

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 10 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:*

- Moderna has filed to expand the conditional licence for its COVID-19 vaccine in Europe to include children aged 6 to 11 years old.

#### *Therapeutics:*

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is reviewing available data on the use of molnupiravir to support national authorities who may decide on the use of this medicine. It will provide EU-wide recommendations in the shortest possible timeframe.

### Restrictions Update

#### *European:*

- EU travellers who have completed their immunization process with Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing as well as Covaxin will be permitted to travel to the United Kingdom.
- Singapore and Ukraine have been removed from the list of safe third countries, for which list the member states are recommended to remove travel restrictions.
- The US has opened doors to travellers from the Schengen Zone countries, as well as those from the United Kingdom, South Africa, Ireland, Brazil, China and India.

#### *International:*

- **Germany:** Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Cuba, Myanmar, St. Lucia, Netherlands' overseas territories of Aruba, Curaçao and St. Martin have been removed from the high-risk list.
- **Cyprus:** Unvaccinated and unrecovered travellers from Italy, Sweden, Lichtenstein, Jordan, Vatican City, and New Zealand will no longer be allowed to enter Cyprus free of entry requirements.
- **Estonia:** Italy has moved down to the 'Yellow' list, while Cyprus, Germany, Norway, Poland, San Marino and Switzerland have moved down to the 'Red' list, meaning unvaccinated arrivals from those countries must now quarantine for 10 days after entering Estonia.
- **Lithuania:** Lithuania has updated its weekly travel restrictions, adding Crete and Sweden to the red list. Portugal's Madeira has been moved to the yellow list.
- **Latvia:** The Latvian authorities have revealed that entry rules will tighten for almost all European countries. According to the risk assessment published by the Latvian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, there are only three territories left on the country's safe travel list: Spain, Malta and The Vatican.

- **Finland:** The Finnish authorities have decided to extend the current restrictions on travellers from outside the European Union and the European Economic Area, which means non-vaccinated travellers from third countries are ineligible to enter the country, except for essential purposes.
- **Sweden:** Fully-vaccinated Americans can now travel to Sweden for any reason with no requirements for COVID-19 testing before, upon or after arrival due to recognition of US vaccine certificates. The new rules apply from November 5. The announcement made by Swedish authorities came in the same statement that confirmed the extension of the entry ban for non-EU/EEA travellers until the end of January 2022.
- **Malta:** The Maltese authorities have announced that travellers who have been fully immunised against the COVID-19 disease with one of the vaccines approved for use by the World Health Organization (WHO) can now enter the country without being subject to additional entry rules.

*Domestic:*

- **Germany:** The Moderna vaccination jab has been advised against use by under-30s by Stiko vaccine commission.
- **France:** President Macron has stated that mask wearing would be maintained in schools and social distancing would be continued. He called for an acceleration in France's COVID-19 booster jab programme. In order to maintain their health passes, those 65+ will have to have a booster shot from 15 December.
- **Greece:** Greece's daily reported COVID-19 cases will reach between 9,000 and 11,000 in the next three weeks, a leading health expert has predicted. In an interview, Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis made it clear that no new lockdown will be imposed in the country due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.
- **Romania:** Schools in Romania reopened after students took a forced two-week vacation due to the pandemic. However, in-person classes will only start for students attending schools where at least 60% of the teachers are vaccinated. The Romanian government extended the state of alert by 30 more days in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- **Belgium:** Belgium has urged people to start working from home again due to surging infections.
- **Hungary:** It has been reported that the Hungarian Government has chosen not to share details statistics on the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated patients on COVID-19 wards.
- **Czech Republic:** Czechia has recorded its highest daily tally of COVID-19 cases since March. The outgoing government has rejected the imposition of a lockdown.
- **Slovenia:** Slovenia adopted new measures to tackle the pandemic. Now, people are unable to gather unless they are from the same household and surgical masks for FFP2 masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces.
- **Slovakia:** Slovakia has expanded its COVID-19 restrictions which include hotel, bar and restaurant closures in almost half of the country. Fitness, wellness and aquatic centres have

also been shut down and public gatherings have been reduced to 100 people, all of which must be vaccinated. The measures are being applied to 36 of the country's 79 counties.

- **Lithuania:** Lithuania may tighten the rules for issuing COVID-19 immunity certificates, the country's chief epidemiologist has suggested. Children may be required to get the so-called COVID-19 passports, while another national lockdown is a possibility.
- **Latvia:** From 15 November 2021 until 11 January 2022, people without COVID-19 certificates, proving vaccination or recovery, will have access to the essential stores only. Only stores with a floor space below 1,500 square meters with a separate entrance, selling food, medical goods, optical goods, pet food, press and hygiene goods will be available in the "unsafe regime" without the requirement for COVID-19 certificates.
- **Denmark:** Prime Minister Frederiksen announced the government would reintroduce requirements to show a valid coronapas at bars, restaurants and indoor events with over 200 spectators and outdoor events with over 2,000 spectators.
- **Malta:** Malta will offer COVID-19 booster shots to all its population after a recent increase in cases, Health Minister Chris Fearne announced.
- **Austria:** Austria has rolled out new physical distancing measures. From 8 November, unvaccinated people are barred from entering restaurants, cafes and hairdressers and will not be able to attend large public events.
- **Italy:** The Italian government has accelerated its vaccination campaign and introduced new rules to control infection rates in schools, including forcing classes to quarantine once they hit three positive COVID-19 cases in an attempt to contain the fourth COVID-19 wave.
- **Croatia:** Croatia decided to tighten measures against the spreading of the disease, including introducing obligatory digital certificates for public sector employees from 15 November. The number of people that can gather indoors will be reduced from this weekend to 50 from 100 unless they have digital certificates. All indoor gatherings will have to be over by midnight.
- **Ireland:** Taoiseach Micheal Martin has received approval to create a new law to extend vaccination passports and other measures beyond February. It is expected to be enacted next month.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*