

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

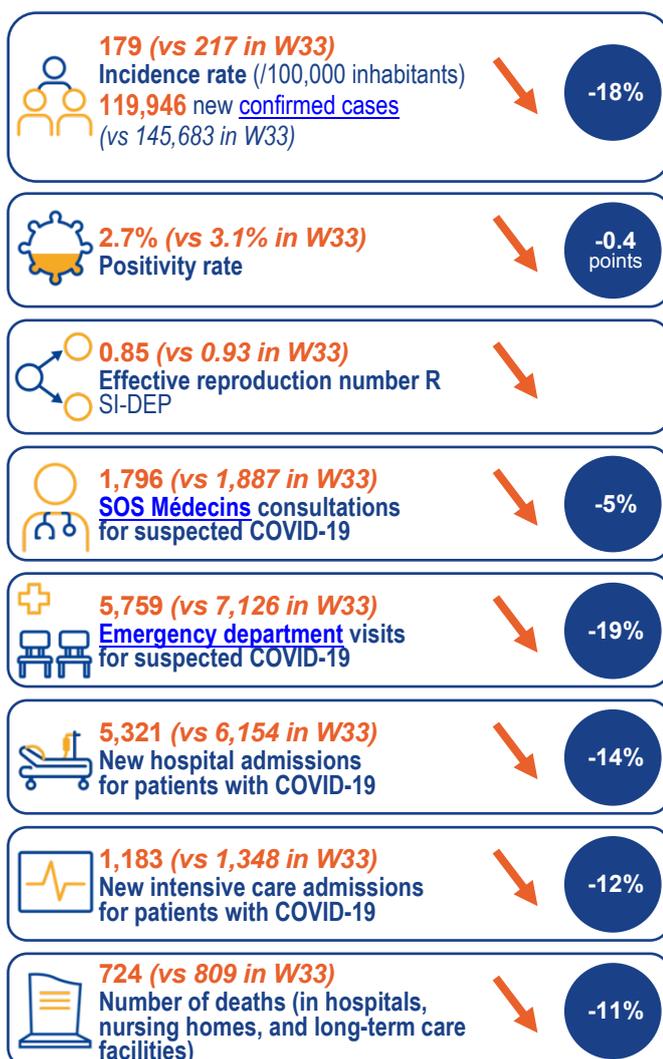
Weekly report / Week 34 / 2 September 2021

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 1 September 2021.

## Key numbers

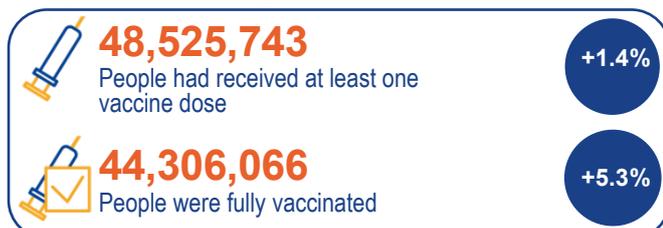
Week 34 (23-29 August 2021)

Compared to week 33 (16-22 August 2021)



As of 31 August

Compared to 24 August 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 34, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued to decrease throughout the country but remained at a high level, with an improvement of hospital indicators at the national level. The situation was still critical in Martinique and Guadeloupe, and preoccupying in Guyana.

#### Metropolitan France:

- Incidence and hospitalisation rates still the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Occitania, and Corsica
- Incidence rate and hospital indicators stable or decreasing in all regions
- Incidence rate down in all age groups, except for 0-9 year-olds (stable) and 3-5 year-olds (slight progression)

#### Overseas France:

- Guadeloupe and Martinique: incidence rate down but still very high
- Ongoing hospital tension with excess mortality (all-cause and all-age) in both territories
- Guyana: high incidence rate and hospital indicators

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 98.5% of sequenced samples in metropolitan France on 10 August 2021

### Contact tracing

- Mean number of contacts identified per case still at a low level, suggesting the incomplete identification of contacts by cases

### Prevention

- Vaccination coverage as of 31 August: 72.3% with at least one dose and 66.0% fully vaccinated
- Improved vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals in recent weeks
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination, preventive measures, and contact tracing

\* 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 medical biology laboratories, learned societies for infectious diseases, resuscitation, and emergency medicine, CNAM, INSERM, and INSEE.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 34, the slowdown in the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued with a drop in the number of hospital and intensive care admissions, although disparities existed across the country. The situation was particularly critical in Martinique and Guadeloupe, and preoccupying in Guyana. At the national level, the screening rate remained very high. The incidence rate, while still at high levels, decreased in all age groups, except for 0-9 year-olds (stable) and 3-5 year-olds (slight progression). The number of contacts reported by cases remained low, indicating the incomplete identification of contact persons. As of 31 August, 72.3% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 66.0% were fully vaccinated. In view of the start of the new school year and the return to work after the summer holidays, the vaccination of all eligible people is crucial. 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. Combining different measures is necessary to consolidate the current epidemic dynamics and preserve the hospital system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**At the national level**, the incidence rate continued to decline, reaching 179/100,000 inhabitants (-18%), which corresponded to an average of 17,135 diagnosed cases per day in week 34. The reproduction number was significantly less than 1 for the second consecutive week (0.85 vs 0.93 in week 33). The incidence rate was down in all age groups, except for 0-9 year-olds (130/100,000, stable). A slight increase was observed among 3-5 year-olds (107, +6%). The highest incidence rate was still high among 20-29 year-olds (306, -24%). The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) remained at a high level but fell (6,508/100,000 inhabitants, -9%). The positivity rate was 2.7% (-0.4 points).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 diminished in both SOS Médecins organisations (1,796, -5% vs -10% in week 33) and emergency departments (5,759, -19% vs -9% in week 33).

In terms of hospital indicators, after 6 weeks of increases, new admissions were down with 5,321 new hospital admissions (-14% vs +18% in week 33) and 1,183 new intensive care admissions (-12% vs +18% in week 33). The hospital load nevertheless remained high with 11,181 COVID-19 patients hospitalised in week 34 (+0.5%), including 2,305 in intensive care (+3%). COVID-19-related deaths (in hospitals and long-term care facilities) decreased (724, -11%), although this trend should be confirmed after the consolidation of data.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate dropped in all regions and remained the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (441/100,000, -17%), Corsica (230, -28%), and Occitania (222, -36%). The screening rate was also down in all regions but remained above 10,000/100,000 inhabitants in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Corsica. As of 31 August, data by date of admission indicated a stabilisation or fall in hospital admission rates in all

regions. The highest rates were still observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corsica, and Occitania.

**In overseas France**, the critical situation persisted in Guadeloupe and Martinique. Though continuing to decline, the incidence rate remained very high in Guadeloupe (1,071/100,000, -44%) and Martinique (646, -28%), with ongoing hospital tension. High excess mortality (all-cause and all-age) has been observed in both territories since week 30. In Guyana, the incidence rate (456, +4%) and hospital indicators remained at high levels.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant now represents nearly all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, representing 98.5% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #19 on 10 August. In overseas France, the screening and sequencing data also indicate the predominance of Delta.

### CONTACT TRACING

The number of new cases and new [contacts](#) diminished in week 34 compared to the previous week (-17% and -12%, respectively). The low average number of contacts reported per case and the consistently low proportion of cases previously identified as contacts suggest that many contacts at risk are not being identified by the index case. The proportion of cases who travelled to another country in the last 14 days was on the rise for the fifth consecutive week (6.4% in week 34).

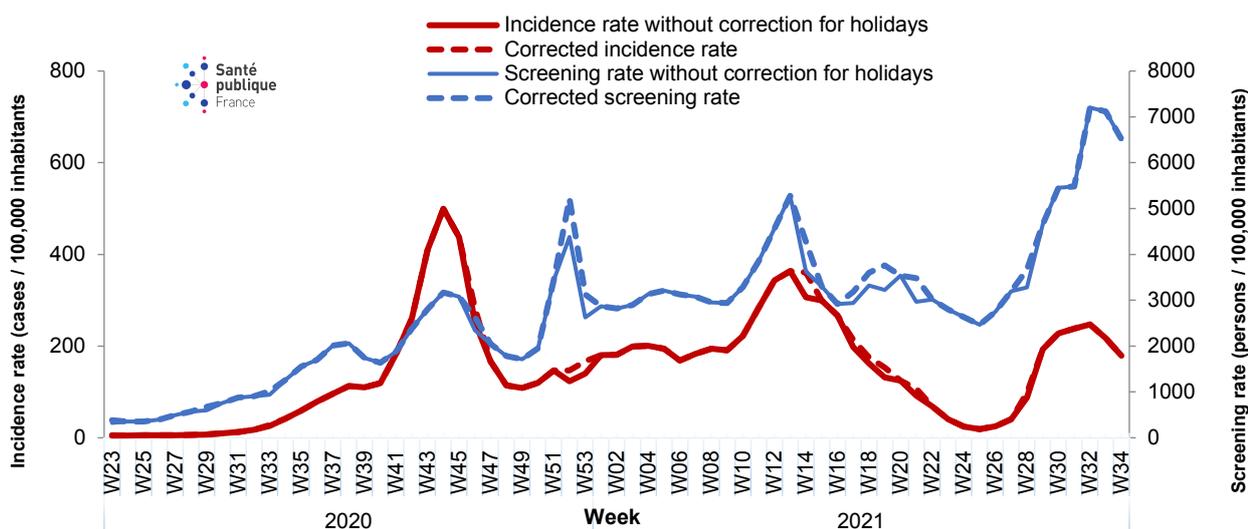
### PREVENTION

As of 31 August, 72.3% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 66.0% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage of 12-17 year-olds continued to progress, reaching 63.5% (vs 59.1% on 24 August) for one vaccine dose and 47.1% (vs 37.7%) for full vaccination. Nevertheless, it remained particularly low in Guadeloupe and Martinique. Vaccination coverage among healthcare professionals continued to progress.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 179 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 34 (vs 217 in week 33, -18%), while the [screening rate](#) was 6,508 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 7,115 in week 33, -9%). The [positivity rate](#) fell by 0.4 points (2.7% vs 3.1% in week 33). Among tested individuals reporting the presence or absence of symptoms, 95% were asymptomatic, which was stable compared to week 33. The number of asymptomatic confirmed cases diminished (56,786, -17%), as did the number of symptomatic cases (51,301, -19%). Overall, 48% of cases were symptomatic (stable compared to week 33). The positivity rate decreased among the 213,714 symptomatic individuals (24% vs 28% in week 33) and stabilised among the 3,822,029 asymptomatic individuals (1.5% vs 1.6% in week 33).

### 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 1 September August 2021)

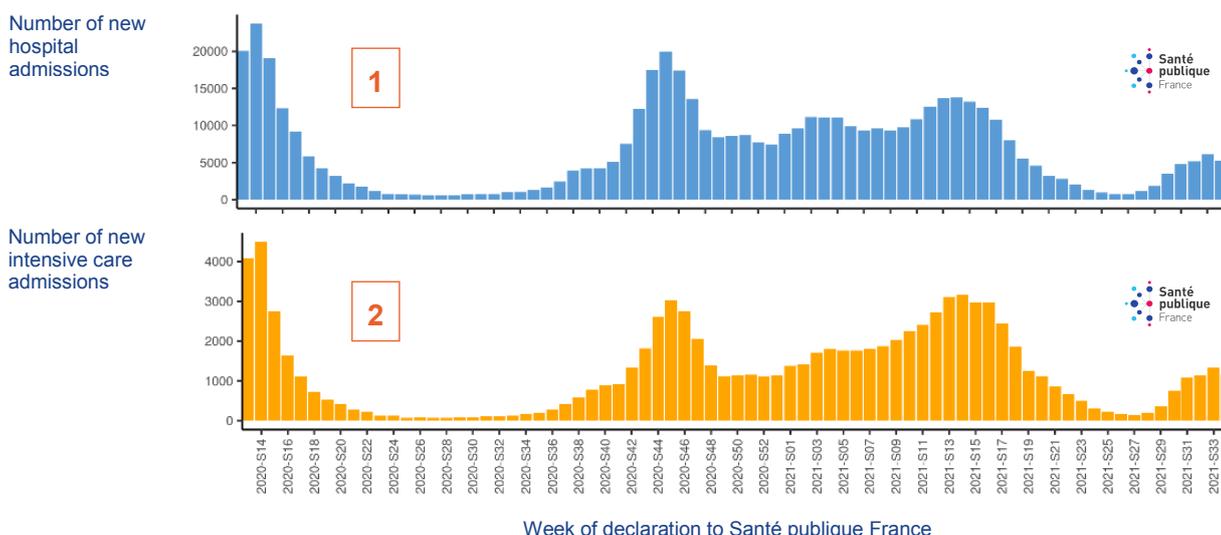


Source: SI-DEP, Data processing by Santé publique France

## Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

On 31 August 2021, **11,181** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 11,127 on 24 August, +0,5%), including **2,305** in intensive care (vs 2,234 on 24 August, +3%). At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of declaration were down, with **5,321 new hospital admissions** (-14% from week 33) and **1,183 new intensive care admissions** (-12%).

### Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (as of 29 August 2021)



Source: SI-DEP, Data processing by Santé publique France

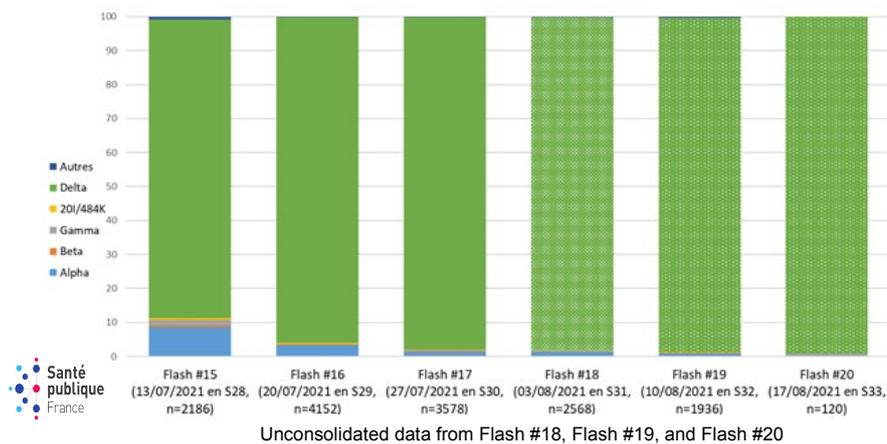
At the national level, there were **684 deaths** in hospital in week 34, down from week 33 (-11%), and 40 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 42 in week 33). Data from long-term care facilities in week 34 are not consolidated.

Indicators by date of declaration in week 33 are overestimated due to the inclusion of input data in the SI-VIC system for hospital admissions, intensive care admissions, and deaths occurring in week 32 in Guadeloupe and Martinique. The national indicators by date of declaration are therefore overestimated in week 33. The decrease observed between weeks 33 and 34 will therefore be confirmed by consolidated data according to the date of admission.

## Variants of concern

The L452R mutation (notably driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 95.1% of screened positive samples in week 34 (vs 95.2% in week 33). [Sequencing data](#) confirm that Delta has been the dominant [variant](#) in metropolitan France since week 26, representing 98.5% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #19 on 10 August (with a similar trend observed in Flash #20 for which the number of interpretable sequences was still low). In overseas France, the screening and sequencing data also indicate the predominance of Delta, as the L452R mutation was identified in 96.3% of screened positive tests in Guadeloupe, 84% in Martinique, 93.4% in Guyana, and 80.4% in Reunion Island.

### Proportions of variants of concern detected by sequencing during the Flash Surveys (#15 to #20) in metropolitan France (13 July to 17 August 2021) in metropolitan France

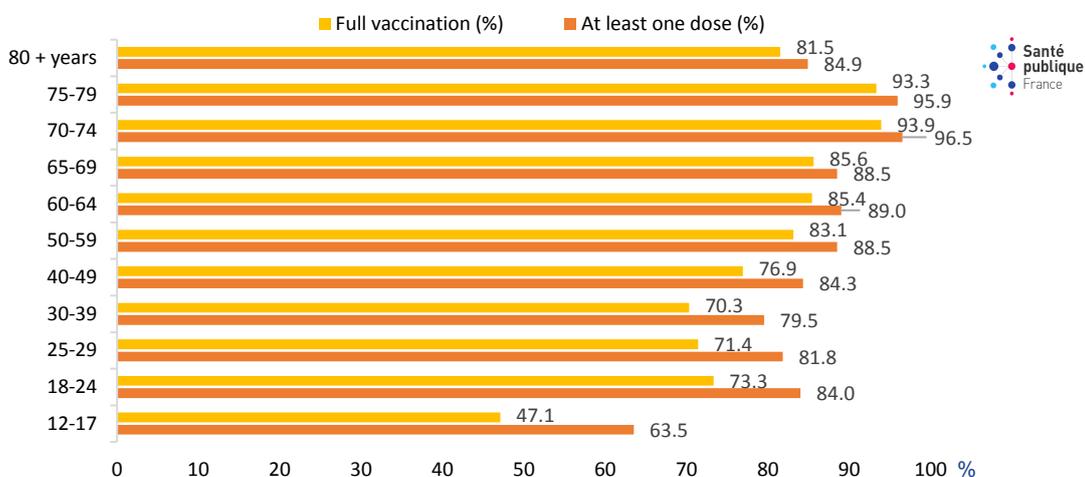


Source: EMERGEN, data processing by Santé publique France

## Vaccination

On 31 August, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 72.3% for at least one dose and 66.0% for full vaccination. Among the population aged 12 years and older, 48,508,957 had received at least one dose (83.9%), and 44,297,145 (76.7%) were fully vaccinated. For residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, 92.3% had received one dose (89.4% fully vaccinated). Among healthcare professionals, vaccination coverage with one dose was 87.4% for professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities vs 85.9% on 24 August (80.7% vs 76.5% for full vaccination), and 92.9% for healthcare professionals in private practice vs 92.0% on 10 August (89.6% vs 87.7% for full vaccination). For healthcare professionals working in health establishments, vaccination coverage with one dose was estimated at 87.0% on 31 August vs 85.6% on 24 August (81.3% vs 77.6% for full vaccination).

### Vaccination coverage by age group in France as of 31 August 2021 (in %)



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

For more information on COVID-19, the surveillance systems in place, and vaccination, consult the websites for [Santé publique France](#) and [Vaccination Info Service](#).

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

For more information on the regional data, see [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#)