

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

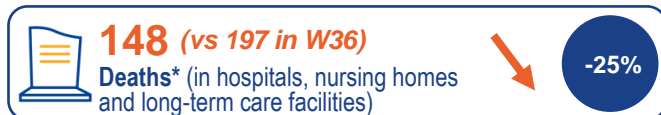
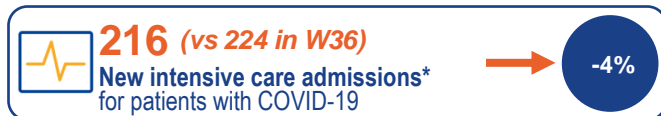
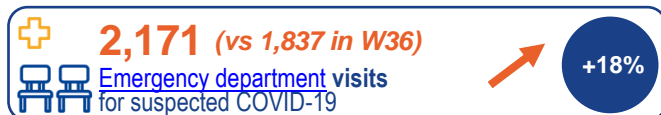
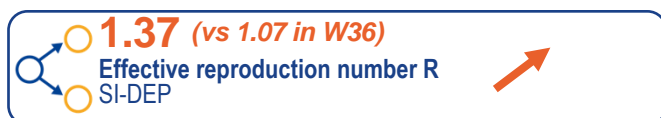
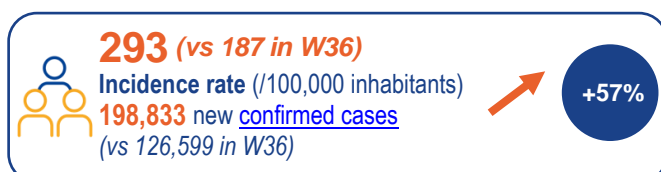
N° 134 / Week 37 / 22 September 2022

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 received by Santé publique France up to 21 September 2022.

Key numbers

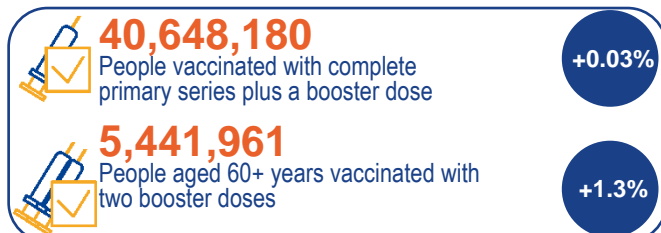
Week 37 (12-18 September 2022)

Compared to week 36 (5-11 September 2022)



On 19 September 2022

Compared to 13 September 2022**



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 37, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated throughout metropolitan France, with a sharp rise in virological indicators.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Significant rise in incidence across the territory
 - Increases in incidence rate most substantial in the under-20 and 30-49 age groups (more than 50%)
 - Stabilisation of hospital indicators at national level with regional disparities
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence rate falling in most regions except Martinique

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent, accounting for 93% of sequences in the week 36 Flash Survey (5 September)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 19 September 2022 (Vaccin Covid data)**:
 - 74.3% of the population aged 18+ and 82.4% of people aged 65+ had received a booster dose
 - 28.7% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 34.2% of those eligible given the date of their last injection) and 36.4% of people aged 80+ (47.8% of those eligible) had received a second booster dose
- Given the acceleration in circulation of SARS-CoV-2, compliance with the combined measures remains necessary:
 - staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including the second booster dose for vulnerable people;
 - self-isolation in case of a positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptoms;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, including wearing a mask, particularly around people at-risk and in enclosed areas favourable to transmission (especially public transport and large gatherings), as well as frequent hand washing and ventilation of enclosed spaces.

*W37: unconsolidated data. **Due to a technical incident, comparisons for vaccination coverage are made over an interval of 6 days (13-19 September 2022) instead of the usual 7 days. Progressions should therefore be interpreted with caution.

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 37, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated throughout metropolitan France following the initial more moderate increase in the previous week. The incidence rate rose sharply (+57%) in all age groups, particularly among 10-19 year-olds. An increase in new hospital admissions was observed in some regions while a stabilisation was observed at national level, but these indicators will be consolidated in the coming days. In overseas France, the situation continued to improve in all territories except Martinique, where virological indicators were increasing. In view of the insufficient vaccination coverage, it is essential to step up the vaccination effort, particularly for the second booster dose among vulnerable people. On 19 September, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 34.2% of 60-79 year-olds and 47.8% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. In addition, given the rising circulation of SARS-CoV-2, it remains essential to take all necessary precautions for the protection of vulnerable people and to follow the recommended measures in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 37, the incidence rate increased for the second consecutive week, and more markedly than in the previous week. It was 293/100,000 (+57% vs +12% in week 36), which represents an average of nearly 28,500 new cases per day. This increase was observed in all age groups; it exceeded 100% among 10-19 year-olds and 50% among 30-49 year-olds and 0-9 year-olds. The rate was above 300 in these same age groups and was highest in the 30-39 age group (396, +60%). The positivity rate was also on the rise after a week of stabilisation (+2.9 points vs +0.2 points in week 36) and reached 20.1%. It increased in all age groups, except among 0-9 year olds, where a decrease was observed (25.3%, -3.5 points). However, it remained highest among this age group, followed by 10-19 year-olds (24.7%, +1.9 points). The increase was much smaller among people aged 90+, which was the age group with the lowest rate (9.7%, +0.7 points). The screening rate continued to increase (1,460/100,000, +34%). It increased in all age groups to a greater or lesser extent, ranging from +114% among 10-19 year-olds to +6% among people aged 90 and over. However, it remained highest among the latter (1,811), followed by the 30-39 age group (1,718, +38%). Meanwhile, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 climbed up in week 37, in emergency departments (2,171, +18%) and SOS Médecins organisations (3,039, +44%).

Hospital indicators stabilised at national level with 2,138 new hospital admissions recorded in week 37 (i.e. -2%, unconsolidated data) and 216 new admissions to intensive care (-4%). Any trends will be confirmed during the next Epidemiological Update and the consolidation of indicators. The [number of deaths](#) declared in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 148 in week 37 (vs 197 in week 36, i.e. -25%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate increased across the territory, from +21% in Corsica to +80% in Centre-Val de Loire. The next highest increases were in Pays de la Loire and Normandy, where they

exceeded 70%. The regions of Brittany (350, +62%), Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (348, +67%) and Grand Est (342, +58%) showed the highest incidence rates, while Corsica was the only region with an incidence rate below 200/100,000. Changes in hospital admission rates were widely heterogeneous across the country, with increases observed in several regions, particularly in Brittany, Centre-Val de Loire and Normandy.

In overseas France, the incidence rate was falling in nearly all territories except Martinique, where a rise was observed (218, +23%). It was also the region showing the highest incidence this week. Hospital admissions were down in all regions, except in Martinique where there was a rise.

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 93% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey of week 36 (5 September). The sub-lineage BA.4 (including all sub-lineages) continues circulating at a stable level, with 6% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 36. The BA.2.75 sub-lineage is detected at very low levels, with 0.3% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 36. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in weeks 37 and 36), in line with the circulation of BA.5. Further information is available in the [variants risk assessment of 7 September 2022](#).

PREVENTION

On 19 September, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was 82.4% in the 65+ age group. Meanwhile, vaccination coverage for the second booster dose among those eligible (according to the date of their last injection) increased little: 34.2% of 60-79 year-olds, 47.8% of 80+ year-olds, and 52.5% of nursing-home residents had received it.

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