

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission

- 20.04.2021: [The Commission Publishes minutes of the 3rd Drafting Group on European Solidarity in Public Health Emergencies \(26 March 2021\)](#). Members discussed the concept and typology of solidarity under a suggested general framework. They agreed a general theoretical framework is important but narrower framework with missing emphasis on health emergencies should be elaborated and more dimensions of solidarity such as equity added. Members pointed at the link between the basic percentages of GDP spent on health by member states and spending in case of health emergency. Members elaborated on the technical and practical ability to realize solidarity, stressing the role of technology and innovation as well as the need to collaborate on national, regional and community levels.

Council of the EU

- 22.04.2021: Member States agree on [technical specifications for the Digital Green Certificate](#). Member States representatives in the eHealth Network agreed on guidelines describing the main technical specifications for the implementation of the system. In parallel Member States are encouraged to deploy the needed technical solutions at national level. It is of utmost importance to advance the work on the technical implementation, in parallel to the ongoing legislative process, to ensure a roll-out of Digital Green Certificates across the EU by June 2021.

ECDC

- ECDC published a [guidance](#) for adjusting non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) based on vaccination status. In the light of the available evidence, ECDC has developed scenarios where Member States can consider waiving or relaxing NPIs in meetings between two individuals, households or social bubbles. In some situations, requirements for testing and quarantine for travel can be waived or adjusted for fully vaccinated individuals. Public health authorities may consider exempting fully vaccinated individuals from repeat testing in occupational and other community settings.
- ECDC launched a [new hub](#) to forecast COVID-19 cases and deaths in Europe and support European pandemic planning. Europe is at a critical juncture in its fight against COVID-19. Many countries are currently relaxing restrictions, some against a backdrop of increasing numbers of cases and with new variants emerging, while still rolling out nationwide vaccination programmes. Evidence-based near-term forecasts of COVID-19 cases and deaths can therefore be of very helpful for public health decision-making.

EMA

- 20.04.2021: [EMA finds possible link to very rare cases of unusual blood clots with low blood platelets with the J&J COVID vaccine](#)
 - The EMA's safety committee concluded that a warning about unusual blood clots with low blood platelets should be added to the product information for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

- The safety committee also concluded that these events should be listed as very rare side effects of the vaccine
- The EMA confirms the overall benefit-risk remains positive

WHO/WHO-Europe

- [Spending on health in Europe: entering a new era](#): This report looks at the effects of the pandemic on healthcare financing, in particular how countries have mobilised funds to finance pandemic managements, but also the more long-term effects of the economic downturn on revenues for health systems.

Other reports/webinars

- [Registration opens for event – Mental Health and the pandemic: living, caring, acting](#)
 - The event will take place on the 10th of May
 - This one-day virtual event during the European Mental Health Awareness week 2021 aims to highlight the mental health impact of COVID-19 along five themes
 - Understanding
 - Living
 - Caring
 - Responding
 - Acting
 - Draft agenda available [here](#)
- [Corona-Report](#): The National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Germany is publishing weekly reports with data on infection rates, vaccination rates, testing capacities and other questions relating to pandemic management. All reports can be found [here](#).