

COVID-19 EU Briefing 27 July 2021

Recovery

COVID-19 Vaccines:

- A [study](#) from South Korea found that taking an AstraZeneca vaccine shot followed by a **Pfizer** vaccine shot boosted Covid-19 antibody levels six times more than receiving two **AstraZeneca** doses.
- **Moderna** is in [talks](#) with U.S. regulators to expand the size of an ongoing trial testing its COVID-19 vaccines in children aged between five and 11, to gather more safety data amid worries that messenger RNA shots may trigger rare heart side effects.
- Antibodies triggered by **Sinovac's** COVID-19 vaccine [declined](#) below a key threshold from around six months after a second dose for most recipients, although a third shot had a strong booster effect. The paper has not been peer reviewed.

EU Vaccination programme:

- Seventy percent of adults in the European Union have [received](#) at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccines, Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen announced.

Member States

Poland:

- The Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said the government is [considering](#) obligatory COVID-19 vaccinations for the healthcare sector, however Health Minister Adam Niedzielski declared that no decisions have been made regarding compulsory vaccinations for the whole country. "We are expanding our incentive systems"

Greece:

- Greece is [recommending](#) children aged 12-15 could be vaccinated against COVID-19 with Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna shots

The Netherlands:

- The Netherlands said it would ease COVID-19 [restrictions](#) to allow travel to all European Union countries, including several with high infection rates. From July 27 restrictive travel advice would be based on variants of concern. Authorities also said they would extend a ban on multiple-day festivals, which were deemed too risky.

Spain:

- Spain's 14-day incidence rate [reached](#) 700 infections per 100,000 inhabitants, but officials said the situation was improving in some of the hardest-hit areas.

Germany:

- The western German state of North Rhine-Westphalia has [reintroduced](#) restrictions on gatherings.

Portugal:

- The Portuguese island of Madeira will [maintain](#) its curfew even if the mainland government decides otherwise the president of the regional government has insisted.

Ireland:

- The Minister for Health has said that those aged 16 and 17 can [register](#) for a Covid-19 vaccine appointment from today.
- Irish pubs and restaurants have [resumed](#) indoor service after the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Customers, including those from Northern Ireland, must have official proof they have been fully vaccinated or have recovered from Covid-19 within the last 180 days and every adult must also bring along official identification such as a driving licence with a photo. Once inside, there will be a limit of six adults per table, no bar service and, customers can only remove their masks once seated. Children will be allowed indoors and premises must close by 23:30.

Source: DeHavillandEU