COVID-19
Epidemiological Update
Weekly Report / Week 42 / 28 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 as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 27 October 2021.

**Key numbers**

**Week 42 (18-24 October 2021)**

**Compared to week 41 (11-17 October 2021)**

- **55 (vs 48 in W41)**
  - Incidence rate (/100,000 inhabitants)
  - 36,930 new confirmed cases (vs 32,461 in W41)
  - +14%

- **1.7% (vs 1.2 in W41)**
  - Positivity rate
  - +0.5 points

- **1.14 (vs 1.05 in W41)**
  - Effective reproduction number R
  - Si-DEP

- **964 (vs 779 in W41)**
  - SOS Médecins consultations for suspected COVID-19
  - +24%

- **1,470 (vs 1,388 in W41)**
  - Emergency department visits for suspected COVID-19
  - +6%

- **1,281 (vs 1,254 in W41)**
  - New hospital admissions for patients with COVID-19
  - +2%

- **346 (vs 308 in W41)**
  - New intensive care admissions for patients with COVID-19
  - +12%

- **171 (vs 210 in W41)**
  - Deaths (in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities)
  - -19%

**On 26 October 2021**

**Compared to 19 October 2021**

- **51,114,351**
  - People had received at least one vaccine dose
  - +0.4%

- **49,893,729**
  - People were fully vaccinated
  - +0.5%

**Key points**

**Epidemiological situation**

In week 42, the rebound in circulation of the virus was confirmed in metropolitan France, with a new rise in the incidence rate and an upward trend for new hospitalisations.

- **Metropolitan France:**
  - Greater increase in the incidence rate among people aged 60 years and older
  - Incidence rate above 50/100,000 inhabitants in 44 departments
  - R number >1 and rising, leading to the accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2 across the country
  - Decline in the screening rate among adults aged 20 years and older, especially among 20-39 year-olds
  - Increasing or stable trend for new hospital and intensive care admissions in all regions

- **Overseas France:**
  - French Guiana: falling incidence and hospitalisation rates

**Variants**

- Delta variant identified in 100% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 28 September and 5 October 2021

**Contact tracing**

- Increase in the average number of contacts per case in a context marked by a rising number of cases
- Higher proportion of cases previously identified as contacts

**Prevention**

- Vaccination on 26 October 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose and 74.3% were fully vaccinated
  - 16.9% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster dose
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing and respect of preventive measures

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1 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.
Week 42 (18 to 24 October 2021)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 42, the rebound in circulation of the virus was confirmed in metropolitan France, with a new rise in the incidence rate. The increase in the R number (>1 since week 41) points towards the accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2 throughout the country. The national incidence rate exceeded 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 44 metropolitan departments. Hospital and intensive care admissions were again on the rise. In French Guiana, the incidence and hospitalisation rates continued to fall. Contact tracing data indicated a higher proportion of cases previously identified as contacts, suggesting a better identification of transmission chains. On 26 October, 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.3% were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 16.9% had received a booster dose. Given the surge in the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and winter viruses, especially in older people, it is crucial to encourage the vaccination of unvaccinated people as well as the booster shot for all adults aged 65 years and older in addition to maintaining a high level of adherence to preventive measures given their effectiveness in limiting the epidemic and preserving the healthcare system.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

Nationally, the incidence rate increased again in week 42, reaching 55 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 48 in week 41, +14%). An average of 5,276 cases were diagnosed each day. The incidence rate increased in all age groups, except for 20-29 year-olds (57, -6%). The rise was moderate among 30-39 year-olds (71, +6%) but more pronounced among people aged 60 years and older. With the end of the systematic reimbursement of COVID-19 tests, the screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) dropped substantially (-21% in week 42) to reach 3,147 per 100,000 inhabitants. This fall was observed in all age groups, with the exception of young people under 20 years among whom the screening rate remained stable. The greatest declines were found among 20-39 year-olds. The positivity rate increased by 0.5 points to 1.7%. Among tested symptomatic individuals, the screening rate was stable, although the number of confirmed cases increased substantially (17,150, +25%). The positivity rate was 9.0% (+1.8 points).

An increase in the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was observed in SOS Médecins organisations (964, +24%), mostly driven by people aged 15-74 years (+33%). Emergency department consultations climbed slightly (1,470, +6%), especially among the elderly aged 75 years and older (+18%).

The number of new hospital admissions increased minimally (1,281, +2%), with a greater rise in new intensive care admissions (346, +12%). On 26 October, there were 6,506 COVID-19 in hospitals, including 1,062 in intensive care.

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was increasing or stable in all regions. It reached 73/100,000 inhabitants in Pays de la Loire (+52%) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur (+1%), and 71 in Île-de-France (-0.2%). An upward trend was observed in almost three-quarters of departments. By contrast, the screening rate was down in all regions. New hospital and intensive care admissions were rising or stable in all regions. The highest hospitalisation rates still occurred in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Île-de-France, and Pays de la Loire.

In overseas France, both the incidence and hospitalisation rate continued to fall in French Guiana (227, -15%). Although on a downward trend, excess mortality persisted in week 40.

The incidence rate was constant in Martinique (134, +5%) and Guadeloupe (49, -3%). The rate of new hospital admissions dropped in both overseas territories.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to 100% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #26 and #27 on 28 September and 5 October, respectively.

CONTACT TRACING

In week 42, the number of new cases and new contacts continued to increase (+14% and +28%, respectively). The number of contacts identified per case rose (2.85 vs 2.7 in week 41), as did the proportion of cases previously identified as contacts (23.2% vs 20.7%), thus suggesting a better identification of transmission chains. The number of cases who attended a cultural event (+43%), sporting event (+40%), or private gathering (+42%) was also on the rise.

PREVENTION

On 26 October, 76.2% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.3% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage with the booster dose was 16.9% among people aged 65 years and older.
Nationally, the incidence rate was 55 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 42 (vs 48 in week 41, +14%), while the screening rate was 3,147 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 3,975 in week 41, -21%). The positivity rate increased to 1.7% (+0.5 points). Among the 1,887,708 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 90% were asymptomatic, a slightly lower proportion compared to week 41 (92%). The positivity rate was on the rise among both symptomatic (9.0% vs 7.2% in week 41) and asymptomatic individuals (1.0% vs 0.7% in week 41). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases increased slightly (51% vs 47% in week 41).

Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (up to 27 October 2021)

Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 42, the incidence rate was higher in all age groups except for 20-29 year-olds (57/100,000, -6%). Greater increases were observed among people aged 60 years and older. The rise was less pronounced among 30-39 year-olds (+6%) who had the highest incidence rate (71). The screening rate fell in all age groups except for 0-19 year-olds (stable). The largest declines were found among 20-29 year-olds (3,761/100,000, -37%) and 30-39 year-olds (3,984, -31%). The screening rate was the highest among 10-19 year-olds (4,476/100,000, -2%). The positivity rate increased in all age groups, being the lowest among 10-19 year-olds (1.3%, +0.2 points) and the highest among 70-79 year-olds (2.6%, +0.9 points).

Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 31, France (corrected for public holidays) (data on 27 October 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>W31</th>
<th>W32</th>
<th>W33</th>
<th>W34</th>
<th>W35</th>
<th>W36</th>
<th>W37</th>
<th>W38</th>
<th>W39</th>
<th>W40</th>
<th>W41</th>
<th>W42</th>
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<tr>
<td>90 yrs+</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89 yrs</td>
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<td>70-79 yrs</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>60-69 yrs</td>
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<td>40-49 yrs</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>30-39 yrs</td>
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<td>273</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>84</td>
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<td>20-29 yrs</td>
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<td>404</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-19 yrs</td>
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<td>297</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-9 yrs</td>
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<td>131</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>94</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>All ages</td>
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<td>180</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>48</td>
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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 42, up to 26 October 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.

- On 26 October 2021, 6,506 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,544 on 19 October, -0.6%), including 1,062 in intensive care (vs 1,059 on 19 October, +0.3%).
- At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission worsened, with 1,281 new hospital admissions (+2% from week 41, +6% from week 40 to week 41) and 346 new intensive care admissions (+12% from week 41, +4% from week 40 to week 41).

Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 26 October 2021)

- In week 42, the weekly rate of new hospital admissions remained stable or increased among adults aged 50 years and older (highest increase among those aged 90 years and over) but fell slightly among those under 50 years. New intensive care admissions rose among 50-79 year-olds and remained stable in the other age groups.

Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 35 to week 42, France

- In week 42, the number of deaths fell slightly, with 165 deaths reported in hospital at the national level (-18% from week 41). In the previous week, this number increased by 4% compared to week 40. There were also 6 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 10 in week 41 and 7 in week 40).
Situation at the regional level

Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

- In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was above 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Pays de la Loire, Île-de-France, Corsica, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Both the incidence and positivity rates showed an increasing or stabilising trend in all regions. Nevertheless, the screening rates, which dropped in all regions, were the highest in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Île-de-France. In week 42, a total of 44 departments exceeded the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 21 in week 41). The highest incidence rates were observed in Aveyron (102, +34%), Bouches-du-Rhône (97, -8%), Haute-Loire (92, +26%), and Vendée (88, +58%).

- Substantial increases in the incidence rate were observed in several metropolitan departments. These changes should nevertheless be compared with the initial value of the incidence rate, the population size, and the possible existence of clusters. However, these factors alone cannot explain the current increases in the incidence rate, which rather indicate the resumption of community transmission of the virus in a number of departments.

- In overseas France, the incidence rate fell in French Guiana (227/100,000 inhabitants, -15%) and stabilised in Guadeloupe (49, -3%) and Martinique (134, +5%).

Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region² from week 34, France (data on 27 October 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants</th>
<th></th>
<th>Positivity rate (%)</th>
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</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>W37</td>
<td>W38</td>
<td>W39</td>
<td>W40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>Bourgogne-Franche-Comté</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bretagne</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre-Val de Loire</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corse</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Est</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hauts-de-France</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Île-de-France</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Normandie</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nouvelle-Aquitaine</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occitanie</td>
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<td>Pays de la Loire</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guadeloupe</td>
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<td>Guyane</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martinique</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>163</td>
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<td>Mayotte</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Réunion</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospital and intensive care admissions by date of admission

In metropolitan France in week 42, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were stable or increasing in all regions. The highest hospitalisation rates were observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Île-de-France, and Pays de la Loire.

In overseas France, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were the highest in French Guiana. In Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana, new hospitalisations were down, although new intensive care admissions were stable.

Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 42, France

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² For further information on the epidemic situation in the regions, consult the Regional Epidemiological Updates.
The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 96.4% of screened positive samples in week 42 (vs 95.8% in week 41). Sequencing data confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was identified in 100% of interpretable sequences in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #26 (28 September) and #27 (5 October) (unconsolidated data). In overseas France, Delta was also identified in 100% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #25 (21 September) and #26 (28 September, unconsolidated data).

At the international level, Delta was also the dominant strain, representing 98.9% of sequences between 26 September and 26 October according to the GISAID database. The Delta sublineage AY.4.2, which is under enhanced surveillance due to its higher circulation in the United Kingdom, was detected at very low levels in metropolitan France (see the analysis of the risks associated with the emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2 on 21 October 2021).

### Vaccination

On 26 October, vaccination coverage in France based on data from Vaccin Covid was estimated at 76.2% (n=50,706,321) for at least one dose, 74.3% for full vaccination, and 4.0% (n=2,688,952) for the booster dose. Overall, 16.9% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,093,009 had received one dose (88.4%), and 49,877,764 (86.3%) were fully vaccinated.

**Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 26 October 2021 (in %)**

On 26 October, 93.7% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.0% were fully vaccinated, and 50.0% had received a booster shot. Among healthcare professionals in private practice, 96.5% had received at least one vaccine dose, 95.9% were fully vaccinated, and 11.7% had received a booster dose. Vaccination coverage of people over 15 years living in a vulnerable situation was estimated at 75.3% for at least one dose, 73.3% for full vaccination, and 4.5% for the booster shot (detailed methodology given in the special study “Point sur” published 21 October 2021).

For more information on COVID-19, the surveillance systems in place, and vaccination, consult the websites of Santé publique France and Vaccination Info Service.