

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by LIVIA BENKO



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EUROPEAN AND SECURITY POLICY

COVID IN NUMBERS

World

CONFIRMED INFECTED

352.273.211

RECOVERED

279.948.173

DEATHS

5.615.112

EUROPE

Europe has reported 113,722,000 Covid-19 cases and 1,940,000 deaths so far. The emergence of the Covid variant Omicron pointed to a re-escalation of the pandemic for Europe starting the year 2022. As cases began to rise measures were tightened once more in order to curb the impacts of the virus. In Europe, it's feared most countries have yet to reach the peak of the Omicron surge, with record numbers of daily infections being reported.

However, according to scientists it's plausible that in a few months the region will be moving towards a kind of pandemic "endgame". Omicron could infect 60 percent of the European population by March. And once the current surge of Omicron sweeping across Europe subsides, "there could be for quite some months a period with global immunity, either thanks to the vaccine or because people have immunity due to the infection, and also lowering seasonality." Thus there may be a period of quiet before Covid-19 could come back towards the end of the year, but not necessarily in a form of a pandemic.



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GREECE

Greek citizens over the age of 60 had until January 16 to complete their vaccination course or risk being fined €100 for every month they remain unvaccinated under a government law announced at the end of 2021.

Meanwhile, the government issued an emergency order on January 12, forcing private doctors specialised in pathology, pulmonology and anesthesiology to support the state health service.

The order affects four regions in Northern Greece where state hospitals are suffering acute staffing shortages.

Since January 3, the use of high-protection or double masks has been mandatory at supermarkets and on public transport while entertainment venues must close at midnight. Capacity at football stadiums was cut to 10%, remote work and schedule changes were required in the public sector and nursing home visits are only permitted for people carrying a negative PCR test result.

Travellers entering Greece will also be required to have follow-up tests for COVID-19 on the second and fourth day after their arrival.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Greece

CONFIRMED INFECTED

1.793.311

RECOVERED

1.545.666

DEATHS

22.635

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

665

ITALY

New restrictions targeting the unvaccinated population came into force on January 10 with a negative test no longer granting access to bars, restaurants or domestic public transport.

The government has also issued that every person over the age of 50 will need to be vaccinated from February 1 or risks fines.

The government was considering reducing the quarantine for vaccinated people, based on forecasts that more than 2 million people could be forced to isolate after close contact with infected people.

Outdoor celebrations have been banned, and nightclubs will be closed until 31 January.

The country already requires unvaccinated EU citizens to quarantine for five days if entering the country, whereas vaccinated visitors from EU countries must get a negative test within 24 hours of arrival.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Italy

CONFIRMED INFECTED

9.923.678

RECOVERED

7.045.249

DEATHS

143.523

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

1.685

ROMANIA

Romania has imposed stricter pandemic measures amid rising COVID-19 cases that according to authorities could overwhelm the country's health system.

The new measures include mandatory mask-wearing with fines up to €500, authorities stated.

Bars and restaurants can stay open until 10 p.m. and operate at 50% or 30% capacity depending on the area's infection rate, and COVID-19 passes are mandatory.

The same is valid for sporting events, gyms, and cinemas. Meanwhile, quarantine and isolation periods have been reduced.

COVID IN NUMBERS

Romania

CONFIRMED INFECTED

2.017.129

RECOVERED

1.820.743

DEATHS

59.547

IN SERIOUS CONDITION

599