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I. SUMMARY

EUROPEAN UNION



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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Population: | 514,503,016 (including the UK) |
| Number of cases: | 4,121,025 (including the UK) |
| Number of deaths: | 195,641 |

- Last Monday (5 October), the European Medicine Agency’s (EMA) executive director sent an [open letter](#) to the European Ombudsman in response to her inquiry on the transparency and independence of its activities in supporting the development and evaluation of COVID-19 medicines, where it states its plans for [additional measures](#) during COVID-19.
- On Tuesday (6 October), the EMA [started](#) its second rolling review of a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is being developed by BioNTech in collaboration with Pfizer.
- On Thursday last week, the European Commission [approved](#) the third contract to ensure access to a potential COVID-19 vaccine. This contract is with Janssen Pharmaceutica NV.
- On 8 October, the European Commission [signed](#) a joint procurement contract with Gilead for the supply of up to 500,000 treatment courses of Veklury, Remdesivir. There are 36 signatories of the [Joint Procurement Agreement](#) participating in this joint procurement.

- On Friday (9 October), the Council of the EU agreed its [position](#) on the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will offer Member States €312.5 billion in grants. Member States may submit their draft plans to the Commission from Wednesday this week and are expected to present their plans officially by 30 April at the latest.
- The European Commission today (12 October) published the [summary report](#) of the Health Security Committee of 24 September. Items discussed include rapid risk assessment of COVID-19 by the ECDC, follow-up on the Commission Communication on short-term preparedness for COVID-19, and recognition of COVID-19 tests in the EU.
- The European Commission today also announced the first provisional results of the implementation of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+). The EU mobilised over €13 billion in investments to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Also today, the Commission launched a [webpage](#) on the Cohesion Open Data Platform to ensure maximum transparency and accountability.

For more information, please get in touch with **Charline Quill rou, Associate Director EU** at c.quillerou@rpp-group.com

FRANCE



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Population: | 67,063,703 |
| Number of cases: | 734,974 |
| Number of deaths: | 32,730 (<i>including retirement homes</i>) |

- According to the French public health agency Sant  Publique France, the number of COVID-19 cases and the COVID-19 mortality rate continue to increase in France. More than 16,000 cases were recorded in 24 hours over the weekend. The number of new hospital admissions, in particular intensive care admissions and deaths in hospital, are on the rise, reports Sant  Publique France.
- New protective public health measures have been announced over the past week for Lille, Grenoble, Paris, Toulouse and Montpellier. Toulouse and Montpellier are now in the maximum alert zone which should culminate in new restrictions, particularly on socialising in

restaurants and bars. The nature of these measures depend on the mayors and prefects, who will implement restrictions in accordance with national measures.

- The White Plan has been reactivated in hospitals in the Ile-de-France region, which means that routine operations are being deprogrammed to cope with the influx of COVID-19 patients.
- Interviewed by a radio station, the President of the Scientific Council indicated that the virus could last until the summer of 2021.

For more information, please get in touch with **Salomé Chelli-Enriquez, Director RPP France** at s.chelli-enriquez@rpp-group.com

GERMANY



| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Population: | 83,042,200 |
| Number of cases: | 325,331 |
| Number of deaths: | 9,621 |

- In the past week, several cities across Germany passed the threshold of 50 new infections per 100,000 habitants within seven days. In total, there are now 28 cities in which stronger regulations apply due to the strongly rising number of infections including major districts of Berlin, Cologne, Duisburg, Essen, Mainz, Munich, and Stuttgart.
- The prime ministers of the federal states of Bavaria, Markus Söder (Christian Social Union, CSU) and North Rhine-Westphalia, Armin Laschet (Christian Democratic Union, CDU), have proposed higher fines for individuals who do not follow the mandatory wearing of masks in public spaces. Disagreement among the federal states and across party lines is centred around the so-called “accommodation ban” that 12 out of 16 federal states applied last week. The ban demands mandatory testing of people coming from risk areas within Germany.
- With the numbers of infections rising, there is also an increased need for intensive medical care. According to the Robert Koch Institute, there was a rise from 352 to 449 patients requiring intensive medical care within the last week, out of whom 219 are on respirators (last week this number was 195).

- According to a study from German researchers published in *The Lancet Neurology* the COVID-19 virus can cause inflammation in the brain, in addition to complication in lungs, heart, and kidneys.

For more information, please get in touch with **Amelie Gudorf, Senior Consultant** at a.gudorf@rpp-group.com

ITALY



Population: 60,453,573

Number of cases: 354,950

Number of deaths: 36,166

- An increase in the number of COVID-19 cases has been confirmed for the ninth consecutive week. The median age of the cases continues to increase (from 41 years to 42).
- On Thursday (8 October), Health Minister Roberto Speranza signed a new ordinance which provides for urgent measures to contain and manage the current health emergency. The ordinance in particular provides for the obligation of molecular or antigenic testing for people coming from or transiting in some European countries at greater risk for COVID-19.
- The Government has decided to extend the state of emergency to 31 January 2021, while a new decree extends emergency measures in force until 15 October.
- According to Italy's Higher Health Institute, the reopening of schools in September has not led to a large increase in COVID-19 cases, as feared.
- Italy has boosted its capacity of intensive care beds. For now, Italy has stabilised 7,000 places in intensive care and 15,000 in sub-intensive care. The country has also launched a plan to boost COVID-19 hospital networks that will bring another 3,500 beds in intensive care and 4,500 in sub-intensive care.
- The governor of the Lazio Region Nicola Zingaretti on Thursday (8 October) ordered a 14-day lockdown around the province of Latina, south of Rome.

For more information, please get in touch with **Daniela Lemme, Associate Director Italy** at d.lemme@rpp-group.com

SPAIN



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Population: | 47,329,981 |
| Number of cases: | 861,112 (PCR-based test) (data from 08/10) |
| Number of deaths: | 32,929 |

- President Pedro Sánchez on Friday (9 October) declared the state of emergency in Madrid after the Regional High Court of Madrid ruled against the resolution established last week regarding strict security measures against the rise of COVID-19 cases.
- It is the first time that the central government has declared a state of emergency in a specific region rather in the whole national territory, as was the case in March when the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

For more information, please get in touch with **Kit Greenop, Director RPP Spain** at k.greenop@rpp-group.com

UNITED KINGDOM



| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Population: | 66,796,807 |
| Number of cases: | 603,716 |
| Number of deaths: | 42,825 |

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson this afternoon (12 October) unveiled a new system of “local COVID-19 alert levels”, a three-tier broad framework to designate the threat of COVID-19 in councils and cities in England and implement restrictions locally.
- The system comprises three tiers – medium, high, and very high – of threat level and public health restrictions, with restrictions set to last for four weeks at a time before review.
- The medium tier will extend current national restrictions, including social distancing, the 10pm curfew on hospitality businesses, and the cap of six on the number of people from different households who may socialise together. The second tier will implement a ban on households mixing while permitting two households mixing in gardens, while the ‘very high’

tier will ban households mixing indoors and outdoors; ban non-essential travel into and out of areas; and likely mandate pubs and bars to close.

- More COVID-19 patients are now in hospitals in England than in March, and special COVID-19-only Nightingale hospitals in the northern English towns of Manchester, Sunderland and Harrogate have been asked to prepare to take patients.
- England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam meanwhile has warned England is approaching a "tipping point" in the fight against the virus, with an uptick in circulation seen "nationwide" and not solely in northern England.
- Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will also draw up a 'three-tier' lockdown system to be implemented later this month.
- The new UK Global Travel Taskforce is exploring introducing a COVID-19 testing system for travellers arriving into the UK. Under the system, new arrivals would be required to pay for their own tests to minimise the impact on NHS capacity, and a negative test would enable people to end their two-week quarantine period early.

For more information, please get in touch with **Martyna Giedrojć, Associate Director UK** at m.giedrojć@rpp-group.com

II. EUROPEAN UNION

- Last Monday (5 October), the European Medicine Agency's (EMA) Executive Director sent an [open letter](#) to the European Ombudsman in response to her inquiry on the transparency and independence of its activities in supporting the development and evaluation of COVID-19 medicines. The Agency reaffirms that it considers maximum transparency as a pre-condition for fostering trust and confidence in the EU regulatory system. It is applying its usual measures to ensure their recommendations are driven by science and public health needs, and not by any other interests, and is also planning [additional measures](#) during COVID-19.
- On Tuesday (6 October), the EMA [started](#) its second rolling review of a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is being developed by BioNTech in collaboration with Pfizer. Large-scale clinical trials involving several thousands of people are ongoing, and results will become available over the coming weeks and months. The rolling review will continue until enough evidence is available to support a formal marketing authorisation application.
- On Thursday last week, the European Commission [approved](#) the third contract to ensure access to a potential COVID-19 vaccine. This contract is with Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the

Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and allows Member States to purchase vaccines for 200 million people, with the possibility of purchasing vaccines for an additional 200 million people.

- The European Commission has [signed](#) a joint procurement contract with Gilead for the supply of the supply of up to 500,000 treatment courses of Veklury, Remdesivir. There are 36 signatories of the [Joint Procurement Agreement](#) participating in this joint procurement, including all EU countries, Norway and Iceland, the UK, and six candidate countries and potential candidates (Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina). This contract was financed from the Commission's Emergency Support Instrument ([ESI](#)), worth a total of €70 million.
- Last Friday, the Council of the EU agreed its [position](#) on the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will support public investments and reforms and contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU in response to the impacts of the pandemic. The Facility will offer Member States €312.5 billion in grants. Member States may submit their draft plans to the Commission from Wednesday this week and are expected to present their plans officially by 30 April at the latest. The Facility will now need to be negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council. The Parliament's position is yet to be voted on.
- The European Commission today (12 October) published the [summary report](#) of the Health Security Committee of 24 September. Items discussed include disinfection robots, rapid risk assessment of COVID-19 by the ECDC, discussion on quarantine periods for COVID-19, follow-up on the Commission Communication on short-term preparedness for COVID-19, and recognition of COVID-19 tests in the EU. Other topics discussed include contact-tracing data, a protocol on schools in France, and Remdesivir.
- The European Commission today also announced the first provisional results of the implementation of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+). The EU has mobilised over €13 billion in investments to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)), the European Social Fund ([ESF](#)) and the Cohesion Fund ([CF](#)).
 - Also today, the Commission launched a [webpage](#) on the Cohesion Open Data Platform to ensure maximum transparency and accountability, in order to show its role in supporting Member States to overcome the coronavirus crisis.

III. FRANCE

- According to the French public health agency Santé Publique France, the number of COVID-19 cases and the COVID-19 mortality rate continue to increase in France. More than 16,000 cases were recorded in 24 hours over the weekend. The number of new hospital admissions, in particular intensive care admissions and deaths in hospital, are on the rise, reports Santé Publique France.
- New protective public health measures have been announced over the past week for Lille, Grenoble, Paris, Toulouse and Montpellier. Toulouse and Montpellier are now in the maximum alert zone which should culminate in new restrictions, particularly on socialising in restaurants and bars. The nature of these measures depends on the mayors and prefects, who will implement restrictions in accordance with national measures.
- The White Plan has been reactivated in hospitals in the Ile-de-France region, which means that routine operations are being deprogrammed to cope with the influx of COVID-19 patients.
- In an interview with a radio station, the president of the Scientific Council indicated that the virus could last until the summer of 2021.

IV. ITALY

- An increase in the number of COVID-19 cases recorded has now been confirmed for the ninth consecutive week. The median age of the cases continues to increase (from 41 years to 42).
- On Thursday (8 October), the Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza signed a [new ordinance](#) which contains provisions for urgent measures to contain and manage the current health emergency. The ordinance in particular provides for the obligation of molecular or antigenic testing for people coming from or transiting in some European countries at greater risk for COVID-19. It also includes an obligation to communicate entry into Italy to relevant authorities.
- Travellers who intend to enter Italy and who in the previous fourteen days have been or transited through Belgium, France, the Netherlands, the UK, the Czech Republic and Spain must present upon boarding a certification that they have undergone a molecular or antigenic test with a negative results within 72 hours prior to entering. An alternative is also to undergo a molecular or antigenic test upon arrival at the airport or border location or at their local health authority within 48 hours of entering the national territory.
- The Italian Government last Wednesday decided to [extend the state of emergency](#) to 31 January 2021. A new decree has also been approved that extends until 15 October the emergency measures already in force. The decree also introduces the obligation to wear masks outdoors and

indoors, save for in private homes. It also extends the period of use of the Immuni App. The decree provides regions, within the limit of their powers, the possibility to temporarily introduce more restrictive measures.

- According to Italy's Higher Health Institute, the [reopening of schools](#) in September has not led to a large increase in COVID-19 cases, as feared. "The transmission of COVID-19 among students and school personnel is closely monitored and, up to today, highly limited", the president of the Health Institute Silvio Brusaferrò said. According to Italian authorities, the protocols are working, and efforts are enhanced in working with the education ministry to allow students to go to school.
- The [Italian health and safety police, NAS](#), seized over 33,000 facemasks and 440,000 gloves that did not meet anti-COVID-19 safety standards on Wednesday last week. The personal protective equipment was seized in operations that took place across Italy, notably in Catania, Lecce and Milan. The items did not carry an EU standard certificate. The finance guard also seized 1.6 million masks on the border with Switzerland. The products were shipped from the Netherlands but did not have proper certificates showing that they came from China, the police informed.
- [Italy has boosted the capacity of intensive care beds](#), the country's COVID-19 emergency commissioner Domenico Arcuri indicated. Arcuri said that despite having "numbers within the limits of normal management ... we must prepare ourselves for the possibility that they will grow". For now, Italy has stabilised 7,000 places in intensive care and 15,000 in sub-intensive care. The country has also launched a plan to boost COVID-19 hospital networks that will bring another 3,500 beds in intensive care and 4,500 in sub-intensive care. There are currently 300 Italians in intensive care, he informed. At the start of the pandemic, Italy could only rely on 5,179 intensive care places.
- The governor of the Lazio Region Nicola Zingaretti ordered on Thursday (8 October) a [14-day lockdown around the province of Latina, south of Rome](#). The lockdown includes a 20-person cap on the number of persons at parties and ceremonies, capping restaurant guests at four per table, and closing pubs, bars and restaurants at midnight. Gatherings outside schools and public officers have been banned and visits to hospital and to care-home patients also stopped. People are being urged to work remotely as much as possible. The lockdown was ordered after a new spike occurred in the region over the last few days.

V. GERMANY

- In the past week, several cities across Germany have passed the threshold of 50 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants in the past seven days. In total, there are now 28 cities in which stronger regulations apply due to the strongly rising number of infections including major districts of Berlin, Cologne, Duisburg, Essen, Mainz, Munich, and Stuttgart. Three Berlin districts are among the ten

cities and districts with the highest incidence value (as of Sunday (11 October)): Neukölln, Mitte, and Tempelhof-Schöneberg.

- The prime ministers of the federal states of Bavaria, Markus Söder (Christian Social Union, CSU) and North Rhine-Westphalia, Armin Laschet (Christian Democratic Union, CDU) have proposed higher fines for individuals who do not follow the mandatory wearing of masks in public spaces. Disagreement among the federal states and across party lines is centred around the so-called “accommodation ban” that 12 out of 16 federal states applied last week. The ban demands mandatory testing of people coming from risk areas within Germany.
- Health expert of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Karl Lauterbach, agrees with the regulations regarding masks but strongly opposes the ban as no studies prove that within-country travel is causing the virus to spread. The ministers will discuss the accommodation ban at a conference of prime ministers of the federal states on Wednesday. The lack of unity among the federal states of Germany can cause misunderstanding and therefore a potential disobedience of rules, experts fear. A singular set of rules across the whole country is a necessary outcome of the conference of ministers on Wednesday.
- There has been a rise of COVID-19 patients in Germany that require intensive medical care. According to the Robert-Koch-institute there was a rise from 352 to 449 patients requiring intensive medical care within the last week, out of whom 219 are on respirators (last week this number was 195). A total of 8,900 intensive care beds are still vacant in German hospitals.
- According to a study from German researchers published in *The Lancet Neurology* the COVID-19 virus can cause inflammation in the brain in addition to complication in lungs, heart, and kidneys. The research was conducted on 43 deceased with Sars-CoV-2 infection. In half of the deceased, the COVID-19 virus or its proteins were detected in the in the brain stem or the nerves originating there. These inflamed cells could be causing the loss of the ability to smell, headaches, and even strokes. This is based on the immunoreaction that the researchers found in those deceased whose brains were infected. However, the researchers emphasize that the amount of the virus that was found was very low.
- The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs has extended its list of high-risk areas to include provinces or counties of the following countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Moreover, the whole of Georgia, Jordan, Romania, and Tunisia are considered risk countries. The Croatian county of Brodsko-Posavska and the French island Corsica are no longer considered risk areas.

VI. SPAIN

- After the resolution approved by the Ministry of Health and agreed with regional representatives within the Interterritorial Committee of the National Healthcare System was published last week on new COVID-19 restrictions, the government of Madrid appealed to the Regional Court. The measures set in the resolution include restrictions on fundamental rights, such as the freedom of movement, to tackle rising infection rates in large cities with more than 500 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. On Thursday (8 October), Madrid's Regional High Court [ruled](#) against the above-mentioned resolution stating it lacks sufficient legal basis since it comes from a non-binding agreement of the Interterritorial Committee. As a result, the resolution does not allow for coercive measures meaning foreseen fines of up to €600,000 are no longer valid.
- In light of the ruling, the central government on Friday (9 October) declared the state of emergency in Madrid so as to implement the security measures gathered in the resolution. Such restrictions come at a time when tensions between the central and the regional government of Madrid are running high. 12 October is a bank holiday in Spain and therefore mobility restrictions for those living in Madrid are asked to be respected regardless of the final legislation in place.
- The Constitution only allows for the state of emergency to be declared within the Council of Ministers for a period of 15 days. In case an extension is desired, it requires to be voted in the Congress.

VII. UNITED KINGDOM

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson this afternoon unveiled a new system for “local COVID alert levels”, a three-tier broad framework to designate the threat of COVID-19 in councils and cities in England and implement restrictions locally. The system will comprise three tiers – medium, high, and very high – of threat level and public health restrictions, with restrictions set to last for four weeks at a time before review.
- The medium tier will extend current national restrictions, including social distancing, the 10pm curfew on hospitality businesses, and the cap of six on the number of people from different households who may socialise together. The second tier will implement a ban on household mixing while permitting two households mixing in gardens, while the ‘very high’ tier will ban households mixing indoors and outdoors; ban non-essential travel into and out of areas; and likely mandate pubs and bars to close. The north-western city of Liverpool is set to go into the highest tier of restrictions, while North East England is set to enter the ‘high’ tier; negotiations with local council leaders and metro mayors are ongoing, however, and the exact terms of each tier are not yet fixed.

- Local leaders will be offered the opportunity to implement stricter public health measures and restrictions between regions will not necessarily be identical across regions within the same tier. Local authorities will also be awarded significant new powers to enforce restrictions on businesses through a new ‘public health provision’ to enable local environmental health officers to close non-COVID-19-compliant premises. Mayors and council leaders will be given greater control over the NHS Test and Trace programme after trials of local contact tracing in over 60 local authorities in England demonstrated the value of a stronger supplementary local programme to the national contact tracing system.
- More COVID-19 patients are in hospitals in England now than in March, and special COVID-19-only Nightingale hospitals in the northern English towns of Manchester, Sunderland and Harrogate have been asked to prepare to take patients. England’s Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty last week warned MPs the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care in the north of England will surpass the April peak if circulation continues to rise at its current rate.
- England’s Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam meanwhile has warned England is approaching a “tipping point” in the fight against the virus, with an uptick in circulation seen “nationwide” and not solely in northern England. Van-Tam noted the viral reproduction – R – rate remains between 1.2 and 1.5, and that each NHS region in England is reporting an R rate above the natural perpetuation rate of 1.0.
- Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Friday revealed plans to cover two-thirds of the wages of workers whose businesses are mandated to close in local lockdowns, as well as grants of up to £3,000 a month to companies forced to close. Northern politicians have called for an extension of the Government’s furlough scheme that covered 80 percent of the wages of workers furloughed and have called for support to be extended to businesses beyond just those in the highest COVID-19 threat tier.
- The three-tier lockdown system is set to be introduced in England in mid-October, while Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will also draw up a ‘three-tier’ lockdown system later this month. Sturgeon has indicated her administration seeks to “align as closely as possible with other UK nations” on a COVID-19 strategy after Boris Johnson chaired an emergency COBRA meeting with UK leaders earlier today (12 October).
- Sturgeon this weekend imposed new measures predominantly affecting Scotland’s central belt, including the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, as a temporary measure ahead of the new tiered system. Nationwide, hospitality premises may only open indoors between 6am and 6pm, with the sale of alcohol prohibited and with outdoor spaces permitted to remain open until 10pm. In the central Scottish belt, all licensed premises have been required to close; outdoor live events are prohibited; and group exercise is prohibited, among other restrictions.
- The Northern Irish Executive is considering a “circuit-breaker” lockdown comprising stringent public health measures to stymie the rising circulation of the virus after reporting over 1,000 daily new

cases for the second time in three days on Sunday (11 October). Strict restrictions would be implemented for an initial two-week period and may be extended if the circulation of the virus continues to rise.

- The new UK Global Travel Taskforce co-chaired by Health Secretary Matt Hancock is exploring introducing a COVID-19 testing system for travellers arriving into the UK. Under the system, new arrivals would be required to pay for their own tests to minimise the impact on NHS capacity, and a negative test would enable people to end their two-week quarantine period early. Aviation leaders have called for a testing system to replace the quarantine altogether.
- The Government has purchased 1 million antibodies from the UK research consortium which was promoted as a key means of finding technological solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic in the initial stages of the pandemic. The test uses a simple finger-prick device and provides a result in-situ within 20 minutes, meaning the new tests do not burden testing infrastructure, which was hit last week by the Swiss pharmaceutical firm Roche moving its production warehouse, leading to a “very significant” drop in processing capacity. Health leaders are preparing for “a sustained disruption” in the provision of various COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 treatments, according to a hospital trust leader in London.