

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

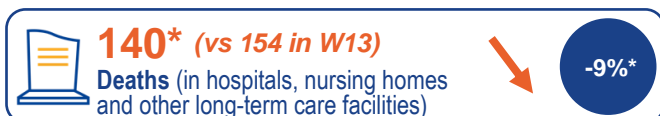
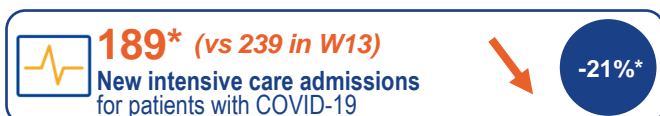
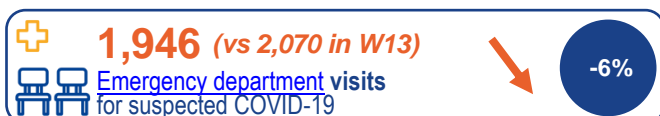
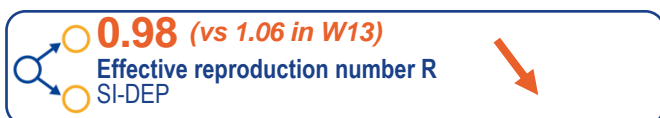
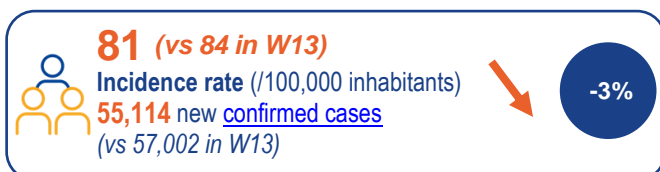
13 April 2023 / N° 162

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 12 April 2023.

Key numbers

In week 14 (3-9 April 2023)

Compared to week W13 (27 March-2 April 2023)



On 10 April 2023

Compared to 3 April 2023



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 14, the positivity rate (based on SI-DEP virological data) continued to increase in a context of decreasing screening rates. Emergency department visits were down, as were new hospital admissions.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Incidence and screening rates decreasing in majority of age groups
 - Positivity rate rising in most age groups
 - Hospital admission rate decreasing in majority of regions
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence and hospital admission rates remain very low

Variants

- The recombinant XBB.1.5 appeared to stabilise with 59% of sequences in the week 12 Flash Survey
- The BQ.1 sub-lineage continued to decrease (7% in the week 12 Flash Survey vs 12% in week 11)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 10 April 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 23.5% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.2% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant
 - 24.0% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the last 6 months and 5.1% of 80+ year-olds in the last 3 months
- Given that SARS-CoV-2 remains in active circulation, continued compliance with preventive measures is 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;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, particularly in case of a positive test and/or symptoms, to protect vulnerable individuals.

*W14: 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 14 (3 to 9 April 2023)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 14, the positivity rate continued to increase (based on SI-DEP virological data) in a context of decreasing screening rates*. The number of SOS Médecins consultations was down, as were emergency department visits. New hospital admissions were decreasing in the majority of regions. Given the insufficient level of booster vaccination and the persistent circulation of SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 vaccination within target groups remains necessary. Compliance with protective precautions and other preventive measures remains recommended, particularly in case of symptoms or a positive test in order to protect vulnerable people.

At national level, the decrease in incidence rate was moderate while the decrease in screening rate was more marked. The positivity rate continued to increase. The incidence rate remained lowest in the under-20 age group. A stabilisation of the incidence was observed among 60-89 year-olds while it decreased in all other age groups. The positivity rate remained lowest among children aged 0-9 years. This indicator was decreasing for the under-20s while it was increasing for most other age groups. The screening rate was falling in all age groups, except among 10-19 year-olds, where it remained stable. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 were decreasing in emergency departments and in the primary care network SOS Médecins. In metropolitan France, an increase in positivity rate and a decrease in screening rate were observed in most regions. New hospital admissions were down in most regions. In overseas France, the incidence rate was increasing in several regions, with levels remaining low. The number of new hospital admissions, either falling or stable in most regions, remained at a very low level.

The classification system for SARS-CoV-2 variants has been updated and these changes are detailed in the [risk assessment of 22 March 2023](#). In metropolitan France, the recombinant XBB.1.5, classed VOI according to the new classification, is now in majority and appears to stabilise with 59% of interpretable sequences for the week 12 Flash Survey (vs 58% for week 11). Among all variants under monitoring (VUM), the BQ.1 sub-lineage continues to decrease, falling from 12% in the week 11 Flash Survey to 7% in week 12, 2023. In addition, CH.1.1, a sub-lineage of BA.2, appears to stabilise at low levels, with 3% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Surveys for weeks 11 and 12. However, the recombinant XBB (excluding XBB.1.5 which is classified separately) is increasing and represented 29% of interpretable sequences in the week 12 Flash Survey compared to 23% in week 11.

Vaccination coverage for booster doses adapted to the Omicron variant remained insufficient. On 10 April 2023, 23.5% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.2% of 80+ year-olds had received this booster dose. At that date, 24.0% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months**, and 5.1% of 80+ year-olds within the last 3 months**. Vaccination coverage among health professionals for the booster adapted to the Omicron variant is estimated at 13.8% for those working in nursing homes, 14.7% for those working in private practice and 15.1% for those working in health institutions***.

Due to possible changes in the use of tests, particularly owing to changes in the screening strategy since February 2023, these indicators should be interpreted with caution. **All COVID-19 vaccines combined. * 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 open access data on [Géodes](#)