

## Contents

I. Summary.....	1
II. European Union .....	6
III. France .....	8
IV. Italy.....	8
V. Germany.....	9
VI. Spain.....	10
VII. United Kingdom.....	11

## I. SUMMARY

### EUROPEAN UNION



**Number of cases:** 1,552,352 (including the UK)

**Number of deaths:** 178,152

- The European Commission has published a [list](#) of COVID-19 essential Medical Devices (MDs and IVDs). The European Commission Joint Research Centre also launched a [database](#) on performance in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs) and devices, kits and related test methods for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
- In addition, on 29 June the European Commission [published](#) on their website a document on notified bodies regarding conformity assessments for COVID-19 related devices.
- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) revised on 29 June its [guidance](#) on the implications of COVID-19 on methodological aspects of ongoing clinical trials. The EMA also [announced](#) to continue holding its meetings virtually until the end of September 2020.
- On 29 June, the European Commission [adopted](#) a third amendment to extend the scope of the State aid Temporary Framework to support micro, small and start-up companies and private investments.

- On 30 June, the EMA and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea ([MFDS](#)) [signed](#) an *ad-hoc* confidentiality agreement to share information and documents on COVID-19.
- On 30 June, the Council [recommendation](#) on the temporary restriction of non-essential travel into the EU was published.
- The Q&As on regulatory expectations for medicinal products for [human](#) and [veterinary](#) uses during the pandemic were also updated on 1 July.
- The EMA [endorsed](#) a [joint statement](#) on clinical trials from the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), on 1 July.
- On 2 July, European Commission President von der Leyen made a [statement](#) on reaching the European recovery package. She explained that a meeting will take place on 8 July to check progress and prepare for political negotiations.
- On 2 July, the European Commission [prolonged](#) EU State Aid rules and adopted targeted adjustments to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.
- On 3 July, the European Commission published the [highlights](#) of the meeting of the Health Security Committee of 26 June, which discussed COVID-19.
- On 3 July, the European Commission [granted](#) a conditional marketing authorisation for Veklury (remdesivir), for the treatment of COVID-19 in specific situations. This is the first treatment against COVID-19 in the EU.

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## FRANCE



**Number of cases:** 166,960

**Number of deaths:** 29,893 (*including retirement homes*)

- France is in phase 3 of its exit strategy, which started on 22 June. From this date, schools and junior high schools are mandatory, other general entertainment venues are open.

- The sanitary state of emergency will end on 10 July, after the approval of a law proposal by the Parliament on 2 July. This law proposal still enables the government to order decrees to deal with the covid-19 pandemic.
- The French President, Emmanuel Macron, announced a change of government on 3 July, after the accepting the resignation of Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. He appointed Jean Castex as the new Prime Minister on 3 July, who was in charge of the exit strategy. The new Prime Minister will have to appoint the new government this week.

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## GERMANY



**Number of cases:** 197,607

**Number of deaths:** 9,024

- On 3 July the German Federal Council approved a new proposal on a supplementary budget that would further increase the fiscal budget by EUR 24 billion. This would ensure the smooth implementation of fiscal stimulus measures that aim to minimise the negative impact of COVID-19 on the German economy. Following the first extension of the supplementary budget, the total amount of new federal debts will be EUR 217.8 billion.
- On 3 July, the German Federal Council approved the solution on providing vouchers for all travel packages that have been booked prior to 8 March as suggested by the Federal Government. As such, one can decide whether to receive a voucher for the travel booking or the full amount paid out. Nevertheless, there is no obligation to accept the voucher provided. According to expectations, this system would aim to stabilise the tourism industry and ensure liquidity.

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## ITALY



**Number of cases:** 241,611

**Number of deaths:** 34,861

- According to the new report of the Italian Ministry of Health and the Higher Health Institute on the second phase of COVID-19, the situation in Italy is overall positive, but there are some “small alarm signals”. The infection rate remains low and is in decline, and there is no sign of care services being overwhelmed. However, the number of reported cases remains high in some regions, especially in Lombardy, Veneto and other northern regions.
- The Italian government has decided to adopt a prudent approach to all visitors coming from outside Schengen and are keeping in forced self-isolation and health surveillance measures for extra-Schengen countries. This means that the measures will continue to apply for visitors from the 14 countries green listed by the EU.
- The main Italian opposition parties – the League, Brothers of Italy and Berlusconi’s Forza Italia – came together at a rally in Rome on Saturday 4 July to protest against the Italian government. The opposition parties are using the current pandemic and its impact on health and the economy to criticise what they consider to be insufficient measures to tackle COVID-19. The party leaders called for urgent measures in supporting businesses and promised to “rebuild” Italy.

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## SPAIN



**Number of cases:** 250,545 (PCR-based test)

**Number of deaths:** 28,385

- Spain allows as of 3 July visitors coming from the 15 countries set by the Council of the EU, except for Morocco, Algeria, and China, for which bilateral agreements are required to reopen borders to citizens.
- The Working Group on Healthcare and Public Health of the Committee for Social and Economic Reconstruction voted its conclusions on 3 July. The document shows a political consensus to strengthen the National Healthcare System, which could become binding if the final report is approved in plenary session in the Congress on 22 July.
- The conclusions of the national seroprevalence study carried out jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Carlos III Health Institute show only 5% of the Spanish population has developed antibodies to COVID-19; herd immunity has therefore not been reached.

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## UNITED KINGDOM



**Number of cases:** 285,416

**Number of deaths:** 44,220

- Lockdown restrictions across the devolved nations have been eased extensively, owing to a low incidence of COVID-19 of around one in 2,200, down from one in 400 three weeks ago. Hospitality businesses including pubs reopened in England on Saturday, while pub beer gardens in Scotland reopen from today. Travel restrictions in Wales and Scotland have been eased, and outdoor attractions in Wales have been allowed to reopen following corresponding moves in England and Scotland last month.

- The Government last week announced a five-step plan for local lockdowns, including increased monitoring, testing and targeted stringent restrictions, as local lockdowns are set to become the main thrust of the Government's COVID-19 combatting strategy. The city of Leicester became the first localised lockdown in England last week.
- Quarantine-free travel into the UK will be introduced from Friday (10 July), ending the imposition of a mandatory two-week quarantine for most new arrivals into the UK, though the new measures will initially only apply in England.
- Daily testing capacity this week reached 294,258 across the UK, well exceeding the Government's target of 200,000 by the end of June. Focussed testing has also been scaled up within health and social care; care home staff and elderly residents will be tested regularly from today to further reduce transmission.

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## II. EUROPEAN UNION

- The European Commission has published a [list](#) of COVID-19 essential Medical Devices (MDs and IVDs). The European Commission also launched a [database](#) to collect all publicly available information on performance of CE-marked in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs) as well as in-house laboratory-developed devices, kits and related test methods for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) revised on 29 June its [guidance](#) on the implications of COVID-19 on methodological aspects of ongoing clinical trials. The revision was a direct result of the public consultation on the file. The EMA also [announced](#) to continue holding its meetings virtually until the end of September 2020. Stakeholder events planned until the end of September will either be postponed or held virtually.
- On 29 June, the European Commission [adopted](#) a third amendment to extend the scope of the State aid Temporary Framework to support micro, small and start-up companies and private investments.
- On 29 June the European Commission [published](#) on their website a document on the Availability and capacity of notified bodies to carry out conformity assessments for COVID-19 related medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices.

- On 30 June, the EMA and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea ([MFDS](#)) [signed](#) an *ad-hoc* confidentiality agreement to share confidential information and documents on COVID-19 and medicines intended for its diagnosis, prevention or treatment.
- On 30 June, the Council [recommendation](#) on the temporary restriction of non-essential travel into the EU was published. It includes epidemiological criteria countries must follow so that travel bans may be lifted.
- The Q&As on regulatory expectations for medicinal products for [human](#) and [veterinary](#) uses during the pandemic were also updated on 1 July. These cover pharmacovigilance inspections for both, as well as system audits and the management of corrective and preventive actions (CAPAS) for the human medicines.
- On 1 July, the EMA [endorsed](#) a [joint statement](#) on clinical trials from the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). This describes the key characteristics of COVID-19 trials most likely to generate conclusive evidence, and encourages patient participation. It also encourages public reporting of results.
- On 2 July, European Commission President von der Leyen made a [statement](#) on reaching a swift and ambitious agreement on the European recovery package. In this statement she explains that a meeting will take place on 8 July to check progress and prepare for political negotiations. European Parliament's President David Sassoli, current rotating President of the Council Angela Merkel, and President of the European Council Charles Michel, have all been invited to this upcoming meeting.
- On 2 July, the European Commission [prolonged](#) EU State Aid rules and adopted targeted adjustments to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Otherwise, the State aid rules would expire at the end of 2020. Thus, some files were prolonged by one year (until 2021) and other by three (until 2023).
- On 3 July, the European Commission published the [highlights](#) of the meeting of the Health Security Committee of 26 June, which discussed COVID-19. The meeting discussed a blueprint for an EU vaccination plan for COVID-19, exit strategies, ECDC guidance on prevention and control in migrant refugee centres, transmission dynamics and superspreading events, and testing.
- On 3 July, the European Commission [granted](#) a conditional marketing authorisation for Veklury (remdesivir), for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and adolescents with pneumonia who need supplemental oxygen. This follows a recommendation by the EMA and endorsement by the Member States. Veklury is the first treatment against COVID-19 in the EU.

## III. FRANCE

- 304 infection clusters were found in France between 9 May and 1 July, and 91 are still active. However, the Health Ministry declared that none of these clusters were important enough to trigger a massive second wave.
- The sanitary state of emergency – which was put in place on 11 March – will end on 10 July, after the approval of a law proposal by the Parliament on 2 July. This law proposal still enables the government to order decrees to deal with the covid-19 pandemic such as: limitations of people's freedom of movement, limiting opening hours of restaurants and bars, and limitations to public gatherings. However, additional measures will have to be approved by the Parliament.
- Emmanuel Macron announced a change of government on 3 July, after the accepting the resignation of Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. This change was announced weeks ago, to prove the change of political orientations announced by the President in the immediate aftermath of the crisis. He appointed Jean Castex as the new Prime Minister on 3 July from the right leaning political party Les Républicains. He was also the politician in charge of the exit strategy. The new Prime Minister will have to appoint the new government this week.
- The Ségur de la Santé, which is a 7-weeks discussion between the Health Ministry and various health workers unions, is extended for one more week. Indeed, as the gatherings of health workers continue every week across the territory, the unions considered that the deal they arrived at with the Health Ministry was not satisfactory enough concerning the salaries and asked for additional measures.
- The white plan for hospitals was triggered in Guiana last week, to help deal with the increasing number of infected people in the overseas territory. The Health Ministry announced on 4 July that additional health workers and material will be sent to Guiana.

## IV. ITALY

- The Italian Ministry of Health and the Higher Health Institute released a new monitoring report on the second phase of COVID-19 in Italy. According to the report, the situation in Italy is overall [positive](#), but there are some “small alarm signals”. The report follows the third phase of activity reopening that took place after 3 June. The infection rate remains low and is in decline, and there are no sign of care services being overwhelmed. However, the number of reported cases remains high in some regions, especially in Lombardy, Veneto and other northern regions. The Ministry of Health informed that this shows that in certain parts of the country the virus is still circulating at a

significant level, also pointing out that new cases are now better diagnosed with an increase in screenings and investigations.

- The Italian government has decided to adopt a [prudent approach](#) to all visitors coming from outside Schengen and are keeping in forced self-isolation and health surveillance measures for extra-Schengen countries. This means that the measures will continue to apply for visitors from the 14 countries green listed by the EU. The Italian Ministry of Health has decided that reasons such as studying, work, health or ‘absolute necessity’ may be considered valid reasons to travel to Italy for these visitors.
- The main Italian opposition parties – the League, Brothers of Italy and Berlusconi’s Forza Italia – came together at a [rally in Rome](#) on Saturday 4 July to protest against the Italian government. The opposition parties are using the current pandemic and its impact on health and the economy to criticize what they consider to be insufficient measures to tackle COVID-19. The party leaders, Matteo Salvini, Giorgia Meloni and Antonio Tajani, called for urgent measures in supporting businesses and promised to “rebuild” Italy. Salvini again called for new elections – as his party is leading in the polls, even if he has lost some voters in the last months. The three leaders wanted to present themselves as ready to take over from Giuseppe Conte’s government. Some statements from the leaders caused debate, as Salvini, for example, said that Rome shouldn’t be remembered by tourists for “garbage, rats and gypsies”.

## V. GERMANY

- On 3 July the German Federal Council approved a new proposal on a supplementary budget that would further increase the fiscal budget by EUR 24 billion. This would ensure the smooth implementation of fiscal stimulus measures that aim to minimise the negative impact of COVID-19 on the German economy. Following the first extension of the supplementary budget, the total amount of new federal debts will be EUR 217.8 billion.
- In an interview, Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn called on the general public to download and use the national COVID-19 tracing app, even for travels abroad. Currently, the app counts approximately 14.6 million users.
- On 3 July, the German Federal Council approved the solution on providing vouchers for all travel packages that have been booked prior than 8. March as suggested by the Federal Government. As such, one can decide whether to receive a voucher for the travel booking or the full amount paid out. Nevertheless, there is no obligation to accept the voucher provided. The solution to provide vouchers would stabilise the tourism industry and ensure liquidity.

- Following the decrease of the value added tax from 19% to 16%, an initial economic evaluation showed limited positive effects on the German economy. There was no shopping rush on the first weekend of the VAT cut.

## VI. SPAIN

- Up to 300,000 people have been put back into lockdown after a spike in COVID-19 infections in Segrià, Catalonia and La Marina, Galicia. The former will hold regional elections on 12 July and the regional president expects the local lockdown to be lifted by then.
- Spain has lifted access restrictions to all 15 countries agreed by the Council of the EU, although China, Morocco and Argelia will be subject to bilateral agreements once their borders reopen to Spanish residents. The legislative [order](#) gathering such measures was published on 3 July and it applies until 31 July to residents in Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. Citizens from countries not included in the list are therefore not allowed to visit Spain yet, except for EU and Schengen residents, cross-border workers, health and transport professionals, diplomats, and members of diplomatic services, etc.
- The Committee for Social and Economic Reconstruction of the Congress [voted](#) its final conclusions on 3 July. The conclusions of the Working group on Healthcare and Public Health were approved with 166 votes in favour, 33 against and 94 abstentions. The measures put forward in the document, which will be voted in plenary session in the Congress on 22 July, are to be included in healthcare legislation at national and regional level to strengthen the National Healthcare System. The document shows consensus amongst political forces to ensure enough and equitable funding for healthcare, upgrade the regional funding system for healthcare, improve fund allocation of the Fund for Fundamental Public Services, set up an ad hoc interterritorial committee to tackle healthcare regional funding and ensure funding for essential public services.
- The Ministry of Health has made public the final results of the national seroprevalence study carried out along with the Carlos III Institute of Health. In alignment with preliminary results, final results show only 5% of the Spanish population has developed antibodies against COVID-19, which confirms herd immunity will not be reached in the short term. The study has been completed throughout three phases, from 27 April to 11 May, from 18 May to 1 June, and from 8 to 22 June. It has taken as a reference a sample of 68,296 individuals and 186,908 rapid tests. The study can be [found](#) in the Health Ministry webpage.

## VII. UNITED KINGDOM

- The cases of COVID-19 across the UK continues to fall, as the ongoing lockdown measures across the devolved nations pays dividend. The incidence of COVID-19 fell to around one in 2,200 on Friday (3 July), in comparison to one in 400 three weeks ago. The low infection rate allowed Prime Minister Boris Johnson to bring widespread relief to the hospitality industry through the reopening the outdoor areas of hospitality businesses on Saturday (4 July). Weddings in England are now able to take place, with a maximum of 30 people present and social distancing observed, while businesses such as hairdressers, which saw extended lockdowns owing to the close proximity required, reopened at midnight on Saturday.
- The broad easing of restrictions will not apply to the city of Leicester, which last week became the first local lockdown in the UK. People residing in Leicester are still able to meet outdoors in groups of up to six people, but are under strict instruction to avoid shared indoor spaces and to only socialise with people within ‘support bubbles’, made up of a limited few friends and family. The Government last week announced a five-step plan for local lockdowns, including monitoring, testing, and targeted stringent restrictions; local lockdowns are set to become the main thrust of the Government’s COVID-19 combatting strategy to avoid restrictions at a national level.
- This week brings widespread lockdown easing across the devolved nations. Pub beer gardens will be reopened in Scotland from today (6 July), and the two-metre distancing rule, which has already been dropped in England, will be reduced north of the border later this week. Hospitality venues will be able to welcome customers indoors from 15 July as the Scottish Government pursues liberal lockdown easing due to consistently low infection and mortality rates. Stricter social distancing measures will prevail in Wales, though guidance urging people to stay within five miles of their homes will be suspended in both Scotland and Wales. Outdoor attractions in Wales have also been allowed to reopen, following corresponding moves in England and Scotland last month.
- Quarantine-free travel into the UK will be introduced from Friday (10 July), ending the imposition of a mandatory two-week quarantine for most new arrivals into the UK. The Department for Transport last week announced that a traffic light system will be introduced; travellers from ‘green’ and ‘amber’ rated countries, comprising 74 countries and overseas territories, will face no quarantine measures, though such measures only apply to arrivals into England. Some countries will continue to impose a quarantine on arrivals from the UK, including New Zealand and Australia, though the UK government will seek quarantine-free travel for both travel legs by August.
- The COVID-19 economic crisis has sharply deepened, as some government support schemes are tapered off while other new schemes are necessitated. The UK Government today (6 July) announced a new GBP 1.57 billion support scheme for the arts industry as lockdown measures on

indoor entertainment in the industry persist. The scheme includes GBP 880 million in direct grant funding, supplemented by loan packages targeted at arts and culture organisations including museums and the English Heritage project.

- The support scheme comes in concurrence with the tapering off of the Government's Job Retention Scheme, which has enabled businesses to keep 9.3 million in employment even as economic activity has flatlined. Since 1 July, businesses have been urged to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part-time basis; firms will flexibly decide the hours of returning employees, and the Government will continue to pay 80 percent of the salaries of those not working. The move will be balanced by new cash payments of GBP 1,000 for each work experience placement offered to 16-24 year old trainees, as part of a new GBP 111 million investment to increase traineeships and avoid a generational economic fallout.
- Daily testing capacity this week reached 294,258 across the UK, well exceeding the Government's target of 200,000 by the end of June. Dido Harding, the lead of the Government's 'test and trace' programme, will today appear before a parliamentary science committee to outline plans for a new app, to be developed using technology already developed by Apple and Google. The app will supplement the test and trace programme, which will mitigate the impact of an expected second wave of COVID-19 cases as lockdowns are eased. Focussed testing has been scaled up within health and social care; care home staff and elderly residents will be tested regularly from today to further reduce transmission.