

# COVID-19

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

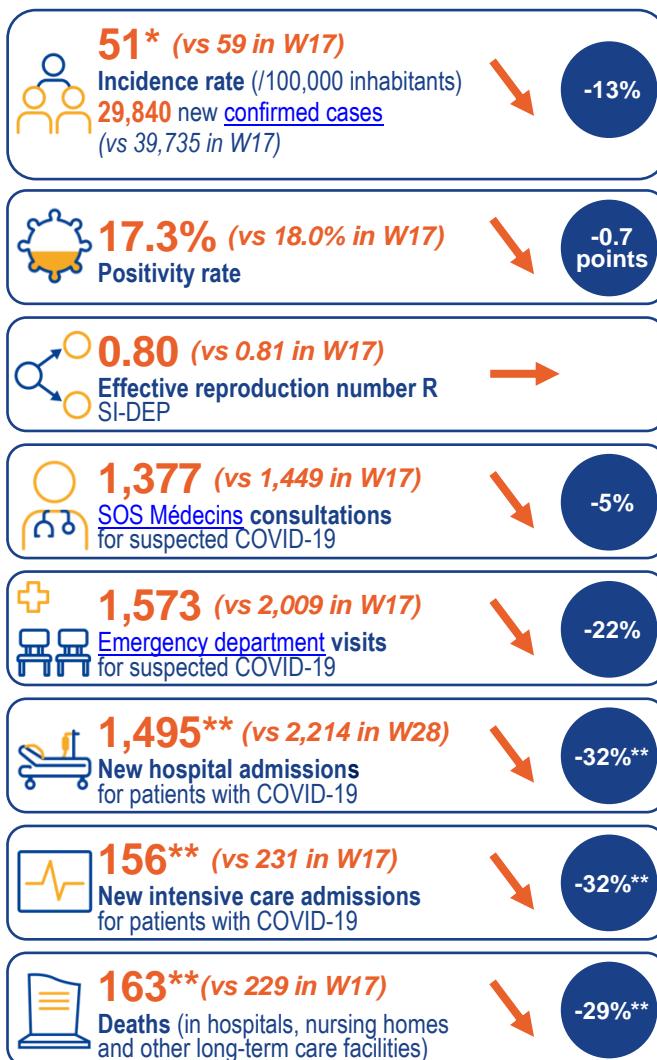
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As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners<sup>1</sup> as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data submitted to Santé publique France up to 10 May 2023.

### Key numbers

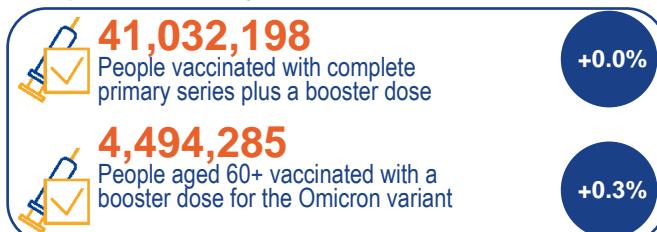
In week 18 (1-7 May 2023)

Compared to week 17 (24-30 April 2023)



On 9 May 2023

Compared to 2 May 2023



### Key points

#### Epidemiological situation

In week 18, the positivity rate (based on SI-DEP virological data) continued to decrease in a context of very low screening rates. Emergency department visits were down, as were new hospital admissions.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Incidence rate\* stable or falling in all age groups and regions
  - Positivity rate stable or down in most age groups and regions
  - Hospital admission rate in decline
- Overseas France:
  - Incidence rates\* low, except in Reunion Island
  - Hospital admissions at a very low level and decreasing

#### Variants

- The recombinant XBB.1.5 remained in the majority with 52% of sequences in the week 16 Flash Survey (vs 53% in week 15)
- XBB.1.9 appeared to stabilise (30% in the week 16 Flash Survey vs 29% in week 15)
- The sub-lineages CH.1.1 and BQ.1 were at low levels (2% in the week 16 Flash Survey)

#### Prevention

- Vaccination on 9 May 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 23.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.6% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant
  - 20.0% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the past 6 months and 2.0% of 80+ year-olds in the past 3 months
- In the context of the spring vaccination campaign and the active circulation of SARS-CoV-2, continued compliance with preventive measures is recommended:
  - up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose of bivalent vaccine (protecting against the original strain and the Omicron variant) for eligible individuals already vaccinated with a primary series;
  - continued application of precautionary measures, particularly in case of a positive test and/or symptoms, to protect vulnerable individuals.

\*Incidence and screening rates for the week including 1 May have been corrected for the effect of the public holiday on screening activity.

\*\*W18: unconsolidated data. Updated values for these indicators will feature in the next Epidemiological Update.

<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 18, the positivity rate continued to decrease (based on SI-DEP virological data) in a context of school holidays and further decline in very low screening rates\*. SOS Médecins consultations and emergency department visits also continued to decrease, as did hospital admissions in all regions. Given the insufficient level of booster vaccination and the persistent circulation of SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 vaccination within target groups remains necessary. In order to protect those most vulnerable, since 27 April 2023 a booster dose is recommended within the spring vaccination campaign for people aged 80+, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, whatever their age, as well as immunocompromised people and those at very high risk of severe illness. Compliance with protective precautions and other preventive measures remains recommended, particularly in case of symptoms or a positive test, in order to protect vulnerable people.

Nationally, the incidence rate corrected for the public holiday and the positivity rate were decreasing in week 18 while the corrected screening rate was at a very low level (294/100,000 inhabitants). The corrected incidence rate was still lowest in the under-20 age group. The positivity rate remained lowest in the under-10 age group. The corrected screening rate was down again in all age groups. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 continued to decrease in emergency departments and across the SOS Médecins network of general practitioners. In metropolitan France, a drop in the positivity rate was observed in most regions and there was a further decrease in hospital admissions across the territory. In overseas France, incidence and positivity rates remained highest in Reunion Island and the number of new hospital admissions was at a very low level and decreasing in all territories.

In metropolitan France, the recombinant XBB.1.5 showed a slight decline but remained in the majority: it represented 52% of interpretable sequences in the week 16 Flash Survey of 17 April 2023 (vs 53% in week 15). Among the variants classified VUM, XBB.1.9 appeared to stabilise (30% in the week 16 Flash Survey vs 29% in week 15). CH.1.1 and BQ.1 are still detected but at low levels: they each represented 2% of interpretable sequences in the week 16 Flash Survey. More information is available in the [risk assessment of 26 April 2023](#).

The level of uptake for vaccine boosters adapted to the Omicron variant remained insufficient. On 9 May 2023, 23.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.6% of 80+ year-olds had received this booster dose. At that date, 20.0% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine within the past 6 months\*\* and 2.0% of 80+ year-olds within the past 3 months\*\*. Vaccination coverage among health professionals for the booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant is estimated at 13.9% for those working in nursing homes, 14.9% for those working in private practice and 15.2% for those working in health institutions\*\*\*.

\*Due to possible changes in the use of screening, particularly in relation to the change in testing strategy from February 2023, these indicators should be interpreted with caution. \*\*All COVID-19 vaccines combined. \*\*\* Method described in Epidemiological Update N° 147.

### Graphs and tables

#### [InfoCovidFrance](#)

The dashboard gives direct access to the indicators presented as graphs and tables and a complementary weekly report covering:

- hospital indicators
- long-term care facility indicators
- virological data at national level
- virological data at regional level
- data on variants
- data on vaccination coverage

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](#)