

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by LIVIA BENKO



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COVID IN NUMBERS

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CONFIRMED INFECTED

1.067.855

**ACTIVE CASES
RECOVERED**

176.756

879.454

TESTS

106.832.204

DEATHS

11 645

**IN HOSPITAL
URGENT CARE**

2425

533

COUNTRY FOCUS :AUSTRIA

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Recently, Austria imposed a lockdown on the unvaccinated population and now it has also announced a full national Covid-19 lockdown that came into effect on November 22, following a surge in infection cases, after Austria reported 15,297 new infections on November 20 and low vaccination rates. The measures are expected to last for a maximum of 20 days. The measures could be lifted on December 13.

However for the unvaccinated and non-recovered persons, exit restrictions will remain in place after this date. There will be curfew restrictions applying from 0 a.m. to midnight, permitting the population to leave their homes in exceptional circumstances such as basic needs of daily life (e.g. grocery stores, pharmacies, post offices or banks), care of and assistance to persons in need of support, visiting health care services, work and education. However, when it comes to work, home office is preferred where possible.

On-site, the 3G rule applies at the workplace if contact with other persons cannot be ruled out. In addition, at the indoor workplace, FFP2 masks are mandatory if there is contact with other persons, unless structural protective measures are in place.



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According to the new measures, retail (except for convenience stores such as supermarkets), restaurants, and cultural and event venues will be closed. Schools will remain open. Face-to-face classes are held for those who need them. For all school levels, masks are mandatory in the school building as well as in classrooms and group rooms.

If possible, students will be cared for at home. There will be "learning packages" provided for these children. As to kindergartens, these will also remain open, but parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if possible. Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg also announced that Austria will also introduce a vaccine mandate as of February 1, 2022. The details of how the mandate will work are to be specified.

The new measures, especially the vaccine mandate, have been met with fierce opposition among some Austrians and vaccine skeptics. On November 20 a protest in the capital of Vienna drew 40,000 people into the streets, according to police, including members of far-right parties and groups, who showed disagreement with the new regulations.



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In compliance with the latest Covid-19 measures, the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) will also continue to only hold events of virtual character and is at disposal mainly from home office.



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