

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

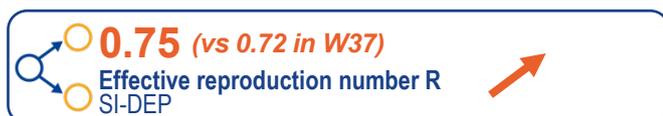
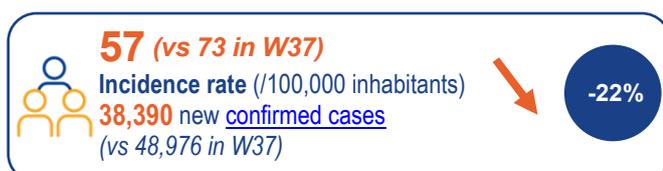
Weekly report / Week 38 / 30 September 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners<sup>1</sup> as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 29 September 2021.

## Key numbers

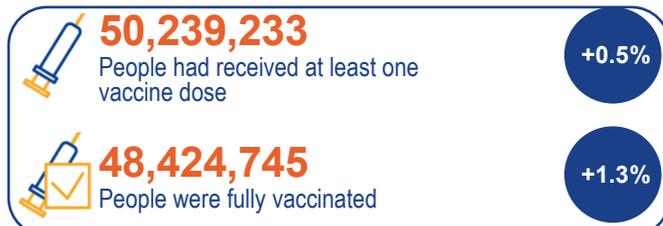
Week 38 (20-26 September 2021)

Compared to week 37 (13-19 September 2021)



On 28 September 2021

Compared to 21 September 2021



<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.

## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 38, the epidemiological indicators continued to improve in all regions except for French Guiana, where the situation remained very concerning.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Improved epidemiological indicators in all regions
- Overseas France:
  - French Guiana: high incidence rate still on the rise and overburdened hospital services
  - Martinique and Guadeloupe: decreasing incidence and hospitalisation rates

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 99% of sequenced samples in the Flash Surveys on 31 August and 7 September 2021

### Contact tracing

- Increase in the proportion of cases previously identified as contacts

### Prevention

- On 27 September 2021, according to data from Vaccin Covid, 74.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.2% 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 adherence to preventive measures

## Week 38 (20 to 26 September 2021)

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 38, the situation continued to improve with the further positive evolution of epidemiological indicators in all regions, except for French Guiana, where the degradation of indicators had a considerable impact on hospital capacity and excess mortality. The low level of vaccination in this territory (full vaccination for only 30.9% of the population aged 12 years and older) continued its slow progression. At the national level, the incidence rate fell in all age groups. The proportion of cases previously identified as contacts continued to rise, although the number of unknown transmission chains remained high. On 28 September 2021, 74.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.2% were fully vaccinated. Given the lower adherence to preventive measures, to maintain the current favourable dynamics 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 57 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (-22%) in week 38, which corresponds to an average of 5,484 diagnosed cases per day. The incidence rate decreased in all age groups and 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 4,702 per 100,000 inhabitants (-7%). The rate declined among adults. Among 3-5 year-olds and 6-10 year-olds, the screening rate rose sharply in weeks 36 and 37 but stabilised in week 38. The positivity rate also fell to 1.2% (-0.2 points), still with a more marked decline among children under 10 years given the stable screening rate observed in this age group.

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 continued to decline in emergency departments (1,929, -22%) and SOS Médecins organisations (1,318, -7%).

In terms of hospital indicators, new admissions continued to fall, with 1,495 new hospitalisations (-32%) and 405 new intensive care admissions (-30%). On 28 September, 7,862 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,537 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate fell in all regions. The highest rate was observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (101). The screening rate remained high in all regions, while the hospital admission rate was down in all regions.

**In overseas France**, the incidence rate in French Guiana was still on the rise (537, +8%) and varied according to the geographic area. The number of new hospital admissions remained very high and continued to increase. Moderate excess mortality occurred between weeks 29 and 37 (except for weeks 32 and 36).

The improvement of epidemiological indicators persisted in Martinique (incidence rate 161, -27%) and Guadeloupe (116, -32%). The drop in the number of new hospital admissions continued. After a peak in the number of deaths in week 33, the decline continued, with the number returning to within usual fluctuation margins in week 37.

### 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 #22 and #23 on 31 August and 7 September, respectively.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 38, the reduction in the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) recorded in the ContactCovid database persisted (-22% and -19%, respectively). The average number of contacts identified per case stabilised at 2.2. The proportion of cases previously identified as contacts increased to 21.7%, although the number of unknown transmission chains remained high. The proportion of contacts aged 12 years and over with a complete primary vaccination schedule rose from 55% to 58%.

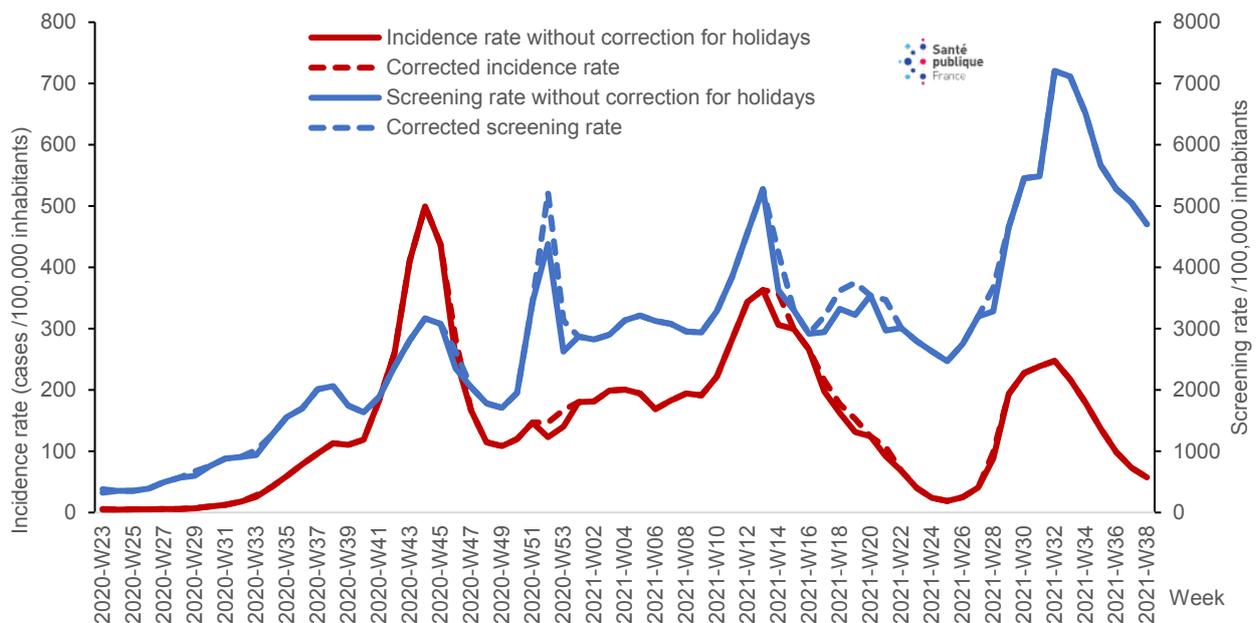
### PREVENTION

On 28 September, 74.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 72.2% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals was high and continued to improve.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 57 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 38 (vs 73 in week 37, -22%), while the [screening rate](#) was 4,702 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 5,055 in week 37, -7%). The [positivity rate](#) fell by 0.2 points (1.2%). Among the 2,901,049 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 91% were **asymptomatic**, which was **stable** compared to week 37. The **positivity rate** was **stable** among both symptomatic (6% vs 8% in week 37) and asymptomatic tested individuals (0.7% vs 0.8% in week 37). Overall, **45%** of cases were **symptomatic** (stable compared to week 37).

### Weekly evolution of the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (data on 29 September 2021)



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

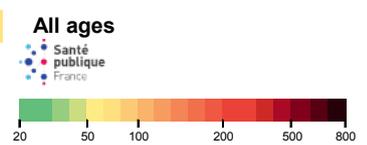
### Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 38, the [incidence rate](#) declined in all age groups. The **highest** rates were still observed among **young adults**: 30-39 year-olds (84/100 000, -24%) and 20-29 year-olds (72, -26%). The [screening rate](#) was **decreasing** or **stable** in **all age groups**. The highest screening rate occurred among 20-29 year-olds (8,603/100,000, -11%) and 30-39 year-olds (7,652, -9%). The **positivity rate** fell in all age groups.

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group, corrected for the effect of public holidays, since week 27, France (data on 29 September 2021)

12	19	46	77	119	137	130	111	89	69	44	31	90 years +
8	17	33	51	75	89	83	73	58	43	32	26	80-89
10	19	39	62	83	95	91	80	63	49	34	32	70-79
14	28	57	87	111	125	113	93	75	52	40	32	60-69
26	56	108	156	184	193	171	138	104	73	51	42	50-59
36	83	160	225	258	268	239	197	150	106	77	62	40-49
58	140	277	343	365	378	329	273	208	150	111	84	30-39
117	310	618	581	509	493	404	307	217	146	98	72	20-29
64	155	292	333	330	340	297	243	180	124	89	71	10-19
13	27	59	90	110	128	130	131	120	110	94	70	0-9
41	98	193	227	238	247	218	180	137	100	73	57	All ages
W27	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	

Source: SI-DEP



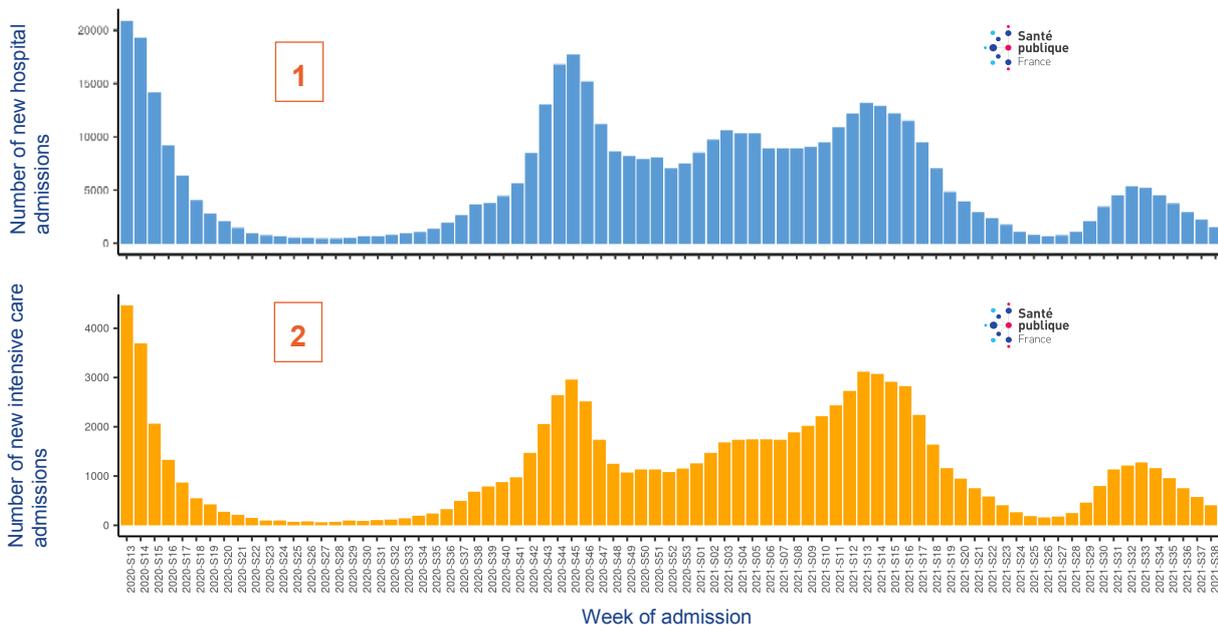
# Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

To better understand the hospital dynamics, new hospital and intensive care admissions are analysed by date of admission to hospital. New deaths (in hospital and long-term care facilities) are analysed by date of occurrence. Data from week 38 up to 28 September 2021 are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.

On 28 September 2021, **7,862** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 8,655 on 21 September, -9%), including **1,537** in intensive care (vs 1,757 on 21 September, -13%).

At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission improved, with **1,495 new hospital admissions** (-32% from week 37, -25% from week 36 to week 37) and **405 new intensive care admissions** (-30% from week 37, -24% from week 36 to week 37).

**Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 28 September 2021)**



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

In week 38, 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 31 to 38, France**

Age group	New hospital admissions (1)								Age group	New intensive care admissions (2)							
	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38		W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38
90 years +	26,6	31,8	31,9	28,5	26,3	19,2	14,2	8,0	90 years +	1,6	0,9	1,6	1,3	1,8	0,8	0,3	0,4
80-89	19,0	22,2	20,3	19,8	16,4	12,4	9,1	7,0	80-89	2,1	2,3	1,8	2,0	1,7	1,7	1,1	0,9
70-79	11,3	15,1	15,3	13,7	10,8	8,8	6,0	4,4	70-79	3,1	3,9	3,8	4,1	3,3	2,6	2,1	1,5
60-69	9,3	10,9	12,1	9,5	8,2	5,8	5,1	2,9	60-69	3,6	3,6	4,2	3,5	3,2	2,4	2,0	1,0
50-59	8,3	10,0	9,3	7,9	6,3	4,8	3,5	2,4	50-59	2,8	3,2	3,2	2,9	2,1	1,7	1,2	1,0
40-49	6,2	7,3	6,6	5,6	4,5	3,5	2,5	1,6	40-49	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,8	1,4	1,1	0,7	0,6
30-39	5,3	6,1	6,1	4,8	4,1	3,4	2,7	1,9	30-39	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,7	0,7	0,4
20-29	4,2	4,2	3,6	3,4	3,0	2,5	1,7	1,3	20-29	0,8	0,5	0,7	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,2	0,2
10-19 years	1,1	1,3	0,9	0,9	0,8	0,9	0,6	0,5	10-19 years	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
0-9	1,3	1,5	1,5	1,7	1,1	1,2	1,0	0,7	0-9	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1
All ages	6,7	8,0	7,7	6,7	5,6	4,4	3,3	2,2	All ages	1,7	1,8	1,9	1,7	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,6

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

At the national level, there were 321 **deaths** in hospital in week 38, once again **down** from week 37 (-24%). In the previous week, the number of deaths in hospital fell by 20% compared to week 36. In week 38, there were also 13 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 48 in week 37 and 26 in week 36).

## Situation at the regional level

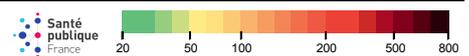
### Incidence, positivity, and screening

In metropolitan France, the highest incidence and screening rates were observed in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** and **Île-de-France**. The **incidence rate decreased** in all regions. In week 38, 57 departments had an incidence rate below 50 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 41 departments in week 37). The highest incidence rate occurred in Bouches-du-Rhône (143, -38%), Seine-Saint-Denis (92, -16%), Alpes-Maritimes (89, -16%), Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (86,-17%), and Paris (75, -6%).

In overseas France, the **incidence rate** was 537 per 100,000 inhabitants in **French Guiana**, up by 8%. The incidence rate remained elevated in Martinique and Guadeloupe but witnessed a sharp decline (-27% and -32%, respectively).

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region<sup>2</sup> from week 33, France (data on 29 September 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						W38 vs W37 (%)	Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38		W38	W38 vs W27 (points)	W38	W38 vs W37 (points)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	199	163	128	93	67	53	-21	1.2	-0.2	4,263	-6
Burgundy-Franche-Comté	123	111	84	64	46	38	-18	1.1	-0.1	3,550	-9
Brittany	139	122	89	68	52	37	-29	1.1	-0.3	3,288	-11
Centre-Val de Loire	111	108	88	66	52	39	-26	1.2	-0.3	3,186	-5
Corsica	345	222	138	114	79	54	-32	0.9	-0.3	5,887	-7
Grand Est	141	127	116	90	69	47	-31	1.0	-0.4	4,890	-5
Hauts-de-France	137	125	91	75	49	38	-24	0.9	-0.2	4,212	-7
Île-de-France	182	170	146	107	87	72	-17	1.3	-0.2	5,612	-6
Normandy	113	90	65	47	32	31	-3	0.8	0.0	3,699	-1
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	156	116	85	63	48	40	-17	1.1	-0.1	3,537	-8
Occitanie	319	231	160	107	67	54	-20	1.1	-0.2	4,738	-9
Pays de la Loire	126	106	79	59	43	41	-5	1.3	0.0	3,259	-6
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	535	444	330	226	153	101	-34	1.4	-0.4	7,461	-12
Guadeloupe	1915	1080	525	259	171	116	-32	3.4	-1.7	3,356	1
French Guiana	440	459	422	421	497	537	8	15.7	-1.6	3,417	19
Martinique	903	649	422	288	221	161	-27	4.8	-2.5	3,345	11
Mayotte	24	35	52	42	40	31	-22	1.7	-0.4	1,867	-5
Reunion Island	221	185	159	97	68	48	-29	1.3	-0.4	3,820	-6



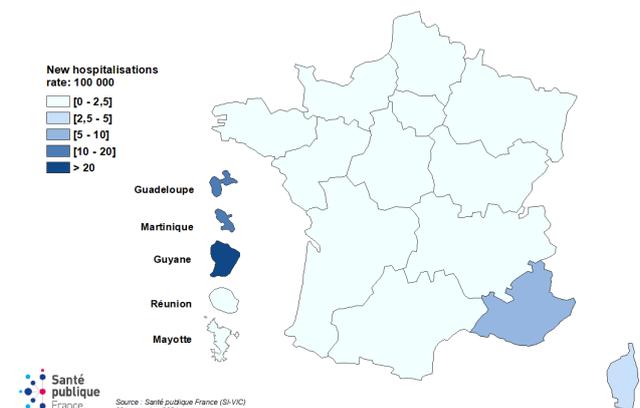
Source: S-IDEP

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

In **metropolitan France** in week 38, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **decreasing or stable** in all regions. The highest hospital and intensive care admission rates were observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Corsica.

In **overseas France**, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were **very high and on the rise in French Guiana** (+6 new hospitalisations and -3 new intensive care admissions compared to week 37). Hospital indicators continued to improve in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 38



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*.

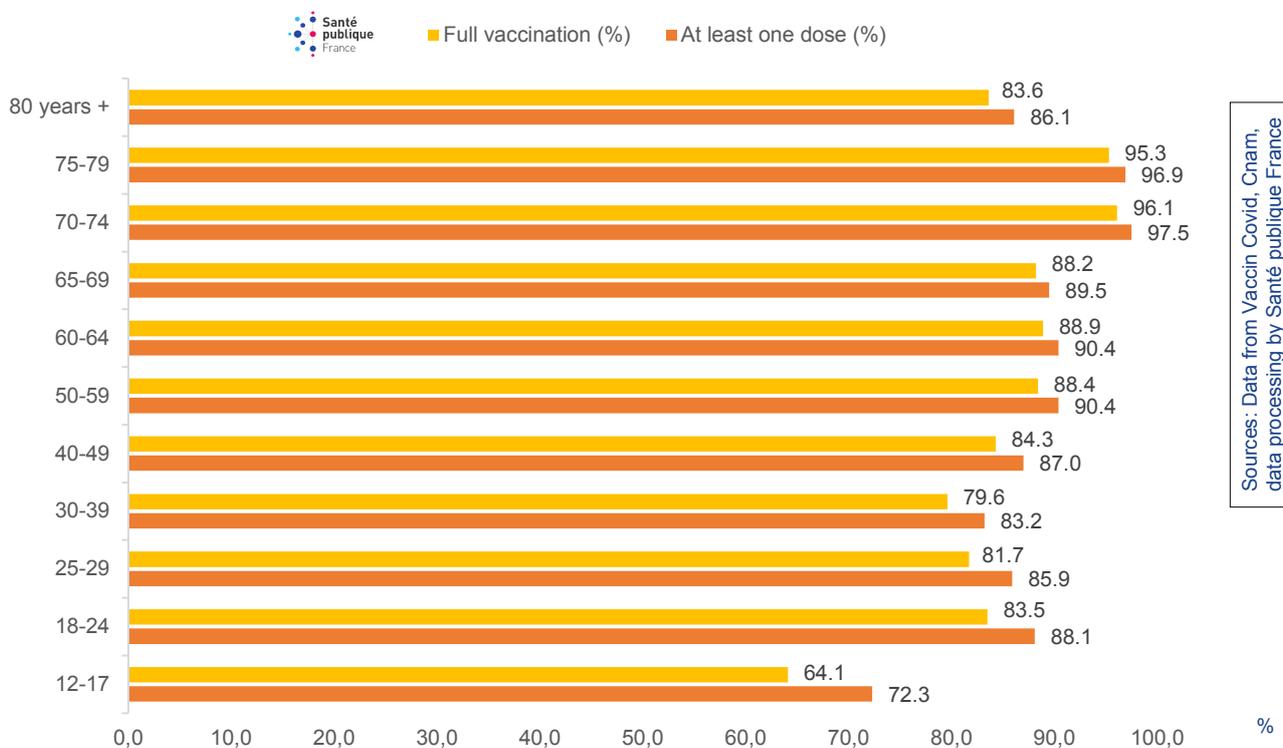
## Variants of concern

The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 95.1% of screened positive samples in week 38 (vs 95.5% in week 37). [Sequencing data](#) confirm the prevalence of the Delta variant among the circulating variants. Delta was identified in more than **99% of interpretable sequences** in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #22 (31 August) and #23 (7 September) (unconsolidated data). In overseas France, Delta was identified in 89% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #21 (24 August), 94% in Flash #22, and 95% in Flash #23 (unconsolidated data). The proportion of the other identified variants continued to decrease, namely Alpha in Martinique, Beta in Reunion Island, and Gamma in French Guiana.

## Vaccination

On 28 September, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on data from Vaccin Covid was estimated at 74.9% (n=50,239,233) for at least one dose and 72.2% (n=48,424,745) for full vaccination. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 50,219,566 had received at least one dose (87.1%), and 48,411,809 (83.9%) were fully vaccinated.

### Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 28 September 2021 (in %)



On 28 September, 93.3% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one dose (91.2% for full vaccination). Among healthcare professionals, vaccination coverage is notably high among those in private practice: 95.8% had received at least one vaccine dose, and 93.8% were fully vaccinated. All the data are available in the latest [Update](#) from 20 September 2021.

### Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #21](#)  
[Monitoring of cases of paediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome](#)

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 the [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

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