

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

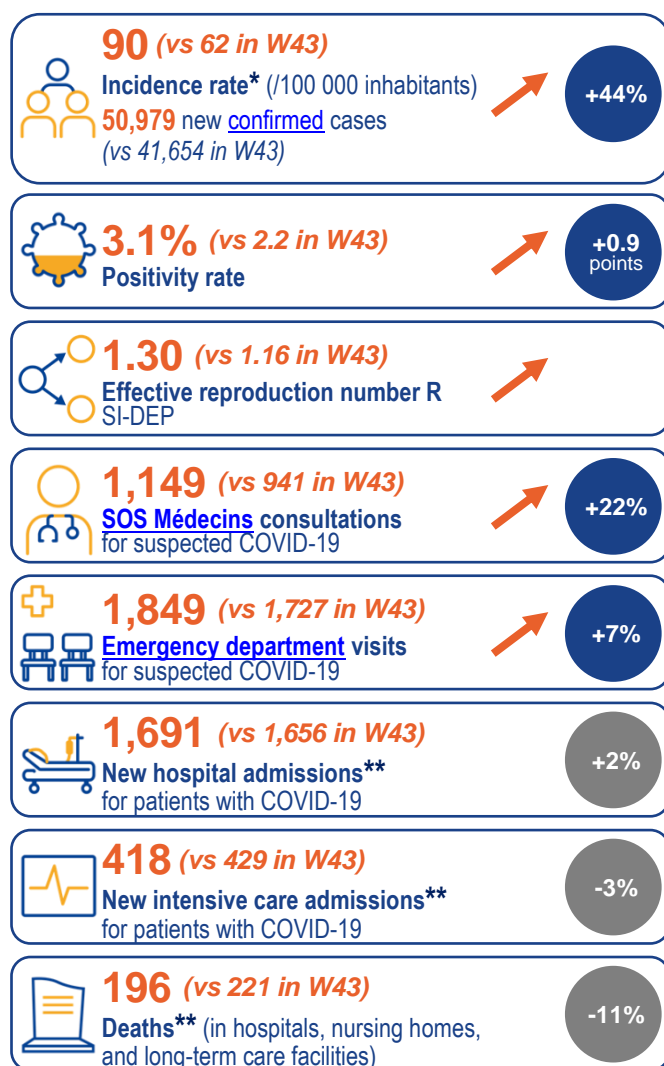
Weekly Report / Week 44 / 11 November 2021

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 reported to Santé publique France up to 10 November 2021.

## Key numbers

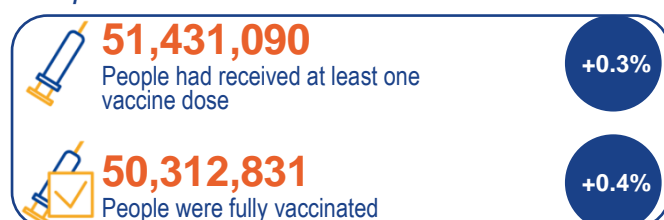
Week 44 (1-7 November 2021)

Compared to week 43 (25-31 October 2021)



On 9 November 2021

Compared to 2 November 2021



## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 44, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated in metropolitan France, with a sharp rise in the incidence rate\*.

- Metropolitan France:
  - Incidence rate\* rising in all age groups
  - Incidence rate\* increasing in all regions and exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 habitants in 21 departments
  - R number >1 and rising, leading to the accelerated growth of the epidemic
  - New hospital and intensive care admissions increasing or stable in the majority of regions
- Overseas France:
  - Reunion Island: high incidence rate\* with a sharp increase

### Variants

- Delta variant identified in 100% of sequenced samples in Flash Surveys on 12 and 19 October 2021

### Contact tracing

- Among cases, longer delay between first clinical signs and laboratory diagnosis for the last several weeks
- Lower proportion of people aged 65 years and older among cases and contacts

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 9 November 2021 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 76.6% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.0% were fully vaccinated
  - 24.2% of people aged 65 years and older had received a booster dose
- Importance of combining measures: vaccination, including the booster shot for the population over 65 years, adherence to contact tracing, and respect of preventive measures

\*Rate corrected for the public holiday effect (1 November). \*\*Data are currently being consolidated, with uninterpretable trends.

<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 44, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 accelerated in metropolitan France, with a sharp rise in both the R number and the incidence rate corrected for the public holiday effect on 1 November. Increasing in all regions, the corrected incidence rate exceeded 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 21 departments. During this second week of the school holidays, screening once again fell among younger people under 20 years but increased among those aged 50 years and older. In overseas France, a sharp rise in the corrected incidence rate was observed for the second consecutive week in Reunion Island. For the past several weeks, contact tracing data have confirmed the longer delay between first clinical signs and laboratory diagnosis. On 9 November, 76.6% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.0% were fully vaccinated. Among the population aged 65 years and older, 24.2% had received a booster dose. Given the surge in the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and seasonal viruses, especially in older people, it is crucial to encourage the vaccination of all unvaccinated people as well as the booster shot for adults aged 65 years and over and other eligible groups. It is also necessary to combine vaccination with a high level of adherence to preventive measures given their effectiveness in limiting the COVID-19 epidemic (and infections with other winter viruses) and preserving the healthcare system.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

**Nationally**, the incidence rate corrected for the public holiday effect on 1 November reached 90 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in week 44 (vs 62 in week 43, +44%). An average of 7,283 cases were diagnosed each day. The incidence rate increased in all age groups, exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants among 20-29 year-olds (104, +51%), 30-39 year-olds (131, +53%), and 40-49 year-olds (109, +52%). The corrected screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) was 2,914/100,000 inhabitants, all ages combined (+4%). During this second week of the school holidays, it once again fell among 0-9 year-olds (797, -13%) and 10-19 year-olds (3,749, -8%). While the screening rate remained stable among 20-49 year-olds, a rise was observed among those aged 50 years and older. The positivity rate continued to climb, reaching 3.1% in week 44 (+0.9 points).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 increased in SOS Médecins organisations (1,149, +22%) after a week of stability. Emergency department consultations continued to rise (1,849, +7%), especially among the elderly aged 75 years and older (+15%).

On 9 November, 1,691 new hospital admissions (+2%) and 418 new intensive care admissions (-3%) were reported (unconsolidated data). **The figures should be confirmed next week, although initial data consolidation points towards an upward trend for these two hospital indicators.** In week 43, both increased by 13% after data consolidation. On 9 November, 6,912 COVID-19 patients were hospitalised, including 1,153 in intensive care.

**In metropolitan France**, the corrected incidence rate was on the rise in all regions, reaching 131/100,000 inhabitants in Corsica (+46%), 108 in Pays de la Loire (+29%), and 106 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (+36%). Overall, the corrected incidence rate exceeded 100/100,000 inhabitants in 21 departments. The highest corrected screening rates were observed in Corsica and Provence-Alpes-Côte

d'Azur (>4,000/100,000 inhabitants). New hospitalisations were increasing or stable in the majority of regions, with the highest rates still occurring in Pays de la Loire and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

**In overseas France**, the incidence rate fell once again in French Guiana (157, -8%) and stabilised in Guadeloupe (114, -1%). A sharp increase was observed for the second consecutive week in Reunion Island, where the corrected incidence rate reached 119/100,000 inhabitants (+97%). New hospital admissions increased in this overseas territory.

### VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to 100% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #28 and #29 on 12 and 19 October, respectively.

### CONTACT TRACING

In week 44, the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) increased (+21% and +23%, respectively). Nevertheless, the average number of contacts per case remained stable. The proportion of people aged 65 years and older decreased among both cases and contacts. Among cases, the average delay between the onset of clinical signs and the date of sampling reached 2.5 days, the highest value recorded in 2021. The number of cases who mentioned participating in a private gathering increased substantially in week 44, presumably due to the school holidays. Confirmed cases also showed a higher mobility (particularly outside of their region of residence in France or abroad).

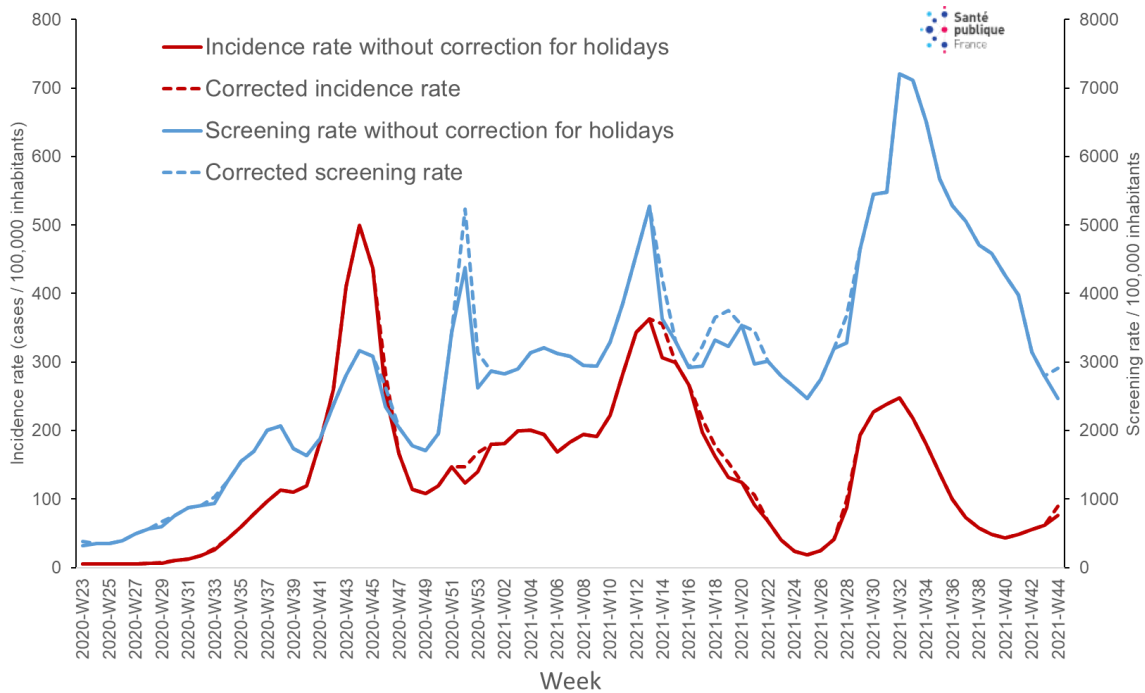
### PREVENTION

On 9 November, 76.6% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 75.0% were fully vaccinated. Overall, 24.2% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot.

## Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) corrected for the public holiday on 1 November was 90 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 44 (vs 62 in week 43, +44%), while the corrected [screening rate](#) was 2,914 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 2,801 in week 43, +4%). The [positivity rate](#) once again increased (3.1%, +0.9 points). Among the 1,490,765 tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 89% were **asymptomatic**, a **stable** proportion compared to the previous week (90%). The **positivity rate** increased among symptomatic individuals (15.3% vs 11.5% in week 43) and slightly rose among asymptomatic individuals (1.6% vs 1.2%). The proportion of symptomatic individuals among cases increased (54% vs 52%).

### Weekly evolution in the incidence and screening rates since week 23, 2020, France (corrected and uncorrected for public holidays) (data on 10 November 2021)



Source: SI-DEP, data processing by Santé publique France

### Incidence and screening rates by age group

In week 44, the corrected [incidence rate](#) rose sharply in all age groups. The highest rates were observed among 30-39 year-olds (131, +53%), 40-49 year-olds (109, +52%), and 20-29 year-olds (104, +51%). The corrected [screening rate](#) dropped among 0-9 year-olds (797, -13%) and 10-19 year-olds (3,749, -8%), while it was stable among 20-49 year-olds and on the rise among people aged 50 years and older. The highest screening rates were found among 30-39 year-olds (4,091/100,000) and 20-29 year-olds (4,039). Regarding the [positivity rate](#), it increased in all age groups, except for those aged 90 years and over where the lowest rate was observed (2.0%, 0.1 points). It was the highest among 0-9 year-olds (8.2%, +3.4 points).

### Weekly evolution of the incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants by age group since week 33, France (data on 10 November 2021)

130	111	89	69	45	32	35	27	29	38	48	53	90 yrs +
83	73	58	44	32	26	25	26	35	43	43	55	80-89 yrs
91	80	63	49	34	32	31	33	43	56	63	79	70-79 yrs
113	93	75	52	40	33	30	29	37	47	56	80	60-69 yrs
171	138	104	73	51	42	37	35	39	46	58	83	50-59 yrs
239	197	150	107	77	63	54	48	53	61	72	109	40-49 yrs
329	273	208	150	111	84	69	64	67	71	85	131	30-39 yrs
404	307	217	146	98	73	61	58	61	57	69	104	20-29 yrs
297	243	180	124	89	72	61	49	50	58	58	80	10-19 yrs
130	131	120	110	94	70	51	41	44	52	44	65	0-9 yrs
218	180	137	100	73	57	48	44	48	55	62	90	All ages
W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44*	

Santé publique France

Source: SI-DEP

\*Week 44: rate corrected for the public holiday (1 November)

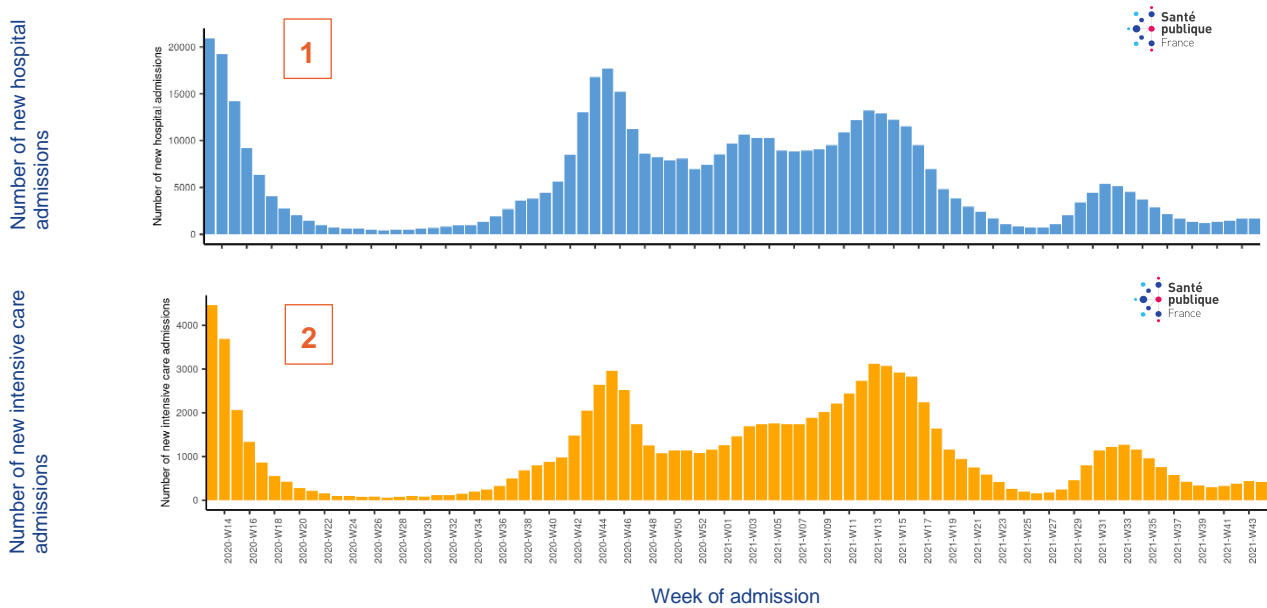


# Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

To better understand the hospital dynamics, new hospital and intensive care admissions are analysed by date of patient admission to hospital. New deaths (in hospital and long-term care facilities) are analysed by date of occurrence. **Data from week 44, up to 9 October 2021, are not yet consolidated and may thus be underestimated.**

- On 9 November 2021, **6,912** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 6,741 on 2 November, +3%), including **1,153** in intensive care (vs 1,104 on 2 November, +4%).
- At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of admission showed **1,691 new hospital admissions** in week 44 (+2% from week 42, vs +13% between weeks 42 and 43) and **418 new intensive care admissions** (-3% from week 43, vs +13% between weeks 42 and 43) (unconsolidated data from week 44).

## Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (data on 9 November 2021)



Week 44: unconsolidated data

- In week 44, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions remained stable or increased slightly in all age groups, with a greater rise among 70-79 year-olds.

## Weekly rate of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by age group, from week 37 to week 44, France

Age group	New hospital admissions (1) per 100,000 inhabitants								New intensive care admissions (2) per 100,000 inhabitants							
	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44
90 yrs +	14.5	10.0	9.1	8.5	11.8	15.8	17.6	15.0	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
80-89 yrs	9.3	7.8	7.0	6.9	7.9	8.4	10.3	10.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2
70-79 yrs	6.1	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.3	5.5	5.9	7.0	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2
60-69 yrs	5.1	3.2	2.8	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.5	3.5	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.4
50-59 yrs	3.5	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
40-49 yrs	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
30-39 yrs	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
20-29 yrs	1.7	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
10-19 yrs	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
0-9 yrs	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>

- At the national level, there were 192 deaths in hospital in week 44 (-11% from week 43; unconsolidated data from week 44). In the previous week, this number increased by 21% compared to week 42. There were also 4 deaths in long-term care facilities in week 44 (vs 5 in week 43).

## Situation at the regional level

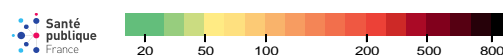
### Incidence, positivity, and screening rates

- In metropolitan France, the **corrected incidence rate** exceeded 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in all regions. It increased in all regions, as did the **positivity rate**. The **corrected screening rate** remained constant or increased slightly, except in Île-de-France where it decreased (-3%). It remained the highest in Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Île-de-France. In week 44, a total of 87 departments had a corrected incidence rate that exceeded the threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 58 in week 43), while 21 departments had a rate above 100 (vs 4 in week 43). The highest incidence rates were observed in Lozère (189, +188%), Maine-et-Loire (145, +38%), Haute-Corse (141, +37%), Ardèche (139, +91%), and Bouches-du-Rhône (136, +32%).
- In overseas France, the incidence rate declined in French Guiana (157/100,000 inhabitants, -8%), stabilised in Martinique (114, -1%), and slightly increased in Guadeloupe (57, +8%). A sharp rise was observed in Reunion Island (119, +96%) and Mayotte (50, +65%).

### Evolution of the incidence, positivity, and screening rates by region since week 39 of 2021, France (data on 10 November 2021)

Regions	Incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants						W44* vs W43 (%)	Positivity rate (%)		Screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44*		W44	W44 vs W43 (points)	W44*	W44* vs W43 (%)
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	48	39	42	49	55	85	53	3.3	1.1	2,570	1
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	34	29	33	33	44	72	64	3.0	1.1	2,398	7
Bretagne	27	29	34	44	54	76	41	3.5	0.8	2,167	7
Centre-Val de Loire	30	28	34	46	55	77	40	3.8	0.9	2,031	6
Corse	45	54	55	56	90	131	46	3.0	0.9	4,371	4
Grand Est	37	32	35	42	52	85	64	3.0	1.1	2,836	3
Hauts-de-France	30	31	34	45	54	85	57	3.6	1.1	2,348	8
Île-de-France	63	64	71	71	74	94	28	2.8	0.7	3,398	-3
Normandie	25	24	31	33	37	54	47	2.7	0.8	1,989	6
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	31	30	39	51	58	84	45	3.6	1.0	2,362	4
Occitanie	43	34	38	48	53	78	46	2.8	0.9	2,757	1
Pays de la Loire	40	38	48	73	83	108	29	4.5	0.8	2,416	5
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	85	68	72	73	78	106	36	2.6	0.6	4,055	3
Guadeloupe	78	69	51	50	52	57	8	1.4	0.0	4,110	5
Guyane	495	369	270	234	171	157	-8	6.7	-2.0	2,346	19
Martinique	135	155	129	135	115	114	-1	2.2	0.1	5,211	-5
Mayotte	34	20	20	17	30	50	65	3.7	1.2	1,357	12
La Réunion	33	28	29	33	61	119	97	3.9	1.5	3,034	23

\*Data corrected for the public holiday (November 1)

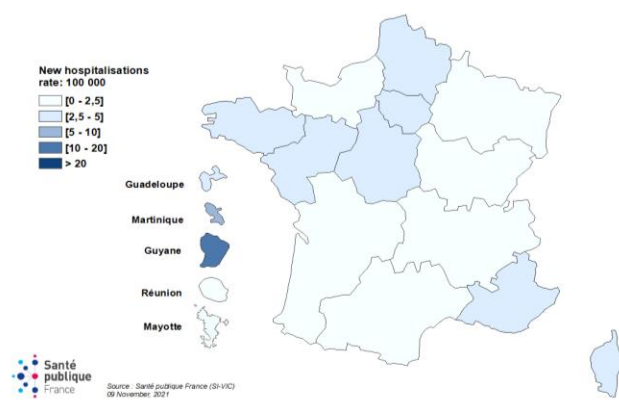


Source: SI-DEP

### Hospital and intensive care admissions by date of admission

- In **metropolitan France** in week 44, despite the unconsolidated data, the weekly rates of [new hospital](#) and intensive care admissions were **stable or increasing** in the majority of regions. The rates of new hospitalisations dropped in Burgundy-Franche-Comté, while the rates of new intensive care admissions fell in Hauts-de-France and Grand Est. These trends should nevertheless be confirmed once the data are consolidated. The highest rates of new hospitalisations were in **Pays de la Loire** and **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**.
- In **overseas France**, the weekly rates of new hospital and intensive care admissions were the **highest in French Guiana** but on the decline. Both indicators were stable in Guadeloupe and Martinique. In Reunion Island, these rates were on the rise but remained at low levels.

### Weekly rate of newly hospitalised COVID-19 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, by region, in week 44 of 2021, France



Source: SI-VIC, data processing by Santé publique France

For further information on the epidemic situation in the regions, consult the [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

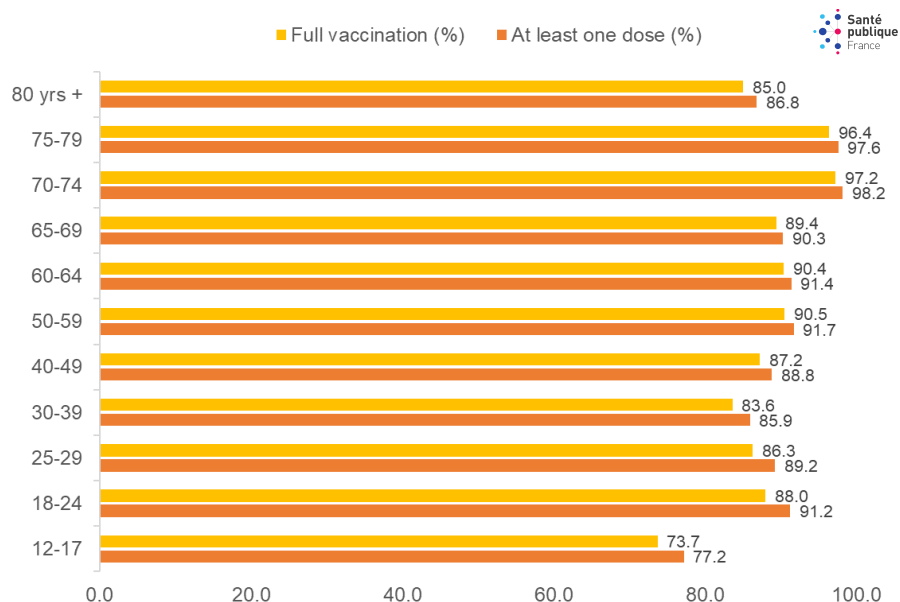
## Variants of concern

- The **L452R** mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 96.7% of screened positive samples in week 44 (vs 96.3% in week 43). [Sequencing data](#) confirmed the very clear predominance of the Delta variant, which was respectively identified in **99.9% and 100% of interpretable sequences in metropolitan France** in Flash Surveys #28 (12 October) and #29 (19 and 22 October) (unconsolidated data). In **overseas France, Delta** was also identified in **100% of interpretable sequences** in Flash Surveys #26 (28 September), #27 (5 October), and #28 (12 October, unconsolidated data).
- Delta** is also the dominant strain at the **international level**. Between 9 October and 8 November, it represented more than 98% of the 236,374 sequenced samples according to the international database GISAID. To date, no differences have been described for the Delta sub-lineages AY in terms of their public health impact. The sub-lineage AY.4.2 is still rarely detected in France ([risk assessment on 3 November 2021](#)).

## Vaccination

- On 9 September, [vaccination coverage](#) based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 76.6% for at least one dose, 75.0% for full vaccination, and 5.9% (n=3,943,434) for the booster dose. Overall, 24.2% of people aged 65 years and older had received the booster shot (+4.4 points compared to week 43). Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 51,408,993 had received one dose (89.0%), and 50,296,128 (87.0%) were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 9 November 2021 (%)



- On 9 November, 93.8% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one vaccine dose, 92.3% were fully vaccinated, and 53.2% had received a booster shot. Vaccination coverage for one dose was 92.1% for professionals working in nursing homes and long-term care facilities (full vaccination: 91.1%; booster dose: 3.3%), 96.7% for healthcare professionals in private practice (full vaccination: 96.2%; booster dose: 18.0%), and 92.2% for professionals working in healthcare establishments (full vaccination: 91.2%; booster dose: 4.0%). Vaccination coverage of people aged 15 years and over living in a vulnerable situation was estimated at 75.9% for at least one dose, 74.0% for full vaccination, and 6.4% for the booster shot.

### Check out the surveys of the week

- Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #27](#)
- Update on the [evolution of epidemic indicators among 5-11 year-olds](#)
- Special [BEH report on COVID-19 vaccination coverage and its impact on the epidemic dynamics](#)

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 [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#).

Find all the open access data on [Géodes](#).