

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



European Union & Global

**LABOUR DAY PROTESTS
ACROSS EUROPE**

**150M PEOPLE VACCINATED
IN THE EU**

**MODERNA WILL SUPPLY
500M DOSES TO COVAX**

Österreich

**ADVANTAGES FOR
VACCINATED PEOPLE**

**DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN
PHYSICIANS &
PHARMACISTS**

PCR-TEST ÉCLAT IN TIROL

ÖSTERREICH

Confirmed infected: 620,638

Confirmed recoveries: 593,684

Deaths: 10,219

Hospitalized: 1,617

In Intensive Care: 459

New Infections This Week: 1,456

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 8,680,800

Total Vaccinations: 3,225,441*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card

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On Monday the National Assembly decided to treat vaccinated people equal to those who were tested negative for Covid-19 or who recovered from an infection with the virus. The opposition of SPÖ and Neos also approved the proposal. Further details will be resolved by the minister of health, Mückstein and his team.

There is a discussion between physicians and pharmacists about the question of who is allowed to vaccinate people. The latter want to offer vaccinations in pharmacies to speed up the vaccination campaign but physicians are opposed to this proposal. Mückstein has not yet decided on this matter.

The state of Tirol assigned the biggest order of PCR-test to a provider that neither has the technical equipment nor the subject-specific know-how to administer tests. Without a public tender, the state government set the contract of €8 million to HG Labtruck leaving other labs in the region disadvantaged.

EUROPEAN UNION

Pfizer/BioNTech handed in a request for authorizing their vaccine for adolescents at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). So far, studies showed a high therapeutic effect and tolerability among 12 to 15-year-olds. Usually, it takes around four to six weeks for the EMA to approve the request so that children and teenagers can be vaccinated from (Mid-) June on.

Thousands of people across Europe took to the streets on May 1st holiday for workers' rights demonstrations. Most demonstrations were peaceful. However, there have been incidents between protesters and the police in France, Turkey, Germany, and Italy. This year, calls for better protection and pay during the pandemic were among the most frequent topics.

So far 150 million vaccinations have been administered in the European Union. Ursula von der Leyen announced that one-fourth of the EU population received at least one shot. She also stated that until July there will be enough vaccine doses to vaccinate 70% of adults living in the EU.

GLOBAL

19 people were killed last weekend during pandemic-related protests in Bogotá, Colombia, where thousands of people demonstrated against a tax overhaul meant to fill a pandemic-related fiscal hole. On Monday the country's finance minister said he would resign. The country was hit severely by the pandemic which led to an increase in poverty from 36 percent to 43 percent.

At the same, India experiences the world's worst Covid-19 crisis. The health ministry reported 357,000 new cases on a single day, however, the dark figure is estimated to be much higher. The health care system partly collapsed as hospitals are not only overcrowded but also lack oxygen supply, leading to more than 220,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Pfizer announced to provide India with medicine worth \$70 million, as their vaccine is not yet authorized in the country.

Modern will supply 500 million vaccines to COVAX in order to provide low- and middle-income countries with vaccines by the end of 2021. Sweden also announced it would provide 1 million doses to COVAX.