

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

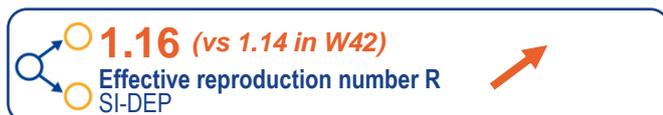
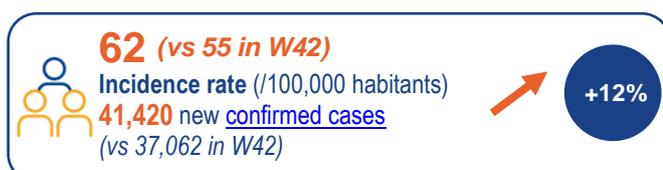
Weekly Report / Week 43 / 4 November 2021

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 3 November 2021.

## Key numbers

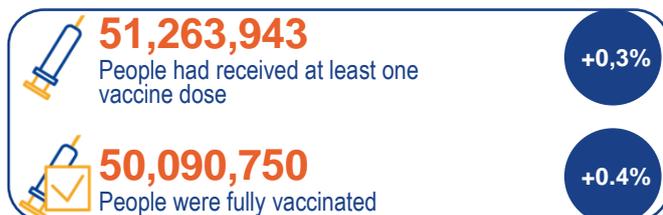
Week 43 (25-31 October 2021)

Compared to week 42 (18-24 October 2021)



On 2 November 2021

Compared to 26 October 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 43, the resumption of the pandemic was confirmed with the continued increase in the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in metropolitan France.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Incidence rate above 50/100,000 inhabitants among 10-79 year-olds
  - Incidence rate above 50/100,000 inhabitants in 58 departments
  - R number >1, reflecting the growth of the epidemic
  - Strong decline in the screening rate among children under 10 years due to the school holidays
  - Rate of new hospital and intensive care admissions: disparate evolution depending on the region
- Overseas France:
  - French Guiana: incidence rate still falling

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 100% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 5 and 12 October 2021

### Contact tracing

- Higher number of cases but stable number of contacts per case
- Increase in the average age of cases and contacts since week 37, calling for greater vigilance and the administration of the booster dose to the eligible populations

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 2 November 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 76.4% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.6% were fully vaccinated
  - 19.8% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster dose
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing, and respect of preventive measures

\*Unconsolidated data due to a delay in recording data in hospitals, notably with the public holiday on Monday 1 November. Data entry is currently being updated. Uninterpretable trends.

<sup>1</sup> Santé publique France remercie le large réseau d'acteurs sur lequel il s'appuie pour assurer la surveillance COVID-19 : médecine libérale et hospitalière, urgences, laboratoires de biologie médicale hospitaliers et de ville, sociétés savantes d'infectiologie, de réanimation, de médecine d'urgence, Cnam, Inserm, Insee.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 43, the resumption of the pandemic was confirmed in metropolitan France, with the incidence rate increasing for the third consecutive week and an R number still above 1. The incidence rate exceeded 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 58 metropolitan departments. With the school holidays, the screening rate dropped among children under 10 years. Nevertheless, contact tracing indicators showed a decline in social interactions, suggesting an effect of the autumn holidays. Finally, a slight increase in the average age of cases and contacts was observed. On 2 November, 76.4% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.6% were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 19.8% 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 the vaccination of all unvaccinated people in addition to the booster shot for adults aged 65 years and over as well as for other eligible groups. It is also necessary to combine vaccination with a high level of adherence to preventive measures given their effectiveness in limiting the epidemic and preserving the healthcare system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

**Nationally**, the incidence rate continued to rise in week 43, reaching 62 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 55 in week 42, +12%). A daily average of 5,917 cases were diagnosed. The screening rate increased in all age groups except for 80-89 year-olds (42, -1%) and 10-19 year-olds (58, -0.1%), among whom it was stable, and 0-9 year-olds, among whom it fell (44, -16%). The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) dropped substantially (-11% in week 43) to reach 2,799 per 100,000 inhabitants. This reduction was particularly significant among 0-9 year-olds (916, -71%) and, to a lesser extent, among 10-19 year-olds (4,082, -9%) due to the school holidays. The positivity rate continued to increase, being 2.2% in week 43 (+0.4 points). Among symptomatic individuals, the use of screening declined (-10%), although the number of confirmed cases (17,150, +15%) and the positivity rate (11.5%, +2.5 points) both rose.

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was stable in SOS Médecins organisations (943, -2%), with a slight rise observed in people aged 45 years and older. The number of emergency department consultations increased (1,707, +12%), mostly driven by people aged 15-74 years (+14%).

The number of new hospital admissions fell slightly (1,391, -3%), as did new intensive care admissions (360, -5%). **These data should nevertheless be interpreted with caution given the notification delay for healthcare facilities, impacted by the public holiday on 1 November. Initial data consolidation shows an upward trend for these indicators.** Indeed, in week 42, a surge in hospital and intensive care admissions was observed (respectively +11% and +18%, consolidated data). On 2 November, 6,741 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,104 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the incidence rate was rising in all regions, reaching 89/100,000 inhabitants in Corsica (+60%), 83 in Pays de la Loire (+14%), 77 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (+6%), and 73 in Île-de-France, where the increase was less pronounced (+3%). Overall, the incidence rate exceeded 50 cases

per 100,000 inhabitants in 58 departments. The screening rate decreased throughout most of metropolitan France but was the highest in Corsica (4,215/100,000 inhabitants) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (3,948). The evolution of new hospital admissions showed strong regional disparities. The highest rates were still in Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

**In overseas France**, the incidence rate continued to fall in French Guiana (169, -28%), although the rate of new hospital admissions remained high. In Martinique, the incidence rate fell once again (115, -15%) and remained stable in Guadeloupe (52, +5%). The rate of new hospital admissions dropped in both overseas territories.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to 100% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #27 and #28 on 5 and 12 October, respectively.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 43, the number of new cases increased by 11%, although the number of new [contacts](#) remained stable, suggesting that the school holidays helped limit social interactions. The proportion of cases previously identified as contacts at risk was on the rise, resulting in the better identification of transmission chains. The average age of both cases and contacts increased slightly. In this context, the administration of the booster shot to the eligible population, especially the elderly, is crucial.

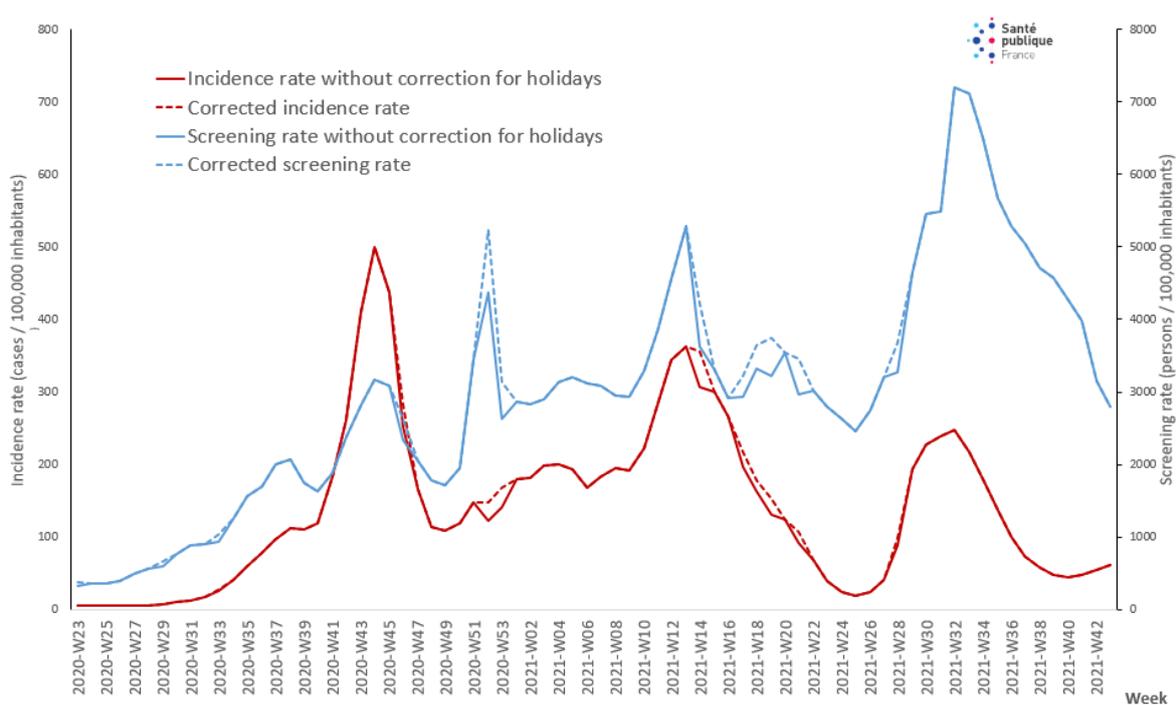
### PRÉVENTION

On 2 November, 76.4% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 74.6% were fully vaccinated. Overall, 19.8% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 62 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 43 (vs 55 in week 42, +12%), while the [screening rate](#) was 2,799 per 100,000 (vs 3,149 in week 42, -11%). The [positivity rate](#) once again increased (2.2%, +0.4 points). Among the 1,699,593 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 90% were **asymptomatic**, a **stable** proportion compared to the previous week. The positivity rate increased among symptomatic individuals (11.5% vs 9.0% in week 42) and slightly rose among asymptomatic individuals (1.2% vs 1.0%). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases was stable (52% vs 51% in week 42).

### Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since week 23 2020, France (data on 3 November 2021)



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

### Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 43, the [incidence rate](#) increased in most age groups. Nevertheless, it was stable among 10-19 year-olds (58/100,000, -0,1%) and 80-89 year-olds (42, -1%), while it fell among 0-9 year-olds (44, -16%). The highest incidence rates occurred among 30-39 year-olds (85, +19%), 40-49 year-olds (71, +17%), and 20-29 year-olds (69, +20%). The [screening rate](#) was relatively stable or slightly decreased in the majority of age groups, with the exception of 0-9 year-olds, among whom it dropped substantially (916, -71%). In week 43, the highest screening rates were found among 10-19 year-olds (4,082/100,000), 30-39 year-olds (3,956), and 20-29 year-olds (3,876). Regarding the [positivity rate](#), it increased in all age groups, being the lowest among 10-19 year-olds (1.4%, +0.1 points) and the highest among 0-9 year-olds (4.8%, +3.1 points).

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 32, France (corrected for public holidays) (data on 3 November 2021)

137	130	111	89	69	45	32	35	27	29	38	47	90 years +
89	83	73	58	44	32	26	25	26	35	43	42	80-89
95	91	80	63	49	34	32	31	33	43	56	63	70-79
125	113	93	75	52	40	33	30	29	37	47	56	60-69
193	171	138	104	73	51	42	37	35	39	46	57	50-59
268	239	197	150	107	77	63	54	48	53	61	71	40-49
378	329	273	208	150	111	84	69	64	67	71	85	30-39
493	404	307	217	146	98	73	61	58	61	57	69	20-29
340	297	243	180	124	89	72	61	49	50	58	58	10-19 years
128	130	131	120	110	94	70	51	41	44	52	44	0-9
247	218	180	137	100	73	57	48	44	48	55	62	All ages
W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Santé publique France

Source: SI-DEP



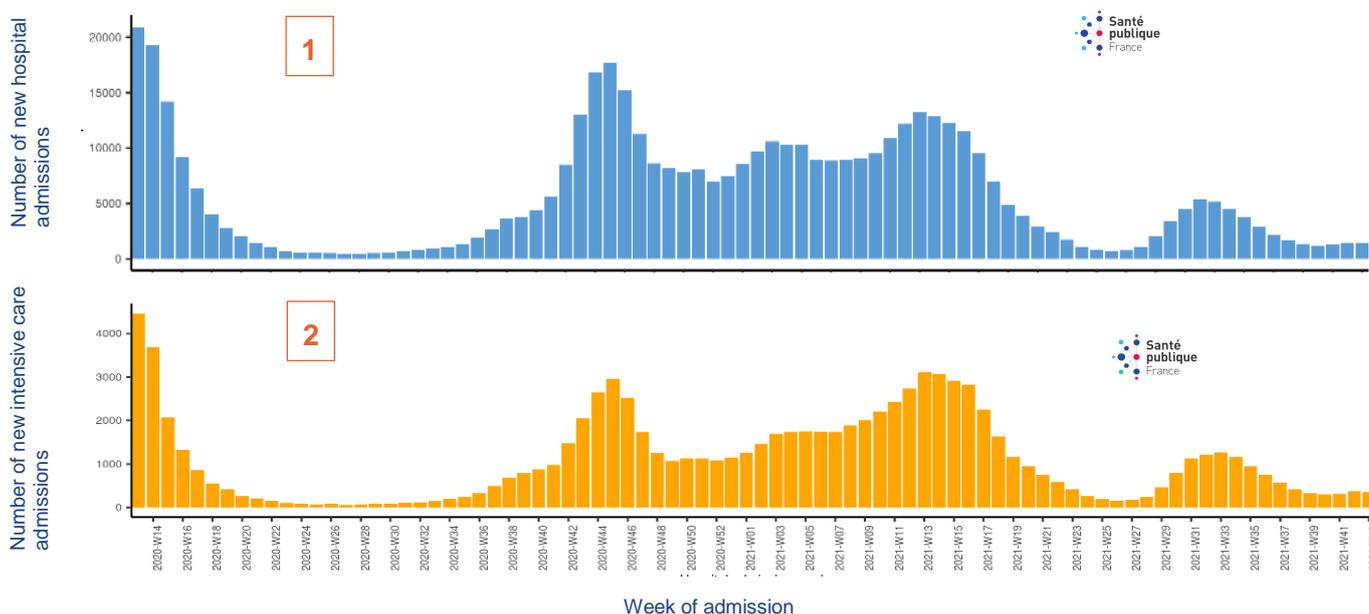
# Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

To better understand the hospital dynamics, new hospital and intensive care admissions are analysed by date of patient admission to hospital. New deaths (in hospital and long-term care facilities) are analysed by date of occurrence.

**Data from week 43, up to 2 November 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated due to the delay in data reporting associated with the public holiday on 1 November.**

- On 2 November 2021, **6,741** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,506 on 26 October, +4%), including **1,104** in intensive care (vs 1,062 on 26 October, +4%).
- At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission were stable, with **1,391 new hospital admissions** (-3% from week 42, +11% from week 41 to week 42) and **360 new intensive care admissions** (-5% from week 42, +18% from week 41 to week 42).

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



Week 43: unconsolidated data

- In week 43, the weekly rates of new hospital admissions were stable in all age groups, except for 60-69 and 80-89 year-olds, among whom a slight increase was observed. New intensive care admissions were stable in all age groups.

## Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 36 to week 43, France

Age Group	New Hospital Admissions (per 100,000 inhabitants)								New Intensive Care Admissions (per 100,000 inhabitants)							
	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43
90 years +	19.0	14.5	9.9	8.9	8.4	11.9	15.0	14.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.8
80-89	12.4	9.3	7.8	6.9	6.7	7.7	8.3	8.7	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.1
70-79	8.9	6.1	4.8	3.9	4.0	4.3	5.4	4.9	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.7
60-69	5.8	5.1	3.2	2.8	2.0	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.4	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.2
50-59	4.8	3.5	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
40-49	3.5	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
30-39	3.4	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
20-29	2.5	1.7	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
10-19 years	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
0-9	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
All ages	4.4	3.3	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5

- In week 43, the number of deaths rose slightly, with 189 deaths reported in hospital at the national level (+8% from week 42). In the previous week, this number fell by 13% compared to week 41. There were also 9 deaths in long-term care facilities in week 43 (vs 8 in week 42 and 10 in week 41).

## Situation at the regional level

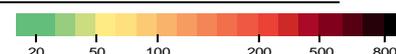
### Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

- In metropolitan France, the **incidence rate** was above 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in all regions except for Normandy (37) and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (44). Like the **positivity rate**, it increased to a greater or lesser extent depending on the region. The **screening rate** fell heterogeneously in the different regions, being the highest in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Île-de-France. In week 43, a total of 58 departments exceeded the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 44 in week 42). The highest incidence rates were observed in Maine-et-Loire (106, +23%), Bouches-du-Rhône (103, +6%), Haute-Corse (103, +99%), and Creuse (101, +290%).
- In overseas France, the incidence rate fell in French Guiana (169/100,000 inhabitants, -28%) and Martinique (115, -15%), and stabilised in Guadeloupe (52, +5%). In Reunion Island, the incidence rate increased sharply in week 43 (61, +83%).

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region<sup>2</sup> from week 38, France (data on 3 November 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate for 100,000 inhabitants						W43 vs W42 (%)	Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate for 100,000 inhabitants	
	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43		W43	W43 vs W42 (points)	W43	W43 vs W42 (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	53	48	39	42	49	55	12	2.2	0.4	2,539	-9
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	38	34	29	33	33	44	34	2.0	0.7	2,242	-11
Bretagne	37	27	29	34	44	54	23	2.7	0.7	2,019	-11
Centre-Val de Loire	39	30	28	34	46	54	19	2.8	0.7	1,919	-9
Corsica	54	45	54	55	56	89	60	2.1	0.9	4,215	-5
Grand Est	47	37	32	35	42	52	23	1.9	0.6	2,746	-13
Hauts-de-France	38	30	31	34	45	54	19	2.5	0.9	2,162	-22
Île-de-France	72	63	64	71	71	73	3	2.1	0.3	3,517	-10
Normandy	31	25	24	31	33	37	11	1.9	0.7	1,882	-31
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	40	31	30	39	51	58	14	2.6	0.6	2,274	-13
Occitanie	54	43	34	38	48	53	12	1.9	0.4	2,732	-10
Pays de la Loire	41	40	38	48	73	83	14	3.6	0.7	2,291	-9
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	102	85	68	72	73	77	6	2.0	0.2	3,948	-5
Guadeloupe	118	78	69	51	50	52	5	1.3	-0.1	3,908	11
French Guiana	541	495	369	270	234	169	-28	8.6	-1.6	1,958	-15
Martinique	163	135	155	128	135	115	-15	2.1	-0.3	5,468	-1
Mayotte	32	34	20	20	17	30	77	2.6	1.0	1,188	10
Reunion Island	49	33	28	29	33	61	83	2.5	1.1	2,469	-1

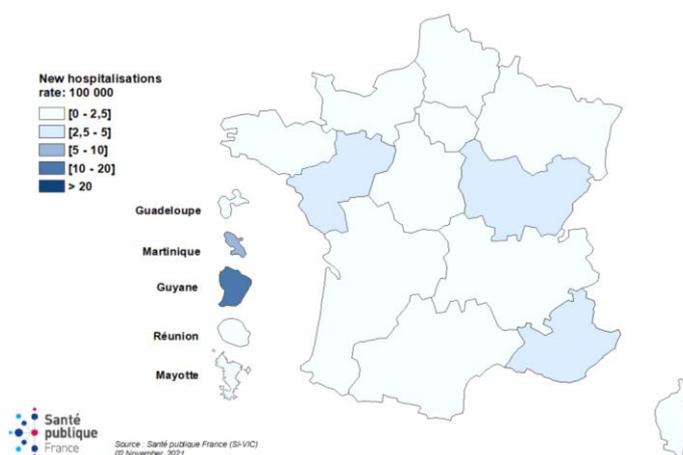
Source : SI-DEP



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

- In **metropolitan France** in week 43, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **stable or increasing** in the majority of regions. In Île-de-France (**unconsolidated data**), both rates fell. The highest rates of new hospital admissions occurred in **Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté**.
- In **overseas France**, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were the **highest in French Guiana**, where the hospitalisation rate increased once again. Both indicators improved in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 43, France



Source : SI-VIC, exploitation Santé publique France

<sup>2</sup> For further information on the epidemic situation in the regions, consult the [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

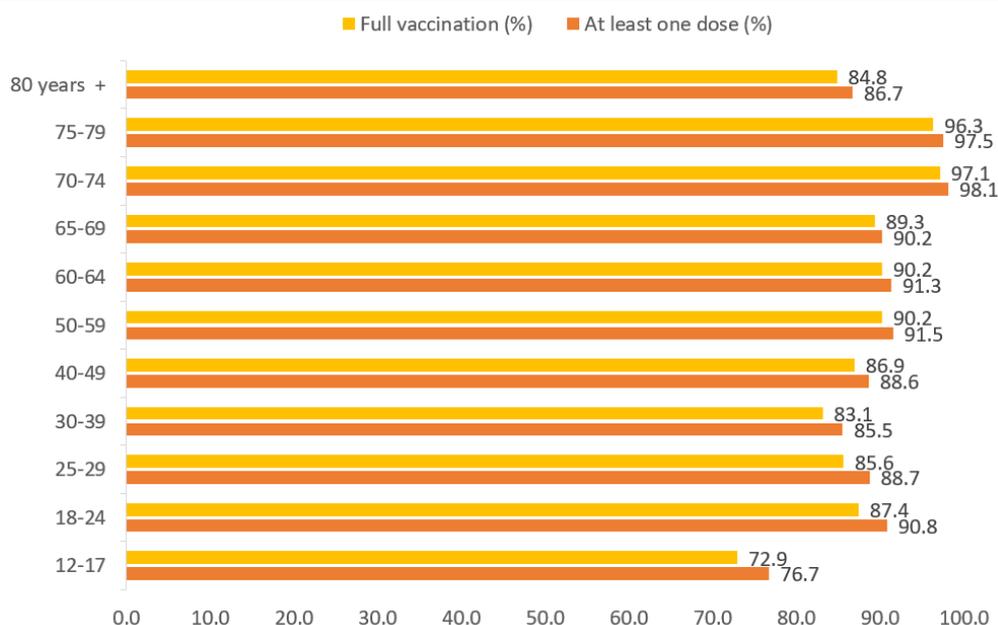
## Variants of concern

- The **L452R** mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 96.4% of screened positive samples in week 43 (vs 96.3% in week 42). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was identified in 100% of interpretable sequences in **metropolitan France** in Flash Surveys #27 (5 October) and #28 (12 October) (unconsolidated data). In **overseas France**, **Delta** was also identified in **100%** of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #25 (21 September), #26 (28 September) and #27 (5 October, unconsolidated data).
- At the international level**, **Delta** was also the dominant strain. Between 1 October and 1 November, it represented more than 99% of sequenced samples according to the international database GISAID. Due to its wide circulation, Delta has been subdivided into sub-lineages known as AY. To date, no differences have been described for the Delta sub-lineages in terms of their public health impact. The sub-lineage AY.4.2, which was the subject of a [risk analysis](#) on 21 October 2021, is rarely detected in France.

## Vaccination

- On 2 November, [vaccination coverage](#) in France in France based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 76.4% for at least one dose, 74.6% for full vaccination, and 4.7% (n=3,180,038) for the booster dose. Overall, 19.8% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot (+2.9 points compared to week 42). Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,242,257 had received one dose (88.7%), and 50,074,443 (86.7%) were fully vaccinated.

### Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 2 November 2021 (en %)



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

- On 2 November, 93.8% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.1% were fully vaccinated, and 51.4% had received a booster shot. Among healthcare professionals in private practice, 96.6% had received at least one vaccine dose, 96.1% were fully vaccinated, and 14.4% had received a booster dose. Vaccination coverage of people aged 15 years and over living in a vulnerable situation was estimated at 75.6% for at least one dose, 73.6% for full vaccination, and 5.2% for the booster shot.

### Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #26](#)

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](#).