

SOLACE GLOBAL

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

21 October 2021



cat COVID numérique UE

entialité de vos données de santé, nous vous ne présenter que le seul QR code de preuve en ation.

RTIFICAT DE VACCINATION  
VACCINATION CERTIFICATE

COVID-19  
840539006

SARS-CoV-2 mRNA  
vaccine  
1119349007

COVID-19 Vaccine  
EU/1/20/1507

Maladie ou agent ciblé  
Disease or agent targeted

Vaccin/prophylaxie  
Vaccine/prophylaxis

Document W2  
Document W2

Espritant le titulaire de  
vaccin  
Number of doses  
vaccination  
Number of doses

Nombre dans un  
vaccin  
Number of doses  
vaccination  
Number of doses



SPORT

Document n° 2020-1690 du 25 décembre 2020 autorisant la création d'un traitement de données à caractère personnel relatif aux vaccinations contre la Covid-19.

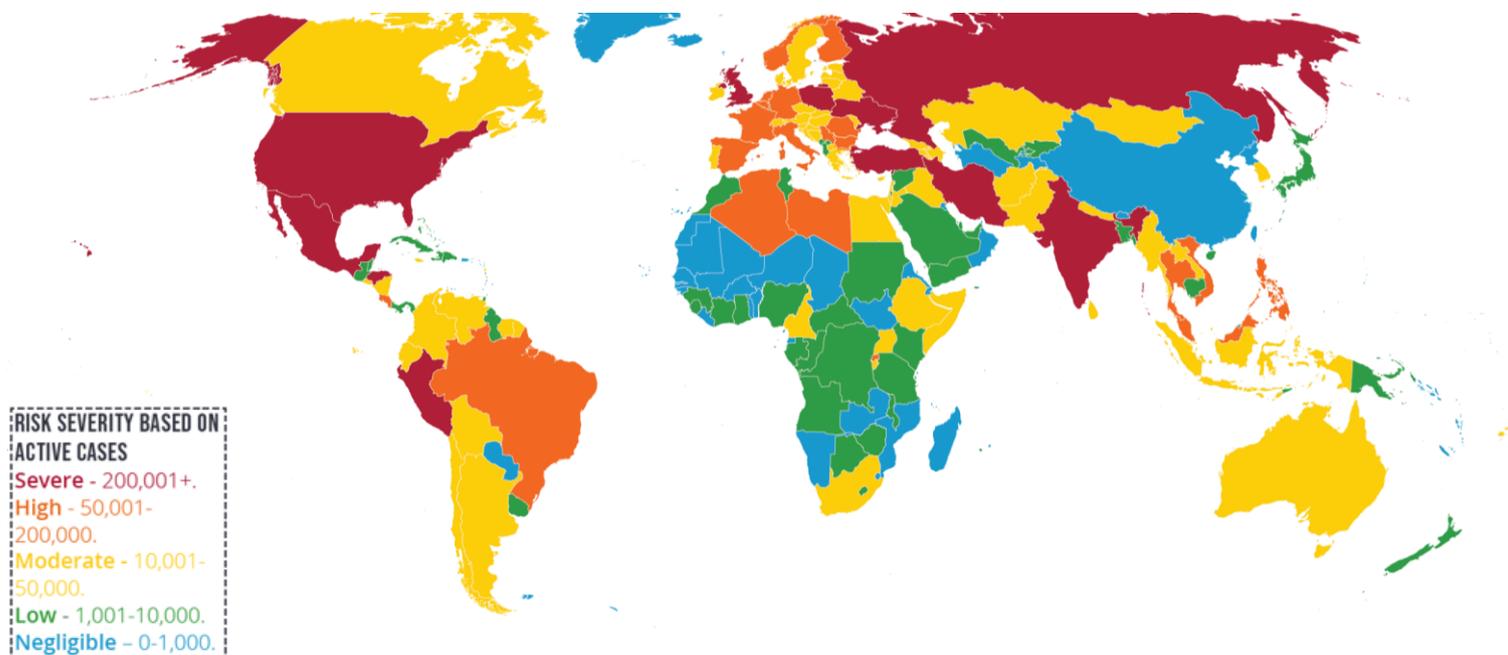
Conformément aux dispositions relatives à la protection des données personnelles, vous disposez d'un droit d'accès, de rectification et de limitation partie de traitement. Ces droits s'exercent auprès du directeur de votre caisse d'Assurance Maladie de rattachement en contactant le ou la délégué(e) à la protection des données. Pour en savoir plus sur le traitement de vos données, rendez-vous sur le site d'information ameli.fr (<https://www.ameli.fr/mon-droit/information-s-vaccin-covid>).

La loi rend passible d'amende et/ou d'emprisonnement quiconque se rend coupable de fraudes ou de fausses déclarations (articles 441-1 et 515 du code pénal). En outre, la fabrication ou l'établissement de faux documents, au vu de l'utilisation de tels documents sont passibles d'une pénalité financière aux termes des articles L. 162-1-14 du code de la Sécurité sociale.

## Executive Summary

Globally this week, both the number of cases and deaths have increased slightly when compared to last week's figures, the number of new weekly cases was four percent higher than last week with just above 2.9 million new cases, whilst the death count was 5 percent higher, with over 49,000 deaths recorded.

The European region accounted for over half of new weekly cases and was the only region to see an increase in its weekly case count. The African region recorded the largest weekly drop in cases with a decrease of 21 percent, and it also recorded an 11 percent drop in the number of weekly deaths. Some countries are also beginning to see increasing rates of hospitalisations and deaths. This it is believed is down to variants with increased transmissibility, poor adherence to public health measures such as mask wearing and the resumption of many social and daily activities such as schooling, eating out and attending events and shows.



## Notable Updates

In the United States new research shows that conspiracy theories in the country are often being fuelled and passed on by medical professionals, who themselves are anti-vaccination. In the state of Florida, the newly appointed Surgeon General is an anti-vaccination medical professional who recently claimed that there was “nothing special” about vaccines. Other medical professionals in the country are actively amplifying conspiracy theories ranging from those that say vaccines will kill you to those that claim they will turn you magnetic. Whilst anti-vaccination medical professionals are not unique to the United States, with the UK and Italy also having a high profile issues, the scale in the US is unique and is resulting in an increased difficulty in convincing those not yet vaccinated to do so.

The European Commission has announced that it has put together a portfolio of “the 10 most promising COVID-19 therapeutics” that are likely to be authorised by the European medical regulators. These 10 were chosen after experts looked at 82 differing new therapeutic candidates for combatting COVID-19. Of the 10 selected by the commission's panel, six are already under rolling review, or have already applied for marketing authorisation from the European Medicines Agency. As a result, they are likely to receive some form of authorisation soon provided they can provide finalised data and information on safety, efficacy, quality and costs.

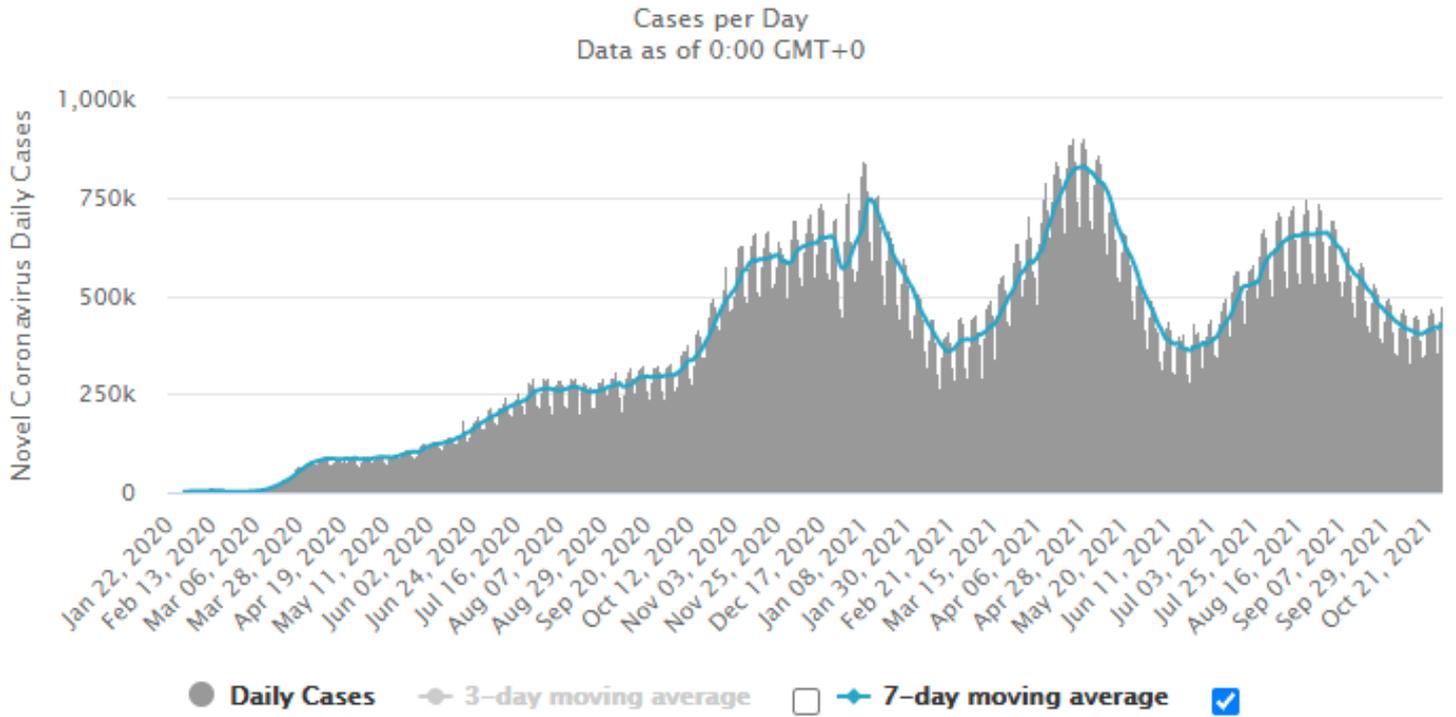
## Vaccination Updates

The African Union (AU) has announced that they will be buying 110 million vaccines from the pharmaceutical company Moderna. The deal was brokered with the help of the US government. Under the terms of the deal, the AU will receive 15 million doses before the end of 2021, whilst 35 million will arrive in the first quarter of 2022 and 60 million in the second quarter. To facilitate the agreement, and to allow Moderna the capacity to deliver the first tranche of 15 million doses, the United States has announced that it will defer the delivery of 33 million doses which it had previously brought. The AU estimate that if all 110 million vaccines are delivered within the specified time frames, then the AU can reach their goal of vaccinating 450 million Africans by September 2022.

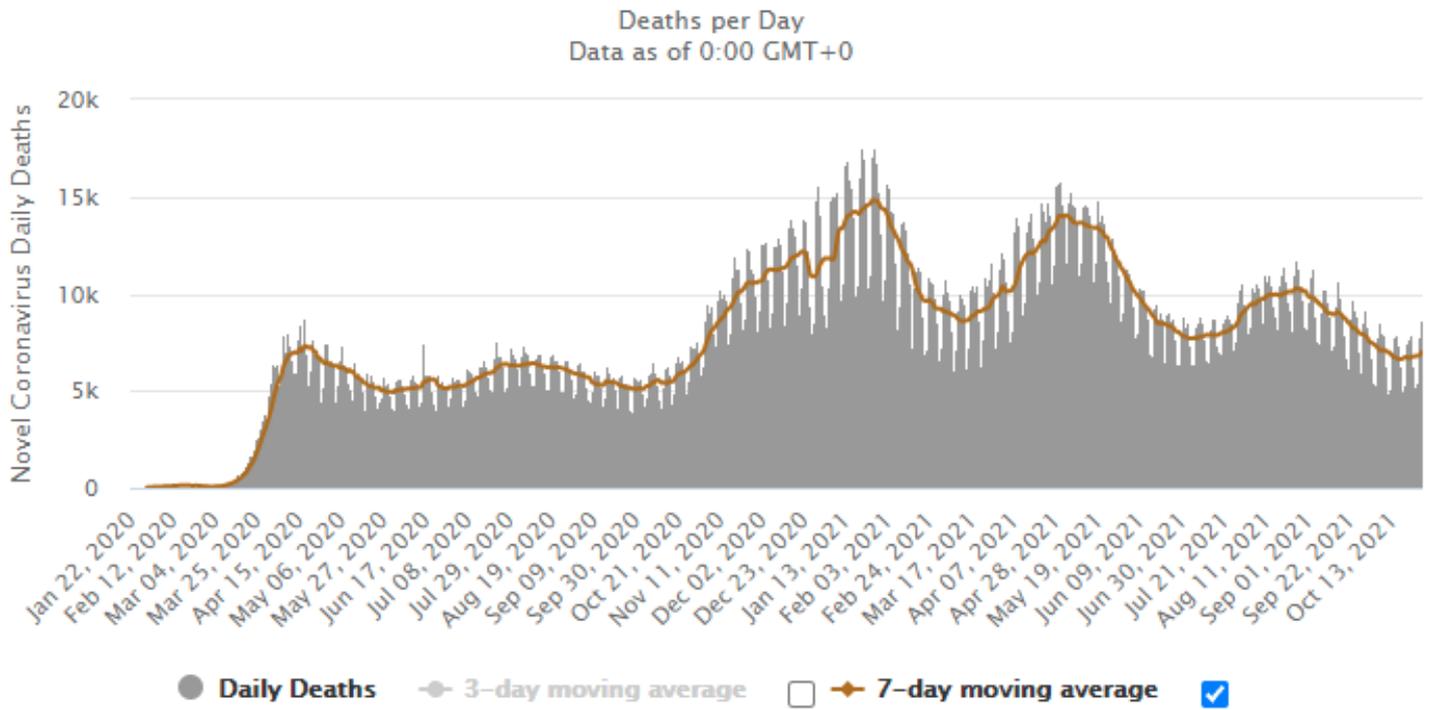
A comprehensive study of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines have revealed that between them they can marginally increase the risk of contracting several rare neurological diseases. The AstraZeneca jab is believed to have the ability to cause the Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), with an incident rate of an extra 38 per 10 million of the syndrome than would naturally be found. Guillain-Barré syndrome causes temporary pain and weaknesses in the limbs. The study also reinforces the link between the Pfizer shot and the increased risk of a haemorrhagic stroke in the 28 days after vaccination. The increased risk of this is at 60 per 10 million more than would normally be found. The authors of the

study emphasized that that whilst there was a link, it was small, and catching COVID-19 was likely to give rise to a higher likelihood of resulting in either GBS or a haemorrhagic stroke.

The Chinese government has announced that they will be aiming to have provided over 2 billion Chinese made vaccines to the world by the end of 2021. This target includes the provision of over 100 million vaccination doses free of charge to lesser developed nations. At the time of writing China is believed to have provided 1.5 billion doses of its vaccines to around 106 different countries. Its vaccines are also in use by four different international organisations, including the WHO.



Source: Worldometer - [www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info)



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## Select Country Updates

### Ukraine

The Ukrainian Health Ministry has announced that they have registered a new daily high death toll of 734 deaths over the 24 hours of 26 October. The previous high was only set on 22 October. This indicates that the country, like much of the Eastern European region, is undergoing a new COVID-19 surge.

As a result of the increase in death rates, and infection rates, the Ukrainian government has once again tightened infection control measures. For instance, from the 28 October, if you wish to board planes, trains and long-distance buses in the country you will now need proof of vaccination or a negative test result.

The country's government is blaming the current domestic situation on the slow pace at which vaccinations are occurring. To try and cut down on vaccine hesitancy, the Health Ministry allows Ukrainian to freely choose which vaccine they wish to take, out of the Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Sinovac vaccines. Despite this, only around 15 percent of the country is fully vaccinated.

Further complicating matters is the fact that the country's notorious black market has become awash with purveyors of counterfeit vaccine certificates. Prices range from 20 USD to 200 USD. Ukrainians have long had little trust in their institutions and government, and it is believed that this is only serving to drive many to buy fraudulent vaccination certifications, or not to take the vaccine at all.

### Belarus

In Belarus the government announced that they would be abolishing the mask mandate, something they only implemented two weeks ago. The abolishment comes after the country posted a new record level of infections. President Lukashenko, who has previously been dismissive of the pandemic and infection control measures, stated that masks were "unnecessary, over the top" and not needed as the country "wasn't the west".

Lukashenko also has informed the country's medics that the way to deal with the country's shortage of hospital beds due to COVID-19 is to "discharge more people". Belarussian hospitals and medical clinics have had to cancel all routine medical procedures and check-ups, as they deal with a surge in COVID-19 infections, coupled with the mass arrests and firings of medics who took part in the recent popular uprising against the Lukashenko government.

The country is currently officially reporting around 2,000 new daily infections, though these are widely believed to be a serious undercount. Medics in the country believe the real incidence is at least six times higher. The government stopped reporting daily deaths some months ago. At the time of writing only around 20 percent of the country has been fully vaccinated.

### United Kingdom

The United Kingdom recently saw its daily infection rates climb to 50,000, the highest rate since the summer. Modelling suggests that the incidence rate is likely to drop quite significantly in the coming weeks to less than 5,000 a day by Christmas. The epidemiological model is that used by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is one of many that the British government use to decide COVID-19 related policy.

It is believed that the drop will occur because most infections in recent months have been in those under the age of 18. As this group acquire immunity through the vaccine programme, and through natural immunity after contracting the virus, there increasingly becomes fewer non-immune hosts for the virus to use.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine however has stated that their model is a scientific one and should not be seen as a political position by the institution. This is as many in the United Kingdom have taken the epidemiological model as proof that the government does not need to implement its "plan B" for the winter. Plan B consists of working from home, vaccine certificate implementation and mandatory mask wearing.

### China

The government has announced that the city of Lanzhou, which is home to 4 million people, has been placed into lockdown. The lockdown comes after the country reported 29 infections, of which six were in Lanzhou on 26 October. Under the Lanzhou lockdown, the entry and exit of goods and people to the city will be tightly controlled and limited only to essential suppliers, and for medical reasons. The Chinese government had already suspended air and rail connections from the city to other cities across the country.

China is continuing to double down on its zero COVID-19 policy, as the rest of the world has begun to open and treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease. The consequence of this is that the country retains extremely strict border controls. Frequently, and at short notice, strict localised lockdowns are put in place as a result of a very small number of cases. Chinese authorities wish to present a COVID-19 free country to the world for the 2022 winter Olympics held in Beijing.

### South Korea

South Korea have unveiled a three-phase plan that they hope will allow the country to get back to normal with no limits on gatherings and social distance. These were unveiled after the government announced that it had managed to successfully vaccinate 70 percent of the country's population.

Meanwhile the country's health authorities have announced they have granted emergency use authorisation to the Moderna vaccine which is finished and packaged by Samsung Biologics. Moderna has

agreed with the South Korean government that 2.44 million of the vaccine doses produced by Samsung Biologics at their new South Korean plant will be used in South Korea. This plant has yet to be approved by European and US regulators. Once gaining approval, the company will be allowed to ship the vaccines it packs and seals out of South Korea for the international market.

### **Kenya**

President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced that the country's COVID-19 curfew, which was put in place in March 2020, was lifted on 20 October. The reasons for the lifting are that the country's infection rate has fallen significantly. On 25 October, the country recorded just 44 new cases.

At the time of writing Kenya has administered over 4.93 million vaccinations, and the numbers of those who are fully vaccinated stand at over 1.5 million. Kenya has so far received over 8 million vaccines and it is aiming to vaccinate 10 million people by December 2021.

### **Tunisia**

A presidential decree has been published that indicates that the country is moving towards using COVID-19

vaccine passes in a widespread fashion. The decree covers both residents and foreign visitors.

All those wishing to access government administrative buildings, cafes, restaurants, hotels and tourist establishments will now need to show a vaccination certificate. Meanwhile those in the country who haven't received, or who have refused, the vaccine will be suspended from their jobs until they can prove they have had the vaccine. At the time of writing around 4.2 million Tunisians have had a full course of vaccination, out of a total population of around 11.6 million.

### **Canada**

The province of Ontario lifted the capacity limits on venues that require you to need a vaccine certificate, meaning that establishments such as restaurants, gyms and casinos could once again operate at full capacity.

Canada has now vaccinated More than 80 percent of their residents over the age of 12, and the percent of those between 12 and 17 who are fully vaccinated stands at 77 percent. This is a significantly higher figure than that found in either the US or the UK.



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