

COVID-19 EU Briefing 31 August 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

Domestic:

- **Austria:** On 29 August, Austria's Education Ministry announced the coronavirus recommendations for the new school year. Schools will start without mandatory tests or an FFP2 mask mandate. However, regular tests are recommended during the first week of school.
- **Germany:** Germany's federal government has [agreed](#) on a package of new measures, most of which will be up to the discretion of individual states, to combat the spread of the coronavirus in the cooler winter months.
 - Masks will be required for visitors at hospitals and care homes, as will a negative covid-19 test from the previous 24 hours.
 - On planes and long-distance public transport across Germany, FFP2 masks will be required from 1 October.
 - Staff and children aged 6-14 will be permitted to wear medical masks instead, while children under 6 are exempt.
 - From 1 October through 7 April state governments will be empowered to impose restrictions based on their local needs.
- **Cyprus:** The Ministry of Health and the Advisory Committee recommended the abolition of the mask indoors except at in high-risk areas such as hospitals, buses, etc. A recommendation is also being made to use the mask in gathering places while there are also suggestions to increase the capacity of catering establishments, entertainment, churches, stadiums, etc. to 100% of their capacity. They have also advised that students and teachers returning to school will need to present a negative rapid test.
- **Greece:** The committee of epidemiological experts has decided to fully exempt students from the mandatory use of masks and self-testing. If the student pupil is infected, it is recommended that they remain isolated at home for five days.
- **Italy:** Italy's Education Ministry has indicated that most pandemic-related precautions will be dropped in the new academic year, including rules requiring teachers to be vaccinated and masks to be worn at all times in class.
- **Bulgaria:** As of 25 August, the wearing of protective face masks in public transport is no longer mandatory. Masks remain mandatory in all health and medical facilities, including hospitals, medical centers, opticians, pharmacies, etc., as well as in social institutions providing long-term care.

Source: *DeHavillandEU*