

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

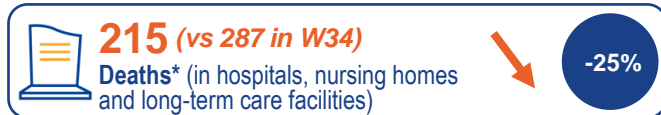
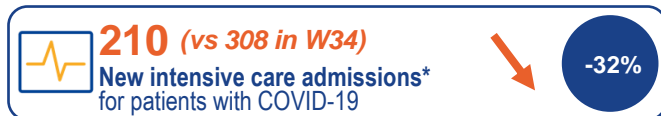
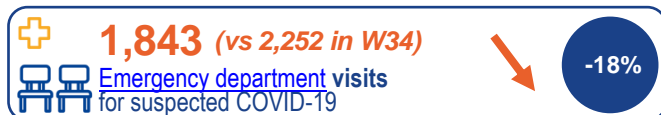
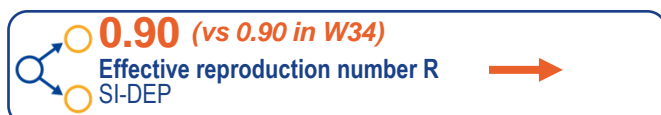
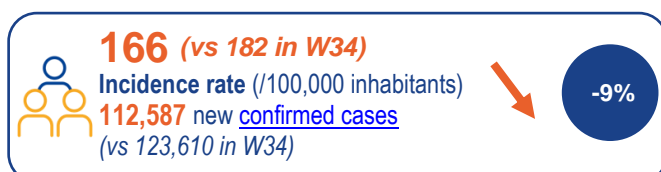
N° 132 / Week 35 / 8 September 2022

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners¹ as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 7 September.

Key numbers

Week 35 (29 August-4 September 2022)

Compared to week 34 (22-28 August 2022)



On 5 September

Compared to 29 August 2022



*W35: 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.

Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 35, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 decreased further at national level, albeit with variations between regions and age groups. Hospital indicators also continued to decrease nationally.

Metropolitan France:

- Rise in incidence rate among 0-9 year-olds and a trend towards stabilisation in the 30-49 age group.
- Stabilisation of incidence rate in certain regions
- Hospital admission rates continue to fall in most regions

Overseas France:

- High but decreasing incidence rate 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 5 September 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - Vaccination coverage for the booster dose stable at 74.3% in the population aged 18+ and 82.3% in the 65+ age group
 - Second booster dose: 27.6% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 33.3% of those eligible given the date of their last injection) and 35.5% of people aged 80+ (46.8% of those eligible)
- In the context of the return to school, work and other activities conducive to transmission of the virus, it is essential to uphold the combined protective measures:
 - staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including the second booster dose for those at risk;
 - 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 areas favourable to transmission (especially public transport and large gatherings), as well as frequent hand washing and ventilation of enclosed spaces.

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 35, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 slowed further but to a lesser extent than in the previous week. Trends were heterogeneous across the country with incidence rates stabilising in certain regions. An increase in this indicator was also observed among 0-9 year-olds for the second consecutive week. Meanwhile, hospital admissions continued to decrease in most regions. In overseas France, virological indicators remained high in Reunion Island, although a decrease was observed. It is essential to step up the vaccination effort given that vaccination coverage remains insufficient, particularly for the second booster dose among the elderly. On 5 September, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 33.3% of 60-79 year-olds and 46.8% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. Furthermore, the continued active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, combined with the return to activities conducive to its transmission in the context of the new school year, also calls for precautions to protect vulnerable people and compliance with recommended measures in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 35, the incidence rate continued to decrease, but less markedly than in previous weeks (-9% vs -14% in week 34). It amounted to 166 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, which represents an average of more than 16,000 new cases per day. It was again falling in almost all age groups. However, among 30-49 year-olds the trend tended towards stabilisation, and the rate was highest among those aged 30-39 years (214, -5%). Similarly, this indicator increased among 0-9 year-olds for the second consecutive week (98, +9%), as did the positivity rate (24.0%, +1.5 points), which was highest in this age group this week. It was also rising slightly among 10-19 year-olds (18.3%, +0.6 points). Nevertheless, it continued to decrease at national level (16.9%, -2.1 points) as well as in other age groups. As for the screening rate, it stabilised this week at 981/100,000 (+2%). It was stable or slightly increasing in most age groups. However, it continued to decrease among 10-19 year-olds (528, -17%) and to a lesser extent in the 90+ age group (1,682, -4%), where it remained highest. Screening rates were still below 1,000 among 10-19 year-olds and 40-49 year-olds, and dropped to 500 among 0-9 year olds.

In week 35, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was down for the seventh consecutive week in emergency departments (1,843 visits, -18%) and in SOS-Médecins organisations (1,796 consultations, -10%). This decrease concerned all age groups for emergency department visits, but was only observed among adults for SOS Médecins consultations.

Hospital indicators continued to decrease at national level with 2,076 new hospital admissions in week 35 (i.e. -19%, unconsolidated data) and 210 new admissions to intensive care (-32% vs -4% in week 34). The number of [deaths](#) recorded in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 215 in week 35 (vs 287 in week 34, i.e. -25%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, while the incidence rate continued to fall in most of the country, it had stabilised in five regions. It remained highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (192, -10%) followed by Corsica (189, -31%), where a particularly strong decrease was observed. Meanwhile, hospital admission rates had decreased in most regions. However, an increase was observed in Pays de la Loire and a stabilisation in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. The latter region also had the highest rate with Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

In overseas France, the incidence rate was falling in all territories except Martinique where it stabilised (214, +2%). Although in decline, it remained high in Reunion Island (536, -34%). Hospital admission rates were slightly up in Martinique and French Guiana, stable in Guadeloupe, and down in Reunion Island. However, the latter was still showing the highest rates (10.1/100,000, 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 33¹ compared to 6% for week 32. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in week 35 vs 91% in week 34), in line with the circulation of BA.5.

PREVENTION

On 5 September, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was 82.3% in the 65+ age group. In addition, vaccination coverage for the second booster dose among those who are eligible (according to the date of their last injection) increased marginally to 33.3% among 60-79 year-olds, 46.8% among 80+ year-olds, and 51.5% of nursing-home residents.

¹The data presented here relate to the week 33 Flash Survey as less than 500 sequences were available for week 34, which is insufficient to make robust estimates for the proportion of different variants.

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](#), where a weekly report is published to supplement the dashboard:

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