

# COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

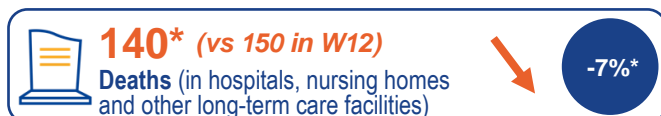
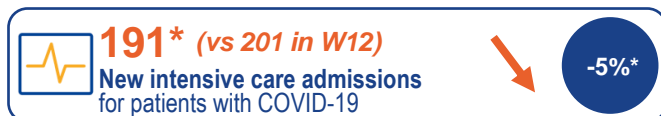
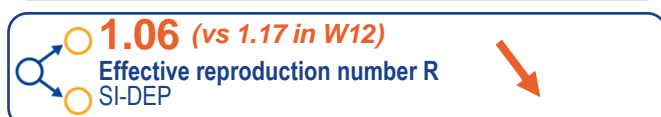
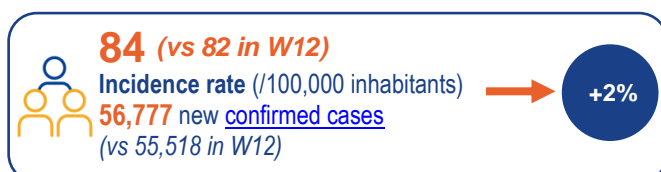
5 April 2023 / N° 161

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 submitted to Santé publique France up to 5 April 2023.

## Key numbers

In week 13 (27 March-2 April 2023)

Compared to week 12 (20-26 March 2023)



On 3 April 2023

Compared to 27 March 2023



\*W13: unconsolidated data. Updated values for these indicators will feature in the next Epidemiological Update.

<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.

## Key points

### Epidemiological situation

In week 13, the positivity rate (from SI-DEP virological data), as well as indicators for use of primary care, continued to increase although less markedly than in the previous week. Emergency department visits were stable, while new hospital admissions were down.

#### • Metropolitan France:

- Incidence and positivity rates rising or stable in most age groups and regions
- Hospital admission rate decreasing in most regions

#### • Overseas France:

- Incidence and hospital admission rates remain very low

### Variants

- The recombinant XBB.1.5 appeared to stabilise with 59% of sequences in the Flash Surveys for weeks 10 and 11
- BA.5 and its sub-lineages continued to decrease (12% in the week 11 Flash Survey vs 17% in week 10)

### Prevention

- Vaccination on 3 April 2023 (Vaccin Covid data):
  - 23.4% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.2% of 80+ year-olds had received a booster dose adapted to the Omicron variant
  - 24.5% of 60-79 year-olds had received a dose of vaccine in the last 6 months and 6.4% of 80+ year-olds in the last 3 months
- Given that SARS-CoV-2 remains in active circulation, 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.

## Week 13 (27 March to 2 April 2023)

### SITUATION UPDATE

In week 13, the positivity rate continued to increase (SI-DEP virological data) but remained at low levels, with a stabilisation in incidence rate and a moderate decline in screening rate\*. Consultations in the SOS Médecins primary care network remained on the increase and the number of emergency department visits was stable. New hospital admissions were down in most regions. Given the insufficient level of booster vaccination and the persistent circulation of SARS-CoV-2, increasing COVID-19 vaccination within target groups remains necessary. 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.

At national level, the incidence rate stabilised while the positivity rate continued to rise, but more moderately than in week 12. The incidence rate remained lowest in the under-20 age group. A decrease in incidence was again observed among those under 10 years of age, while the increase continued among 20-29 year-olds and 70+ year-olds, but to a lesser extent. This indicator was stable in the other age groups. The positivity rate remained lowest in the under-10 age group. The screening rate was falling in all age groups, except among 10-29 year-olds, where it remained stable. Consultations for suspected COVID-19 were stable in emergency departments and increasing in the primary care network SOS Médecins. In metropolitan France, incidence rates were increasing or stabilising depending on the region, and screening was decreasing or stable. New hospital admissions were down in most regions. In overseas France, the incidence rate was increasing or stable in most regions, with levels remaining low. The number of new hospital admissions remained at a very low level and was decreasing or stable in the majority regions.

The classification system for SARS-CoV-2 variants has been updated and these changes are detailed in the [risk assessment of 22 March 2023](#). In metropolitan France, the recombinant XBB.1.5, classed VOI in the new classification, is now in majority and appears to be stabilising with 59% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Surveys for weeks 10 and 11, 2023. Meanwhile, BA.5, carried mainly by its sub-lineage BQ.1, continued to decrease, from 17% in the week 10 Flash Survey to 12% in week 11. Detection of BA.2 sub-lineages (including CH.1.1) stabilised at a low level, with 5% of interpretable sequences in the Flash Surveys for weeks 10 and 11.

Vaccination coverage for booster doses adapted to the Omicron variant remained insufficient. On 3 April 2023, 23.4% of 60-79 year-olds and 26.2% of 80+ year-olds had received this booster dose. At that date, 24.5% of 60-79 year-olds had received a vaccine dose within the last 6 months\*\*, and 6.4% 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 13.7% for those working in nursing homes, 14.7% for those working in private practice and 15.1% for those working in health institutions\*\*\*.

*\*Due to possible changes in the use of tests, particularly owing to changes in the screening strategy since February 2023, these indicators 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](#)