Health

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Europe Tactical: Countries tighten certain domestic restrictions as COVID-19 cases surge regionwide on August 11; remain cognizant of authorities' updates

Please be advised

- In **Belgium**, health officials in **Wallonia** have announced plans to close most of its COVID-19 vaccination centers by the end of August. Around 75 percent of citizens in Wallonia are fully vaccinated as of August 10. Additionally, only 16 vaccination centers will remain open until the end of September, or October.
- In **Germany**, the government has announced that several restrictions will be lifted for people vaccinated and recovered from COVID-19 in the coming months. Additionally, free nationwide COVID-19 tests will end on October 11. Unvaccinated people will face regular COVID-19 tests.
  In **Berlin**, health officials will inoculate the at-risk and elderly population with a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from September.
- In **Greece**, additional restrictions have been imposed in **Heraklion**, Crete as of August 11. A night-time curfew will be in place from 23:00-06:00. Details can be found here. The measures will be in place until August 17.
- In **Iceland**, vaccinated nationals and residents returning from abroad will be required to undergo a second PCR or rapid antigen test within 48 hours of arrival, effective from August 16. However, travelers will not be required to quarantine until their test results are known. Additional entry restrictions can be found here.
- In **Italy**, authorities have announced that restaurants are not required to ask for customers' identity documents to verify the validity of their green pass for entry, as per August 10 reports.
- In **North Macedonia**, operations of indoor hospitality venues, including restaurants, bars, and cafes will be suspended from August 16. Individuals over the age of 18 years will be required to produce proof of vaccination with at least one of the COVID-19 vaccines to attend any outdoor event regardless of the venue with more than 30 people present. Customers will be checked for vaccination certificates upon entry into venues with outdoor areas.
- In **Norway**, Health Minister Bent Hoie announced that the last remaining COVID-19 domestic restrictions, including social distancing, would be potentially lifted by the end of September, as per August 11 reports.
- In **Portugal**, authorities have recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for children between the age group of 12-15.
- In **Romania**, the nationwide state of alert with existing restrictions has been extended until at least September 11.
- In **Slovakia**, the risk-wise categorization of districts will be updated in accordance with the status of vaccination of the above 50 age group. Authorities will announce the changes soon, which will come into effect from August 16.
- In **Slovenia**, authorities have maintained the existing restrictions as of August 11. Details can be found here.
- In **Spain**, authorities have imposed a night-time curfew during the hours of 02:00 to 07:00 in the

municipalities of Conil de la Frontera, Paterna de Rivera, Punta Umbria, Mengibar, Campillos, Marchena, Tocino, and El Cuervo. Similarly, a night-time curfew from 01:00 to 06:00 is in effect in the towns of Jaca, Huesca, Monzon, and Barbastro. In **Valencia**, a night-time curfew is in effect from 01:00 to 06:00. Meanwhile, in **Catalonia**, COVID-19 vaccinations without prior appointments for children above the age of 12 have commenced.

- In **Ukraine**, a mass vaccination center has been established at the Kyiv Boryspil international airport (KBP).

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Europe on August 11 and in the coming days are advised to remain cognizant of authorities' instructions regarding quarantines, travel restrictions, and health procedures.
2. Those intending to travel within the bloc are advised to reconfirm their itineraries with the airline or service provider.
3. Take precautions and familiarize yourself with the symptoms and ways to reduce the chances of contracting COVID-19.