

Acute respiratory infections

Week 47 (20 to 26 November 2023). Publication: 29 November 2023

NATIONAL EDITION

This week's trends

Acute respiratory infections (ARI). Activity rising in general practice and in hospitals.

Bronchiolitis. Activity continued to increase in general practice and in hospitals. Among the 13 regions of mainland France, 12 are above the epidemic threshold and Corsica is above the pre-epidemic threshold. Three overseas regions are also in an epidemic phase.

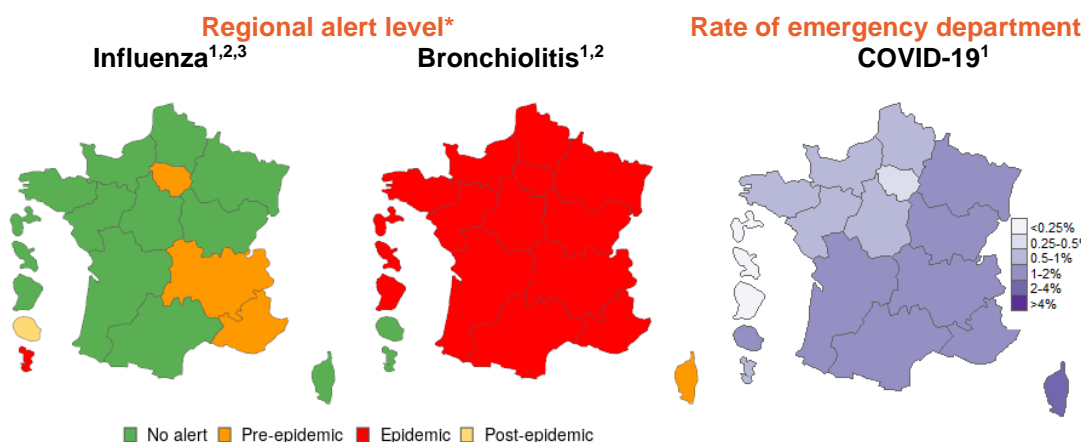
COVID-19. Upward trend in most indicators.

Influenza. Slight increase in most influenza/influenza-like illness indicators in mainland France, with Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Île-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regions entering a pre-epidemic phase.

Key indicators

Syndromic indicators

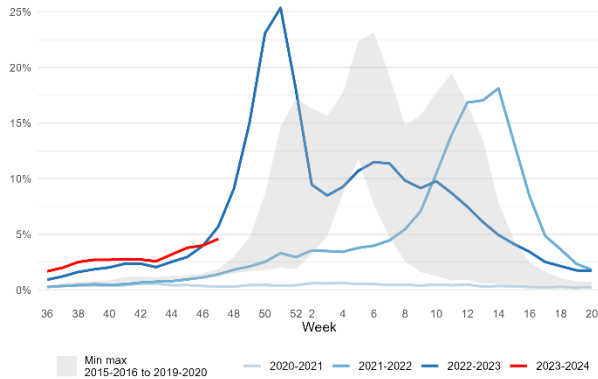
Share of pathology among	Lower ARI*		Influenza		Bronchiolitis (<2 yrs)		COVID-19	
	W47	W47 vs W46	W47	W47 vs W46	W47	W47 vs W46	W47	W47 vs W46
SOS Médecins consultations	17.3%	+2.3 pts	4.6%	+0.6 pts	11.8%	+1.7 pts	3.3%	+0.4 pts
Emergency department visits (OSCOUR®)	6.1%	+1.2 pts	0.3%	+0.1 pts	23.1%	+4.5 pts	1.0%	+0.2 pts
Admissions post-emergency department visit (OSCOUR®)	11.1%	+1.9 pts	0.2%	+0 pts	43.7%	+9.2 pts	2.2%	+0.3 pts



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

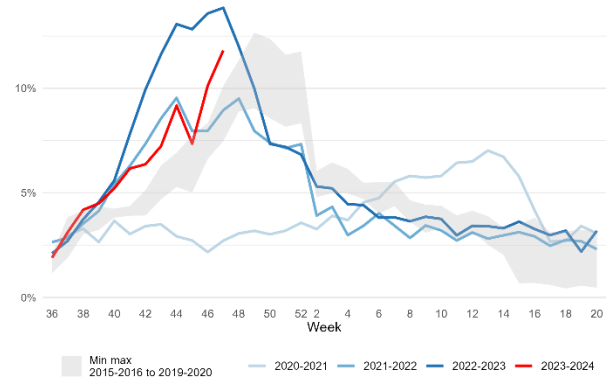
See the [regional bulletins](#) (French only) by Santé publique France for the epidemiological situation in each region.

Share of influenza-like illness among SOS Médecins consultations



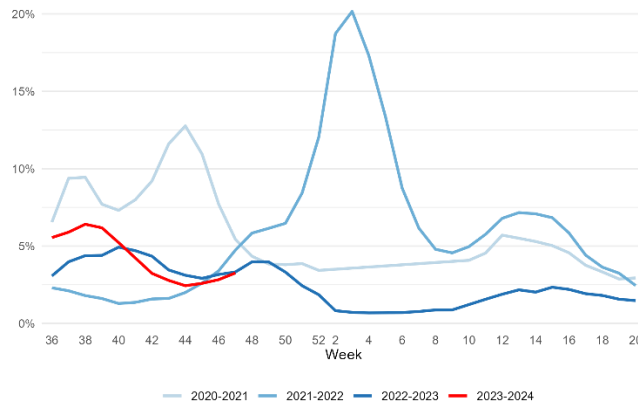
Source: SOS Médecins

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

	Influenza viruses		RSV		SARS-CoV-2	
	W47	W47 vs W46	W47	W47 vs W46	W47	W47 vs W46
General practice (Sentinelles network, National Reference Centres)	2.9%	+1.6 pts	21.4%	+3.7 pts	23.9%	-3.5 pts
Hospitals (RENAL network, National Reference Centres)	1.0%	+0.2 pts	13.6%	+2.9 pts	16.1%	+1.8 pts

SARS-CoV-2

	W47	W47 vs W46
Positivity rate of tests in medical laboratories	24.5%	+1.8 pts
Wastewater surveillance (SUM'Eau)*	10,141	+20%

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

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

Situation update

In week 47, indicators for acute respiratory infections were increasing in general practice and in hospital settings. Activity linked to bronchiolitis in children under 2 years was rising in general practice and in hospitals. An upward trend in most indicators was observed for COVID-19. Indicators for influenza/influenza-like illness were increasing slightly in mainland France, with the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Île-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur entering a pre-epidemic phase. We are currently seeing active circulation of various respiratory viruses, notably RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), rhinovirus and SARS-CoV-2, while the circulation of influenza viruses remains low to date.

Bronchiolitis-related activity was showing a clear increase in mainland France across all syndromic surveillance indicators: SOS Médecins consultations, emergency department visits and admissions post-emergency department visit for bronchiolitis. Positivity rates of samples tested for RSV were rising in both general practice and hospital settings. Other viruses likely to cause bronchiolitis continue circulating, notably rhinoviruses. In mainland France, Corsica entered a pre-epidemic phase, while the other regions remained above the epidemic threshold. In overseas France, three regions remained above the epidemic threshold: Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana.

For COVID-19, syndromic indicators in general practice showed an upward trend in the proportion of SOS Médecins consultations involving this condition, particularly in the 15–64 and 65+ age groups. In hospitals, syndromic indicators remained stable, except among people aged 65+, for whom a slight increase was observed. The positivity rate of tests carried out in general practice has fluctuated in recent weeks but remains high. In hospitals the positivity rate continued to rise. Virological indicators based on tests carried out in medical laboratories increased in all age groups, although the numbers were still small.

Slight increase in influenza indicators in mainland France, with the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Île-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur entering a pre-epidemic phase. This upward trend was more marked in general practice and affected all age groups but particularly the under-15s. Virological data were also on the increase in both general practice and hospital settings. For the French overseas departments and regions, the indicators were stable at baseline levels in the French Antilles and French Guiana. Mayotte is above the epidemic threshold since week 44 and Reunion Island is in a post-epidemic phase since week 45.

In long-term care facilities (care homes), episodes of ARI clusters were almost exclusively due to COVID-19. After a downward trend since the beginning of October, an increase in the number of ARI clusters occurring in long-term care facilities was observed in week 46. Particular attention is paid to this population because of the potentially severe impact of ARI on vulnerable individuals.

In this epidemiological 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 people and those at risk of severe illness receive COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations, which can be given at the same time.

At the end of week 47, COVID-19 vaccination coverage within the autumn 2023 campaign among people aged 65+ was 21.9% (16.0% of 65–69 year-olds, 20.2% of 70–74 year-olds, 26.1% of 75–79 year-olds and 26.4% of 80+ year-olds). Since 17 October 2023, 34.6% of COVID-19 vaccinations for people aged 65+ have been carried out at the same time as an influenza vaccination.

In addition to viral ARI, there are several signs of a resurgence in pneumonia due to *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. An update on this subject will be published shortly on the Santé Publique France website.

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 gathered through 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 ARI surveillance

Surveillance of influenza, bronchiolitis and COVID-19

SURSAUD@ syndromic surveillance

Surveillance in long-term care facilities

Surveillance in general practice: Sentinelles network

Virological surveillance

Genomic surveillance: variant risk analysis

Regional trends: see regional bulletins

Open data indicators: Géodes, data.gouv.fr

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