

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

N° 142 / Week 45 / 17 November 2022

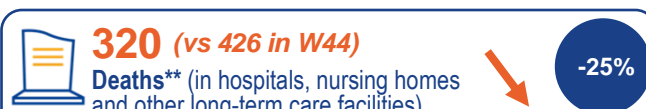
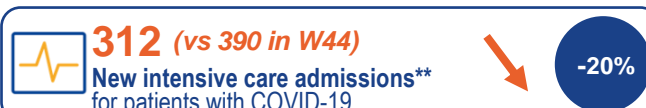
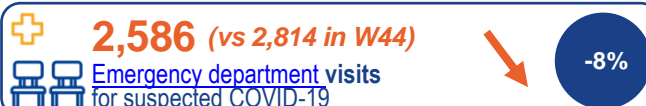
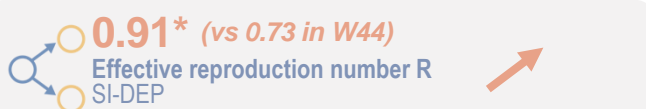
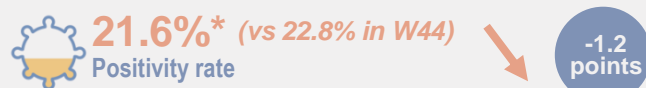
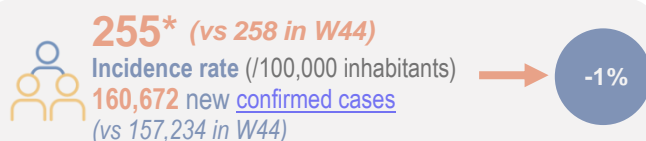
As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners¹ as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data submitted to Santé publique France up to 16 November 2022.

Due to certain private medical laboratories suspending transmission of COVID-19 test results to SI-DEP, the incidence rate and screening rate are underestimated as of 30 October; the values of the positivity rate and the effective R are also affected. Santé publique France remains mobilised to provide continuous monitoring of the epidemic based on the other data sources used for surveillance, which are not affected.

Key numbers

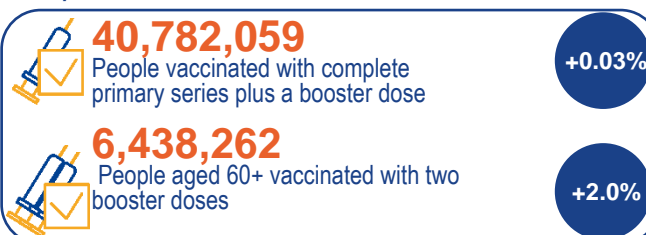
In week 45 (7-13 November 2022)

Compared to W44 (31 October–6 November 2022)



On 14 November 2022

Compared to 7 November 2022



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 45, the incidence rate based on antigen tests was on a stabilising trend. New hospital admissions and number of deaths continued to decline.

- Metropolitan France:
 - A slowdown in the drop in incidence rate from antigen tests corrected for the public holiday (11/11)
 - Increase in the incidence and positivity rates based on antigen tests in the under-20 age group
 - Less significant decrease in new hospital admissions
- Overseas France:
 - Corrected incidence rates based on antigen tests at low levels but rising in Martinique, French Guyana and Mayotte.

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: Mostly BA.5 with 93% of sequences in the week 43 Flash Survey (24/10)^{***}
- Among the BA.5 sub-lineages, BQ.1.1 continues to rise (32% vs 25% in the week 42 Flash survey)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 14 November 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 82.7% of the population aged 65+ had received at least one booster dose.
 - 34.6% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 41.0% of those who are eligible given the date of their last injection) and 41.1% of those aged 80 and over (53.5% of those eligible) had received their second booster dose.
- Given the ongoing active circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and the approach of the winter season, compliance with the combined measures remains essential:
 - up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, through a booster dose with a bivalent vaccine (against the initial strain and the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2) for eligible individuals already vaccinated with a primary course;
 - isolation in the event of a positive COVID-19 test and/or symptoms;
 - continued application of preventive measures, including wearing a face mask – particularly around people at risk of developing complications, as well as in enclosed spaces favourable to transmission (e.g. public transport) or during large gatherings – hand washing and ventilation of enclosed spaces.

*Uninterpretable data **W45: unconsolidated data ***W44 data uninterpretable

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

SI-DEP indicators

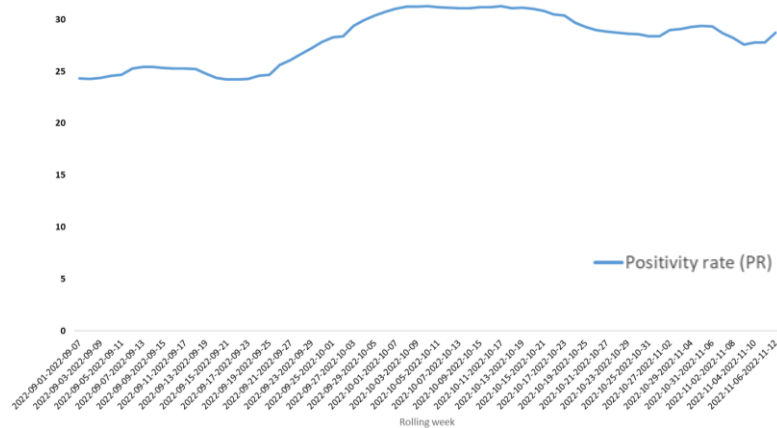
Transmission of COVID-19 test results to the SI-DEP database has been suspended by a number of private medical laboratories since 27 October, disrupting the calculation of the virological indicators produced by Santé publique France. The RT-PCR tests (positive or negative results) performed by the laboratories participating in this movement are no longer recorded in the database transmitted to Santé publique France.

As a result, the SI-DEP indicators produced from 28 October onwards are based on antigen tests, mainly performed by pharmacies, as well as on the RT-PCR tests performed by those laboratories that continue to transmit.

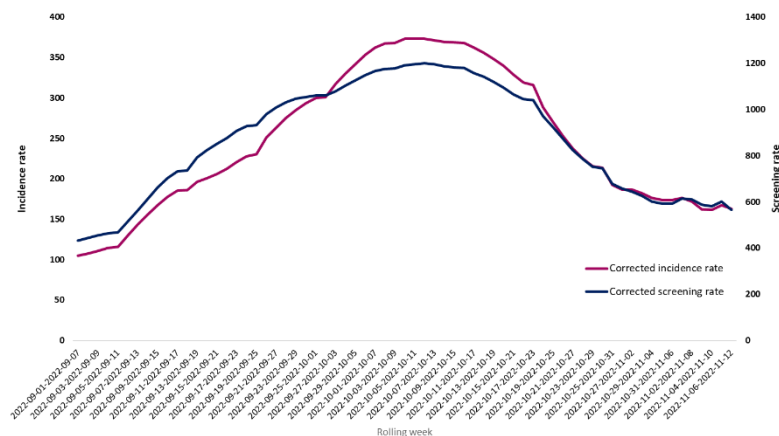
The impact analysis carried out by Santé publique France shows that the dynamics of the antigen tests alone (which represent more than 50% of total tests) largely correlate with the dynamics of all tests and therefore allow us to continue assessing the evolution of the epidemic. The graphs below, presented for reference, illustrate the evolution of the positivity rate, as well as that of the incidence and screening rates (for antigen tests alone). In the second figure, only the trends are to be interpreted. Changes in the incidence and positivity rates are calculated from antigen tests over seven rolling days (Sunday to Saturday) and not by calendar week.

Furthermore, Santé publique France wishes to emphasise that since March 2020, monitoring of the epidemic dynamics of COVID-19 relies on an integrated multi-source surveillance system which allows changes in the epidemic to be assessed on the basis of indicators other than those produced solely from laboratory data. These indicators include emergency department visits, SOS Médecins consultations, hospital admissions (SI-VIC), deaths and estimates of vaccination coverage. These indicators are not impacted, guarantee continuity in the monitoring of epidemic trends, and will continue to feed the reports produced by Santé publique France.

Evolution of positivity rate from antigen tests, France



Evolution of incidence rate (IR) and screening rate (SR) (antigen tests only), France



Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 45, the incidence rate corrected for the public holiday calculated from antigen tests alone was on a stabilising trend. In addition, the corrected incidence rate and the positivity rate calculated from antigen tests increased in the under-20 age group. Similarly, SOS Médecins and emergency department consultations were also up among children. The drop in hospital indicators continued. In overseas France, the corrected incidence rate based on antigen tests was stable or increasing in all regions. On 14 November there was little change in vaccination coverage, with only 41.0% of people aged 60-79 and 53.5% of those aged 80 and over among those eligible (according to the period of time since the last injection) having received a second booster dose. Given the continued active circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and with the approach of winter, vaccination coverage must be reinforced through a booster dose with a bivalent vaccine (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 the relevant recommendations). Preventive measures, such as mask-wearing, remain necessary to protect people at risk for complications. Compliance with other recommended measures also remains crucial in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

The national incidence rate remained uninterpretable in week 45 due to the suspended transmission of COVID-19 test results by a number of private medical laboratories. The results of RT-PCR tests from laboratories following this move cannot be included in the analysis, which affects the usual SI-DEP virological indicators (particularly the incidence and screening rates). In terms of the virological indicators calculated based only on antigen tests, a less pronounced drop in the incidence rate (corrected for the 11 November public holiday) was observed. The positivity rate from antigen tests had fallen slightly (28.7%, i.e. -0.7 points). The dynamic of these two indicators differed depending on the age group. The corrected incidence rate increased in the under-20 age group, and continued to drop slightly in the other age groups. The positivity rate was also higher among people aged under 20, stable among 20-69 year-olds and lower among the over 70s.

In week 45, consultations for suspected COVID-19 fell slightly, with 2,571 consultations at SOS Médecins (-6%) and 2,586 emergency department visits, where the drop this week was less significant (-8%). During the back-to-school period, this drop was however driven mainly by adults, with consultations for children increasing.

Hospital indicators continued to fall in week 45. However, the drop in new hospital admissions - totalling 3,378 - was less pronounced (-14% vs -21% in week 44). Furthermore, 312 (-20%) admissions to intensive care were recorded. The number of deaths in hospitals and long-term care facilities continued to decline (320, i.e. -25%, non-consolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the drop in the corrected incidence rate from antigen tests continued in week 45 in most regions, but was less significant. A slight increase was seen in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and in Corsica, and rates stabilised in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Concerning the positivity rate (still calculated based

on antigen tests), an upward trend was observed in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitanie. In parallel, hospital admission rates were down in the majority of regions. However, they increased slightly in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and in Centre-Val de Loire.

In overseas France, although levels remained low, corrected incidence rates based on antigen tests rose slightly in Martinique, French Guyana and Mayotte. As for the positivity rate, it was also higher in French Guyana and Mayotte. In addition, new hospital admissions were down or stable at low levels in all regions, except in French Guyana, where they increased.

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 93% of interpretable sequences in the week 43 Flash survey (24/10)*. Among these sub-lineages, detection of the BQ.1.1 sub-lineage continued to increase, but more slowly than initially, with 32% of interpretable sequences in the week 43 Flash survey (vs 25% for the week 42 Flash survey). The BA.4 sub-lineage (all sub-lineages) continues to circulate, but at lower levels, with 4% of interpretable sequences in the week 43 Flash survey (vs 5% in week 42). The detection of mutations in position L452 via screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in week 43 and in week 42) in connection with circulation of BA.4 and BA.5 observed by sequencing. More information is available in the [risk assessment of 26/10/2022](#).

PREVENTION

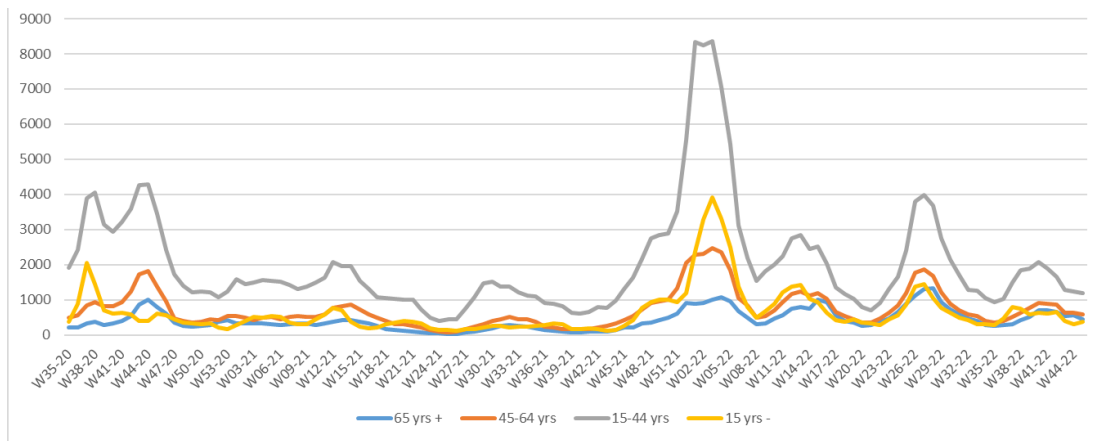
On 14 November, 82.7% of the population aged 65+ had received at least one booster dose. Furthermore, 41.0% of people aged 60-79 and 53.5% of those aged 80 and over among those eligible (according to the period of time since the last injection) had received their second booster dose.

*Data from the week 44 survey is not available due to an insufficient number of sequences for reliable proportions.

SOS Médecins consultations

- **Nationwide**, SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19 for all age groups were down (-6%, i.e. -151 consultations) in week 45. This decrease was driven by adults. Consultations for children aged under 15, however, were on the rise.
- Over the last days, indicators among adults under 65 were found to be stabilising.
- **At the regional level**, SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19 were stable or down in most regions. An increase was nonetheless observed in four regions: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (+14%, +41 consultations), Corsica (+13%, +33 consultations), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (+12%, +29 consultations) and Occitanie (+11%, +8 consultations).

Numbers of SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19

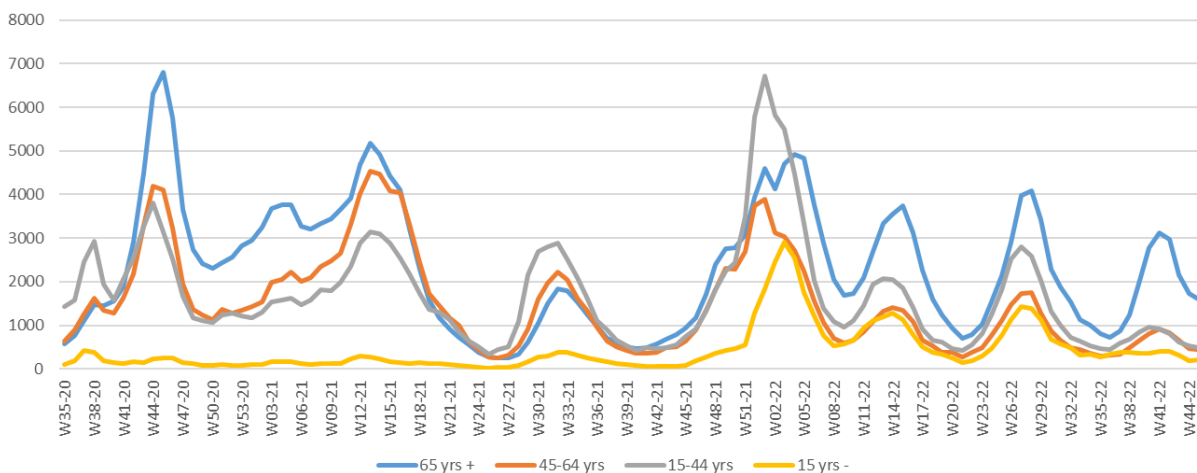


Source: SOS Médecins

Visits to OSCOUR® network emergency departments

- **Nationwide**, emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19 for all ages groups continued to fall, but this fall was less pronounced in week 45 (-8%, -228 visits). However, as for SOS Médecins consultations, this decrease was driven by adults, whereas the number among children had increased for one week.
- **At the regional level**, emergency department visits remained stable or dropped in most regions. However, there was an increase in Occitanie (+16%, +29 visits) as well as in three regions of overseas France: French Guyana (+250%, +10 visits), Mayotte (+182%, +20 visits), Guadeloupe (+25%, +2 visits).

Number of emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19



Source: OSCOUR®

Where to find the graphs and tables on InfoCovidFrance

Since 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 data in open access on [Géodes](#)

Dashboard

[InfoCovidFrance](#)

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