





















Acute respiratory infection (ARI) - Additional data

Modalities of ARI monitoring by the Sentinelles Network

Every year, viruses with respiratory tropism circulate in mainland France causing acute respiratory infections (ARI). These viruses are mainly SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, rhinovirus and metapneumovirus.

In order to carry out this surveillance, Sentinel general practitioners have been reporting the number of cases of acute respiratory infection (ARI) seen in consultation (or teleconsultation), according to the following definition: **sudden onset of fever (or feeling of fever) and respiratory signs.**

Descriptive data are also collected for each patient, including the results of laboratory diagnostic tests for Covid-19 (RT-PCR or antigenic test).

Virological surveillance is also carried out between October and April by Sentinel general practitioners and pediatricians, and general practitioners from the University department of general practice of Rouen. Each week, a sample of patients consulting for an ARI is taken, in order to identify different respiratory viruses and monitor their circulation.

From this clinical and virological information, it is possible to estimate the number of **Covid-19 cases among ARI cases seen in general medical consultations.**

ARI incidence rates by regions





Weekly national incidence rates of ARI by age groups

Last week (2024w25), subject to future data consolidation, incidence rates were slightly increasing in the 65 and above age group and stable in the other age groups compared to the previous week.

Description of IRA cases seen in general practice

Last week (2024w25), 433 cases of ARI were reported by Sentinelles general practitioners. Of these, 327 (75% of reported cases) were described and had the following characteristics:

- Median age: 39 years (range from 5 months to 95 years);

- Male/female sex-ratio: 0.87 (141/162);
- Risk factors: 13% (37/288) had risk factors for complications;

- **Hospitalization**: 1% (IC 95% [0; 2,1]) of patients were hospitalized after the consultation (3/287).





ARI incidence rate due to SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) observed in general practice since 2020w37 Last week (2024w25), the incidence rate of Covid-19 cases seen in general consultations for ARI has been estimated at **59 cases per 100,000 population** (95% CI [51; 67]) corresponding to 39,494 [34,039; 44,949] new cases. This rate is **increasing** compared to the previous week.

In conclusion

Last week (2024w25), subject to future data consolidation:

- the incidence of **ARI** cases seen in general practice **continued the increase observed these past weeks**, but remains a **low level of activity** (see opposite graphs).

- the incidence of **Covid-19** cases seen in general practice for an ARI **continued the increase observed over the last month**. This increase was particularly marked in the **65 and above** age group.

Find more information about case definitions, statistical methods and the Sentinelles network on our website











Influenza - surveillance report - 2023/2024



The 2023/2024 influenza epidemic lasted 10 weeks, between the end of December (week 2023w51) and the end of February (2024w08) (according to the <u>MASS epidemic detection tool</u>). The duration of this epidemic was comparable to the average duration of previous epidemics since 2014-2015.

The **epidemic peak** was reached at the beginning of February (in week 2024w04) after five weeks of epidemic, with an estimated incidence rate of **267 cases seen in general consultations per 100,000 inhabitants** (95% CI [242; 293]).

During this epidemic, an estimated 924,666 people consulted a general practitioner for influenza in mainland France, corresponding to an **epidemic of moderate intensity**.

(*) In order to compare current activity with past influenza epidemics, the incidences presented in this graph are taken from the influenza like illness indicator. These data have been estimated secondarily from the ARI indicator since 2020.

Estimated incidence rates of influenza cases by age groups



At the epidemic peak, incidence rates were estimated at **495** cases seen in general medical consultations per 100,000 inhabitants (95% CI [414; 575]) for the under 15 age group and **225** [202; 248] cases per 100,000 inhabitants for the 15 and above age group.

Description of confirmed influenza cases

During the 2023/2024 surveillance period from late September (2023w39) to mid-April (2024w15), **911 confirmed cases of in-fluenza**, seen in consultation, were described by Sentinelles general practitioners and paediatricians.

The median age of influenza cases was 36 years (from 1 month to 89 years), the sex ratio (M/F) was 0.93 and 17% (151/873) had risk factors for complications. Among those at risk of severe illness, 70% (127/181) had not been vaccinated against seasonal influenza.

In comparison, the characteristics of influenza cases observed in past seasons since 2014-2015 in general medical consultations were: median age 24 years, sex ratio (M/F) 1.00, 14% of patients with risk factors for complications, 92% of positive individuals were not vaccinated.

Circulation of influenza viruses



The predominantly influenza viruse circulating during the 2023/2024 season was A(H1N1)pdm09~(73% of confirmed cases). Cases of influenza A(H3N2)~(24%) and a few cases of influenza B/Victoria (1.4%) were observed.



Effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccine compared to previous seasons since 2015

The effectiveness of influenza vaccine against all influenza viruses is estimated at **47% (95%CI [18; 66])** among **all people at risk**, or 38% [-9; 65] for people aged 65 and above, and 53% [8; 76] among people under 65 with risk factors for complications. These EV are **moderate and similar to past seasons**. VE among all people at risk of complications is 57% [30; 74] against the virus A(H1N1) pdm09.

Samples analysis by the respiratory viruses National Reference Laboratory (Hospices Civils de Lyon ; associated center : Institut Pasteur, Paris) and the virological laboratory of Corsica University.

Vaccine effectiveness











Covid-19 - surveillance report - 2023/2024

Estimated incidence of Covid-19 cases

During the 2023/2024 season, two waves of active SARS-CoV-2 circulation were observed. The first between August 2023 and October 2023, and a second (more significant) between November 2023 and the end of January 2024. Low-noise circulation followed between February and mid-April. Since May 2024, a third wave has been underway (see graph above and on page 2).

During the 2023/2024 enhanced surveillance period for acute respiratory infections, from late September (2023w39) to mid-April (2024w15), **784,332 people consulted a general practitioner for a Covid-19 presenting respiratory signs** in mainland France.

Circulation peaked in early December (week 2023w49), with an estimated incidence rate of **126 cases per 100,000 inhabitants** (95% CI [108; 144]).



At the **peak of circulation** in early December (week 2023w49), the incidence rates of Covid-19 cases seen in general medical consultations for acute respiratory infection were estimated:

- **0-14 years**: 40 cases per 100,000 population (95% CI [22; 58]), corresponding to 4,524 [2,511; 6,536] new cases;

- **15-64 years**: 148 cases per 100,000 population (95% CI [127; 168]), corresponding to 59,677 [51,374; 67,980] new cases;

- **65 years and above**: 140 cases per 100,000 population (95% CI [117; 162]), corresponding to 19,445 [16,373; 22,518] new cases.

Description of Covid-19 cases with respiratory signs

During the 2023/2024 surveillance period from late September (2023s39) to mid-April (2024s15), **632 confirmed cases of Covid-19** seen in general consultation were described by Sentinelles physicians.

The median age was 48 years (2 months to 99 years), the sex ratio (M/F) was 0.66 and 35% (127/602) had risk factors for complications. Among those at risk of severe disease, 21% (127/602) were not vaccinated against Covid-19.

Vaccinal efficacity

The European VEBIS study (10 participating countries), in which France is participating, aims to estimate the efficacy of influenza and Covid-19 vaccines. The effectiveness of vaccines against laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 infections administered during the 2023-2024 season was estimated at 40% [95% CI: 26-53] among patients consulting general practitioners of all ages, and at 48% [31-61] among those vaccinated less than 6 weeks before infection. In patients aged 50 or over, the vaccine effectiveness was estimated at 37% [19-51] irrespective of vaccination delay, and at 45% [26-60] if vaccination took place less than 6 weeks before infection. These estimates are preliminary and based on data collected between September 2023 and January 2024 only (see article).











RSV and other virus - surveillance report - 2023/2024

Estimated incidence of RSV cases



RSV circulated actively for **13 weeks** between October (week 2023w44) and January (2024w05).

The length of the circulation period is comparable to previous years since 2014/2015. Nevertheless, RSV circulated **early** this season, with an increase in activity from the end of October 2023 (as observed in the 2022/2023 season).

Peak circulation was reached in week 2023w50, with an estimated incidence rate of 46 cases seen in general medical consultations per 100,000 inhabitants (95% CI [36; 56]).

RSV activity observed in primary care for the 2023/2024 season was relatively high compared with previous seasons, but remained lower than in the 2022/2023 season.

(*) In order to compare current activity with past RSV epidemics, the incidences presented in this graph are taken from the influenza like illness indicator. These data have been estimated secondarily from the ARI indicator since 2020.



RSV is responsible for the majority of bronchiolitis cases, and particularly affects young people (see case descriptions below). At the peak of the epidemic, incidence rates were estimated at **143** cases seen in general consultations per 100,000 inhabitants for the under **15 age group** (95% CI [101; 185]), and **27 cases** per 100,000 inhabitants for the **15 and above** age group ([19; 35]).

Description of RSV cases

During the 2023/2024 surveillance period from late September (2023w39) to mid-April (2024w15), **277 cases of confirmed RSV infection**, seen in consultation, were described by Sentinelle general practitioners and paediatricians.

The median age of RSV cases was 4 years (from 1 month to 96 years), the sexe ratio (H/F) was 0,94 (132/141) and 20% (51/252) had risk factors for complications.

In comparison, the characteristics of RSV cases seen in past seasons in general practices were: median age 4 years, sexe ratio 0,88, 17% with risk factors.



In addition to the circulation of influenza viruses, RSV and SARS-CoV-2, during the 2023/2024 season, we observed :

- greater **rhinovirus** circulation (purple curve in the graph above) at the start (October) and end of the season (March-April)

- greater circulation of **metapneumovirus** (green curve in the graph above) at the end of the season (March-April).

These two viruses circulated mainly outside the influenza epidemic period.

You can find Santé Publique France's acute respiratory infection surveillance report for the 2023/2024 season (ambulatory and hospital data) by clicking here.

Samples analysis by the respiratory viruses National Reference Laboratory (Hospices Civils de Lyon ; associated center : Institut Pasteur, Paris) and the virological laboratory of Corsica University.





Sent^{*}nelles





Observed situation in general practice for the week 25 of the year 2024, from 06/17/2024 to 06/23/2024

| National incidence rates over the last 3 weeks (per 100,000 inhabitants) | 2024w25 (unconsolidated) Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] | 2024w24 Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] | 2024w23 Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] |
|--|---|--|--|
| Acute respiratory infection | 170 [151 ; 189] | 141 [126 ; 156] | 131 [118 ; 144] |
| Acute diarrhea | 85 [71 ; 99] | 61 [49 ; 73] | 61 [51 ; 71] |
| Chickenpox | 18 [12 ; 24] | 19 [14 ; 24] | 22 [17 ; 27] |

| Regional incidence rates for the week 2024w25 (per 100,000 inhabitants) | Acute respiratory infection Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] | Acute diarrhea Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] | Chickenpox Incidence rate estimations [95% confidence interval] |
|---|--|---|---|
| Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes | 150 [102 ; 198] | 62 [32 ; 92] | 7 [0 ; 17] |
| Bourgogne-Franche-Comté | 146 [53 ; 239] | 72 [7 ; 137] | 30 [0 ; 67] |
| Bretagne | 346 [255 ; 437] | 98 [55 ; 141] | 17 [2 ; 32] |
| Centre-Val de Loire | 215 [104 ; 326] | 52 [2 ; 102] | 6 [0 ; 15] |
| Corse | 83 [15 ; 151] | 104 [28 ; 180] | 0 [0 ; 0] |
| Grand Est | 467 [310 ; 624] | 175 [75 ; 275] | 11 [0 ; 29] |
| Hauts-de-France | 100 [56 ; 144] | 54 [22 ; 86] | 21 [0 ; 42] |
| Ile-de-France | 160 [125 ; 195] | 62 [41 ; 83] | 14 [6 ; 22] |
| Normandie | 61 [25 ; 97] | 15 [0 ; 41] | 10 [0 ; 23] |
| Nouvelle-Aquitaine | 150 [97 ; 203] | 83 [41 ; 125] | 40 [2 ; 78] |
| Occitanie | 141 [90 ; 192] | 86 [46 ; 126] | 18 [0 ; 36] |
| Pays de la Loire | 43 [17 ; 69] | 78 [36 ; 120] | 19 [1 ; 37] |
| Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur | 79 [29 ; 129] | 60 [2 ; 118] | 8 [0 ; 34] |

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French Sentinel network

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Since 1984, the "réseau Sentinelles" or Sentinelles network has been a research and health monitoring network in primary care (general medicine and paediatrics) in metropolitan France. The participation of physicians is voluntary. Currently, 588 physicians participate in the continuous surveillance activity (549 general practitioners and 39 paediatricians), allowing the production of weekly epidemiological reports.

Heads of Sentinel Network : Olivier Steichen, Thierry Blanchon Publication : Yves Dorléans Information system & biostatistics : Clément Turbelin

Monitoring manager : Marion Debin, Caroline Guerrisi

| Regional branches | Heads | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, | Marianne Sarazin | |
| Bourgogne-Franche-Comté | | |
| Centre-Val de Loire, | Thierry Prazuck | |
| Pays de la Loire | | |
| Corse | Alessandra Falchi | |
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