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Paris, December 26 (RHC)-- France reported a record high of 104,611 COVID-19 infections on Saturday, breaking the 100,000 threshold for the first time since the pandemic began. Saturday's tally marked the third consecutive day that numbers have reached record highs.

They come ahead of a video-conference meeting Monday in which President Emmanuel Macron and key members of his government will discuss new COVID-19 safety measures. Officials are concerned about the effect of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Already on Friday, the health authority recommended adults receive a booster jab three months after their initial vaccination. Now the government is moving to make the health pass issued to the vaccinated valid only if people accept the booster jab.

The pass is required for access to cafés, restaurants and public spaces, as well as for international travel. Some regions have already enacted their own safety measures.

At the end of last month, for example, officials in Savoie, a department in the southeast of France, reintroduced the compulsory wearing of masks, not just in indoor public spaces, but outdoors too — a move just adopted in neighbouring Italy.

The latest figures mark a dramatic rise since the beginning of the month: on December 4, the numbers broke 50,000 for the first time before rising steadily.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, France has recorded 122,546 deaths from the coronavirus. So far, 76.5 percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

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