

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission

- On 14 April, President von der Leyen issued a [statement](#) on developments in the Vaccines Strategy.
- On 15 April, the Commission published a [discussion paper](#) on “EU health preparedness: Possible uses for COVID-19 certificates”, agreed by the Health Security Committee.

Council of the EU

- On 14 April, the EU ambassadors [agreed](#) for a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament on the European Commission’s proposal for a Digital Green Certificate. However, the Council highlighted that the certificate is not a precondition to exercise free movement rights and it is not a travel document. Moreover, it strengthened data protection provisions throughout the text, in particular on the basis of the joint opinion of the European data protection supervisor and the EDPB.

EMA

- EMA’s safety committee (PRAC) is [reviewing](#) very rare cases of unusual blood clots that occurred in the United States following the use of Janssen’s COVID-19 vaccine. The type of blood clot reported, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), occurred in most cases in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). The [US FDA and CDC recommended that the use of the vaccine should be paused](#) while they review six reported cases in the United States. More than 6.8 million doses of the vaccine have been administered. You can find more information about it [here](#).
- EMA continues to [monitor](#) very rare blood clots with low blood platelets that occurred after vaccination with Vaxzevria (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca). EMA is undertaking a review of vaccination data and data on disease epidemiology (including infection rates, hospitalisations, morbidity and mortality). The review by EMA’s human medicines committee will enable authorities to put the risks of Vaxzevria into the context of the benefits of ongoing vaccination campaigns. The Committee will also consider whether to update recommendations for a second dose of Vaxzevria in those who have already received the first dose. You can find more information about it [here](#).
- EMA updated the direct healthcare professional communication on how to monitor and report any suspected adverse reactions with AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine, Vaxzevria. You can find it [here](#).

WHO/WHO-Europe

- [Frontline stories: mental health of health care workers in the COVID-19 pandemic](#): in a series of video testimonies, healthcare professionals share their experience of the mental strain of dealing with the pandemic.

Other reports/webinars

- [Safe and effective Dental Education during the COVID-19 pandemic](#): The Council of European Dentists and the European Dental Students Association have published recommendations on how uphold high quality dental education while adjusting both form and content to the pandemic context. They refer

to the need to the respect the minimum training requirements expressed in the Professional Qualifications Directive.