

COVID-19 pandemic

The expertise of a leading school of public health

Since the start of the health crisis, the EHESP has been mobilising its expert teams in order to:

- Anticipate the effects of the pandemic and support in decision-making
- Better understand the impacts and analyse the measures taken for populations
- Explain, and provide clear answers to professionals and to the public

Teams highly involved and responsive

- Projects launched from March 2020
- Answers to requests on an as and when needed basis for decision-makers and stakeholders

Shared perspectives and expertise

- Cross-disciplinary projects
- Many projects, one area (e.g. *vaccination*)
- European and international scales

30 research projects
completed or ongoing

35 researchers involved in
research and/or expert activities

- All accredited units involved
- In all disciplines: sociology, epidemiology, psychology, management and economy, environment, history, law and ethics.

Research at the crossroads of disciplines



Impacts of COVID-19 / Perceptions, behaviour and prevention

- **COCONEL - COronavirus and CONfinement: Longitudinal survey** (Consortium of researchers: EHESP, UMR Vitrome, Cochin-Pasteur clinical investigation centre, Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional health observatory, Ifop)
[+ Read the publication](#)
- **COVID-19 and confinement: behaviour, attitudes and impact on the lives of the French population** (EHESP, Arcane Research, ShoWhere) [+ Read the publication](#)
- **DECHE: Rights of marginalized population during health crisis: Hospitality and commitment** (multidisciplinary team: EHESP, UMR Arènes)
- **COMET: collecting and assessing the effects of the pandemic on the mental health of citizens internationally** (co-managed for France, INSERM-EHESP, managed by Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam (Netherlands))
- **COVER: study of the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on the mental health of students in Rennes** (EHESP in partnership with the member institutions of Unir) [+ Read the article at ehesp.fr](#)
- **SAPRIS: health, perception, practices, relations and social inequalities in the general population during the crisis** (multidisciplinary consortium of researchers: EHESP, Inserm CNRS IPLES-UMR 1136) [+ Read the publication](#)
- **The French Red Cross at home:** programme by the French Red Cross Foundation to collect information on a helpline, provide psychological assistance, donate food or medicines to persons affected by the crisis (EHESP, University of Picardy, CNRS)
- **CoviPrev:** population survey on monitoring of the change in behaviour (protective measures, lockdown, alcohol and tobacco use, diet and exercise) and mental health (well-being, disorders) (EHESP, pilot: Santé Publique France)
- **PrefMeCo:** preferences among the population as to measures to control the epidemic (EHESP, Institut Pasteur, Université de Paris) [+ Read the publication](#)
- **EnClass:** survey on the health and well-being of teenagers in France, including a part on the conditions of the 1st lockdown and a future comparison between before and after the pandemic (EHESP, OFDT) [+ Read the article at ehesp.fr](#)
- **Air pollution and COVID-19:** geographical Pattern of COVID-19-Related Outcomes over the Pandemic Period in France: A Nationwide Socio-Environmental Study [+ Read the publication](#)

Focus on PERISCOPE: Pan-European response to the impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemics and epidemics

This research programme, funded by the European Commission and started in November 2020, aims to study the socio-economic and behavioural impacts of the pandemic, and prepare Europe for future risks on a large scale.

This multidisciplinary study is being carried out by 30 research teams, mobilising more than 120 researchers across Europe. It is coordinated by the University of Pavia (Italy). The EHESP's researchers are more specifically studying the impact and the role of human behaviour on the spread of epidemics. [+ Read the article at ehesp.fr](#)



Monitoring and modelling

- **Modelling:** development of a **COVID-19 transmission model per French department**, to monitor and anticipate the dynamics of the epidemic along with impacts on hospitalisations and intensive care (EHESP)
- **Modelling:** continuous production of **predictions of COVID-19 hospital flows to input planning tools for the Ile-de-France regional health agency** (EHESP)
- **CovidNet:** community network for data collection (managed by Inserm) [+ Read the publication](#)
- **COVID-19 and aerosol transmission:** update on current state of knowledge (EHESP (Irset) and EDF medical research department) [+ Read the publication](#)



Research on health services and management (RSMS)

- **Mc-COVID 19 Project:** project in 15 European countries for the European Union. France: impact of COVID-19 on reception arrangements for persons with a loss of autonomy in institutions (EHESP)
[+ Read the publication](#)
 - **InnovDAC-COVID:** nationwide survey on territorial dynamics related to COVID-19 in coordination support programmes (CLIC, MAIA, health networks, etc.). Objective: understand the impact of the crisis on setting up these new programmes and how they improved treatment (EHESP)
 - **Impact of COVID-19 on support of people with disabilities** (report submitted to the CNSA in July)
[+ Read the publication](#)
 - **Kit-COVID** (Kidney Transplantation & COVID-19): access to the kidney transplant waiting list and COVID-19 (EHESP, coordinated by INSERM U1246 - Nantes University)
 - **COVID-19 spot surveys:** surveys conducted as part of the Accord network on general practitioners, midwives and outpatient structures (pluriprofessional health centres and other health centres) at the beginning and end of lockdown (EHESP, RESPIRE project)
[+ Read the publication](#)
 - **C-MOR:** international research consortium and platform for monitoring overall mortality per cause resulting from the pandemic (EHESP, University of Nicosia medical school pilot, Cyprus)
- Clinical research project:
- **SEP&COVID:** severity of COVID-19 infection with immunosuppressants and biotherapies in France – Analysis of national data from the national health data system (EHESP, coordinated by the Pierre Wertheimer neurological hospital (Lyon))

Focus on TRANSCOV: multidisciplinary study on transfers of COVID-19 patients between intensive care departments

Faced with the unprecedented strain on hospitals, a previously unseen transfer of patients to six regions of France and four European countries took place in spring 2020. In response to a request from the French General Direction of Health, the TRANSCOV project, conducted by the EHESP's researchers and their partners, aims to assess the impact of these transfers between regions through 4 separate areas: organisation, epidemiology, economy and psychology (in partnership with the French General Directorate for Health, the army health service, the Grand-Est regional health agency, the CNUH, the national network for medical and psychiatric emergencies, the SFMU, the SRLF, the SFAR, the SPILF, SAMU-Urgences de France and the COREB)



Vaccination

- **COVID-19, which vaccination(s):** Survey on the acceptance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations by French health care workers (EHESP, Institut Pasteur, HAS and GERES)
[+ Read the publication](#)
(Epidemiological Report Santé publique France 27/01/21)
- **CAPP-VaCov:** Knowledge of, attitudes towards, practices and preferences concerning the COVID-19 vaccination of health care workers in France (EHESP, Institut Pasteur and GERES)
[+ Read the publication](#)
(p48 Epidemiological Update Santé publique France 18/02/21)
- **Longitudinal monitoring of health care workers vaccination:** providing elements on vaccine promotion and avoiding mandatory vaccination: 1-year follow-up of health care workers to determine the change in their opinions on vaccines (vaccine safety, flu, progression of the epidemic) (EHESP, Institut Pasteur and GERES)
- **On behalf of the Haute Autorité de Santé-French national authority for health: mathematical and epidemiological modellings** of the various individual vaccination strategies and at population level (in partnership with INSERM and Institut Pasteur)

Expertise at the centre of several networks

Expertises requested and mobilised since the start of the crisis to support decision-making and share knowledge on the epidemic and on strategies to fight coronavirus transmission. *Here is a selection of actions among the most significant.*

European and international scales

Contribution to the ASPHER's (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) COVID-19 Task Force

In Spring 2020, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) set up a COVID-19 Task Force which counts around twenty members, mainly based in European countries, but also outside the WHO Europe zone.

Since its creation, the EHESP participates in the work of this international task force through the involvement of its dean, Laurent Chambaud, active member and sole French representative of the force, but also its experts, researchers and students who regularly contribute to reports and statements on different topics among which:

- **Vaccination:** participation in the whole work conducted by the “vaccines” working group. Writing of two statements of the ASPHER on the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. [+ Read the publication](#)
- **Organisation and role of scientific councils in Europe:** a study coordinated by EHESP analysing the role, the composition and the influence of the committees set up in several countries in Europe to support decision-making.
- **Children:** management of the group “Children and COVID-19” (masks and the impact of wearing them on children; co-management of the survey “on Mask Use by Children in School Environment in Europe”); recommendations on COVID-19 and schools [+ Read the publication](#)
- **Definition of epidemiological concepts to help understand the epidemic** and translation of publications into French, for example “*How to count cases? Main epidemiological concepts for understanding the COVID-19 epidemic* “. [+ Read the publication](#)



[+ Read the article \(11/2020\) at ehesp.fr](#)



How to help the non-expert public understand the epidemic, compilation and publication of a **glossary “50 notions for understanding the COVID-19 pandemic”** in the Presses de l’EHESP (January 2021).

[Find out more at www.presses.ehesp.fr](http://www.presses.ehesp.fr)

National scale

For the French Ministry for Solidarity and Health:

On the request of the French General Direction of Health, the EHESP devised various on-line theoretical training modules, through the development of an e-learning platform for those working in the field, with the support of scientific, academic and institutional partners:

- **Fight against COVID-19 mediators**

Under the responsibility of health care professionals, these mediators participate in actions to prevent and reduce the consequences of the epidemic, especially in terms of screening and contact-tracing



15,400
certificates issued
(data on 01/06/21)

- **Vaccinators called as backup for teams working in vaccination centres**

The special training module “COVID-19 vaccination”, provides a set of teaching resources in addition to practical teaching



4,000
certificates issued
(data on 01/06/21)

[+ Read the article at ehesp.fr](#)

Within the National Consultative Ethics Committee (Comité consultatif national d'éthique - CCNE):

Interim chairmanship and contributions to the responses and opinions of the CCNE since the start of the crisis: ethical challenges in the face of the pandemic (access to healthcare, responsibility, solidarity and trust in the reinforcement of protective measures in nursing homes (établissements d'hébergement pour personnes âgées dépendantes - EHPAD) and long-term care facilities (unités de soins de longue durée - USLD))



In partnership with national agencies and bodies:

- Participation in the working group “**Long COVID coordinated action**” by the **ANRS | Emerging infectious diseases**: medium- and long-term clinical and social consequences of moderate and severe forms of SARS-CoV2 infection, social impact social of the clinical consequences of the disease and its representation
- Collaboration with **Santé Publique France** on epidemiological modelling projects and on the “Investigation of complex cases” module, for the Fight against Covid-19 (LAC) mediators training
- Participation in the emergency collective expert group (groupe d'expertise collective en urgence - GECU) “Air and COVID-19” by the **ANSES**: the group's mission is to compile knowledge on the viability of the Sars-Cov-2 virus in the air, especially in enclosed spaces, and its infectious ability.

About vaccination, involvement in national bodies:

- **Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS)-French national authority for health:**
 - **Vaccination technical committee:** drafting on recommendations as to priority groups; rapporteur for the Moderna vaccine dossier for establishing recommendations for the HAS; report on vaccine promotion among health care workers
 - **COVID-19 vaccines, WP3 interministerial task force:** vaccine policy, area 1: vaccination strategy
- **Haut Conseil de la santé publique (HCSP):** vaccination working group

Local scale

On the Unir project (Rennes University):

• COVID-19 prevention ambassadors programme

This prevention programme, devised as part of the Université de Rennes (UniR) project, is being rolled out in the 7 higher education and research establishments, members of the project, with the support of the Brittany regional health agency. Its objective: peer discussions on and exchange of information about the virus, its methods of transmission, protective measures and useful resources... in the aim of further involving the public in the fight against the contamination epidemic, by mobilising the student community and staff. The EHESP has designed the e-learning training module for this programme.

[+ Read the article at www.univ-rennes.fr](#)

In order to promote the values and culture of public health, the school provides this original module, created in partnership with the regional body for health education and promotion (Instance Régionale d'Éducation et de Promotion de la Santé - IREPS) in Brittany to all organisations wishing to train ambassadors.



More than **140** structures have taken the training:

regional authorities, associations, secondary schools, higher education establishments...

• Creation of a scientific and health advisory board

The members (*prevention advisers, experts and directors of student health and preventive medicine departments*) provide support in decision-making to structure and harmonise recommendations and practices within establishments in Rennes, based on clear scientific, medical and health information, ensuring the specificities of each structure are taken into consideration. This innovative organisation, which comes in addition to national bodies, meets regularly (once a month) at Unir project and met twice in Rennes to discuss and provide guidance on local decisions.

- As part of the rolling out of screening centres for students in Rennes, a research project was launched to measure the dynamics of the epidemic, to study the perception of the disease and to assess the impact of awareness-raising and prevention actions.

Within the DIREES (dispositif inter-régional de recherche, d'évaluation et d'expertise en santé), inter-regional health research, assessment and expert appraisal body:

Discussions among experts from the EHESP and the Bretagne and Pays de la Loire regional health agencies to share knowledge on prevention strategies, lifting of lockdown, vaccination, and more.

[+ Read the press release at ehesp.fr](#)

Other decision and organisation support actions:

Methodological support for restarting activities in controlled sanitary conditions at events



Committed to sharing knowledge and contributing to debates

Numerous interviews on a regular basis with our experts in the media and at conferences on a range of topics: epidemiology, disability, European policies, climate change, inequalities, ethics, EHPAD and vulnerable persons, health democracy, vaccination, vaccine passports, emerging infectious diseases, history of epidemics...

THE CONVERSATION

15 articles published by our experts to share their knowledge and points of view

[Read the articles and listen to the podcasts on our page](#)

A school committed to educating operational stakeholders in health watch and safety

Training of medical rescue leaders (DSM):

Medical rescue leaders (health advisers to the Prefect in pre-hospital medicine) are now trained by both the French national fire officers academy (ENSOSP - École nationale supérieure des officiers de sapeurs pompiers) and the EHESP. Our school manages 3 modules out of the 5 training modules. 30 firefighters, A&E, and military physicians supervise both yearly sessions. The 2nd year is underway, the 3rd year begins in September 2021.



Centre Val-de-Loire professional territorial health communities (Communautés professionnelles territoriales de santé - CPTS):

Training in communication and management of a crisis unit, especially fitting out of a collective vaccination centre, was rolled out from October 2020 to January 2021 for all professional territorial health communities in the Centre Val-de-Loire region. These CPTSs contribute to vaccination centre organisation today.

Civil servant students in initial training at the EHESP:

With regard to the COVID-19 crisis, all civil servant students from the State (*public health medical inspector, public health pharmacist inspector, public health and social welfare inspector, public health engineering manager, environmental health administration*) and hospital public service (*health care institution management, social care institution management, hospital nursing administration, health care institution administration, hospital engineer*) sectors and from the three Masters courses of study (*administration of public health policies and programmes, analysis and management of health establishments*) and a post-Master (health management) were able to engage in role-playing in the management of a health crisis unit.

IDEA training on applied epidemiology:

The 36th training session conducted in coordination with Santé Publique France will be organised in a lighter format by distance learning in June and July 2021. It will include extra sequences on a study about COVID-19 places of infection and on the virus dynamics.

The training is intended to train young epidemiologists, students and staff of epidemic surveillance, alert and management units (doctors, veterinarians, pharmacists, health engineers, nurses, etc.) whose daily practice requires applying epidemiological methods to guide their actions and decisions. [+ More information at \[idea.ehesp.fr\]\(https://www.ehesp.fr/idea\)](https://www.ehesp.fr/idea)





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Protégeons-nous les uns les autres



Port du masque
obligatoire



Distanciation
physique



Lavage régulier
des mains



Aération
des locaux

