

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

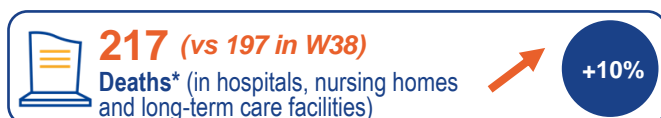
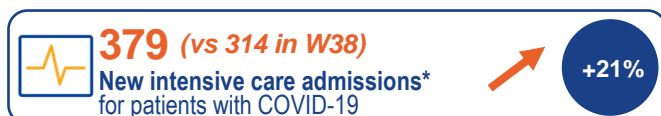
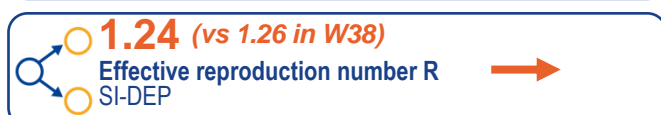
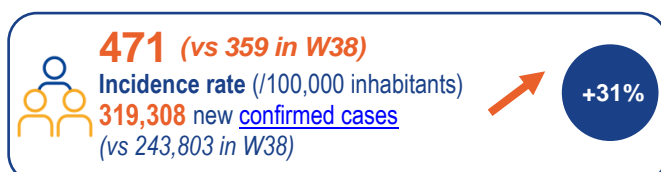
N° 136 / Week 39 / 6 October 2022

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 reported to Santé publique France up to 3 October 2022.

Key numbers

Week 39 (26 September-2 October 2022)

Compared to week 38 (19-25 September 2022)



On 3 October 2022

Compared to 26 September 2022



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 39, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 increased significantly throughout metropolitan France, particularly among the elderly. Hospital indicators also continued to rise.

• Metropolitan France:

- Continued rise in incidence rate, except in the under-20 age group
- Sharp increase in incidence rate among the elderly
- Rise in hospital admissions and deaths

• Overseas France:

- Incidence rate in decline across all territories

Variants

- Omicron sub-lineages: BA.5 omnipresent, accounting for 91% of sequences in the week 38 Flash Survey (19 September)

Prevention

• Vaccination on 3 October 2022 (Vaccin Covid data):

- 74.4% of the population aged 18+ and 82.5% of the 65+ age group had received a first booster dose
- 29.8% of 60-79 year-olds (representing 35.3% of those eligible given the date of their last injection) and 37.3% of people aged 80+ (48.8% of those eligible) had received a second booster dose

• CoviPrev Survey wave 35 (12 to 19 September):

- Further decline in application of protective measures, particularly wearing a face mask
- Less than half of those at risk for severe forms of influenza intend to get vaccinated for influenza and COVID-19
- Given the intensified circulation of SARS-CoV-2, compliance with the combined measures remains crucial:
 - up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose of a bivalent vaccine (protecting against the original strain and the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2) for those eligible and already vaccinated with a primary course;
 - 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.

*W39: 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 39, circulation of SARS-CoV-2 continued its progression throughout metropolitan France with a 31% increase in incidence rate. This increase concerned all age groups except the under-20s and was again most significant among the elderly, particularly those over the age of 80. Hospital admissions also continued to increase, as did the number of deaths. In overseas France, the situation continued to improve in all regions. On 4 October, among those eligible according to the vaccination schedule, only 35.3% of 60-79 year-olds and 48.8% of 80+ year-olds had received their second booster dose. In view of the epidemic momentum and the decreased application of protective measures, vaccination must be reinforced, in particular by a booster with a bivalent vaccine (protecting against the initial strain and the Omicron variant of Sars-CoV-2) among those who have received a primary vaccination and are eligible for the autumn campaign. It is also essential to emphasize the importance of precautionary measures to protect vulnerable individuals. Compliance with other recommended measures remains essential in the event of symptoms, a positive test or high-risk contacts.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

In week 39, the incidence rate continued to increase for the fourth consecutive week (471/100,000, +31%), with more than 45,000 new cases per day on average. This increase concerned all age groups except the under-20s, where a decrease was observed. The screening rate was also decreasing in the 0-19 age group, while this indicator continued to increase in all other age groups and at national level (1,910, +12%). Moreover, a sharp rise in the incidence rate exceeding 50% was observed in the population aged 60+ years, particularly among 80-89 year-olds (489, +70%) and 90+ year-olds (503, +82%). However, the highest values of incidence rate were observed among 40-49 year-olds (600, +32%) and 50-59 year-olds (616, +50%). The positivity rate also increased significantly (24.6%, +3.6 points). Trends for this indicator varied according to age: the decrease continued among 0-19 year-olds, while there was a general increase in the population aged 20+ years, particularly in the 60+ age group. The highest values were observed among 40-49 year-olds (29.6%, +4.1 points) and 50-59 year-olds (30.5%, +5.5 points).

In week 39, the number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased sharply in emergency departments (3,890, +39%) and to a lesser extent in SOS Médecins organisations (3,797, +4%). While the number of visits for adults increased in both networks, it decreased for children.

Hospital indicators continued to rise at national level with 4,370 new hospital admissions recorded (i.e. +25%, unconsolidated data) and 379 new admissions to intensive care (+21%). In view of the sharp rise in incidence among the elderly, the upward trend in hospital indicators may continue; the next Epidemiological Update will establish any such trend. The [number of deaths](#) declared in hospitals and long-term care facilities was 217 in week 39 (vs 197 in week 38, i.e. +10%, unconsolidated data).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate increased across the territory. It was highest in Grand Est (651, +39%), Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (601, +35%) and

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (555, +37%). The hospital admission rate was up in all regions except Corsica, where a decrease was observed, and Normandy, where it stabilised. The increase exceeded 30% in Centre-Val de Loire, Île-de-France and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

In overseas France, the situation continued to improve in all territories. Hospital admission rates were in further decline or had stabilised at low levels.

VARIANTS

[Omicron](#) circulates almost exclusively in France and its BA.5 sub-lineage remains omnipresent. Consequently, BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) represented 91% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 38 (19 September) for metropolitan France. The sub-lineage BA.4 (including all further sub-lineages) continues circulating, with 8% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey of week 38. The BA.2.75 sub-lineage is detected at very low levels, with 0.7% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 38. The detection of mutations at position L452 in screening tests remains stable at high levels (94% in week 39 and 93% in week 38), in line with the circulation of BA.4 and BA.5 observed in sequencing.

PREVENTION

On 3 October, vaccination coverage for the booster dose was 82.5% 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 35.3% of 60-79 year-olds, 48.8% of 80+ year-olds, and 53.9% of nursing-home residents.

The CoviPrev survey (wave 35: 12-19 September) confirms lower adherence to protective measures, particularly wearing a face mask. The majority of respondents declare wearing one less often or not at all when in the presence of vulnerable people. Furthermore, only 49% of participants at risk of severe forms of influenza reported that they intend to get vaccinated for influenza and COVID-19.

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 surveys

Update on [adherence to COVID-19 vaccination and protective measures](#)
Update on [mental health in France since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic](#)
Updated data from [monitoring of COVID-19 cases among health professionals](#)

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