

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission

- On 20 May, the European Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the Commission's proposal for a regulation governing the EU Digital COVID Certificate (previously called the Digital Green Certificate). This means that the certificate should be ready in the end of June, as planned. The Regulation should enter into force on 1 July, with a phasing-in period of six weeks for the issuing of certificates for those Member States that need additional time. Please find more [here](#).
- The European Commission will [complement](#) the EU vaccines strategy with a new strategy on COVID-19 therapeutics to support the development and availability of COVID-19 therapeutics including for the treatment of "long COVID". Among other things, the strategy will invest 90 million Euros in scientific studies to determine links between risk factors and health outcomes to help inform public health policy and clinical management.
- On 21 May, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen co-hosted the [Global Health Summit](#), alongside Mario Draghi as incumbent president of the G20. The event is being concluded by a 'Rome Declaration' built around 16 principles to improve the management of future pandemics, which i.a. confirm commitment to multilateralism, the need to avoid barriers to trade such as export bans and aid to low- and medium-income countries. As regards the on-going discussion around intellectual property rights for vaccines and treatments, the declaration is expected to refer to the current framework of the WTO TRIPS.
- The Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health has commented on [the consultation on the new HERA](#). To improve the current capacities, it requires Member States to accept health as a human right, as well as a driver of economic growth; a review of public procurement to improve transparency; building capacity to anticipate threats to health and access funding accordingly; and assess emergency preparedness within the European Semester.

ECDC

- [Overview of EU/EEA country recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination with Vaxzevria, and a scoping review of evidence to guide decision-making](#): this document sets out the current scientific evidence as well as national rules relating to the AstraZeneca vaccine and discusses options for the second dose of vaccines following a first dose of Vaxzevria.
- [The use of antibody tests for SARS-COV-2 in the context of Digital Green Certificates](#): This factsheet offers a brief explanation of how antibody tests are currently used and offers an analysis of what they can and cannot be verify in terms of assessing a person's immunity.

WHO/WHO-Europe

- [Refugees and migrants hosted in Serbian reception centers get COVID-19 vaccine doses](#): Serbia has included all migrants and refugees in national vaccination strategy as high-risk, priority population groups in line with WHO recommendations, which foresee that countries consider this group of prioritization second stage of vaccine roll-out following the highest priority (health workers and older people) group.

Other reports/webinars

- **WMA Webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the health workforce, 27 May at 12.30pm CEST**
This [webinar](#) is a collaboration between the WMA, WHPA and IHF. The COVID-19 pandemic

continues to put a strain on health professionals and other healthcare workers and ongoing funding and further recognition and assistance is required to ensure the workforce is supported. COVID-19 should be recognized as an occupational disease, which can lead to reporting on deaths and infections, better risk assessment, standards set and compensation for those who die or are affected by COVID-19.

- [PGEU Position Paper on the Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic](#): The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) has published an overview of community pharmacists' experience during the pandemic, highlighting i.a. how pharmacists' scope of practice was adapted for example by administering vaccines, adapting the packet size of medicines dispensed to reduce repeat visits, and offering testing services.