WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by LIVIA BENKO

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AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR
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COVID IN NUMBERS   World

CONFIRMED INFECTED	314.321.974
RECOVERED	261.850.741
DEATHS	5.523.544

EUROPE

Europe has reported 97,185,000 Covid-19 cases so far; Europe is once again seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases with the start of the new year. Several nations have been reporting record numbers of new daily cases, the increase is compounded by the emergence of the new Omicron variant, first detected in South Africa. Some countries have taken measures targeting the unvaccinated, while programmes are also being navigated to vaccinate young children.

However, vaccine skeptics angered by COVID curbs have protested in Brussels, Prague and other European cities again with the start of the new year. Omicron is driving up cases across the EU, with experts warning unvaccinated people are at risk the most.

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AUSTRIA

The Austrian government, plans to make COVID vaccinations compulsory for all adults, from February 2022.
Austria lifted its lockdown which ended on 12 December for people with a "2G" pass, meaning they were vaccinated against COVID-19 or recently recovered.
People without the certificate are only allowed to leave their homes to go to work or for other essential reasons.
There is a 10 pm curfew for restaurants and an FFP2 mask is required on public transport and in indoor spaces.
Austria has tightened entry rules into the country.
As of December 25, people aged over 12 arriving from the UK, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway must have a third vaccine dose and present a negative COVID test result not older than 48 hours.

COVID IN NUMBERS — Austria

	Austria
CONFIRMED INFECTED	1.378.747
RECOVERED	1.268.317
DEATHS	13.882
IN SERIOUS CONDITION	242

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK's COVID related deaths passed 150,000 after the country reported 313 additional deaths on January 8."We have a chance to ride out this Omicron wave without shutting down our country once again," Johnson said, adding that Omicron was milder than other variants and that it was not translating into the same numbers of people needing intensive care. Johnson said however that the weeks ahead would be challenging with "some services" being disrupted by staff absences. A lockdown, which would limit people to leave their homes and force all hospitality and retail businesses to close, would only be considered if cases begin to rise exponentially again and hospitals are unable to cope.

COVID IN NUMBERS — United Kingdom

CONFIRMED INFECTED	14.732.594
RECOVERED	10.945.874
DEATHS	150.609
IN SERIOUS CONDITION	820

GERMANY

Germany wants to further restrict access to bars and restaurants as Omicron cases increase, according to Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
From January 15, people going to restaurants, cafés and bars will have to present a negative test in addition to the proof of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19.
Germany had limited private gatherings to ten people and closed nightclubs as the country faces a "massive fifth wave" of COVID-19 due to Omicron.
Large events such as football matches are held without an audience as part of new restrictions.
Restrictions already in place target mainly the unvaccinated, with proof of vaccination or recovery required to enter nonessential stores among others.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Germany

CONFIRMED INFECTED	7.631.453
RECOVERED	6.836.600
DEATHS	115.274
IN SERIOUS CONDITION	3212