

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

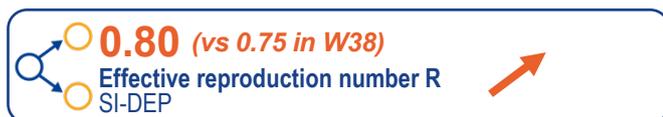
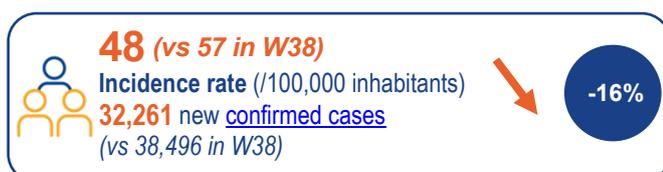
Weekly report / Week 39 / 7 October 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners<sup>1</sup> as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 6 October 2021.

## Key numbers

Week 39 (27 September-3 October 2021)

Compared to week 38 (20-26 September 2021)



On 5 October 2021

Compared to 28 September 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 39, all the indicators continued to improve throughout the country, although the situation remained worrying in French Guiana.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Improvement in epidemiological indicators in most of mainland France, with a few regional disparities
- Overseas France:
  - French Guiana: high incidence rate and overburdened hospital services
  - Martinique and Guadeloupe: falling incidence and hospitalisation rates

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 99% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 7 and 14 September 2021

### Contact tracing

- High regional disparities with the identification of transmission chains varying according to the region

### Prevention

- On 5 October 2021, according to data from Vaccin Covid, 75.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.9% were fully vaccinated.
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination in addition to contact tracing and preventive measures, especially in the current context marked by a lower respect of preventive measures

<sup>1</sup>Santé 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.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 39, the situation continued to improve throughout the country, with the positive evolution of epidemiological indicators in most regions. Nevertheless, the situation remained worrying in French Guiana, with high incidence and hospitalisation rates, excess mortality, and slow vaccination uptake. At the national level, the incidence rate fell among the youngest age groups and stabilised among those aged 60 years and older. Contact tracing indicators showed high regional disparities with the identification of transmission chains varying according to the region. On 5 October 2021, 75.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.9% were fully vaccinated. Given the relaxation of preventive measures, to maintain the current favourable evolution of the epidemic, vaccination should be combined with other preventive measures, notably by respecting protective measures, limiting contacts at risk, and respecting self-isolation in the case of symptoms, confirmed infection, or contact with a confirmed case.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**At the national level**, the incidence rate continued to fall, reaching 48 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants (-16%) in week 39, equivalent to an average of 4,609 diagnosed cases per day. The incidence rate declined among those under 60 years and stabilised among the older age groups. It was the highest among adults under 50 years of age and children. The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) remained very high at 4,580 per 100,000 inhabitants (-3%). It was stable or decreasing in all age groups, except for 10-19 year-olds (5,274, +34%). The positivity rate fell slightly to 1.0% (-0.2 points).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 declined in emergency departments (1,496, -23%) and SOS Médecins organisations (767, -42%). These data should nevertheless be interpreted with caution given the strike action in SOS Médecins organisations in week 39.

In terms of hospital indicators, new admissions continued to fall, with 1,228 new hospital admissions (-23%) and 306 new intensive care admissions (-27%). On 5 October, 7,157 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,292 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate continued to decrease in all regions, except for Pays de la Loire where it was stable (40, -1%). It remained the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (85, -17%). The screening rate was elevated in all regions. The rate of new hospital admissions slightly increased in Pays de la Loire but was stable or decreasing in the other regions.

**In overseas France**, the incidence rate remained elevated in Guyana (494, -8%). Hospital tensions remained high despite a slight reduction in the number of new hospital admissions. The moderate [excess mortality](#) observed between weeks 29 and 37 rose in week 38.

The incidence rate continued to fall in Martinique (134, -17%) and Guadeloupe (76, -35%). The drop in the number of new hospital admissions continued in week 39. After a peak in the number of deaths in week 33, excess mortality persisted in Martinique in week 38, although the numbers returned to within usual fluctuation margins in Guadeloupe in weeks 37 and 38.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented nearly all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to more than 99% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #23 and #24 on 7 and 17 September, respectively.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 39, the number of cases (-14%) and [contacts](#) at risk (-13%) fell at a slower pace compared to the preceding weeks. Nationally, the average number of contacts identified per case remained stable at 2.2. As in the previous weeks, the contact tracing indicators nevertheless revealed strong regional disparities due to the different levels of the epidemic, thus making the identification of contacts more difficult in certain regions.

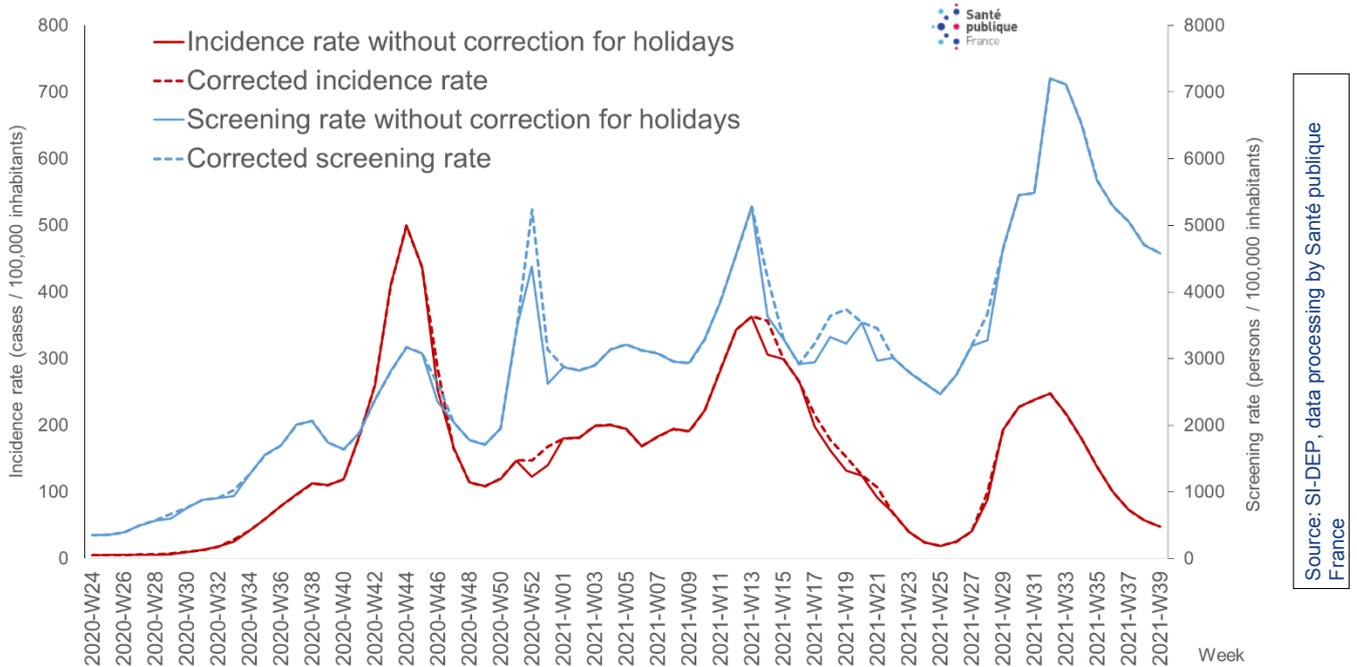
### PREVENTION

On 5 October, 75.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.9% were fully vaccinated. The high vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals continued to progress.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 48 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 39 (vs 57 in week 38, -16%), while the [screening rate](#) was 4,580 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 4,704 in week 38, -3%). The [positivity rate](#) fell by 0.2 points (1.0%). Among the 2,819,369 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 91% were **asymptomatic**, a proportion that has been **stable** for several weeks. The **positivity rate** slightly dropped among symptomatic individuals (5.5% vs 6.2% in week 38) and was stable among asymptomatic individuals (0.6% vs 0.7% in week 38). Overall, **46%** of cases were **symptomatic** (stable compared to week 38).

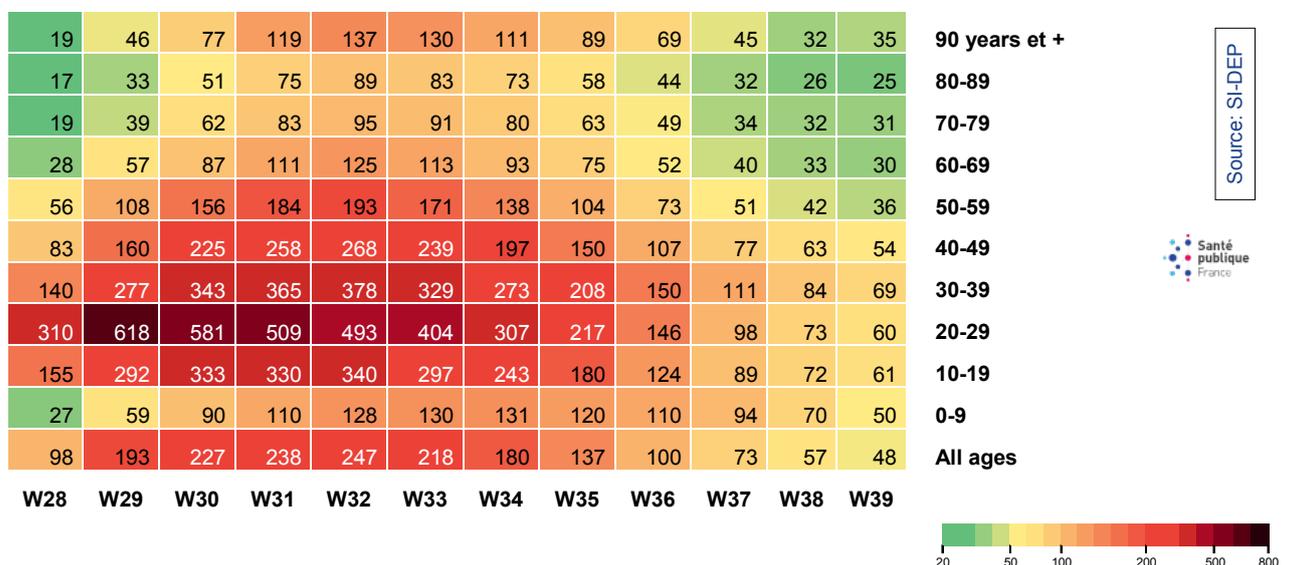
### Weekly evolution of the incidence and screening rates since week 24, 2020, France (corrected and uncorrected for public holidays) (data on 6 October 2021)



### Incidence and screening rates by age group

The [incidence rate](#) fell among people under 60 years and was stable among the older age groups. The **highest** rates were still observed among **young adults**: 30-39 year-olds (69/100 000, -18%), 10-19 year-olds (61, -15%), and 20-29 year-olds (60, -17%). The [screening rate](#) was **decreasing** or **stable** in **all age groups except for 10-19 year-olds** among whom it **increased (+34%)**. It remained the highest among 20-29 year-olds (7,793/100,000, -9%) and 30-39 year-olds (6,932, -9%). The **positivity rate** fell or **stabilised** in all age groups.

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 28, France (corrected for public holidays) (data on 6 October 2021)



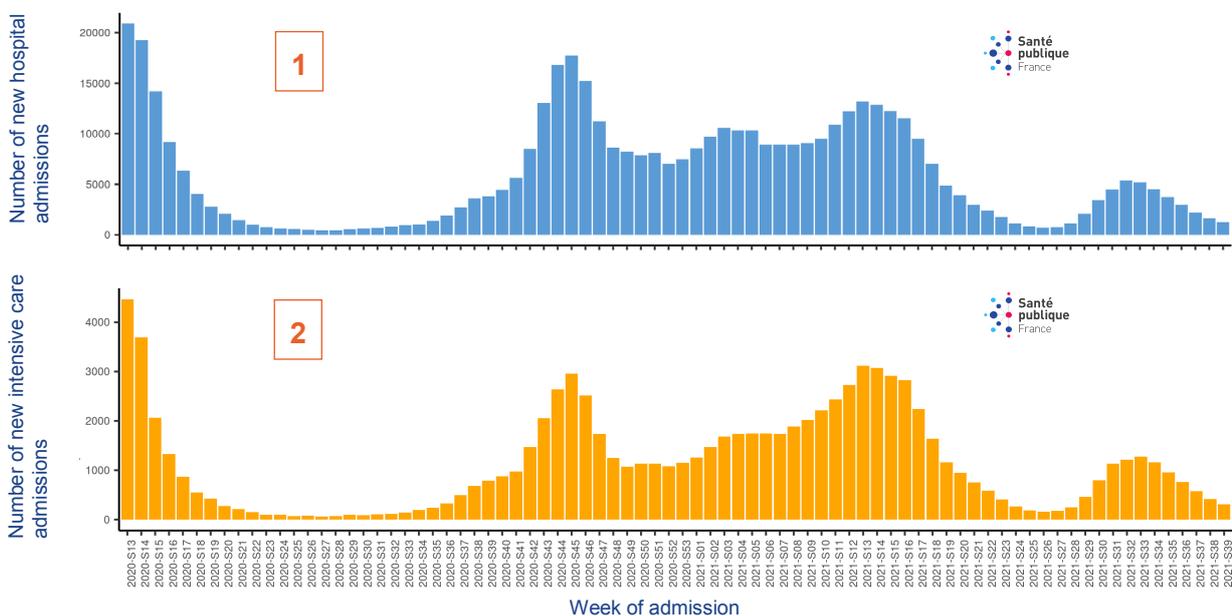
# Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

To better understand the hospital dynamics, new hospital and intensive care admissions are analysed by date of patient admission to hospital. New deaths (in hospital and long-term care facilities) are analysed by date of occurrence. Data from week 39, up to 5 October 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.

On 5 October 2021, **7,157** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 7,862 on 28 September, -9%), including **1,292** in intensive care (vs 1,537 on 28 September, -16%).

At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission showed an improvement, with **1,228 new hospital admissions** (-23% from week 38, -27% from week 37 to week 38) and **306 new intensive care admissions** (-27% from week 38, -28% from week 37 to week 38).

**Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 5 October 2021)**

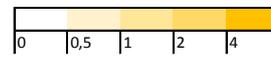
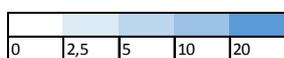


Source: SI-VIC, data processing by Santé publique France

In week 39, for all age groups, the weekly rate of **new hospital admissions** was **down**, while the weekly rate of **new intensive care admissions** was **decreasing or stable**.

**Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 32 to week 39, France**

	1									2							
	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39		W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39
<b>90 years +</b>	31.8	31.9	28.5	26.4	19.1	14.5	9.1	8.5	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.2	
<b>80-89</b>	22.3	20.3	19.8	16.5	12.4	9.2	7.5	6.1	2.3	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	
<b>70-79</b>	15.1	15.4	13.7	10.8	8.8	6.0	4.7	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.0	
<b>60-69</b>	11.0	12.1	9.5	8.2	5.8	5.1	3.1	2.5	3.6	4.2	3.5	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.1	1.0	
<b>50-59</b>	10.0	9.3	7.9	6.3	4.8	3.5	2.5	1.7	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.6	
<b>40-49</b>	7.3	6.6	5.6	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.3	
<b>30-39</b>	6.1	6.1	4.8	4.1	3.4	2.7	2.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	
<b>20-29</b>	4.2	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.5	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	
<b>10-19 years</b>	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	
<b>0-9 ans</b>	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	



Source: SI-VIC, data processing by Santé publique France

Nationally, there were 273 deaths in hospital in week 39, once again down from week 38 (-19%). In the previous week, the number of deaths in hospital fell by 21% compared to week 37. In week 38, there were also 12 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 17 in week 38 and 47 in week 37).

## Situation at the regional

### Incidence, positivity, and screening

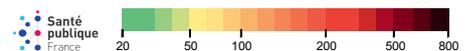
In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Île-de-France. It fell in all regions except for Pays de la Loire, where it was stable. The screening rate was also the highest in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**, **Corsica**, and Île-de-France. In week 39, 73 departments had an incidence rate below 50 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 57 in week 38). The highest incidence rates were observed in Bouches-du-Rhône (115, -20%), Alpes-Maritimes (83, -7%), Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (71, -17%), and Paris (71, -7%).

In overseas France, the incidence rate was 494 per 100,000 inhabitants in French Guiana, down by -8% compared to the previous week. It remained elevated in Martinique and Guadeloupe but continued to fall sharply (-17% and -35%, respectively).

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region<sup>2</sup> from week 34, France (data on 6 October 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						W39 vs W38 (%)	Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39		W39	W39 vs W38 (points)	W39	W39 vs W38 (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	163	128	93	67	53	48	-10	1.1	-0.1	4,190	-2
Burgundy-Franche-Comté	111	84	64	46	38	34	-10	1.0	-0.1	3,527	-1
Brittany	122	89	68	52	37	27	-26	0.9	-0.2	3,122	-5
Centre-Val de Loire	108	88	66	52	39	30	-23	1.0	-0.2	2,969	-7
Corsica	222	138	114	79	54	45	-17	0.8	-0.1	5,695	-3
Grand Est	127	116	90	69	47	37	-21	0.8	-0.2	4,763	-3
Hauts-de-France	125	91	75	49	38	30	-21	0.7	-0.1	3,977	-6
Île-de-France	170	146	107	87	72	63	-13	1.1	-0.2	5,551	-1
Normandie	90	65	47	32	31	25	-21	0.7	-0.2	3,658	-1
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	116	85	63	48	40	31	-23	0.9	-0.2	3,440	-3
Occitanie	231	160	107	67	54	43	-20	0.9	-0.2	4,626	-2
Pays de la Loire	106	79	59	43	41	40	-1	1.2	0.0	3,236	-1
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	444	330	226	153	102	85	-17	1.2	-0.2	7,119	-5
Guadeloupe	1080	525	262	172	117	76	-35	2.3	-1.2	3,352	0
French Guiana	459	422	421	497	538	494	-8	13.1	-2.6	3,769	10
Martinique	649	422	289	221	162	134	-17	3.7	-1.1	3,623	8
Mayotte	35	52	42	40	32	34	7	1.8	0.1	1,852	-1
Reunion Island	185	159	97	68	48	32	-34	0.8	-0.4	3,831	0

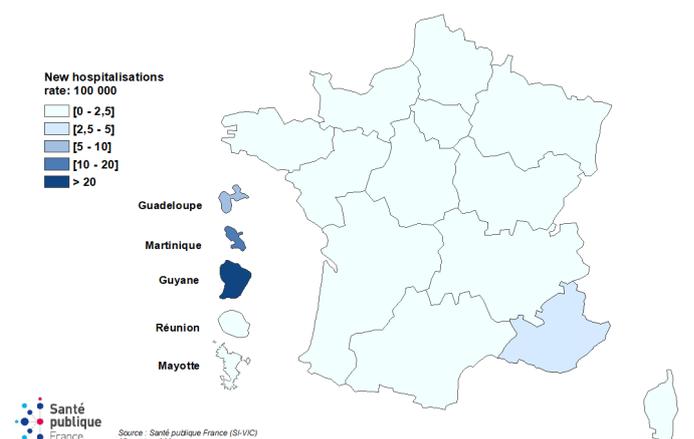
Source: SI-DEP



### Hospital and intensive care admission by date of admission

- In **metropolitan France** in week 39, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **decreasing or stable** in all regions except for Pays de la Loire (+7 new hospital admissions and +9 new intensive care admissions compared to week 38). The highest hospital and intensive care admission rates were observed in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** and **Île-de-France**.
- In **overseas France**, the weekly rate of new hospital admissions remained **very high** but showed a **slight fall** in **French Guiana**. The rate of new intensive care admissions was nevertheless stable. Both indicators improved in Martinique. In Guadeloupe, the rate of new hospital admissions decreased, while the rate of new intensive care admissions was stable.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 39, France



Source: SI-VIC, data processing by Santé publique France

<sup>2</sup> For further information on the epidemic situation in the regions, consult the [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

## Variants of concern

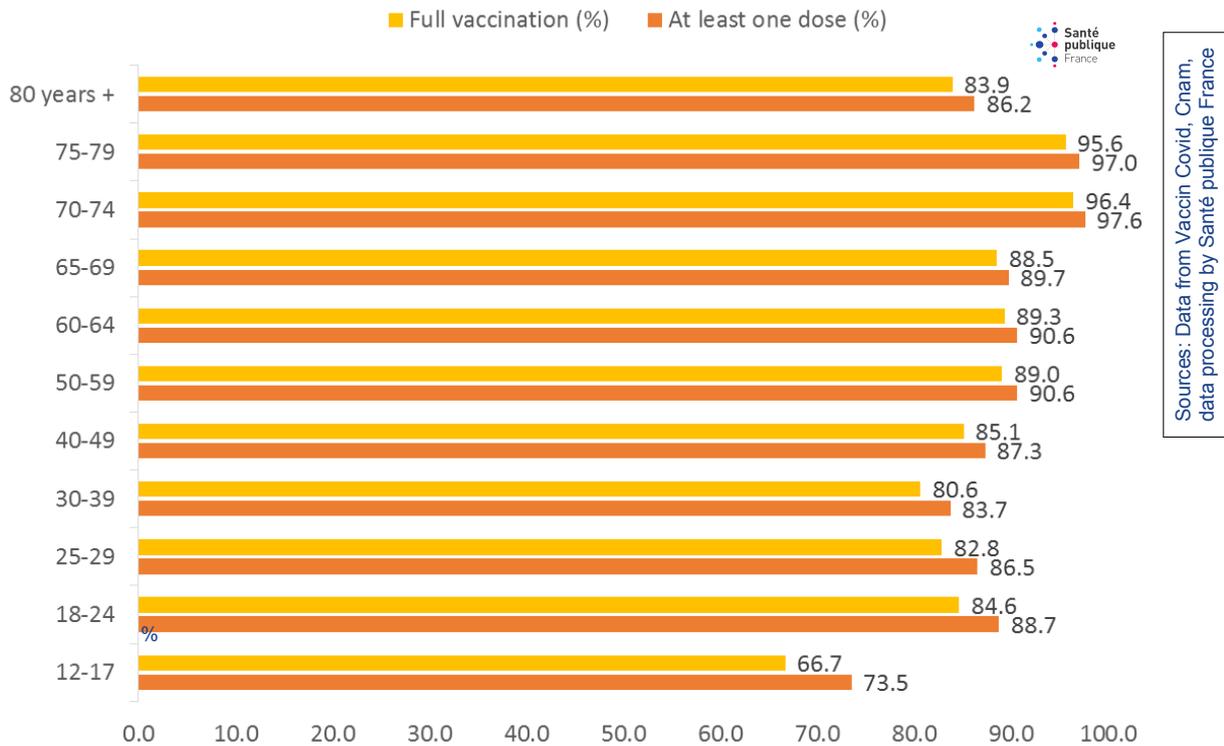
The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 95.8% of screened positive samples in week 39 (vs 95.2% in week 38). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the prevalence of the Delta variant among the circulating variants. Delta was identified in more than **99.8% of interpretable sequences** in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #23 (7 September) and #24 (14 September) (unconsolidated data).

In overseas France, Delta was identified in 94% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #22 (31 August), 95% in Flash #23 (7 September), and 98% in Flash #24 (14 September, unconsolidated data).

## Vaccination

On 5 October, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on data from Vaccin Covid was estimated at 75.2% (n=50,482,515) for at least one dose and 72.9% (n=48,911,033) for full vaccination. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 50,462,348 had received one dose (87.3%), and 48,897,142 (84.6%) were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 5 October 2021 (in %)



On 5 October, 93.5% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one dose (91.4% with full vaccination). Vaccination coverage continued to progress among healthcare professionals: 96.0% had received at least one vaccine dose, and 94.5% were fully vaccinated.

### Check out the survey of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #22](#)

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 [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

Find all the open access data on [Géodes](#).