

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

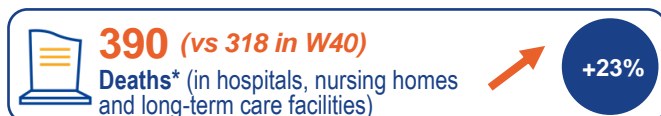
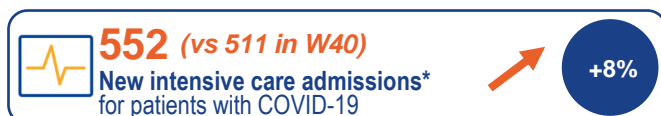
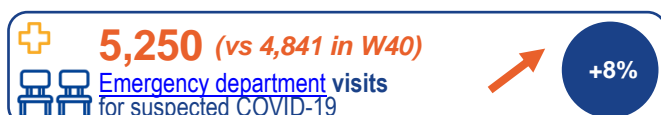
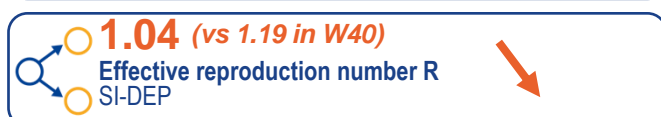
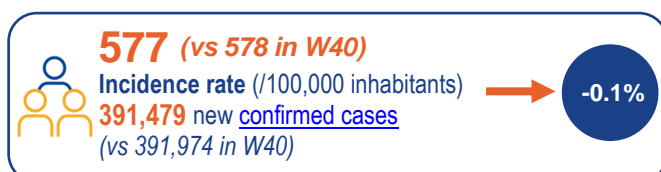
N° 138 / Week 41 / 20 October 2022

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 submitted to Santé publique France up to 19 October 2022.

Key numbers

Week 41 (10-16 October 2022)

Compared to week 40 (3-9 October 2022)



On 17 October 2022

Compared to 10 October 2022



*W41: 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 41, the incidence rate stabilised at national level and in the majority of metropolitan regions but continued to increase among the elderly.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Stabilisation of incidence rate at a high level
 - Incidence and positivity rates still rising in 70+ age group
 - Increase in new intensive care admissions
 - Further rise in number of deaths

- Overseas France:
 - Incidence rate falling or stable at low levels in all territories

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent, accounting for 93% of sequences in the week 40 Flash Survey (3 October)
- Among the BA.5 sub-lineages, BQ.1.1 is increasing (16% vs 7% in the week 39 Flash Survey)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 17 October 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 74.5% of the population aged 18+ and 82.5% of the 65+ age group had received a first booster dose
 - 31.3% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 37.0% of those who are eligible given the time since their last injection) and 38.3% of people aged 80+ (50.1% of those who are eligible) had received a second booster dose
- Given the intense circulation of SARS-CoV-2, compliance with the combined measures remains crucial:
 - up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose of bivalent vaccine (protecting against the original strain and the Omicron variant of Sars-CoV-2) for individuals already vaccinated with a primary course eligible for a first or second booster;
 - self-isolation in case of a positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptoms;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, including wearing a face mask, particularly around vulnerable people and in enclosed spaces favourable to transmission (public transport, large gatherings, etc.), frequent hand washing and ventilation of interiors.

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 41, the incidence rate stabilised at a high level nationally and in most metropolitan areas. Incidence and positivity rates were still increasing in the 70+ age group. Hospital indicators remained high and the numbers of new intensive care admissions and deaths continued to rise. In overseas France, the situation was showing further improvement. On 17 October, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 37.0% of 60-79 year-olds and 50.1% of 80+ year-olds had received a second booster dose. Given the active circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and lower adherence to protective measures among the population, vaccination coverage must be reinforced, particularly concerning booster doses of bivalent vaccine (protecting against the initial strain and the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2) among those already vaccinated with a primary course and eligible for the autumn campaign. The importance of adhering to preventative measures must be emphasised in order to protect vulnerable individuals. Compliance with other recommended measures remains essential in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 41, the incidence rate stabilised after 5 weeks of increase (577 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), representing an average of nearly 56,000 new cases per day. However, this indicator continued to increase, albeit less markedly than in week 40, among 70-79 year-olds (787/100,000, +8%), 80-89 year-olds (790, +10%) and 90+ year-olds (800, +10%). It was stable or decreasing in the other age groups. The largest decreases were observed among 0-9 year-olds (153, -9%) and 10-19 year-olds (253, -8%).

The screening rate also stabilised at national level (2,110/100,000, +1%). It remained lowest among 0-9 year-olds (1,129, +5%) and highest among 90+ year-olds (3,462, +7%).

The positivity rate (27.3%, -0.3 points) stabilised with contrasting trends according to age group: stable or decreasing in the population aged under 70, it continued to increase among those aged 70 and over. The greatest increase was observed among 80-89 year-olds (26.8%, +1.1 point). The positivity rate remained highest among 50-59 year-olds (33.6%, -0.2 points) and lowest among 0-9 year-olds (13.6%, -2.0 points).

In long-term care facilities, the number of new confirmed cases was 4,569 (-4% compared to week 40, unconsolidated data). After data consolidation, the increase observed in week 40 was +58% compared to week 39.

In week 41, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 had increased in emergency departments (5,250 visits, +8%) and in SOS-Médecins organisations (4,088 consultations, -5%). The rise in emergency department visits concerned children under the age of 2 and adults over the age of 75, while visits for other age groups remained stable.

In week 41, 6,556 hospital admissions were recorded, including 552 (+8%) for intensive care. In the previous week (week 40), the consolidated hospital indicators

were showing continued increases (+14% for hospital admissions and +12% for intensive care). The number of deaths in hospitals and long-term care facilities was rising in week 41 (390, +23%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate stabilised in the majority of regions. It exceeded 700/100,000 inhabitants in Grand Est (813, -1%), Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (712, -5%) and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (701, -4%). The hospital admission rate was stable or increasing in most regions.

In overseas France, the situation continued to improve, with incidence and hospital admission rates falling further or remaining stable at low levels.

VARIANTS

Omicron circulates almost exclusively in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage remains omnipresent. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) represented 93% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 40 (3 October). Among BA.5 sub-lineages, detection of BQ.1.1 is increasing, with 2%, 7% and 16% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Surveys for weeks 38, 39 and 40, respectively. However, it is still too early to assess the possible impact of BQ.1.1 on the dynamics of the epidemic. The sub-lineage BA.4 (including all further sub-lineages) continues to circulate, with 6% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 40. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (94% in weeks 40 and 41), in line with the circulation of BA.4 and BA.5 observed in sequencing.

PREVENTION

On 17 October, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was 82.5% in the 65+ age group. Meanwhile, vaccination coverage for the second booster dose among those eligible (according to the date of their last injection) amounted to 37.0% for 60-79 year-olds, 50.1% for 80+ year-olds, and 55.1% of nursing-home residents.

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.

This week's survey

Update on [the epidemiological situation related to COVID-19 in 0-17 year-olds](#)

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