

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by LIVIA BENKO



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AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN AND SECURITY POLICY

COVID IN NUMBERS

World

CONFIRMED INFECTED

270.842.333

RECOVERED

243.492.400

DEATHS

5.326.270

EUROPE

Europe has 84 385 671 Covid-19 cases; and the Omicron variant is spreading quickly. Omicron is producing hospitalisations and sadly first deaths have been confirmed with Omicron in the UK.

In these difficult times it is important for the Union to ensure the interoperability of health data at national and EU level. Currently, about one third of member states does not have policies regarding the interoperability of health data.

Focus should be put on knowledge-sharing and funding to help every member state achieve to the same level, and to ensure that we move forward together. Uniform technical standards should ensure that data are collected and shared in a harmonised and integrated way within the EU.



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ITALY

The Italian government imposed new rules on those who are not vaccinated with the issuing of a "super" health pass.

Only people with proof of vaccination or of having recovered from COVID-19 can eat at indoor restaurants, go to the movies or attend sporting events.

A basic health pass, which includes the possibility of having a negative COVID-19 test, is now required for local transport.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Italy

CONFIRMED INFECTED

5.238.221

RECOVERED

4.812.535

DEATHS

134.929

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

856

SPAIN

Several regions have introduced stricter measures for the unvaccinated ahead of the Christmas season, extending use of the COVID-19 certificate to enter public places such as bars and restaurants.

Many have protested the newly imposed health passes.

More than 80% of the Spanish population is already immunised, but fears of the Omicron variant have triggered a vaccination drive. Since mid-November, nearly 200,000 Spaniards who were reluctant to get the vaccine at first have now finally taken the step.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Spain

CONFIRMED INFECTED

5.290.190

RECOVERED

4.954.319

DEATHS

88.381

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

1.056

AUSTRIA

Austria lifted its lockdown on Sunday for people with a "2G" pass, meaning they were vaccinated against COVID-19 or recently recovered from the illness.

People without the certificate are only allowed to leave their homes to go to work or for other essential purposes.

There is an 11 pm curfew for restaurants and an FFP2 mask is required on public transport and in indoor spaces.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Vienna over the weekend to protest against mandatory vaccination and other virus measures.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Austria

CONFIRMED INFECTED

1.232.204

RECOVERED

1.154.192

DEATHS

13.218

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

573