

Acute respiratory infections

Week 41 (09 to 15 October 2023). Publication: 18 October 2023

NATIONAL EDITION

This week's trends

Acute respiratory infections (ARI). Slight decline in activity within general practice and slight increase in hospital activity.

Influenza Indicators for influenza at baseline level in all regions except Reunion Island.

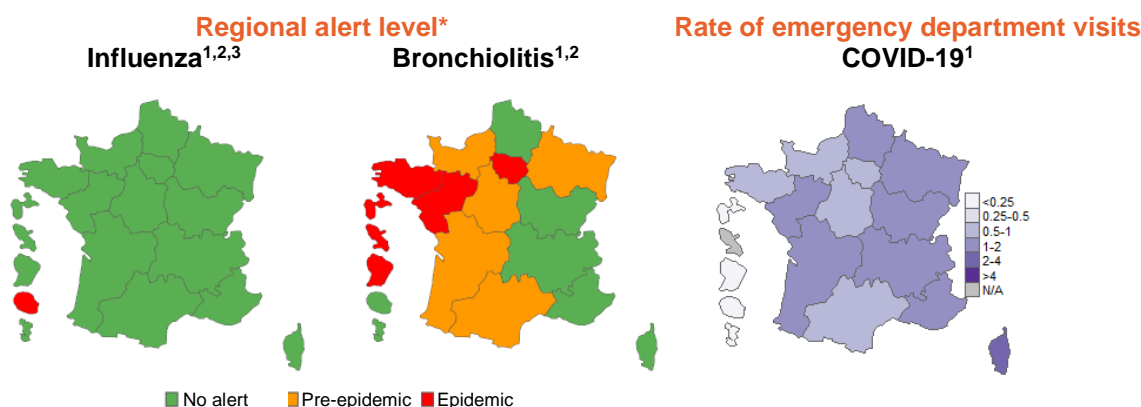
Bronchiolitis. Activity linked to bronchiolitis in children under 2 years on the rise in mainland and overseas France.

COVID-19. Decrease in general practice and hospital activity, but stable among people aged 65 years and over.

Key indicators

Syndromic indicators

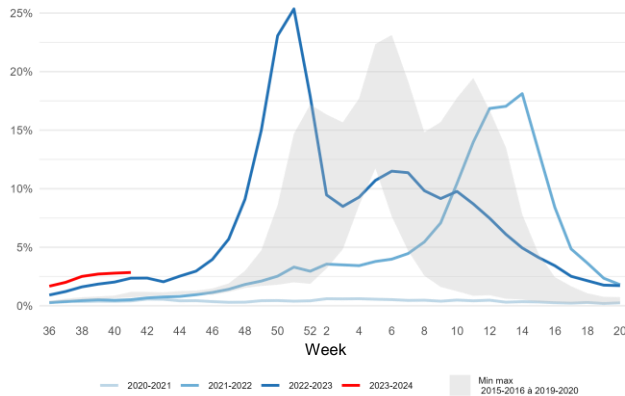
	Lower ARI*		Influenza		Bronchiolitis (children <2 years)		COVID-19	
	W41	W41 vs W40	W41	W41 vs W40	W41	W41 vs W40	W41	W41 vs W40
SOS Médecins consultations	13.9%	-0.5 pts	2.8%	+0.1 pts	6.0%	+0.8 pts	4.5%	-1.0 pts
Emergency department visits (OSCOUR®)	3.6%	+0.2 pts	0.2%	+0 pts	8.7%	+0.9 pts	1.0%	-0.1 pts
Hospitalisations post-emergency department visit (OSCOUR®)	7.7%	+0.4 pts	0.1%	+0 pts	19.1%	+1.2 pts	2.1%	-0.1 pts



*Methodology explained in the [annex](#). Source: ¹ OSCOUR® network, ² SOS Médecins, ³ Sentinelles network

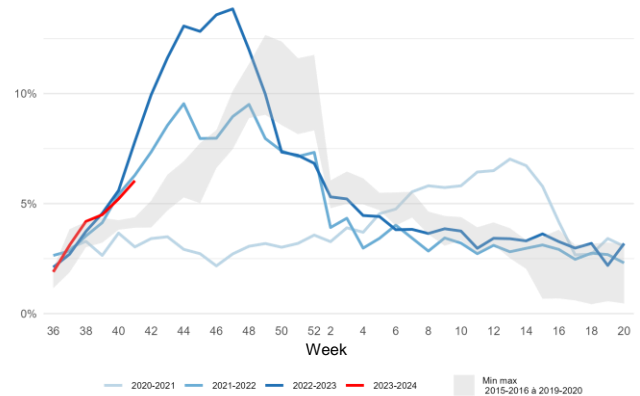
Read the [regional bulletins](#) (French only) by Santé publique France for the epidemiological situation in each region.

Share of influenza-like illness among SOS Médecins consultations



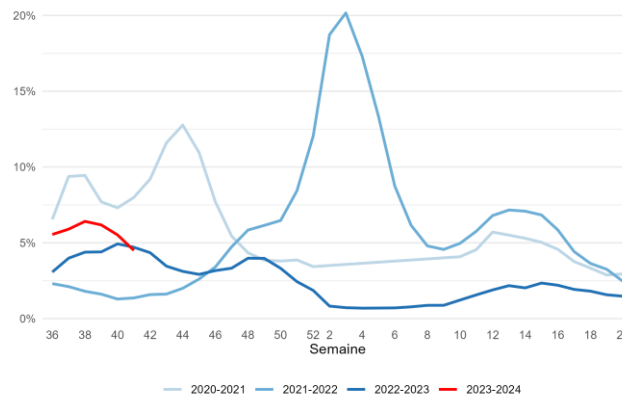
Source: SOS Médecins

Share of bronchiolitis among SOS Médecins consultations for children under 2 years



Source: SOS Médecins

Share of suspected COVID-19 among SOS Médecins consultations



Source: SOS Médecins

Virological indicators

Positivity rate of samples	Influenza viruses		RSV		SARS-CoV-2	
	W41	W41 vs W40	W41	W41 vs W40	W41	W41 vs W40
General practice (Sentinelles network, National Reference Centres)	0.9%	+0.1 pts	0.0%	-1.6 pts	24.4%	-5.7 points
Hospitals (RENAL network, National Reference Centres)	0.4%	+0.2 pts	2.3%	+0.3 pts	15.7%	+0.1 pts

	SARS-CoV-2	
	W41	W41 vs W40
Positivity rate of tests in medical biology laboratories	23.4%	-0.8 pts
Wastewater surveillance (SUM'Eau)*	7,761	+0.9%

*Ratio of SARS-CoV-2 viral concentration to ammoniacal nitrogen concentration. Methodology explained in the [annex](#).

Read the bulletin by the [Sentinelles network](#) (in English) for the epidemiological situation in general practice.

Situation update

In week 41, the indicators for acute respiratory infections fell slightly in primary care and rose slightly in hospitals. Activity linked to bronchiolitis in children under 2 continued to increase in primary care and hospital settings, with Brittany, Pays de la Loire and French Guiana entering the epidemic phase this week. Syndromic indicators for COVID-19 decreased but remained stable among people aged 65 and over. All syndromic indicators for influenza remained at baseline level.

The increase in bronchiolitis-related activity observed in mainland France continued for all syndromic surveillance indicators: SOS Médecins consultations, emergency department visits and hospitalisations following emergency department visits for bronchiolitis. At hospital level, the increases observed remained lower than in the two previous seasons. Detection rates for RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) in nasopharyngeal swabs taken from people of all ages, in general practice and hospitals, remained low. Other viruses likely to cause bronchiolitis are currently circulating, in particular rhinoviruses. In mainland France, the regions of Brittany and Pays de la Loire have entered the epidemic phase, bringing the total number of epidemic regions to three. Five additional regions are currently in the pre-epidemic phase. In the French overseas departments and regions, French Guiana has entered the epidemic phase, bringing the total number of regions in the epidemic phase to three.

As regards COVID-19, all syndromic indicators continued to fall, with disparities according to age. A decrease in SOS Médecins consultations and a stabilisation in emergency department visits and hospitalisations following emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19 were observed in the oldest age groups. Particular attention is being paid to this population given the potential impact the virus's circulation could have on the most vulnerable in terms of severity.

The number of new clusters of ARI cases in care homes was lower than the previous week but this trend will need confirmation in the coming weeks upon data consolidation.

Influenza indicators were at baseline levels in mainland France, with a few sporadic cases of confirmed influenza detected. The situation was identical in the overseas departments and regions, except in Reunion Island. Following an initial epidemic wave in June–July 2023, a second, more marked wave of influenza virus circulation has been observed in Reunion Island since the end of August.

In this context, it is important to be particularly vigilant and to apply protective measures, especially around children under the age of 2 years, in order to prevent bronchiolitis. It is also important that elderly and fragile populations have access to COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. The annual influenza vaccination campaign began on Tuesday 17 October 2023, with this year's campaign being extended to all children over 2 years of age. Note that the COVID-19 vaccination campaign began on 2 October 2023 and that vaccinations against influenza and COVID-19 may be given at the same time.

About this bulletin

This weekly bulletin provides key syndromic and virological indicators for acute respiratory infections (ARI) with an overview of recent epidemiological trends in the French territories (mainland and overseas). Santé publique France, the French public health agency, produces these indicators to help monitor COVID-19, influenza and bronchiolitis on a grouped or specific basis, and to better estimate their burden and impact on the healthcare system. The English version is an extract from the *Infections respiratoires aiguës* bulletin, which contains further indicators, graphs and analysis based on data from France's integrated surveillance system.

Partners

Santé publique France acknowledges the large public health network that contributes to the surveillance of acute respiratory infections: 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.

For more information (French only):

Integrated surveillance of [ARI](#)

Surveillance of [influenza](#), [bronchiolitis](#) and [COVID-19](#).

Syndromic surveillance [SURSAUD®](#)

Monitoring in [care homes](#)

Monitoring in general practice: [Sentinelles network](#)

[Virological](#) surveillance

Genomic surveillance: [Variant risk analysis](#)

Regional trends: see the [regional bulletins](#)

Open data indicators: [Géodes](#), [data.gouv.fr](#)

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