

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



European Union & Global

**LITHUANIA DONATES
VACCINES TO EASTERN
PARTNERS**

**UNICEF ASKING G7 FOR
VACCINE DONATIONS**

EID AL-FITR CELEBRATIONS

Österreich

**AUSTRIA EASES TRAVEL
ENTRY**

**TOURISM IN SALZBURG &
STEIERMARK**

**AUSTRIA NOT TO LIFT
PRIORITISATION OF
ASTRAZENECA**

ÖSTERREICH

Confirmed infected: 638,155

Confirmed recoveries: 618,798

Deaths: 10,499

Hospitalized: 899

In Intensive Care: 275

New Infections This Week: 642

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 9,595,478

Total Vaccinations: 4,106,296*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card

ÖSTERREICH

From Wednesday (19th of May) on, the hospitality industry in Austria will be allowed to reopen. The mandatory quarantine of five days is no longer in effect, as long as one has a negative test, is recovered or vaccinated against Covid-19.

After almost seven months of lockdown, the local tourism industry in Salzburg and Steiermark set an optimistic outlook for the summer. Since travel bans and Covid restrictions are eased and more and more people get vaccinated, the sector not only focuses on Austrian tourists but also German guests.

Unlike Germany Austria does not plan to lift the prioritisation of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Instead, the remaining 200,000 doses will be stored and only used for the second jab as the supply of the vaccine is still irregular, the Austrian Health Ministry announced. So far, one-third of the population received at least their first shot.



EUROPEAN UNION

Lithuania will donate 200,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines to countries in the Eastern Partnership group, its foreign ministry announced Friday. By September, 100,000 vaccine doses will go to Ukraine, 15,000 to Georgia and 11,000 to Moldova. The Lithuanian donation will “contribute to the Team Europe package”, reads the statement.

Executive Vice President of the European Commission Margrethe Vestager said in an interview that it is too early to discuss a new recovery plan. “The goal is not to spend the biggest amount of money, but to yield the best results,” she added. Vestager also emphasized not to waive patents on coronavirus vaccinations.

After more than seven months, Slovakia terminated the public state of emergency which was in place since 1st of October 2020. With the end of the state of emergency, the curfew and the ban on public assemblies also ended. EU citizens may enter Slovakia with a negative result of a PCR-test.

GLOBAL

Thailand considers releasing about 50,000 prisoners early from its overcrowded jails, as the country experiences a severe outbreak of Covid cases. Around 70 percent of all new cases can be traced back to prisoners, especially in the capital Bangkok. A final decision has not yet been made.

Unicef's director Henrietta Fore called on the G7 member states to donate their spare vaccine doses to the COVAX programme of the United Nations in order to support less advantaged countries. There will be approximately 140 million doses missing until the end of May, due to India's export stop on vaccinations.

This year's end of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, was once again celebrated amid Covid restrictions around the world. If open, most mosques had a limited capacity to conform with distancing requirements and not seldom prayers were held outdoors.