
24TH OF JUNE 2020

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized from



AUSTRIA INSTITUT FÜR EUROPA- UND SICHERHEITSPOLITIK

IN THE EUROPEAN UNION &
WORLD

**EUROPOL:
CORONAVIRUS
LOCKDOWNS COULD
RADICALISE MORE**

**OUTBREAK IN MEAT
INDUSTRY: ROMANIA
DEMANDS BETTER
CONDITIONS**

**DISTURBING SURGE OF
INFECTIONS IN THE US -
FAUCI SPEAKS**

**ARE THE TRUE NUMBERS
OF CORONAVIRUS
DEATHS BEING
WITHHELD IN SERBIA?**

Österreich News

from Tamara Stangl

Erste Auslandsreise von Van der Bellen abgesagt.

Rudolf Anschober beschreibt die derzeitige Lage als "unruhig".

Öffnungen und neue Maßnahmen der Bundesregierung ab 1. Juli im Detail.

Die Sperrstunde fällt.

General-Amnestie für Corona-Sünder: Karl Nehammer sagt Nein.

ÖSTERREICH

Aktive Fälle 454 (+5/+1,1% zum Vortag)

Hospitalisiert 68 (-1/-1,4% zum Vortag)

Intensivstation 11 (+1/+10% zum Vortag)

Tote 693 (+3/+0,4% zum Vortag)

Tägliche Tests 6.673 (+1.457/+27,9% zum Vortag)

Genesene 16.261 (+20/+0,1% zum Vortag)

Positiv Getestete 17.359 (+43/+0,2% zum Vortag)

Die erste Auslandsreise von Bundespräsident Alexander Van der Bellen seit dem Lockdown musste wegen eines Verdachtsfalls in der slowakischen Präsidentschaftskanzlei verschoben werden.

Das Außenministerium belegt Nordrhein-Westfalen mit der Reisewarnstufe 5.

ÖSTERREICH

Rudolf Anschober (Grüne) spricht von einer “unruhen Lage” für Österreich.

Grund: Nachlässigkeit bei Verhaltensregeln wie Abstand halten oder Maske tragen, Sorge vor Grenzöffnungen. So könnte es vor allem im Spätherbst wieder eine “schwierige Situation” geben.

Trotzdem kommt es zu generellen Veränderungen:

Alle Indoor- und Outdoor Sportarten sind ab 1. Juli wieder erlaubt.

Allerdings müssen Anwesenheitslisten geführt werden.

Sperrstunde für geschlossene Veranstaltungen mit bis zu 100 Personen fällt.

ÖSTERREICH

Auch die Maskenpflicht für KellnerInnen fällt ab 1. Juli.

Sportbereich & Kultur: Ab September werden unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen.

Events im Freien mit bis zu 10.000 und drinnen mit bis zu 5.000 TeilnehmerInnen erlaubt.

Das betrifft Konzerte wie Fußballmatche - einzige Voraussetzung: zugewiesene Sitzplätze für Besucher.

ÖSTERREICH

Keine General-Amnestie für Corona-Strafen: Innenminister Karl Nehammer (ÖVP) hat sich am Dienstag gegen eine generelle Aufhebung aller Corona-Strafen ausgesprochen.

Die militärische Landesverteidigung wird auf ein Minimum reduziert. In der Vordergrund rücken Cyberdefence und Katastrophenschutz.

AGES: Kinder in Österreich keine "Driver" bei Virus-Ausbreitung. In Österreich dürften laut Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit (AGES) Schulen und Kindergärten bei der Verbreitung des Coronavirus bisher keine wesentliche Rolle gespielt haben. Von 541 Clustern wurden nur sechs dem Setting Schule/Kindergarten zugeordnet (jeweils drei).

ÖSTERREICH

Der auf ein Rotarier-Treffen in der Stadt Salzburg zurückgehende Covid-19-Ausbruch im Bundesland ist am Dienstagnachmittag um zwei weitere Erkrankungsfälle gewachsen. Die Zahl der im neuen Cluster mit SARS-CoV-2 infizierten Personen liegt damit bereits bei 17.

Drei Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter der Klinischen Abteilung für Nuklearmedizin des Universitätsklinikums AKH Wien sind nun mit dem Coronavirus infiziert. Die Ansteckung dürfte über den privaten Bereich passiert sein, Patienten seien keine betroffen.

EUROPEAN UNION

According to a media report, the EU is considering continuing to deny entry to US citizens after a gradual opening of the EU's external borders from 1 July because of the coronavirus crisis. The United States is the country with the most proven coronavirus infections worldwide. More than 2.3 millions of cases have been recorded since the beginning of the pandemic.

Coronavirus lockdowns could radicalise more terror suspects, the EU's police agency warned Tuesday, saying both right and left wing violence were on the rise. Europol warned of an increase in attacks by right-wing extremists, partly inspired by attacks such as the 2019 attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

EUROPEAN UNION

Deep public disappointment in the EU's fragmented coronavirus response and European governments' handling of the pandemic is revealed by newly released polling across the continent.

An overwhelming majority nevertheless say the pandemic has convinced them that EU governments should cooperate more closely in the face of future external threats.

EUROPEAN UNION

Germany

In a survey, half of all respondents in Germany say they are afraid of a second corona wave during the summer holidays. The German virologist Christian Drosten fears an unnoticed spread of the corona virus to the population after corona outbreaks in North Rhine-Westphalia, among others.

Shortly before the start of the summer holidays in North Rhine-Westphalia, the everyday life of more than 640,000 inhabitants in the region around Germany's largest meat factory is now restricted. The reason: massive corona outbreak at the German meat processor Tönnies.

In view of the corona virus outbreaks in the meat industry, Romania demands better protection of its citizens in German slaughterhouses.

EUROPEAN UNION

France's coronavirus contact-tracing app StopCovid has alerted just 14 people that they have been near someone with the virus in the three weeks it has been launched.

Digital minister Cédric O said the application had been downloaded and activated 1.8m times on the Android and Apple devices since it was launched on 2 June, but had been subsequently uninstalled by 460,000.

“I have to admit, the question of the number of notifications, which is quite low, has surprised us,” the minister told a press conference.

Bulgaria will extend a state of emergency declared in response to the coronavirus outbreak until 15 July after another jump in new registered cases, health minister Kiril Ananiev said on Wednesday.

EUROPEAN UNION

On Tuesday evening, the Finnish government decided to lift restrictions on travel and tourism to a number of EU and Schengen area countries starting from 13 July.

However, the countries with whom border controls will be lifted have to meet certain criteria.

The dream of a holiday on the Croatian Adriatic could have been a short one: Slovenia is considering closing the border with its neighbouring country again after several cases of corona imported from there were confirmed.

EUROPEAN UNION

Italy's education ministry released a series of guidelines on Tuesday to assist the relaunch of school activities in September. The guidelines issued by the government leave plenty of room for the regional administrations to adopt specific measures according to the health situation.

Following investigations into a high number of deaths at the "San Giuseppe" retirement home in Montecchio Emilia in the northern Italian region of Emilia Romagna, the judicial authorities have ordered the exhumation of 18 bodies. The daily *Il Resto del Carlino* reported on Tuesday that these were Corona victims who lived in the home. Investigations have been opened against five directors of the nursing home for negligent homicide.

GLOBAL

Deaths worldwide passed 475,000, according to Johns Hopkins University figures, with the known toll currently at 477,584, and known infections standing at 9,263,466.

Among the headlines today is the news that coronavirus deaths in Latin America have risen beyond 100,000, with this part of the world emerging in recent weeks as the epicentre of the pandemic.

The International Monetary Fund will again revise its forecast for the global economy lower today, Wednesday, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Gold prices surged to their highest in nearly eight years on Wednesday, while global shares cooled as signs of an acceleration in coronavirus cases kept investors on edge. Bullion hit \$1,773 per ounce for the first time since 2012, up from around \$1,500/oz at the start of this year.

GLOBAL

USA

Corona cases in some US states are on the rise again, Trump explains this with a high number of tests.

However, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci told Congress on Tuesday that he was seeing a “disturbing surge” of infections in some parts of the country, as Americans ignore social distancing guidelines and states reopen without adequate plans for testing and tracing the contacts of those who get sick.

Trump also ridiculed the disease with racist labels. On Tuesday night, during a performance in front of supporters in Phoenix, Arizona, he said he knew "19 or 20 names" for the virus, which was first detected in China and then spread around the world. From the audience came "Kung Flu" shouts, and the president replied: Kung Flu, yes Kung Flu.

GLOBAL

"It's not over yet" - Arnold Schwarzenegger pleads for mask wearing: With four of his colleagues and successors in office, the former governor of California called in a video message for the wearing of a mask in the corona crisis.

There's been criticism of a study from the US suggesting that the coronavirus could have been present in the Chinese city of Wuhan as early as August last year. The research is based on satellite imagery of traffic movements around hospitals in Wuhan and the tracking of online searches for specific medical symptoms. It says there was a noticeable rise in vehicles parking outside six hospitals in the city from late August to 1 December 2019. The study findings - that coronavirus may have been present in Wuhan as far back as last August - are highly problematic. Some serious flaws in their analysis were found.

GLOBAL

British health authorities are urgently warning that the corona virus causes irreversible damage to a large proportion of patients. This emerges from an internal document of the UK National Health Service, reported by the British Telegraph.

Pubs, restaurants, hotels and hairdressers will re-open from 4 July in England, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Tuesday as part of the new phase of easing social restrictions.

Russia reported 7,176 new cases of the novel coronavirus, pushing its nationwide case total to 606,881, the world's third highest tally. Nevertheless, Russia will hold a second world war parade ahead of vote on Putin reforms despite rising cases.

GLOBAL

Brazil, Peru, Chile, Mexico and Ecuador are among the Latin American countries that have seen widespread outbreaks.

Hit twice as hard: A severe earthquake has shaken Mexico: many people left their homes in a violent 7.5 magnitude earthquake. In some regions the power went out. At least six people died.

Moreover, newborn triplets have tested positive for coronavirus in an "unprecedented" case, according to local health authorities. Medical experts are investigating whether the disease could have been passed on through the mother's placenta during pregnancy.

GLOBAL

A Brazilian judge has ordered Jair Bolsonaro to rectify his “at best disrespectful” behaviour by wearing a face mask when circulating in the capital, Brasília. The president has sparked outrage by repeatedly flouting measures designed to slow the advance of a coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 50,000 Brazilians. Bolsonaro has made a succession of public appearances – at protests, shops and even a floating barbecue – wearing a mask incorrectly, or not at all. Brazil recorded 39,436 new confirmed coronavirus cases within 24 hours on Tuesday.

GLOBAL

Ukraine is opening more of its hospitals to coronavirus cases as the institutions initially chosen to accept patients no longer have enough beds to cope with a surge in infections, the health minister said on Wednesday.

As coronavirus chaos has enveloped Pakistan, with hospitals overflowing, doctors dying and infections escalating at an unmanageable rate, a black market in blood plasma has emerged. The blood plasma of recovered coronavirus patients is now being sold for upwards of £3,000 to those who are desperately looking for a cure, at a time when doctors say Pakistan's healthcare system is on the brink of collapse.

GLOBAL

A Chinese pharmaceutical firm has won approval to run a large-scale “Phase 3” clinical trial of its novel coronavirus vaccine candidate in the United Arab Emirates. China is seeking to test potential vaccines overseas because of a lack of new patients at home. No other experimental vaccines has yet successfully completed a late-stage “Phase 3” test to determine efficacy in shielding healthy people from the virus.

In Tokyo, for the first time in weeks, more than 50 new infections with the coronavirus within one day have been confirmed.

South Korean authorities have officially admitted for the first time that there is a “second wave” of corona infections in the country. “We believe that the second wave started with the May holiday,” Jung Eun Kyeong, the head of the South Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Tuesday.

GLOBAL

Australia confirmed its first death in a month. The man in his 80s died in the state of Victoria.

New Zealand has recorded one new case of Covid-19, diagnosed in a traveler returning from abroad who remains in government-run isolation facilities.

Fiji has announced a “Pacific pathways” corridor that could allow travellers from Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu to enter the country. Travellers will spend 14 days in quarantine at their own expense. Officials suggest Fiji could become a regional quarantine hub.

GLOBAL

Saudi Arabia has banned international visitors from making the Islamic pilgrimage, or Hajj, this year in a bid to control coronavirus. Only a very limited number of people currently living in the kingdom may take part, an announcement on state media says.

Israel has declared several places a restricted zone due to an increased number of infections with the coronavirus.

Are the true numbers of coronavirus deaths being withheld in Serbia? The question has been raised since Monday afternoon, when the Internet portal Balkaninsight, citing data never published by the government, reported that 632 people infected with coronavirus died in Serbia between March 19 and June 1.

GLOBAL

South Africa and Egypt have seen the largest outbreaks so far in Africa. But testing rates are reported to be extremely low in some parts of the continent so this could be distorting understanding of how far the virus has spread.

More than 200 pupils and staff who returned to a boarding school in South Africa's impoverished Eastern Cape province this month tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday.