

Acute respiratory infections

Week 13 (25 to 31 March 2024). Publication: 3 April 2024.

NATIONAL EDITION

This week's trends

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

Influenza. Influenza activity decreasing further in mainland France, with indicators returning to baseline levels in all regions. Guadeloupe and Martinique still in epidemic phase.

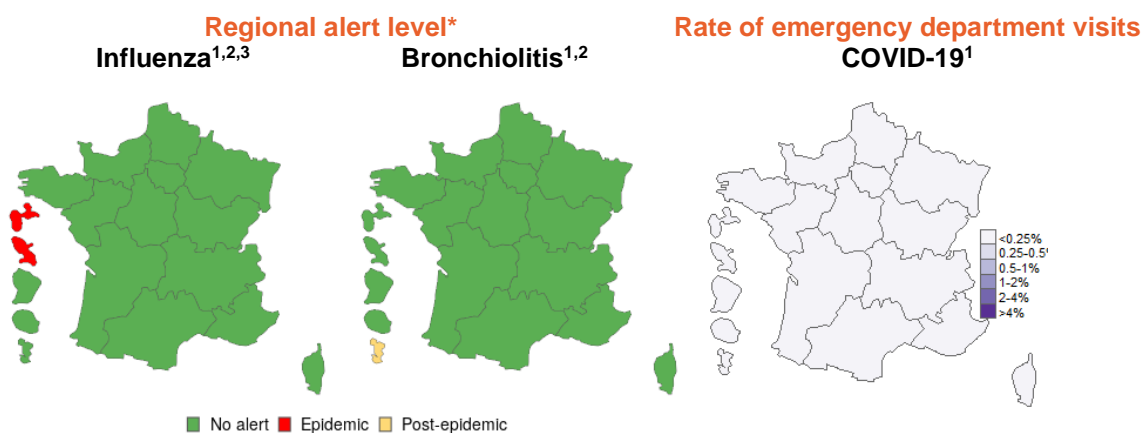
Bronchiolitis. Mayotte entered post-epidemic phase this week. All other regions at baseline level.

COVID-19. Indicators at low levels.

Key indicators

Syndromic indicators

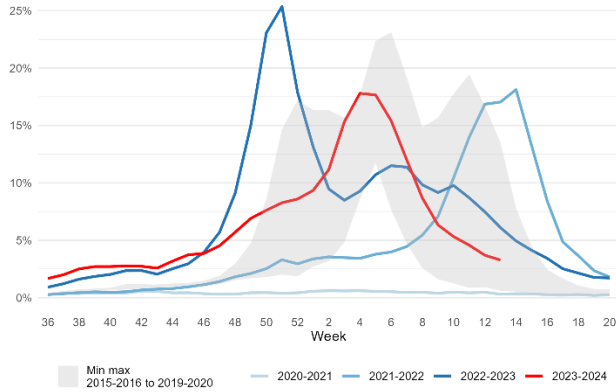
Share of pathology among	Lower ARI*		Influenza		Bronchiolitis (<2 years)		COVID-19	
	W13	W13 vs W12	W13	W13 vs W12	W13	W13 vs W12	W13	W13 vs W12
SOS Médecins consultations	10.7%	-0.1 pts	3.3%	-0.4 pts	4.0%	-0.3 pts	0.2%	0 pts
Emergency department visits (OSCOUR®)	3.2%	+0.1 pts	0.3%	-0.1 pts	6.3%	-0.6 pts	0.1%	0 pts
Admissions post-emergency department visit (OSCOUR®)	6.7%	+0.2 pts	0.2%	-0.1 pts	12.0%	-1.7 pts	0.1%	0 pts



*Methodology explained in the [appendix](#). French West Indies: W12 alert level. Source: ¹OSCOUR® network, ²SOS Médecins, ³Sentinelles network

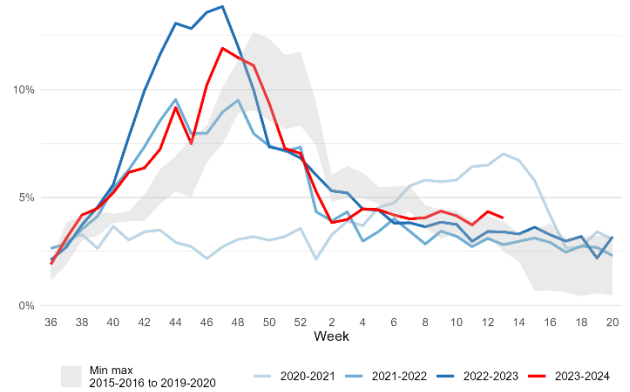
Read the [regional bulletins](#) (French only) by Santé publique France for the epidemiological situation in each region.

Share of influenza-like illness among SOS Médecins consultations



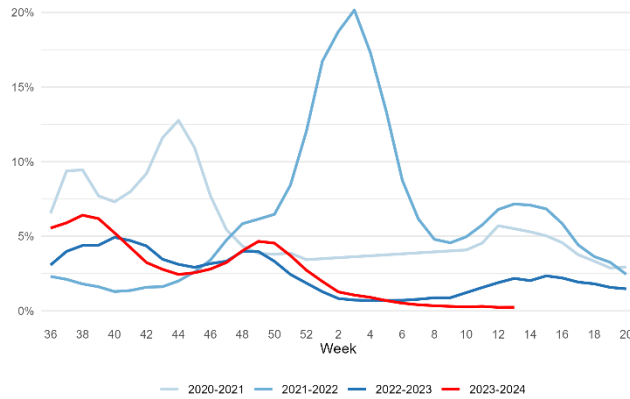
Source: SOS Médecins

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

Positivity rate of samples	Influenza viruses		RSV		SARS-CoV-2	
	W13	W13 vs W12	W13	W13 vs W12	W13	W13 vs W12
General practice (Sentinelles network, National Reference Centres)	10.6%	-2.8 pts	0.0%	0 pts	0.0%	-1.5 pts
Hospitals (RENAL network, National Reference Centres)	1.7%	-0.8 pts	0.6%	-0.1 pts	2.4%	-0.4 pts

	SARS-CoV-2	
	W13	W13 vs W12
Positivity rate of samples tested in medical laboratories	2.3%	-0.1 pts
Wastewater surveillance (SUM'Eau)*	627	-6.6%

*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 13, indicators for acute respiratory infections were stable in general practice and in hospitals. In mainland France, influenza activity continued to fall, with indicators returning to baseline levels in all regions. All 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, Mayotte entered the post-epidemic phase. 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. In general practice, the proportion of SOS Médecins activity for influenza-like illness (ILI) was at baseline level, across all ages and in every age group, as was the proportion of hospital admissions post-emergency department visit for ILI. In mainland France, all indicators had returned to baseline levels in all regions. In the French overseas departments and regions, Guadeloupe and Martinique were still in the epidemic phase, while in French Guiana the indicators had returned to baseline levels in week 13.

For bronchiolitis, the indicators remained at low levels in mainland France. Mayotte had entered the post-epidemic phase. All other regions of overseas France remained at low levels.

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

The majority of ARI clusters that have occurred in long-term care facilities (care homes) since the beginning of January have been 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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