

France virus deaths fall, intensive care cases dip under 3,000

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France reported 178 new coronavirus deaths on Thursday, a fall on the previous day, and saw its number of patients in intensive care drop under 3,000 for the first time since late March.

The [health ministry](#) said 25,987 people were now confirmed to have died from the virus in hospitals and nursing homes.

Over the past 24 hours, 178 people died from COVID-19, down from 278 on Wednesday. France's lowest daily death rate in recent weeks was reported on May 3 when 135 people were confirmed to have died.

France is due to emerge on May 11 from a lockdown that began in mid-March, with Prime Minister Edouard Philippe confirming this will take place albeit with additional restrictions for the Paris region.

As well as a decline in [death rates](#), France also reported 186 fewer patients suffering from the coronavirus in intensive care, making a total of 2,961.

Thus is the first time that the number in [intensive care](#)—which rose above 7,000 at its peak in April—has been below 3,000 since March 25.

Nationwide, there were 23,208 patients in hospital, 775 fewer than the previous day.

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