

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

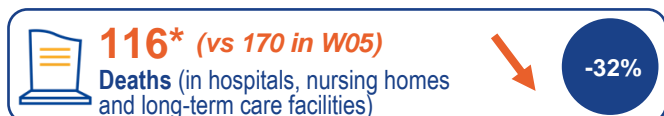
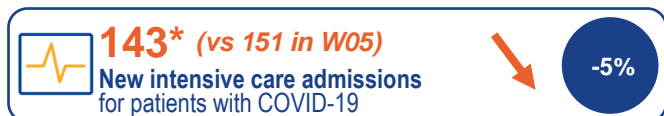
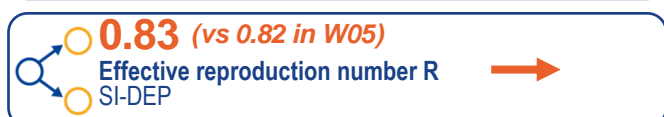
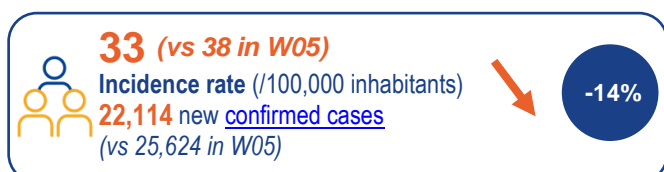
16 February 2022 / N° 154

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 14 February 2023.

Key numbers

In week 6 (6-12 February 2023)

Compared to week 5 (30 Jan.-5 Feb. 2023)



On 13 February 2023

Compared to 6 February 2022



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 6, virological indicators were at a low level and continued to decline. Nevertheless, indicators were stable for consultations in primary care and slightly increasing for emergency department visits. Hospital admissions and deaths continued to decrease.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Incidence and positivity rates decreasing in majority of age groups and regions
 - Incidence and positivity rates stable in 60+ age group
 - Hospital admission rate falling in majority of regions
 - Number of deaths in decline
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence and positivity rates decreasing in majority of regions
 - Hospital admission rate at a very low level

Variants

- BA.5 in majority but decreasing (74% of sequences in week 4 Flash Survey), with a stabilisation of sub-lineage BQ.1.1 (59% in week 4 Flash Survey vs 60% in week 3)
- Recombinant XBB increased to 14% (vs 9% in week 3 Flash Survey), with 11% of XBB.1.5 (vs 7%)
- All Omicron sub-lineages currently identified present similar characteristics

Prevention

- Vaccination on 13 February 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 22.2% of 60-79 year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant (26.8% among those eligible); among 80+ year-olds, 24.9% had received this booster dose (28.5% among those eligible)
 - 27.4% of 60-79 year-olds and 18.8% of 80+ year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the last 6 or 3 months, respectively
- Given that SARS-CoV-2 and winter viruses are still in active circulation, continued compliance with preventive measures remains recommended:
 - up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose of bivalent vaccine (protecting against the original strain and the Omicron variant) for eligible individuals already vaccinated with a primary series, and flu vaccination;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, particularly in case of a positive test and/or symptoms.

*W06: unconsolidated data. Updated values for these indicators will feature in the next Epidemiological Update.

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.

Week 6 (6 to 12 February 2023)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 6, virological indicators were at a low level and continued to decrease nationally in the under-60 age group, while a stabilisation of incidence and positivity rates was globally observed in the 60+ age group*. Nevertheless, indicators were stable for consultations in primary care and slightly increasing for emergency department visits. Hospital admissions and deaths continued to decrease. On 13 February, only 22.2% of 60-79 year-olds and 24.9% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant. Given that several respiratory viruses are still in active circulation, reinforcing vaccination coverage for COVID-19 and the flu among eligible persons remains necessary. Compliance with protective precautions and other preventive measures remains recommended in case of symptoms or a positive test, as well as to protect vulnerable people.

Incidence and positivity rates continued to decrease in the under-60 age group and were stable in the 60+ age group, despite a very slight increase among 80-89 year-olds. The screening rate was decreasing in all age groups. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 (patients of all ages) were slightly up in emergency departments and stable in the SOS Médecins primary care network. In metropolitan France, incidence and positivity rates were down or stable depending on the region. Hospital admissions and deaths were decreasing in the majority of regions. In overseas France, the incidence and positivity rates, as well as the number of hospital admissions, were falling in the majority of regions.

Since the emergence of Omicron in late 2021, significant and rapid genetic diversification has been observed within this variant and its successive sub-lineages. However, all Omicron sub-lineages currently described feature very similar characteristics, hence remaining within this variant. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) was still in majority but continued to decrease with 74% of interpretable sequences in the week 4 Flash Survey of 23 January 2023 (vs 78% in the week 3 Flash Survey). Among the sub-lineages of BA.5, detection of BQ.1.1 (including all further sub-lineages) seems to stabilise, with 59% of interpretable sequences in the week 4 Flash Survey (vs 60% in the week 3 Flash Survey). In parallel, there was a stabilisation of BA.2 sub-lineages (11% in the Flash Surveys for weeks 3 and 4) and an increase of the recombinant XBB (from 9% in the week 3 Flash Survey to 14% in week 4). Among the sub-lineages of the recombinant XBB, XBB.1.5 increased the most rapidly, from 7% in the Flash Survey for week 3 to 11% in week 4. These dynamics in the circulation of Omicron sub-lineages, observed since mid-January, have not so far had an impact on the dynamics of the epidemic.

The level of booster vaccination coverage continued to rise slowly. On 13 February 2023, 22.2% of 60-79 year-olds and 24.9% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant (26.8% and 28.5% among those eligible, respectively**). At that date, 27.4% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months**, and 18.8% of 80+ year-olds within the last 3 months***. Vaccination coverage among health professionals for the primary vaccination series, the first booster dose and the booster adapted to the Omicron variant is estimated respectively at 95.6%, 86.3% and 13.0% for those working in nursing homes; 97.7%, 88.9% and 14.1% for those working in private practice; 96.6%, 88.4% and 14.5% for those working in health institutions****.

*Due to possible changes in the use of screening, particularly in relation to the change in derogatory compensation for work stoppages from 1 February 2023, these indicators may be underestimated and should be interpreted with caution. **Method described in Epidemiological Update N° 145. ***All COVID-19 vaccines included. ****Method described in Epidemiological Update N° 147.

Graphs and tables

InfoCovidFrance

The dashboard gives direct access to the indicators presented as graphs and tables and a complementary weekly report covering:

- **hospital indicators**
- **long-term care facility indicators**
- **virological data at national level**
- **virological data at regional level**
- **data on variants**
- **data on vaccination coverage**

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](#)