



The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

The vaccine pass was finally adopted in the Assemblée nationale this morning after three days of heated debates. The bill that will require full vaccination status in order to gain entry to a swathe of public places was approved in the lower house by 214 votes against 93. What this means is that a negative covid test will not suffice as a pass anymore as is the case now. Discussions on the bill had two dramatic interruptions over the past few days, including members of parliament walking out. The bill is now headed to the Senat for the beginning of next week.

Macron himself poured fuel on the fire of vaccination discussions yesterday, with the choice of the word “emmerder” in saying he wanted to shit on people who still weren’t vaccinated by making their lives difficult. Amid the backlash against the President’s attitude, Jean Castex came to his defiance in the lower house yesterday. The Prime Minister said that fellow citizens who refused to get vaccinated were a real difficulty and claimed that this was not insulting to anyone, it was just reality.

In the meantime, the omicron variant is still gaining ground. More than 330,000 new cases have been detected in the last 24 hours.

Presidential candidate Valérie Pécresse has courted controversy with her own choice of words in an interview with the newspaper Provence. The candidate for the Republicains party said she wants to clean up the country’s neighbourhoods and restore “order in the street”, echoing the party’s former candidate, Nicolas Sarkozy.

The phasing out of the sale of metro ticket booklets in Paris has had to be postponed. Ticket booklet sales were due to stop in March to be replaced with ticket cards, but now they will continue for an extra six months until September. The Paris transport network is facing a shortage of the electronic chips that go into travel cards.

And finally, this year's Grammys have been cancelled due to Covid. The music awards had been due to take place on January 31. Organisers say there is too much uncertainty with the Omicron variant and will announce a new date for the evening "soon".