

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

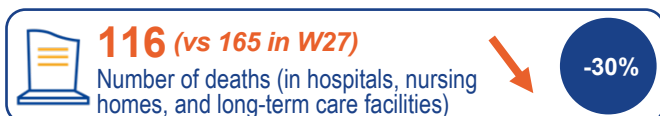
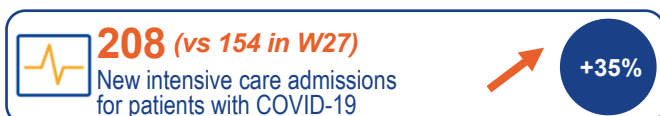
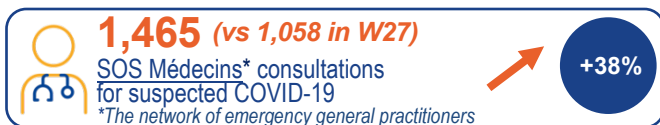
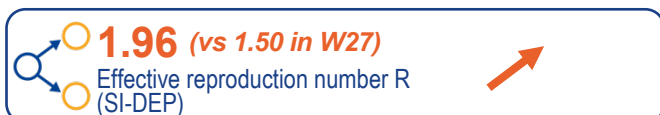
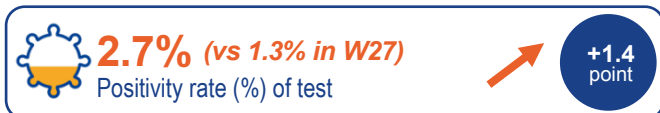
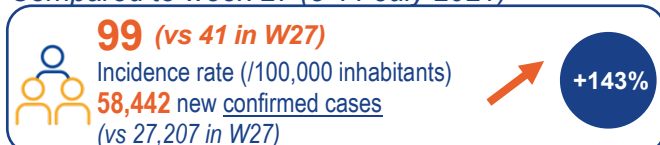
Weekly report / Week 28 / 22 July 2021

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 21 July 2021.

Key numbers

Week 28 (12-18 July 2021)

Compared to week 27 (5-11 July 2021)



As of 20 July 2021:

Compared to 13 July 2021



¹: data corrected for the public holiday on 14 July

* Santé publique France acknowledges the large network of partners that contribute to its COVID-19 surveillance: private practice doctors, medico-social emergency (SAMU), Centre 15, hospital doctors, hospital and private medical biology laboratories, learned societies for infectious diseases, resuscitation, and emergency medicine, CNAM, INSERM, and INSEE.

Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 28, a surge in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in France was accompanied by a rise in hospital and intensive care admissions in a context marked by the increased attendance of public venues.

- Increase by more than 100% in the incidence rate in all age groups except for those aged 70 years and older
- Increase in hospital and intensive care admissions after 15 weeks of decline
- Metropolitan France:
 - Increased circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in all regions, particularly in Corsica, Occitania, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine
 - Significant increase in hospital indicators in Occitania
- Overseas France: Degradation of the epidemiological situation in Martinique and high viral circulation in Guyana and Reunion Island

Variants

- Delta variant identified in 81% of sequenced samples in metropolitan France

Contact tracing

- Decrease in the proportion of new cases previously registered as contacts at risk, indicating the lower identification of transmission chains
- Sharp increase in the number of cases who reported attending a public venue

Prevention

- Vaccination coverage:
 - In the general population as of 20 July: 56.3% for at least one dose and 45.9% for full vaccination
 - Vaccination survey in long-term care facilities: 88% of residents but only 59% of professionals working in nursing homes are fully vaccinated
- Importance of using a combination of preventative measures:
 - Vaccination of the entire eligible population
 - Contact tracing and barrier measures even in the case of vaccination
 - In case of symptoms, requirement for immediate isolation and rapid testing

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 28, a surge in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 was observed across the country, with the number of new cases more than doubling compared to the previous week. The incidence rate increased in all regions and in all age groups. For the first time since week 15, this rise was accompanied by a marked increase in the rate of hospital admissions (+55%) and the number of patients admitted to intensive care (+35%) after 3 weeks of rapid growth in the incidence rate. Contact tracing data confirm the sharp increase in the number of cases who attended public venues, especially bars, where barrier measures are more difficult to maintain. As of 20 July 2021, almost 57% of the population had received at least one vaccine dose, and almost 47% were fully vaccinated. Given the strong increase in viral circulation, the rapid spread of the Delta variant, and the summer holidays, the vaccination of all eligible people should be strongly encouraged and facilitated for the oldest and most vulnerable groups in order to achieve a sufficient level of herd immunity as soon as possible and avoid putting pressure on the hospital and healthcare system. Vaccination should be combined with a high level of adherence to other preventive measures, notably by respecting barrier measures, limiting contacts at risk, and self-isolating in the case of symptoms, confirmed infection, or contact with a confirmed case.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

At the national level, an increase in the **incidence rate** (99/100,000, +143%), corrected for the public holiday on 14 July, was observed in all age groups. It doubled or more than doubled in all age groups except for those aged 70 years and older, while it reached 311/100,000 among 20-29 year-olds. The corrected screening rate increased less markedly (+16%). The **positivity rate** increased to 2.7%, that is, an increase of 1.4 points.

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased in SOS Médecins organisations (1,047, +61%) and emergency departments (1,118, +15%).

An increase in new hospital and intensive care admissions was observed (+55% and +35%, respectively) after 15 weeks of decline. The number of hospitalised COVID-19 patients as of 20 July was 6,971, including 889 in intensive care. In week 28, COVID-19-related deaths continued to fall (-30%).

In metropolitan France, the **incidence rate increased substantially in all regions**, exceeding 150/100,000 inhabitants in Corsica (217), Occitania (176), and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (164). The rate of hospital admissions augmented in the majority of regions; the greatest increase was observed in Occitania, which also had the highest rate (3.4/100,000 inhabitants).

In the overseas territories, the **incidence rate surged in Martinique** (706/100 000, +152%) for the third consecutive week, where indicators and hospital pressure were also on the rise. The incidence rate remained high in **Guyana** and **Reunion Island** (212 and 211, respectively).

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant is now dominant across the French mainland, representing 81% of interpretable sequences in Flash survey #14 on 6 July.

CONTACT TRACING

In week 28, the number of cases and identified contacts continued to increase significantly, with 54,373 cases (+111%) and 102,837 contacts (+82%), respectively. The proportion of cases previously registered as contacts decreased again by 2 points to 16.8%, suggesting that a growing number of contacts at risk was not being identified. Among the public venues attended by cases, the highest increase occurred in bars (1,532 cases, +192%).

PREVENTION

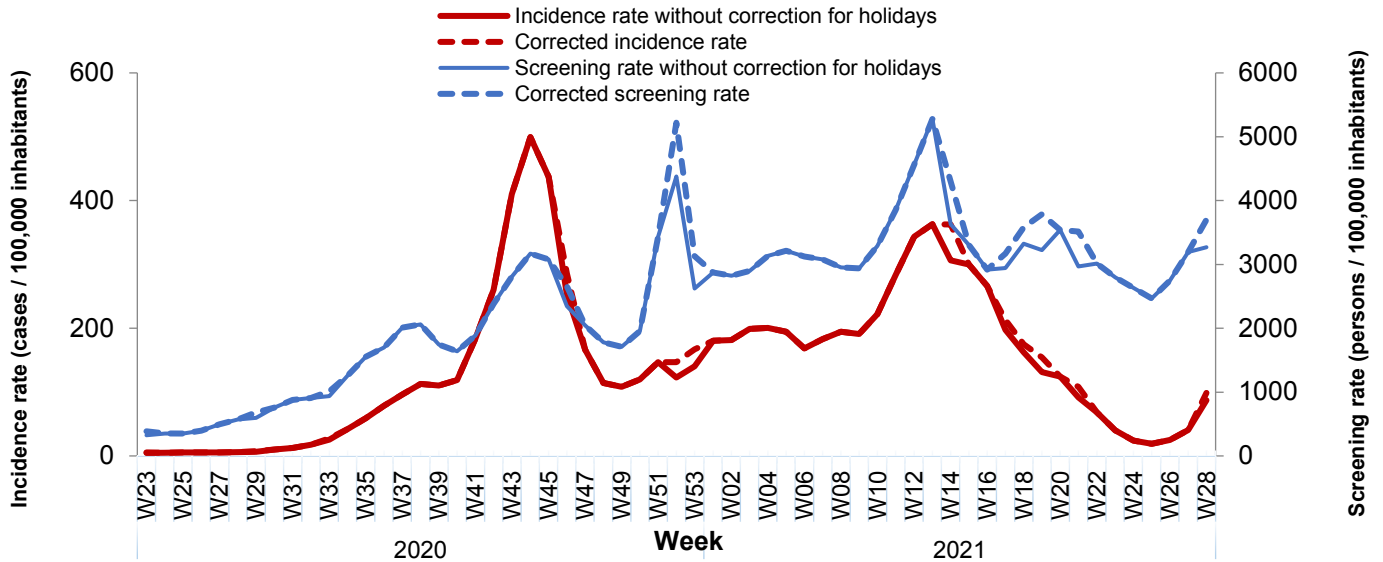
As of 20 July, **56.9% of the population in France had received at least one vaccine dose, and 46.7% were fully vaccinated.** The vaccination coverage for persons aged 12 years and older was 66.1% for one dose and 54.3% for full vaccination. It remained stable at 80.9% for at least one dose and 76.1% for full vaccination among those aged 80 years and older.

Finally, data from the vaccination survey in long-term care facilities conducted from 8 June to 9 July showed that despite the high vaccination coverage among the **residents of nursing homes** (more than 80% for full vaccination), it was **lower among healthcare professionals working in long-term care facilities, irrespective of the type of establishment.** Among health professionals, doctors had the best vaccination coverage, while nursing assistants had the worst.

Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

At the national level, the [incidence rate](#) corrected for the public holiday was 99 per 100,000 inhabitants (87%,) or +143% (87 for the uncorrected rate), while the corrected [screening rate](#) was 3,701 per 100,000 inhabitants, or +16% (3,271 for the uncorrected rate). The [positivity rate](#) increased to 2.7% (+1.4 points). This rate rose sharply among the 178,880 symptomatic individuals (15.8% vs 8.1% in week 27) and the 1,773,076 asymptomatic individuals (1.5% vs 0.7% in week 27). Among cases, 51% were symptomatic, a slight increase from week 27 (46%).

Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (as of 21 July 2021)

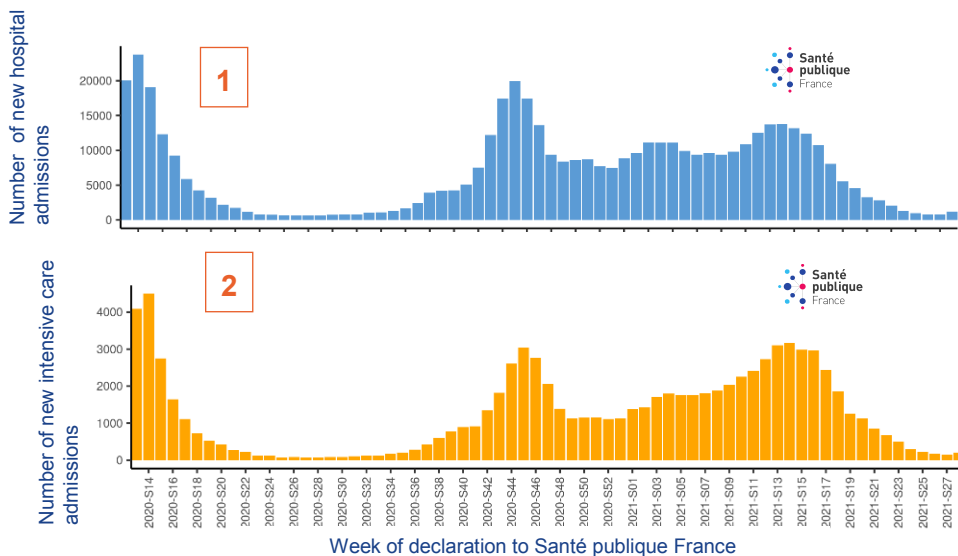


Source: SI-DEP

Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

At the national level, the hospital indicators based on the date of declaration, which had been in decline since week 13, increased in week 28 with **1,215 new hospital admissions** (+55% from week 27) and **208 new intensive care admissions** (+35%). **The weekly rate of new hospital admissions was stable or on the rise in all regions.** The highest rate of hospital admissions was observed in Occitania for metropolitan France and in Guyana and Martinique for the overseas territories. The highest rate of new intensive care admissions occurred in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Corsica (low numbers) for metropolitan France and in Guyana, Guadeloupe, and Reunion Island for the overseas territories.

Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (as of 11 July 2021)



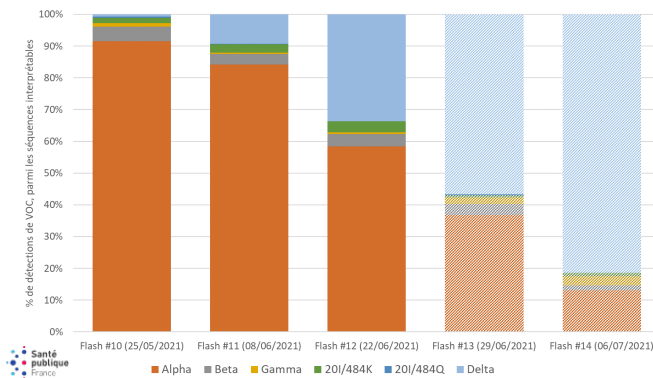
Source: SI-VIC

At the national level, **115 deaths** were recorded in hospital in week 28, down from week 27 (-30%).

Variants of concern

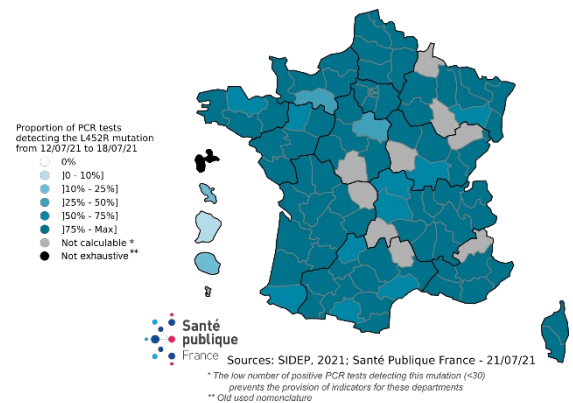
The detection of the L452R mutation (largely driven by the Delta variant) continued to increase: it was detected in 80% of screened positive samples in week 28 (vs 63% in week 27). [Sequencing data](#) confirm that the Delta variant has been the dominant [variant](#) in metropolitan France since week 26, representing 81% of interpretable sequences in Flash survey #14 on 6 June (vs 56% for Flash #13 on 29 June). In overseas France, other variants are predominant: Beta in Reunion Island, Gamma in Guyana, and Alpha in the Antilles.

Proportion of variants of concern detected by sequencing during the Flash surveys (#10 to #14) in metropolitan France



Source: EMERGEN, Data processing by Santé publique France

Proportion of PCR tests detecting the L452R mutation, by department, in week 28

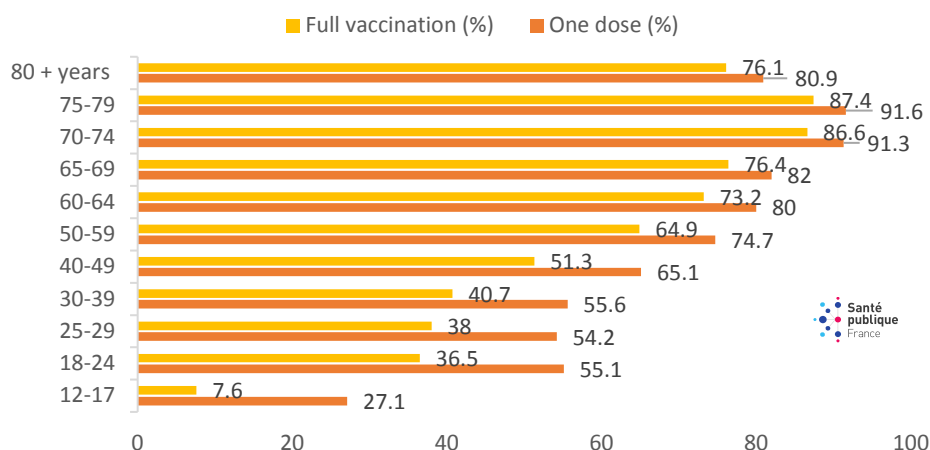


Source: S-IDEP

Vaccination

On 20 July, [vaccination coverage](#) of the population aged between 18 and 49 years was estimated at 58.5% for at least one dose and 43.0% for full vaccination, while it was 84.6% and 80.1%, respectively, among those aged 75 years and older. **Among the population aged 12 years and older, 38,190,679 had received at least one dose (66.1%) and 31,366,116 (54.3%) were fully vaccinated.** Vaccination coverage for at least one dose was 89.3% for residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities (84.2% for full vaccination), 65.8% for professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities (56.4% for full vaccination), and 83.6% for healthcare professionals in private practice (79.1% for full vaccination).

Vaccination coverage by age group in France as of 20 July 2021 (in %)



Sources: data from Vaccin Covid, Cham, Data processing by Santé publique France

Consult the [Santé Publique France](#) website for more information on COVID-19 and the surveillance systems in place. Find all the open access data on [Géodes](#)

Check out the survey of the week
 Update on [Flash survey #12](#)

For more information on the regional data, see [Regional epidemiological situation](#)