The proportion of BA.4 (including all sub-lineages) in the Flash Surveys is decreasing, with 4% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 33 compared to 5% for week 32. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (91% in week 34 vs 93% in week 33), inline with the circulation of BA.5. Further information is available in the [variants risk assessment of 10 August 2022](#).

### PREVENTION

On 29 August, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was stable in the 65+ age group (85.3%). It remained low in the Antilles at 23.4% of the population vaccinated with a booster dose in Guadeloupe, 15.5% in French Guiana and 26.2% in Martinique. In addition, vaccination coverage for the second booster dose among those eligible (according to the vaccination schedule) has shown little progress. Only 32.9% of 60-79 year-olds and 46.2% of 80+ year-olds, as well as 50.8% of eligible nursing-home residents, have received it to date.

## Where to find the graphs and tables on InfoCovidFrance?

As of 14 July 2022, the COVID-19 Epidemiological Update is produced in a condensed, 3-page format that provides an overview of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in France.

The graphs and tables presenting the indicators are available directly on [InfoCovidFrance](#):

### HOSPITAL INDICATORS

- Weekly figures for COVID-19 patients newly admitted to hospital and intensive care units are available in the "Key numbers" tab under "Consultations / Hospital". The different rates for these indicators are also presented in the "Hospital" tab.
- Weekly rates of COVID-19 patients newly admitted to hospital and intensive care, by age group, are available as two separate graphs in the 'Hospital' tab.

### LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY INDICATORS

The "Long-term care facilities" tab provides information on the following indicators:

- vaccination coverage among residents and staff of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- the weekly number of new confirmed cases among residents and staff of long-term care facilities;
- weekly deaths among residents of long-term care facilities.

### VIROLOGICAL DATA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- The graph "Incidence and screening corrected for public holidays" is available in the "Incidence" tab.
- The heat map "Weekly evolution of the incidence rate by age group" is available in the "Incidence" tab.

### VIROLOGICAL DATA AT REGIONAL LEVEL

- The table "Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region" is presented in the form of regional and departmental-level graphs in the "Incidence" tab.

### VARIANTS

- The graph "Evolution of the proportions for each classified variant in the Flash Surveys" is available in the "Variants" tab.

### VACCINATION COVERAGE

- The graph "Vaccination coverage by age group" is available in the "Vaccination" tab.

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

**Dashboard**

[InfoCovidFrance](#)

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