

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission

- [Overview of EU laws and policies relating to COVID-19](#): The European Commission has compiled an overview of measures taken across all policy areas to manage the pandemic, including on public health, employment and social issues, and the digital single market. There are also links to all EU institutions' dedicated websites.

European Parliament

- [EP adopts new legal framework to strengthen the Civil Protection Mechanism](#): MEPs approved the reformed EU Civil Protection Mechanism which enable the EU to deploy crisis relief more swiftly and allow the Commission to acquire the necessary resources via the rescEU programme directly, rather than via Member States. 1.263 billion EUR will be allocated for 2021-2027, supplemented by 2.056 billion EUR from the EU Recovery Instrument.
- [EU COVID-19 certificate must facilitate free movement without discrimination](#): The European Parliament has adopted its negotiating position on the proposal for an 'EU COVID-19 certificate', as it wishes to rename the proposed 'Digital Green Certificate' that is to enable a return to free movement within the EU. MEPs propose that the certificate, which should be available both in digital and paper form, should be in place for a maximum of 12 months. During that time, all EU Member States should recognize it as an attestation that a person has been vaccinated against coronavirus or, alternatively, that they have a recent negative test result or have recovered from the infection, and is consequently no longer subject to restrictions, such as quarantine, self-isolation or testing. All vaccines which have EMA approval should be covered, in addition Member States may choose to accept others. MEPs also highlight the need to avoid discrimination by granting access to free testing and vaccinations for the rest of the population, as well as strict adherence to EU data protection laws. The European Parliament will now start negotiations with the Council with a view to adopting a law before the summer holiday season.

EMA

- The EMA and ECDC [join](#) forces for enhanced post-marketing monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines in Europe. The EMA and ECDC will jointly coordinate and oversee a number of observational studies which will be funded from the EU budget and conducted in several European countries. The EMA will focus on monitoring the safety of vaccines, whereas the ECDC will monitor the effectiveness of the vaccines.
- EMA [starts evaluating](#) use of Olumiant in hospitalised COVID-19 patients requiring supplemental oxygen. Olumiant is an immunosuppressant (a medicine that reduces the activity of the immune system). It is currently authorised for use in adults with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis or atopic dermatitis (eczema). EMA will communicate on the outcome of its evaluation, which is expected to reach an opinion by July unless supplementary information is needed.
- EMA [published](#) a direct healthcare professional communication on how to monitor and report any suspected adverse reactions with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen
- EMA's CHMP [provided further analysis](#) of the benefits and risks of Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine) in different age groups and at different infection rates, to help inform national decisions on the use of the vaccine. The benefits of Vaxzevria outweigh its risks in adults of all age groups; however, very rare cases of blood clots with low blood platelets have occurred following vaccination.

ECDC

- A [study coordinated by ECDC](#) found that SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOC) pose a higher risk for hospitalisation and intensive care admission. ECDC together with seven EU countries – Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Portugal – analysed data on the three VOC, identified in the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351), and Brazil (P.1). The study suggests that VOC have been associated with higher transmissibility and severity of disease, with potential implications for acquired immunity or the effectiveness of current vaccines.
- [ECDC organises first training modules in the framework of the EU Initiative on Health Security](#): The EU initiative on Health Security 2020-2024, financed by the European Commission DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations enables tailor-made support to EU candidate and potential candidate countries on work-force oriented capacity building. This includes capacity building in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response and promotion of regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and networking. The document on the EU initiative on Health Security WP 2021 is available [here](#).

WHO/WHO-Europe

- [Immunization services begin slow recover from pandemic disruptions; risk for children still remains](#): WHO has published data on the negative impact the pandemic has had on existing mass vaccination programmes, such as measles, which has already led to several outbreaks. A [WHO survey](#) reports progress compared to 2020, however more than 1/3 of respondent countries reported recent disruptions. The new [Immunisation agenda 2030](#) addresses vaccination throughout life and aims to prevent up to 50 million deaths. All stakeholders are called upon to upscale efforts and investments.

Other reports/webinars

- [Oxford Compendium of National Legal Responses to Covid-19](#): This compendium is an on-going project to showcase the mechanisms and decision made in different countries during the pandemic, looking at legal competences and bases for action.