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# COVID-19 situation in European region and selected countries

**England, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany**

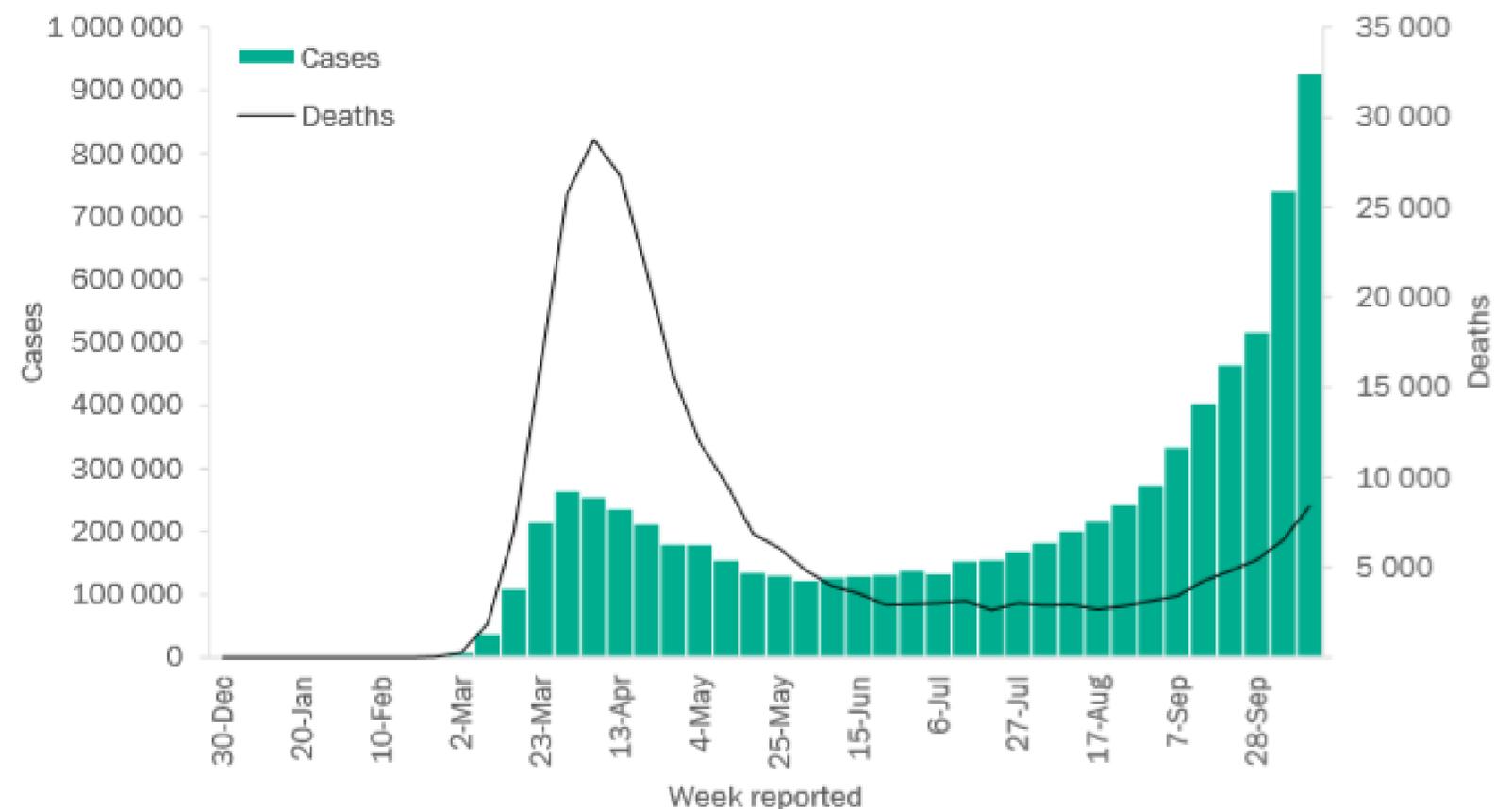
**NPHET presentation**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

# WHO overview of situation in Europe as of 18<sup>th</sup> Oct



- This week the European region again reports the highest increase in cases and deaths thus far – 25% and 29%, respectively
- The region reported the greatest proportion of new cases globally (38%, n=927,433)
- WHO Regional Director highlighted that Europe is currently reporting over three times more cases per day compared to the April peak, with hospital admissions increasing, although the number of daily deaths remains five times lower than in April
- France, the UK, Russia, Czechia and Italy continue to report high incidence of new cases. Taken together, these five countries represent over half of all reported cases in the last week in Europe
- Majority of countries reporting transmission pattern as community transmission





EU/EEA and the UK	Ranking by 14-day incidence	14-day incidence per 100 000 (as of 21/10)
Czechia	1	975.8
Belgium	2	867.2
Netherlands	3	574.4
France	4	441.7
Slovenia	5	370.6
Luxembourg	6	368.5
United Kingdom	7	348.7
Spain	8	347.1
Slovakia	9	322.7
Iceland	10	311.5
Liechtenstein	11	310.1
Malta	12	303.3
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>270.8</b>
Romania	14	240.2
Poland	15	232.3

EU/EEA and the UK	Ranking by 14-day incidence	14-day incidence per 100 000 (as of 21/10)
Portugal	16	227.9
Croatia	17	215.4
Austria	18	203
Hungary	19	174.6
Italy	20	172.6
Bulgaria	21	136.5
Cyprus	22	109.9
Denmark	23	103.2
Lithuania	24	102.8
Sweden	25	99.8
Germany	26	90
Latvia	27	73.7
Greece	28	55.3
Finland	29	52.9
Norway	30	37.5
Estonia	31	35.3

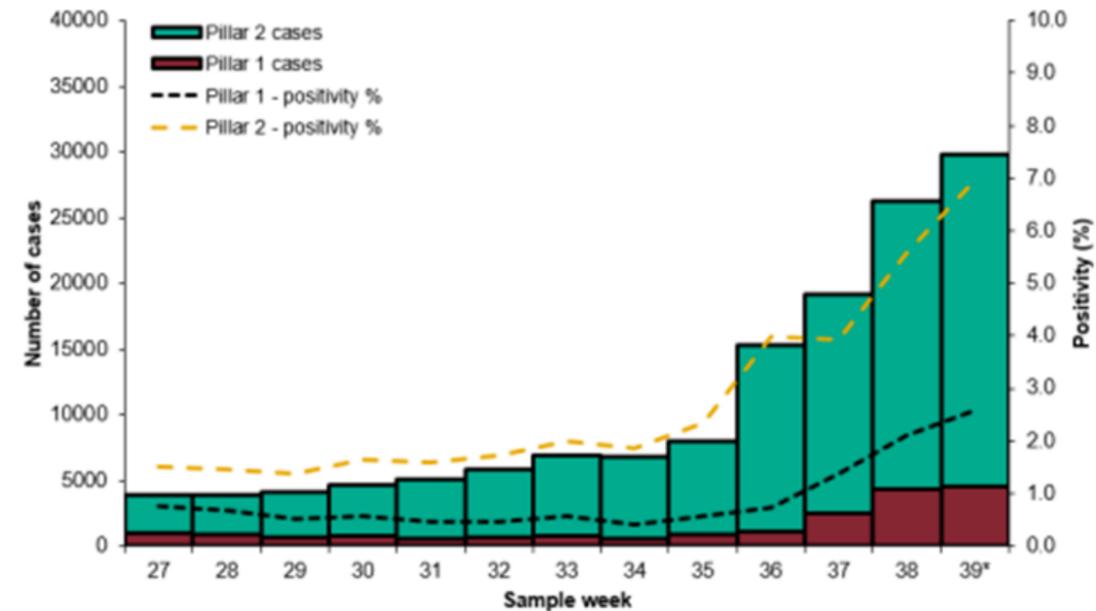
# England – epidemiology and measures introduced



UK 7<sup>th</sup> highest 14-day incidence in Europe at 348.7, as of 21/10

In England, overall cases number and positivity continued to increase in week 39 – highest case rates in 20-29 year olds

Figure 1: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, based on sample week with overall positivity for Pillar 1 and 2 (%)



Pillar 1 (NHS and PHE testing), Pillar 2 (community testing)

## 3-tier system

- **Medium alert level:** All areas in England are medium, apart from some which are high or very high
- **High alert level:** Areas of Cumbria, Derbyshire, Essex, London (all), Surrey, York, Cheshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and others
- **Very high alert level:** Liverpool City Region, multiple areas in Lancashire (e.g. Blackpool),

Note: From 23 Oct, Greater Manchester will move to very high alert level

# Belgium – epidemiological situation

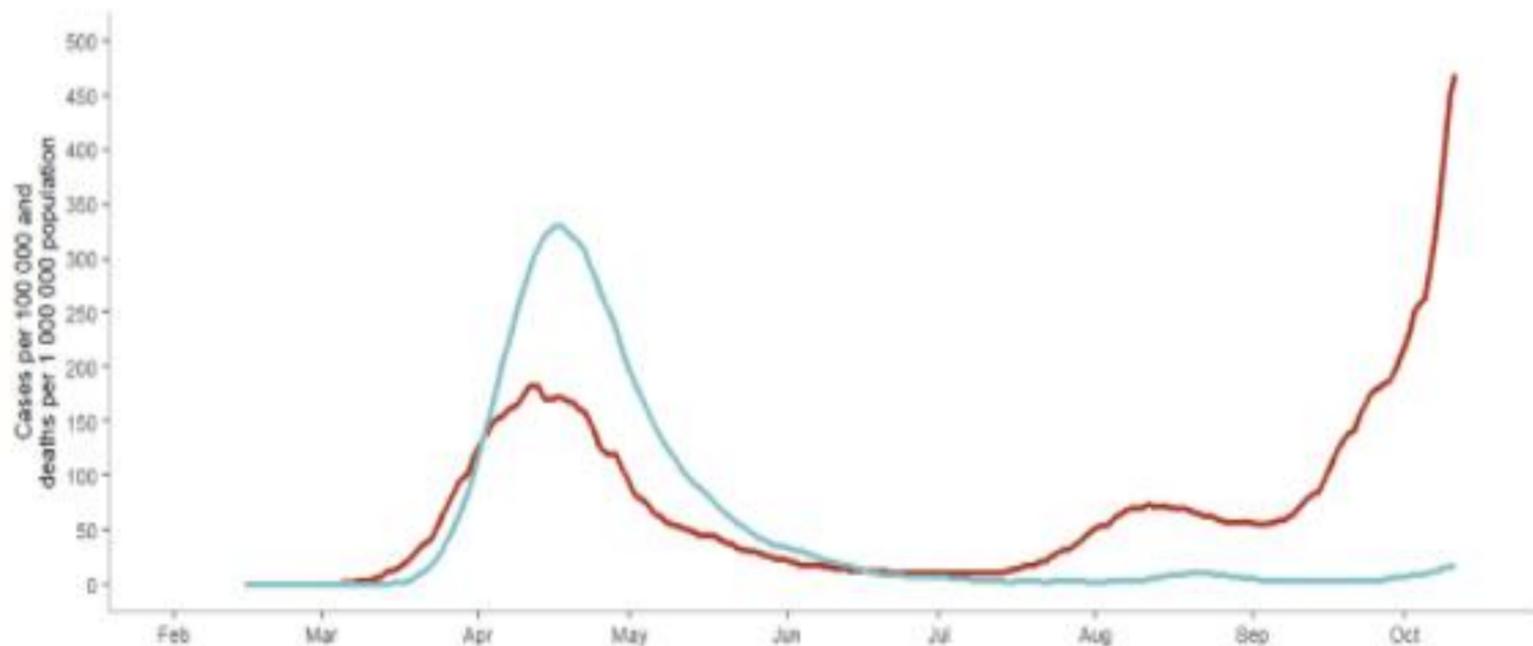


- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 14-day incidence in Europe, as of 21<sup>st</sup> Oct
- 14-day incidence/100,000 at 577.9 as of Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Multiple disease indicators (cases, deaths, hospitalisations, test positivity) worsening
- 14-day incidence/100,000 867.2 as of 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (ECDC) – incr. by 50% from 16<sup>th</sup> Oct

Belgium: 14-day COVID-19 case and death notification rates

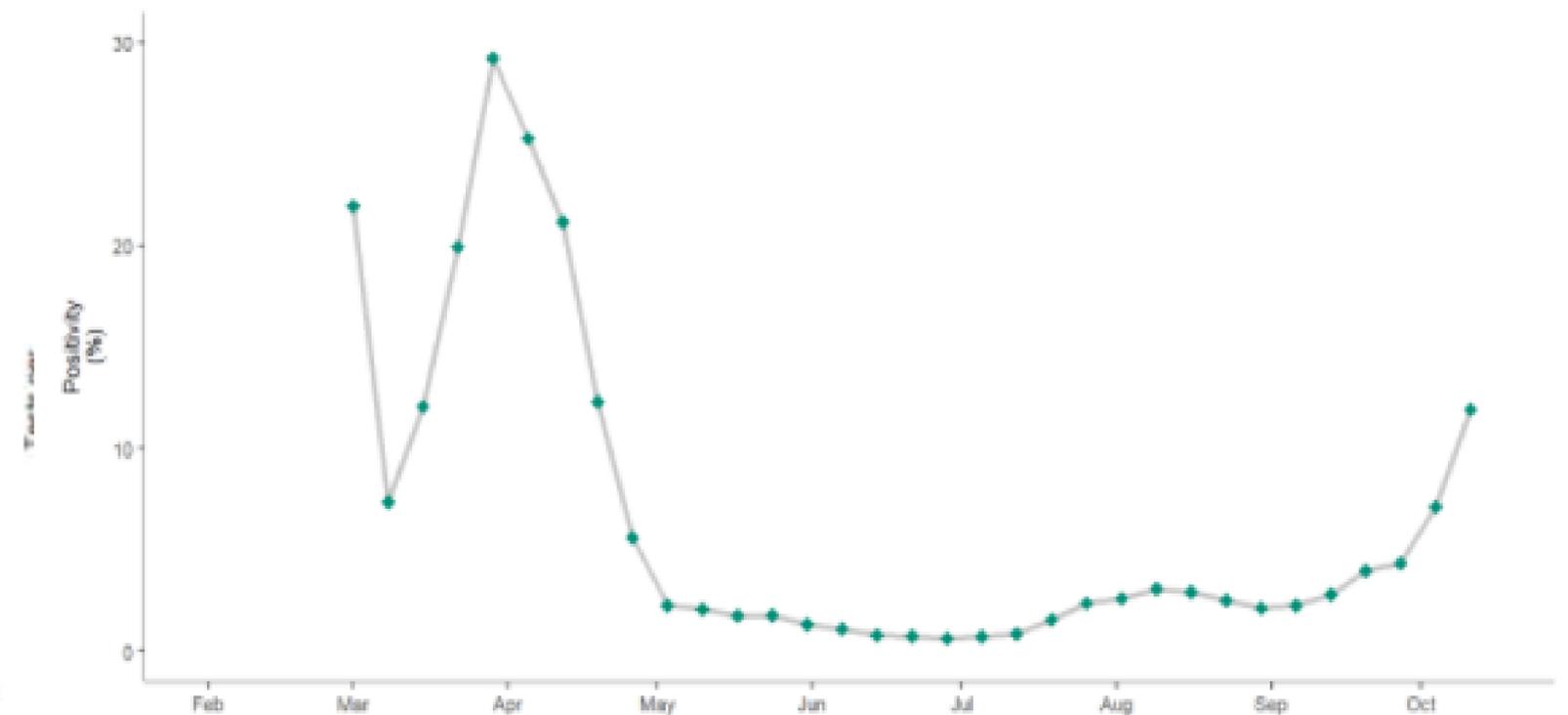
National totals as of 11 Oct 2020: 169 814 cases (earliest 4 Feb, latest 11 Oct 2020), 10 188 deaths (10 Mar, 11 Oct 2020)

— 14-day case notification rate per 100 000 population — 14-day death notification rate per 1 000 000 population



ECDC. Figure produced 15 October 2020.  
Source: Epidemic Intelligence, national daily data

Belgium: weekly test positivity



ECDC. Figure produced 15 October 2020.  
Source: TESSy/surveyonline sources, weekly COVID-19 testing data; Epidemic Intelligence, national daily data

## Belgium - measures introduced



Prime minister De Croo announced further restrictions on Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Oct given the deteriorating situation in Belgium.

- **Restaurants/cafes/bars to close for a month effective Monday Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** (will be reviewed after 2 weeks). Take away allowed up until 10pm. An extensive support package will be put in place to support this sector.
- General **ban on alcohol sales after 8pm.**
- **Shops have to close at 10pm.**
- **Schools will remain open.**
- **Nationwide curfew in operation from midnight to 5am.** Exceptions for those who need to go to hospital/seek medical care, or for people who can prove that they are going to or from work
- **Number of close contacts permitted goes from 3 to 1.**
- **People to work at home as a rule.**
- Markets can continue but Christmas markets have been cancelled.
- Protocols in relation to sport and culture will be reviewed and will remain in place until Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. For activities not covered by those protocols (e.g. funerals) the maximum number of people is limited to 40.

### Other Information:

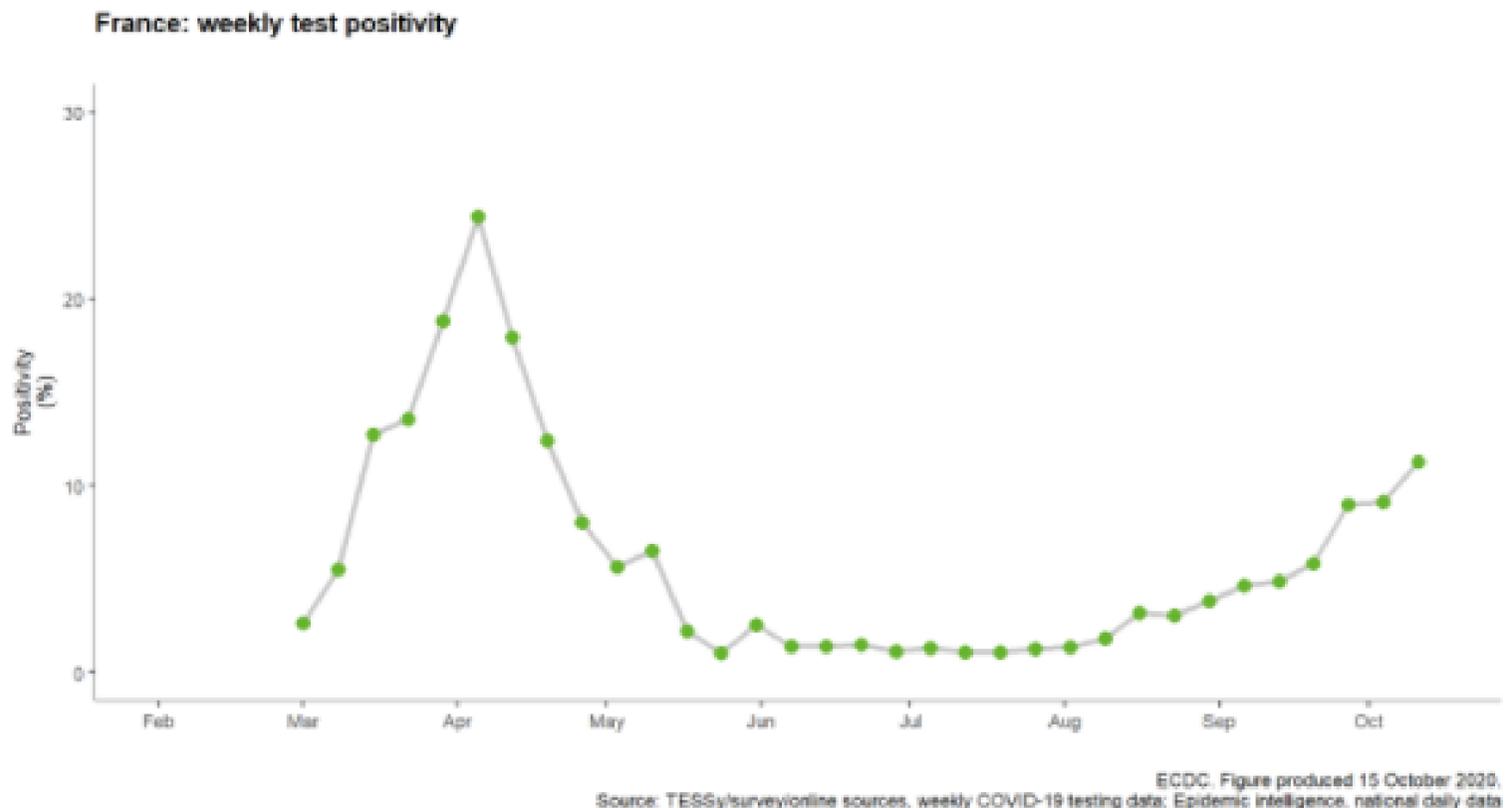
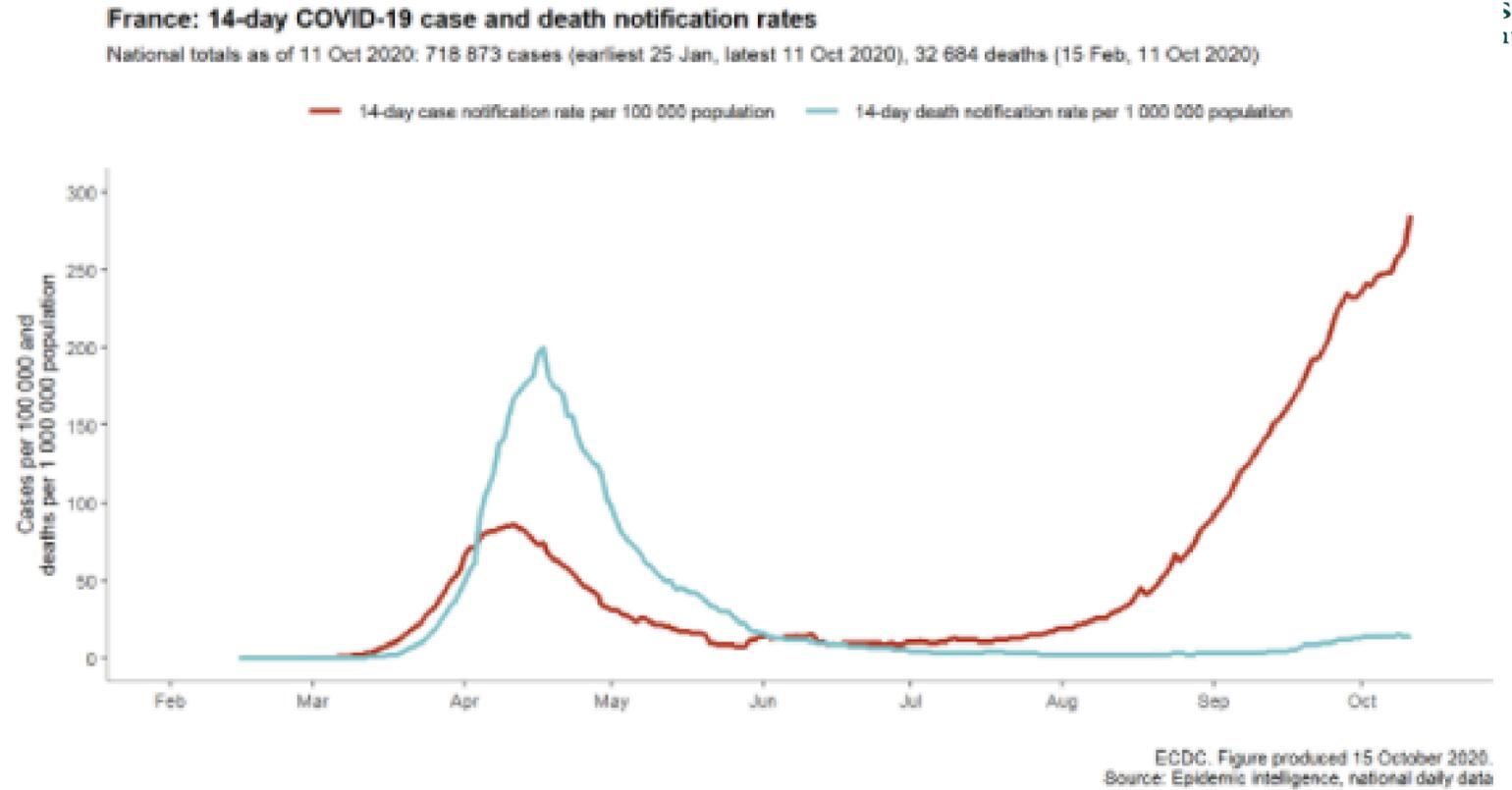
**Hospitals must ensure that 50% of all ICU beds are reserved for COVID patients by Monday Oct 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Given the increasing case load, several regions (e.g. Brussels) are now contacting close contacts by text message rather than by phone call.**

# France – epidemiological situation

- As of 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 14-day incidence per 441.7/100,000 (4<sup>th</sup> highest in Europe)
- In mainland France, viral circulation, already at a high level, continues to increase.
- The number of confirmed cases, the positive rates of samples, especially in people with symptoms, the number of confirmed cases in facilities for the elderly are increasing.
- At the hospital level, the number of new hospitalisations, admissions to intensive care units and deaths in hospital continue to increase. These increases were expected due to the high community transmission and the increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported since mid-August 2020.
- The increase in viral circulation and the spread of the virus in older, more vulnerable people occurs out of step with that previously observed in younger populations. This transmission among older people is maintained at high levels and suggests a further increase in hospitalisations and deaths in the weeks to come.
- As of October 20, 2020, **91 departments are in a situation of high vulnerability (out of 96)**

Source: Santé Publique



## France – measures introduced



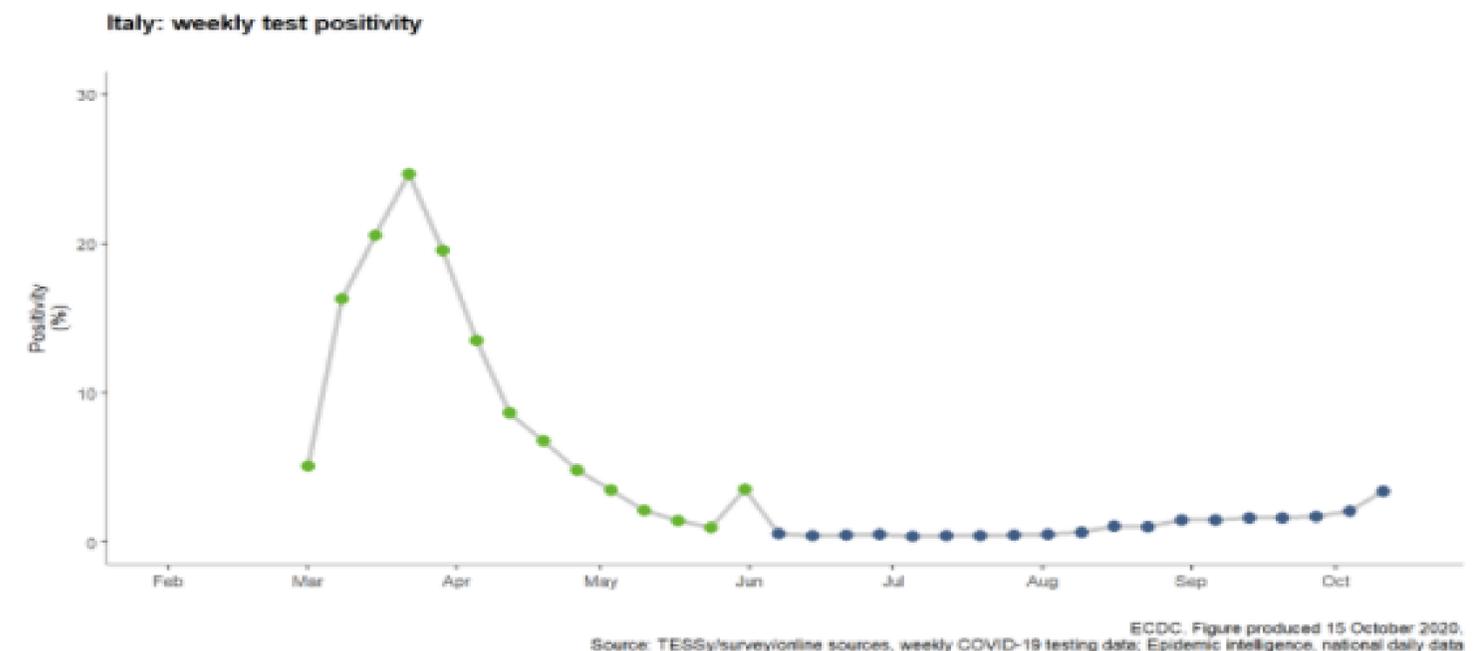
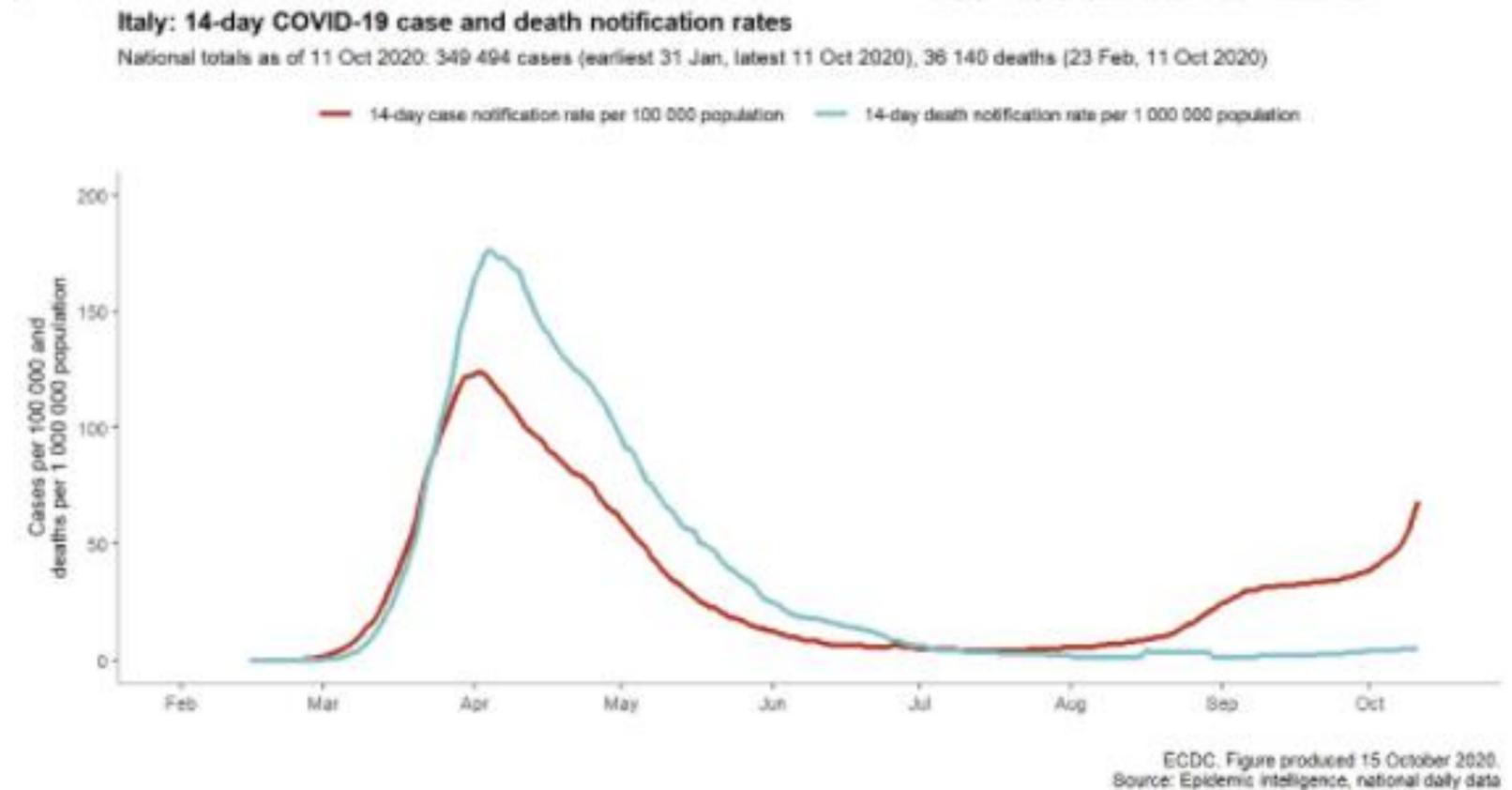
- As of 17 Oct, **France** has re-entered a state of Public Health Emergency (prompted by disease profile and pressure on hospital capacity).
- On 14 October, President Macron announced the **introduction of a curfew (21:00 to 06:00)** in the worst affected areas, Île-de-France and the cities of Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Aix-Marseille, Saint-Etienne, Rouen, Montpellier and Toulouse. This measure has been confirmed for 4 weeks, with the likelihood that it will be extended by a further 2 weeks given parliamentary approval. Curfew enforced by system of fines (€135-€3,750 +/- 6 mth prison sentence)
- 12,000 gendarmes will be deployed every evening across the country specifically to monitor and enforce adherence with the curfew.
- **Wearing a face mask in outdoor public spaces (aged >11y) is mandatory in Paris and in several other French cities**, including Lyon, Lille, Marseille, Bordeaux, Nice, and Toulouse.
- Wearing masks in open and shared working spaces compulsory from 1 September onwards, also compulsory in cafeterias, corridors and meeting rooms.

Source: update from Santé Publique France to C Bonner

# Italy – epidemiological situation



- 14-day national incidence rate has been increasing since August and was 172.6/100,000 population as of 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (20<sup>th</sup> highest in Europe)
- Majority of active cases are located in the regions of Lombardy in the north of Italy, Campania in the South and Lazio in the centre (the region in which Rome is located).
- Unlike at the beginning of the pandemic, the cases are more evenly spread throughout Italy.
- Deaths have remained relatively stable in recent months.
- However, the number of COVID-19 patients in hospital and ICU increased between 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October from 4,119 to 6,009 (46% increase), and from 337 to 539 (60% increase), respectively (Source: ECDC).



# Italy - measures introduced



New Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers (DPCM) was signed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to implement new urgent measures to contain the virus throughout the country. State of emergency is due to be extended to 31 January 2021.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Oct DPCM measures included:

- Obligation to use masks both indoors and outdoors and also at home if in the presence of non-cohabiting people,
- No contact sports carried out at an amateur level
- Max. 1000 can attend sports competitions and shows outdoors and 200 indoors.
- Hospitality services, including pubs and restaurants, allowed until midnight if with table service, until 9 pm without table service.
- Max. 30 at civil and religious ceremonies, such as weddings and baptisms.

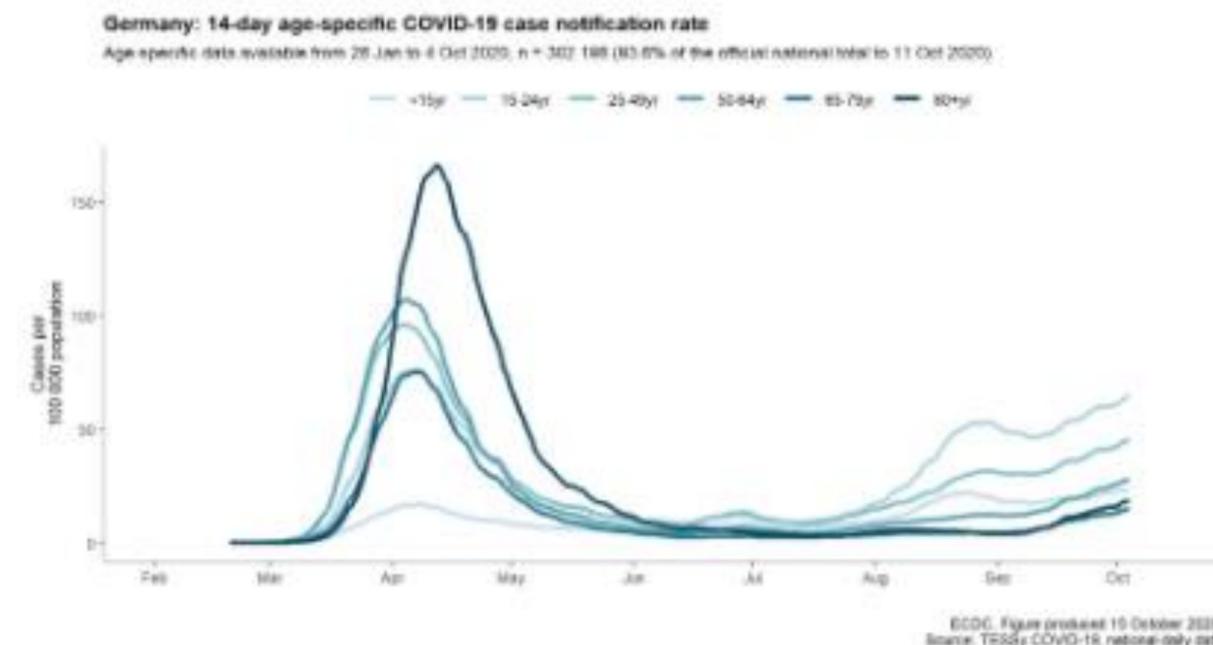
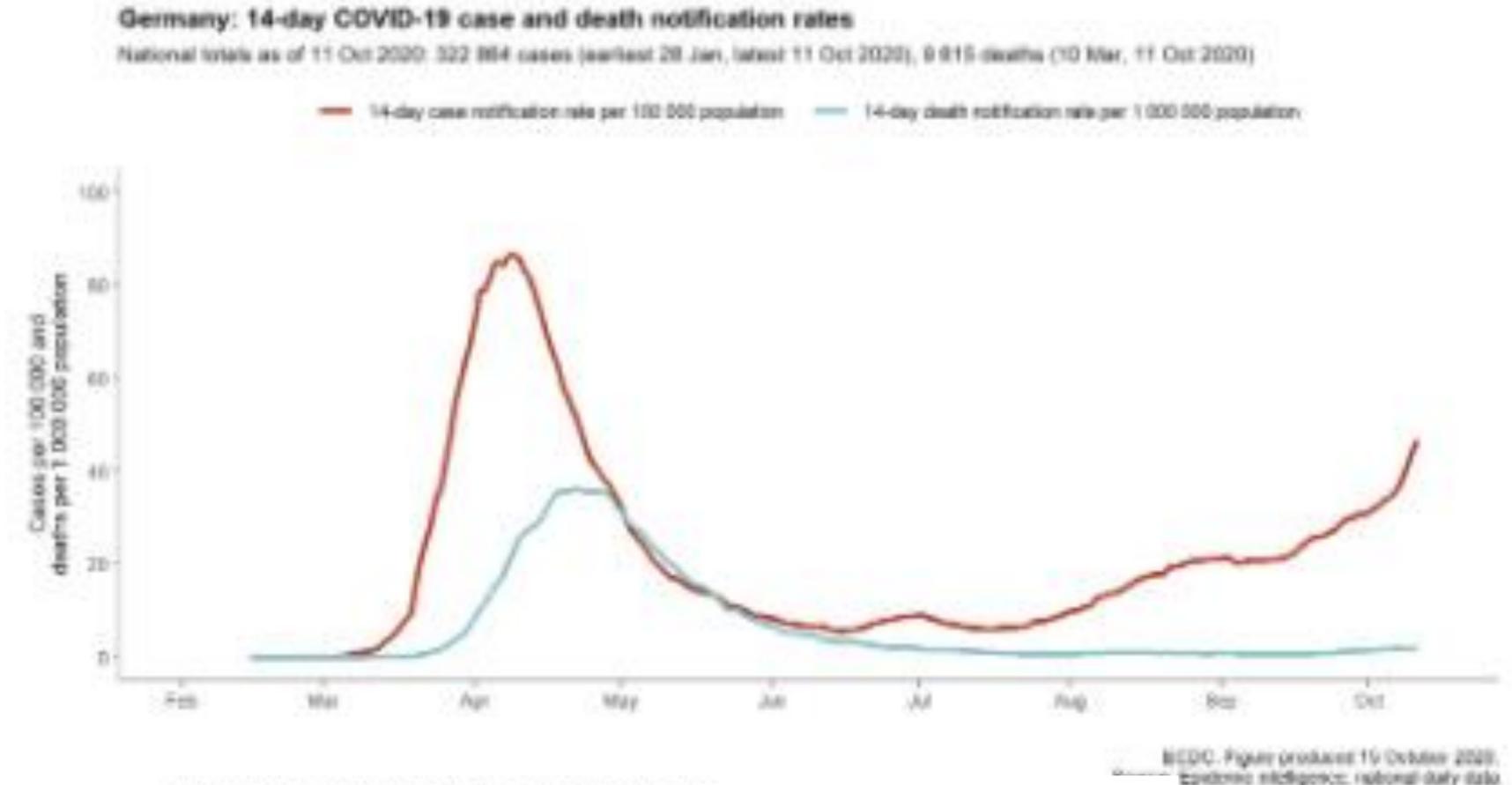
## Further DPCM measures signed off on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct:

- Streets and squares can be closed to the public after 9pm
- Bars, restaurants where customers not seated must close by 6pm
- Max. 6 customers dining per table
- Schools remain open, but transition to distance learning for some secondary school students, and staggered entrance times for school arrivals
- Public transport capacity will not be reduced as current research indicates that public transport usage is an insignificant vector for transmission of COVID-19
- Gyms and swimming pools remain open, but have been given a week to ensure full IPC compliance
- Contact sports can no longer take place, with the exception of elite
- Festivals, fairs, and town celebrations stopped, conferences and conventions suspended. International trade events and congresses can still take place, subject to IPC measures
- Cinemas and theatres, bingo halls and arcades remain open subject to distancing and attendance restrictions.

# Germany – epidemiological situation



- 14-day COVID-19 incidence rate 90, as of 11<sup>th</sup> Oct (ranked 26<sup>th</sup> out of 31 in Europe)
- After a temporary stabilisation of case numbers at a higher level in late August and early September, further increase is currently observed in the population in some federal states.
- The proportion of COVID-19 cases in the older age groups is increasing. Since the end of September, an increase of the R-values, which are above one, can be observed.
- There are outbreaks in various districts throughout Germany, which are associated with different situations, including large celebrations in family and social circles, in occupational and religious settings, or, especially, in cases among younger people, outbreaks originating from travel returnees.



# Germany – measures introduced (1)



## Hot Spot Strategy

The Chancellor and the sixteen German Minister Presidents met on 14 October and reached a joint agreement on how to respond to rising case numbers in Germany.

The updated **hot spot strategy** requires that in any districts where the number of cases rises above 35 per 100,000 (7-day incidence):

- No. at family and friend celebrations capped at 25 outdoors and 15 indoors
- In all public areas where people are close together or together for a long time, masks are obligatory.
- Closure hours (usually between 23.00 and 06.00) will be brought in for hospitality.

If cases go above 50 per 100,000 then further measures should be taken including:

Further extension of the obligation to wear masks, reducing the number of participants at events to 100 with exceptions only if approved by local health authorities, a limit of ten persons allowed to meet in public areas, and the reduction of the numbers of persons at private gatherings indoors and outdoors to ten or two households. If these measures do not work after ten days then the further reduction of contacts to 5 persons or two households will be introduced as an immediate next step.

## Germany – measures introduced (1)



The overall agreement reflects the intentions of the Federal and State Governments but all of the proposals have to be given legal effect at state level and in **their implementation will vary from State to State.**

**The joint agreement notes that at a certain point a return to controlled infection can only be achieved via all-encompassing restrictions.** It goes on to stress that a return to all-encompassing restrictions should be avoided in all circumstances and that in addition to public health, the **areas of education and care have priority** as does not endangering the recovery of the German economy.

It should be noted that aside from the specific points in hotspot areas above almost all businesses as well as bars, restaurants, cultural venues, gyms etc are open in Germany as are schools and colleges.



## Conclusions

- Most countries in Europe experiencing resurgence of COVID-19 with high levels of uncontrolled community transmission in a substantial proportion
- Increasing incidence driven primarily by infection rates amongst younger age groups, however, cases are increasingly occurring in those aged >65y
- Many countries in Europe are observing increasing hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths related to COVID-19
- Range of significant restrictions are increasingly being implemented in countries as control of the disease is lost and community transmission increases



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