

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

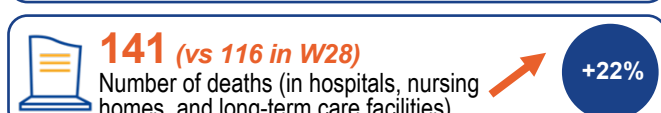
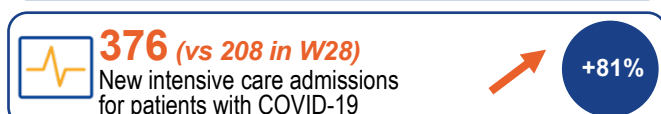
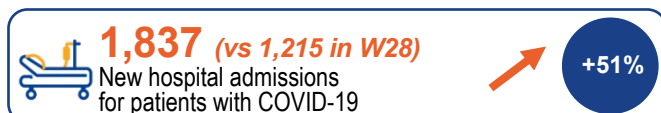
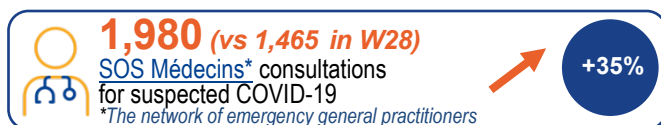
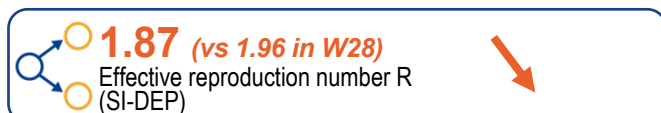
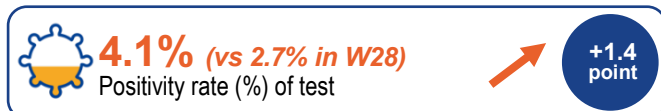
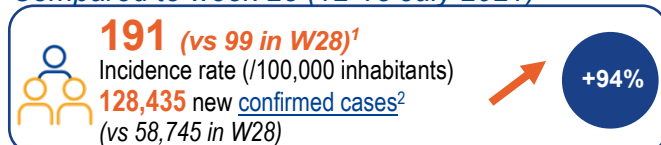
Weekly report / Week 29 / 29 July 2021

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 Public Health France up to 28 July 2021.

Key numbers

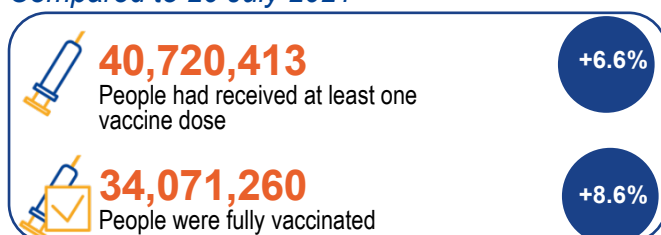
Week 29 (19-25 July 2021)

Compared to week 28 (12-18 July 2021)



As of 27 July 2021

Compared to 20 July 2021



¹ Data corrected for the public holiday on 14 July

² Number of declared cases not corrected for public holidays.

* Santé publique France thanks the large network of actors on which it relies to ensure 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 29, the epidemiological situation continued to deteriorate across the entire country, as social distancing measures were lifted.

- Surge in the incidence rate
- Increase in hospital and intensive care admissions
- Metropolitan France:
 - Incidence rate above 200/100,000 inhabitants in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corsica, Occitania, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine
 - Sharp increase in the rate of hospital admissions in the majority of regions
- Overseas France:
 - Highest incidence rate in Martinique and strong viral circulation in Reunion Island, Guadeloupe, and Guyana
 - High hospitalisation rate in Martinique, Guyana, Guadeloupe, and Reunion Island

Variants

- Delta variant identified in 82.8% of sequenced samples in metropolitan France on 13 July

Contact tracing

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

Prevention

- Vaccination coverage as of 25 July: 60.7% for at least one dose and 50.8% for full vaccination
- CoviPrev Survey from 15 to 21 July:
 - Lower adoption of preventive measures since May
 - Higher vaccination intentions since June
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination, preventive measures, and contact tracing

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 29, the epidemiological situation continued to degrade, with a very significant increase in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2. The number of new cases almost doubled from the previous week in all age groups, with the rate exceeding 600 per 100,000 inhabitants among 20-29 year-olds. Hospital indicators continued to decline, thus confirming the impact of this fourth wave on hospitals. Contact tracing data confirm the sharp increase in the number of cases who attended public venues, especially bars and nightclubs, where preventive measures are more difficult to maintain. As of 27 July 2021, more than 60% of the population had received at least one vaccine dose, and more than 50% were fully vaccinated. Given the massive increase in viral transmission, the rapid spread of the Delta variant, and the summer holidays, the vaccination of all eligible people – especially those in contact with vulnerable groups – should be strongly encouraged to achieve a sufficient level of herd immunity and avoid hospital admissions and excess deaths. Vaccination should be combined with a high level of adherence to other preventive measures, notably by respecting protective 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 (191/100,000, +94%) was observed in all age groups, almost doubling from the previous week. The highest incidence rate was found among 10-39 year-olds and reached 613/100,000 among 20-29 year-olds. The screening rate increased by 25%. The positivity rate rose to 4.1%, corresponding to an increase of 1.4 points.

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased in SOS Médecins organisations (1,980, +35%) and emergency departments (3,933, +93%).

In hospitals, the increasing trend was confirmed for new hospital admissions (+51%), while the number of new patients admitted to intensive care escalated (+81%). The number of hospitalised COVID-19 patients was 7,196, including 991 in intensive care. COVID-19-related deaths once again increased (+22%) after 12 weeks of decline.

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate continued to sharply increase in all regions. Incidence rates in excess of 200/100,000 inhabitants were seen in Nouvelle-Aquitaine (219) Occitania (368), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (412), and Corsica (501). The rate of hospital admissions augmented in the majority of regions and was the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitania. In Corsica, hospital admissions increased once again, although the numbers remained low.

In overseas France, the highest incidence rate was observed in Martinique (995/100,000, +40%). The incidence rate also remained high in Reunion Island (323, +53%), Guyana (244, +14%), and Guadeloupe (325, +234%), where there was a substantial increase. The highest rate of hospital admissions occurred in Martinique and Guyana, while they remained high in Guadeloupe and Reunion Island.

An increase in the number of confirmed cases was reported in long-term care facilities, with the number of cases being higher among staff than among

residents. Full vaccination coverage among these healthcare professionals stood at only 60.9%.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant is now dominant across the French mainland, representing 82.8% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #14 on 13 July.

CONTACT TRACING

In week 29, the [number of cases and contacts](#) recorded in ContactCovid continued to increase significantly, being 117,267 cases (+115%) and 205,044 contacts (+99%), respectively. The proportion of cases previously identified as contacts (13.7% in week 29) has more than halved since week 22. This suggests that a growing proportion of the contacts at risk are not being identified by the index case. This trend, similar to the increase in the proportion of contacts who do not live with cases (64% in week 29), is consistent with the more frequent attendance of public venues, where it is not always possible to respect preventive measures.

PREVENTION

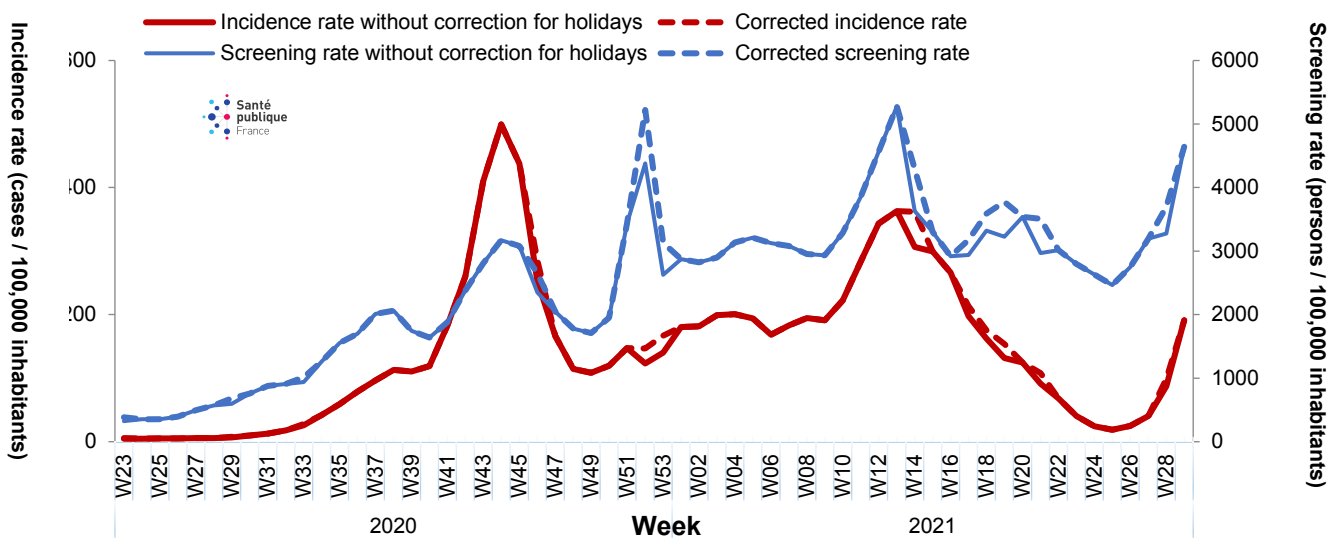
As of 27 July, 60.7% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 50.8% were fully vaccinated. The vaccination coverage for persons aged 12 years and older was 70.4% for one dose and 59.0% for full vaccination. This vaccination coverage remained stable at 81.7% for one dose and 77.3% for full vaccination among those aged 80 years and older.

Data from the [CoviPrev Survey](#) conducted from 15 to 21 July showed a decline in the adoption of preventive measures along with an increase in COVID-19 vaccination intentions compared to the previous survey.

Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

At the national level, the [incidence rate](#) was 191 per 100,000 inhabitants (99%) in week 29, or +94% (versus 99 corrected for the public holiday in week 28), while the [screening rate](#) was 4,641 per 100,000 inhabitants, or +25% (3,271 for the corrected rate in week 28). The [positivity rate](#) increased to 4.1% (+1.4 points). Overall, 91% of tested individuals were asymptomatic, which was stable compared to week 28. Among cases, 51% were symptomatic, which was unchanged from week 28 (50.8%). The positivity rate increased among both symptomatic individuals (24.9% vs 15.8% in week 28) and asymptomatic individuals (2.2% vs 1.5% in week 28).

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 28 July 2021)

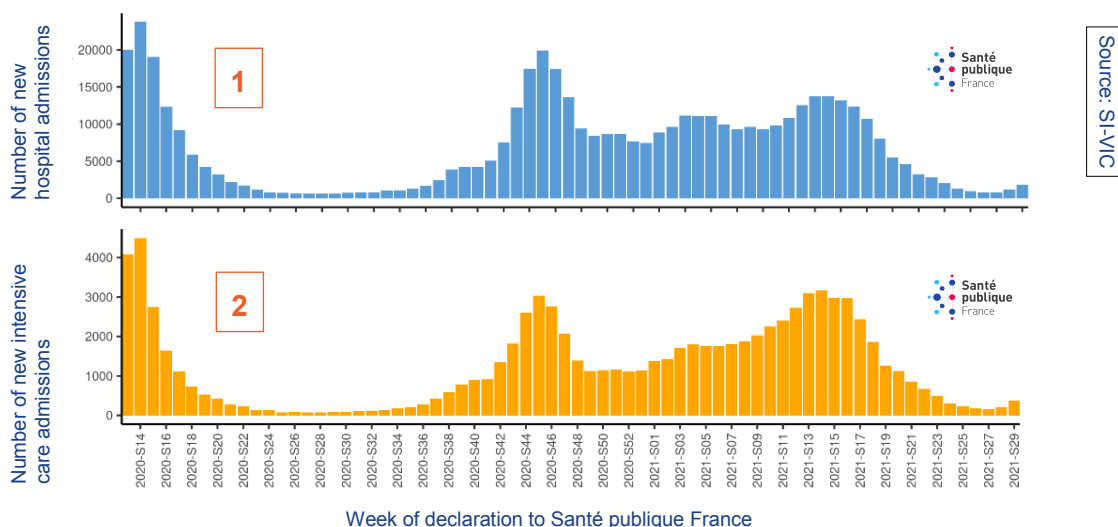


Source: SI-DEP

Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

On 27 July 2021, **7,196 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France** (vs 6,971 on 20 July, +3%), including **991 patients in intensive care** (vs 889 on 20 July, +11%), **3,048 in conventional hospital care** (+11%), **2,801 in follow-up and rehabilitative care**, and **356 in other units**. The median age of hospitalised patients was 73 years compared to 62 years for intensive care patients. At the national level, the hospital indicators based on the date of declaration have increased since week 28 with **1,837 new hospital admissions** in week 29 (+51% from week 28) and **376 new intensive care admissions** (+81%).

Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (as of 25 July 2021)



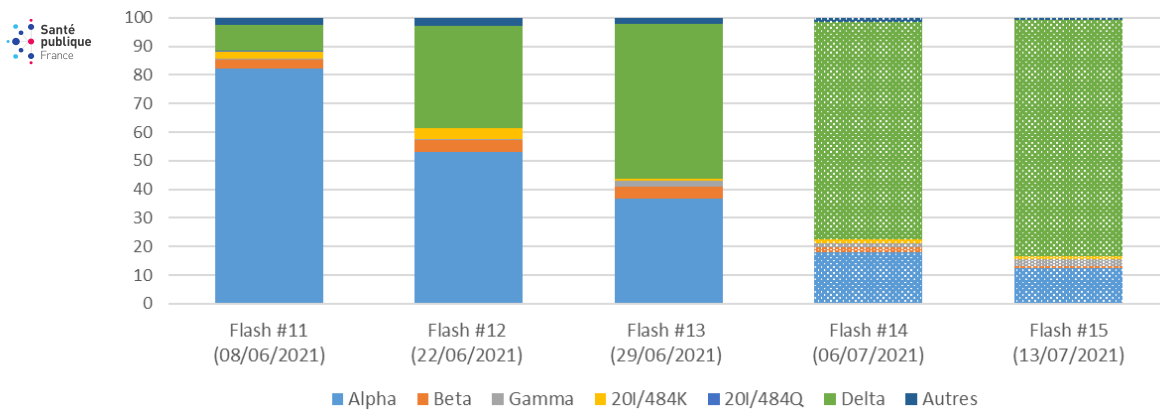
Source: SI-VIC

At the national level, there were **140 deaths in hospital** in week 29, up from week 28 (+22%), and one death recorded in a long-term care facility.

Variants of concern

The progression of the L452R mutation (notably driven by the Delta variant) began to stabilise, as it was detected in 89.2% of screened positive samples in week 29 (vs 80.5% in week 28). [Sequencing data](#) confirm that the Delta variant has been the dominant [variant](#) in metropolitan France since week 26, representing 82.8% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #15 on 13 July (vs 75.9% in Flash Survey #14 on 6 July). In overseas France, the sequencing data (including the Flash Surveys) show the predominance of Beta in Reunion Island, Gamma in Guyana, and Alpha in the Antilles, although the community transmission of the Delta variant has begun to be evidenced in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Proportion of variants detected by sequencing
in Flash Surveys #11 to #15 in metropolitan France

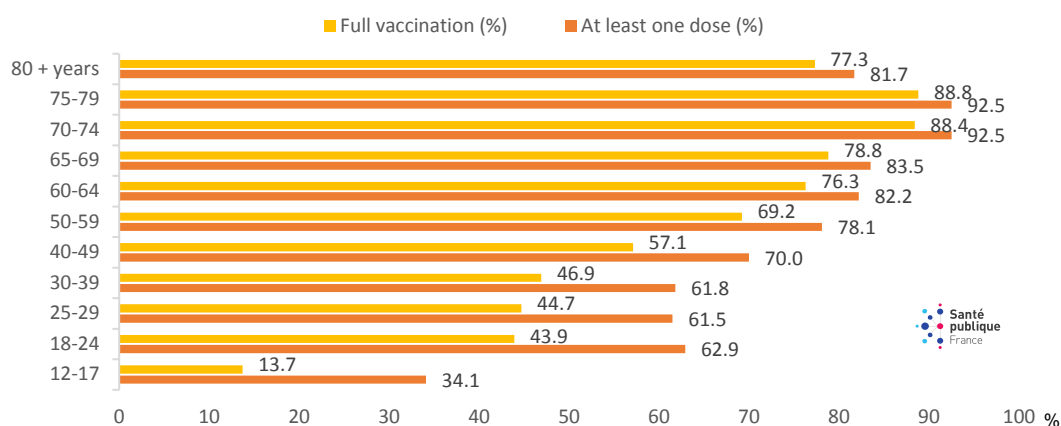


Source: EMERGEN,
Data processing by Santé publique France

Vaccination

On 27 July, [vaccination coverage](#) in France was estimated at 60.7% for at least one dose and 50.8% for full vaccination. **Among the population aged 12 years and older, 40,710,767 had received at least one dose (70.4%) and 34,067,917 (59.0%) were fully vaccinated.** For at least one dose, vaccination coverage was 89.9% for residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities (85.1% for full vaccination), 71.2% for professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities (60.9% for full vaccination), and 85.9% for healthcare professionals in private practice (81.1% for full vaccination).

Vaccination coverage by age group in France as of 27 July 2021 (in %)



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

Check out the survey of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #13](#)
Update on vaccine adherence and preventive measures with the [CoviPrev Survey](#)

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](#).

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