

Acute respiratory infections

Week 12 (18 to 24 March 2024). Publication: 27 March 2024

NATIONAL EDITION

This week's trends

Acute respiratory infections (ARI). Activity decreasing in general practice and in hospitals.

Influenza. Activity decreasing further in mainland France with indicators returning to baseline levels in 10 regions; 3 regions remaining in post-epidemic phase. Guadeloupe and Martinique still in epidemic phase.

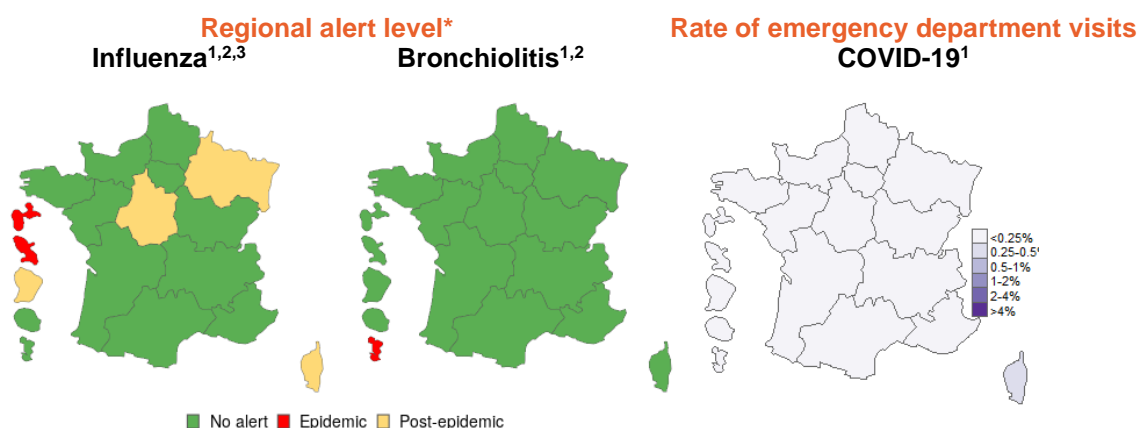
Bronchiolitis. Mayotte in epidemic phase; all other regions at baseline level.

COVID-19. Indicators at low levels.

Key indicators

Syndromic indicators

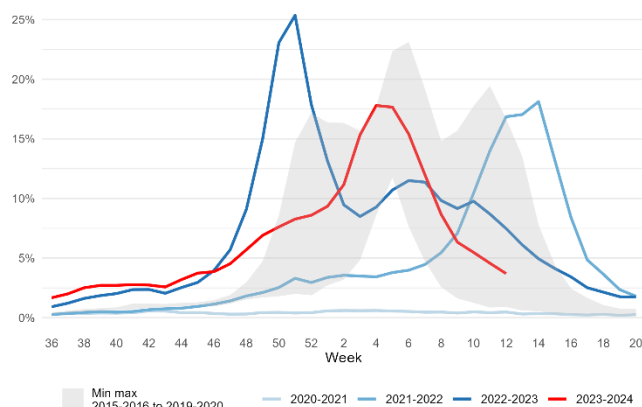
	Lower ARI*		Influenza		Bronchiolitis (children <2 years)		COVID-19	
Share of pathology among	W12	W12 vs W11	W12	W12 vs W11	W12	W12 vs W11	W12	W12 vs W11
SOS Médecins consultations	10.8%	-1.2 pts	3.7%	-0.9 pts	4.3%	+0.6 pts	0.2%	-0.1 pts
Emergency department visits (OSCOUR®)	3.1%	-0.3 pts	0.3%	-0.1 pts	6.9%	+0.3 pts	0.1%	0 pts
Admissions post-emergency department visit (OSCOUR®)	6.4%	-0.2 pts	0.3%	-0.1 pts	13.7%	+0.6 pts	0.1%	0 pts



*Methodology explained in the [appendix](#). French West Indies: W11 alert level. Source: ¹OSCOUR® network, ²SOS Médecins, ³Sentinelles network

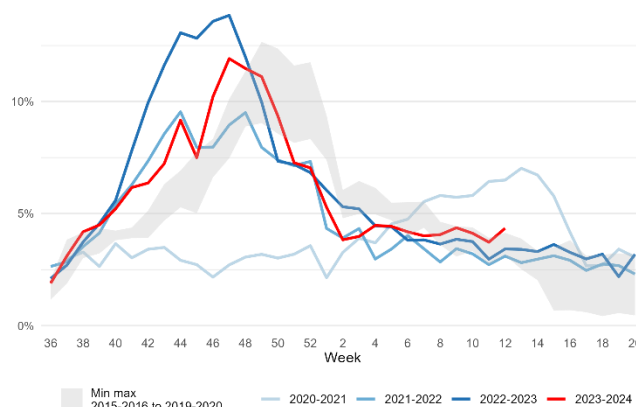
Read the [regional bulletins](#) (French only) by Santé publique France for the epidemiological situation in each region.

Share of influenza-like illness among SOS Médecins consultations



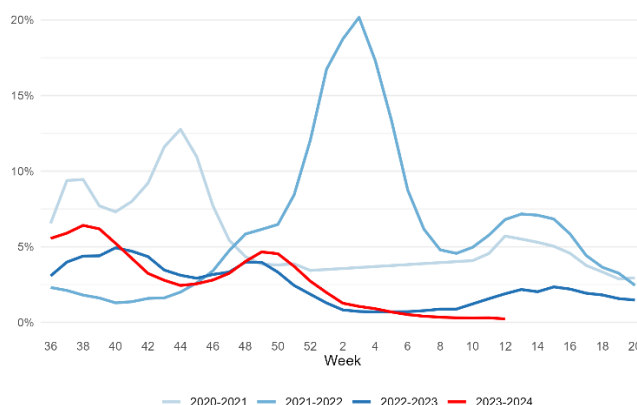
Source: SOS Médecins

Share of bronchiolitis among SOS Médecins consultations for children under 2 years



Source: SOS Médecins

Share of suspected COVID-19 among SOS Médecins consultations



Source: SOS Médecins

Virological indicators

	Influenza viruses		RSV		SARS-CoV-2	
	W12	W12 vs W11	W12	W12 vs W11	W12	W12 vs W11
General practice (Sentinelles network, National Reference Centres)	12.5%	-6.4 pts	0.0%	0 pts	0.0%	-3.2 pts
Hospitals (RENAL network, National Reference Centres)	2.4%	-1.0 pts	0.8%	0 pts	3.0%	+0.5 pts

SARS-CoV-2		
	W12	W12 vs W11
Positivity rate of samples tested in medical laboratories	2.5%	0 pts
Wastewater surveillance (SUM'Eau)*	628	-16.3%

*Ratio of SARS-CoV-2 viral concentration to ammoniacal nitrogen concentration.
Methodology explained in the [appendix](#).

Read the bulletin by the [Sentinelles network](#) (in English) for the epidemiological situation in general practice.

Situation update

In week 12, indicators for acute respiratory infections continued to decline in both general practice and hospital settings. In mainland France, influenza indicators decreased further, with ten regions returning to the baseline level and three regions still in the post-epidemic phase. COVID-19 indicators remained at low levels, indicating limited circulation of SARS-CoV-2. All regions of mainland France have been clear of the bronchiolitis epidemic since mid-February (week 7); in overseas France, only Mayotte remained in an epidemic. However, respiratory viruses were still in active circulation, particularly rhinoviruses. In this context, the systematic use of protective measures, particularly wearing a mask if symptomatic, remains important in the presence of people at risk.

In mainland France, all influenza indicators continued to decrease, in both general practice and hospital settings. The proportion of SOS Médecins activity for influenza-like illness in general practice and the proportion of hospital admissions post-emergency department visit were at baseline level this week, across all ages and in every age group. This week, ten of the 13 regions in mainland France were at baseline level; the other three regions remained in the post-epidemic phase. In the French overseas departments and regions, Guadeloupe and Martinique were still in the epidemic phase. French Guiana remained in the post-epidemic phase.

For bronchiolitis, in mainland France the indicators remained at low levels. In the French overseas departments and regions, only Mayotte was still in the epidemic phase.

All COVID-19 surveillance indicators remained at low levels, in both general practice and hospitals. In wastewater, detection of SARS-CoV-2 was still at a very low level.

The ARI clusters that have occurred in long-term care facilities (care homes) since the beginning of January have been mainly linked to influenza. The number of clusters reported has continued to decline since mid-February (week 7).

The next COVID-19 vaccination campaign will begin on 15 April 2024, targeting the most vulnerable groups (people aged 80+, immunocompromised people, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities). These people will be offered a vaccine dose if at least 3 months have passed since their last injection or SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In the current context, the systematic use of protective measures remains important in the presence of people at risk, particularly wearing a mask if symptomatic, hand washing and frequent ventilation of closed spaces.

About this bulletin

This weekly bulletin provides key syndromic and virological indicators for acute respiratory infections (ARI) with an overview of recent epidemiological trends in the French territories (mainland and overseas). Santé publique France, the French public health agency, produces these indicators to help monitor COVID-19, influenza and bronchiolitis on a grouped or specific basis, and to better estimate their burden and impact on the healthcare system. The English version is an extract from the *Bulletin des infections respiratoires aiguës*, which contains further indicators, graphs and analysis based on data gathered through France's integrated ARI surveillance system.

Partners

Santé publique France acknowledges the large public health network that contributes to the surveillance of acute respiratory infections: 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.

For more information (French only):

Integrated ARI surveillance

Surveillance of influenza, bronchiolitis and COVID-19

SURSAUD® syndromic surveillance

Surveillance in long-term care facilities

Surveillance in general practice: Sentinelles Network (INSERM – Sorbonne University)

Virological surveillance (National Reference Centre for Viral Respiratory Infections)

Genomic surveillance: Variant risk analysis

Regional trends: see Regional Bulletins

Open data indicators: Géodes, data.gouv.fr

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