

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

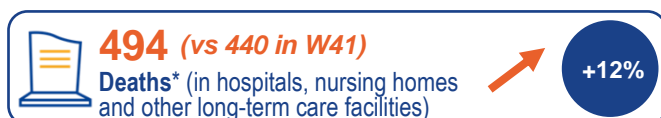
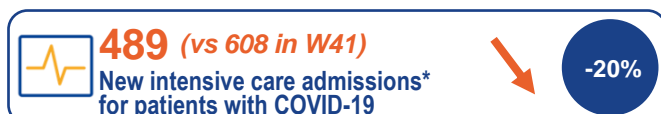
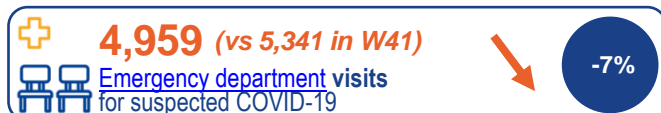
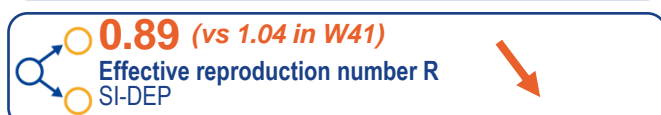
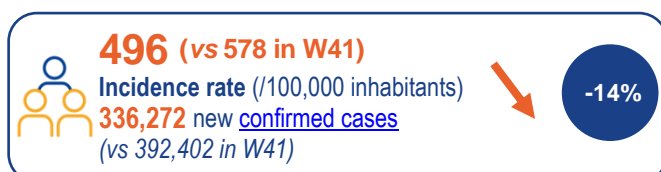
N° 139 / Week 42 / 27 October 2022

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of 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 26 October 2022.

## Key numbers

Week 42 (17-23 October 2022)

Compared to week 41 (10-16 October 2022)



On 24 October 2022

Compared to 17 October 2022



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 42, a slowdown in circulation of SARS-CoV-2 was observed, as well as an improvement in hospital indicators. The number of deaths continued its progression.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Drop in incidence rate in all regions
  - Reduced incidence observed across all age groups
  - Drop in number of hospitalisations
  - Number of deaths continuing to rise
- Overseas France:
  - Incidence rate increasing in Guadeloupe and stable or down slightly at low levels in other overseas territories.

### Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: Mostly BA.5 with 91% of sequences in the week 41 Flash Survey (10/10)
- Among the BA.5 sub-lineages, BQ.1.1 continues to rise (21% vs 19% in the week 40 Flash survey)

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 24 October 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 74.5% of the population aged 18+ and 82.6% of the population aged 65+ had received at least one booster shot.
  - 32.4% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 38.4% of those who are eligible given the time since their last injection) and 39.2% of those aged 80 and over (51.1% of those who are eligible) had received their second booster shot.
- Given the continuing active circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and with the approach of the winter, compliance with 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 the event of a positive COVID-19 test and/or symptoms;
  - continued application of precautionary measures, including wearing a face mask, particularly around vulnerable people and in enclosed spaces (public transport) or during large gatherings and frequent hand washing and ventilation of interiors.

\*W42: 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 INSFF

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 42, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 slowed down throughout the country with an effective R below 1. The incidence rate, although dropping across all age groups and in all metropolitan areas, remained high. Hospital indicators also showed an improvement, and the downward trend remains to be confirmed next week. In overseas territories, an increase in the incidence rate was observed in Guadeloupe. On 24 October, only 38.4% of people aged 60-79 and 51.1% of those aged 80 and over among those eligible (according to the period of time since the last injection) had received a second booster shot. Given the continued very active circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and with the approach of winter, vaccination levels must be increased through a booster shot with a bivalent vaccine (protecting against the initial strain and the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2) among eligible people who have received the primary vaccination series (at 3 months or 6 months after the last injection according to recommendations in force). Precautionary measures, including mask-wearing, remain necessary to protect the most vulnerable. Compliance with other recommended measures also remains crucial in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 42, the incidence rate dropped for the first time after five weeks of increases and one week of stabilisation (-14% vs +0% in week 41). It was 496/100,000, which represented over 48,000 new daily cases on average. The drop in this indicator was across all age groups. Incidence rate values followed a gradient according to age: it was highest among the oldest at 730/100,000 (-10%) among people aged 90+ and 699 (-12%) among the 80-89 age group. Conversely, the rate was 130 (-16%) among 0-9 year-olds and 226 (-11%) among 10-19 year-olds. As for the screening rate, it was also down nationally after stabilising the previous week (1,933/100,000, -9% vs +1%). It was down in all age groups, except among the under 20s: it stabilised among 0-9 year-olds (1,123, -1%) and increased in the 10-19 age group (1,399, +7%). Moreover it was lowest among 0-9 year-olds and highest in the 90+ age group (3,444, -4%). The positivity rate followed the same trend: it fell after stabilising in week 41 (25.6%, -1.8 points). This fall was observed in all age groups, except among 20-29 year-olds, where the indicator remained stable (23.6%). The decline was more pronounced among 10-19 year-olds (16.1%, -3.2 points). The rate was highest among 50-59 year olds (32.0%, -1.7 points).

In week 42, consultations for suspected COVID-19 fell again in SOS Médecins organisations (3,797 consultations, -8%), but also in emergency departments (4,959 consultations, -7%) for the first time after several weeks of increases.

In week 42, 5,902 new hospital admissions were recorded (20% less than in week 41), of which 489 (-20%) were in intensive care. However, these consolidated indicators were still increasing in week 41 (+8% for hospitalisations and +13% for intensive care). The next Epidemiological Update will present the consolidated data for week 42 and should confirm this downward trend. However, the number of deaths in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 494 and still increasing in week 42 (+12%, unconsolidated data)

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate fell in all regions, from -8% in Normandy to -20% in the Grand Est region. However, it still exceeded 600/100,000 in Grand Est (652, -20%) and in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (605, -15%). Hospital admission rates were down in the majority of regions. Nonetheless, intensive care admissions continued to rise in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

In overseas France, the incidence rate stabilised in all territories except Guadeloupe, where it increased (129, +52%). Furthermore, the rate of new hospitalisations was stable and low, except in Guadeloupe, where a slight increase was observed.

### VARIANTS

Omicron is almost the only variant present in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage remains omnipresent. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages) represented 91% of interpretable sequences in the week 41 Flash survey (10/10) (unconsolidated data in a small number of sequences). Among these sub-lineages, detection of the sub-lineage BQ.1.1 has increased, with 2%, 10%, 19% and 21% of interpretable sequences in the Flash surveys of weeks 38, 39, 40 and 41, respectively. However, it is too early to assess any possible impact of BQ.1.1 on the epidemic dynamic. The BA.4 sub-lineage (all sub-lineages) continues to circulate, with 7% of interpretable sequences in the week 41 Flash survey. The detection of mutations in position L452 via screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in week 42 vs 94% in week 41) in connection with circulation of BA.5 observed by sequencing.

### PREVENTION

On 24 October, 82.6% of the population aged 65+ had received at least one booster shot. Similarly, 38.4% of those aged 60-79, 51.1% of the 80+ age group and 56.3% of long-term care facility residents had received their second booster shot, among those eligible (according to the period of time since their last injection).

## 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