

# WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

*The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay*



## European Union & Global

**VACCINATIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS IN THE EU**

**SOUTH AFRICA IMPLEMENTS NEW RESTRICTIONS**

**OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

## Österreich

**FEWER RESTRICTIONS FROM 10TH OF JUNE**

**AGREEMENT UPON DIGITAL GREEN CERTIFICATE**

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN AUSTRIA**

# ÖSTERREICH

Confirmed infected: 645,152

Confirmed recoveries: 629,713

Deaths: 10,615

Hospitalized: 414

In Intensive Care: 147

New Infections This Week: 311

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 10,744,956

Total Vaccinations: 5,132,295\*

\*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card

# ÖSTERREICH

The Austrian government decided to further ease Covid-19 restrictions in the country. As of the 10th of June, the curfew will be extended from 10 PM to midnight, masks will no longer be mandatory outdoors and at public events, 75 percent of seats can be filled. Depending on the situation, further eases will follow on the 1st of July, according to chancellor Kurz.

After heavy criticism regarding data protection, the coalition agreed upon a new bill for the Digital Green Certificate. This Green Pass is a central means, as it keeps track of whether one received a vaccination, recovered from an infection, or was tested negative for Covid. The Green Pass was designed to be in line with the plans of the Commission for a European Digital Green Certificate.

As reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Austrian economy will grow by 3.4 percent this year and 4.2 percent in 2022. Thus, the unemployment rate will decrease and especially the construction and manufacturing sectors recover quickly. This prognosis is considerably better than the predictions six months ago which forecasted a growth of 1.4 percent for this year.



# EUROPEAN UNION

German minister of health, Jens Spahn, is currently exposed to heavy criticism, as an investigation of broadcasters and newspapers revealed frauds at several test centers in Germany. Numerous sites had issued reimbursement claims for hundreds of tests that have not been carried out. On Twitter, Spahn condemned those who enriched themselves throughout the pandemic and announced more controls to prevent abuses.

Dutch Prime Minister Martin Rutte announced that from the 5th of June a wide range of revenues such as theaters, museums and cinemas can reopen across the country. "This is actually the end of the lockdown," Rutte said during the news conference and depending on the number of cases, more restrictions will be relaxed. A strict lockdown has been in place since mid-December in the Netherlands.

On Friday the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine for adolescents as young as 12 years. Previously, only people over the age of 16 received the vaccination. Ursula von der Leyen said that vaccinating children is a scientific rather than a political decision, after harsh criticism from WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus who called it a "moral catastrophe".

# GLOBAL

Due to a rise in new Covid cases, South Africa tightens its restrictions once again. President Cyril Ramaphosa said that there was an increase in cases by 31 percent compared to the previous week and he wants to prevent another severe wave. So far 1.6 million cases have been reported in the country where only 1.5 percent of the population received at least one shot.

In Brazil, 10,000 people rallied against president Jair Bolsonaro's Covid policies and his downplaying of the pandemic. The protestors alleged him of genocide as he refused to implement measurements to fight the virus and dismissed officials who dissented. The country was severely hit by the pandemic with the second-highest fatality rate worldwide.

The OECD published a new global economic outlook stating that the global prospects are improving but the recovery is likely to remain uneven across the countries. While advanced economies are expected to benefit from quicker access to vaccines, emerging economies face the most challenges coping with Covid outbreaks because of lower resource capacity and slower vaccine progress.