

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

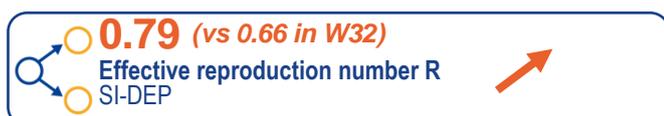
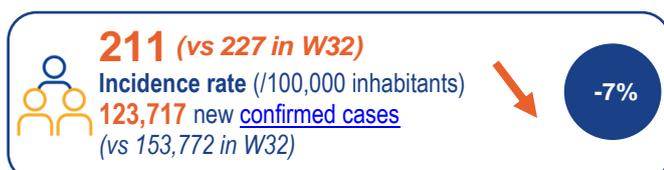
N° 130 / Week 33 / 25 August 2022

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 24 August 2022.

## Key numbers

Week 33 (15-21 August 2022)

Compared to week 32 (8-14 August 2022)



On 22 August 2022

Compared to 15 August 2022



\*W33: unconsolidated data.

<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 33, the epidemic situation continued to improve, although less markedly, with virological indicators showing a slight decrease at national level and a tendency to stabilise in certain regions. Hospital indicators continued to decrease.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Less marked decline in the incidence rate in all age groups
  - Stabilisation of incidence rates in certain regions
  - Continued improvement of hospital admission rates across the territory
- Overseas France:
  - Incidence rate still rising in Reunion Island
  - Increase in incidence in Martinique

### Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent nationally, accounting for 94% of sequences in the week 32 Flash Survey (8 July)

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 22 August 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - Vaccination coverage for the booster dose remains stable at 75.3% in the population aged 18+ years and 85.3% in the 65+ age group
  - Second booster dose: 26.4% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 32.6% of those who are eligible according to the date of their last injection) and 34.6% of people aged 80+ (45.7% of those who are eligible) had received a second booster dose
- In the context of the summer holidays and activities conducive to transmission of the virus, it remains essential to uphold the combined protective measures:
  - staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations;
  - self-isolation in case of a positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptoms;
  - application of precautionary measures, including wearing a mask systematically around vulnerable people and in enclosed spaces favourable to transmission (especially public transport and large gatherings), and frequent hand washing. During heatwaves, ventilation of enclosed spaces should be limited to the cooler hours of the day.

## Week 33 (15 to 21 August 2022)

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 33, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued to decline, although less markedly than in previous weeks, while the incidence rate remained above 200/100,000. The drop in incidence was lower in all age groups and a tendency towards stabilisation was observed in certain regions. At the same time, the number of hospital admissions continued to fall. In overseas France, virological indicators remained very high and continued to rise in Reunion Island. There is an essential need to step up the vaccination effort in order to improve coverage, which remains insufficient, particularly in the overseas regions and among the elderly. On 22 August, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 32.6% of 60-79 year-olds and 45.7% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. Given the context of the summer holidays amid continued active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, precautionary measures remain necessary in order to protect the most vulnerable. It is also important to follow the recommended measures in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 33, the incidence rate corrected for the effect of the public holiday (15 August) was 211 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, representing just under 18,000 new cases per day on average. Although this corresponds to a decrease, it was less significant than in previous weeks (-7% vs -27% in week 32); a trend that was observed in all age groups. Rates remained over 200 in most age groups, except for the under-20s where they were lowest (84 for 0-9 year-olds and 118 for 10-19 year-olds). The highest rates were observed among 50-59 year-olds (258, -5%), 20-29 year-olds (255, -9%) and 30-39 year-olds (256, -9%). As for the positivity rate, it decreased very slightly in week 33 (20.1%, -0.5 points). An actual decrease was only observed in the 50+ age group; the rate was stable or increasing in all other age groups. The largest increase was among 0-9 year-olds (19.9%, +1.5 points). This indicator remained highest among 50-59 year-olds (24.3%, -0.4 points). The screening rate followed the same trend, showing a smaller decrease compared to previous weeks (1,048, -5% vs -22% in week 32). It continued to fall among the under-60s and was stable or slightly increasing in all other age groups. It remained highest in the 90+ age group (1,988, +3%) and stayed below 1,000 among 10-19 year-olds (755, -12%) and below 500 among 0-9 year-olds (423, -12%).

In week 33, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 was down for the fourth consecutive week in emergency departments (2,547 vs 3,293 visits, -23%) and in SOS-Médecins organisations (2,413 vs 2,694 consultations, -10%). In terms of hospital indicators, a sharp decline was again observed in week 33 with 2,772 new hospital admissions recorded: a decrease of 27%. Intensive care admissions also continued to fall (286, -29%, unconsolidated data). The number of [deaths](#) recorded in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 304 in week 33 (vs 460 in week 32, i.e. -34%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the corrected incidence rate continued to decline in the majority of regions.

It stabilised in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (210, -2%), as well as in Brittany (186, -3%), and rose slightly in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (202, +7%). It remained highest in Corsica (344, -24%) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (267, -16%). However, these same territories also showed the greatest declines. Hospital admission rates decreased in all metropolitan regions. They remained highest in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corsica and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

In overseas France, the corrected incidence rates were still decreasing in French Guiana (57, -22%) and Guadeloupe (264, -7%). An epidemic resurgence was confirmed in Reunion Island (754, +28%), with incidence once again on the rise. An increase was also noted in Martinique (272, +14%). As for the hospital admission rate, it decreased in all regions except Reunion Island, where it was on the increase. This territory also had the highest rate (13.6/100,000, unconsolidated data).

### VARIANTS

Omicron circulates almost exclusively in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage is currently omnipresent. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) accounted for 94% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey of 8 August for week 32. The proportion of BA.4 (including all sub-lineages) in the Flash Surveys is decreasing, with 5% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 32 compared to 6% for week 31. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in week 33 vs 92% in week 32), in line with the circulation of BA.5. Further information is available in the [variants risk assessment of 10 August 2022](#).

### PREVENTION

On 22 August, vaccination coverage was 85.3% for the booster dose among people aged 65 and over. Among those who are eligible according to the date of their last injection, only 32.6% of 60-79 year-olds and 45.7% of 80+ year-olds, as well as 50.5% of nursing-home residents, had received their second booster dose.

## Where to find the graphs and tables on InfoCovidFrance?

As of 14 July 2022, the Weekly Report (COVID-19 Epidemiological Update) will evolve to a 3-page format that provides an overview of the dynamics of the COVID-19 epidemic in France.

The graphs and tables presenting the indicators are available directly on [InfoCovidFrance](#), where a weekly report is published to supplement the dashboard:

### HOSPITAL INDICATORS

- Weekly figures for COVID-19 patients newly admitted to hospital and intensive care units are available in the "Key numbers" tab under "Consultations / Hospital". The different rates for these indicators are also presented in the "Hospital" tab.
- Weekly rates of COVID-19 patients newly admitted to hospital and intensive care, by age group, are available as two separate graphs in the "Hospital" tab.

### LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY INDICATORS

The "Long-term care facilities" tab provides information on the following indicators:

- vaccination coverage among residents and staff of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- the weekly number of new confirmed cases among residents and staff of long-term care facilities;
- weekly deaths among residents of long-term care facilities.

### VIROLOGICAL DATA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- The graph "Incidence and screening corrected for public holidays" is available in the "Incidence" tab.
- The heat map "Weekly evolution of the incidence rate by age group" is available in the "Incidence" tab.

### VIROLOGICAL DATA AT REGIONAL LEVEL

- The table "Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region" is presented in the form of regional and departmental-level graphs in the "Incidence" tab.

### VARIANTS

- The graph "Evolution of the proportions for each classified variant in the Flash Surveys" is available in the "Variants" tab.

### VACCINATION COVERAGE

- The graph "Vaccination coverage by age group" is available in the "Vaccination" tab.

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](#)

### Dashboard

#### [InfoCovidFrance](#)

Key figures and evolution of COVID-19 in France and worldwide