

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



European Union & Global

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

G7 SUMMIT IN CORNWALL

LIMITED ACCESS TO HAJJ PILGRIMAGE

Österreich

VACCINATION CERTIFICATE FRAUD IN LOWER AUSTRIA

460,000 ADDITIONAL DOSES OF VACCINES USED

"ILLUSION OF EQUALITY" AUSTRIAN STUDY SHOWS

ÖSTERREICH

Confirmed infected: 648,849

Confirmed recoveries: 634,439

Deaths: 10,668

Hospitalized:305

In Intensive Care:97

New Infections This Week:108

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 11,730,381

Total Vaccinations: 6,335,560*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card

ÖSTERREICH

In Lower Austria, two people are alleged with fraud, as they forged Covid tests and vaccination certificates. The investigation against the two suspects already started in April when the police discovered several knives as well as 1.5 kilos of cocaine. There are also investigations about potential clients of the two men.

Thanks to special jabs it was possible to administer about 460,000 more vaccine doses in Austria than initially calculated. Due to supply shortages from BioNTech/Pfizer the speed of the vaccination rollout can not be upheld. So far around 27 percent of Austrians are fully vaccinated but only one in three people aged 25 to 34 received a vaccination until today.

A recently published study showed that equality among men and women has not yet been achieved but the opposite is the case. The pandemic disclosed the “Illusion of equality” according to the authors. It showed that in most cases it was the woman who took care of homeschooling and child care while being involved in their professions whereas men usually were less involved in the household.

EUROPEAN UNION

With a delay of one year, the European Football Championship started with its first match in Rome last Friday 11th of June. Due to the Covid pandemic, the championship was postponed to this summer and will go until the 11th of July. It is the first time not only one country but ten different European cities host the matches and depending on the country stadiums use up to 100 percent of their capacities for fans.

Last week the European Parliament endorsed a resolution calling for a temporary waiver of Covid-19 vaccine patents to accelerate the global vaccine rollout. Even though there was a clear majority of Members of the EP who favoured a temporary lift of patents, the European Commission remained opposed to the idea and prefers to protect the know-how for emergencies.

So far about 30 million people have received at least one dose of vaccine in France. With this the government achieved their goal they set for mid-June, having one-fifth of their population fully vaccinated. However, France has also reported cases with the delta variant of the virus that are monitored closely by the health authorities.

GLOBAL

During the G7 Summit in Cornwall, last week, the heads of state from Germany, Japan, Canada, the United States, France, Italy and the United Kingdom decided to support the COVAX initiative by donating one billion doses of vaccines to assist low- and middle-income countries with their vaccine rollouts. However, the WHO estimated that at least 12 billion doses will be necessary to achieve herd immunity.

Saudi Arabia once again limits the number of people allowed to participate in the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. As of this year, only 60,000 people between the age of 18 to 65 who reside in the kingdom and who are vaccinated are admitted, in order to prevent a Covid outbreak. The Hajj is one of five mandatory religious duties for Muslims and usually attracts millions of pilgrims each year.

Great Britain will extend its Covid restrictions by one week and will not as initially planned ease restrictions by the 21st of June. The reason for the delay is a rise in cases of the delta variant in the country which is highly contagious and more often leads to a severe progression. Currently, about 56 percent of the British population are vaccinated.