

COVID-19 EU Briefing 05 January 2022

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

International:

- **Cyprus:** All passengers, regardless of their vaccination status, will be obliged to present a negative result of the Covid-19 PCR test no older than 48 hours upon their arrival in Cyprus.
- **France & The Netherlands:** Both Governments have imposed a 10-day mandatory quarantine requirement for unvaccinated travellers from the United States.
- **Germany:** The Government has announced that British travellers are no longer required to quarantine or provide a negative test as long as they are fully vaccinated or arriving in Germany for an important reason.
- **Czech Republic:** Travellers from Italy, Sweden, Malta, Austria, Latvia, Hungary, and the Azores are now required to follow tightened entry rules when reaching the Czech Republic as the countries have been placed on the red and dark red categories.
- **Italy:** As of 23 December, an FFP2 mask is required during flights. All fully vaccinated (including boosted) visitors from EU countries must also present a negative test result, either from an antigen test taken within 24 hours or from a PCR test taken 48 hours before departure. Any non-vaccinated and partially vaccinated visitors have to undergo quarantine for five days on arrival and then have a negative test result before exiting quarantine.
- **Austria:** Austria requests that travellers from the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and the United Kingdom present a negative result of the Covid-19 test upon their arrival.
- **Estonia:** Two European countries are on Estonia's green list: The Vatican and Romania, all other EU and Schengen countries are on the red list.
- **Lithuania:** Some airlines are cancelling their flights from Lithuania, according to the country's airport operator. "The flights are being suspended temporarily and are planned to resume from February," Aurimas Stikliūnas, the head of aviation services at Lithuanian Airports (LOU), told LRT. "The suspensions are due to tighter restrictions or very low demand," he added.
- **Latvia:** Two European countries are on Latvia's green list: The Vatican and Romania. Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Norway, Ireland and Denmark are on the red list.
- **Finland:** All persons coming to Finland from abroad are required to show a vaccination or recovery document and a negative result of the Coronavirus test not older than 48 hours. The recent changes will be kept in place until 16 January.
- **Sweden:** The Swedish authorities have announced that all travellers, including those from Denmark, Finland, and Norway, are now subject to mandatory pre-entry testing regardless of their vaccination status. The country accepts both PCR and rapid antigen tests provided that the test has been taken within 48 hours before entry.

Domestic:

- **France:** The Government has announced that proof of full vaccination will be required for those attending public places from 15 January. It has also announced that the length of time between the last vaccine dose and booster dose will be shortened to 3 months from 4 months.

- **Spain:** The Government has reduced the number of days those who have tested positive for Covid-19 are required to isolate for, to 7 days from 10.
- **Belgium:** Theatres and cinemas have reopened but with a maximum capacity of 200 people. Visitors will also have to show a valid COVID pass, remain seated and wear a mask for the duration of any show. From 10 January, people who have either already received a booster dose or those who received their last shot of the “basic vaccination” up to five months ago will no longer have to quarantine following a high-risk contact.
- **Italy:** Italy considers making vaccination a mandatory requirement for all workplaces or already expanding the vaccination certificates to all workplaces. 11 new Italian regions will be marked in yellow alert: Lombardy, Lazio Piedmont, Sicily will join Liguria, Marche, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Calabria, Trento, and Bolzano.
- **Romania:** The government has discussed the preparation of the 5th wave with some measures considered, such as the introduction of FFP2 face masks, the continuation of testing in schools and the enforcement of technical unemployment for employees.
- **Cyprus:** It is expected that students and teachers will return to class on Monday 10 January with more frequent testing at school units. Other possible restrictions include lowering the limit for home gatherings from 20 to 10 people and stricter measures for social events like weddings and christenings. The rules regarding bars, cafés and restaurants are also likely to change, with further restrictions on the total number of people allowed per venue.
- **Greece:** Entertainment and food service venues now close at midnight, have no standing customers or music and only allow a maximum of six per table. High-protection KN95 or FFP2 masks is mandatory in supermarkets and public transport. In public and private sector workplaces, half of staff will have to work from home. Greek schools will reopen on Monday 10 January with increased Covid-19 testing.
- **Czech Republic:** Czechia has made all adults eligible for their booster jab providing five months have passed since their second dose.
- **Poland:** Poland may decide to introduce new restrictions if cases of new coronavirus infections continue to grow.
- **Slovenia:** Slovenian epidemiologists working at the National Institute of Public Health have unanimously rejected mandatory vaccination against Covid-19, citing an absence of legal basis and concern about implementation.
- **Slovakia:** Restaurants, cafés and pubs reopened on 03 January for customers who are fully vaccinated or have recovered from Covid within the past 180 days. These facilities must still operate at 50% capacity.
- **Malta:** All events are now seated except for weddings and funerals and all establishments must shut down by 1 am. Sports events are being conducted with no audience and schools will reopen after the Christmas break. From 17 January only vaccinated citizens can go to bars, restaurants, gyms, pools, cinemas, and sporting events.
- **Portugal:** Face masks are mandatory on public transport, and from 25 December bars and clubs have been closed.
- **Croatia:** Croatia has tracked 5,845 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours with 1,817 people hospitalized. The country has also confirmed their first cases of ‘flurona’ (having Covid19 and Flu simultaneously).
- **Austria:** Lockdown for unvaccinated people remains in place, non-essential services can operate with an FFP2 mask and proof of full vaccination. Face masks are obligatory for all indoor public areas. Bars, clubs and night ski resorts will remain closed until 9 January. At the workplace, proof of vaccination, recovery or a negative test is requested together with an FFP2 mask in all enclosed areas.
- **Estonia:** The spread of the Omicron variant is unlikely to cause the state to establish a complete lockdown, Health Board acting director general Mari-Anne Härma told Vikerraadio's morning show "Vikerhommik".

- **Lithuania:** The Lithuanian government has approved draft legislation to introduce mandatory coronavirus vaccinations for health and social care workers. The package will now be tabled to the parliament for approval. The government will ask the parliament to debate and vote on the amendments under a fast-track procedure. The package could come into force 14 February.
- **Latvia:** The Ministry of Health recommends the current state of emergency, due to lapse on 11 January, should be extended for at least three to four weeks, according to the protocol of the Operational Management Group's (OMG) meeting of 28 December.
- **Denmark:** Denmark could return to normal life by the end of February despite the country's current soaring Covid-19 infection numbers, a leading health official said.
- **Finland:** The Helsinki metropolitan area coronavirus coordination group has recommended that recently-implemented restrictions be extended an additional two weeks.
- **Sweden:** The government is expected to decide today to allow the Public Health Agency to extend vaccine passes to restaurants and other venues, reports Aftonbladet.

Source: DeHavillandEU