

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

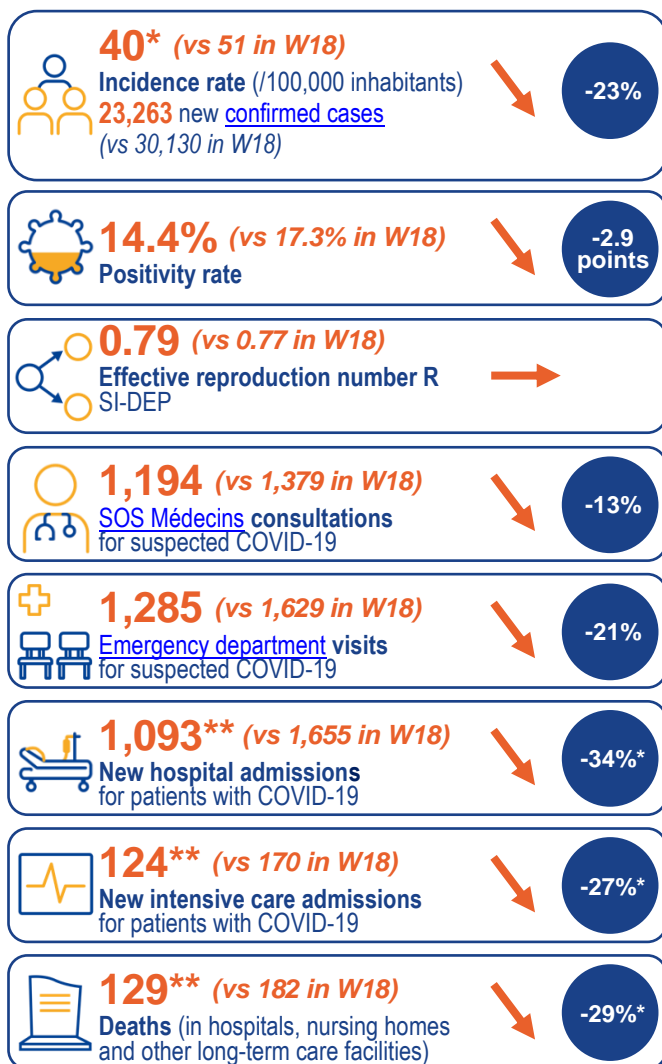
17 May 2023 / N°167

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 submitted to Santé publique France up to 16 May 2023.

Key numbers

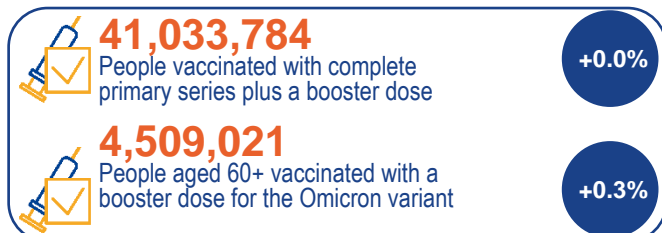
In week 19 (8-14 May 2023)

Compared to week 18 (1-7 May 2023)



On 15 May 2023

Compared to 9 May 2023



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 19, virological indicators based on SI-DEP 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 and positivity rates* decreasing in most age groups and in all regions
 - Hospital admission rate in decline
- Overseas France:
 - Incidence and positivity rates* highest in Reunion Island
 - Hospital admissions remain low

Variants

- Recombinant XBB.1.5 dominant with a downward trend at 44% of sequences in the week 17 Flash Survey*** (vs 53% in week 16)
- XBB.1.9 on the rise (36% in the week 17 Flash Survey*** vs 32% in week 16)
- Sub-lineages CH.1.1 and BQ.1 detected at low levels (1% and 3% in the week 17 Flash Survey***)

Prevention

- Vaccination on 15 May 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
 - 23.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.7% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant
 - 19.1% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the past 6 months and 1.7% of 80+ year-olds in the past 3 months
- In the current context of the epidemic and the spring vaccination campaign, 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 8 May have been corrected for the effect of the public holiday on screening activity.

**W19: unconsolidated data. Updated values for these indicators will feature in the next Epidemiological Update.

***Data from the week 17 Flash Survey are not consolidated and should be interpreted with caution.

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.

Week 19 (8 to 14 May 2023)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 19, virological indicators based on SI-DEP data continued to decrease in a context of very low and further decreasing 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 19 while the corrected screening rate was at a very low level (275/100,000 inhabitants). The corrected incidence rate was still lowest in the under-20 age group. The positivity rate decreased in all age groups and remained stable among 0-9 year-olds. 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, the positivity rate and new hospital admissions were in decline across the territory. In overseas France, incidence and positivity rates remained highest in Reunion Island and the number of new hospital admissions remained at a very low level in all territories.

In metropolitan France, the recombinant XBB.1.5 remains in the majority while showing a downward trend: it represented 44% of interpretable sequences in the week 17 Flash Survey** (24 April 2023, based on only 355 interpretable sequences) vs 53% in week 16 (17 April 2023, based on 1,099 interpretable sequences). Among the variants classified VUM, XBB.1.9 appeared to stabilise (36% in the week 17 Flash Survey** vs 32% in week 16). CH.1.1 and BQ.1 are still detected but at low levels: respectively, they represented 1% and 3% of interpretable sequences in the week 17 Flash Survey 2023**. 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 15 May 2023, 23.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.7% of 80+ year-olds had received this booster dose. At that date, 19.1% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months***, and 1.7% of 80+ year-olds within the last 3 months**. Vaccination coverage among health professionals for the booster 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 15.3% for those working in health institutions****.

Due to possible changes in the use of screening, particularly in relation to changes in the testing strategy from February 2023, these indicators should be interpreted with caution. **Data from the week 17 Flash Survey are not consolidated and 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](#)