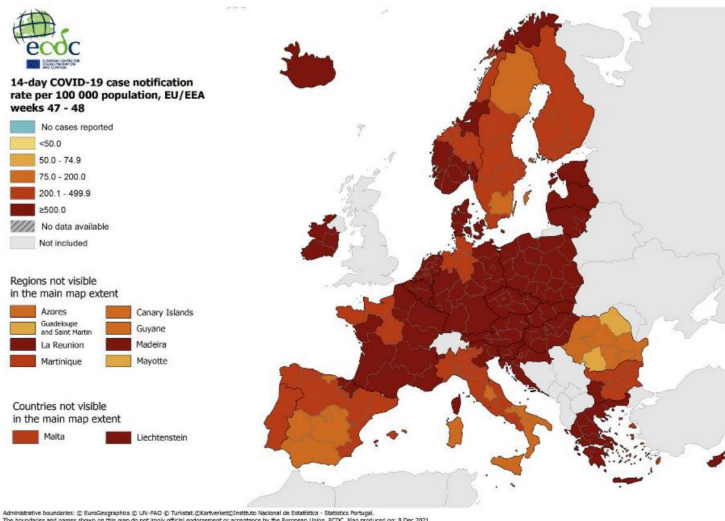


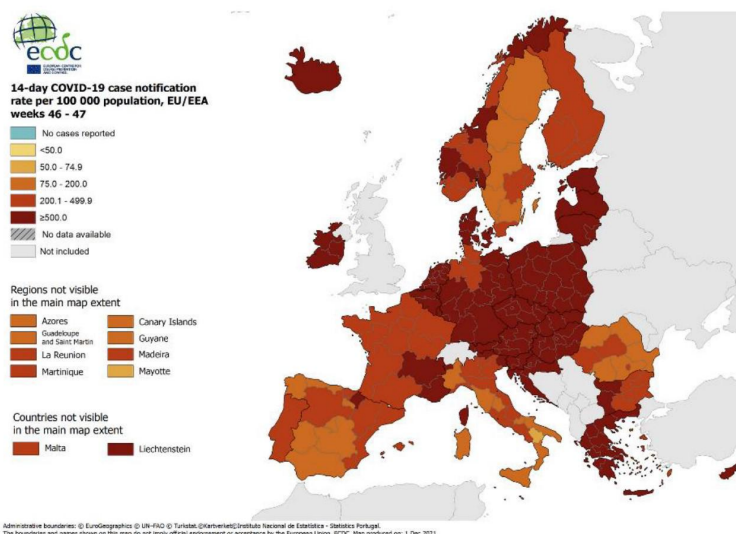
Welsh Government TAG International Intelligence Subgroup TAG (IntTel Subgroup TAG) Weekly Report. International Intelligence subgroup 14th December 2021

EUROPE OVERVIEW Data date: 10th December 2021

Weeks 47-48 - 14-day case notification rate per 100 000 inhabitants



Weeks 46-17



Weeks 41-42

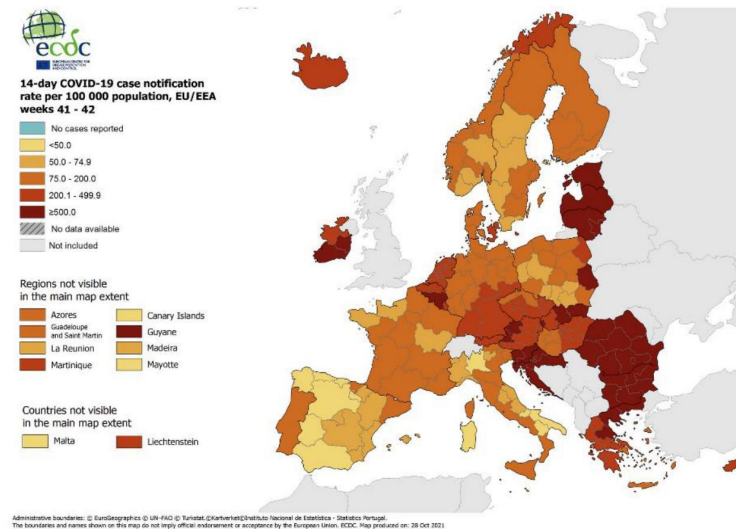
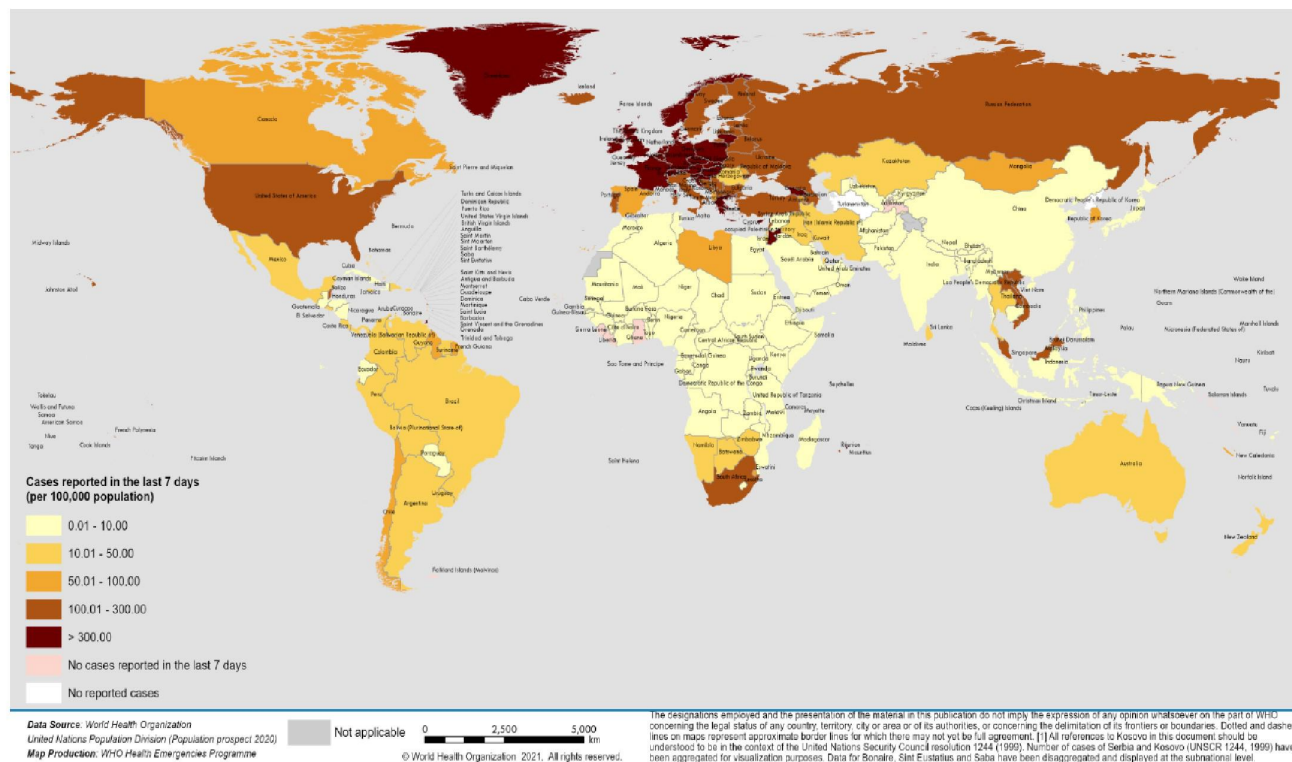
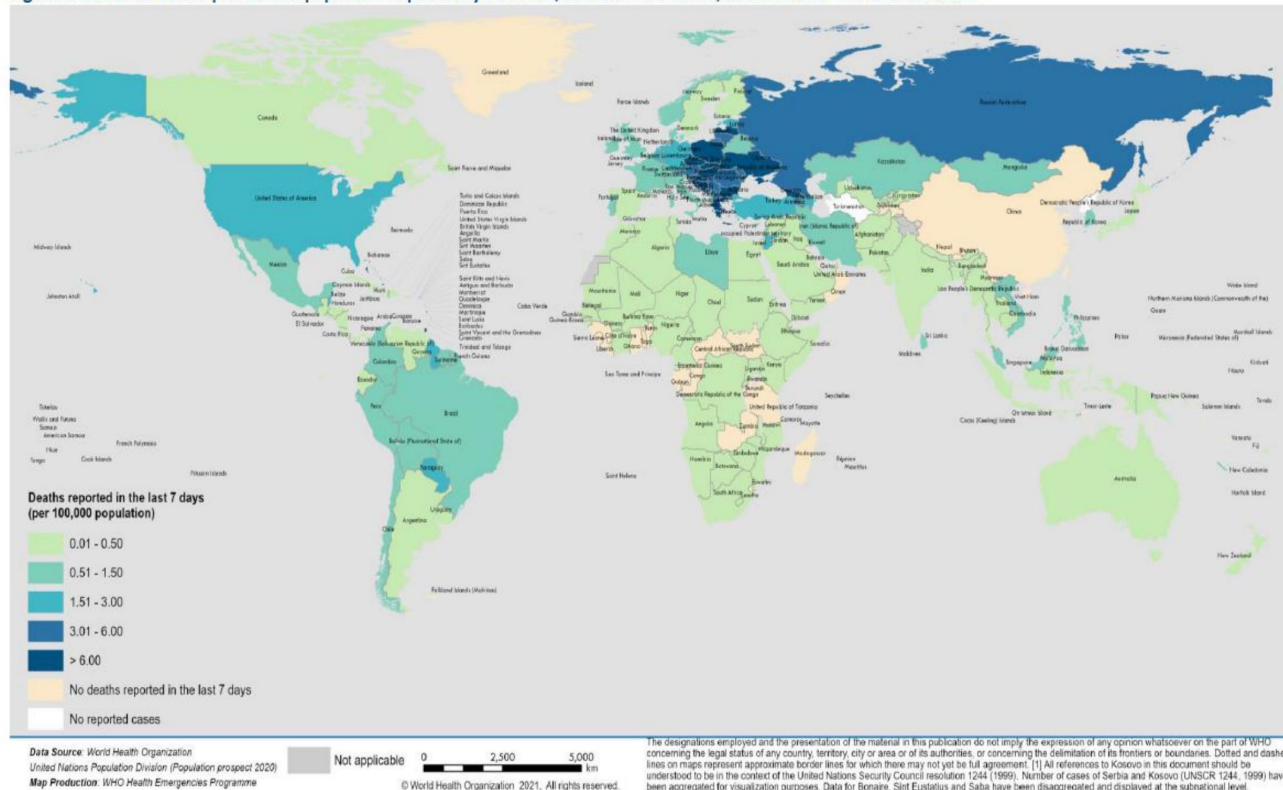


Figure 2. COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 29 November - 5 December 2021**



COVID-19 deaths per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 1-7 November 2021

Figure 3. COVID-19 deaths per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 29 November - 5 December 2021**



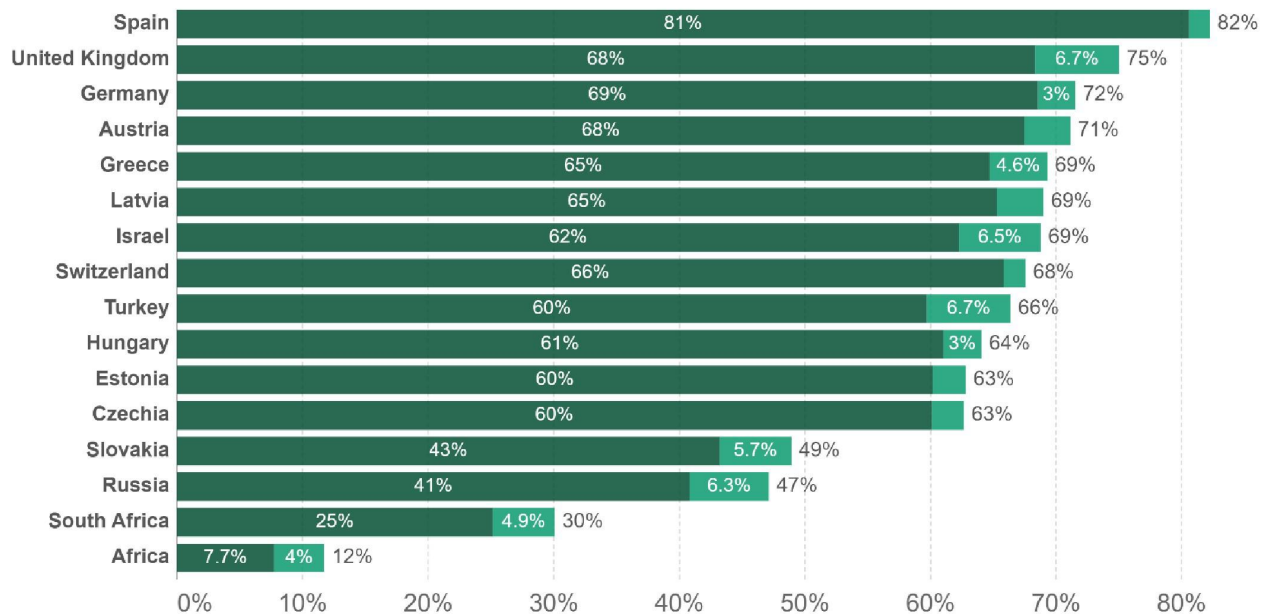
VACCINATION SITUATION REPORT

Share of people vaccinated against COVID-19, Dec 8, 2021

Our World
in Data

Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.

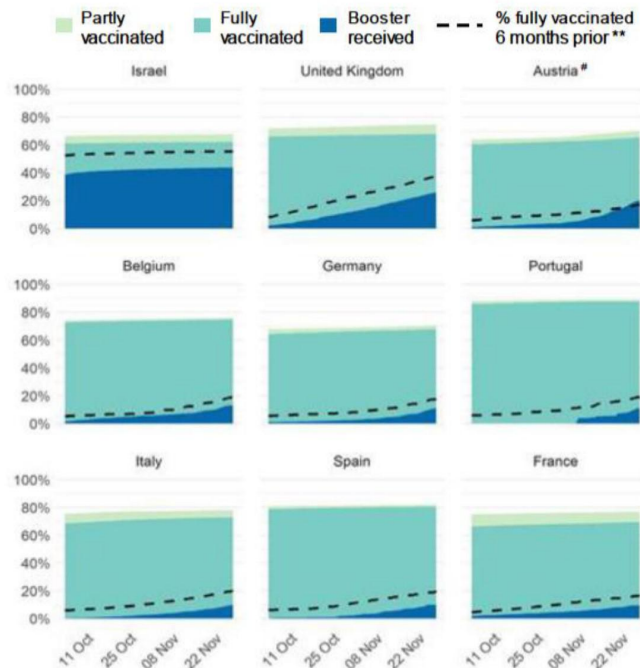
■ Share of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 ■ Share of people only partly vaccinated against COVID-19



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data. This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses in absolute numbers.
CC BY

Boosters are now the issue in countries that have come to the end of their initial vaccination programmes while many other countries struggle to get their vaccination levels up. Vaccine hesitancy is the issue for wealthier countries rather than supply or infrastructure.

Vaccination dosage levels per 100 capita, 4 October to 28 November *1
*% vaccinated 6 months prior used as proxy for booster eligibility - see note



The UK has administered boosters to the largest share of population among comparators, except Israel. However, a comparatively large number of people vaccinated at least 6 months ago (dashed line) have not yet had a booster.

Eligibility for boosters is widening. France, Italy, Norway and Sweden have brought forward the date of eligibility for younger age cohorts.

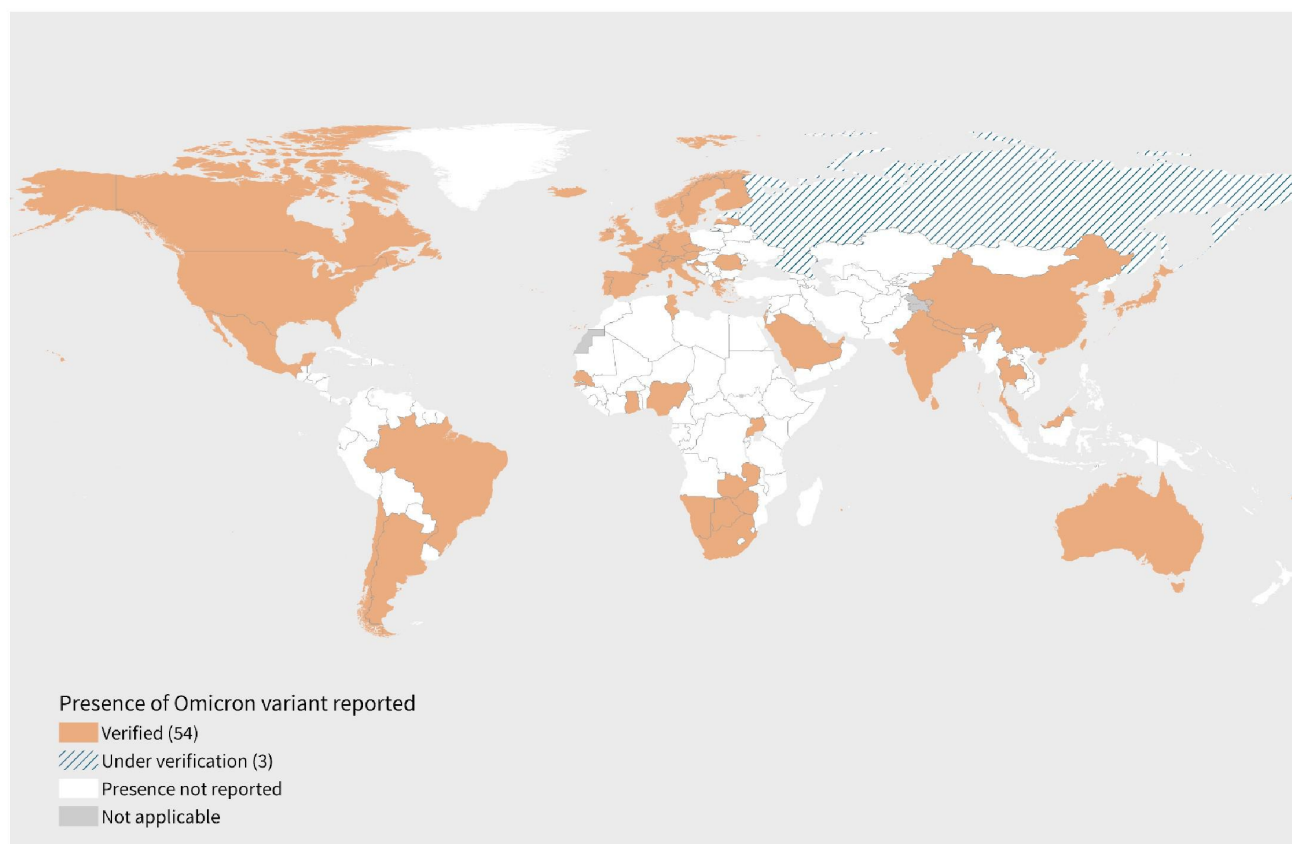
Italy and France have reduced the dosage interval to 5 months, and Austria to 4 months. For these comparators, actual eligibility for boosters will be larger than proportion shown by the dashed line.

The reintroductions of NPIs across Europe has proved effective in eastern Europe where cases are now falling and those countries hit first in the latest wave are seeing a corresponding drop in deaths but as Fig.3 shows deaths are still higher in eastern Europe, this is linked to lower vaccination rates.

For details of which vaccine a country is using please visit [GitHub](#) where you can download the full dataset alongside the detailed source descriptions.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The map below shows the current spread of omicron and its geographical spread. It has become the dominant variant in South Africa outcompeting delta. Current estimates suggest it will replace delta in the UK during January at its current rate. Red listing African countries may delay this.



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization, GISAIID
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme



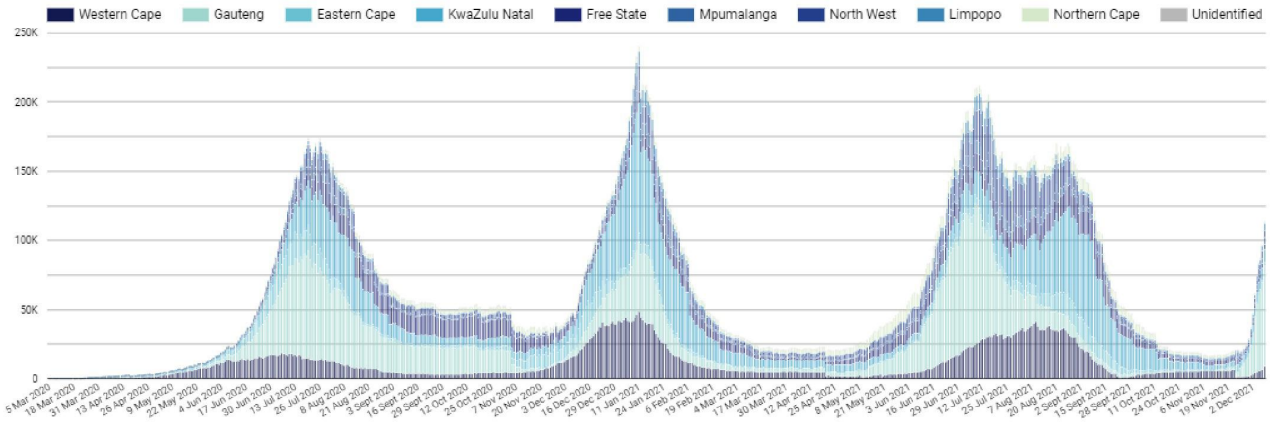
Omicron is the fifth SARS-CoV-2 variant to be designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by WHO, following the designation of the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants. The first known laboratory-confirmed case of Omicron was identified from a specimen collected on 9 November 2021 in South Africa, with the variant (Pango nomenclature B.1.1.529) first reported to WHO on 24 November.

An initial increase in incidence in Gauteng province in mid-November was thought in part, to be due to a cluster of cases among students at a university. Very large increases in the weekly incidence of cases have also been seen in some countries neighbouring South Africa including: Eswatini (1990%); Zimbabwe (1361%); Mozambique (1207%), Namibia (681%) and Lesotho (219%). These other countries have very low vaccination coverage ranging from 12.1% of the total population fully vaccinated in Namibia to 26.7% in Lesotho. In South Africa 25.2% of the total population is fully vaccinated.

Data on severity of disease has yet to be assessed, earlier clusters were among younger cohorts. Anecdotal evidence of less oxygen being required to help ill patients may indicate less severity. Hospital cases in South Africa have increased with increasing case numbers. The World Health Organisation's chief scientist said it was too soon to say whether a reduction in neutralising antibodies found in Pfizer's vaccine against the Omicron variant meant the jab was less effective. BioNTech and Pfizer said they could deliver an Omicron-based vaccine in March 2022 if needed. Delta remains the main VOC in circulation in Europe.

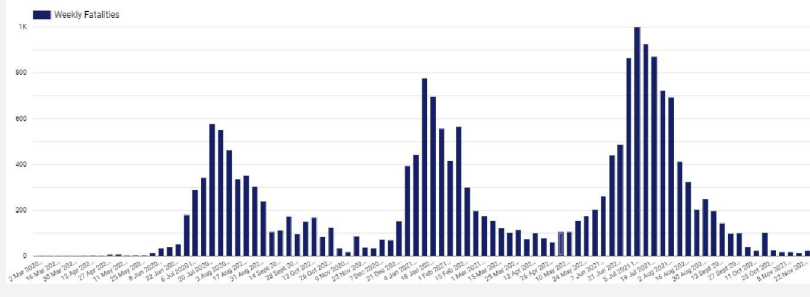
PANDEMIC SITUATION REPORT – SOUTH AFRICA

Time Series Active Cases



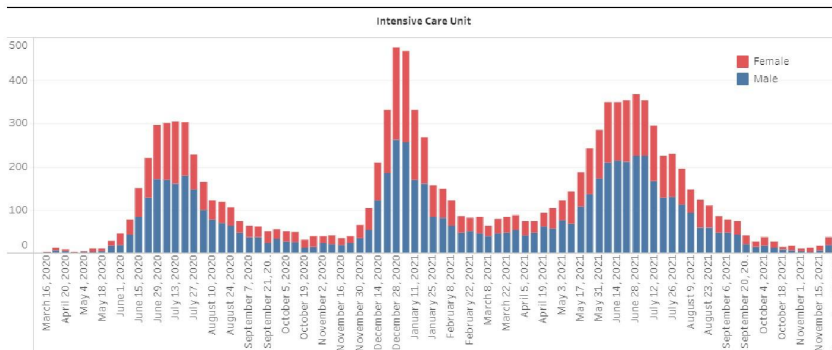
Active cases in South Africa. Gauteng makes up the majority of current wave but it is the most densely populated province. Omicron make up over 75% of new cases.

Weekly Fatalities



This has just started to be translated into deaths as can be seen by the Gauteng weekly fatalities graph. More data required

Early data indicates the Omicron Covid variant may more easily re-infect people who have already had the virus or been vaccinated than previous variants, but could also cause milder disease



There has been an increase in hospitalisation ICU admissions but this has been far lower than previous waves.

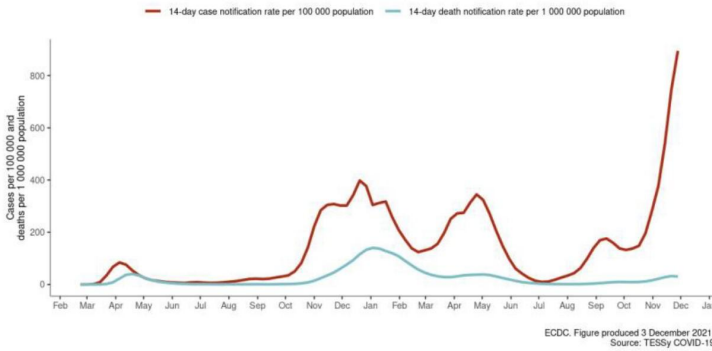
The R_0 for Gauteng outbreak was estimated to be 2.33 which has led to rapid increases in case number in the region. The weekly

admission to ICU in Gauteng shows an increase in the last two weeks. 90% of Covid-19 patients currently in South African hospitals require no form of oxygen therapy and are considered incidental cases.

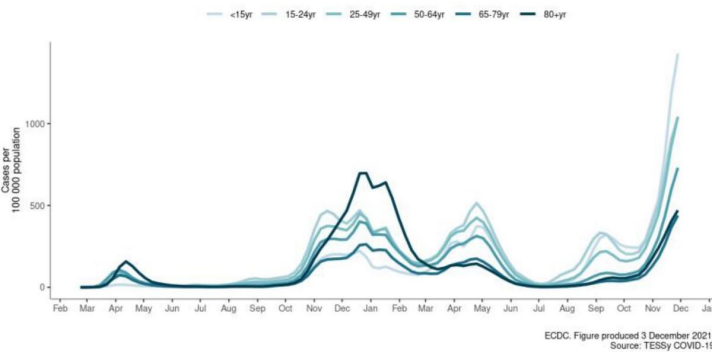
Only 25% of the population is fully vaccinated and another 5% have had 1 dose. Despite this future plans have been announced. The South African Health Products Authority said in a statement that it was authorising a third vaccine dose "in individuals aged 18 years and older, to be administered at least six months after the second dose".

PANDEMIC SITUATION REPORT – GERMANY

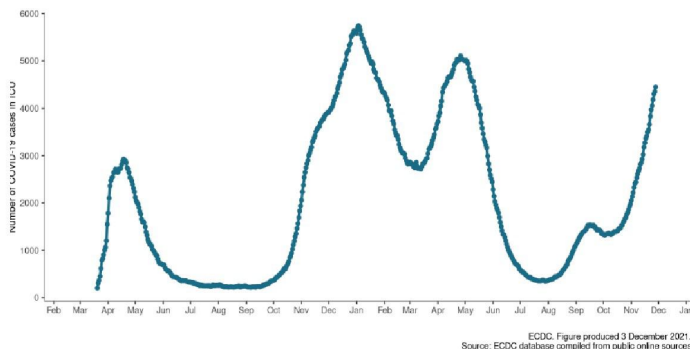
Germany: 14-day COVID-19 case and death notification rates



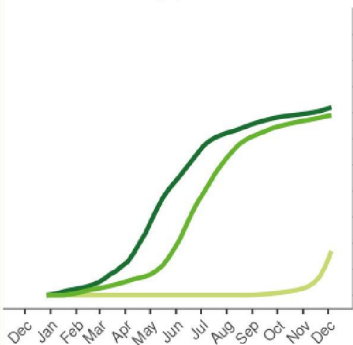
Germany: 14-day age-specific COVID-19 case notification rate



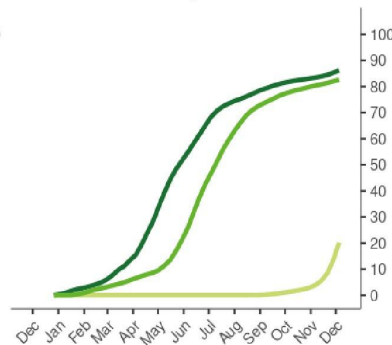
Germany: ICU occupancy by COVID-19 cases



Total population



18+yr



Daily confirmed new cases per 100,000 and deaths per million.

Cases are high and increasing 895/100K up from 374/100K a month ago but deaths remain low at 30.4/1M up from 14/1M. Positivity is now 22% the highest recorded for Germany.

But as with Austria a recent uptick in cases of older cohorts is of concern as is the recent increase in ICU occupancy. For those aged 65 and above the case rate is 449/100K up from 199/100K a month ago.

Around 69% of Germans are fully vaccinated

The lower vaccinated areas of Germany are concentrated in the former GDR East Germany. The new chancellor is considering mandating vaccinations for everyone and their parliament has debated vaccines for all health workers.

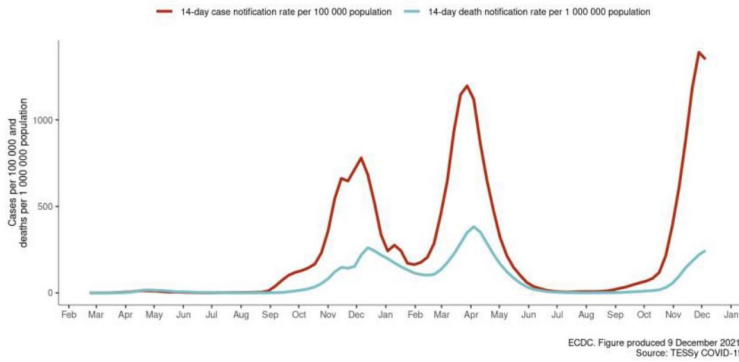
Italy which already has some of the strictest rules in Europe has introduced new rules. From 6th December anyone unvaccinated against COVID-19 can no longer go to the theatre, cinemas, live music venues or major sporting events

The Czech government will order Covid-19 vaccinations for people working in hospitals and nursing homes as well as police officers, soldiers and some other professions and all citizens aged 60 and older.

Germany has the third-lowest vaccination rate in Western Europe but has ramped up boosters in recent weeks. Approximately 20% of the population has received one.

PANDEMIC SITUATION REPORT – HUNGARY

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

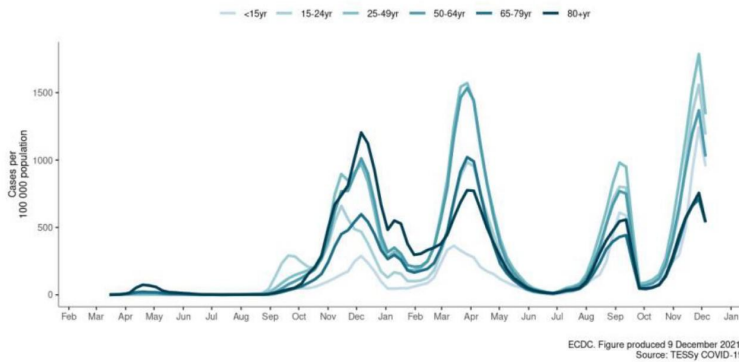


Daily confirmed new cases per 100,000 and deaths per million.

Hungary's record case rate of 1350/100K is showing signs of slowing but their death rate of 245/1M continues to increase approaching the peak of previous wave. It is also the highest death rate in Europe

Their positivity rates is 25% but their testing levels are low similar to Germany at 2490/100K

Hungary: 14-day age-specific COVID-19 case notification rate

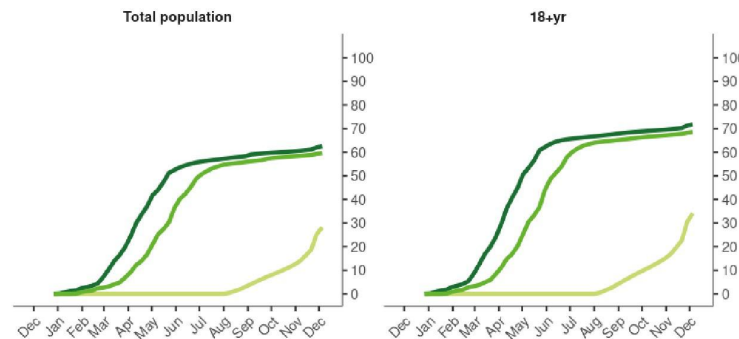


The case rate for those 65year old or more stands at 540/100K but this too is now falling.

No cases of Omicron have been detected in Hungary so far (Dec 10th)

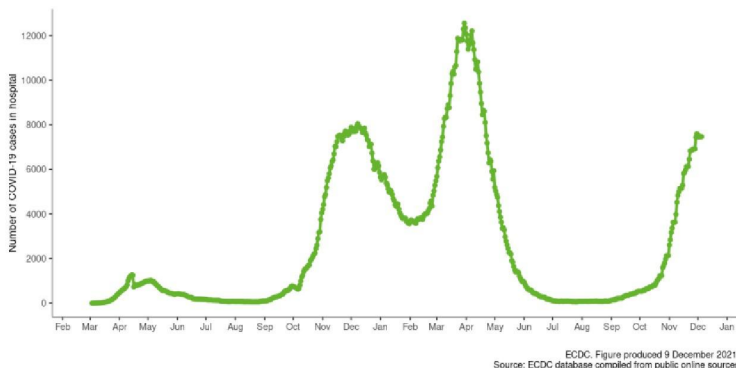
While countrie slike germany and slovakia have increased their NPI stringency levels in recent weeks Hungary has steadily

decreased it's NPIs since April



61% of the population is fully vaccianted while just under 30% have had a booster.

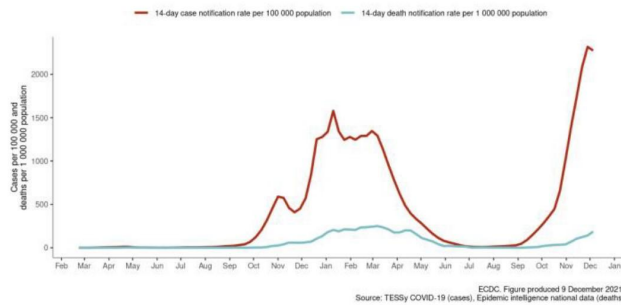
Hungary: hospital occupancy by COVID-19 cases



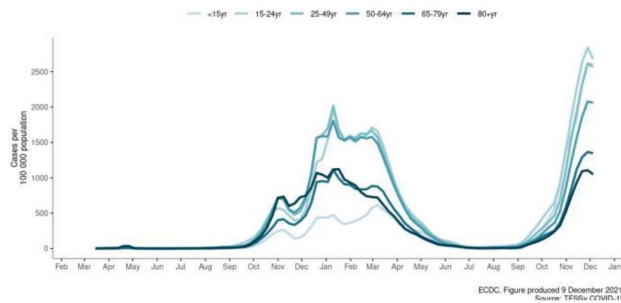
Hospital occupancy for covid cases has not reached the peak of the March wave but is at levels seen in their first major wave in December 2020

PANDEMIC SITUATION REPORT – SLOVAKIA

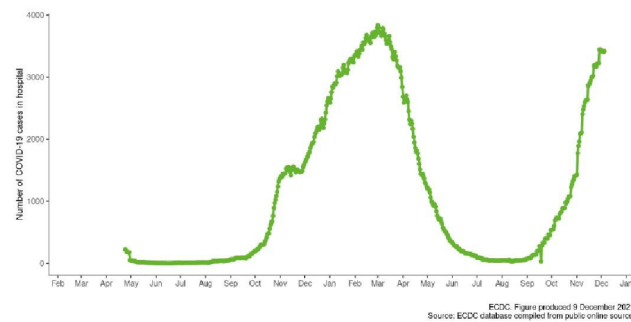
Slovakia: 14-day COVID-19 case and death notification rates



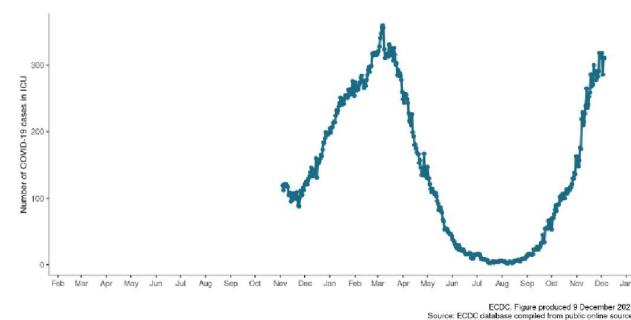
Slovakia: 14-day age-specific COVID-19 case notification rate



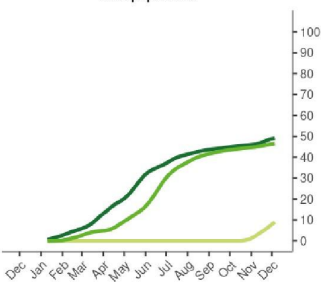
Slovakia: hospital occupancy by COVID-19 cases



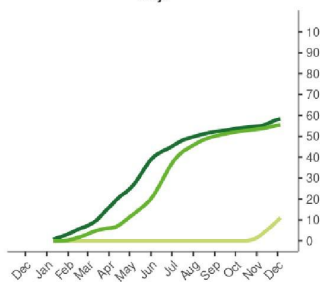
Slovakia: ICU occupancy by COVID-19 cases



Total population



18+yr



Vaccination and booster data

Daily confirmed new cases per 100,000 and deaths per million

The current case rate of 2274/100K is identical to Czechia and the highest in Europe. They are seeing a rise in deaths also but case rates are now dropping.

The case rate for the 65 years or older group is 1286/100K and along with its low vaccination level may explain their hospital occupancy levels which are similar to their January peak earlier in the year.

The death rate is 187/1M amongst the highest in Europe and will increase for a few weeks still before dropping.

Unlike Hungary Slovakia increased NPIs dramatically to combat the latest surge in cases with around 50% vaccinated it is one of the lowest in Europe so relies more on NPIs to limit impacts.

5-11 year-olds will be able to get inoculated from Dec. 15

Due to the low take up many vaccines are becoming unusable. Hungary disposed of nearly 200,000 doses of the Russian Sputnik-V vaccine after they passed their expiration date and 1.5 million stock of AstraZeneca vaccines will also reach their expiration date by the end of the year. AstraZeneca and Sputnik vaccines are not popular.

Use of the Russian vaccine almost came to a stop in mid-June when an abundant supply of Western vaccines were already available. After this, Sputnik-V jabs were hardly administered at all.

In order to increase vaccination levels mandatory vaccinations were introduced for many jobs but as the deadline approaches certain roles will see problems.

law enforcement: 28% unvaccinated

disaster management: 30% are unvaccinated

firefighters: 40% are unvaccinated

The unvaccinated will be put on unpaid leave and may be laid off after one year.

Positivity stands at 12.6% and testing rate of 8711/100K