

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

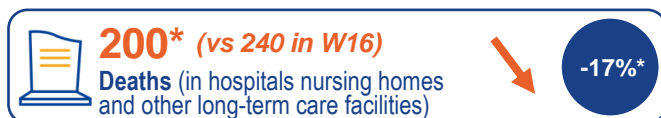
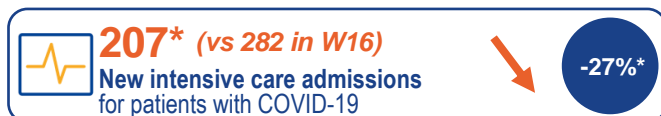
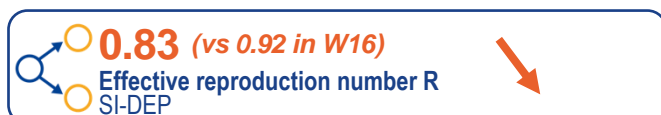
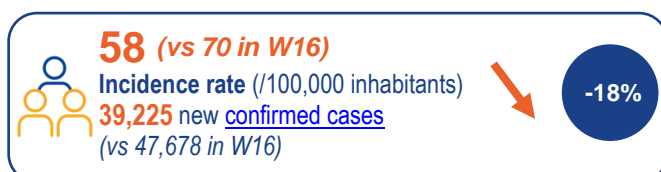
4 May 2023 / N° 165

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 3 May 2023.

Key numbers

In week 17 (24-30 April 2023)

Compared to week 16 (17-23 April 2023)



On 2 May 2023

Compared to 25 April 2023



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 17, the positivity rate (based on SI-DEP virological data) continued to decrease in a context of very low screening rates. Emergency department visits were down, as were new hospital admissions.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Incidence rate in decline
 - Positivity rate falling in most age groups and regions
 - Hospital admission rate in decline
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence rates at very low levels, except in Reunion Island
 - New hospital admissions still very low

Variants

- The recombinant XBB.1.5 remained in majority with 52% of sequences in the week 15 Flash Survey (vs 57% in week 14)
- XBB.1.9 continued to increase (30% in the week 15 Flash Survey vs 24% in week 14)
- The BQ.1 sub-lineage was stable (4% in the Flash Surveys for weeks 14 and 15)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 2 May 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 23.7% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.5% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant
 - 20.8% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the last 6 months and 2.4% of 80+ year-olds in the last 3 months
- In the context of the spring vaccination campaign and the active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, 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.

*W17: 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 17 (24 to 30 April 2023)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 17, the positivity rate continued to decrease (based on SI-DEP virological data) in a context of school holidays and very low screening rates*. SOS Médecins consultations and emergency department visits were lower in number, as were hospital admissions, which were decreasing in all regions. Given the insufficient level of booster vaccination and the persistent circulation of SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 vaccination within target groups remains necessary. In order to protect those most vulnerable, a booster dose is recommended since 27 April 2023 as part of the spring vaccination campaign for people aged 80+, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, whatever their age, as well as immunocompromised people and those at very high risk of severe illness. 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.

Nationally, incidence and positivity rates were decreasing in week 17 while the screening rate was at a very low level (319/100,000 inhabitants). The incidence rate was still lowest in the under-20 age group. The positivity rate also remained lowest among those aged under-20, despite a slight increase in this age group. The screening rate continued to fall in all age groups. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 decreased again in emergency departments and across the SOS Médecins network of general practitioners. In metropolitan France, a drop in the positivity rate was observed in most regions and there was a further decrease in hospital admissions across the territory. In overseas France, incidence and positivity rates remained highest in Reunion Island and the number of new hospital admissions was at a very low level in all territories.

In metropolitan France, the recombinant XBB.1.5 was still in majority but was showing a downward trend that remains to be confirmed: it represented 52% of interpretable sequences in the week 15 Flash Survey of 11 April 2023 (vs 57% in week 14). Among all variants classified VUM, XBB.1.9 continued to increase (30% in the week 15 Flash Survey vs 24% in week 14), CH.1.1 decreased (1% in the week 15 Flash Survey vs 3% in week 14) and BQ.1 stabilised (4% in the Flash Surveys for weeks 14 and 15). More information is available in the [risk assessment of 26 April 2023](#).

Vaccination coverage for booster doses adapted to the Omicron variant remained insufficient. On 2 May 2023, 23.7% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.5% of 80+ year-olds had received this booster dose. At that date, 20.8% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months** and 2.4% 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 13.9% for those working in nursing homes, 14.8% for those working in private practice and 15.2% for those working in health institutions***.

Changes made in the screening strategy in February 2023 may have an effect on people's use of testing, meaning 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](#)