

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



European Union & Global

**COMMISSION SUES
ASTRAZENECA**

**EUROPEAN UNION SENDS
ASSISTANCE TO INDIA**

**WORLDWIDE 1 BILLION
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
VACCINATED**

Österreich

**AUSTRIA RE-OPENS
MAY 19TH**

**VIENNA TO END HARD
LOCKDOWN MAY 3RD**

**DISAGREEMENT UPON
DIGITAL GREEN CERTIFICATE**

ÖSTERREICH

Confirmed infected: 608,553

Confirmed recoveries: 577,977

Deaths: 10,126

Hospitalized: 1,897

In Intensive Care: 520

New Infections This Week: 1,915

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 8,216,127

Total Vaccinations: 2,863,389*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card

ÖSTERREICH

Austria is going to carefully re-open restaurants, museums, tourism and sports facilities starting on the 19th of May. Additionally, schools re-open on the 17th of May for in-class teaching. Travel restrictions will also be eased, as the mandatory quarantine for incoming people will no longer be in place for several EU countries.

Shops, museums and services are going to re-open in Vienna next Monday, 3rd of May, however, restaurants will remain closed. Wearing an FFP2-mask and a negative test are mandatory security measurements for entry. There will be 35,000 additional vaccination appointments available in Vienna from Tuesday on.

Meanwhile, the Austrian government cannot agree upon the Digital Green Certificate - a vaccination record - which could be used as an entrance ticket for restaurants and sports facilities for instance. According to the European Commission, the Digital Green Certificate will be available by the end of June and contributes to the necessary infrastructure for dealing with the pandemic.



EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission announced that they will pursue legal steps against AstraZeneca for its vaccine-delivery shortages. It is estimated that the company can only deliver 100 million doses by the end of June. However, the contract set to provide 300 million to the EU within the next two months.

On Monday the European Commission announced to lift travel restrictions for vaccinated US tourists. Von der Leyen said that the use of approved vaccines in the US -as happening right now - will enable travel to the European Union. However, the Member States will have the final say in whether to allow tourism and further details have to be discussed in the upcoming weeks.

For the first time in nine months, there have been no reported cases of death from a Covid-19 infection in Portugal. The country was severely hit by the pandemic with an incidence of almost 900 in January 2021, the highest in the world at that point. Portugal now has an incidence of 33 and vaccinated about every fifth person in the country.

GLOBAL

Ursula von der Leyen promised to provide rapid humanitarian assistance to India. The country is severely hit by another wave of Covid-19 cases which overwhelm the health system. On Sunday India registered another peak in infections with 350,000 new cases on a single day. At the same time, many countries announced tougher travel restrictions on India due to a new Covid-19 variant.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urged rich nations to export more Covid-19 vaccines, directly addressing the USA and the United Kingdom in her appeal. Okonjo-Iweale highlighted the need to provide poor countries with vaccines as “vaccine nationalism and inequality don’t work” for ending the pandemic.

As of last Saturday, 24th of April, worldwide 1 billion people have been vaccinated, about five months after the first campaigns started. Yet alone the USA, India and China make up for more than half of this number. So far, Israel has the top lead, having 60% of its population vaccinated followed by the United Arab Emirates with a quota of 50%. Two-thirds of the states and regions used the AstraZeneca vaccine which makes it the most common vaccine globally.