COVID-19

PART 38/2021
(27 MAY – 28 JUNE 2021)

This report represents a summary of open source information, accumulated between 27 MAY and 28 JUNE 2021, and was assembled 30 JUNE 2021. All views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author, unless otherwise stated and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CMDR COE or any government and non-government organization or other group. The author does not bear responsibility for incomplete or incorrect facts cited or referred to herein. The majority of reference materials include official documents published by the World Health Organization, governmental pages, and online statistical databases.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERAL SITUATION ON THE WORLD........................................................................................................ 4
CMDR COE ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 SPREAD ACCELERATION.......................................................... 6
MONITORING.............................................................................................................................................. 9

1. ALBANIA.................................................................................................................................................. 9
2. AUSTRIA................................................................................................................................................ 10
3. BRAZIL.................................................................................................................................................. 10
4. BULGARIA............................................................................................................................................ 12
5. CANADA............................................................................................................................................... 13
6. CHINA.................................................................................................................................................. 16
7. DENMARK.......................................................................................................................................... 17
8. FINLAND............................................................................................................................................. 19
9. FRANCE............................................................................................................................................... 21
10. GERMANY.......................................................................................................................................... 22
11. GREECE............................................................................................................................................. 24
12. HUNGARY........................................................................................................................................... 27
13. INDIA.................................................................................................................................................. 28
14. ISRAEL............................................................................................................................................... 29
15. ITALY.................................................................................................................................................. 31
16. JAPAN.................................................................................................................................................. 31
17. JORDAN.............................................................................................................................................. 32
18. MEXICO.............................................................................................................................................. 34
19. REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA............................................................................................... 37
20. NORWAY........................................................................................................................................... 38
21. POLAND............................................................................................................................................ 40
22. PORTUGAL......................................................................................................................................... 43
23. ROMANIA.......................................................................................................................................... 43
24. RUSSIA.............................................................................................................................................. 45
25. SERBIA.............................................................................................................................................. 46
26. SOUTH AFRICA................................................................................................................................. 48
27. SOUTH KOREA................................................................................................................................. 48
28. SPAIN................................................................................................................................................ 50
29. SWEDEN.......................................................................................................................................... 50
30. SWITZERLAND................................................................................................................................. 52
31. TURKEY.......................................................................................................................................... 53
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>UKRAINE</td>
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<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CONCLUSIONS</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERAL SITUATION ON THE WORLD.

COVID-19 cases crossed 182-million mark globally during the reported period, with USA, India, Brazil, France and Turkey occupying top five worst affected countries on the world respectively. Number of deaths is more than to 3.9 million with USA, Brazil, India, France, and Turkey among top five countries on the world.

Global numbers of cases over the reported period was over 12.5 million and 286 106 deaths continued to decrease with over 8.9 million new monthly cases and over 93 700 deaths, a 42% and a 25% decrease respectively compared to the previous month. For instance, the global number of new cases over the past week was over 2.6 million, a similar number compared to the previous week. The number of weekly deaths continued to decrease, with more than 57 000 deaths reported in the past week, a 10% decrease as compared to the previous week. This is the lowest weekly mortality figure since those recorded in early November 2020. Globally, COVID-19 incidence remains very high with an average of over 370 000 cases reported each day over the past week. The cumulative number of cases reported globally now exceeds 182 million and the number of deaths is almost 4 million. 1

The African Region, many countries in the African region continue to see increases in weekly case incidence and mortality. The Region reported over 177 000 new cases and over 2700 new deaths, a 34% and a 42% increase respectively compared to the previous week. The weekly number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing sharply since 15 May. Since then, 76% of cases and 72% of reported deaths in the Region where from countries in Southern Africa. Aside from South Africa (103 697 new cases; 174.8 new cases per 100 000 population; a 47% increase), the highest numbers of new cases in the Region were reported from Zambia (19 058 new cases; 103.7 new cases per 100 000; a 15% increase), and Namibia (12 944 new

1 https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---29-june-2021
cases; 509.4 new cases per 100 000; a 71% increase). Mortality in the African Region continued to increase sharply with the countries reporting the highest numbers of new deaths per 100 000 population over the past week being Namibia (11 new deaths per 100 000), Botswana (7 deaths per 100 000) and Zambia (20 new deaths per 100 000).

The Americas reported over 1.1 million new cases and over 30 000 new deaths, similar to the previous week. The Region reported the highest number of new cases and deaths per 100 000 over the past week when compared to the other regions (111 cases and 3 deaths per 100 000 population). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Brazil (521 298 new cases; 245.2 new cases per 100 000; a 3% increase), Colombia (204 132 new cases; 401.2 new cases per 100 000; a 5% increase), and Argentina (131 824 new cases; 291.7 new cases per 100 000; a 12% decrease). The highest numbers of new deaths per 100 000 population were reported from Paraguay (113 deaths per 100 000), Colombia (90 deaths per 100 000) and Argentina (83 deaths per 100 000) over the past week of the reported period.

The Eastern Mediterranean Region reported over 221 000 new cases, a 13% increase compared to the previous week. This increase in cases is the largest relative increase seen in the Region since the end of March 2021. Over 3400 new deaths were reported, a similar number with the previous week. The Region reported 30 new cases and 0.5 new deaths per 100 000 population over the past week of the reported period. The highest numbers of new cases per 100 000 population were reported from Oman (348 new cases per 100 pop), Kuwait (294 new cases per 100 pop) and Tunisia (189 new cases per 100 000 pop). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (857 new deaths; 1.0 new deaths per 100 000; a 9% decrease), Tunisia (619 new deaths; 5.2 new deaths per 100 000; an 18% increase), and Afghanistan (528 new deaths; 1.4 new deaths per 100 000; an 11% decrease).

The European Region reported over 372 000 new cases, a 10% increase compared to the previous week, and over 6400 new deaths, similar to the previous week. This is the first weekly increase in the number of cases reported by the Region after more than two months of a decreasing trend. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (134 465 new cases; 92.1 new cases per 100 000; a 24% increase), the United Kingdom (96 843 new cases; 142.7 new cases per 100 000; a 55% increase), and Turkey (38 936 new cases; 46.2 new cases per 100 000; a 2% decrease). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (3921 new deaths; 2.7 new deaths per 100 000; a 34% increase), Turkey (402 new deaths; 0.5 new deaths per 100 000; an 11% decrease), and Germany (369 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 33% decrease).

The South-East Asia Region reported over 573 000 new cases and over 13 000 new deaths, a 5% and a 33% decrease respectively compared to the previous week of the reported period. Although there is a slight overall decrease in the number of cases reported this week, mostly due to the decrease in the number of cases reported in India, a number of countries, including Myanmar (112% increase), Indonesia (60% increase) and Bangladesh (48% increase), reported large increases in the number of newly reported cases for this week. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (351 218 new cases; 25.5 new cases per 100 000; a 21% decrease), Indonesia (125 395 new cases; 45.8 new cases per 100 000; a 60% increase), and Bangladesh (36 738 new cases; 22.3 new cases per 100 000; a 48% increase). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (9038 new deaths; 0.7 new deaths per 100 000; a 45% decrease), Indonesia (2476 new deaths; 0.9 new deaths per 100 000; a 39% increase), and Bangladesh (624 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 45% increase).

The Western Pacific Region reported over over 116 000 new cases and over 1800 new deaths, a 6% and a 13% decrease respectively compared to the previous week of the reported period. The weekly number of newly reported cases has decreased over the past several weeks, after reaching a peak in mid-May. The highest numbers of new cases were
reported from the Philippines (38,684 new cases; 35.3 new cases per 100,000; a 14% decrease), Malaysia (37,347 new cases; 115.4 new cases per 100,000; a 4% decrease), and Mongolia (16,111 new cases; 491.4 new cases per 100,000; a 7% decrease). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Philippines (706 new deaths; 0.6 new deaths per 100,000; a 20% decrease), Malaysia (536 new deaths; 1.7 new deaths per 100,000; a 6% increase), and Japan (257 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100,000; a 30% decrease).

**CMDR COE ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 SPREAD ACCELERATION**

Continuing its mathematical analyses CMDR COE’s OpsLab was able to confirm previously made prognoses. Additionally, from the graphics could see that the observed countries passed through four waves. These waves were dominated and defined by the virus development. Now the changes of the pandemic behavior are reversed. It is delimited by the decreasing deviation between computed distribution (mathematical model) and the reported data. The decrease of the deviation could be explained with the increase of vaccinated and immune people. Because of the vaccination, some people have minor symptoms after infection and don’t visit a doctor. The hidden distribution is increased and close to the same ratio which was observed at the beginning of the pandemic. Fortunately, the absolute value of the hidden distribution is lower.

At the moment, according the calculations and obvious from the graphs, the situation in USA shows the beginning of new wave. The peak depends mainly on the new stain and vaccine effectiveness. The expected value is close and less than previous one. Such scenario could have some advantages – bigger autumn wave could be avoided. A wave in autumn and beginning of the winter is expected in Bulgaria due to the small vaccinated number.
Virus Acceleration in Italy with applied 7-day filter

Death toll used for calculation of the real spread of the virus
Virus Acceleration in Bulgaria with applied 7-day filter

Death toll used for calculation of the real spread of the virus
The CMDR COE was invited to participate in a project of modelling and simulation of the COVID-19 distribution. Our vision for contribution and participation to the project is related with the CMDR IDE.

We propose to develop HLA FOM capable to transfer data from Federation (part of the CMDR IDE) to the COVID19 model and to transfer back information from the model to the CMDR IDE. It is related with processing of medical standard. Existing standards covering the mathematical model input data is transferred into federation standard. A specific interface could be built in order to input additional information and data for the model. What we expect from the model is the impact of the virus and how it is distributed in the connected simulations. The focus in the beginning will be on the effect on the military operation. The data will be visualized on C2 systems and COP. The AI of the CMDR IDE could suggest response measures to the decision maker. These measures will be transferred to the connected simulation systems and to the model also (some of them not directly). In such manner will be assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the applied COA. The activation and performance of the units responsible for the measures will be simulated and later the cost and results will be calculated by the simulations.

MONITORING

1. ALBANIA

In Albania, from 3 January 2020 to 25 June 2021, there have been 132,499 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 2,455 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 19 June 2021, a total of 875,580 vaccine doses have been administered. Authorities in Albania have eased certain COVID-19 related domestic restrictions from June 1 following a significant decrease in infection rates. The daily curfew now starts one hour later - from 23:00-06:00. In addition, authorities lifted the mandate on wearing facemasks in outdoor public spaces; the mandate for facemasks in indoor public spaces remains in place. Gatherings remain capped at 10 people.
All land borders are open, and no mandatory testing or quarantine requirements are in place. International flights and maritime passenger transport continue to operate to and from Albania. Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

2. AUSTRIA

The situation in Austria is pretty calm. This decrease started slowly at the end of March and remains till now with less than 100 new cases per day. We saw some measures of relaxation a couple of weeks ago. Namely, from 10 June including rules on masks, for groups, an extension on closing times for restaurants to midnight and more people allowed in retail. Now, all hotels and restaurants are open with some safety measures. Shops, museums, culture and leisure facilities are open. Events can take place again under strict protective measures. Some entry regulations are in effect. Additional local rules for certain regions with high COVID numbers may be in effect. For almost all public indoor and some outdoor spaces (hotels, restaurants, events etc.), you will need to show either a negative COVID test or proof of vaccination/past infection. FFP2 masks are required on public transport and in other public spaces. 

What is the plan from 1 July from a restrictions point of view? No more mandatory closing time for restaurants and nightclubs can reopen and also no minimum distance between groups of guests. No more mask requirement in restaurants and hotels. Regular (cloth) masks are sufficient on public transport, in museums and shops. Testing requirement for children 12+ only. No more capacity restrictions at events.

Vaccination:
More than half of the vaccine-eligible Austrian population has received its first Covid-19 vaccination. This number corresponds to more than 4 million people, while 2 million people have already received full immunization.

In the early June Ministry of Health introduced the Austrian Green Passport. It aims to make life easier for people who are tested, have recovered or are vaccinated. By July, the Green Passport will also be implemented in the European system, which should make travel across EU countries much easier.

Sources:

3. BRAZIL

Brazil has recorded the world’s highest COVID-19 death toll outside the United States, with more than half a million lives lost, according to the ministry’s official tally. But while the situation in the United States and most wealthy nations improves thanks to higher vaccination rates, Brazil and many neighbors in South America this month have seen their biggest outbreaks yet.
Brazil’s seven-day average for new coronavirus cases and deaths is now the highest in the world, having surpassed India last week, according to data compiled by Reuters. Brazil marked the milestone of 500,000 COVID-19 deaths over the weekend with nationwide protests against the government’s handling of the pandemic. With 2.7% of the world’s population, but 13% of COVID-19 deaths globally, Brazil continues to suffer a disproportional death rate.

Brazil is currently in the middle of a congressional inquiry into why so many COVID-19 deaths were allowed to happen in Brazil. The investigation is analysing if the President intentionally avoided making vaccine deals to promote herd mentality, and if he supported genocide of Indigenous people in the Amazon by allowing the Gamma variant to run freely there.

Now, 1 in 400 Brazilians are dead due to the virus. In Brazil, the Gamma variant mutated in the absence of vaccinations and social distancing measures. The Gamma variant collected 17 mutations – including an important trio of mutations in the spike protein (K417T, E484K and N501Y). The spike is what the antibodies in vaccines are generally identifying and destroying, so too many mutations of the spike can give the virus an edge against natural antibodies – that is, antibodies that happen in a person after they survive COVID-19. This means that without vaccination, it is less likely that virus survivors can use their natural antibodies to fight off a second infection.

The country has been slow to roll out vaccines with only 12% of Brazilians fully immunized,
according to Health Ministry data. Efforts have accelerated recently, with certain states such as Sao Paulo predicting shots for all adults by September.

The government of President Jair Bolsonaro is under scrutiny for delays and alleged misconduct in obtaining vaccines, having failed to respond to early offers from Pfizer (PFE.N) last year.

The government instead struck a deal for more expensive vaccine made by India's Bharat Biotech.

A Senate committee is probing claims related to Bharat amid a wider investigation of the government's response.

There is an ongoing inquiry into vaccine and distancing decisions made by Brazilian President, Jair Bolsonaro, who at one point, openly suggested that taking the Pfizer vaccine could turn the recipient into a crocodile.

Sources:


4. BULGARIA

The Bulgarian government extended the nationwide epidemic emergency until July 31 although gradually decreasing of new cases.

The epidemic emergency was initially declared on May 14 last year with a duration of one month, replacing the state of emergency implemented on March 13. It has already been extended several times, with the last extension to the end of May.

The situation is stable with less than 100 new cases per day and it is in the green zone of the EU map of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, there are measures still in force related to group activities, school attendance, cultural and entertainment events etc.

1. Conducting face-to-face group classes in language centers, educational centers and other training centers and schools, organized by legal entities and individuals is allowed with a physical distance of at least 1.5 m, wearing face masks, hand hygiene, regular airing every hour and disinfection.

2. Visits to children’s centers, clubs and others providing organized group services for children are allowed when using no more than 50% of the room capacity and wearing protective masks for staff.

3. Conducting congress-conference events, seminars, competitions, training, team buildings, exhibitions and other public events in person is allowed when using no more than 50% of the capacity of the room in which they are held, subject to physical distance from the most -a little 1.5 m. and wearing face masks by all participants.

4. The holding of cultural and entertainment events (festivals, cinemas, theatres, circus performances, stage events, concerts, museums, galleries, libraries, classes in dance, creative and musical arts) is allowed when using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises, observance of a physical distance of at least 1.5 m., wearing protective face masks and use only on seats (for concerts, festivals, theatres, circus performances and other stage events).

5. Conducting sports competitions with an audience is allowed when occupying no more than
50% of the seats, observing a physical distance of at least 1.5 m and wearing protective face masks.

6. Visits to fitness centers, gyms and clubs, swimming pools and complexes, balneotherapy (medical SPA) centers, SPA centers, wellness centers and thalassotherapy centers are allowed when using no more than 50% of their capacity and observing physical distance from the most -a little 1.5 m.

7. Visits to restaurants and entertainment within the meaning of Art. 124 of the Tourism Act, gaming halls and casinos are allowed when using no more than 50% of their capacity and wearing protective masks for a person by the staff.

8. All-natural and legal persons who own or manage commercial, administrative or other sites that provide services to citizens, create an organization to control the number of customers in the site, not allowing more than 1 person per 8 square meters.

9. In all markets and bazaars, an organization is created for one-way traffic and providing a distance of at least 1.5 m between visitors. Workers and visitors are required to wear a face mask.

10. Employers and recruitment bodies organize the work process of employees in remote form (teleworking / home work), where possible, allowing the present work of a maximum of 50% of the staff.

11. Visits to outsiders/visits to hospital facilities are prohibited, except for visits to patients in the terminal stage. The prohibition does not apply to the control bodies in carrying out their control activity.

12. In the specialized institutions for providing social services and those for residential-type social services for children and adults, visits to outsiders are allowed exceptionally and at the discretion of the director of the institution in compliance with the introduced anti-epidemic measures and submission of a declaration by the visitor that no is in contact with infectious patients, has no signs of acute respiratory disease and will comply with the anti-epidemic measures introduced on the territory of the institution. The restriction does not apply to the control bodies in carrying out their control activity.

Sources:

5. CANADA

Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 26 residents have been infected, a total of 1,419,180 reported cases. At least 1 in 1,437 residents have died from the coronavirus, a total of 26,191 deaths. An average of 763 cases per day were reported in Canada in the last week. Cases have decreased by 49 percent from the average two weeks ago. Deaths have decreased by 29 percent. Hospitalizations have also seen a significant drop. The latest seven-day average of those seeking treatment in hospital for COVID-19 has dropped more than 55 per cent since the peak.

<table>
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<th>TOTAL REPORTED</th>
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13 | P a g e
April 2021 was the worst month for cases, while January 2021 was the worst month for deaths in Canada.
The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases attributed to the highly contagious Delta variant jumped 66 per cent in Canada this week.
The Delta variant is now in all provinces and at least one of Canadian’s territories.
Canada is in the middle of its largest mass vaccination program in history, with tens of thousands of COVID-19 inoculations being administered daily across the provinces and territories. By the end of July, Canada will have received “over 68 million” doses of COVID-19 vaccines. At least 67% of the population have received at least one dose and 23% of the population have been fully vaccinated.

As the situation continues to improve in Canada, many provinces have released their step-by-step plans on reopening to a “new normal. A few provinces have laid out a roadmap that involves vaccination targets that need to be met before each reopening phase.
British Columbia has a four-step approach to reopening, with vaccination targets being a key part of the plan. Declining COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and mortality rates are also factored in when considering whether the province is ready to move onto the next step.
Ontario has a three-step plan to reopening, and similar to British Columbia, also bases its reopening dates on vaccination targets, in addition to lower COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations.
The Ontario government has also stated that the province will stay in each step for a minimum of 21 days before moving onto the next step.
The Quebec government has created a four-phase plan to reopening. The province is in its first phase and just had its curfew and regional travel bans lifted on May 28. This stage allows small outdoor gatherings, restaurant patios with a limited number of people permitted per table, and large indoor and outdoor venues with pre-assigned seating.

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<th>Doses administrated</th>
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<td>Canada total</td>
<td>67 %</td>
<td>23 %</td>
<td>38 087 454</td>
<td>34 174 571</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
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Sources:

6. CHINA

The number of infected in the country reached a total of 91,604 and 4,636 deaths (death rate 5.37). China remains 100 in the world in this indicator. The share of the recovered is approximately 94.66 percent of the total number of infected in China.

China has provided more than 350 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccines overseas and is stepping up domestic production to further increase the foreign supply, especially to developing countries.

The No. 1 priority for the global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic is to expand and accelerate mass vaccination, which rests on boosting vaccine production and promoting equitable access. The country is now scaling up production to ensure smooth progress of its inoculation campaigns, while also exhausting all means to offer assistance to the international community, particularly those in the developing world.

More than 100 million doses had been administered in the six days up to and including Saturday – 20 Jun 21.

China has administered more than a billion doses of its Covid-19 vaccines, a key milestone in the world's largest inoculation drive (21 Jun 2021). As of Saturday - 20 Jun 2021, 1,010,489,000 doses had been given to people in China, according to the country's National Health Commission (NHC). More than 100 million doses had been administered in the six days up to and including 20 Jun 2021.

However, efficacy rates for the Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines have been found to be lower than those developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. It's unclear how many people have been full inoculated as the government does not release those numbers.
Sources:
3. China has administered more than 1 billion doses of its Covid-19 vaccines (msn.com)

7. DENMARK

Three Denmark fans test positive for Covid-19 Delta variant after Belgium game

Three Denmark fans were infected with the Delta coronavirus variant by attending the Euro 2020 match against Belgium, according to the Danish Agency for Patient Safety. Meanwhile, Finnish football fans returning from Russia after Euro 2020 matches have caused a spike in their country's daily coronavirus cases, Finnish health authorities have said. The agency also says there have been 29 cases of infection in connection with three European Championship matches on Danish soil.

The news comes just two days before Denmark are due to play Wales in a last-16 tie in Amsterdam – a game that Danish fans are able to attend but Welsh supporters are not. The two nations are not on the Netherlands’ safe country list but, for European Union and Schengen area residents, an exemption to the entry rules and the need to quarantine exists. Denmark fans can avoid quarantine in the Netherlands by spending less than 12 hours in the country.

The same exemption does not apply to Wales supporters following the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the EU.

Anette Lykke Petri, director of the Danish Agency for Patient Safety, said three fans who attended the Denmark v Belgium game at Copenhagen's Parken Stadium on 17 June were infected independently of each other.

The close contacts of the three infected individuals, as well as their close contacts, are in isolation and have been recommended to have a PCR test. Supporters that saw the game in certain sections of the stadium have been invited to test but are not isolating.

Responding to the Danish Agency for Patient Safety’s comments, a UEFA spokesperson said: "The mitigation measures implemented in each of UEFA Euro 2020 host venues are closely following the regulations set out by the competent local authorities who are the ones responsible for the health and safety measures of their inhabitants. "UEFA has set out a variety of guidance for their spectators, including a code of conduct that was requested to be agreed to by all ticket holders, before entering the stadium.

"The overall rates of positive results following the group stage of the Euro 2020 tournament are still marginally low and we are satisfied with the overall situation."

Finland sees spike in infections after fans return from Russia

Elsewhere, the Finnish authorities said nearly 100 infections have since been recorded at two border crossings with Russia, mostly among returning fans. The Finnish national team suffered two defeats in St Petersburg following their victory over Denmark in the opening game. The total of daily new cases has since risen from around 50 to more than 100, according to official
data.
The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare said almost 100 infections had been diagnosed among Finns who had travelled to St Petersburg and the number was likely to grow. Mika Salminen, head of security at the health institute, said a majority of those who contracted Covid in St Petersburg were football fans. Most infections were found in people on 15 buses that left the city for Finland.
Authorities expect more people to test positive in the coming days because of the long incubation period of the virus and because they were not able to test all arriving fans before the main crossing point.
Finland, the nation of 5.5 million people, however remains among the countries least affected by the pandemic.

Sources:
8. FINLAND

Covid restrictions set to ease all over Finland. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health announced the easing of Covid restrictions throughout Finland. Finland is set to ease Covid restrictions on gatherings and events following criticism of rules governing sports and cultural events.

In regions currently in the community transmission phase, it will be possible to organise outdoor events for up to 50 people using safety precautions and social distancing arrangements. For indoor events the number of participants will still be limited to ten, but the possibility of easing these restrictions will be reevaluated in early June.

Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services Krista Kiuru (SDP), Ministry of Social Affairs and Health director Pasi Pohjola and chief physician Taneli Puumalainen outlined the updated hybrid strategy designed to bring Finland out of the pandemic at a press conference Wednesday night.

Regions currently in the acceleration phase and baseline phase are released from restrictions limiting social gatherings. In regions currently in the acceleration phase, the emphasis will be on avoiding close contact, with recommendations being given to event organisers. Activity interruptions and long-distance learning are discontinued in the area.

In areas in the 'base level' phase of the epidemic, all restrictions are removed, but basic hygiene and sufficient distances will be emphasised and sufficient social distancing is encouraged.

Incidence rates will only be calculated for a period of 14 days and will take into account of the progress of vaccinations and the efficiency of contact tracing.

Government policy has been criticised by the sports and events sector, as restrictions have stayed in place for events while pubs and restaurants were allowed to open up.

Finland Ready to Issue EU Digital COVID-19 Passport

As most European countries have already started to issue vaccination passports weeks ahead of the deadline, Finland began the process just now. As a result, since yesterday, June 22, the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate of Finland has been updated to be compatible with the ones issued by the European Union.

More specifically, this means that the vaccination passports approved by the EU are now available to Finnish residents through the online health portal known as Omakanta, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

On the other hand, the information regarding the COVID-19 test result certificates will be available in the system from July.

The certificates will be free of charge to all residents of Finland and will be available in Finnish, Swedish, and English.

It was previously reported that Finland is lagging behind in implementing the passport as the country was still in the process of testing to get technically ready to connect to the gateway of the EU.

Based on the data provided by the EU Commission, the following countries are successfully connected to the EU Digital COVID Passport and are verifying or issuing at least one of the certificates: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and Iceland.
The first countries to start issuing the certificates within the bloc are Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Croatia, and Poland, whereas the other countries joined recently. Finland is next to be part of the scheme and start issuing the EU Digital COVID Passports.

The European Union introduced the EU Digital COVID Passport in a bid to allow safe travel within the block.

The digital passport is a single-page document that can be issued in paper or digital format. Based on the status of travellers, three different passports have been launched, including a vaccination passport, a recovery certificate, and a test certificate.

The EU Member States have been permitted by the Commission to issue travel certificates for citizens who have been vaccinated against the Coronavirus with vaccines that have not been approved by EMA. However, it is up to the Member States to decide whether they will allow those vaccinated with vaccines other than those approved by European Medicines Agency EMA to enter their territory.

The EU authorities have revealed that those vaccinated with non-approved vaccines may not enjoy the same privileges as those vaccinated with an approved vaccine. The vaccines approved by EMA include BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson.

Previously, the Finnish authorities announced that more relaxed restrictions will apply to persons travelling from EU/Schengen Area countries.
Sources:
1. Covid restrictions set to ease all over Finland (https_yle.fi)
2. Finland Ready to Issue EU Digital COVID-19 Passport (schengenvisainfo.com)

9. FRANCE

This Wednesday, June 23, 2,320 new cases of Covid-19 were identified in 24 hours, according to figures from Public Health France, a total of 5,762,322 confirmed cases since the start of the epidemic.

The positivity rate over the last seven days, the percentage of the number of people who tested positive out of the total number of people tested, was 0.9%.

The pressure on the hospital continues to decrease, with France having 10,046 people hospitalized for Covid-19.

The number of patients hospitalized for Covid-19 fell below 10,000 in France this Wednesday (9,771), including 1,509 people in critical care. 33 deaths have been recorded in the last 24 hours. The positivity rate fell to 0.9% in one week, a figure not seen since the start of the epidemic. However, the Delta variant worries the government. It represents 9 to 10% of contaminations in France. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Health will visit the Landes on Thursday where the Indian variant represents nearly 70% of contaminations. Since Monday, June 21, TROD tests (rapid serology tests) are automatically carried out before each injection in a vaccination center, in order to avoid over-vaccination in patients who have already contracted the disease. On the other hand, the Haute Autorité de Santé recommends a new strategy to reinforce the control of the spread of variants: vaccination of all contact cases after the appearance of a variant. Wearing a mask outdoors (and in schoolyards) is no longer compulsory, the curfew has been lifted, standing concerts can resume on June 30 and the reopening of nightclubs is scheduled for July 9. 52 people have died of Covid-19 in hospitals in the past 24 hours. The total toll shows 110,858 dead since the start of the epidemic, including 84,402 in hospital.

Since the start of the vaccination campaign in France, 32,251,464 people have received at least one injection and 18,734,028 have received all doses of the vaccine.
10. GERMANY

As of 23 Jun 2021, Germany has the 12th most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide. As of the same date the total numbers are: Over 3.7 million (3,723,798) confirmed cases, 90,523 COVID-19 related deaths with a fatality rate of 2.43% while approximately 3,611,500 people have recovered from their virus infection.

Germany has recorded its highest number of new COVID-19 infections since January 08, on April 15 (29,426 cases). In the past 14 days, there have been 17,856 newly registered virus infections throughout Germany, around 85% decrease compared to the previous two weeks, 28 days ago (with 120,175).

On 18 December 2020, daily reported cases reached the maximum since the start of the pandemic with 33,777 new cases and furthermore on 14 January 2021 a daily record of 1244 deaths.

The cumulative nationwide incidence over the past 7 days was 7.0 cases (while 58.0 four weeks ago) per 100,000 inhabitants. The 7-day incidence of people 60-79 years is currently 3.0 cases/100,000 population (from 31.0 four weeks ago).

There is a five-step plan to relaxing restrictions on a regional or state level. Each step will be taken every (14) days if regional infection numbers are stable or reduced. An emergency brake system will return regions to current lockdown levels if there are (3) consecutive days with an incidence rate above 100 per 100,000 people per week. Cabinet members approved legal changes to grant the federal government more power to enforce coronavirus regulations in German states. The “federal emergency brake” would mean that any region in any state with a high incidence of COVID-19 cases would be legally required to implement a uniform set of rules set out by the federal government.

As of May 9, residents who are considered fully immune to the coronavirus will no longer be subject to nightly curfews and restrictions on meeting people. Anyone who has had both doses of the vaccine or who has recovered after falling ill will be able to meet with others in the same category in private without any restrictions. The fully immune also won’t need to show proof they
tested negative to enter shops and be in quarantine after travel, except in specific cases — for example, if they enter from an area where a variant of the virus is rampant. However, they will still be required to adhere to social distancing measures, including wearing masks in shops and on public transport.

The first doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer coronavirus vaccine arrived in Germany’s 16 states on December 26, a day before the country begins a large-scale immunization program.

As of June 23, 42,922,868 German citizens, around 51.21% of total population, had been vaccinated with at least one dose (see figure 3) and 26,976,919, around 32.19% of total population, had been fully vaccinated, which phase began on January 17 (see figure 4).

As of March 15, Germany has temporarily halted the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as a precaution and restarted its vaccinations on March 19, after EMA declared it safe for use. Furthermore, on March 31 it was decided to suspend the routine use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under age 60. People under 60 can still receive the shot, but only at the discretion of doctors, and after individual risk analysis and thorough explanation.

Figure 1: COVID-19 confirmed cases in Germany (23/06/2021)

Figure 2: COVID-19 deaths in Germany (23/06/2021)
Figure 3: COVID-19 1st Dose Vaccinations in Germany (23/06/2021)

Figure 4: COVID-19 Completed Vaccinations in Germany (23/06/2021)

Sources:
3. https://www.dkv.global/governments-ranking

11. GREECE

As of 23 June 2021, Greece has the 48th most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide. As of the same date the total numbers are: More than 410 thousand (419,455) confirmed cases, 12,595 COVID-19-related deaths with a fatality rate of 3.01%.

While Greece has been under lockdown for months, the country recorded the highest number of coronavirus cases (4340 cases) and intubations (847 patients) it has ever had in one day, on March 30 & April 19 respectively.

As of May 14, all travelers to Greece will have to fill in a Passenger Locator Form (PLF) detailing where they will be staying and for how long and will also have to present a certificate of vaccination against Covid-19 or a recent negative PCR test (72h), Rapid Antigen test (48h) - from June 19 - or an official document certifying recent recovery from the virus (2-9 months).

A system will be set up for Covid tests to be carried out at regular intervals at popular tourist destinations, while the government will also be leasing hotels to act as quarantine stations in...
the event of outbreaks. Also new health safety protocols are being drafted and sent out to museums, tour bus operators, yacht chartering companies and other tourism-related businesses.

As of April 21, a three step process to ease lockdown restrictions in Greece has been released. According to this plan, Greece will be almost entirely out of lockdown by mid-May. The first step is the opening of cafes and restaurants, which is to occur on May 3. The curfew will also be loosened to only restrict travel between 00:00 AM and 5:00 AM. There will be multiple safeguards in place for dining, including mandatory coronavirus self-testing for employees, a specific distance between tables, and all other hygiene standards. The second step is the resumption of in-person schooling on May 10 for middle school and elementary school students. Coronavirus self-testing will also be used to facilitate this part of easing lockdown, with testing mandatory for students and staff. The third step is to allow tourism to resume on May 15. Visitors from abroad who have been vaccinated or have a negative coronavirus test will be allowed into the country without entering into quarantine. Furthermore, inter-regional travel within Greece will also be permitted.

Starting June 12, the nightly curfew will be moved to 1:30AM (from 00:00AM). The curfew will end entirely on July 1, and nightclubs, which remained closed, will likely reopen on the same date. Starting on July 1, couples will be permitted to have up to 300 guests at their weddings. As of June 24, face masks need no longer be worn when walking or spending time outdoors. However, they should still be worn in crowded spaces, regardless of whether they are indoors or outdoors. Another measure which has been done away with is the night-time curfew (01:30 - 05:00AM), starting on June 28. From the same date, up to 10 people will also be allowed to sit together at a restaurant or cafe, up from the previous restriction of only 6 people per table. The first 9,750 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine against Covid-19 arrived in Greece under tight security on December 25. The vaccination against COVID-19 started on December 27 at five (5) hospitals in Attica region. Vaccination of the general population against the coronavirus - starting with those aged 85 or over - started on January 18. Currently vaccinated are those aged over 18.

As of June 23, 4,604,248 Greek citizens, around 44.20% of total population, had been vaccinated with at least one dose (see figure 3) and 3,321,644, around 31.88% of total population, had been completed their vaccination, which phase began on January 18 (see figure 4). It is noticeable that Greece never halted the AstraZeneca vaccine like other European countries did at mid of March. As of June 14, Greek health authorities decided to suspend the routine use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under age 60.

![Figure 1: COVID-19 confirmed cases in Greece (23/06/2021)](image_url)
Figure 2: COVID-19 deaths in Greece (23/06/2021)

Figure 3: COVID-19 1st Dose Vaccinations in Greece (23/06/2021)

Figure 4: COVID-19 Completed Vaccinations in Greece (23/06/2021)

Sources:
12. HUNGARY

Hungary to lift mask-wearing requirements once 5.5 million vaccinated
As a general rule, masks will no longer be required indoors and people will be allowed to go to hotels, restaurants, baths and water parks without an immunity certificate.
Head of the Prime Minister's Office, has confirmed that Hungary will lift mask-wearing requirements once 5.5 million people have been inoculated against COVID-19.
Masks will no longer be required indoors and people will be allowed to go to hotels, restaurants, baths and water parks without an immunity certificate once vaccinations reach 5.5 million. At the same time, that masks will remain mandatory in the healthcare sector. The use of immunity certificates will be maintained for mass events, such as sports events, concerts, festivals and night clubs.
The European Union's Digital Green Certificate for COVID immunity will enter into force in Hungary as well on July 1. Paper certificates will also be available at government offices or can be printed out from the government’s Client Gate electronic administration portal. The government will launch an information campaign on the certificate.

Government to lifted COVID-19 controls at internal Schengen borders from June 24
Authorities in Hungary lifted the COVID-19-related controls currently in place at the nation’s Schengen borders starting June 24 provided there is no deterioration in the epidemiological situation. The move will essentially open all border crossings between Hungary and other Schengen countries. Nevertheless, pandemic-related entry restrictions will remain in force; hence, in most cases, only Hungarian nationals and permanent residents will still be permitted to enter the country, with some limited exceptions. Foreign business travelers are permitted to enter Hungary without restrictions. Individuals traveling to Hungary for the Euro 2020 competition are exempt from quarantine but must present a negative result from a PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival. Most other travelers, including residents and citizens, must quarantine for 10 days on arrival. Incoming travelers who do not have a residential address in Hungary must quarantine at government-designated facilities for 10 days. Travelers may leave quarantine early if two negative COVID-19 tests are presented in the first five days. Persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are allowed to travel between Hungary and the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Bahrain, Croatia, Montenegro, Ukraine, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Turkey without the need to quarantine or test. Travelers must have evidence of vaccination issued by the relevant national authorities. Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

![HUNGARY daily new cases - 2020/21](chart)
Sources:
2. Hungary: Government to lift COVID-19 controls at internal Schengen borders starting June 24 /update 27 (garda.com)

13. INDIA

In the last month the daily reported COVID-19 cases in India have been on a downward trend. The number of the average daily cases has fallen to just over 50,000 in recent days, down from the peaks of 400,000 in May. The numbers of daily fatalities and active cases have also been constantly decreasing and the daily COVID-19 deaths dipped below 1,000. This allowed to some politicians and experts to consider the 2\textsuperscript{nd} COVID-19 in India as already finished. In reality, the numbers of the daily new cases and especially of the daily deaths are comparable with the numbers of the 1\textsuperscript{st} wave. As of 27 June, India has registered 30,279,331 COVID-19 cases (2\textsuperscript{nd} in the world), 579,942 active cases and 396,761 COVID-19 fatalities (3\textsuperscript{rd} in the world).

Therefore, the pandemic situation in India is not to be underestimated and furthermore, there are warnings that a third wave could strike in the next few months. These concerns are further increased by the presence of new variants, including the much-talked about Delta plus, which could weaken the existing vaccines. Delta plus is related to the Delta, an existing variant of concern first identified in India last year that was responsible for the deadly second wave. The decrease of the number of average daily cases has largely been attributed to strict lockdowns and other measures introduced by states. Therefore, it is important that states now reopen the economy gradually and the safety protocols are implemented at every level. Some of states even started to reimpose some restrictions in big towns in which the dangerous Delta Plus variant was detected.

Vaccination remains one of the most important measures to avoid a 3\textsuperscript{rd} COVID-19 wave in the future or at least to weaken it as much as possible. Two locally made vaccines, COVISHIELD and COVAXIN, are currently part of the vaccination programme. Another COVID-19 vaccine, Russia-made Sputnik V, also received the national drugs regulator’s emergency use authorisation, and is now being administered at select private Covid-19 vaccination centers in the country under pilot mode.
After the difficulties with the vaccination in May, especially in the rural areas, in June the campaign picked up pace and 106 million doses were administered across the country (an average of 3.9 million doses per day through the month). Nearly 42 million of these have been administered during the week. As a result, India saw a new vaccine record and surpassed the United States in total number of doses administered so far. However, there are warnings that the difficulties with logistics and insufficient production may slow the vaccination again in July. Currently about 28.1% of adults in India, 59.3% of those aged above 45, and 66.6% of people aged above 60, were administered at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. While 19.4% of the country’s population has received at least one dose, only 4.1% are fully vaccinated.

14. ISRAEL

The number of infected in the country reached a total of 839,867 cases of coronavirus and 6,428 deaths. Israel remains 32 in the world in this indicator.
Israel has begun vaccinating teenagers aged 12 to 15 against COVID-19 (31 May 2021). The move comes despite the health ministry last week saying that it had found a small number of hard inflammation cases observed in a young man who received the Pfizer COVID-19. The rules to enforce wearing facemasks indoors in Israel will be lifted starting June 15. Israel has already lifted the obligation to wear a facemask outdoors since April 18, following the decline in Covid-19 infections in the country.

At this stage, the weak points are the spread of the Delta (Indian) variant throughout the world, visits by Israelis to these countries, and the fact that many of those returning from abroad are not adhering to the quarantine directives and infecting others in Israel (21 Jun 2021). An report shows that the Indian variant is 60% more contagious than the British stain, the dominant one in Israel, and causes 2.5 more hospitalizations. However, the Pfizer-developed vaccine, with which the majority of Israelis were vaccinated, is effective against it. Israel will allow vaccinated tourists into the country from 1 July in a boost for Britons hoping to go there on a “green list” holiday.

Until now, tourists have only been permitted to enter the country under tight restrictions if they are visiting an immediate relative since the pandemic began last year. Vaccinated travelers from low-risk countries will be able to enter Israel without the need to take a serological test to prove they have Covid-19 antibodies in their system, a health official said last week. Anyone who has not been vaccinated and attempts to enter Israel will have to quarantine.
Sources:


15. ITALY

As of June 24, 2021, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Italy surpassed 4.2 million, around 62.3 thousand of which were active cases. Moreover, the number of people who recovered or were discharged from hospital after contracting the virus surpassed four million, while the number of deceased was equal to 127,362.

Entry from the countries of the European Union and the Schengen Area, Japan, Canada and the United States of America

By ordinance of 18 June 2021, the Minister of Health, Roberto Speranza, has provided for the use of the Covid-19 Green Certificate for entry into Italy from countries of the European Union and from Japan, Canada and the United States of America.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

For those arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a 5-day quarantine with mandatory swab testing was introduced by ordinance of 18 June 2021.

India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The new ordinance extended to 30 July 2021 the measures in force for entry to Italy for people coming from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, or who have been in the countries in the preceding fourteen days.

Italy records a declining coronavirus incidence rate and an accelerating vaccination campaign.

The health situation in Italy is improving, as the new cases per 100,000 inhabitants have been falling since April and the pressure on hospitals is starting to ease. In fact, average daily new coronavirus cases is now below 4,000 for the first time since October 10th, and deaths are also at a seven-month low.

As of June 25, 2021, there had been around 48.3 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in Italy. Breaking down this figure by region, Lombardy stood out as the one that administered the highest number of vaccine doses, more than 8.4 million. So far, over 16.9 million people in Italy can be said to be fully immunized against COVID-19.

16. JAPAN

Japan has been experiencing a “fourth wave” of positive cases. Japan is currently seeing a daily average of 1,500 positive cases nationwide. At this time, Japan had recorded over 790,000 positive cases of coronavirus during the course of the pandemic.

The state of emergency which was issued gradually into 10 prefectures from early January has now ended which the exception of the Okinawa Prefecture, which has been extended to July 11th.
The Japanese government has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in Japan on February 14th. They began rolling this out to the general population on April 12th, starting with ages 65 and over. Until then, only frontline healthcare workers were being vaccinated. On May 21st, the Japanese government also approved the use of the Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines. Prime Minister has also announced that Japan hopes to vaccinate all those who want to be inoculated by the end of November. Foreign travel to Japan is currently not permitted except for circumstances such as attending a funeral abroad, and no indication has yet been given as to when this will change. The Olympics are scheduled to go ahead on the 23rd of July, without international spectators. The Japanese constitution prevents the government from enforcing a hard lockdown, which would be considered an infringement on personal freedoms. Until February 2021, its only recourse was to declare a “state of emergency” in regions where cases were surging. This meant that restrictions on movement and working hours could be suggested, but not be enforced. Since new laws were passed in February 2021, local governments now have the power to impose their restrictions on localised areas. Nevertheless, due to the recent surge of positive cases across the country, the national government declared the third state of emergency, and this means: - Bars and restaurants are asked to stop serving alcohol and close by 8 pm. - Venues that only serve alcohol are requested to close completely. - Karaoke has effectively been banned in venues offering this service. - Residents are asked not to go out unless deemed necessary. The hope is to reduce commuters by 70%. - In general, larger venues such as department stores, shopping centres, and theme parks have been requested to close, though some have been allowed to reopen as long as they close by 8 pm. - Spectator events are allowed but must be capped at 5,000 people and finish by 9 pm. - Cross-prefectural travel is strongly discouraged. Despite the extension of the current state of emergency, many large outlets, theme parks, and other businesses that were closed are reopening from June 1st on reduced hours. The state of emergency has now ended in Japan except Okinawa prefecture.

Sources:
5. https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210609/p2g/00m/0na/050000c

17. JORDAN

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has recorded 9,743 deaths and 750,886 cases since the pandemic began.
A Prime Ministry statement said Defence Order No. 30 of 2021 is consistent with a 3-tiered government plan for the complete reopening of the economy, and is intended to ensure continued adherence to health protocols and infection prevention controls. Customers and visitors of businesses and sectors allowed to reopen on June 1st after more than a year of Covid-forced closures are required to show their ID, or their health verification code or a proof of vaccination via Sanad, the e-government service gateway app, according to a new defence order issued by Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh’s office. The order, announced under the 1992 Defence Law, which was invoked early 2020 following the outbreak of the pandemic, stipulates a fine starting from JD20 and not exceeding JD50 against those who enter any of the said businesses and sectors without the verification set forth in the order.

The Ministry of Health will conduct PCR tests for the Coronavirus (Covid-19) in all public and private institutions, hospitals, ministries and factories, a health official said Saturday. Assistant Secretary-General for Primary Health Care at the Health Ministry, Ghazi Sharkas, told that the mechanism will be steered by teams to all locations in the governorates to conduct periodic tests for all employees, visitors of ministries and institutions, people who are admitted to hospital, emergency patients and factory workers.

Careem and Bank Al Etihad, in cooperation with the National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM), have launched a joint initiative to provide COVID-19 vaccine to those who cannot access healthcare centers.

In a statement on Thursday, General Manager of Careem in Jordan and Iraq, Mohamed Al-Hakim, said that a home-delivery service will be provided to those whose names are sent by the NCSCM, adding that a medical team will be dispatched from the crisis center to homes...
using "Careem fleet". This initiative, which comes to support the government efforts in dealing with coronavirus pandemic, will cover various regions in the Kingdom, including Amman, Zarqa and Madaba, Al-Hakim noted.

Jordan received a third and final shipment of 146,400 doses of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine under the COVAX Facility, a partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health, in charge of the Kingdom’s Covid-19 file, Dr. Adel Al-Balbisi, denied reports that the government has halted rollout of AstraZeneca vaccine, stressing that the drug is "safe and effective."

In a statement Al-Balbisi said Jordan has not suspended rollout of AstraZeneca vaccine, which was approved by Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), stressing that the anti-Covid-19 drug will continue to be administered.

Total of 3,620,000 people received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while the number of those who got their second shot across the Kingdom reached 1,250,000.

Sources:

18. MEXICO

For the second consecutive week, the cases of covid-19 in Mexico have registered an increase. What began as an increase in cases in the peninsulas of Baja California and Yucatán - due to tourist activity - have now spread to other entities such as Sonora, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, among others. At the national level the increase is 9%. This Saturday, which closes the week, there is an increase of about 15 to 18 percentage points, this could represent a change in the trend of the epidemic or it could not.

After weeks of reopening of shops, restaurants, shopping centers and the return to schools in person, the alarms of new outbreaks in different states have begun to sound. The authorities has made a call during the conference on Tuesday for people to continue with social distancing and infection prevention measures, although they assured that sanctions will not be implemented for those who fail to comply with these guidelines. During the last 24 hours,
Mexico reported 1,268 new infections that bring to 2.4 million confirmed cases since the pandemic began. For 15 days, coronavirus cases have escalated in the Baja California and Yucatán peninsulas as well as on the northern border of Mexico. In Baja California Sur, for example, estimated infections increased by 50% during the week of June 7 to 13. The states bordering this peninsula, Sinaloa and Sonora, also already register an increase in patients compared to the previous week of 28% and 25%, respectively. At the other end of the country, in the Yucatan peninsula, the number of infections continues to grow and has spread to other states such as Campeche and Tabasco. The first doubled in seven days the estimated cases of covid-19, going from 163 to 366 infected, while in Tabasco the figure increased by 11% and the State of Tamaulipas went from 11.69 to 1,291 infected. In Mexico City, the estimated cases of coronavirus increased by 17.3% compared to the previous week, going from 3,959 to 4,646, according to federal government figures. Authorities think that the third wave has already started, now, what they don't know is how high it will be, or how long it will last. It will depend on how much the cases and contacts can be detected and isolated to know if this next wave is going to be larger or smaller than the wave of August last year. The specialists think that this new outbreak of covid-19 in Mexico is a regrowth that has only occurred in specific areas of the country. It is still too early to say that a third wave began at the national level, a forecast that can be confirmed in the next two weeks. The important thing is the local epidemics, right now it is known where the strong epidemics are. Despite the increase in infected people in different areas, government has not yet established any state in the red at the epidemiological traffic light. According to this measurement, for the next two weeks the states of Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Tabasco Tamaulipas and Baja California Sur are in orange. In yellow are Mexico City - which only lasted two weeks in green - Campeche, Chihuahua, Colima, Nuevo León, Sinaloa, Sonora and Veracruz and the rest of the entities remain green, that is, with minimal risk to disease. The third wave has already started, now, what we don't know is how high it will be, or how long it will last. It will depend on how much the cases and contacts can be detected and isolated to know if this next wave is going to be larger or smaller than the wave of August last year. Mexico has already applied more than 40.7 million vaccines, which means that 28.1 million people have at least one dose of the biological. As of the night of this Monday, June 21, the registration for the immunization of people from 30 to 39 years began through the website of the Federal Government. So far, the vaccination program includes adults over 60 years old, adults between 50 and 59 years old, between 40 and 49 years old, pregnant women, medical personnel and educational personnel.
Sources:

19. REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Up to 23 June the COVID-19 situation in North Macedonia is as follows:

- COVID-19 cases: 155,627
- Deaths: 5,477
- Recovered: 149,877
- Active cases: 273

Since 16JUN, North Macedonia's government decided to lift the COVID-19-related night-time. The curfew It was active between 12 midnight to 4 a.m. The decision was based on official recommendations of the country's Commission for Infectious Diseases to further relax the restrictive measures as the number of new coronavirus cases and fatalities in the country has dropped significantly.

Based on the recommendations the following changes are coming:

- Events, concerts and parties can again be organized in the country but only outdoors at 50 percent capacity and with the participation of no more than 1,000 people. Weddings and other celebrations are now also allowed with 50 percent capacity, instead of the maximum 100 guests under the previous rules.

- The limit on the working hours of hospitality facilities, including bars and restaurants, as well as gas stations, casinos and betting shops has also been lifted.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign is underway in the country. To date, 13% of the
population is inoculated with at least 1 dose and almost 10% are fully vaccinated.
As a conclusion, up to date in North Macedonia there are less than 300 active cases. This is
tremendous success in curbing the virus. It came after a combination of two factors – physical
distancing and fast process of vaccination. With a population around 2 mil, 25% of them already
met the virus which is prerequisite for loosening the restrictive measures.

Sources:
3. https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/netherlands-to-remove-entry-ban-for-
tourists-from-us-5-other-third-countries-from-june-24/

20. NORWAY

COVID ‘IS OVER’ IN NORWAY, HEALTH CHIEF DECLARES
The Covid-19 pandemic is over in Norway, according to one of the doctors leading the
response against coronavirus in the rich Scandinavian country.
Preben Aavitsland, chief physician in the infection control division at the Norwegian Institute
of Public Health, tweeted on Sunday a graph showing Norway with its lowest level of
hospital admissions since the end of last summer and wrote: “That is the pandemic over with.” He added to newspaper VG: “Here in Norway, the pandemic is so to say over. We
can start to prepare ourselves for corona taking very little space in our everyday lives.”
Norway has had one of the lowest infection rates in Europe throughout all three waves of
the pandemic, helped by low population density and its relative isolation in northern Europe
as well as decisive action by the government and health authorities each time infections
started to rise. Its cases and deaths have been significantly lower than neighbouring
Sweden but also Denmark, which has taken a similar approach to Norway.
So far, 28 per cent of adults have been fully vaccinated in Norway while 42 per cent have
had one dose.
Aavitsland said that, with very few hospitalised due to Covid-19 and numbers continuing to
decline due to rising vaccinations, there would only be localised outbreaks in Norway in the
future.
Prime minister Erna Solberg has credited Norwegians’ general trust in the authorities in
helping with the Covid response, as well as its giant $1.3tn oil fund for easing its economic
impact. “What we have done right is that, first of all, we moved tough and hard at the start”.
Yet on the other hand Camilla Stoltenberg, director-general of the NIPH, added: “It is too
early to state that the coronavirus pandemic is over in Norway . . . Preben Aavitsland has
also emphasized that we still have a way to go.”

Norway Starts Implementing EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passports – Permits Restriction-Free Entry for Its Holders

Norway has today joined the European Union’s gateway for the issuance and verification
of the EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passport for those who have been vaccinated against the
Coronavirus, those who have recovered in the last six months, and those who test negative
before their trip.
Starting from, June 24, travellers who hold such documents will be eligible to enter Norway
completely restrictions free, without the need to register before entry, test or quarantine.
Norwegians will also be able to apply to get their certificates, while starting from July 1, all
EU and Schengen Area Member states will also be able to verify the EU COVID-19
Vaccination Passports issued by the Norwegian authorities, the Ministry explains.
Commenting on the document, it will mean a lot for both individuals and for important jobs in the tourism industry in Norway.

All those in Norway who have been fully vaccinated against the virus can apply to obtain one of these certificates. Those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months are also eligible for the document. This certificate is supposed to grant Norwegian restriction-free entry in all EU and Schengen Area countries.

According to the Ministry, currently, the following countries can verify such certificates: Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Croatia, Iceland, Poland and Latvia.

Whereas starting from July 1, the majority of the EU/EEA countries will be connected to the EU gateway for the verification of the EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passport. Those who qualify for the certificate can obtain it at helsenorge.no. However, those who cannot use a PC, mobile phone or tablet, can call the Corona information telephone and receive the corona certificate in the mail.

Sources:
1. [Norway Starts Implementing EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passports – Permits Restriction-Free Entry for Its Holders (schengenvisainfo.com)](schengenvisainfo.com)
2. [Covid 'is over' in Norway, health chief declares (ft.com)](ft.com)
21. POLAND

Reporting period close to 1 month shown that the situation is going better and number of new cases decreased significantly comparing to previous time and now is on the level of 209 new cases per day (85% decrees). Number of deaths also decreased (83%) and now is on the level of 379 deaths per week.

Also optimistic trend is seen in number of active cases which is on the level of 152,536, moreover number of hospitalised people dropped to 1307 and also those under intensive care to 208.

Polish government continue to gradually introduce easing of restriction measures, pending current epidemic situation. Many activities can be carry out, however with specific regulations, social distancing and sanitary regime. Still inside buildings, cinemas, theatres and in public transport wearing masks is obligatory.

The vaccination program is being continued, but its pace is slowing down, so the government is looking for more effective means of promotion. A vaccine lottery has been announced, which is scheduled to start on July 1 and provides for a draw for cash prizes, electric scooters and hybrid cars. In the final, you can win up to a million zlotys, which is around 250,000 euros.
Statistic Dashboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>2 878 199</td>
<td>+37 125</td>
<td>-75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>74 824</td>
<td>+1 588</td>
<td>-75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered</td>
<td>2 650 839</td>
<td>+20 258</td>
<td>-58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Cases</td>
<td>152 536</td>
<td>-135 019</td>
<td>-56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>-717</td>
<td>-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Average</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-1 680</td>
<td>-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitalized</td>
<td>1 307</td>
<td>-4 988</td>
<td>-61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine</td>
<td>61 845</td>
<td>-15 160</td>
<td>-58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Vaccination Program

Logistic Data

| Number of delivered doses | 33 013 670 |
| Doses delivered to vaccination points | 29 392 120 |
| Doses in reserve medical storage | 1 810 410 |
| Utilized doses | 25 956 |

Vaccination

| Number of vaccinations done | 27 078 372 |
| Vaccinated with first dose | 16 302 839 | 43,08% |
| Fully Vaccinated | 11 643 337 | 30,76% |

National vaccination program is continued. Government change approach to full open vaccination for teenagers over 12 years age. As of now 43,08% from entire population took at least 1 dose and 30,76% of population is fully vaccinated.
Number of cases by voivodship:

Number of deaths by voivodship:
22. PORTUGAL

Authorities in Portugal are worried about the growing numbers of the more infectious coronavirus delta variant. In an effort to slow the spread, traveling in and out of the capital has been banned for three days.

Coronavirus cases in Portugal jumped by more than thousand in the past month, the biggest increase since late February, this shows the data from the national health authority published on 21 June 2021.

The new cases brought the total number of infections in Portugal, which faced a tough battle against the coronavirus in January that left the health system on the verge of collapsing, to 860,365.

With these new values, the country entered the red quadrant of the pandemic control risk matrix, which stipulates a limit of 120 cases per 100,000 inhabitants for 14 days and a lower Rt (number of secondary cases of contagion resulting from an infected person) to 1.

This worsening of the pandemic has been gradual and evident in the last 31 days, with the country going from 241 cases of infection registered on 24 May to 1,497 registered today, which represents an increase of more than 520 percent.

During this period, Portugal had six days with more than a thousand new cases daily: June 16th (1,350), June 17th (1,233), June 18th (1,298), June 19th (1,183), June 22nd (1,020) having reached 1,497 new infections today, the highest number since February 24th.

The jump in infections comes less than a month after tourism-dependent Portugal opened to visitors from the European Union and Britain after it started to ease strict lockdown rules in mid-March. Most businesses have already reopened.

Portugal said on mid of June it would also allow U.S. visitors who test negative for the coronavirus into the country.

The government has come under fire for allowing two mass gatherings of football fans to take place last month - one in Lisbon when Sporting won the Portuguese title and one in Porto for the Champions League final. Around 69% of new cases were reported in and around the capital Lisbon.

As the weather warms, thousands have been heading to beaches and terraces across the country of over 10 million, where just 2.3 million have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

23. ROMANIA

Over the last month prior to the reported case in Romania, the number of infected people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and now is bellow 50 new cases per day. Number of deaths also decreased and average number is 100.

A positive trend is seen in number of active cases which is 2 000, moreover number of hospitalised people under intensive care dropped to 125.

The government continues to gradually introduce easing of restriction measures, pending current epidemic situation. Many activities allowed to be carried out. Still inside buildings, cinemas, theatres and in public transport wearing masks is obligatory.

The vaccination program continues. Romania has administered 8,9 million doses of COVID vaccines. 24 % of the population have at least 1 dose, 22,8 % fully vaccinated.
The Romanian national authorities are constantly trying to increase the testing capacity for the coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. The drastic evolution of the virus spread resulted in a total of 8,269,294 tests carried out by June 24, 2021.
24. RUSSIA

Russia Reports Doubling of COVID Cases in Past Month. Quickly rising case numbers put Russia at risk of following in the path of other countries such as India that seemed to have squelched infections only to see a resurgence. Russia has confirmed 5,350,919 cases of coronavirus and 130,347 deaths, according to the national coronavirus information center. Russia’s total excess fatality count since the start of the coronavirus pandemic is around 475,000. On June 20 were confirmed 16,715 new coronavirus cases and 546 deaths, the highest number of fatalities since Feb. 11. Russia has reported 125,853 deaths from Covid-19 since the pandemic started, but statistics showing excess mortality over the past year suggest the real number is far higher.

The outbreak is most pronounced in Moscow, the capital, where case numbers have tripled over the past two weeks, according to city officials, who have added 5,000 beds to coronavirus wards. Nearly 90% of Moscow's new infections are the Delta variant of the coronavirus first detected in India. Moscow health authorities reported 9,056 positive tests on June 18, the highest daily figure for the city since the pandemic began. From June 28, all Moscow cafes and restaurants will only serve customers who have been vaccinated; who have had Covid-19 in the past six months; or who present a negative Covid-19 test taken within the past 78 hours. Moscow has...
extended its coronavirus restrictions until June 29. Outdoor theaters, playgrounds, food courts, children’s playrooms in malls, and zoos will remain closed through June 29. Restaurants and bars must close from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Theaters, movie theaters, museums and other cultural venues will only be able to serve 1,000 people at a time. Fan zones, dance floors and other venues for mass events will be closed.

From June 28, Russia will resume regular air travel with the United States, Italy, Cyprus, Republic of North Macedonia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Jordan and Ireland. Citizens of China and Lichtenstein will also be permitted to enter the country.

Russia has been vaccinating people since the end of last year with its aptly named Sputnik V. It has developed and registered two more vaccines since. President Putin and other politicians and celebrities went public when they were vaccinated, and yet the numbers have been sluggish. Only 12.8% of Russians had received a single dose by 16 June, and 9.9% were fully vaccinated, according to statistika-vaccinacia.ru, which collates regional figures.

Those numbers have begun to pick up, but are still far below levels in the US, UK, and the rest of Europe, Israel and elsewhere.

**Sources:**


**25. SERBIA**

The pandemic situation is going better and number of new cases decreased significantly comparing to previous time and now is bellow 100 new cases per day. Number of deaths also decreased and now is under 10 per day last month. An optimistic trend is seen in number of active cases which is 2 125, moreover number of hospitalised people dropped to 314 and also those under intensive care to 12.

The Crisis Response Staff continues to gradually introduce easing of restriction measures, pending current epidemic situation. Many activities allowed to be carried out. Still inside buildings, cinemas, theatres and in public transport wearing masks is obligatory.

The vaccination program is in process. About 36% of the population is fully vaccinated and 38% at least with one dose. It is allowed foreign tourists to enter Serbia with a negative antigen rapid test, since the result from PCR is a long wait.
The vaccination program is in process. About 36% of the population is fully vaccinated and 38% at least with one dose. It is allowed foreign tourists to enter Serbia with a negative antigen rapid test, since the result from PCR is a long wait.

At the moment, the epidemiological situation is stable with a further decreasing tendency of
COVID-19 incidence rate in all parts of the country. However, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is still circulating in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, so it is recommended to follow preventive measures in order to reduce the risk of occurrence and transmission of this infection.

26. SOUTH AFRICA

African countries have recorded 5.4m cases and almost 141,000 deaths, though unreliable data means the true numbers are thought to be much higher. Africa is facing a fast-surgeing third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, with cases spreading more rapidly and projected to soon overtake the peak of the second wave the continent witnessed at the start of 2021.

COVID-19 cases have risen for five consecutive weeks since the onset of the third wave on 3 May 2021. As of 20 June—day 48 into the new wave—Africa had recorded around 474 000 new cases - a 21% increase compared with the first 48 days of the second wave. At the current rate of infections, the ongoing surge is set to surpass the previous one by early July.

The pandemic is resurging in 12 African countries. A combination of factors including weak observance of public health measures, increased social interaction and movement as well as the spread of variants are powering the new surge. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda that are experiencing COVID-19 resurgence, the Delta variant has been detected in most samples sequenced in the past month. Across Africa, the variant—first identified in India—has been reported in 14 countries.

The third wave is picking up speed, spreading faster, hitting harder. With rapidly rising case numbers and increasing reports of serious illness, the latest surge threatens to be Africa’s worst yet.

Authorities in South Africa have imposed new restrictions in a last ditch attempt to stem a sharp rise in Covid-19 that is ravaging the country’s economic heartland. The wave of infections has been driven by the spread of the more transmissible Delta variant, weak countermeasures and public fatigue with existing restrictions.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said all gatherings, indoors and outdoors, would be banned for 14 days, along with the sale of alcohol, dining in restaurants and travel to or from the worst-hit areas of the country. An extended curfew would also be imposed, and schools shut early for holidays.

The COVID-19 upsurge comes as the vaccine supply shortage persists. Eighteen African countries have used over 80% of their COVAX vaccine supplies, with eight having exhausted their stocks. Twenty-nine countries have administered over 50% of their supplies. Despite the progress, just over 1% of Africa’s population has been fully vaccinated. Globally, around 2.7 billion doses administered, of which just less than 1.5% have been administered in the continent.

As many high-income countries vaccinate a significant proportion of their populations, proof of vaccination is leading to fewer movement restrictions. Globally, 16 countries are waiving quarantine for those with a vaccination certificate. Measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission are crucial, but with many African countries having limited access to vaccines, it is important that vaccines be only one of the conditions countries use to open borders and increase freedom of movement.

27. SOUTH KOREA

Up to 23JUN21 the COVID-19 situation in North Macedonia is as follows:

- COVID-19 cases: **151,901**
- Death s: **2,006**
- Recovered: **143,817**
- Active cases: **6,078**
Since 1 July, South Korea will relax social distancing rules and allow private gatherings of up to six people in the greater Seoul area. The announcement comes as South Korea has inoculated 29.2 per cent of its population, putting it on track to meet a target of 70 per cent by September. Despite the daily new infections have held stubbornly in a range of 400 to 700 for the past few weeks, they stayed below 600 for more than a week so far. It is positive sign for rethinking the regulative measures. This new social distancing system is an effort to find a balance between quarantine and daily life recovery amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. It is applying simultaneously with inoculation and the plan is three-quarters of its 52m people against Covid-19 over the next three months to be fully vaccinated.

The country cannot stop the community spread of the virus with the current vaccination rate, so that

To encourage vaccination, South Korea is introducing incentives such as allowing vaccinated people to go maskless outdoors and to be exempt from restrictions of gatherings of more than four people.

As a conclusion, it is obvious that S. Korean Government is on the right track fighting the virus and protecting people, but they have to find balance between returning to ordinary life and acceleration the vaccination. Initially the plan for vaccination of 70% of the population till November looked ambitions, but now after the huge number of vaccines bought and provided to the country it looks possible.

Sources:

28. SPAIN

In the beginning of June, Spain officially declared that the coronavirus pandemic has caused the greatest demographic crisis in the country since the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). According to provisional data published by the National Statistics Institute (INE), 492,930 people died in Spain in 2020, when the country was deep in the grips of the health crisis. This is the highest number since the historical record began in 1941 – two years after the end of the Civil War. In total, 74,227 more deaths were recorded in 2020 than in 2019, a rise of 17.73%. Last year also saw the lowest number of births on record. A total of 339,206 children were born in 2020, 21,411 fewer than the previous year. This is the biggest drop recorded since 2013. The rate of natural increase – the difference between the number of births and deaths – was also the lowest on record: there were 153,167 more deaths than births in 2020, triple the number of 2019. This is not an exact figure as the INE data does not include the births and deaths of non-residents.

Meanwhile, in Spain, the delta strain of the coronavirus, first detected in India, is not yet officially considered a “variant of concern” (VOC) – a category used for strains for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more serious disease and reduced effectiveness against vaccines. According to the latest report from the Spanish Health Ministry, the delta variant accounts for less than 1% of new cases and is a “variant of interest” (VOI) – the category below VOC.

It is difficult to gauge the true spread of the strain, and some experts believe the delta variant will be dominant in Spain in a few weeks. How will this affect the progress of the pandemic? According to official statistics, the delta variant accounts for less than 1% of coronavirus cases, but this figure is based on outdated data from the genome sequencing of infections carried out up to four weeks ago. And the strain is spreading exponentially. For example, in the United States, which has declared it a VOC, the variant accounted for just 0.6% cases in April, 1.3% at the beginning of May and 2.5% this month. It is likely to also become the dominant strain in a matter of weeks.

So far the Spain’s Covid-19 vaccination campaign has continued as it was rescheduled in mid of April 2021. According to the latest report from the Health Ministry, 45.8% of the Spanish population, which is around 21.7 million people, has received at least one vaccine dose, while 27.4% – 13 million people – now have the full protection offered by the vaccines. All of Spain’s regions – which are in charge of their campaigns as well as the overall control of the pandemic in their territory – have practically finished immunizing the over-70s.

29. SWEDEN

Will Sweden be able to go ahead with the next stage of its Covid-19 re-opening plan?

Under the next stage of its Covid-19 plan, Sweden would see more attendees allowed at some public events.

Sweden’s rate of newly reported infections per 100,000 residents over the past two weeks has fallen to 60, the lowest level in quite some time.

The rate of new deaths had been at a plateau for several weeks, with two competing forces as
the rollout of vaccines protected the most vulnerable, but the infection continued to spread and lead to illness. But now, even the number of Covid-related deaths is falling and approaching the low levels of last summer.

However, the delta variant of the virus, which research shows is more contagious, is increasingly prominent, with 663 confirmed cases reported to date and known cases in all regions. Sweden’s plan to ease its Covid-19 restrictions over the coming months is based on a range of criteria, including the burden on healthcare, vaccination roll-out, and number of people in intensive care with the virus.

The changes currently planned for July 1st include increasing the number of people allowed at different kinds of events, further extending opening hours for restaurants and bars, and removing advice for people to only meet people within their closest circle outdoors (it would still apply indoors). But whether any or all of these go ahead will depend on the agency’s assessment of the Covid-19 situation.

The Public Health Agency will make an assessment and is expected to provide information on whether the relaxation can go ahead as planned after the Midsummer weekend. Even though the figures show that the Covid-19 situation has improved in recent weeks, the authorities stressed that it is still causing a burden for Sweden’s healthcare workers and that the pandemic is far from over.

Sources:

30. SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is relaxing its Covid-19 restrictions as infection rates drop and the vaccination rollout continues across the country. Switzerland’s overall strategy for managing the epidemic rests on three pillars: vaccinations, tests and non-pharmaceutical measures. Owing to increasing vaccination coverage of the Swiss population, a timely return to normal in social and economic life is realistic.

To achieve this objective, the Swiss Federal Council has defined a three-phase model outlining the strategic approach up to the exit from the COVID-19 crisis against the backdrop of increasing vaccination coverage and the introduction of broad and repetitive testing.

On June 23, the government announced a further reopening step starting June 26. As part of this, mask-wearing will no longer be required outside; dance clubs and waterparks can open; and large events of up to 10,000 can take place provided people have a Covid certificate. Since May 31, indoor and outdoor areas of restaurants have been open and working from home has been downgraded from a requirement to a recommendation.

According to the federal government’s vaccination scenario, 75% of people in vulnerable groups and 60% of the remaining adult population wish to be vaccinated, everyone wanting the vaccination could have received at least one dose by the end of June.

Figure 1. New cases trend during last month

Figure 2. Death cases trend during last month
**31. TURKEY**

Turkey is one of the few countries in the world which effectively handled the COVID-19 pandemic, which is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and this is largely due to a scientific approach with rigorous testing. The success in Turkey can also be attributed to strict enforcement of standard protocols. Like many other countries, strict quarantine was also enforced. Turks coming from abroad were quarantined at guest houses for 14 days (for those with no clinical signs), and at designated hospitals in each province. The country also adopted a fast track mechanism to procure medical supplies, test kits, personal protective equipment (PPE), thermal scanners, and other required diagnostic and treatment commodities such as drugs and oxygen, and they were distributed to all possible sites where such supplies were needed. The country continues full speed ahead with its mass vaccination efforts. It has made it to the top 10 globally. The total number of vaccines applied 47,7. 32,8 million people have gotten their first dose, nearly 14.7 million fully vaccinated. During the last week, over 3 million coronavirus vaccine doses administered.

**Figure 1. New cases trend during last month**
Figure 2. Death cases trend during last month
32. UKRAINE

Ukraine, which has a population of 41 million, has been among the most affected European countries so far. Since the start of the pandemic, Ukraine’s COVID-19 caseload has reached 2,234,281, while some 52,295 patients have died and 2,155,261 have recovered. On 28 June, Ukraine reported nine deaths from COVID-19, the lowest daily total for 11 months. The country has been seeing a sharp drop in new infections and earlier this month lifted many domestic restrictions, while extending some until Aug. 31. It also relaxed travel requirements for most destinations, but tightened border controls and obliged visitors from countries affected by the COVID-19 Delta variant to take a mandatory antigen test.

It was established a green level of epidemic danger across the country, which makes compulsory wearing masks in public transport, at public events and on public premises. The public catering, entertainment and cultural facilities are allowed to work only if the protective measures are observed.
On February 24, Ukraine launched mass vaccination against COVID-19, being one of the last countries in Europe. The country used the drugs by the American company Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech, the British-Swedish company AstraZeneca as well as the CoronaVac jab developed by the Chinese company Sinovac Biotech. Kiev refused to use and manufacture the Russian Sputnik V vaccine. Ukraine receives part of drugs free of charge under the COVAX international program, while another part is funded by the state budget. As many as 2,484,766 people have been inoculated since the start of the mass vaccination campaign. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that’s enough to have vaccinated about 2.8% of the country’s population. During the last week reported, Ukraine averaged about 50,437 doses administered each day. At that rate, it will take a further 177 days to administer enough doses for another 10% of the population.

Sources:

4. https://tass.com/society/1306191

33. UNITED KINGDOM

NO. OF CASES, HOSPITALISATIONS AND MORTALITY:
As of 23 JUN, the total number of Covid-19 cases recorded in the UK since the start of the pandemic is more than 4.67 million. The number of positive cases, hospitalisations and deaths attributed to Covid-19 have fallen drastically since the peak figures seen in JAN 2021. There has however been a resurgence in the registered number of positive cases, deaths and patients admitted to hospital with Covid-19 (Figure 1 below), linked to the Indian variant. The number of deaths related to Covid-19 has risen, with the daily average rising above 14, despite low figures at the beginning of June (see Figure 2).

2 (Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at John Hopkins University, 2021)
VACCINATIONS:
Up to and including the 22 JUN 2021, 43,448,680 people received their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine (c. 4.8 million more people than 28 MAY 2021), while 31,740,115 people have received their second dose (c. 7.7 million more than 28 MAY 2021).³ The NHS is now vaccinating adults over the age of 18.⁴ In Northern Ireland and Wales, the invitation to be vaccinated has also been sent out to people over the age of 18.⁵ In Scotland, 30s and over can get their vaccine (with 18s and over invited in some parts of Glasgow were there are Covid-19 hotspots). 82.5% of the adult population have now received their first dose of the vaccine and 60.3% have received their second dose.⁶

The Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine continue to be utilised.⁷ The

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³ (UK Government, 2021)
⁴ (BBC News, 2021)
⁵ Ibid.
⁶ (UK Government, 2021)
⁷ (NHS, 2021)
MHRA, the UK’s medicine regulator announced that people under the age of 40 will now be offered an alternative to the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine, due to the rare cases of blood clotting and the availability of alternatives. On 28 MAY it was announced that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine has been approved for use in the UK, it will be available later this year. Novavax and Valneva vaccines are still pending approval.

The B.1.617.2 or Indian variant has been identified in several areas in the UK, including the East Midlands, London, the North West, South East, South West and West Midlands (a list of affected areas available on gov.uk website). It is now thought to make up 99% of sequenced and genotyped cases across the country. The variant is more resistant to vaccine than previously seen variants, such as the Alpha variant.

The Covid-19 mortality figures remain relatively low, but the rise in cases may cause further delays to the roadmap out of lockdown, which was already delayed from 21 JUN to 19 JUL by PM Boris Johnson. A review is set to be conducted on 5 JUL to see whether further reopening and restriction easing will be allowed. For now, optimism remains that vaccination is able to reduce mortality levels and symptomatic disease.

TESTING:
Currently the UK is conducting more than 6,509,682 Covid-19 tests a week. The number of tests carried out has therefore continued its upward trend, most likely due to the Delta variant and Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s announcement that from 9 APR onwards every adult would be given access to two free rapid tests a week.

POLICY MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENTS:

England
Developments:

- 17 MAY-
  - People will be able to socialise indoors in a group of up to 6 people or 2 households, including for overnight stays. Up to 30 people can meet outside. Pubs, theatres and other venues can open indoors. Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can open for people on holiday.
  - The rules for entering England change depending on where you have travelled from outside the UK. There will be different rules to follow for entering Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

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8 (BBC News, 2021)
9 (Grover, 2021)
10 (BBC News, 2021)
11 (Baker, 2021)
12 (UK Government, 2021)
13 (Public Health England, 2021)
14 (Davis, 2021)
15 (Walker, 2021)
16 Ibid.
17 (Davis, 2021)
18 (UK Government, 2021)
19 (UK Government, 2021)
People who live in England who have had a full vaccine course (2 doses), will be able to demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccination status for outbound international travel to countries where this is recognised.

- **21 JUN** - Lockdown easing delayed.
  - The number of people who can attend weddings, civil partnerships and commemorative events following a funeral now depends on how many can be safely accommodated with social distancing measures in place.

- **19 JUL** - Further lockdown easing scheduled pending review.

**Scotland**

Developments:

- **5 JUN** - Scotland eased restrictions further in some areas (see website for council area specific details). All areas are currently under Protection Level 2 or below.

**Wales**

Developments:

- **7 JUN** -
  - Regulated events allowed outdoors with up to 10,000 people seated or up to 4,000 people standing (subject to risk assessment)
  - Extended households can be formed between 3 households
  - Up to 30 people can meet in any outdoor area, including private gardens, public spaces and outdoor regulated premises such as cafes, restaurants and bars.

- **21 JUN** -
  - Wedding, civil partnership receptions or wakes can take place in regulated premises like hotels. The number of people is limited by venue size and a risk assessment.
  - Overnight stays in residential outdoor education centres are allowed for primary school children.

**Northern Ireland**

Developments:

- You can now socialise indoors in a group of up to 6 people from no more than 2 households, including for overnight stays.
- Up to 15 people from no more than 3 households can meet in a private garden.
- Shops, hairdressers and visitor attractions can reopen as well as indoor areas of pubs and restaurants.

**WORKS CITED**


20 (Scottish Government, 2021)
21 Ibid.


**34. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Case counts in the U.S. have dropped sharply over the past few weeks. Case numbers in the United States remain encouraging, new cases dropped below 15,000 per day, on average, for the first time since June of 2020, a 29 % decrease over the last fourteen days. New cases are at their lowest levels since September and deaths are at their lowest since July. Since January of last year, at least 1 in 10 people who live in the United States have been infected, and at least 1 in 563 have died. The United States surpassed 600,000 known coronavirus deaths. Around 350 deaths are being reported each day, the fewest since March 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL REPORTED</th>
<th>AVG. ON JUNE 21</th>
<th>14-DAY CHANGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>34.4 million</td>
<td>11. 243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>617 463</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalized</td>
<td>17. 505</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, it has been largely up to state and local officials to determine what restrictions, if any, to impose to slow new infections. A nationwide patchwork of rules for businesses and residents resulted over months of trial and error, as governors reopened some sectors only to later re-close and reopen them again as infection rates rose and fell. All across the country, mask mandates have eased, restrictions have lifted and most states have gone back to business as usual. It appears nearly the entire country will be re-open with few restrictions by the Fourth of July.

States have moved closer to lifting all restrictions on businesses and gatherings as the vaccination campaign has progressed. In the few states that have yet to fully reopen, governors have set targets for doing so based on vaccination rates or other health measures. A full reopening still comes with rules in many places. Some states continue to require the use of masks for unvaccinated people, and some governors are still mandating businesses observe social distancing rules, even as they lift capacity limits. Many states eased mask requirements for those who are vaccinated after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised that fully vaccinated people could go without masks in most indoor and outdoor settings.

New York will lift most of its Covid-19 restrictions now that 70% of all adults in the state have been vaccinated with at least one dose. Residents and visitors will still need to wear masks in some settings, like hospitals, public transportation and schools. The state will allow schools and camps to decide whether to require masks for children during outdoor activities.
Biden set two targets in early May: administering at least one shot to 70% of adults across the U.S. and fully vaccinating 160 million adult Americans by Independence Day but now it is likely that these goals won’t be achieved. The pace of vaccination has slowed considerably, to around a million doses a day, down from a peak of more than 3.3 million doses a day in mid-April. At least 177,342,954 people or 53% of the population have received at least one dose. Overall, 150,046,006 people or 45% of the population have been fully vaccinated. Twelve U.S. states now have 70% of adult residents with at least one Covid vaccine shot.

The Biden administration announced it will send 55 million Covid-19 vaccine doses to countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa as the coronavirus continues to rapidly spread in low and middle-income nations.

White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said that the highly contagious delta variant is the “greatest threat” to the nation’s attempt to eliminate Covid-19. Delta, first identified in India, now makes up about 20% of all new cases in the United States, up from 10% about two weeks ago, Fauci said.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At least one dose</th>
<th>Fully vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 and up</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 and up</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite recent progress, the United States remains the most affected country, with more than 34.4 million infections and more than 617,463 deaths.
Sources:

35. EU

The European Commission is presenting a Communication on the early lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 18 months and building on them to improve action at EU and national level. This will help to better anticipate public health risks and enhance contingency planning leading to swifter and more effective joint responses at all levels. Ten lessons focus on what has to be improved and what can be done better in the future. The ten lessons are not exhaustive, but provide a first snapshot of what needs to be acted upon now for the benefit of all Europeans:

1. Faster detection and better responses require a robust global health surveillance and an improved European pandemic information gathering system. The EU should lead efforts to design a new robust global surveillance system based on comparable data. A new and improved European pandemic information gathering system will be launched in 2021.

2. Clearer and more coordinated scientific advice would facilitate policy decisions and public communication. The EU should appoint a European Chief Epidemiologist and a corresponding governance structure by the end of 2021.


4. Emergency tools need to be ready faster and easier to activate. The EU should establish a framework for the activation of an EU Pandemic State of Emergency and a toolbox for crisis situations.

5. Coordinated measures should become a reflex for Europe. The European Health Union should be adopted swiftly, before the end of the year and coordination and working methods should be strengthened between institutions.

6. Public-private partnerships and stronger supply chains are needed to ensure the flow of critical equipment and medicines. A Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) should be operational by early 2022 and a Health Important Project of Common European Interest should be set up as soon as possible to enable breakthrough innovation in pharmaceuticals. The EU FAB facility, should ensure that the EU has enough “ever-warm” capacity to produce 500–700 million vaccine doses per year, with half of these doses to be ready in the first 6 months of a pandemic.

7. A pan-European approach is essential to making clinical research faster, broader and more effective. A large-scale EU platform for multi-centre clinical trials should be established.

8. The capacity to cope in a pandemic depends on continuous and increased investment in health systems. Member States should be supported to strengthen the overall resilience of health care systems as part of their recovery and resilience investments.

9. Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response is a global priority for Europe. The EU should continue leading the global response, notably through COVAX, and strengthening the global health security architecture by leading on strengthening the World Health Organization. Pandemic preparedness partnerships with key partners should also be developed.

10. A more coordinated and sophisticated approach to tackling misinformation and disinformation should be developed.

Next Steps

This report on the early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic will feed the Leaders' discussion at the June European Council. It will be presented to the European Parliament and the Council
of the European Union, and the Commission will follow up with concrete deliverables in the second half of 2021.

CONCLUSIONS

1. More than 182 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and almost 4 million have died. Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019.

2. Global numbers of cases and deaths continued to decrease with over 2.6 million a similar number compared to the previous weeks.

3. The number of weekly deaths continued to decrease, with more than 57 000 deaths reported in the past week, a 10% decrease as compared to the previous week.

4. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Brazil (521 298 new cases; 3% increase), India (351 218 new cases; 12% increase), Colombia (204 132 new cases; 5% increase), the Russian Federation (134 465 new cases; 24% increase), and Argentina (131 824 new cases; 11% decrease).

5. Over the past week, the highest numbers of new cases per 100 000 population were reported from Seychelles (708 new cases per 100 000 pop), Namibia (509 new cases per 100 000 pop) and Mongolia (491 new cases per 100 000 pop).

6. In particular, the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risk of coagulation disorders and vaccines prevent other severe effects of COVID-19, including deaths.

7. Several strains of the novel coronavirus with the VOC (variants of concern) status continue to spread all over the world. For example, the Alpha variant first detected in the UK in September 2020 is now present in 172 countries. The Gamma variant, first registered in Brazil in September, has spread to 68 states. The number of countries affected by the Delta strain, uncovered by virologists in India in October 2020, has risen to 80.

8. COVID-19 Delta variant has been found in at least 92 countries, including the United States, where it makes up about 20 per cent of all cases.

9. The delta variant is spreading rapidly especially among unvaccinated populations.

10. 1.62 billion people around the world had received at least one COVID shot, up from 932.4 million the previous week.

11. Countries with the highest vaccination rates among their total populations are Uruguay (60.7%), Chile (61.4%), the U.K. (61.7%), Israel (63.4%), Canada (65.4), and Kuwait (67.3%).

12. Living with COVID-19 will require ongoing effort that’s why the risks associated with spread of COVID-19 and the unintended social and health consequences of restrictive public health measures must be carefully balanced.

13. Global restrictions imposed to limit the spread of this violent disease and the resulting social distancing and isolation can be harmful and lead to mental disorders for many people. This must be taken into account and societies must be prepared to deal with this emerging problem.
14. No country should assume it is out of the woods, no matter its vaccination rate. The pandemic is not over, and it will not be over until and unless transmission is controlled in every last country.

15. Everywhere in the world, the situation remains urgent: While new coronavirus cases are trending downward globally, the virus continues to test governments—including those in countries blessed with high vaccination rates.