

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

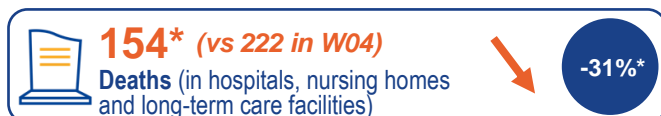
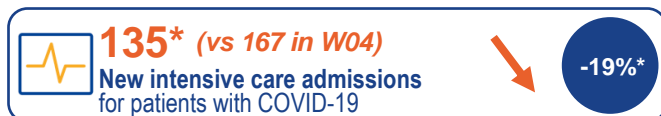
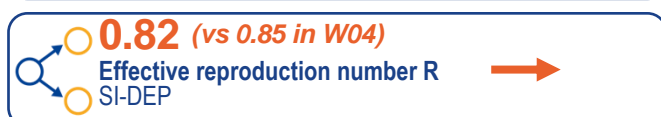
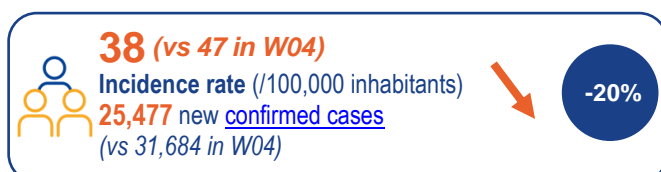
9 February 2023 / N° 153

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 7 February 2023.

Key numbers

In week 5 (30 January-5 February 2023)

Compared to week 8 (23-29 January 2023)



On 6 February 2023

Compared to 30 January 2023



*W05: unconsolidated data. Updated values for these indicators will feature in the next Epidemiological Update.

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.

Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 5, virological indicators were at a low level and continued to decline. Hospital admissions were decreasing in the majority of regions and the number of deaths continued to decline.

• Metropolitan France:

- Incidence and screening rates falling across all age groups and in all regions
- Less marked decrease in the incidence rate among people aged 70+, with a stabilisation of the positivity rate in this age group
- Hospital admission rate falling in majority of regions
- Number of deaths in decline

• Overseas France:

- Incidence and positivity rates decreasing in all regions, except in French Guiana, which showed a slight increase from a low level
- Hospital admission rate at a very low level

Variants

- BA.5 in majority but decreasing (78% of sequences in week 3 Flash Survey); its sub-lineage BQ.1.1 represented 59% (vs 72% in week 2 Flash Survey)
- Recombinant XBB increased to 9% (vs 3% in week 2 Flash Survey), with 7% of XBB.1.5 (vs 2%)
- All Omicron sub-lineages currently identified present similar characteristics

Prevention

• Vaccination on 6 February 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):

- 21.8% of 60-79 year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant (26.6% among those eligible); 24.5% of 80+ year-olds had equally received this booster dose (28.1% among those eligible);
- 27.7% of 60-79 year-olds and 19.9% of 80+ year-olds had received their latest dose of vaccine in the last 6 or 3 months, respectively.
- Given that SARS-CoV-2 and winter viruses remain in active circulation, continued compliance with preventive measures is still 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, and flu vaccination;
 - continued application of precautionary measures, particularly in case of a positive test and/or symptoms.

Week 5 (30 January to 5 February 2023)

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 5, virological indicators were at a low level and decreasing nationwide*. Hospital admissions and deaths continued to decrease. On 6 February, only 21.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 24.5% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant. Given that several respiratory viruses are still in active circulation, reinforcing vaccination coverage for COVID-19 and the flu among eligible persons remains necessary. Compliance with protective precautions and other recommended measures also remains necessary in case of symptoms or a positive test, as well as to protect vulnerable people.

The incidence and screening rates were decreasing in all age groups, particularly among the under-10s. The decrease in incidence rate was less marked in the 70+ age group. The positivity rate decreased in all age groups, except for the 70+ age group, where it remained stable. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 (patients of all ages) were stable in emergency departments and slightly up at SOS Médecins. In metropolitan France, the incidence, screening and positivity rates were decreasing in all regions. Hospital admissions were down in most regions, stable in Pays de la Loire and increasing at low levels in Brittany and Centre-Val de Loire. Deaths continued to decline, except in Brittany, where they were stable. In the French overseas territories, the incidence and positivity rates were decreasing, except in French Guiana, where they remained at very low levels. The number of hospital admissions, at a low level, increased slightly in all these regions, except in Guadeloupe where it decreased and in Mayotte where there were no new admissions.

Since the emergence of Omicron in late 2021, significant and rapid genetic diversification has been observed within this variant and its successive sub-lineages. However, all Omicron sub-lineages described so far retain very similar characteristics and therefore remain included within this variant. In metropolitan France, the trends observed last week were confirmed with the consolidation of the Flash Survey for week 3-2023 from 16 January 2023. BA.5 (all sub-lineages combined) remained in majority but decreased to 78% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 3 (vs 90% in the Flash Survey for week 2 from 9 January 2023). This decrease was driven by BQ.1.1 (including its further sub-lineages), which represented 59% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Survey for week 3-2023 (vs. 72% for the week 2 Flash Survey). In parallel, there was an increase in the sub-lineages of BA.2 (from 7% in the week 2 Flash Survey to 11% in the week 3 Flash Survey) and of the recombinant XBB (from 3% in the week 2 Flash Survey to 9% in the week 3 Flash Survey). Among the sub-lineages of the recombinant XBB, XBB.1.5 increased the most rapidly, from 2% for in the week 2 Flash Survey to 7% in the week 3 Flash survey. These circulation dynamics between Omicron sub-lineages observed in mid-January have so far not had an impact on the epidemic dynamics.

The level of booster vaccination coverage continued to rise slowly. On 6 February 2023, 21.8% of 60-79 year-olds and 24.5% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant (26.6% and 28.1% among those eligible, respectively**). At that date, 27.7% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months**, and 19.9% of 80+ year-olds within the last 3 months***. Vaccination coverage among health professionals for the primary vaccination series, the first booster dose and the booster adapted to the Omicron variant is estimated respectively at 95.6%, 86.3% and 12.8% for those working in nursing homes; 97.7%, 88.9% and 13.9% for those working in private practice; 96.6%, 88.4% and 14.3% for those working in health institutions****.

Due to possible changes in the use of screening, particularly in relation to the change in derogatory compensation for work stoppages from 1 February 2023, these indicators may be underestimated and should be interpreted with caution. **Method described in Epidemiological Update N° 145. *All COVID-19 vaccines included. ****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**

This week's survey

Updated data from [monitoring of COVID-19 cases among health professionals](#)

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](#)