

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

N° 144 / Week 47 / 1 December 2022

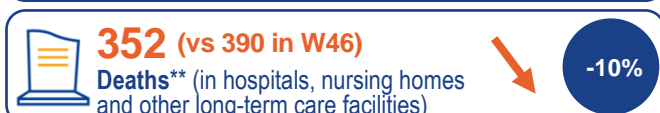
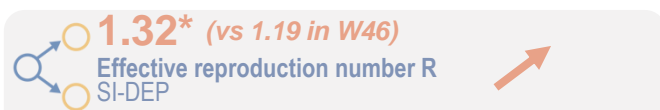
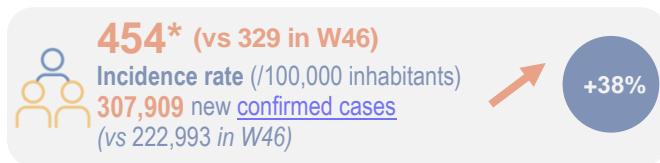
As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners¹ as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data submitted to Santé publique France up to 30 November 2022.

Following strike action by some private clinical laboratories, the incidence and screening rates from the SI-DEP base are under-estimated as of 30 October; the positivity rate and effective R values are also affected. The teams at Santé publique France remain committed to continuing to track the pandemic, using other sources within this surveillance system, which are not impacted.

Key numbers

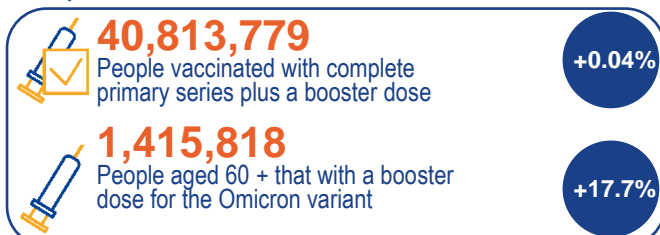
In week 47 (21-27 November 2022)

Compared to week 46 (14-20 November 2022)



On 28 November 2022

Compared to 21 November 2022



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 47, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 was found to be accelerating based on virological indicators (calculated based on antigen tests only and all tests), and also based on consultations. Hospital indicators (unconsolidated) were stable nationwide.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Continued increase of incidence rates
 - Positivity rate continuing to rise
- Overseas France:
 - Rise in incidence rates in almost all regions

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: Mostly BA.5 with 93% of sequences in the Flash Survey W45 (07 November)***
- Among the BA.5, sub-lineages, BQ.1.1 continued to rise (49% for the Flash Survey of week 45 vs 34% for the Flash Survey of week 43)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 28 November 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 7.2% of people aged 60-79 had received a booster dose for the Omicron variant (10.0% of those eligible). More than 31.6% of them are considered to be protected by the vaccine.
 - 9.4% of people aged 80 and over had received a booster dose for the Omicron variant (11.3% of those eligible) and 13.0% are considered protected by the vaccine.
- Against the background of active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, as well as several winter viruses, combined precautions must be strengthened:
 - 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 who have received a primary vaccine series, isolation in the event of a positive COVID-19 test and/or symptoms;
 - continued precautionary measures, including wearing a mask (particularly around vulnerable people, in closed, crowded areas such as public transport), hand-washing and ventilation of closed areas.

* non-interpretable data **W47: unconsolidated data ***unconsolidated data

¹ 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 INSEE.

Virological indicators from SI-DEP

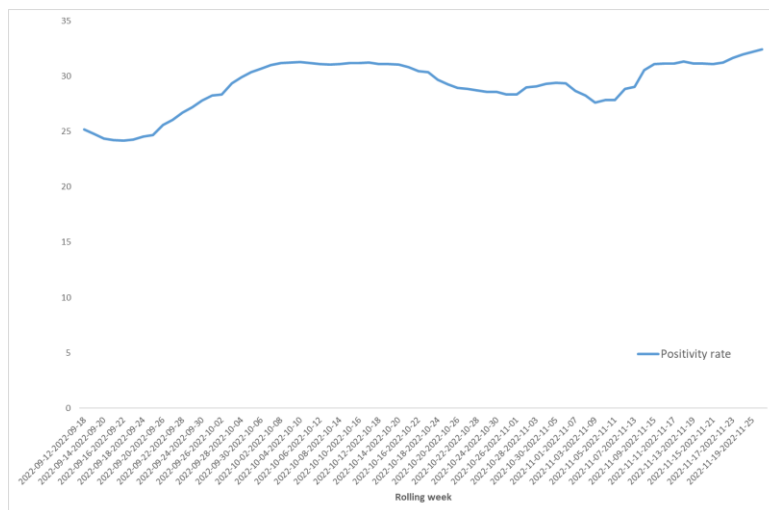
Suspended transmission of COVID-19 test results to SI-DEP databases from 27 October to 3 November, and suspension of business by some private clinical laboratories between 14 and 16 November resulted in disrupted analysis of Santé publique France's virological indicators.

As a result, the analysis of virological indicators from SI-DEP produced from 28 October onwards is based on antigen tests, performed mainly by pharmacies, as well as RT-PCR tests from laboratories that continued transmitting results.

Impact analyses carried out by Santé publique France show that the dynamic of indicators produced based on antigen tests alone (which accounted for over 50% of total tests) is very much correlated to the dynamic of all tests and thus helps us continue to assess progress of the pandemic. However, these indicators must be interpreted with caution given possible changes in the use of diagnosis. The figures below, given for information only, show the change in the positivity rate, as well as that of the incidence and screening rates (for antigen tests only). For the second figure, only the trends are to be interpreted. Changes in the incidence and positivity rates are calculated based on antigen tests over a sliding 7-day period (from Sunday to Saturday) and not by calendar week.

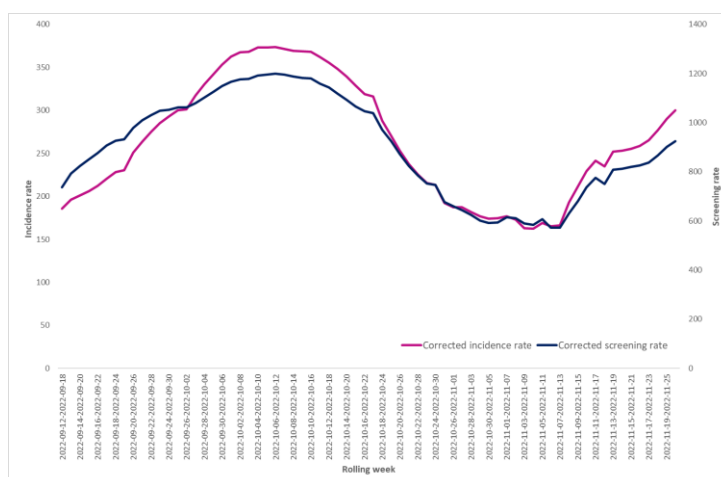
Furthermore, Santé publique France reminds you that the tracking of the epidemic trend of COVID-19 since March 2020 has involved multi-source, integrated surveillance to assess its evolution based on indicators other than those produced from laboratory data alone. These indicators include emergency department visits, SOS Médecins consultations, hospital admissions (SI-VIC), deaths, and vaccine coverage estimates. These indicators are not impacted, and help ensure continuity in the tracking of the pandemic trends, and will continue to be used for the reviews produced by Santé publique France.

Evolution of positivity rate from antigen tests, France



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

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



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

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 47, despite strike action by certain private clinical laboratories again affecting the analysis of virological indicators from SI-DEP, all of these indicators, as well as the consultation indicators, remained consistent. Accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2 was clearly observed with incidence and positivity rates from antigen tests and all tests again on the rise. Furthermore, SOS Médecins consultations and emergency department visits continued to rise. Hospital indicators were stable (unconsolidated data). However, consolidation of data from week 47 should confirm the upward trend that began in week 46. On 28 November, only 7.2% of people aged 60-79 and 9.4% of those aged 80 and over had received a booster dose for the Omicron variant. Within this context, vaccination levels must be increased through a booster dose with a bivalent vaccine (against the initial strain and the Omicron variant) among eligible individuals. Similarly, given the circulation of several respiratory viruses (Covid-19, bronchitis, flu), compliance with precautionary measures, including wearing a mask, must be increased to protect the most vulnerable. Compliance with other recommended measures also remains necessary in the event of symptoms or positive test.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

Following the various strike actions by certain private clinical laboratories, the analysis of virological indicators from SI-DEP indicators continues to be disrupted. Nonetheless, the trends in virological indicators, calculated based on antigen tests alone or for all tests, were consistent. The national incidence rate based only on antigen tests, as well as the one calculated based on all tests, increased. This increase was observed across all age groups. The positivity rates were also up for all types of tests.

In week 47, consultations for suspected COVID-19 continued to rise, with 2,999 consultations at SOS Médecins (+7%) and 3,734 emergency department visits (+23%) recorded. This increase involved all age groups, with the exception of 15-44 year-olds in SOS Médecins associations.

In week 47, 4,909 new hospital admissions were recorded (+1%), of which 469 (+0%) were in intensive care. Although hospital indicators were stable this week, increases of 17% for hospital admissions and 27% for intensive care admissions were observed in week 46 (consolidated data). Consolidation of data from week 47 should confirm this upward trend. The number of deaths in hospitals and long-term care facilities continued to drop (352, or -10%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, incidence rates from all tests and from antigen tests only increased in almost all regions. The sharpest increases were again found in Occitanie and in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. In parallel, the rate of new hospital admissions was up in several regions, particularly in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, where the increases were most significant.

In overseas France, a rise in incidence rates calculated based on antigen tests only and on all tests was observed in almost all regions. Moreover, new hospital admission rates increased in French Guiana

and Reunion Island. However, they remained stable in Mayotte and in Guadeloupe and fell in Martinique.

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 45 Flash Survey (07 November, based on 844 interpretable sequences). The data from Flash Surveys of week 44 and 46 are not available since the number of sequences is too low to have reliable and interpretable proportions. Among these sub-lineages, detection of the BQ.1.1 sub-lineage (including its sub-lineages) continues to rise, with 49% of interpretable sequences in the week 45 Flash Survey (vs 34% for the week 43 Flash Survey). The BA.4 sub-lineage (all sub-lineages) continues to circulate, but at lower levels, with 2% of interpretable sequences in the week 45 Flash Survey (vs 4% in week 43). The detection of mutations in position L452 via screening tests remains stable at high levels (91% in week 47 vs 90% in week 46) in connection with circulation of BA.4 and BA.5 observed by sequencing. More information is available in the [risk analysis of 16/11/2022](#).

PREVENTION

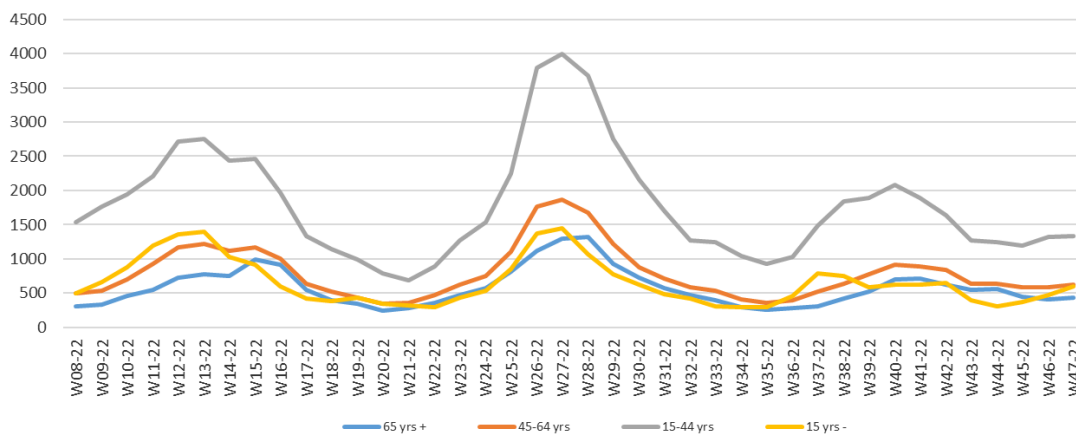
On 28 November, 82.8% of the population aged 65+ had received at least one booster dose. Furthermore, since the vaccines were made available, 7.2% of 60-79 year-olds and 9.4% of those aged 80+ had received a booster dose for the Omicron variant (10.0% and 11.3% of those eligible, respectively)*. Still in these age groups, 31.6% of those aged 60-79 are considered to be protected by vaccination when they have received a recent dose less than 6 months earlier, and 13% of those aged 80 and over when they have received a dose less than 3 months earlier (for all vaccines). These proportions do not take into account SARS-CoV-2 infections that arose during this time.

**Individuals that have received a booster dose for the Omicron variant are those that have received a complete primary vaccination series with a booster dose with a bivalent vaccine (Pfizer original/Omicron BA.5 or Moderna original/Omicron BA.1), whether they previously received one, several or no booster doses. This is recommended 3 months after the last vaccine injection for people aged 80 and over, and 6 months for those aged 60-79 and other individuals at risk for serious forms of Covid-19. To allow time for eligible individuals to have their injection, eligibility is measured with one additional month since the last injection (4 months for those aged 80 and over and 7 months for 60-79 year-olds).*

SOS Médecins consultations

- **Nationwide**, SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19 for all age groups were up slightly (+7% or +203 consultations) in week 47. This increase in number of consultations was observed in all age groups, with the exception of the 15-44 age group, where they were stable.
- **At the regional level**, SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased in all regions with the exception of Brittany, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Hauts-de-France and Centre-Val de Loire. The sharpest increases were observed in Île-de-France (+26%, +78 consultations), Normandy (+26%, +39 consultations), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (+26%, +99 consultations) and Occitanie (+23%, +28 consultations).

Number of SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19

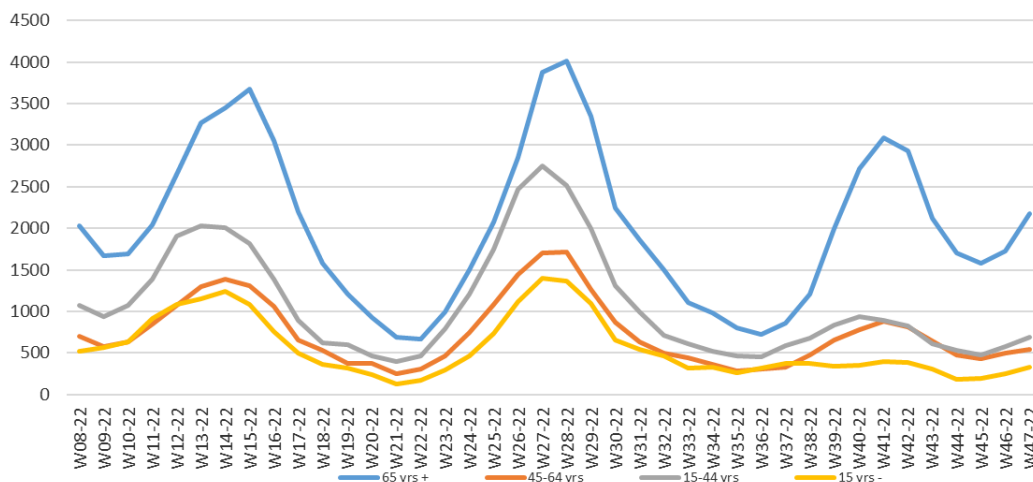


Source: SOS Médecins

Visits to OSCOUR® network emergency departments

- **Nationwide**, emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19 for all age groups were on the increase (+23% or +687 visits) in week 47. This increase was across all age groups.
- **At the regional level**, emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19 increased in all regions, with the exception of French Guiana, Corsica and Mayotte. The sharpest rises were observed in Pays de la Loire (+61%, +50 visits), Reunion Island (+43%, +9 visits), Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (+37%, +59 visits), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (+34%, +93 visits) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (+33%, +158 visits).

Number of emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19



Source: OSCOURS®

Where to find the graphs and tables on InfoCovidFrance

Since 14 July 2022, the COVID-19 Epidemiological Update is produced in a condensed 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 years-olds](#)

Update on [reported nosocomial SARS-CoV-2 infections](#)

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