

COVID-19 EU Briefing 3 November 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 is assessing further data providing more information on the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination with COVID-19 vaccines Comirnaty and Spikevax. The PRAC has concluded that there is currently insufficient evidence on a possible link between COVID-19 vaccines and very rare cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS).

Therapeutics:

- The EMA has ended the rolling review of bamlanivimab and etesevimab, two antibodies for the treatment of COVID-19 developed by Eli Lilly Netherlands BV, after the company informed the Agency that it was withdrawing from the process.

Restrictions Update

European:

- The European Commission announced that the British NHS COVID-19 pass will be accepted as full proof of vaccination, equivalent to the EU's current certificates. This measure will allow NHS COVID pass-holders to prove their vaccination status when traveling, visiting bars or restaurants, and entering any other places one needs to show vaccination.
- The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) had discouraged travel to Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia.

International:

- **Portugal:** On 2 November, the Portuguese authorities have announced that the country has decided to extend the reciprocity rule regarding the recognition of the COVID-19 passes issued by third countries for another month.
- **Italy:** Italy's government extended the country's coronavirus rules for most travellers until December, with some changes. Italy's health ministry issued a new ordinance updating the rules for international arrivals, after a previous set of rules introduced at the end of August expired on 25 October.
- **Cyprus:** Unvaccinated and unrecovered travellers from Denmark, the Czech Republic and Norway will no longer be allowed to travel to Cyprus without going into self-isolation upon arrival.
- **Greece:** Greek authorities have lifted entry restrictions for arrivals from Argentina, India, Uruguay, Oman and Chile.

- **Bulgaria:** Unvaccinated and unrecovered travellers from the Baltic countries and other EU countries, as well as third countries reaching Bulgaria, have to undergo quarantine and testing requirements.
- **Estonia:** Five countries, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland and Liechtenstein, have moved to the 'Red' list, with the strictest restrictions, while one country, Cyprus, has moved in the other direction, to the 'Yellow' list.
- **Latvia:** Only four countries make the green list, and they are the same as last week: Italy, Spain, Malta, and the Vatican. The rest of Europe is on the "yellow list".
- **Denmark:** Danish authorities have revealed that unvaccinated and unrecovered travellers reaching the country from EU countries only have to present one COVID-19 test result, taken either before departure or within 24 hours upon arrival.
- **Sweden:** From 5 November, people who can show a COVID-19 vaccination certificate issued in the US will be able to travel to Sweden freely, without any entry bans or test requirements and vaccine certificates issued in Guernsey, Isle of Man or Jersey will also be added to the list exempted from entry restrictions. It is also decided to extend the entry restrictions for travel from within the EU/EEA until 30 November and the entry ban from non-exempt countries outside the EU/EEA will be extended until 31 January.
- **Czech Republic:** The Czech Republic's authorities have announced that travellers reaching the country from red or dark red-listed areas are no longer required to follow self-isolation rules.
- **Poland:** Poland has joined the list of European countries that recognize the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield, manufactured in India, as a valid proof of immunity for travel.
- **France:** Unvaccinated travellers from the UK will be required to take a COVID-19 test on arrival. This comes after France recognising the UK's COVID-19 vaccination pass.
- **The Netherlands:** Brazil, Israel, Costa Rica, Malaysia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and Seychelles have been removed from the high-risk COVID-19 list for fully vaccinated passengers. They will be exempt from the testing requirement. The Government has announced it will accept UK and Armenian vaccination passports.
- **Germany:** The Government has permitted non-essential travel from Argentina, Colombia, Namibia and Peru.
- **Spain:** The Government has extended its ban on arrivals from most third countries until the end of November.

Domestic:

- **Greece:** As Greece recorded the highest number of infections since the pandemic began, the government said that unvaccinated people will need to produce a negative rapid or PCR test to enter banks, public offices, retail outlets, mixed entertainment venues and hairdressers. This rule will not apply to grocery stores, supermarkets and religious spaces.
- **Belgium:** The Belgian Government is launching a [website](#) where people showing Covid-19 symptoms can find out if they need to be tested or not.

- **Austria:** The Austrian region of Lower Austria on Saturday announced a new set of stricter COVID-19 measures, meaning unvaccinated people will no longer be able to access late-night dining, bars or large events. From Tuesday (2 November), anyone in the Austrian capital who has received their second jab more than six months ago will be eligible for a booster shot.
- **Romania:** Romania reported 591 deaths on 02 November, the highest daily number to date.
- **Estonia:** [New coronavirus restrictions have been in place across Estonia from Monday.](#) [COVID certificates must be checked against an ID, public events and activities must end at 11pm and rapid testing will start in schools. The government recommended cancelling all "major events in the public sector that are not absolutely necessary" until 10 January 2022.](#)
- **Lithuania:** Lithuanian Economy and Innovation Minister Aušrinė Armonaitė expects that the country will not have to impose a new lockdown but says COVID restrictions may be tightened.
- **Latvia:** After the current lockdown period is set to end on 15 November, the night-time curfew will be lifted but many restrictions will remain in place. Plans are rumoured to include: general working hours being limited from 6:00 to 21:00; all services and activities are planned to be organized in "green mode"; cultural events could only be attended with a COVID-19 certificate; indoor entertainment would still be banned; and malls will be closed on weekends and holidays.
- **Denmark:** Experts said that a reintroduction of facemasks and the country's COVID-19 health pass, the coronapas, should be considered but not enough parties currently favour this for it to be an option for the government.
- **Finland:** The government has decided to continue the current restaurant restrictions until at least mid-November. Restaurant restrictions will continue in the areas with the highest infection rates
- **Sweden:** As of 1 November, fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to take a COVID-19 test before returning to work after they recover. The new guidelines also apply to people who have recently been infected with COVID-19 and children under six.
- **Malta:** Restaurants and events will be allowed to go back to "pre-COVID" distances from Monday, as long as they restrict entry to a maximum of 300 vaccinated people. Mask-wearing will remain mandatory unless the attendees are eating or drinking and those serving them or performing must also be fully vaccinated.
- **Hungary:** Hungary's government will require employees at state institutions to be vaccinated following a rise in cases. Private employers have also been given the right to require vaccination for staff.
- **Slovenia:** Slovenia's Health Minister Janez Poklukar has said that the country could face a 'nightmare scenario' if cases continue to rise. It has been reported that the Government will consider a possible lockdown if infections increase.
- **The Netherlands:** The Government has reinstated the order for masks to be worn in public places. People have also been asked to socially distance, work from home half the time at least and to avoid busy places.

Source: DeHavillandEU