

GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 cases surge in Europe, US continues vaccine rollout

April 2, 2021



European countries respond to a rise in COVID-19 cases. Image credit: Yes Milano

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

As the world enters its second year combating the coronavirus pandemic while implementing vaccination campaigns, the E.U. is taking action against a third wave that threatens to hinder its economic recovery.

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Countries in Europe are once again entering new lockdowns and instituting restrictions as cases begin to rise. While, the United States seems confident in fighting new waves through successful vaccination rollout campaigns.

Pandemic updates

On Wednesday, President Emmanuel Macron of France announced the start of a third national lockdown in a swift effort to stop a new wave of the deadly virus. This is after less strict guidelines have failed to stem case counts ([see story](#)).

According to [BBC](#), schools will close next week and move to remote learning until, at least, April 26, non-essential businesses will close, citizens may exercise outdoors within 6 miles of their homes but are restricted from traveling to other parts of the country and there is a nationwide curfew.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has extended restrictions in Germany until April 18, however lifted an Easter lockdown after the initial announcement was widely criticized.

Italy will enter a total shutdown over the Easter weekend, April 3 to 5, but much of the country will remain under strict restrictions afterwards. The country is also the first in Europe to make COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for healthcare workers, according to the [Financial Times](#).

Meanwhile, Greece is planning to open for tourism in mid-May, opening its border to fully vaccinated travelers or those who can provide a negative COVID-19 test. Churches were reopened last week, beauty salons may now operate by appointment, parks are open to the public with social distancing measures and mask mandates in place.



U.S. health officials suggest that people continue to wear masks and social distance, despite a positive vaccine trajectory. Image credit: Image credit: Getty

In the U.S., more than 56 million people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, although much of the country is seeing infections increasing.

However, the Biden administration's chief medical adviser and director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci **told NPR** he thinks the United States will not see a fourth wave of the coronavirus as severe as the previous three, due to the uptick in vaccinations.

Bloomberg **reports** that nearly half of U.S. states will open vaccination to everyone 16 years and older by the end of this week. Millions more doses are being distributed, and Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech are on track to deliver enough shots to vaccinate 100 million people in the United States by the end of May.

Pfizer Inc. announced earlier this week positive topline **results**, that its Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 100 percent effective in children ages 12 to 15 from its Phase 3 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine study.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) **announced on April 2** that fully vaccinated people can travel safely within the United States with a low risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. However, the CDC still recommends that travelers continue wearing masks and socially distance and that fully vaccinated travelers entering the U.S. continue to test for infection.

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