

COVID-19 EU Briefing 27 October 2021

The new Weekly EU COVID-19 Briefing will include recent developments from the EU on treatments, vaccines and high-level announcements as well as important restrictions updates on a Member State level.

General EU Developments

Vaccines:

- The European Medicines Agency has [concluded](#) that a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Spikevax (Moderna) may be considered in people aged 18 years and above.
- The EMA is unlikely to decide whether to approve Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine until at least the first quarter of 2022 because some data needed for the review is still missing.

Therapeutics:

- The European Commission is [establishing](#) a portfolio of 10 potential COVID-19 therapeutics. The list established is based on independent scientific advice and focuses on COVID-19 treatment candidates that are likely to be authorised and therefore available on the European market soon.

Restrictions Update

International:

- **Bulgaria:** As of 30 October, Croatia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Moldova are on the list of countries in the red zone. India, Colombia and Argentina go from red to orange. Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and Iceland go from green to orange.
- **Czech Republic:** Poland and the Netherlands have been moved from the orange list to the red-list by the Czech government.
- **Germany:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Singapore, Cameroon & Congo are classified as a high-risk regions by Germany.
- **Cyprus:** Citizens of the Netherlands, Poland, Iceland as well as those from Oman will be subject to the double testing requirement as well as quarantine rules when planning to enter Cyprus.
- **Spain:** Travellers from Greece, Denmark, Czechia, Liechtenstein, and several other regions will need to follow additional entry rules as the countries have been placed on the high-risk areas list.
- **France:** Updating the list of green countries, France has removed Bahrain and Singapore from this list, what means that both countries now automatically fall into the amber list. Bulgaria continues to be in the "green zone", but unvaccinated persons and those who do not have a COVID-19 disease certificate must have a negative PCR test or antigen test performed within the last 24 hours before departure.
- **Estonia:** Four European countries are on Estonia's green list: The Vatican, Italy, Malta and Spain following the removal of Poland and Lichtenstein. The yellow list now includes:

Andorra, The Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino and Switzerland.

- **Lithuania:** Lithuania adds Cyprus, Czech Republic, and Denmark to the red list. Spain has been moved to the yellow list, while the Spanish islands of Fuerteventura, Tenerife and Gran Canaria remain on the green list.
- **Latvia:** Only four countries make the green list: Italy, Spain, Malta, and The Vatican.
- **Romania:** Travellers from Austria, Belgium, and Greece will be subject to quarantine rules when planning to enter Romania.
- **Malta:** Malta has decided to extend its travel ban that is currently applied against unvaccinated travellers from all EU/Schengen Area and 67 third countries worldwide. According to the latest update that was published 21 October, the travel ban will continue to apply to all European Union and Schengen Area countries, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, among others.
- **Luxembourg:** The government of Luxembourg announced that citizens of the European Union and countries associated with the Schengen area, as well as citizens of San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican are free to enter the territory of Luxembourg, regardless of the purpose of stay. Third-country nationals, with several exceptions, will not be permitted to enter Luxembourg until 31 December 2021.
- **Italy:** The Italian authorities have announced that the country has removed several countries from its List D, which includes third countries whose citizens are permitted to enter Italy under certain conditions. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Lebanon, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao are no longer part of the list.

Domestic:

- **Belgium:** Masks will again be mandatory inside shops and other indoor public spaces. Return to teleworking is strongly recommended. Belgium has taken steps to activate the pandemic law, meaning that the government can take measures required when an epidemic is announced, but only with the approval of Parliament.
- **Germany:** The German parliament will not extend the “epidemic situation of national scope” when it expires next month, but will keep in place certain measures to check the spread of the coronavirus.
- **Bulgaria:** Bulgaria’s tourism and restaurant industry has threatened to start national protests if the government does not amend the rules for issuing a Green pass so that COVID-19 antibody tests can be legally recognised for getting the certificate
- **Greece:** People of any age who have been administered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be able to register online for the booster shot as of 5 November.
- **Romania:** Under a bill already passed by the expert committees in the Romanian Senate, those working in virtually all public and private buildings, including those in the sectors of education and health but not including the premises in the judiciary area, will be required to show a green pass.

- **Czech Republic:** Starting 01 November, restaurants and cafes in the Czech Republic can only admit customers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, recovered from the coronavirus or can produce a negative test.
- **Poland:** It has been reported that the government is considering tightening its COVID-19 restrictions if the average number of daily cases raised above 7,000.
- **Slovakia:** On 25 October, Slovakia extended its coronavirus restrictions to more parts of the country. 10 counties are now impacted, most of which are in the north of the country or near the border with Poland and Czechia.
- **Ireland:** People will have to continue to provide their COVID-19 Certificate for indoor hospitality and indoor events. The 11.30pm curfew will be scrapped and licensing hours will return to normal. Nightclubs and late bars will be permitted to reopen under new guidelines.
- **The Netherlands:** The government is considering a new slate of coronavirus measures to slow down the rapid increase of new infections in the Netherlands. A decision on the matter is expected on Tuesday 2 November.
- **France:** French citizens, residents, and travellers to the country may have to hold a Health Pass until July 2022 in order to access indoor areas like restaurants, bars, shopping centres, planes, and hospitals.
- **Estonia:** Following a government order last week, participation in controlled activities is permitted only for vaccinated adults and adults who have recovered from COVID-19. People who have not been vaccinated and have not recovered from COVID-19 are no longer allowed to take part in sports and exercise events, visit public saunas, spas, pools, water centres, conferences, theatres, concerts or cinemas, consume entertainment services, go to museums or exhibitions or eat at restaurants. The new restrictions is in force at least until 10 January 2022.
- **Lithuania:** Wearing facemasks indoors is once again mandatory in Lithuania as of 1 October. The new rules are in place even if the business or public place serves only people with the national Covid certificates. The government has also issued a recommendation for both public and private sectors to switch to remote work.
- **Latvia:** Everyone who wishes to enter a medical establishment will have to undergo the COVID-19 rapid antigen test.
- **Denmark:** The number of COVID-19 infections in west Copenhagen municipality Ishøj has reached a level at which local restrictions may be implemented, potentially affecting schools and childcare.
- **Finland:** Helsinki Region Transport Authority (HSL) and VR, the Finnish state-owned railway operator, have announced their decision to abolish the requirement that passengers wear face masks on public transport. The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has lifted its recommendation on masks in schools for pupils in grade 6 and up as of 25 October.
- **Austria:** From 1 November, everybody who has physical contact with other people in their workplace needs proof that they are either vaccinated, recovered, or tested negative for COVID-19.

Source: DeHavillandEU