

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

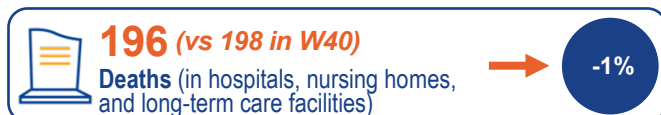
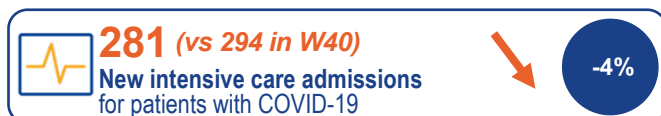
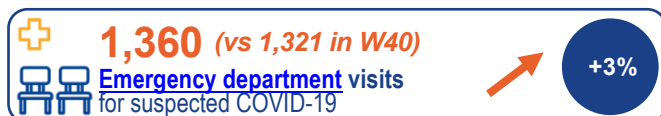
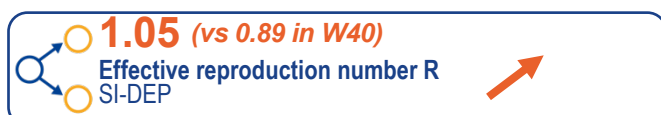
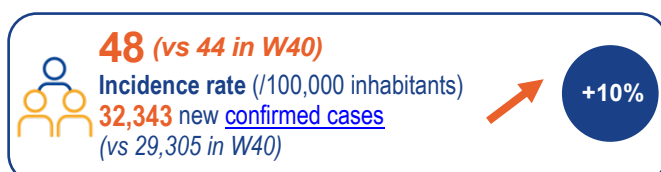
Weekly report / Week 41 / 21 October 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners<sup>1</sup> as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 20 October 2021.

## Key numbers

Week 41 (11-17 October 2021)

Compared to week 40 (4-10 October 2021)



On 19 October 2021

Compared to 12 October 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 41, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 increased in metropolitan France, with a rise in the incidence rate but a stable trend for the national hospital indicators.

- Metropolitan France:
  - More marked increase in the incidence rate among 60-89 year-olds
  - Rising trend for hospital admissions in some regions
- Overseas France:
  - French Guiana: falling incidence and hospitalisation rates but still high

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 99% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 21 and 28 September 2021

### Contact tracing

- Increase in the number of new cases and contacts identified in ContactCovid
- Rise in the proportion of people aged 65 years and older among cases and contacts

### Prevention

- Vaccination (Vaccin Covid data):
  - On 19 October, 75.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 73.9% were fully vaccinated
  - On 19 October, 13.7% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster dose
  - Lower vaccination coverage of adults living in a vulnerable situation compared to the general population: 74.9% with at least one dose and 72.7% with full vaccination (vs 81.6% and 79.6%, respectively) on 17 October
- CoviPrev Survey for wave 28 (28 September-5 October 2021): increase in sleep problems, anxiety, and depression compared to wave 26 (15-21 July 2021)
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination, including the booster for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing, and respect of preventive measures

<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.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 41, the resumption of the circulation of the virus was observed in metropolitan France, with an increase in the incidence rate and an R number above 1. The growth in the incidence rate was more pronounced among 60-89 year-olds. At this stage, the national hospital indicators have not yet been impacted despite the upward trend in hospital admissions in some metropolitan regions. In French Guiana, the incidence and hospitalisation rates continued to fall. Contact tracing data showed a rise in the proportion of people aged 65 years and older among cases and contacts. The last CoviPrev Survey (28 September-5 October) confirmed an increase in depression and especially anxiety as well as sleep problems since the start of the new school year, with levels still above those observed before the epidemic. On 19 October, 75.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 73.9% were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 13.7% 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 all adults aged 65 years and older to receive the booster shot and to maintain the high level of adherence to preventive measures given their effectiveness in limiting the epidemic and preserving the healthcare system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**Nationally**, after 8 consecutive weeks of decline, the incidence rate increased in week 41, reaching 48 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 44 in week 40, +10%). On average, 4,620 daily cases were diagnosed. The incidence rate was on the rise or stable in all age groups. The greatest increases were observed in older people: 80-89 year-olds (35, +33%), 70-79 year-olds (43, +33%), and 60-69 year-olds (37, +30%). The incidence rate remained the highest among 30-39 year-olds (67, +5%) and 20-29 year-olds (60, +4%). The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) remained high at 3,974 per 100,000 inhabitants (-7%), although it was stable or decreasing in all age groups. The positivity rate increased by 0.2 points to 1.2%.

After several consecutive weeks of decline, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was stable in emergency departments (1,360, +3%) and SOS Médecins organisations (779, +4%), with a slight increase in people aged 15-74 years (+6%).

In terms of hospital indicators, new admissions were likewise stable, with 1,143 new hospital admissions (-2%) and 281 new intensive care admissions (-4%). On 19 October, 6,544 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,059 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate increased more or less markedly in all regions, ranging from +2% in Corsica (55) to +30% in Normandy (31) and +32% in Nouvelle-Aquitaine (39). It remained the highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (72, +6%) and Île-de-France (71, +11%). The screening rate was down in all regions. New hospital and intensive care admissions increased in some regions, notably in Pays de la Loire, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and Burgundy-Franche-Comté.

**In overseas France**, the incidence rate continued to fall in French Guiana (267, -28%). The rate of new hospital admissions remained high but decreased. The [number of deaths](#) diminished in week 40 but with a persistence of excess mortality.

The incidence rate fell in Martinique (127, -17%) after a rise in week 40. The reduction continued in Guadeloupe (50, -26%). New hospital admissions continued to drop in Martinique and stabilised in Guadeloupe.

### 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 #25 and #26 on 21 and 28 September, respectively.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 41, there was a rise in the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) at risk (+11% and +27%, respectively). More than 15% of cases and 12% of contacts were aged 65 years and older (vs 10% and 6% reported 4 weeks ago). The number of contacts not in living the same household increased compared to week 40 (1.6 vs 1.4 per case). This evolution may reflect more frequent social interactions and/or the better declaration or identification of contacts. The number of cases who attended a sporting event (+24%), cultural event (+55%), or private gathering (+39%) was also on the rise.

### PREVENTION

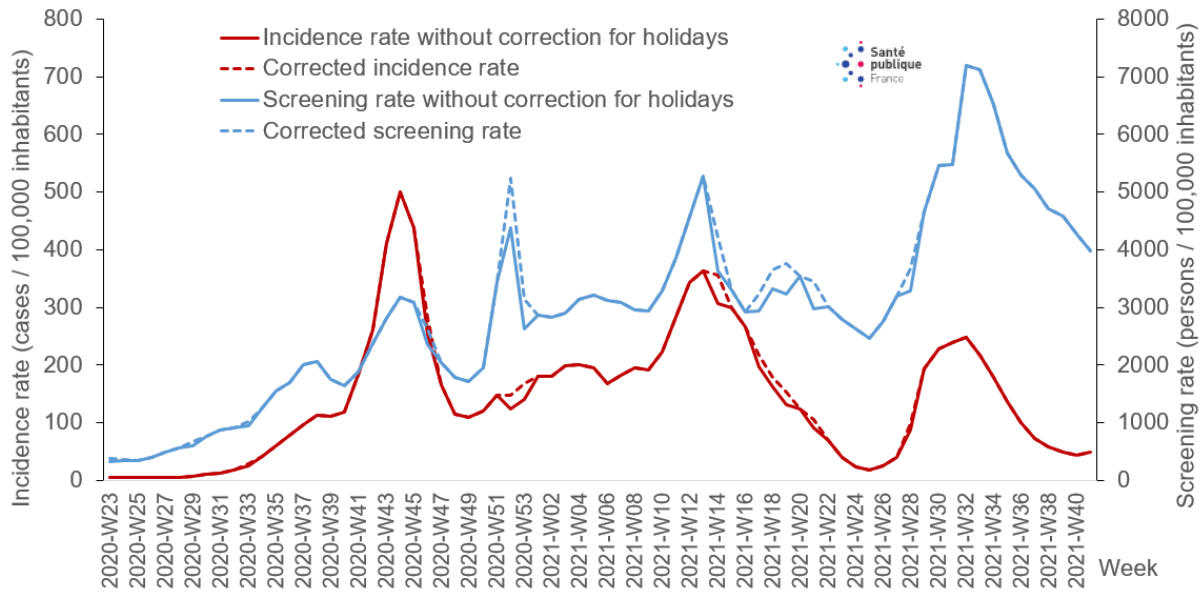
On 19 October, 75.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 73.9% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage for adults aged 18 years and older who were living in a vulnerable situation was lower compared to the general population: 74.9% with one dose (vs 81.6%) and 72.7% with full vaccination (79.6%).

The CoviPrev Survey (28 September-5 October) indicated that the mental health of the French population has continued to worsen since the start of the new school year, with increased reports of depression (16%, +3 points), anxiety (26%, +7 points), and sleep problems (70%, +11 points) compared to July 2021.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 48 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 41 (vs 44 in week 40, +10%), while the [screening rate](#) was 3,974 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 4,267 in week 40, -7%). The [positivity rate](#) slightly increased to 1.2% (+0.2 points). Among the 2,426,817 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 92% were **asymptomatic**, a proportion that has been **stable** for several weeks. The **positivity rate** was **on the rise** among symptomatic individuals (7.1% vs 6.0% in week 40) and stable among asymptomatic individuals (0.7% vs 0.6% in week 40). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases has been stable for several weeks (47%).

### 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 20 October 2021)



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

### Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 41, the [incidence rate](#) was on the rise or stable in all age groups. The greatest increase was observed among 60-89 year-olds. However, the **highest** rates were found among **young adults**: 30-39 year-olds (67/100,000, +5%), 20-29 year-olds (60, +4%), and 40-49 year-olds (53, +10%). The [screening rate](#) dropped among 10-49 year-olds and remained stable in the other age groups. It was the highest among 20-29 year-olds (6,004/100,000, -15%) and 30-39 year-olds (5,758, -9%). The [positivity rate](#) remained low but rose in all age groups except for 0-9 year-olds (stable). It was the highest among 70-89 year-olds (1.7%).

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 30, France (corrected for public holidays) (data on 20 October 2021)

77	119	137	130	111	89	69	45	32	35	27	29	<b>90 years +</b>
51	75	89	83	73	58	44	32	26	25	26	35	<b>80-89</b>
62	83	95	91	80	63	49	34	32	31	32	43	<b>70-79</b>
87	111	125	113	93	75	52	40	33	30	28	37	<b>60-69</b>
156	184	193	171	138	104	73	51	42	37	35	39	<b>50-59</b>
225	258	268	239	197	150	107	77	63	54	48	53	<b>40-49</b>
343	365	378	329	273	208	150	111	84	69	63	67	<b>30-39</b>
581	509	493	404	307	217	146	98	73	60	58	60	<b>20-29</b>
333	330	340	297	243	180	124	89	72	61	49	50	<b>oct-19</b>
90	110	128	130	131	120	110	94	70	51	41	43	<b>0-9</b>
227	238	247	218	180	137	100	73	57	48	44	48	<b>All ages</b>
<b>W30</b>	<b>W31</b>	<b>W32</b>	<b>W33</b>	<b>W34</b>	<b>W35</b>	<b>W36</b>	<b>W37</b>	<b>W38</b>	<b>W39</b>	<b>W40</b>	<b>W41</b>	



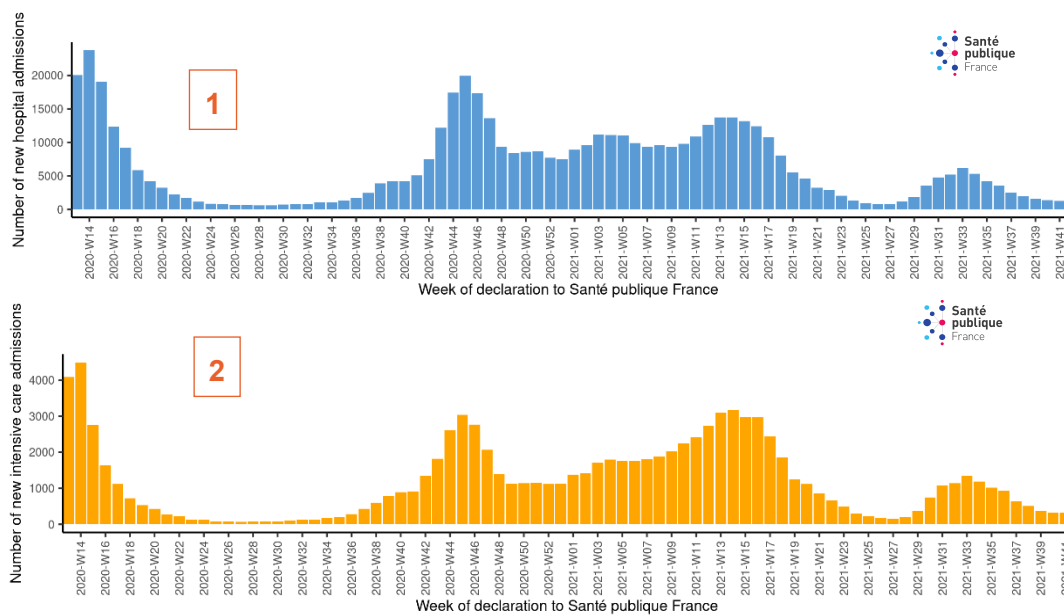
Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

# 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 41, up to 19 October 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.

- On 19 October 2021, **6,544** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,690 on 12 October, -2%), including **1,059** in intensive care (vs 1,124 on 12 October, -6%).
- At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission were stable, with **1,143 new hospital admissions** (-2% from week 40, -11% from week 39 to week 40) and **281 new intensive care admissions** (-4% from week 40, -10% from week 39 to week 40).

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



- In week 41, the weekly rate of new hospital admissions remained stable or declined among people under 60 years but slightly increased or remained stable in older people. New intensive care admissions were stable or down in all age groups, except for 80-89 year-olds.

## Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 34 to week 41, France

	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41		W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	
<b>1</b>	28.5	26.4	19.1	14.5	9.8	8.8	7.9	10.0	<b>90 years +</b>	1.3	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	<b>90 years +</b>
	19.8	16.5	12.4	9.2	7.8	6.8	6.4	6.9	<b>80-89</b>	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.2	<b>80-89</b>
	13.7	10.8	8.8	6.1	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	<b>70-79</b>	4.1	3.4	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.2	<b>70-79</b>
	9.5	8.2	5.8	5.1	3.2	2.7	2.0	2.2	<b>60-69</b>	3.5	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	<b>60-69</b>
	8.0	6.3	4.8	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.4	<b>50-59</b>	2.9	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	<b>50-59</b>
	5.6	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.1	<b>40-49</b>	1.8	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	<b>40-49</b>
	4.8	4.1	3.4	2.7	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.1	<b>30-39</b>	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	<b>30-39</b>
	3.4	2.9	2.5	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.7	<b>20-29</b>	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	<b>20-29</b>
	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	<b>10-19 years</b>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	<b>10-19 years</b>
	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	<b>0-9</b>	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	<b>0-9</b>
	6.7	5.6	4.4	3.3	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.7	<b>All ages</b>	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	<b>All ages</b>

- In week 41, the number of deaths was constant, with 189 deaths reported in hospital at the national level (-2% from week 40). In the previous week, this number fell by 35% compared to week 39. There were also 9 deaths in long-term care facilities in week 41 (vs 7 in week 40 and 15 in week 39).

## Situation at the regional level

### Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

- In metropolitan France, the incidence rate was above 50 per 100,000 inhabitants in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Île-de-France, and Corsica. It increased more or less markedly in all regions (from +2% in Corsica to +32% Nouvelle-Aquitaine). The screening rates were the highest in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**, **Corsica**, and **Île-de-France**. In week 41, 21 departments exceeded the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 14 in week 40). The highest incidence rates were observed in Bouches-du-Rhône (105, +13%), Deux-Sèvres (87, +113%), and Paris (85, +14%).
- In overseas France, the incidence rate dropped in French Guiana (267/100,000 inhabitants, -28%), Guadeloupe (50, -26%), and Martinique (127, -17%).

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region<sup>2</sup> from week 36, France (data on 20 October 2021)

Régions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						Positivity Rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants		
	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W41 vs W40 (%)	W41	W41 vs W40 (point)	W41	W41 vs W40 (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	93	67	53	48	39	42	8	1.2	0.2	3,593	-7
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	64	46	38	34	29	33	12	1.0	0.2	3,119	-7
Bretagne	68	52	37	27	28	34	18	1.2	0.2	2,770	-6
Centre-Val de Loire	66	52	39	30	28	33	20	1.3	0.3	2,588	-8
Corse	114	79	54	45	53	55	2	1.0	0.0	5,259	-2
Grand Est	90	69	47	37	32	35	9	0.9	0.1	4,108	-10
Hauts-de-France	75	49	38	30	31	34	7	1.0	0.2	3,404	-10
Île-de-France	107	87	72	63	63	71	11	1.4	0.2	4,893	-7
Normandie	47	32	31	25	24	31	30	0.9	0.3	3,267	-7
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	63	48	40	31	30	39	32	1.2	0.3	3,123	-4
Occitanie	107	67	54	43	34	38	12	1.0	0.2	3,958	-9
Pays de la Loire	59	43	41	40	38	48	26	1.6	0.4	2,940	-6
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	226	153	102	85	68	72	6	1.2	0.1	5,770	-6
Guadeloupe	262	172	118	78	68	50	-26	1.5	-0.5	3,269	-3
Guyane	421	497	541	495	369	267	-28	10.0	-1.8	2,673	-15
Martinique	289	221	163	135	154	127	-17	2.6	-1.4	4,974	28
Mayotte	42	40	32	34	20	20	-4	1.3	0.3	1,498	-22
La Réunion	97	68	49	33	28	29	1	0.9	0.1	3,303	-10

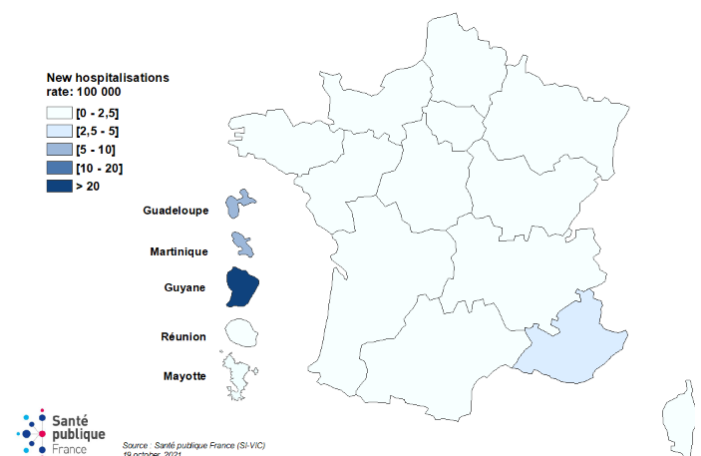


Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

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

- In **metropolitan France** in week 41, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **decreasing or stable** in all regions with the exception of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, where the hospitalisation rate increased, and Pays de la Loire, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, where both indicators rose. The highest hospital and intensive care admission rates were once again observed in **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**.
- In **overseas France**, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions remained **high** but **decreased** in **French Guiana**. In **Guadeloupe**, new hospital and intensive care admissions remained stable. In **Martinique**, the hospital indicators improved.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 41



Source: Santé publique France (SI-VIC) 19 October, 2021

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

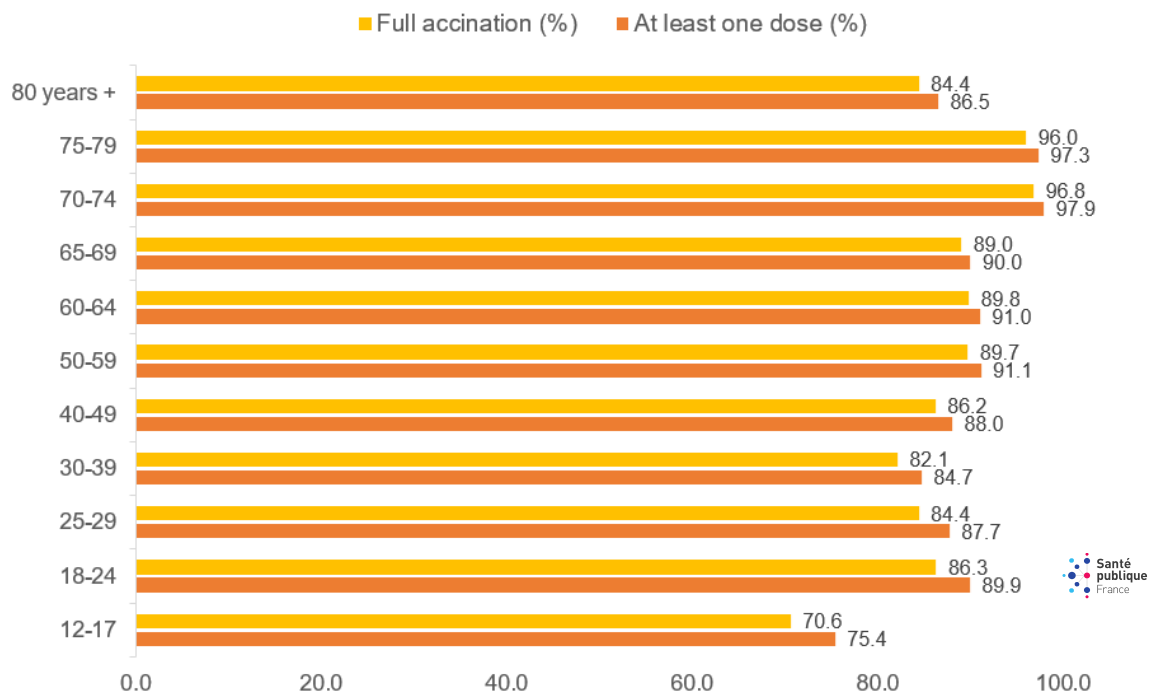
The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 96.1% of screened positive samples in week 41 (vs 95.8% in week 40). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the prevalence of the Delta strain among the circulating variants. **Delta** was identified in more than **99.9% of interpretable sequences** in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #25 (21 September) and #26 (28 September) (unconsolidated data). In overseas France, **Delta** was identified in 98% of interpretable sequences in Flash Survey #24 (14 September) and 100% in Flash #25 (21 September, unconsolidated data).

At the international level, **Delta** is also the dominant strain compared to the other variants of SARS-CoV-2. Since 1 September, it has represented more than 98% of sequenced samples according to the international database GISAID.

## Vaccination

On 19 October, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on data from Vaccin Covid was estimated at 75.9% (n=50,921,828) for at least one dose, 73.9% (n=49,628,589) for full vaccination, and 3.2% (n=2,155,805) for the booster shot. Vaccination coverage with the booster dose was 13.7% among people aged 65 years and older. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 50,900,856 had received one dose (88.1%), and 49,613,176 (85.9%) were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 19 October 2021 (in %)



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



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On 19 October, 93.7% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one vaccine dose, 91.9% were fully vaccinated, and 47.6% had received a booster shot. Vaccination coverage was very high among healthcare professionals in private practice: 96.4% had received at least one vaccine dose, 95.7% were fully vaccinated, and 8.6% had received a booster dose.

### Check out the surveys of the week

- Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #24](#)
- Update on mental health with the [CoviPrev Survey](#)
- Update on [vaccination coverage of people in a vulnerable situation](#)

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 [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

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