

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Katrin Süss



European Union & Global

**GERMANY CANCELS
EASTER LOCKDOWN**

**FRANCE AND POLAND
INCREASE LOCKDOWN
MEASURES AS INFECTIONS
SURGE**

**U.S. HEALTH OFFICIALS
QUESTION ASTRAZENEC
VACCINE TRIAL RESULTS**

Österreich

**WIEN, NIEDERÖSTERREICH
UND BURGENLAND:
LÄNGERE SCHULFERIEN UND
"OSTERRUHE" FÜR HANDEL**

**NACH DER ÖFFNUNG IN
VORARLBERG: VIELE
BETRIEBE BLIEBEN
GESCHLOSSEN**

**AKZEPTANZ UND
VERTRAUEN IN CORONA
MASSNAHMEN SINKT**

ÖSTERREICH

Bestätigte Infizierte: 520.050

Bestätigte Genesene: 480.597

Aktive Fälle: 46.106

Todesfälle: 9.151

Hospitalisierte: 2.086

Intensivstation: 447

PCR-Testungen gesamt: 6.493.316

Impfungen: 1.354.694*

*Eingetragene Impfungen im e-Impfpass

ÖSTERREICH

Nach dem gestrigen "Ostgipfel" stehen nun die Verschärfungen für Niederösterreich, Wien und Burgenland fest: Schulferien werden um eine Woche verlängert und der Handel muss über Ostern von Gründonnerstag bis Dienstag schließen.

Die Öffnung von Gastronomie hat dazu geführt, dass Personen aus anderen Bundesländern nach Vorarlberg reisen, um das Angebot anzunehmen. Laut einer Umfrage der Wirtschaftskammer Vorarlberg haben sich etwa 40% der Betriebe gegen eine Öffnung entschieden und rund 30% waren unentschlossen. Rund ein Drittel der Betriebe musste Personal entlassen, was eine kurzfristige Öffnung erschwert.

Die Akzeptanz und das Vertrauen in die Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung der Coronakrise sinken: Rund vier von zehn Befragten gaben in einer SORA-Umfrage für die NEOS an, den Überblick über die aktuellen Regeln verloren zu haben. Besonders Junge fühlen sich laut der Erhebung in ihren Freiheiten stark eingeschränkt.

EUROPEAN UNION

After massive criticism and confusion surrounding the planned Corona lockdown, which was dubbed the "Easter Truce," German Chancellor Angela Merkel has rescinded this provision from recent federal-state decisions.

France and Poland have reintroduced partial lockdowns as both countries battle a sharp rise in Covid infections in recent weeks. Some 21 million people in 16 areas of France, including the capital Paris, are affected as the country fears a third wave. In Poland, non-essential shops, hotels, cultural and sporting facilities are now closed for three weeks. The country has the highest new daily rates of Covid cases since November.

The European Union (EU) has said it could block exports of the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab to the UK, amid claims current arrangements are slowing down its own vaccine rollout. European leaders have been criticised for the pace of its vaccination programme - less than 12% of the EU's population is reported to have received their first jab, compared with nearly 40% in the UK.

GLOBAL

U.S. health officials claim that AstraZeneca may have used “outdated information” in the results of a large-scale Covid-19 vaccine trial, a US health agency said on Tuesday, casting fresh doubt on the shot, its potential U.S. rollout and plunging its developers, once again, into controversy.

Brazil has now reported more than 12 million cases of coronavirus in the country, according to data from its health ministry. On Monday, Brazil reported 49,293 new cases of Covid-19 -- taking its total to 12,047,526, official data shows. Another 1,383 related deaths were reported Monday, taking the country's death toll to 295,425. As of late Monday, Brazil's intensive care unit occupancy rate in 25 of its 26 states plus the Federal District was at 80% or higher, according to data from the states' health secretaries.

The Biden administration will loan about 4 million of its AstraZeneca vaccine doses to Canada and Mexico as the company awaits official usage approval in the US. If this agreement comes together it would be the first time the US has shared vaccines directly with another country. It would also likely give a major boost to vaccination efforts in Canada and Mexico who are struggling with their vaccine roll-out in comparison to the US.