



The News

December 3rd, 8am ©

by Emma Phillips

The two front runners from yesterday's first round of votes to pick the next presidential candidate for the party les Républicains will go head-to-head today in the second round. Party members have until 2pm to cast their vote and decide between Eric Ciotti and Valérie Pécresse. Pécresse chairs the regional council in the Ile de France and has the support of her former adversaries from the first round, Xavier Bertrand, Michel Barnier and Philippe Juvin

Jean Castex has announced that next Monday will see another conseil de défense to discuss the public health situation. The Prime Minister has confirmed that the meeting will be to determine whether any extra measures are necessary to address the climbing number of covid cases and hospital admissions. Yesterday, 48500 new cases were confirmed nationwide, of which at least eight were the new Omicron variant, including 7 in metropolitan France.

The situation remains tense in the Antilles as the fifth wave of the disease is gaining ground and hospitals are overwhelmed. Medical evacuations from Martinique to metropolitan France are scheduled over the next few days. The nights see violence rage on the island, which has led to the Prefect extending the curfew to 5am. Guadeloupe is also currently experiencing riots and so the curfew there will remain in force until next Tuesday.

Jean Castex has rejected the idea from British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, of France-UK joint patrols to prevent migrants trying to reach the UK from France by sea. The Prime Minister says he refuses to have any French or British military forces patrol France's coasts, stating that France's sovereignty was at stake. He calls on Britain for a more effective strategy.

And finally to sport and France's women's handball team make their debut in the World Women's Championships in Spain today. Les Bleues play Angola at 6pm. France, who are Olympic champions, will also come up against Slovenia and Montenegro in the first round of the competition.