

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

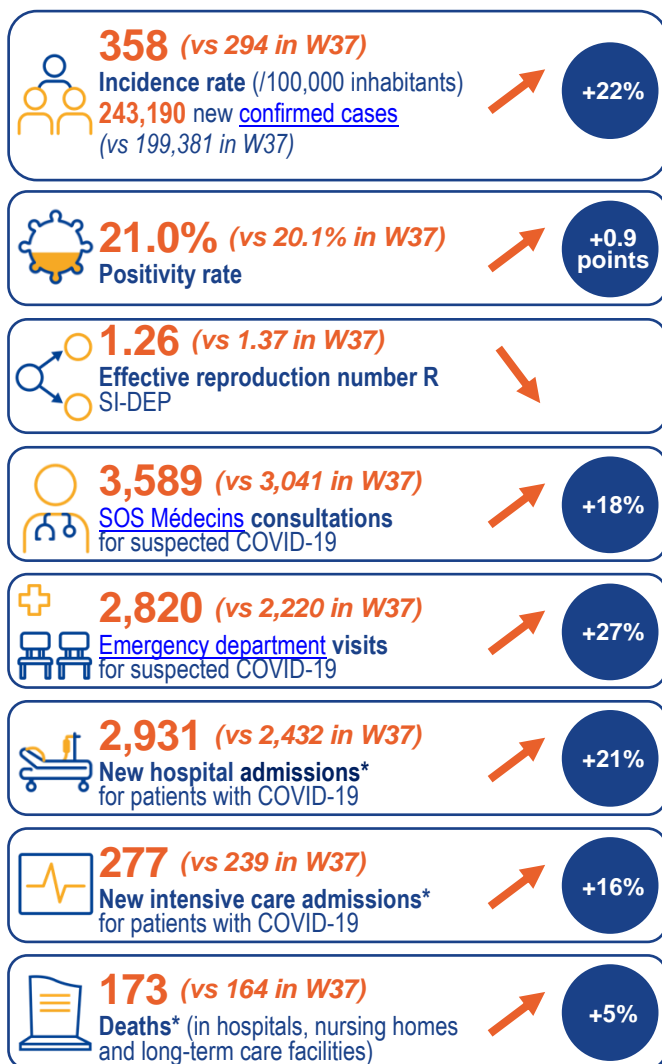
N° 135 / Week 38 / 29 September 2022

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners¹ as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data received by Santé publique France up to 26 September 2022.

Key numbers

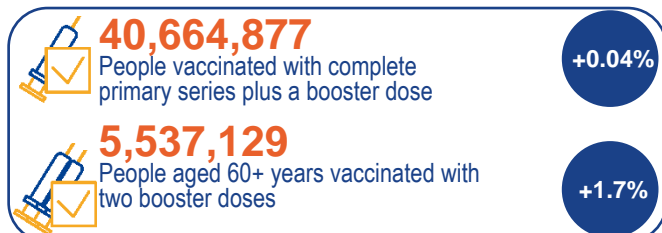
Week 38 (19-25 September 2022)

Compared to week 37 (12-18 September 2022)



On 26 September 2022

Compared to 19 September 2022



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 38, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 remained intense although the increase in new cases was less substantial. Meanwhile, hospital indicators were on the rise.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Increase in incidence rate, although smaller than the previous week, throughout the territory
 - Increase in incidence rate most significant among the elderly
 - Rise in hospital admissions
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence rate falling in all territories

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent, accounting for 91% of sequences in the week 37 Flash Survey (12 September)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 26 September 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 74.4% of the population aged 18+ and 82.4% of the 65+ age group had received a booster dose
 - 29.3% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 34.8% of those eligible given the date of their last injection) and 36.9% of people aged 80+ (48.3% of those eligible) had received a second booster dose
- Given the accelerated circulation of SARS-CoV-2, compliance with the combined measures remains essential:
 - staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including the second booster dose for the elderly;
 - self-isolation in case of a positive test for COVID-19 and/or symptoms;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, including wearing a face mask, particularly around vulnerable people and in enclosed spaces favourable to transmission (public transport, large gatherings, etc.), frequent hand washing and ventilation of interiors.

*W38: unconsolidated data.

¹Santé 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 38, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 was in progression across the vast majority of metropolitan France with a further rise in the incidence rate, although smaller than in the previous week (+22% vs +57%). The rate increased in all age groups except among 0-9 year-olds. The greatest increase was observed among elderly people. Hospital admissions were up for the second consecutive week following data consolidation. The number of deaths was also rising. In overseas France, the situation continued to improve in all territories. In view of the current epidemic trend and insufficient vaccination coverage, it is essential to step up the vaccination effort, particularly for the second booster dose among elderly people. On 26 September, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 34.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 48.3% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. It also remains essential to take all necessary precautions for the protection of vulnerable people and to follow the recommended measures in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 38, the incidence rate increased for the third consecutive week and reached 358/100,000, representing almost 35,000 new cases per day on average. The increase was nevertheless smaller than that observed in week 37 (+22% vs +57%). Incidence was up in all age groups except the under-10s (204, -36%). The decrease among 0-9 year-olds is partly linked to a lower screening rate (1,106, -11%). Any trend will be confirmed in the next Epidemiological Update. The rise in incidence rate was greater than or equal to 50% in elderly people aged 80+. This indicator exceeded 400/100,000 in the population aged 30-59 years and was highest among 40-49 year-olds (453, +34%). At national level, the positivity rate increased slightly (21.0%, +0.9 points). Trends varied according to the different age groups: decreasing in the under-20s, stabilising among 30-39 year-olds, and increasing in other age groups. The most significant increases were observed in the over-50 age group (more than 3 points). The highest rates were observed among 40-49 year-olds (25.5%, +2.2 points) and 50-59 year-olds (25.0%, +3.7 points). The screening rate continued to climb (1,705, +17%). It was up in all age groups except 0-9 year-olds. It exceeded 2,000 in the 90+ age group only.

In week 38, consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased throughout the SURSAUD health network for the second consecutive week. There was an increase of 27% in emergency departments (2,820 visits) and 18% in SOS Médecins associations (3,589 consultations).

Hospital indicators were on the rise for the second consecutive week. Hospital admissions had increased by 9% in week 37 following data consolidation, and by 21% in week 38 (representing 2,931 admissions, unconsolidated data). Intensive care admissions had also increased in week 37 (+4%) and continued to rise in week 38 with 277 new admissions (i.e., +16%, unconsolidated data). The [number of deaths](#) declared in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 173 in week 38 (vs 164 in week 37, i.e. +5%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, a less marked increase in incidence rate was observed across the territory, except in Corsica where the indicator was stable (198, +1%). This was also the region with the lowest rate. Grand-Est (467, +36%), Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (445, +28%) and Hauts-de-France (410, +33%) were showing the highest rates. The hospital admission rate was up in most regions except Corsica, where it was stable, and Brittany, where a decrease was recorded.

In overseas France, the incidence rate was falling in all territories. It was highest in Martinique (200, -10%). Hospital admissions had decreased in all regions.

VARIANTS

Omicron circulates almost exclusively in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage remains omnipresent. In metropolitan France, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) represented 91% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey of week 37 (12 September). The sub-lineage BA.4 (including all further sub-lineages) continues circulating, with 8% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 37. The BA.2.75 sub-lineage is detected at very low levels, with 0.6% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 37. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (93% in weeks 38 and 37), in line with the circulation of BA.4 and BA.5 observed in sequencing. Further information is available in the [variants risk assessment of 7 September 2022](#).

PREVENTION

On 26 September, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was 82.4% in the 65+ age group. Meanwhile, vaccination coverage for the second booster dose among those eligible (according to the date of their last injection) amounted to 34.8% of 60-79 year-olds, 48.3% of 80+ year-olds, and 53.1% of nursing-home residents.

Where to find the graphs and tables on InfoCovidFrance

As of 14 July 2022, the COVID-19 Epidemiological Update is produced in a condensed, 3-page format that provides an overview of the COVID-19 epidemic situation 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.

This week's survey

Update on [the epidemiological situation related to COVID-19 in 0-17 year-olds](#)

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