

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 18 May 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*

#### *European:*

- The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [paved](#) the way for a relaxation of the need to wear medical masks on board a flight.

#### *International:*

- **Austria:** Austria becomes the latest country to lift all entry rules, however masks will be still required on planes and in airports.
- **Estonia:** Estonia will maintain the masks requirement on flights and in airports until further notice.
- **Latvia:** Mask requirements on flights and in airports will be mandatory until further notice in Latvia.
- **Lithuania:** The obligation to wear masks will remain mandatory until further notice.
- **Italy:** Authorities in Italy have announced that they will keep in place the mandatory covid-19 face mask requirement for citizens on flights to and from Italy.
- **France:** From 16 May, masks will no longer be mandatory for all public transport, including in airports and on flights in Europe.
- **Portugal:** It will maintain the masks requirement on flights and in airports until further notice.
- **Spain:** Spain has extended its covid-19 restrictions until 15 June, which include only allowing fully vaccinated people to enter the country and retaining masks on public transport. As of 17 May, the Spanish authorities have started the gradual reopening of borders between the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla with Morocco. In both categories, to access Ceuta and Melilla, it will be essential to meet the health requirements established by the Ministry of Health for these authorised border crossing points.

#### *Domestic:*

- **Cyprus:** Cyprus is on the verge of lifting all of its covid restrictive measures that remain in force. Regarding the issue of masks, the Minister of Health revealed that their necessity will be evaluated next month, hinting at its possible abolition, if the pandemic recession continues.
- **Portugal:** The country recorded daily cases, reaching 34,000 new cases, the highest value since 8 February.
- **Greece:** The Health Ministry's Committee of Experts will examine on Wednesday 18 June whether mask mandates can be further loosened.

- **Romania:** Romania has started administering the fourth dose of covid-19 vaccine. More than half of Romanians are unvaccinated and only one in ten Romanians have taken the booster shot.
- **Belgium:** Experts in Belgium call for the lift of the requirement to wear a mask on public transport.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*