## Situation timeline

- **July 10, 2009:** In anticipation of the H1N1 flu epidemic, the Minister of Health Roselyne Bachelot gives instructions to constitute a **state stock of 1.7 billion masks** protection: one billion surgical masks and 700 million FFP2 protective masks.

- **2011:** The state stock still has a billion masks. It was decided in 2011 and 2013 that this state stock **is no longer essential** and gradually reduce it.

- **2018:** The Director General of Health, Jérôme Salomon, receives a note informing him that the **state stock of masks is largely expired and insufficient.** There will be 150 million masks left in 2020, i.e. three weeks of exclusive hospital consumption.

- **May 2019:** Santé Publique France publishes an opinion from expert doctors recommending **creation of a state stock of one billion masks.**

- **October 2019:** In May 2020, various French athletes (particularly pentathletes Élodie Clouvel and Valentin Belaud) declared having suffered symptoms of Covid-19 following the VII Military World Summer Games which took place in the city of Wuhan in China from October 18, 2019 to October 27, 2019. Some journalists have speculated that these global games could be one of the sources of global diffusion of SARS-COV-2 responsible for the COVID19 pandemic. However, the French army on which the sports delegation depends, does not confirm the information and asks the athletes to no longer communicate on this subject.

- **January 22, 2020:** Telephone conversation between Emmanuel Macron and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who announced the quarantine of Wuhan the next day.

- **January 24, 2020:** Three confirmed cases in France (first in Europe) by Agnès Buzyn, the first officials even if we will find other potential ones in retrospect. They are a Frenchman of Chinese origin and two Chinese tourists who stayed in Wuhan, the source of the virus in central China. These three people are also the first cases announced in Europe. Two of them are hospitalized in Paris, the third in Bordeaux.

- **January 31, 2020:**
  - Emmanuel Macron’s health advisor, Marie Fontanel, is leaving her post at the Élysée to settle in Strasbourg, where her husband is a presidential majority candidate in the municipal election. It will only be replaced on the 1st March 2020.
  - France’s SARS-CoV-2 testing capacity: **a few hundred per day**

- **February 8, 2020:** Five Britons are diagnosed with contamination in Contamines-Montjoie in Haute-Savoie. One of them returned from Singapore where he stayed from January 20 to 23.

- **February 12, 2020:** Of the 28.4 million masks ordered on February 7, the SPF agency only received 500,000. It has ordered another 250,000.
**February 14, 2020:** The first recorded death is one of two Chinese tourists who arrived in France on January 23, 2020 and were hospitalized the next day. Aged 80, he died in the intensive care unit of Bichat hospital in Paris. The High Council of Public Health (HCSP) initially authorizes the presentation of the body to the family then reverses its decision. Three deaths were recorded outside mainland China in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan.

**February 17, 2020:** Start of the evangelical gathering of the Christian Open Door Church in Mulhouse. It brings together 2,000 to 2,500 people until February 21, 2020. At least a thousand people are infected. This event will play a major role in the spread of the virus in France after the return of the faithful to their homes and will cause a major epidemic outbreak in the Haut-Rhin department, then in the Grand Est region.

**February 22, 2020:** Opening of the Agricultural Show in Paris which will host until 1er March 483,000 visitors and 1050 exhibitors. Only the last day will be canceled.

**February 25, 2020:**
- On the night of the 25th to the 26th, a teacher from the Jean-de-la-Fontaine college in Crépy-en-Valois and municipal councilor of Vaumoise, aged 60 and on sick leave for 12 days, died of a pulmonary embolism in the intensive care unit of the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital. It's about first French death since the start of the epidemic.
- **Five new people with the disease** are diagnosed on February 25 and 26.

**February 26, 2020:**
- OL – Juventus match from Turin to Lyon with 3,000 Turin supporters.
- More than 1000 tests carried out according to Jérôme Salomon.

**February 27, 2020:** Olivier Vérán announces that 20 new positive cases are diagnosed, including a 55-year-old man in serious condition, working at Creil air base 110, hospitalized in Amiens. Creil air base is home to the military Airbus that repatriated the French from China.

**February 28, 2020:**
- **57 cases across France**
  - Several outbreaks (outbreaks) are developing around Creil in Oise, Contamines-Montjoie in Savoie, Alsace, Morbihan and the National Assembly.
  - A first case is detected in Nice and two additional cases in La Balme-de-Sillingy, all linked to the viral outbreak in Lombardy.
  - Oise now has six new cases (including three soldiers from Creil), which brings the number of people hospitalized in this department to 18, while 200 members of hospital staff are confined to their homes.
  - Tenon Hospital (Paris) announces that three hospital care staff are positive, after the arrival on February 21 of an elderly patient from Oise. These three people are hospitalized at Pitié-Salpêtrière.
  - Three cases were detected at the Angers university hospital center in a 58-year-old woman from Mayenne, as well as in her daughter and son-in-law residing in the
March 8

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8 March

The President of the Italian Council Giuseppe Conte decides to quarantine the most affected Italian regions

March 11, 2020:

- A new source of contamination is revealed in the surroundings of Montpellier
- Maintenance of the OL-Juventus football matches in Turin and the round of 16 second leg of the PSG-Dortmund Champions League. During the latter, 4,000 supporters gathered outside the Parc des Princes where the match was played behind closed doors.

February 29, 2020: 100 people have the virus. The main source of contamination is in Oise with 36 cases

March 1, 2020: The first cases are diagnosed overseas, in the Lesser Antilles, in Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin

March 2, 2020: The total number of confirmed cases rise to 191

- Among them, a third is linked to the epidemic outbreak in Oise. Three-quarters of French cases have an identified origin. At least 20% of them come from risk areas abroad
- Twelve regions are affected and five of them have more than ten cases

March 3, 2020: More than 200 cases identified in France

March 5, 2020: The rate of deaths begins to accelerate with three deaths, bringing to seven the number of people who died

- All French metropolitan regions and Guyana are affected. The main clusters of clustered cases are Oise (99 cases), the commune of La Balme, in Haute-Savoie (30), and Morbihan (20).
- A first deputy, Jean-Luc Reitzer, tested positive on March 5 and hospitalized in Mulhouse. Franck Riester, Minister of Culture, tested positive for coronavirus on March 8. That same day, after Oise, Val d’Oise, Haut-Rhin, Bas-Rhin, Mulhouse and Morbihan, Ajaccio is one of the epidemic centers where reinforced measures are being taken, the city bringing together 23 cases

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Maine-et-Loire. They were identified as a “contact case” of a patient hospitalized in Brittany

- A first case tests positive at Mont-de-Marsan hospital
- A case is reported to Bois-Guillaume. This is a doctor from Rouen university hospital center who contracted the virus in Germany, in contact with a person returning from Italy
Economic concerns are causing a global stock market crash the second week of March. The Paris Stock Exchange collapses and experiences its worst sessions, surpassing the subprime crisis of 2008.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers the coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic.

March 13, 2020:

From March 13 to 16, the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle is authorized to make a stopover in Brest. The crew is allowed to go out into town as they please. As a result, almost two thirds of the crew (1046 sailors out of 1760) will ultimately test positive a few weeks later.

120 students from the Tulle Gendarmerie School (Corrèze) on training in Spain, as well as their 20 companions, were repatriated. They had been confined since March 10 following the positive test passed on two of their Spanish colleagues.

March 14, 2020:

An inmate from the Fresnes penitentiary center is declared positive, he is hospitalized at Kremlin-Bicêtre.

The toll is 4,500 cases and 91 deaths.

March 15, 2020:

Ariège and Indre are the last two departments to record their first cases.

First death in Martinique. This is an 86-year-old person who “had been in contact with a member of his family who had taken a sea cruise a few days previously.”

The president of the LR party, Christian Jacob, tested positive and confined at home.

End of the stopover of the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle from March 13 to 15 at the Brest arsenal: Around forty sailors present ENT or respiratory symptoms compatible with Covid-19.

March 16, 2020: 6,633 confirmed cases in France as well as 148 deaths.

March 17, 2020:

7,730 confirmed cases including 699 serious as well as 175 deaths; 602 people have recovered and left the hospital.

The day before Monday and Tuesday the 17th in the morning: Many French people leave their place of residence for their place of confinement. More than a million people are leaving Île-de-France, with traffic jams and saturated stations, without any measures being taken.

March 18, 2020:

9,134 confirmed cases including 931 serious as well as 244 deaths; 1,000 people have recovered and left the hospital.

New Caledonia records its first two cases in a couple on their honeymoon from Sydney.
- **March 19, 2020:**
  - 10,995 confirmed cases including 1,122 serious as well as 372 deaths; nearly 1,300 people have recovered and left the hospital
  - The C19 Collective, which brings together more than 600 doctors, files a complaint with the Court of Justice of the Republic (CJR) against Agnès Buzyn and Édouard Philippe, whom it accuses of “culpable negligence” and “State lying”

- **March 20, 2020:**
  - 12,612 confirmed cases including 1,297 serious as well as 450 deaths; nearly 1,587 people have recovered and left the hospital
  - The first five deaths are confirmed in the Pyrénées-Orientales. Apart from a young woman aged 24, the four others are aged 67 to 85

- **March 21, 2020:**
  - 14,459 confirmed cases including 1,525 serious as well as 562 deaths
  - First caregiver reported dead from illness
  - LVMH declares that it can supply 10 million masks (7 million surgical, 3 million FFP2) per week for 1 month thanks to its commercial networks in China

- **March 22, 2020:** 16,018 confirmed cases including 1,746 serious as well as 674 deaths; nearly 2,200 people have recovered and left the hospital

- **March 23, 2020:**
  - 19,856 confirmed cases including 2,082 serious as well as 860 deaths
  - All cases of Covid-19 in Reunion concern people who have recently arrived from mainland France

- **March 24, 2020:** The threshold of 1,000 deaths has been reached

- **March 25, 2020:** 31 detainees from Bouches-du-Rhône, Gard and Var file a complaint with the Court of Justice of the Republic (CJR) against Édouard Philippe and the Minister of Justice Nicole Belloubet for “failure to assist a person in danger”

- **March 30, 2020:**
  - The bar of 3,000 hospital deaths (3,024) has been crossed in France, i.e. 418 more in 24 hours. The number of people hospitalized for this disease is close to 21,000 (+1,592 since Sunday 29) (+424 in intensive care) where 5,056 patients are admitted to date
  - For the Île-de-France region, the most affected, 954 deaths were recorded in hospitals (+147 in 24 hours); 597 new patients were hospitalized bringing their total number to 7,689
  - The Grand Est region records 3,950 hospitalizations, including 844 in intensive care and 917 deaths in hospital
- **April 2, 2020:** There are 4,503 deaths in hospitals. First figure concerning deaths in EHPADs communicated, reporting 884 elderly people died in EHPAD, figure still partial because listing 7,400 establishments out of 10,600

- **April 6:** 2,417 deaths were recorded in EPHADs. The Minister of Health announces “a vast screening operation” in EHPADs

- **April 7:**
  - The threshold of 10,000 deaths in France is crossed. 7,091 deaths were recorded in hospitals (607 more in 24 hours) and 3,237 in nursing homes
  - The number of patients in intensive care is decreasing in certain regions: SOUTH region, Brittany, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

- **April 15:**
  - 15,729 deaths, including 5,470 in EPHAD nursing homes. 762 additional deaths in the last 24 hours.
  - More than a third of sailors from the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle tested positive for Covid-19 after their early return to the Toulon base on April 11, 2020

- **April 20:**
  - 20,265 deaths in France
  - The Pasteur Institute publishes an epidemiological study on the pandemic in France. She believes that by May 11 only 5.7 percent of the French population will have been immunized, with significant regional variations. According to the study, one in 200 infected people dies, with a variation between 0.001 percent for those under 20 and 8.3 percent for those 80 and over.

- **April 27:** The mortality rate of patients with Covid-19 in intensive care would be 30% to 40%, according to data from the European artificial ventilation network.

- **May 5:** 25,201 deaths (306 deaths recorded in the last 24 hours)

- **October 23:** 1,000,000 cases are affected in the territory

- **November, 1st:** The occupancy rate of French prisons reached 103% with a jump of 1,000 new prisoners in one month, leaving 597 prisoners sleeping on a mattress on the ground, some prisoners had been released in prisons which were 200% full due to the health emergency. This new increase raises fears of a further increase in contamination in the prison environment

- **November 3:** Closure of the emergency service at the Hôtel-Dieu hospital, on the Île de la Cité, in the heart of Paris, as part of the establishment of a replacement with a gourmet restaurant and rooms students

- **December 7:** Current projections suggest that the objective of 5,000 new daily positive cases by December 15 will not be reached, calling into question the deconfinement plan planned for the end of November

- **December 16:** Emmanuel Macron positive for Covid-19
- **January 12**: A student from Lyon tries to escape from the window; this desperate gesture raises awareness of the discomfort of young people since the health crisis and the implementation of social restrictions linked to Covid-19

- **February 9**: The total of 80,000 deaths in France has been reached

- **February 24**: For the first time since November 2020, the threshold of 30,000 new cases in 24 hours is crossed

- **February 25**: An assessment of the vaccination campaign for individuals against Covid-19 has been made.

  - The Minister of Health Olivier Véran declared: “If you are, as I remind you, 75 years old or over, if you are in an establishment for the elderly or in EPHAD, normally you have been vaccinated since we have opened 80%, (. . .) the remaining 20% are generally people who are contraindicated for vaccination or who have repeatedly refused. (. . .) Vaccination of over 75s continues, it will continue in March and we hope to have completed the vaccination of all willing elderly people by the end of March, thus allowing us to open the vaccination for those aged 65 and over »

  - The vaccines administered for people aged 75 and over are Pfizer and Moderna because the AstraZeneca vaccine is prohibited for them. People of any age at risk of the virus, linked to serious illness, can be vaccinated and administered a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Those under 65 are also affected by the vaccine. The Minister of Health stressed that 35,000 French people have been vaccinated thanks to the opening of vaccination for 50-64 year olds

- **March 16**: A document from the general directorate of health announces the discovery of a Breton variant, which appears to be undetectable during PCR tests

- **April 2**: An investigative report broadcast on M6 triggers the affair of the clandestine dinners. It shows famous people attending luxurious dinners in a restaurant in the beautiful districts of Paris, while all restaurants are supposed to be closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also see that neither the customers nor the servers wear masks. The owner of the Palais Vivienne, Pierre-Jean Chalençon, also claims to have dined with a number of ministers in these clandestine restaurants

- **April 4**: Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announces that he has opened an investigation into the clandestine dinners. Pierre-Jean Chalençon appears as the organizer of these evenings. He risks a year in prison and a €15,000 fine for endangering the lives of others. Secretary of State Marlène Schiappa declares that if ministers took part in these dinners, they must be sanctioned and resign from the government

- **April 6**: Interviewed on BFM TV, Pierre-Jean Chalençon retracts and declares that the dinner filmed by the M6 teams on April 1 was just a huge April Fool’s joke

- **April 15**: France has officially crossed the threshold of 100,000 deaths

- **April 16**: Discovery in India of a double mutant variant: the delta variant

- **April 22**: In a televised address, Prime Minister Jean Castex declares that the peak of the third wave has passed. He announces the end of confinement for May 3 and the reopening of shops, restaurants, places of leisure and culture by mid-May. The controls at
borders will also be reinforced for arrivals from the countries most affected by the epidemic: South Africa, India, Brazil, Chile and Argentina

- **April 24:** 128 foreigners are stuck in the Roissy waiting area, whereas usually there are around fifty. After the departure of the Red Cross, Anafé preferred to flee the area, unprotected, poorly ventilated and bringing together too many people in too cramped a space. In addition, there are a good number of Indians there at the time of the spread of the delta variant.

- **April 29:** the country's reopening plan is revealed: end of confinement and return to class on May 3; curfew extended from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and reopening of shops, terraces and cultural places on May 19; curfew pushed back to 11 p.m. and reopening of the interior of restaurants and cafes on June 9; finally, end of the curfew on June 30 with the possibility of participating in gatherings of more than 1,000 people upon presentation of a health pass, attesting to vaccination or a negative covid-19 test.

- **May 3:** high school students are massively blocking the entrance to faculties and high schools to protest against the continuation of end-of-year exams, despite the health crisis and the poor quality of distance learning. The National Union of High School Students calls for a continued blockade and declares: “The conditions are not met to take the tests in good conditions.”

- **May 25:** in less than a week, more than fifty Bordeaux residents are contaminated by an unknown variant. The government is trying to accelerate vaccination in Bordeaux and isolate the cluster.

- **21st of June:** on the occasion of the Fête de la Musique, gatherings take place throughout France. Revelers crowd into packed streets, often without masks. The police must intervene to disperse the crowd; and clashes take place between revelers and police.

- **July 14th:** demonstrations brought together nearly 20,000 people to oppose the implementation of the health pass. The demonstrators march shouting: “Freedom! We are not guinea pigs!», denounce a “health dictatorship” and recall the president’s declaration on April 29: “The health pass cannot be compulsory for access to places of everyday life such as restaurants, theaters and cinemas.”