



**Health  
Information  
and Quality  
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis  
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

# **Public health measures and strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19: an international review**

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## Version history

Version	Date	Specific updates
V1.0	24 November 2020	Provided to the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) for information.
V2.0	1 December 2020	<p>Updated and provided to NPHET for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included an additional table (Table 2) to summarise the recent changes in current public health measures.</li> <li>▪ Updated the epidemiological data to the latest available data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).</li> <li>▪ Included information on the proposed plans for mass testing in Austria.</li> </ul>
V3.0	8 December 2020	<p>Updated and provided to NPHET for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updated the epidemiological data to the latest available data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).</li> </ul>
V4.0	15 December 2020	<p>Updated and provided to NPHET for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updated the epidemiological data to the latest available data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).</li> </ul>
V5.0	23 December 2020	<p>Updated and provided to NPHET for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduced version of report created with updated public health measures on education only.</li> </ul>
V6.0	06 January 2021	Updated and provided to NPHET for information.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included information on the current epidemiological situation in each country.</li> <li>▪ Updated the education public health measures only.</li> </ul>
V7.0	3 February 2021	<p>Updated and provided to NPHEAT for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included updated information on antigen testing in asymptomatic individuals in community settings only.</li> </ul>
V8.0	10 February 2021	<p>Updated and provided to NPHEAT for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included information on the current epidemiological situation in each country.</li> <li>▪ Included updated information on antigen testing in asymptomatic individuals in community settings only.</li> </ul>
V9.0	16 March 2021	<p>Updated and provided to NPHEAT for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included information on the current epidemiological situation in each country and vaccination roll out.</li> <li>▪ Included Israel.</li> <li>▪ Excluded measures relating to international travel.</li> <li>▪ Excluded contact tracing section.</li> </ul>

## About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory authority established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

HIQA's mandate to date extends across a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector services. Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of health services and children's social services, and investigating as necessary serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use these services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE.

## Contents

Version history.....	2
About the Health Information and Quality Authority.....	4
Contents.....	5
Key points.....	6
1 Background.....	10
2 Methods.....	10
3 Findings.....	12
3.1 Summary epidemiological data.....	12
3.1.1 Vaccine rollout progress.....	14
3.2 Public health frameworks for living with COVID-19.....	19
3.3 Current public health measures.....	21
3.3.1 Movement of people.....	24
3.3.2 Social or mass gatherings.....	24
3.3.3 Places of worship/religious services.....	24
3.3.4 Business activities.....	24
3.3.5 Education.....	25
3.3.6 Domestic travel (including transport).....	25
3.3.7 Culture/leisure/entertainment.....	26
3.3.8 Sporting/recreational activities (amateur and professional).....	26
3.3.9 Face masks.....	27
3.3.10 Other.....	28
3.4 Testing strategies.....	28
3.4.1 International testing strategies.....	28
4 Conclusion.....	30
References.....	89
Appendix A – Latest summary epidemiological data by country.....	101
Appendix B – Developed frameworks for living with COVID-19 by country.....	102
Appendix C – International testing strategies.....	119

## Key points

- Although most countries experienced a reduction in the incidence of coronavirus cases in early 2021, following a surge in new cases in December (2020)/January, many countries have now begun to see an increase (over the previous seven days) in the 14-day incidence rate of new cases per 100,000 population, including Austria (up 14.9% [378.9 per 100,000 population]), Belgium (10.0% [317.3]), Denmark (27.6% [160.0]), France (5.6% [484.5]), Germany (12.6% [153.4]), Italy (15.3% [492.7]), the Netherlands (8.4% [405.1]), Sweden (2.6% [546.8]), and Switzerland (8.3% [181.6]). In contrast, the 14-day incidence rate continued to decline over the previous seven days (up to 14 March 2021) in Czechia (down 2.7% [1,527.7 per 100,000 population]), Ireland (12.4% [144.8]), Israel (16.2% [498.8]), Portugal (22.9% [95.1]), and the UK (20.0% [122.1]).
- Following on from the latest surge in cases in December 2020/January, most countries experienced a corresponding increase in the 14-day death rate per million population. The death rate has since fallen across the majority of countries. However, a small number of countries including Belgium (up 1.7% [31.4 per million population]), Czechia (15.3% [269.6]), and Italy (9.3% [73.5]) have seen an increase in the 14-day death rate over the previous seven days (up to 14 March 2021).
- The impact of the increase in COVID-19 cases has also been observed through increased hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care:
  - Since January 2021, hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care have been highest in Czechia and Portugal; hospitalisations surpassed 600 per million population in these countries in February 2020, while admissions to intensive care surpassed 80 per million population in the same month.
  - While the rate of hospitalisations has since dropped to below 200 in Portugal [138.7 per million population] and in most other countries, the rate on 7 March remained high in Czechia (776.4), France (380.2), and Italy (392.8). The rate has increased over the previous seven days in Austria (up 13.0% [128.2]), Belgium (2.2% [167.1]), Czechia (10.9% [776.4]), Italy (13.8% 392.8), and Sweden (7.4% [141.5]).
  - A similar increasing trend has been observed in the rate of admissions to intensive care in these countries over the previous seven days, as well as in France (up 7.2% [57.3 per million population]) and the Netherlands (3.6% [31.8]). In Ireland, the rate of hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care decreased over the previous seven days (up to 7 March) by 23.6% (85.7 per million population) and 23.1% (20.9), respectively.

- In most countries, the test positivity rate continued to trend downwards on 7 March 2021. Over the previous seven days, the share of tests returned as positive declined in Belgium (down 8.7% [5.4% test positivity]), Czechia (6.8% [12.8%]), Denmark (11.9% [0.3%]), Ireland (26.9% [3.8%]), the Netherlands (23.6% [7.2%]), Portugal (38.0% [3.2%]), and Spain (36.2% [4.6%]). However, the positivity rate increased over the previous seven days in Austria (up 20.5% [1.0% test positivity]), France (11.1% [7.4%]), Germany (8.1% [5.1%]), Italy (39.2% [6.%]), and Sweden (9.7% [11.6%]).
- Each of the included countries has launched a COVID-19 vaccination programme:
  - Israel and the UK had the highest reported number of vaccine doses (counted as a single dose) administered per 100 population of the included countries, up to 12 March 2021.
  - As a share of the population, 47.5% were fully vaccinated in Israel on 12 March. Denmark (4.2%) and Switzerland (4.3%) had the next highest share of the population fully vaccinated. In the UK, only 2.3% of the population were fully vaccinated up to 12 March, reflecting the extent to which the UK has been broadly administering single doses to priority groups to date. In Ireland, 3.3% of the population were fully vaccinated on 12 March 2021.
- A number of jurisdictions, including Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, England, France, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Scotland and Wales have developed frameworks or systems for living with COVID-19. They are used to assess the level of risk associated with the virus and the level of public health measures, or restrictions, that are needed to contain it.
- A number of countries, including England, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Scotland, have also updated their frameworks and published plans for a gradual easing of restrictions. The plans contain a number of stages, with specified time intervals between stages to enable an assessment of the situation before moving to the next phase.
- To guide decision-making on public health measures, a variety of epidemiological parameters are being monitored internationally including the 14-day incidence of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, mortality rate and test positivity rate. Decisions to escalate or de-escalate public health measures also take hospital statistics into consideration, which may lag behind changes in the incidence of the disease.
- More recently, other factors including the number of people who have been vaccinated, emerging information on variants of concern and evidence in

relation to vaccine effectiveness, are also being considered when making decisions in relation to restrictive measures.

- Internationally, public health restrictions have been applied at different levels. Some jurisdictions are applying restrictions at a nationwide level, (for example, England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Wales), some at a nationwide level with additional regional restrictions (for example France and Spain), while others are doing so at a regional or municipal level only (for example, Israel and Italy).
- In those countries with a published risk framework, with the exception of Israel, all are still operating at either the highest risk level of their individual framework or the majority of regions in the country are at the highest risk level, with corresponding restrictive measures in place. The situation continues to remain extremely fluid with restrictive measures under constant review across Europe.
- Easing of restrictions has commenced in Israel and a 'Green Pass' system has been introduced for those who are fully vaccinated and those who have recovered from COVID-19. Establishments that comply with the Green Pass restrictions have less restrictive measures than those without and holders of a Green Pass can access these establishments.
- A gradual easing of restrictions commenced in Switzerland on 1 March. A number of other countries (Austria, Belgium, England, Yellow regions in Italy and Portugal) have announced timelines for gradual easing of specific restrictions beyond the 12 March. In Germany, easing of restrictions will be discussed on 22 March but will be dependent on the incidence rate remaining below 100/100,000 population. A decision on easing restrictions in the Netherlands from 31 March will be dependent on the number of intensive care admissions remaining stable and the reproduction number remaining close to or below 1.
- While the type of measures that have been applied are generally consistent across countries, the detail varies considerably particularly in terms of restriction on movement (for example curfews are in place in some countries), numbers permitted at gatherings and events and the operating hours of businesses within the hospitality sector.
- As a national strategy, individuals displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are prioritised for testing in each of the countries included in this review. In Austria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Israel and Switzerland however, testing is provided for anyone that requests a test, irrespective of the presence of symptoms.



- Most countries have expanded testing to also include screening of asymptomatic individuals in certain settings (for example, serial testing of staff and residents in residential care facilities, in Austria, Czechia, Denmark, England, Italy, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales).
- With the exception of Austria and Czechia, which made rapid antigen tests available to the general public (anyone aged 10 years or over) through a voluntary free-of-charge mass testing programme over December, population-wide testing has yet to be implemented in any of the other included countries.
- Portugal, Germany and the UK (all four jurisdictions) have a strategy to implement regional/area wide testing in various community settings including workplaces and schools in the event of an increased incidence.

## 1 Background

Since the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in early 2020, governments across the globe have applied restrictive public health policy measures, or non-pharmaceutical interventions, at various stages, and with different levels of intensity, to reduce or slow down transmission of the virus. National testing strategies have been developed to identify cases of COVID-19 in symptomatic individuals and expanded over the course of the pandemic to identify and isolate asymptomatic cases through preventive screening programmes. Mass testing programmes have also been implemented to rapidly identify and isolate cases in high-risk areas, for example, as well as across populations. To further interrupt chains of transmission, governments, either at a national or local level, have been tracing contacts of confirmed cases to isolate potentially infected individuals in the community. In some situations, enhanced contact tracing measures have been deployed to identify the index case, as well as any close contacts. Governments have also relied on technology as a means to either solely identify close contacts of a confirmed case, or to support traditional contact tracing efforts. The Health Information and Quality Authority's (HIQA's) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Team has been requested to review the public health measures and strategies that are being used internationally to limit the spread of COVID-19.

## 2 Methods

A detailed summary of the methods used for this review is provided in the protocol: *Public health measures and strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19: an international review*, available on [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie). Briefly, the review focuses on the national response to COVID-19 in 17 countries that were experiencing a resurgence in COVID-19 cases in October 2020 and which were identified by NPHET as being in a similar phase of pandemic response as Ireland. The countries comprise 12 EU/EEA countries (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden), the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), and Switzerland. Israel has also been included for this update only.

A number of key epidemiological parameters were extracted as part of the review for the purposes of describing the current epidemiological situation in each country. The data were sourced directly from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)<sup>(1)</sup> and Our World in Data (OWID),<sup>(2)</sup> which is produced by the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford and the Global Change Data Lab (A UK-based charity in the education sector). Since the data for the UK are aggregated, a

breakdown of the epidemiological data by country is not provided. The epidemiological parameters include the:

- 14-day notification rate of newly reported COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population<sup>(2)</sup>
- 14-day notification rate of newly reported COVID-19 deaths per million population<sup>(2)</sup>
- daily hospital occupancy rate (number of COVID-19 patients in hospital on a given day per million population; sourced from OWID, based on ECDC)<sup>(2)</sup>
- daily intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy rate (number of COVID-19 patients in ICU on a given day per million population; sourced from OWID, based on ECDC)<sup>(2)</sup>
- weekly number of tests performed per 100,000 population<sup>(1)</sup>
- percentage of COVID-19 tests performed weekly that are positive<sup>(1)</sup>
- total number of vaccination doses (counted as a single dose) administered per 100 people<sup>(2)</sup>
- share of the population that have been fully vaccinated (received two doses) against COVID-19.<sup>(2)</sup>

Information on public health measures (that is, restrictive measures or non-pharmaceutical interventions) that are currently in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 was sought from government resources. The public health measures of interest include those related to:

- movement of people (for example, stay at home measures or curfews)
- social or mass gatherings
- education
- business activities
- sporting activities
- religious activities
- travel (domestic and or international)
- extended use of face coverings

Measures relating to international travel have been excluded for this update only.

Where countries have developed detailed frameworks for living with COVID-19 at varying levels of community transmission, for example, this information was extracted, alongside any criteria that are being used to inform a change in public health measures, or level of restrictions.

Finally, details of national testing and contact tracing strategies were extracted for each country to provide information on the extent that these measures are being used to quickly identify and isolate cases of COVID-19.

Details of contact tracing strategies have been excluded for this update only.

The review was first undertaken on 24 November. Weekly updates will be provided, as required by the NPHE.

## 3 Findings

This section summarises the international public policy response to COVID-19.

- **Section 3.1** presents an overview of the current epidemiological situation in each country:
  - **Table 1** summarises the vaccine rollout progress in each country
  - **Appendix A** provides a detailed breakdown of the latest epidemiological data and weekly percentage change by country.
- **Section 3.2** describes the frameworks that have been developed for living with COVID-19, alongside the criteria that are being used to guide decision-making on public health measures:
  - **Appendix B** provides a detailed summary of the frameworks and criteria by country.
- **Section 3.3** presents a summary of the current public health measures that are in place in each country:
  - **Table 2** summarises the current risk levels for each country.
  - **Table 3** catalogues the different public health measures by country.
- **Section 3.4** presents an overview of the testing strategies that are being used to interrupt the transmission of COVID-19:
  - **Appendix C** details each country's approach to testing.

### 3.1 Summary epidemiological data

Although most countries experienced a reduction in the incidence of coronavirus cases in early 2021 (following a surge in new cases in December (2020)/January (2021)) through increased public health measures (or restrictions), many countries have begun to see an increase in the 14-day incidence rate of new cases (Figure 1a). As of 14 March, over the previous seven days, the 14-day incidence rate increased in Austria (representing a 14.9% week-on-week increase), Belgium (10.0%), Denmark (27.6%), France (5.6%), Germany (12.6%), Italy (15.3%), the Netherlands (8.4%), Sweden (2.6%), and Switzerland (8.3%) (See Appendix A for a detailed breakdown of the weekly percentage change in the 14-day incidence by country). Of these countries, the 14-day incidence rate was highest in Sweden and Italy, at approximately 500 per 100,000 population. This was surpassed only by Czechia where the rate was above 1,500 per 100,000 population. The country

experienced a resurgence in cases in February and March, following a rise and fall in cases in January. However, the 14-day incidence rate declined in Czechia over the previous seven days by 2.7%. The incidence rate also declined over the previous seven days in Ireland (12.4%), Israel (16.2%), Portugal (22.9%), and the UK (20.0%). The extent of the vaccine rollout in Israel and the UK may be a contributing factor in the declining 14-day incidence rate in these countries (see Table 1 – further details provided below also). In Spain, the 14-day incidence rate has been skewed by the recent de-notification of 74,347 cases (on 2 March 2021).<sup>(3)</sup> However, the number of new cases appears to be declining; on 14 March, Spain reported 5,348 new cases, which was less than the 6,654 cases reported seven days earlier.

Following on from the latest surge in cases, most countries experienced a corresponding increase in the 14-day death rate per million population (Figure 1b). Since January 2021, the highest rates were observed in Czechia, Portugal, and the UK. At its peak in Portugal on 5 February, the 14-day death rate reached 375 per million population. In the UK, the death rate reached 253 on 27 January. In Czechia, the death rate initially peaked at 223 on 19 January before falling and rising to 270 on 13 March. As of 14 March, the death rate was falling across the majority of countries, including Ireland where the latest data suggest the 14-day death rate was 43.5 per million population (down from 57.9 seven days earlier [representing a 24.8% week-on-week decrease]). However, a small number of countries including Belgium (1.7%), Czechia (15.3%), and Italy (9.3%) have seen an uptick in the 14-day death rate over the previous seven days (Appendix A).

The impact of the most recent increase in cases can also be observed in the numbers of people in hospital (Figure 2a) and intensive care (Figure 2b) due to COVID-19, which increased substantially across most countries since January 2021. In Czechia and Portugal, the rate of hospitalisations surpassed 600 per million population in February, while in France, Ireland, Italy, and the UK, the rate surpassed 400. In most countries however, the rate of hospitalisations has fallen considerably since February. As of 7 March, the rate of hospitalisations was below 200 per million population in most countries, including Ireland where the rate was 85.7 per million population. In contrast, the numbers remained high in Czechia (776.4), France (380.2), and Italy (392.8), and increasing in Czechia (10.9%) and Italy (13.8%) over the previous seven days. An increase in the hospitalisation rate was also observed in Austria (13.0%) Belgium (2.2%), and Sweden (7.4%) (Appendix A). A similar trend was observed in the numbers admitted to intensive care since January 2021. Although the rate recently fell to below 25 per million population in some countries (for example, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and the UK) a number of countries have seen an increase in the rate of admissions to intensive care over the previous seven days (as of 7 March) including in Austria (12%),

Belgium (4.4%), Czechia (13.9%), France (7.2%), Italy (16.8%), the Netherlands (3.6%), and Sweden (5.9%) (Appendix A). Czechia remains the worst affected of the included countries; the rate of admissions to ICU surpassed 160 per million population on 2 March. In Ireland, the rate of hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care decreased over the previous seven days (up to 7 March) by 23.6% (85.7 per million population) and 23.1% (20.9), respectively.

Figure 3a presents the weekly number of tests performed per 100,000 population in each country, while Figure 3b presents the share of tests performed weekly that are positive. Based on the latest available data from the ECDC,<sup>(1)</sup> which includes both RT-PCR and antigen tests, weekly testing per 100,000 population ranged from 1,367 in Germany to 18,558 in Austria, with Ireland at 1,925 per 100,000 population. In most countries, the test positivity rate (that is, the share of tests that were returned as positive over the previous seven days) continued to trend downwards on 7 March, following the latest wave in coronavirus cases. Over the previous seven days, the share of tests returned as positive declined in Belgium (down 8.7% [5.4% test positivity]), Czechia (6.8% [12.8%]), Denmark (11.9% [0.3%]), Ireland (26.9% [3.8%]), the Netherlands (23.6% [7.2%]), Portugal (38.0% [3.2%]), and Spain (36.2% [4.6%]). However, the positivity rate increased in Austria over the previous seven days (up 20.5% [to 1.0% positivity]), France (11.1% [7.4% positivity]), Germany (8.1% [5.1% positivity]), Italy (39.2% [to 6.4% positivity]), and Sweden (9.7% [11.6% positivity]).

It is important to note that the hospital activity and testing data are not up-to-date; the latest data from the ECDC were published on 11 March 2021 and reflect activity up to 7 March (or week 9 of 2021). In addition, it is important to note that cross-country comparisons of the testing data, including test positivity, are difficult due to changes in testing criteria over time, as well as variations in the way countries define 'tests performed' (for example, the unit may refer to the number of tests performed or the number of people tested).

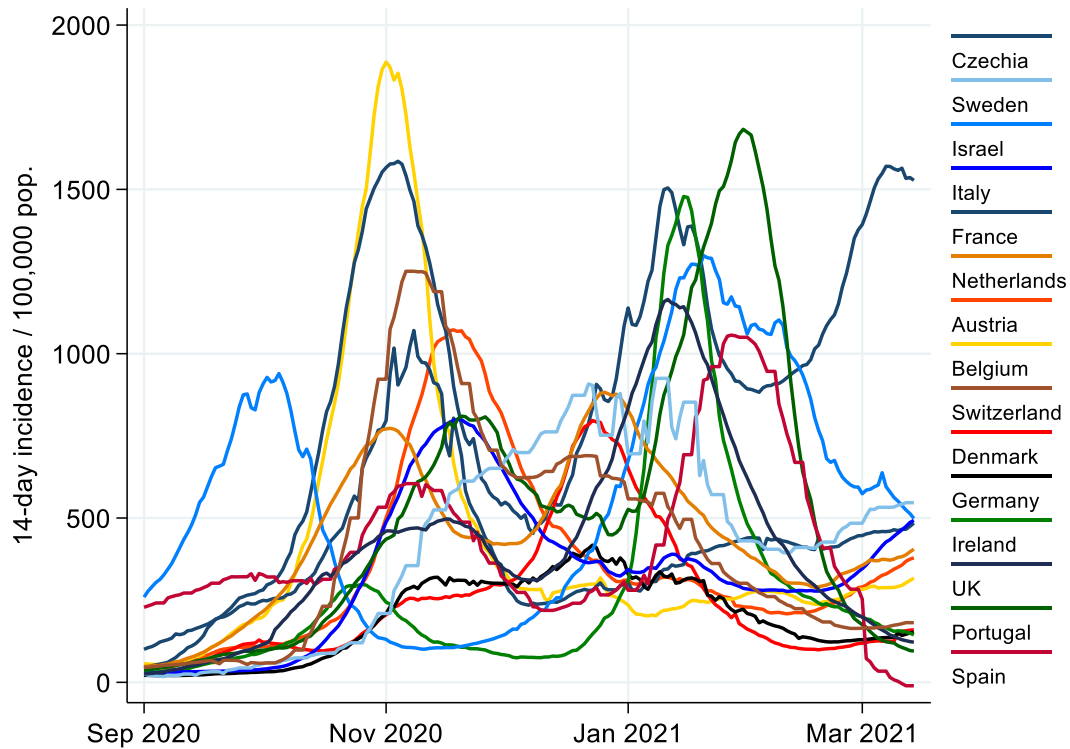
### **3.1.1 Vaccine rollout progress**

A COVID-19 vaccine programme has been launched in each of the included countries. As detailed in Table 1, Israel and the UK had the highest reported number of vaccine doses (counted as a single dose) administered per 100 population of the included countries, up to 12 March 2021. In Israel, 106.7 vaccines were administered per 100 population, while in the UK, 37.1 vaccine doses were administered per 100 population. In all other countries, the rate was approximately 10-12 per 100 people; in Ireland 11.6 vaccine doses were administered per 100 population. As a share of the population, 47.5% were fully vaccinated in Israel on 12 March. In the UK, only 2.3% of the population were fully vaccinated, reflecting the extent to which the UK has been broadly administering single doses to priority

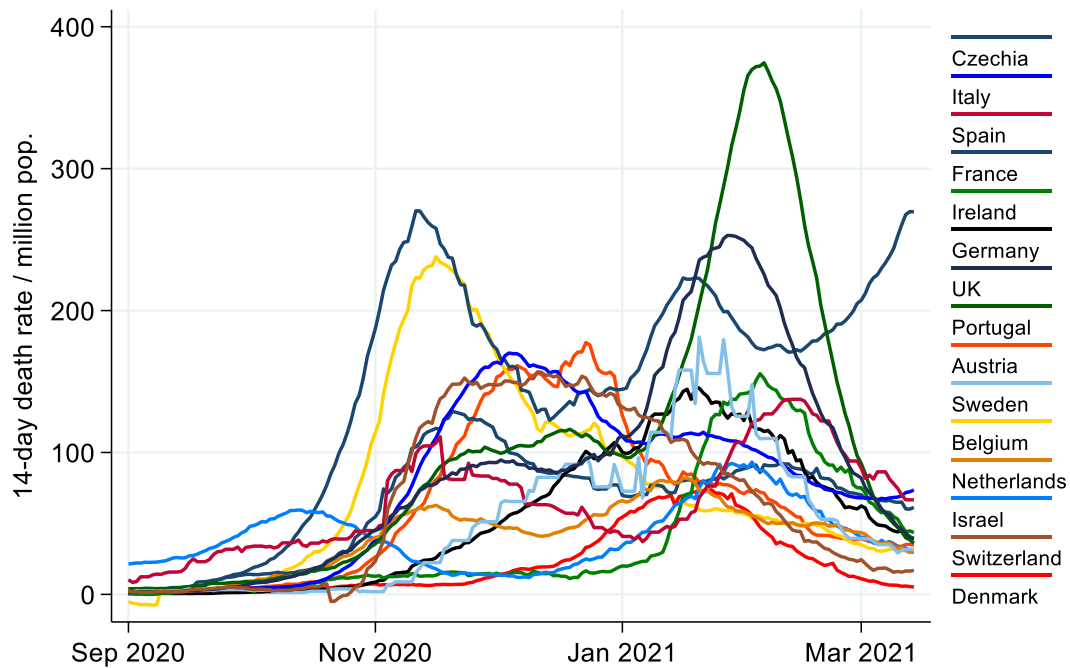
groups to date.<sup>(4)</sup> Next to Israel, Denmark (4.2%) and Switzerland (4.3%) had the highest share of the population fully vaccinated up to 12 March 2021. In Ireland, 3.3% of the population were fully vaccinated.

**Figure 1** 14-day notification rate of new cases (**1a**) and deaths (**1b**) per 100,000 and million population, respectively (1 September to 14 March 2020)

**1a**



**1b**



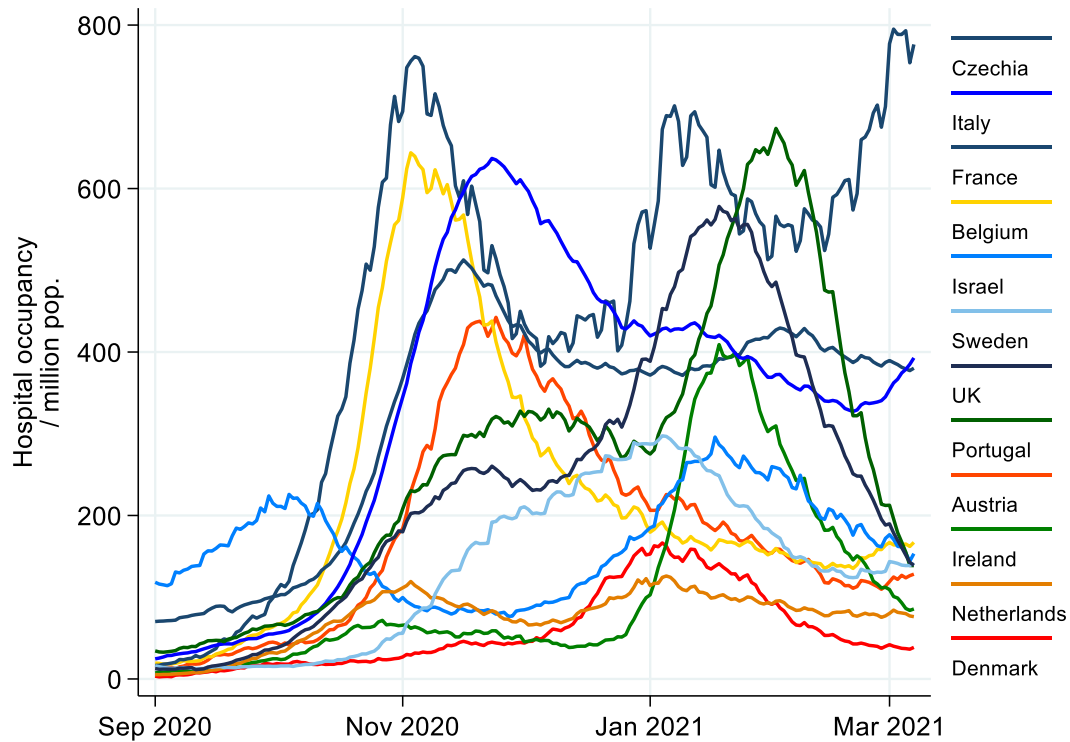
Source: Our World in Data  
[www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus](http://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus)

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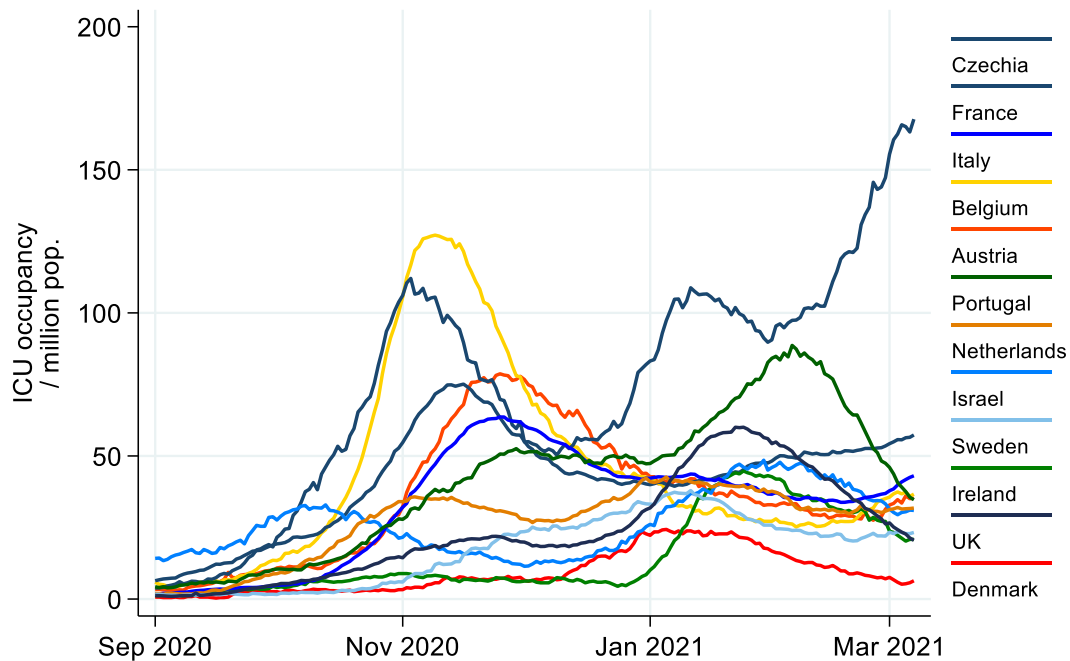


**Figure 2** Daily number of people in hospital (**2a**) and ICU (**2b**) per million population (1 September to 7 March 2021)

**2a**



**2b**

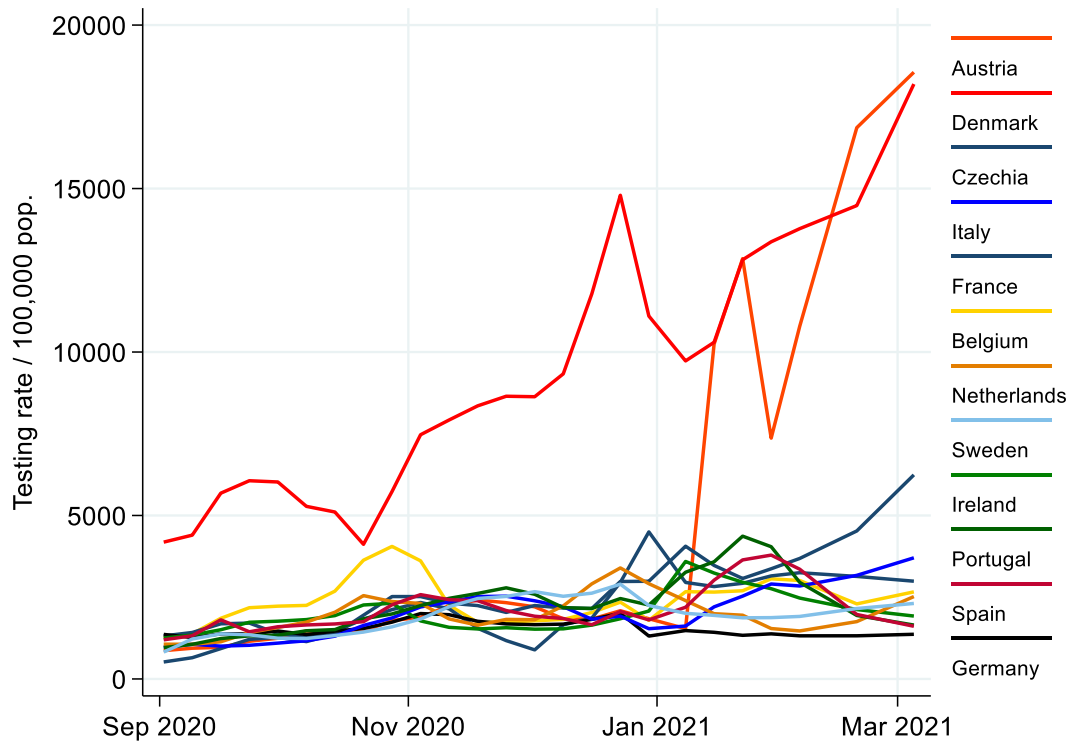


Source: Our World in Data  
[www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus](http://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus)

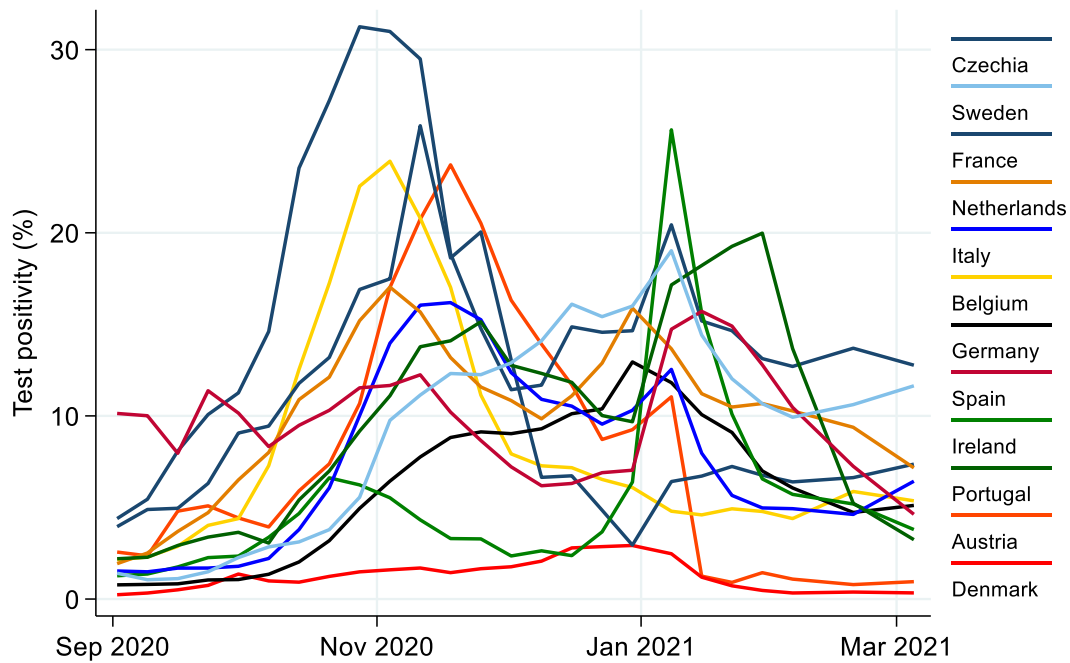
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**Figure 3** Weekly number of tests performed per 100,000 population (**3a**) and % of tests performed that are positive (**3b**) (1 September to 7 March 2021)

**3a**



**3b**



**Source:** European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/data](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/data)

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**Table 1** Total number of vaccination doses administered per 100 people in the total population and share of population fully vaccinated on 12 March 2021

Country	Total number of vaccine doses administered / 100 people* (weekly % change)	Share of population fully vaccinated (weekly % change)
<b>EU</b>		
Austria	10.9 (24.2%)	3.0 (8.4%)
Belgium	9.8 (14.5%)	3.3 (8.3%)
Czechia	9.8 (29.0%)	2.8 (12.6%)
Denmark	14.2 (16.2%)	4.2 (24.3%)
France	10.4 (28.7%)	3.3 (15.7%)
Germany	10.6 (22.2%)	3.3 (15.9%)
Ireland [10-Mar-21] †	11.6 (20.0%)	3.3 (8.5%)
Italy	10.7 (23.6%)	3.2 (20.0%)
Netherlands [7-Mar-21]	9.4 (21.2%)	2.4 (23.7%)
Portugal	10.9 (14.6%)	3.1 (15.0%)
Spain [11-Mar-21]	11.4 (19.8%)	3.4 (18.1%)
Sweden	10.8 (22.8%)	3.3 (14.5%)
<b>Non-EU</b>		
United Kingdom	37.1 (10.2%)	2.3 (40.4%)
Israel	106.7 (7.2%)	47.5 (11.2%)
Switzerland [10-Mar-21]	12 (17.3%)	4.3 (23.1%)

Source: OWID

\* Counted as a single dose and may not equal the total number of people vaccinated

† Calculation of weekly percentage change based on previous date (due to missing data on 3 March)

### 3.2 Public health frameworks for living with COVID-19

A number of countries have developed frameworks or systems for living with COVID-19, which assess the current level of risk associated with the virus and the type of public health measures, or restrictions, that are needed to contain the virus. For example, in Ireland, a framework for restrictive measures in response to COVID-19 was developed to ensure an appropriate public health response could be implemented at different levels of community transmission. The framework is a constituent part of *Resilience and Recovery 2020 to 2021; plan for living with COVID-19*.<sup>(5)</sup> The framework consists of five levels of public health measures: *Level 1* is the lowest level and has the fewest restrictions (low risk of transmission), while *Level 5* is the highest level and has the most restrictions (reflecting widespread community transmission).<sup>(5)</sup>

Other countries that have also developed a public health framework for assessing the level of risk associated with COVID-19 and the type of national response that is needed to contain that risk include Austria,<sup>(6)</sup> Belgium,<sup>(7)</sup> Czechia,<sup>(8)</sup> Denmark,<sup>(9)</sup> England,<sup>(10)</sup> Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> Netherlands,<sup>(12)</sup> Portugal,<sup>(13)</sup> Spain,<sup>(14)</sup> Scotland,<sup>(15)</sup> Wales<sup>(16)</sup> and

Israel.<sup>(17)</sup> Previously in Italy, regions were classified as *Yellow* (moderate), *Orange* (medium-high) or *Red* (high) risk areas, whereby a different set of restrictive measures was applied to each category. This framework has since been updated with the addition of *White* risk areas added to the framework. In areas classified as *White*, there will be no restrictions.<sup>(18)</sup> Currently the only region that has been classified as *White* is Sardinia. Austria has taken a similar 'traffic light' approach. All of Austria, individual federal states, individual districts or regions may be classified as *Green* (low-risk), *Yellow* (medium-risk), *Orange* (high-risk) or *Red* (very-high risk), whereby a different set of restrictive measures are also applied to each category.<sup>(19)</sup> The frameworks developed in Czechia<sup>(20)</sup> and Denmark<sup>(21)</sup> are similar to that of Ireland, in that they also have five levels ranging from Level 1 to Level 5 with Level 1 being the least restrictive and Level 5 being the most. There is no evidence that a public health framework for living with COVID-19 has been developed in France, Germany, Northern Ireland, Sweden or Switzerland; however, each country has implemented public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, as detailed in section 3.3.

To inform a change in alert levels, or public health measures, a variety of triggers appear to be taken into consideration across the different countries. Some of the key epidemiological parameters that are evaluated to influence a change in public health measures include, but are not limited to:

- the 14-day incidence of COVID-19 per 100,000 population
- the incidence of COVID-19 per 100,000 population for particular age groups
- the number of COVID-19 deaths
- testing data (including the number of COVID-19 tests administered and the percentage of COVID-19 tests that are returned as positive)
- the number of outbreaks
- the nature and types of outbreaks
- the source of clusters
- estimates of the reproductive number
- and the impact on vulnerable groups.

Any decision to escalate or de-escalate public health measures also requires careful consideration of hospital statistics, which may lag behind a change in the incidence of the disease. For example, while the number of new infections may be declining, the healthcare sector may still be dealing with large numbers of patients recovering with COVID-19. As such, consideration is also given to available hospital and ICU bed capacity, for example. Information in relation to vaccinations is also now being collated across all countries, and is also one of the many relevant factors when considering a change in public health measures.

More recently, a number of countries have developed plans for reopening. In February 2021, England published a 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' report which details a four step plan for reopening.<sup>(22)</sup> The first step of this plan commenced on 8 March, while the fourth step of this plan is set to be implemented no earlier than 21 June. In a similar way, the Northern Ireland Executive has published a guidance document detailing a pathway out of restrictions.<sup>(23)</sup> The guidance document details five stages of lifting restrictions but dates for easing restrictive measures have not been released in the report. However, the plan will be formally reviewed by the Executive in four week intervals on 16 March, 15 April, 13 May and 10 June 2021. Scotland has also published an updated framework which details plans for a gradual easing of restrictions with a minimum three week gap between each phase of reopening.<sup>(24)</sup> Earlier this month, Portugal published their 'Plan for Easing' whereby they have proposed four phases for easing restrictive measures.<sup>(25)</sup> In this plan it has been proposed to ease restrictive measures every 15 days between the period of 15 March and 3 May. However, not all restrictions will be eased as of 3 May and further details of the plan are to be provided in due course.

Many of the factors that have been used to inform decisions in relation to previous frameworks will continue to be taken into account when considering any change in public health measures. Other factors that may be taken into consideration when informing future and existing frameworks include, but are not limited to, the numbers of people who have been vaccinated, emerging information on variants of concern and evidence in relation to vaccine effectiveness.

In Israel, a 'Green Pass' system has been introduced as part of the easing of restrictive measures.<sup>(17)</sup> The Green Pass is an entry permit to places or facilities for vaccinated people and those who have recovered from COVID-19. Public health measures are less restrictive in Green Pass establishments. You may enter establishments or events that comply with Green Pass restrictions, if you present the Pass (either printed or on an App) with an identification document. The Green Pass is personal and is valid for six months for those who have been fully vaccinated, effective the week after receiving the second dose for six months and valid until 30 June 2021 for those who have recovered from COVID-19.

Further details of the frameworks that have been developed in each country are provided in Appendix B, alongside any criteria or triggers that are being used to inform a change in alert levels or public health measures.

### **3.3 Current public health measures**

Jurisdictions are currently imposing restrictions at various levels. Many are doing so at a nationwide level, (for example, Ireland,<sup>(26)</sup> the Netherlands,<sup>(27)</sup> Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> and Wales<sup>(29)</sup>), others at a nationwide level with additional regional restrictions (for

example France<sup>(30)</sup> and Spain<sup>(31)</sup>), while others are doing so at a regional or municipal level only (for example, Israel<sup>(32)</sup> and Italy<sup>(11)</sup>).

Table 2 provides a summary of the restrictions in place as at 12 March 2021. In brief, in countries with a published risk framework, all are currently at either the highest risk level of their individual framework or the majority of regions in the country are at the highest risk level, with the exception of Israel.<sup>(32)</sup> Easing of restrictions has commenced in Israel and a 'Green Pass' system has been introduced for those who are fully vaccinated and those who have recovered from COVID-19.<sup>(32)</sup> Establishments that comply with the Green Pass restrictions have less restrictive measures than those without and holders of a Green Pass can access these establishments. A gradual easing of restrictions commenced in Switzerland on 1 March.<sup>(33)</sup> A number of other countries (Austria,<sup>(34)</sup> Belgium,<sup>(35)</sup> England,<sup>(10)</sup> Yellow regions in Italy<sup>(11)</sup> and Portugal<sup>(28)</sup>) have announced timelines for gradual easing of specific restrictions beyond the 12 March. In Germany, easing of restrictions will be discussed on 22 March but will be dependent on the seven-day incidence rate remaining below 100/100,000 population.<sup>(36)</sup> A decision on easing restrictions in the Netherlands from 31 March will be dependent on the number of intensive care admissions remaining stable and the reproduction number remaining close to or below 1.<sup>(27)</sup> The full details of measures in place in all countries and advised changes to restrictions are provided in Table 3.

**Table 2** Summary of restriction levels and plans for easing as at 12 March 2021.

Country	Current Level (12 March 2021)	Comment
<b>EU/EEA countries</b>		
Austria	Very high risk - Red	Gradual easing of extracurricular and sport restrictions for those 18 years and under from 15 March.
Belgium	Alarm Level 4	Measures effective to 26 March. Plan to ease outdoor restrictions in April and ease further outdoor and indoor restrictions on 1 May if the epidemiological situation allows.
Czechia	Level 5 Purple	Measures effective to 21 March.
Denmark	Risk Level 5	Measures effective to 5 April.
France	Confinement	23 departments are currently under enhanced surveillance.
Germany	Not reported	Measures effective to 28 March. Easing of restrictions will be considered on 22 March but dependent on 7-day incidence rate. Further easing to be considered no earlier than 5 April.
Ireland	Level 5	Measures effective to 5 April.
Italy - red	3 red regions	From 15 March, 11 regions in the red zone.
Italy - orange	11 orange regions	From 15 March, 5 regions in the orange zone. Measures for the red zone apply for 3, 4 and 5 April.
Italy - yellow	6 yellow regions	From 15 March, 4 regions in the yellow zone. Measures for the orange zone apply from 15 March to 6 April. Measure for the red zone apply for 3, 4 and 5 April.
Italy - white	1 white region	From 15 March, 1 region in the white zone. No restrictions.
Netherlands	Severe Level 4	Measures effective to 31 March. Easing of some restrictions will be considered if the number of intensive care admissions remains stable and the reproduction number stays close to or below 1.
Portugal	State of Emergency	Measures effective to 15 March. Easter restrictions agreed that prohibit travel between regions. Easing of measures announced in a four phase plan between 15 March and 3 May.
Spain	National State of Alarm	Easter restrictions agreed that prohibit travel between regions, large events and night time mobility.
Sweden	Not reported	N/A
<b>UK countries</b>		
England	Tier 3: Very High Alert	Easing of measures announced in 4 Step roadmap out of lockdown published for the period from 8 March to 21 June.
Northern Ireland	Not reported	Measures effective to 1 April. Will be reviewed 16 March.
Scotland - Level 3	2 Level 3 regions	N/A
Scotland - Level 4	30 Level 4 regions	Indicative dates for easing of some restrictions (opening of shops, hairdressers, gyms and hospitality) will be announced the week commencing 15 March.
Wales	Alert Level 4	N/A
<b>Non-EU/EEA countries</b>		
Switzerland	Nationwide restrictions	Easing of measures started on 1 March. Provided the epidemiological situation permits, the next easing of measures will be on 22 March.
Israel	Various – Traffic Light Model at council level	Green Pass system in operation for those both fully vaccinated and recovered from COVID-19.

### 3.3.1 Movement of people

Night time curfews are currently in place in seven countries; Austria,<sup>(34)</sup> Belgium,<sup>(35)</sup> Czechia,<sup>(37)</sup> France,<sup>(30)</sup> Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> the Netherlands<sup>(27)</sup> and Spain.<sup>(31)</sup> A number of countries limit movement between regions including Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> and Spain. People are advised to stay at home in England,<sup>(10)</sup> Northern Ireland,<sup>(38)</sup> Scotland<sup>(39)</sup> and Wales.<sup>(29)</sup> In Ireland, travel is currently limited to within 5km of home, with certain exceptions.<sup>(26)</sup>

### 3.3.2 Social or mass gatherings

In Israel, a maximum of 50 people are permitted to meet outdoors and a maximum of 20 indoors.<sup>(32)</sup> In Switzerland, the limit is 15 people outdoors and five indoors.<sup>(33)</sup> For all other countries where gatherings are permitted, the limit for outdoor gatherings is no greater than 10 (Belgium)<sup>(35)</sup> with a limit for indoor gatherings no greater than two households comprising four adults and two children (Austria).<sup>(34)</sup> No indoor or outdoor gatherings should currently take place in Ireland.<sup>(26)</sup>

### 3.3.3 Places of worship/religious services

Places of worship are generally open for private prayer with the exception of Northern Ireland<sup>(38)</sup> and Level 4 areas in Scotland.<sup>(39)</sup> Maximum numbers allowed for funerals range from 10 in Ireland<sup>(26)</sup> to 50 in a number of countries including Austria,<sup>(34)</sup> Belgium,<sup>(35)</sup> the Netherlands<sup>(27)</sup> and Switzerland.<sup>(31)</sup> The maximum number of guests permitted at weddings and civil partnerships ranges from five in Level 4 areas in Scotland<sup>(39)</sup> to 50 in Switzerland.<sup>(31)</sup> In Ireland, a maximum of six guests can attend a wedding ceremony.<sup>(26)</sup> In Israel, houses of worship without a Green Pass are permitted a maximum of 20 people indoors and 50 outdoors. In those houses of worship with a Green Pass, those with regular seating have a maximum capacity of 50% while those without regular seating must ensure minimum distance requirements per person with a permitted maximum of 500 people.<sup>(32)</sup>

### 3.3.4 Business activities

Non-essential retail remains largely closed in Czechia,<sup>(37)</sup> Ireland,<sup>(26)</sup> Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> the Netherlands,<sup>(27)</sup> Portugal,<sup>(28)</sup> England,<sup>(10)</sup> Northern Ireland,<sup>(38)</sup> Scotland<sup>(39)</sup> and Wales.<sup>(29)</sup> In Austria, where the retail trade has reopened, personal services (e.g. hairdresser, massage, pedicure) may only be used if a negative PCR or antigen test result is presented.<sup>(34)</sup> The test (time of sampling) must not be older than 48 hours. The test does not apply to people who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past six months and who can prove this with a medical certificate. In Germany, the retail trade can open, with physical distancing requirements, where there is an incidence of less than 50 per 100,000 inhabitants. If the incidence is over



50, "Click and Collect" applies.<sup>(36)</sup> Bars and restaurants are open in Yellow regions in Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> in Spain,<sup>(31)</sup> Sweden<sup>(40)</sup> and Israel<sup>(32)</sup> but are operating with restricted opening hours, reduced capacity and restrictions on the number of people within any one party. Similar to Ireland, those that are closed are largely permitted to provide takeaway service. Where hotels are operating it is generally for exceptional reasons only, including hosting those travelling on business. In Israel, the hospitality sector is operating using the Green Pass system which allows for less restrictive measures.<sup>(32)</sup> For example, indoor dining in restaurants is only permitted with the Green Pass and enables restaurants to operate at 75% capacity with a maximum of 100 people.

### **3.3.5 Education**

Primary schools are either partially or fully open for face-to-face teaching in all countries except Czechia<sup>(37)</sup> and Red regions in Italy.<sup>(11)</sup> The return to face-to-face teaching in Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> commenced on 15 March. Secondary schools are currently operating solely by distance learning in Czechia,<sup>(37)</sup> Denmark<sup>(41)</sup> and Red regions in Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> with a return to face-to-face teach commencing in Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> and Wales<sup>(29)</sup> on 15 March. Most other countries are operating a combination of face-to-face and distance learning for secondary school students either rotating classes between the two or implementing a gradual return to face-to-face teaching by year group. Universities are generally operating by distance learning with exceptions for practical and laboratory based classes as is the case in Ireland.<sup>(26)</sup> In Austria, individual university and college management independently determines which pandemic measures are to be complied with at their respective locations.<sup>(42)</sup> In Belgium, in-person classes are due to resume on 15 March with students able to attend in person one day a week.<sup>(35)</sup>

In Austria, a weekly negative rapid test, which is carried out at the school, is required to participate in face-to-face lessons.<sup>(42)</sup> For pupils at elementary schools, special schools and pupils who are at school for more than two days, tests should be carried out twice a week. If a doctor's confirmation of a COVID-19 infection or proof of neutralizing antibodies can be presented that is no longer than six months ago, no test needs to be carried out.

### **3.3.6 Domestic travel (including transport)**

Public transport capacity has been reduced in Ireland,<sup>(26)</sup> Israel,<sup>(32)</sup> Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> and Wales,<sup>(29)</sup> although school transport is not affected. In Sweden, capacity is restricted to a maximum of 50% on bus and train services where the line distance is greater than 15 miles.<sup>(40)</sup> There is a general recommendation in a number of countries to avoid public transport at rush hour and at times when it is likely to be busy. In Austria, only two people are permitted per row in taxis and when car-pooling.<sup>(42)</sup>

### 3.3.7 Culture/leisure/entertainment

Outdoor facilities including parks, playgrounds, gardens, lakes and beaches are generally open, with the exception of Czechia<sup>(37)</sup> and Portugal.<sup>(28)</sup> Zoos are also open in a limited number of countries. Indoor public buildings are largely closed with the exception of libraries in most countries and museums in Austria,<sup>(42)</sup> Belgium,<sup>(35)</sup> Israel<sup>(32)</sup> and Switzerland.<sup>(31)</sup> Outdoor cultural institutions have reopened in Denmark but visitors are required to present documentation for negative testing that is no more than 72 hours old.<sup>(41)</sup> In Germany, zoos, zoological gardens, animal parks, museums and galleries can open if there is a 7-day incidence of less than 50 new infections per 100,000 in a region.<sup>(36)</sup> Where incidence is >50/100,000 inhabitants, these facilities can open provided an appointment is made and visitors are documented.<sup>(36)</sup>

### 3.3.8 Sporting/recreational activities (amateur and professional)

Indoor sports centres, fitness centres and swimming pools remain largely closed with some exceptions. In Israel, gyms and swimming pools are open for Green Pass holders.<sup>(32)</sup> Outdoor facilities are generally open but are operating with varying restrictions around individual and group activities and the numbers permitted.

In Belgium, indoor facilities (except swimming pools) are open for children up to 12 years old participating in compulsory school or extracurricular activities<sup>(35)</sup> and children up to aged 12 can attend swimming lessons in the Netherlands.<sup>(27)</sup> In Switzerland, practice and training for sporting activities for those aged under 20 years are permitted without restriction.<sup>(31)</sup> Similarly in Sweden, young people born in 2002 or later may participate in organised sports and leisure activities, both indoors and outdoors.<sup>(40)</sup> Organised outdoor contact sport, non-contact sport, exercise, personal training, coaching and group activities are permitted for those aged under 12 in Scotland.<sup>(39)</sup> A maximum of 50 young people are permitted to gather for sports activities in Denmark.<sup>(41)</sup> In Belgium, a maximum of 25 children under 13 years can partake in organised outdoor sports activities and a maximum of 10 can partake in indoor activities.<sup>(35)</sup> From 15 March, a maximum of 15 young people aged 12-17 years can participate in outdoor non-contact sport and organised group exercise in Scotland.

In the Netherlands, adults aged 18 to 26 years can participate in team sports outdoors at sports facilities without staying 1.5 metres apart.<sup>(27)</sup> However, for adults aged 27 years and over the numbers are restricted to a maximum of four people and they must stay 1.5 metres apart.<sup>(27)</sup> In Switzerland, for those born in 2000 or earlier, outdoor training is allowed for all non-contact sports with a maximum of 15 people, provided everyone maintains a distance of at least 1.5 metres or everyone wears a mask.<sup>(31)</sup> From 15 March in Scotland, a maximum of 15 adults can meet for outdoor

non-contact sport and organised group exercise.<sup>(39)</sup> In Germany, a maximum of 10 people can meet outdoors for non-contact sport in regions with a seven-day incidence below 50 per 100,000 population.<sup>(36)</sup> Similarly in Belgium, a maximum of 10 amateur athletes can exercise together in groups outdoors.<sup>(35)</sup> In most other countries, including Ireland,<sup>(26)</sup> outdoor non-contact sport for adults is permitted with no more than one other person from outside your household.

Professional and elite sport training and competition is largely unaffected, but in most countries it must take place behind closed doors.

### **3.3.9 Face masks**

The minimum age for mandatory face mask wearing ranges from three years old in Czechia<sup>(37)</sup> to 13 years in Belgium,<sup>(35)</sup> Ireland,<sup>(26)</sup> the Netherlands<sup>(27)</sup> and Northern Ireland.<sup>(38)</sup> Face masks are generally mandatory when indoors and travelling on public transport. Since January 2021, people born in 2004 or earlier in Sweden and who are travelling on public transport without assigned seating, are now recommended to wear a mask during weekdays from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm.<sup>(40)</sup> A number of countries mandate or advise wearing face masks when in crowded open public spaces and or where it is not possible to maintain physical distance. This extends to the workplace in Czechia,<sup>(37)</sup> Portugal,<sup>(28)</sup> Scotland<sup>(43)</sup> and Switzerland<sup>(33)</sup> and to the workplace in Germany<sup>(36)</sup> and Ireland<sup>(26)</sup> where social distancing cannot be maintained. In Germany, the requirement to wear a face mask applies to the space in front of retail shops and in car parks.<sup>(36)</sup> Face masks are also mandatory in Austria,<sup>(42)</sup> Czechia<sup>(37)</sup> and the Netherlands<sup>(27)</sup> if travelling in a car with someone not from the same household.

Face masks are compulsory in school from six years of age in France<sup>(30)</sup> and Spain<sup>(31)</sup> and from 10 years of age in Austria.<sup>(42)</sup> In Denmark, teachers and educators in primary and secondary schools must wear a visor.<sup>(41)</sup> In Germany, they are required on all school premises where physical distancing cannot be observed and during class in secondary school from grade seven onwards in those regions with an incidence of more than 50 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>(36)</sup> Masks are required to be worn by young people, teachers and other staff in secondary schools in Ireland<sup>(26)</sup> and upper secondary schools in Switzerland.<sup>(33)</sup> In England, it is now recommended that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above (and their equivalents) are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms, in learning environments such as workshops, and during activities unless physical distancing can be maintained.<sup>(10)</sup>

Face masks must be worn by athletes in Czechia when training indoors with on professional athletes exempt.<sup>(37)</sup> Masks must also be worn in fitness centres in Switzerland unless the room is large enough for physical distancing to be maintained

and there is adequate ventilation.<sup>(33)</sup> In Austria, mouth and nose protection must be worn in the waiting and boarding areas of cable cars, lifts and gondolas.<sup>(42)</sup> In Switzerland, masks must be worn when queuing for and travelling on ski lifts and all other forms of transport at ski resorts.<sup>(33)</sup>

An FFP2 mask (or equivalent) must be worn in Austria, although children aged six to 14 years are permitted to wear a tight-fitting face mask instead of an FFP2 mask. In Czechia, a respirator or other protective equipment without an exhalation valve with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2 /KN95) must be worn in places with a high concentration of people, in indoor spaces, and when travelling on and waiting for public transport.<sup>(37)</sup> Children aged three to 15 years may use a surgical mask but a respirator is recommended. In Germany, a surgical mask or an FFP2 mask should be worn on buses, trains and in shops.<sup>(36)</sup>

### **3.3.10 Other**

In Italy,<sup>(11)</sup> Portugal<sup>(28)</sup> and Spain,<sup>(31)</sup> additional restrictions will be introduced over the Easter holiday period. In Italy, Red zone measures will be extended to both Orange and Yellow zones. In Portugal, restrictions on movement between municipalities will be maintained,<sup>(28)</sup> while restrictions will be implemented on movement between regions, night time mobility and large events in Spain.<sup>(31)</sup>

It should also be noted that restrictions may vary between regions, municipalities and cities within the same country.

## **3.4 Testing strategies**

A review of each country's approach to testing was undertaken as part of this report. The information, described separately below for each strategy, was extracted on 12 March 2021.

### **3.4.1 International testing strategies**

As a strategy, all countries included in this review target their testing on symptomatic individuals,<sup>(44-60)</sup> with the exception of Austria,<sup>(61)</sup> Czechia,<sup>(62)</sup> Denmark,<sup>(46)</sup> France,<sup>(63)</sup> Israel,<sup>(64)</sup> and Switzerland<sup>(65)</sup> where anyone can request a COVID-19 test irrespective of the presence of symptoms; however, priority is given to symptomatic individuals in these countries.

High-risk groups based on pre-existing conditions, age or setting are specifically prioritised in the national strategies for Belgium, Czechia, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden.<sup>(44, 45, 47-49, 51, 54, 57, 64, 66)</sup> However, most countries have expanded testing to include screening of asymptomatic individuals in certain situations.

Internationally, asymptomatic testing are mostly aimed at frontline staff and residents of care facilities (RCF) or healthcare users. For example, regular testing is conducted on staff and residents in long-term care facilities (LTCF) including residential care facilities for older people in Austria, Czechia, Denmark, England, Italy, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.<sup>(34, 45, 46, 49, 50, 53-55, 67-70)</sup> Czechia, Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales conduct regular testing across a wide range of health and social care workers including non-clinical staff.<sup>(45, 57, 66, 68, 71-74)</sup> While serial screening is activated for all health and social care settings when regional incidence levels reach a certain level in Belgium, France, and Germany.<sup>(47, 48, 55)</sup> Testing is offered to visitors of RCFs in Austria, Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Scotland and Wales and for visitors for all healthcare services in Czechia and Switzerland.<sup>(45, 57, 66, 68, 75-78)</sup>

Other non-healthcare settings have implemented asymptomatic screening strategies, these include workers in key industries (Austria, Czechia, Denmark, England, Italy, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and Switzerland)<sup>(46, 59, 61, 74, 77, 79-81)</sup> and schools and or universities (Austria, Denmark, England, Italy, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).<sup>(46, 56, 58, 75, 77, 81, 82)</sup> The Netherlands and Switzerland have permitted screening at public events, such as sport performances and concerts.<sup>(65, 83)</sup>

Use of rapid antigen tests has been supported in all included countries.<sup>(34, 45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 55, 59, 68, 69, 84-87)</sup> In most cases, positive rapid antigen test results must be confirmed by RT-PCR. In Ireland and the Netherlands, rapid molecular tests are used to diagnose current infection with SARS-CoV-2 in certain situations; validation studies of rapid antigen tests are ongoing in both countries.<sup>(51, 88)</sup> Other types of rapid tests currently in use include self-tests, saliva tests and breath tests.

Austria and Czechia have implemented population-wide testing.<sup>(89, 90)</sup> Portugal, Germany and the UK (all four jurisdictions) have a strategy to implement regional/area wide testing in various community settings including workplaces and schools in the event of an increased incidence.<sup>(48, 80, 91)</sup> The Netherlands has begun large scale testing pilots with the aim of expanding the programme to population-wide screening.<sup>(92)</sup> Previously, a municipality (South Tyrol) in Italy had expanded their screening programme to include voluntary antigen testing of randomly selected citizens from selected subgroups, once a week for four weeks.<sup>(93)</sup>

England has recently introduced a New Variant Surge Programme using PCR tests to test for new variants of concern in localised areas where cases of the new variants have been detected.<sup>(94)</sup>

Further details of each country's approach to testing are provided in Appendix C.

## 4 Conclusion

Public health measures are currently being applied across all countries included in this review, either nationally, regionally or a combination of both. Most countries continue to operate at the highest level of their respective risk framework, if applicable. Although the measures that are being applied are largely consistent, there are many differences in the detail between countries. The more prominent differences between countries include how movement is restricted (for example, curfew hours and travelling distances permitted); numbers permitted at gatherings, events, religious services and sporting activities; and the operating hours of businesses allowed to open within the hospitality sector. The situation remains extremely fluid with gradual easing of current restrictions either already commenced or plans for doing so announced in a number of countries. However, further restrictions are also being introduced in some countries ahead of the upcoming Easter holiday period.

Most countries broadly saw a reversal of the effects of the most recent increase in coronavirus cases from December (2020)/January (2021). However, the latest epidemiological data shows an increase in the 14-day incidence rate per 100,000 population over the previous seven days in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. A small number of countries, including Belgium, Czechia, and Italy, have seen an increase in the 14-day death rate per million population over the previous seven days, while the rate of hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care increased in several countries. Each of the included countries have begun vaccinating people against COVID-19. To date, Israel and the UK have had the highest reported number of vaccine doses administered per 100 population of the included countries. Reassuringly, the epidemiological situation in these countries continues to improve; for example, the 14-day incidence rate of new cases per 100,000 population declined on 14 March 2021 by 16.2% and 20.0% over the previous seven days in Israel and the UK, respectively.

While a range of epidemiological data are presented here to describe the current situation in each country, it is important to note that comparisons across countries are difficult for a number of reasons.

1. The number of cases in any country can be heavily influenced by (1) the testing strategy adopted in that country and (2) case definition used, which can vary over time, causing large and small fluctuations in the number of new cases recorded each day. The number of new cases on a given day can also be affected by the return of awaited or delayed test results, as well as reduced testing on the weekends or outsourcing of testing.

2. The number of deaths in any country is affected by (1) the way in which deaths are recorded and (2) the age profile of the population. Some countries do not record deaths across all sectors (for example, hospitals, long-term care facilities), while others report confirmed deaths only.
3. Comparisons of the rate of testing across countries is complicated by the varying units used to describe 'tests performed'. In some countries this may refer to the number of people tested, whereas in other countries, it may refer to the number of tests performed. It is also important to note that some variations in the epidemiological data (such as the 14-day notification of new cases) may be observed across different data sources due to differences in underlying population data. The population data used for this analysis vary by data source. In the case of Ireland, the ECDC base their estimate on 2019 Eurostat data,<sup>(95)</sup> while OWID use World Population Prospects data, published by the United Nations.<sup>(96)</sup>

As a national strategy, individuals displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are prioritised for testing in each of the countries included in this review. In Austria,<sup>(61)</sup> Czechia,<sup>(62)</sup> Denmark,<sup>(46)</sup> France<sup>(63)</sup> Israel<sup>(64)</sup> and Switzerland<sup>(65)</sup> however, testing is provided for anyone that requests a test, irrespective of the presence of symptoms. High-risk groups based on pre-existing conditions, age or setting are specifically prioritised in the national strategies of ten of the 18 countries. Most countries have expanded testing to include screening of asymptomatic individuals in certain situations. This is mostly aimed at frontline staff and residents of care facilities or healthcare users. For example, serial testing is conducted on staff and or residents in long-term care facilities, while some provide tests to visitors to long-term care facilities. Screening programmes are also being implemented in non-healthcare settings, such as in education settings and critical industries, as well as in areas of high density and in communities and regions with high incidence. Most countries recommend the use of rapid antigen tests with positive test results followed up with PCR test.

Although a comprehensive search of international resources was undertaken, it is possible that the sources identified in this review are not current or do not accurately capture all public health measures and strategies that are being undertaken. For example, some countries may have expanded testing beyond what was observed in this review, or could be using rapid or near-patient tests to support the diagnosis of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 in settings not identified in this review. In addition, the public health measures adopted by countries to limit the spread of COVID-19 are constantly changing. As such, the review may have missed relevant information that was just (or about to be) published at the time of the review. To the best of our knowledge, the review is accurate as of 12 March 2021.

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Austria <sup>(34)</sup>	Current Level: Very high risk – Red	Effective from and to: 10/02/2021 – 14/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew from 8pm to 6am with exceptions.</li> <li>▪ Home working where possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Households</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 2 households may meet in one house between 6am and 8pm with max 4 adults and max 6 children who must be supervised. This also applies to private areas outside the living area (e.g. gardens, barns, sheds, garages).</li> </ul> <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Events prohibited (e.g. birthday parties, wedding celebrations, cultural events, sporting events). Exceptions to this are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehearsals and artistic performances without an audience that take place for professional purposes.</li> <li>- Professional meetings that cannot be postponed and meetings for absolutely necessary professional training and further education purposes are possible.</li> <li>- Demonstrations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 50 people.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shops open from 6am until 7pm at the latest, with the exception of pharmacies and petrol stations.</li> <li>▪ An area of 20m<sup>2</sup> must be available for each customer.</li> <li>▪ In shopping centres there is a ban on staying in the general areas. The consumption of food and drinks is not permitted there.</li> </ul> <p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All services may be offered.</li> <li>▪ However, personal services (e.g. hairdresser, massage, and pedicure) may only be used if a negative PCR or antigen test result is presented. The test (time of sampling) must not be older than 48 hours. The test does not apply to people who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 6 months and who can prove this with a medical certificate.</li> <li>▪ An area of 10m<sup>2</sup> must be available for each customer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catering establishments may offer pick-up from 6am to 7pm. Delivery service is available 24/7.</li> <li>▪ Consumption on site is not permitted (exception: company canteens).</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May only be used in exceptional cases, in particular for professional purposes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Returning to face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul> <p>The following applies to face-to-face teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A weekly negative corona rapid test, which is carried out at the school, is required to participate in lessons. For pupils at elementary schools, special schools and pupils who are at school for more than 2 days, tests should be carried out twice a week. If a doctor's confirmation of a corona infection no longer than 6 months ago or proof of neutralizing antibodies can be presented for a period of 6 months, no test needs to be carried out.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Returning to face-to-face teaching.</li> <li>▪ For secondary levels I and II, face-to-face lessons apply in 2-day shifts.</li> </ul> <p>The following applies to face-to-face teaching:</p>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Austria <sup>(34)</sup>	Current Level: Very high risk – Red	Effective from and to: 10/02/2021 – 14/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A weekly negative corona rapid test, which is carried out at the school, is required to participate in lessons. For pupils at elementary schools, special schools and pupils who are at school for more than 2 days, tests should be carried out twice a week. If a doctor's confirmation of a corona infection no longer than 6 months ago or proof of neutralizing antibodies can be presented for a period of 6 months, no test needs to be carried out.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universities and colleges can take responsibility for taking gentle steps to open the doors and allow students to come back to their respective locations.</li> <li>▪ Respective university and college managements independently determine which corona measures are to be complied with at their respective locations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In mass transportation and associated underground stations, platforms, stops, train stations and airports, people who do not live in the same household must be kept a distance of at least 2m. If it is not possible to maintain a distance of at least 2m due to the number of passengers and when boarding and alighting, this can be excepted.</li> <li>▪ In motor vehicles (private car, taxi, Uber) max 2 people per row of seats may be transported (exception: shared household).</li> <li>▪ Cable cars, gondolas &amp; ascent aids: With closed and covered vehicles, max 50% of the transport capacity may be used. Operators have to implement appropriate prevention measures based on a risk analysis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Museums, art halls, cultural exhibition halls, libraries and archives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 20m<sup>2</sup> rule per visitor applies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Animal parks, zoos and botanical gardens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 20m<sup>2</sup> rule per visitor applies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theatres, cinemas, amusement parks.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Sports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual and recreational outdoor sports are allowed if there is no physical contact in the sport-specific exercise.</li> <li>▪ Contact sports not permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sports facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor sports facilities are open (e.g. ice rink, cross-country trails). The distance rule of at least 2m and the 20m<sup>2</sup> rule per person apply.</li> <li>▪ Indoor sports facilities remain closed.</li> <li>▪ Cable cars are open with max 50% occupancy in gondolas and on armchairs that can be covered.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An FFP2 mask (or an equivalent mask) must be worn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in all indoor public places</li> <li>- at events (that are currently permitted, e.g. funerals)</li> <li>- on public transport and the associated underground stations, platforms, bus stops, train stations and airports</li> <li>- when carpooling</li> <li>- when using cable cars and rack railways</li> <li>- in all customer areas of shops as well as in businesses where services not requiring close physical contact are rendered</li> <li>- at markets (indoor and outdoor)</li> <li>- when visiting administrative authorities and administrative courts</li> <li>- in restaurants (if open, e.g. in company canteens) and when collecting meals</li> <li>- in accommodation establishments (if open) in generally accessible areas (lobby, reception); it is not compulsory to wear a mask in the room</li> <li>- also applicable to persons who have recovered or been vaccinated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exceptions apply to:</p>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Austria <sup>(34)</sup>	Current Level: Very high risk – Red	Effective from and to: 10/02/2021 – 14/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Places of work</li> <li>- Speech therapists and their patients during a therapy session</li> <li>- Customer areas that are outdoors and where physical contact with persons not living in the same household can be avoided</li> <li>- Deaf and severely hearing impaired people and their communication partners when communicating</li> <li>- Children under the age of 6 years old</li> <li>- Children from the age of 6 until the age of 14 are permitted to wear a tight-fitting face mask instead of an FFP2 mask</li> <li>- Persons who cannot be expected to wear an FFP2 mask for health reasons (a medical certificate is required).</li> <li>- Pregnant women; a tight-fitting face mask must be worn instead.</li> <li>▪ It is mandatory to wear a mask in schools, including in the class and group rooms. For elementary schools, the mask requirement only applies outside of the class and group rooms. From the 9th grade onwards, the mouth and nose protection must correspond to an FFP2 mask (or mask of equal or higher value).</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regionally, additional measures can be taken beyond national measures.</li> <li>▪ Since 12 February, the following applies in Tyrol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People who are leaving the state of Tyrol must have evidence of a negative PCR or antigen test result with them and the test must have been conducted within the past 48 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Advised changes to restrictions</b></p> <p><b>From 15 March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extracurricular youth work up to the age of 18 years may take place in closed rooms and outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Group size is max 10 people plus max 2 carers.</li> <li>▪ Registration requirement.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sport up to 18 years may only take place outdoors. There is no test obligation for the adolescents.</li> <li>▪ Group size is max 10 people plus max 2 trainers.</li> <li>▪ Sport without physical contact is allowed.</li> <li>▪ Registration requirement.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Belgium <sup>(35)</sup>	Current Level: Alarm Level 4	Effective from and to: 05/03/2021 – 26/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You are allowed to move around freely.</li> <li>▪ Curfew from midnight to 5am.</li> <li>▪ Working from home mandatory where possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Social gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 10 people outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Max 1 close contact per family can be invited into your home.</li> <li>▪ If you live alone, max 1 close contact and 1 other person can be invited into your home. These people cannot be in your house at the same time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 50 people provided that there is a space of 10 sqm per person.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consumers are admitted for a maximum of 30 minutes.</li> <li>- For shops, the rule of one customer per 10m<sup>2</sup> applies.</li> <li>- Shops with a surface area of less than 20m<sup>2</sup> can allow max 2 customers at the same time, provided that social distancing rules are respected.</li> <li>- Large stores of more than 400m<sup>2</sup> must provide for access control.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Shop alone.</li> <li>▪ Maximum shopping time is 30 minutes.</li> <li>▪ Night shops open until 10pm.</li> <li>▪ Alcohol sales prohibited between 8pm and 5am.</li> </ul> <p><b>Markets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food markets can keep operating.</li> <li>▪ Consuming food or beverages on site is not allowed.</li> <li>▪ Flea markets prohibited.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bars, cafés and restaurants closed.</li> <li>▪ Takeaway until 10pm.</li> <li>▪ Alcohol sales prohibited between 8pm and 5am.</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact professions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hairdressers open.</li> <li>▪ Nail salons open.</li> <li>▪ Beauticians open.</li> <li>▪ Tanning salons open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels and B&amp;Bs can remain open, but the restaurants and bars have to close.</li> <li>▪ Meals must be served in room.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Belgium <sup>(35)</sup>	Current Level: Alarm Level 4	Effective from and to: 05/03/2021 – 26/03/2021
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pupils in the second and third levels will have a maximum of 50% face-to-face contact education.</li> <li>▪ Secondary school students will be able to return to class full-time, ending distance learning, after 19 April.</li> <li>▪ Day trips will be allowed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning.</li> <li>▪ In-person classes resume 15 March with students able to attend in person one day a week.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permitted to move around freely.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Museums.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor areas of nature parks, zoos and animal parks, including entrances, exits, sanitary facilities and first aid and emergency buildings.</li> <li>▪ Libraries, game and multimedia libraries.</li> <li>▪ Places of worship and buildings intended for the public practice of non-denominational moral services.</li> <li>▪ Cultural places, however, only for groups of children up to the age of 12, as part of compulsory school or extracurricular activities.</li> <li>▪ Courses and activities for children up to the age of 18.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Casinos, fruit machine halls and bookmakers.</li> <li>▪ Wellness centres, including saunas, unmanned sunbed centres and unmanned tanning salons, jacuzzis, steam rooms and hammams.</li> <li>▪ Night clubs and dance halls.</li> <li>▪ Party and reception venues.</li> <li>▪ Amusement parks.</li> <li>▪ Indoor playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Bowling alleys.</li> <li>▪ Fun fairs, year markets, flea markets, bric-a-brac markets, Christmas markets and winter villages.</li> <li>▪ Trade fairs including exhibitions.</li> <li>▪ Cinemas.</li> <li>▪ Fitness centres.</li> <li>▪ Ski slopes, cross-country ski trails and ski centres.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 10 amateur athletes can exercise together in groups outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor areas of sports facilities are open.</li> <li>▪ Indoor facilities (or parts of them) belonging to the sports sector are closed to the public. However, indoor sports halls and facilities remain open for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Groups of children up to the age of 12 years, as part of compulsory school or extracurricular activities, with the exception of swimming pools.</li> <li>- Sports activities, courses and camps organised or authorised by the local authorities for children up to the age of 12 years, with the exception of swimming pools.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Indoor horse arenas in equestrian centres and racecourses also remain open, however, this is for the sole purpose of animal welfare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sports activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For children under 13 years, organised outdoor activities (sports and others) permitted with max 10 indoors and max 25 outdoors.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Belgium <sup>(35)</sup>	Current Level: Alarm Level 4	Effective from and to: 05/03/2021 – 26/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For young people aged 13 to 18 inclusive max 10 people outside (supervisor not included).</li> <li>▪ All sports competitions for non-professionals, regardless of the age group of the participants, are not allowed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional athletes can continue to train, both indoors and outdoors, but these sessions should take place without an audience.</li> <li>▪ Professional events can go ahead but no spectators are allowed to attend.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p><b>Places with significant footfall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wearing a face mask is mandatory everywhere.</li> <li>▪ Everyone from the age of 13 (customers, staff, etc.) is obliged to wear a face mask or any other fabric alternative in shopping streets, shops and shopping centres, and any private or public place with significant footfall.</li> <li>▪ If this is not possible for medical reasons, a face shield can be worn.</li> <li>▪ The mayors are responsible for determining the shopping streets and the frequently visited private and public spaces in their municipality. These spaces will be clearly defined by a notice specifying the times during which the obligation applies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public transport users, with the exception of children up to the age of 12, are obliged to cover their mouths and noses by wearing a face mask or any other fabric alternative.</li> <li>▪ This applies from the moment they enter the airport, station, at stops or on the platform, train or other means of transport organised by a public authority.</li> <li>▪ If it is not possible to wear a face mask for medical reasons, a face shield can be worn.</li> <li>▪ Public transport drivers are not required to cover their nose and mouth, insofar as the driver is well- isolated in a cabin on the one hand, and a poster and/or sticker indicates to users the reason why the driver is not wearing a mask on the other. This exception also applies, under the same conditions, to drivers of organised collective transport (e.g. school bus).</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some cities and municipalities will also have extra rules in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advised changes to restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March onwards, additional extracurricular activities of up to 1 day in primary and secondary schools will be allowed again.</li> <li>▪ From March 15, 100% face-to-face education will again be allowed for vulnerable groups in special education and part-time vocational education.</li> <li>▪ From March 15, max 20% of face-to-face teaching will be allowed in higher education.</li> <li>▪ As long as the epidemiological situation allows it and depending on the pressure on hospitals and the progress of the vaccination campaign, an Outdoor Plan will come into force from April, which should allow the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor activities organized for everyone (sports or other associations, including sports training): max 10 people.</li> <li>- Culture, events and worship: max 50 people, subject to compliance with the rules of distancing and the obligation to wear a mask.</li> <li>- Theme parks.</li> <li>- Primary and secondary education: after the Easter holidays, face-to-face lessons every day.</li> <li>- The Consultation Committee also decided to authorize activities organized with overnight stays for children and young people up to the age of 18 during the Easter holidays, on condition that the group has a max 25 people, supervision not included. The camp can only take place if all participants are tested before the start of the camp and at the end of it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Provided that the epidemiological situation allows it and depending on the pressure on hospitals and the progress of the vaccination campaign, and through the use of rapid tests, it will be possible to plan even more outdoor activities and indoor activities on 1 May. This concerns in particular social contacts outside and inside, shopping, culture and events, activities for young people, worship services, community life and sport, home care and fairgrounds. Rapid tests could play an essential role here. To do this, it will be necessary to develop a flexible legal framework so that antigenic tests are widely available in the short term.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Czechia <sup>(37)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5 Purple	Effective from and to: 27/02/2021 – 21/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew 11am to 5pm.</li> <li>▪ It is forbidden to cross the borders of districts of the City of Prague.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor movement should still be kept to a minimum.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Social gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personal contacts should still be kept to a minimum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Demonstrations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 100 participants with small clusters of max 20 people with at least 2 meters between the clusters.</li> <li>▪ All participants of the demonstration must wear a face mask or other respiratory protection.</li> <li>▪ No indoor demonstrations allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual visits to churches, synagogues and mosques are permitted.</li> <li>▪ 10% of total seating capacity permitted at religious services/gatherings.</li> <li>▪ You are allowed to attend a service or similar religious gathering held in your district of permanent residence only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals and weddings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 15 people at funerals.</li> <li>▪ Max 15 people at wedding ceremonies.</li> <li>▪ A wedding is only allowed to take place in a district where one or both fiancés have their permanent residence. If the fiancés have their permanent residence in 2 different districts, the one fiancé is allowed to travel to the other fiancé's permanent residence district to hold the wedding ceremony.</li> <li>▪ The wedding reception cannot be held in restaurants or similar facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally closed with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grocery stores</li> <li>- Fuel and other equipment stores for the operation of motor vehicles</li> <li>- Shops of hygienic goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods</li> <li>- Pharmacies, dispensaries and medical devices</li> <li>- Animal feed and other pet stores</li> <li>- Stores for glasses, contact lenses and related goods</li> <li>- Newspaper and magazine stores</li> <li>- Tobacco shops</li> <li>- Establishments enabling the collection of goods and consignments purchased remotely</li> <li>- Gardening supplies, including seeds and seedlings</li> <li>- Flower shops</li> <li>- Household goods stores and hardware stores, with furniture, carpets and other floor coverings not being considered as household goods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ If a store offers both permitted and unauthorized goods, it must separate the goods.</li> <li>▪ Exempt shops can be open from 5am until 8.59pm.</li> <li>▪ Stores must close on public and non-public holidays.</li> <li>▪ Gas stations, pharmacies and shops at airports, railway stations and medical facilities are exempt from the mandatory opening hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Czechia <sup>(37)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5 Purple	Effective from and to: 27/02/2021 – 21/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Markets, marketplaces and mobile facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed with a number of exceptions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online teaching except for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- primary schools intended for children of medical workers</li> <li>- primary schools intended for institutional or protective care</li> <li>- participation in individual consultations (one student and one consultant).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online teaching except for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- schools founded for institutional or protective care</li> <li>- schools founded by the Ministry of Justice</li> <li>- participation in clinical and practical teaching or practice of medical field students (general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and other) and pedagogy field students carrying out practical teaching or practice within their study plan</li> <li>- participation in individual consultations (one student and one consultant)</li> <li>- participation in entrance exams, final exams and internationally recognized exams</li> <li>- participation in exams organized by higher vocational schools for max 10 individuals</li> <li>- participation in resit exams organized by secondary/grammar schools and conservatories.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online teaching.</li> <li>▪ Attendance at exams with more than 10 people at a time is not permitted. An exception from this rule applies to examinations in medical professions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Persons should remain at their place of residence and limit their movement.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries for collection only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theatres and cinemas.</li> <li>▪ Zoos and botanical gardens.</li> <li>▪ Museums, galleries and exhibition spaces.</li> <li>▪ Castles and similar historical and cultural sites.</li> <li>▪ Gaming, casino and betting offices.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leisure centres.</li> <li>▪ Sports facilities.</li> <li>▪ Swimming pools.</li> <li>▪ Wellness facilities, including saunas, solariums and salt caves.</li> <li>▪ Ski lifts and cable cars.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional leagues without viewers and under specific rules.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Czechia <sup>(37)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5 Purple	Effective from and to: 27/02/2021 – 21/03/2021
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p><b>Places with a high concentration of people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In places with a high concentration of people, it is necessary to have a respirator or other protective equipment without an exhalation valve with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2 /KN95).</li> <li>▪ These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stores</li> <li>- Service establishments</li> <li>- Medical facilities</li> <li>- Social care facilities</li> <li>- International airports</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Children from 3 to 15 years of age can use a surgical mask as protection, but a respirator is recommended as well.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other indoor spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In all indoor areas, it is mandatory to have the mouth and nose covered with a respirator or other protective device without an exhalation valve with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2/KN 95) or a surgical mask, with some exemptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The face covering does not need to be worn while being at home or other accommodation areas (e.g. especially hotel rooms).</li> <li>- The face covering does not need to be worn by children under the age of 3 or while being with people who live in the same household. This exemption also includes people who cannot wear a face covering because of a serious mental illness or intellectual impairment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ It is mandatory to wear a face mask when training indoors, only professional athletes are exempt from this rule.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obligation to cover your mouth and nose with a respirator or other protective device without an exhalation valve with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2 /KN 95) needs to be followed while travelling via any public transport, including bus/tram stops, train platforms and waiting rooms and taxi services.</li> <li>▪ Obligation to cover your mouth and nose with a respirator or other protective device without an exhalation valve, with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2/KN 95), also applies in the car.</li> <li>▪ Mandatory to wear a respirator while being at bus/tram stops or train platforms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The obligation to have the mouth and nose covered by a respirator or other protective device without an exhalation valve with a filtration efficiency of at least 94% (class FFP2/KN 95) or a surgical mask also applies to the workplace.</li> <li>▪ Employers must provide personal protective equipment to their employees.</li> <li>▪ You can remove the respirator or mask at the workplace only if you are completely alone in the room (e.g. you have a separate office).</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	N/A	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Denmark <sup>(41)</sup>	Current Level: Risk Level 5	Effective from and to: 01/03/2021 – 05/04/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The police regularly assess where there is a risk that many people will gather. These can include geographic areas, parks and squares.</li> <li>▪ Areas are categorized as either hotspots, warning zones or no-go zones (residence bans), depending on the risk of many people gathering in the area. All of these areas should be avoided.</li> <li>▪ The list of current hotspots, warning zones and residence bans is dynamic and subject to change. New areas may be added, and areas may be removed on the basis of dialogue between the police, municipalities, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hotspots</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotspots are areas where you can move freely, but where there is a risk that many people will gather.</li> <li>▪ Citizens are encouraged to avoid staying in hotspots as much as possible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Warning zones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warning zones are areas that you can move freely in, but where the police are extra present.</li> <li>▪ Thus, stricter supervision is carried out in the warning zones, and if the development constitutes an increased risk of infection, temporary residence bans can be introduced in the zones.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residence ban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People must not stay in areas with a residence ban.</li> <li>▪ Areas with a residence ban are areas where the police assess that there is a great risk that many people will gather, and it is therefore forbidden to stay in the area.</li> <li>▪ It is allowed to pass through the area, but you are not allowed to stay.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Social or mass gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assembly ban restricts gatherings to max 5 people, however, max 10 people if you are in a household together, are each other's closest relatives or in certain situations where your housing conditions so require.</li> <li>▪ The assembly ban does not apply in private homes and gardens adjacent to it, which only the residents have at their disposal.</li> <li>▪ The assembly ban does not cover activities for socially disadvantaged children and young people up to and including the age of 21.</li> <li>▪ Recommendation of max 5 people in private homes incl. the household (unless the household is of more than 5 persons).</li> <li>▪ Recommendation for social contact with max 5 people, in addition to his household and workplace.</li> </ul> <p><b>Church services (including funerals and weddings)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The assembly ban does not apply to the Danish National Church and denominations outside the Danish National Church in premises that they have at their disposal when services are held.</li> <li>▪ The religious act of wedding, funeral or confirmation can be carried out if it takes place inside the church or in the premises of the religious community. The requirements for floor area, interior design, information and good hygiene must, if applicable, be met, and in any case a max 500 people can be present at the same time.</li> <li>▪ If the service is carried out outdoors, max 5 people.</li> <li>▪ At an outdoor funeral or burial or the part of a funeral or burial that takes place outdoors, max 50 people.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Denmark <sup>(41)</sup>	Current Level: Risk Level 5	Effective from and to: 01/03/2021 – 05/04/2021
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stores are generally open except shopping malls, arcades, bazaars, etc. as well as certain personal service professions.</li> <li>▪ Grocery stores, pharmacies, specialty stores with medical equipment, restaurants that sell takeaway as well as department stores where there is direct access to the store from the street can open, regardless of whether they are located in a shopping centre, etc.</li> <li>▪ Post offices, parcel shops, parcel delivery points and shops may, regardless of whether they are located in a shopping centre, etc., can open for the purpose of collection and possible payment of parcels and goods that have been pre-ordered or prepaid.</li> <li>▪ For premises, to which the public has access, an area of 7.5m<sup>2</sup> must be provided per customer.</li> <li>▪ For department stores under 2,000m<sup>2</sup>, an area of 10m<sup>2</sup> must be provided per customer.</li> <li>▪ For department stores between 2,000 and 4,999m<sup>2</sup>, an area of 10m<sup>2</sup> must be provided per customer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restaurants, bars, cafes and the like must stay closed.</li> <li>▪ Takeaway available but between 10pm and 5am beverages with an alcohol content of more than 1.2% cannot be sold for takeaway.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hotels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legally can stay open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pupils in primary school from 5th grade onwards have distance education.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pupils in lower and upper secondary school have distance education.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital teaching without attendance at higher education.</li> <li>▪ There may be a few exceptions in very special cases where attendance is necessary, including, for example, laboratory, clinic and workshop teaching, rehearsal rooms, etc.</li> <li>▪ Exams are exempt to the extent that conversion to digital exams is not practically possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouragement to travel outside rush hour and to walk or cycle on short journeys.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor cultural institutions require visitors to present documentation for negative testing that is no more than 72 hours old.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concert venues.</li> <li>▪ Indoor cultural institutions such as theatres, cinemas and museums.</li> <li>▪ Discos and nightclubs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The assembly ban for outdoor sports and association activities under organized auspices is max 25 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gyms.</li> <li>▪ Playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Indoor sports, association and leisure facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional athletes may train indoors in rooms that are closed to the public.</li> <li>▪ Professional athletes and the facilities used by the athletes before, during and after the completion of the sport are exempt from the small assembly ban. A max of 500 people may be present at a time. The number includes all persons present, including athletes, coaches, officials, etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p>Persons aged 12 and over must wear a face mask or visor in the following places:</p>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Denmark <sup>(41)</sup>	Current Level: Risk Level 5	Effective from and to: 01/03/2021 – 05/04/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On public transport, etc., including in trains, buses, taxis, ferries and at station areas. However, the requirement for a bandage does not apply at bus stops.</li> <li>▪ At restaurants where food, drinks or tobacco are served for consumption at the point of sale.</li> <li>▪ In the wholesale and retail trade and places that sell food and beverages that are not consumed at the point of sale (takeaway), etc.</li> <li>▪ In premises where cultural, sports and association activities are carried out, including museums, sports halls, fitness centres, art halls, venues, libraries, cultural centres, zoos, cinemas, theatres, association rooms, etc.</li> <li>▪ In rooms where the Danish National Church and denominations outside the Danish National Church carry out activities.</li> <li>▪ In job centres and in citizen service centres.</li> <li>▪ In day care, primary schools and after-school programs, etc.</li> <li>▪ At institutions that carry out preparatory education, youth education, Danish education for adult foreigners etc., adult and continuing education, higher education, Folkeuniversitetet, day colleges, evening schools, music and culture schools, driving schools that carry out theory teaching, and folk high schools etc.</li> <li>▪ Public and private hospitals and clinics, clinics, etc. in the practice sector, municipal health services, municipal and private care centres and nursing homes, relief places as well as a number of placements and housing services in the social area.</li> <li>▪ During the conduct of practical driving tests, indicative health driving tests and at final tests in driving when one is in a vehicle with others.</li> <li>▪ Tattoo, piercing, spa, body care, beauty and massage clinics, hairdressers and other rooms where services are provided, which by their nature involve close physical contact with customers, and tanning beds.</li> <li>▪ When persons who are infected or at risk of being infected with new coronavirus and exceptionally have to break self-isolation and move out, e.g. in connection with tests, a mouth guard is recommended.</li> <li>▪ When people at increased risk of a serious course of COVID-19 are in a situation where they or others around them may have difficulty keeping a distance of 2m, e.g. during a celebration, the use of a mouth guard may be considered as extra protection.</li> <li>▪ When persons must visit a person at increased risk with whom they do not share a household, e.g. a person living in a nursing home. Here, the use of a sanitary napkin can be considered if it is not possible to keep a minimum distance of 2m due to care and physical care.</li> <li>▪ At large gatherings, such as demonstrations and processions, where it can be difficult to keep your distance, bandages are recommended.</li> <li>▪ When close face-to-face contact is unavoidable, bandages are recommended.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Regional restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The regions in Denmark may be at different levels of risk, and measures may be implemented geographically differently ensuring that the right combination of measures is implemented to keep infection down, while keeping society as open as possible.</li> <li>▪ The measures will depend on where in society infections are and which measures the health authorities consider to be most effective.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

France <sup>(30)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Various – Various
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nationwide curfew in place from 6pm to 6am.</li> <li>▪ Trips without derogatory certificates are prohibited from 6pm to 6am.</li> <li>▪ Regional/departmental weekend lockdowns in place in some areas.</li> <li>▪ Teleworking remains strongly recommended.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Mass Gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 6 people on public roads with the exception of protest demonstrations declared to relevant authorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worship services are allowed in accordance with a sanitary protocol and allowing 2 seats to be left free between each person or family entity and to occupy only 1 row out of 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 30 people at funeral ceremonies.</li> <li>▪ Cemeteries will not close.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 6 people.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All shops and home services open until 6pm as part of a strict health protocol.</li> <li>▪ Bookstores, record stores, libraries and archives also open under the same conditions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Restaurants and bars</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remain closed. Restaurants open for take-away only.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nurseries, schools and colleges are open with a reinforced health protocol including the wearing of a compulsory mask from the age of 6 years.</li> <li>▪ Organised school activities are permitted.</li> <li>▪ Extracurricular and sports activities for children are permitted outside only.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High schools remain open with reduced face-to-face lessons.</li> <li>▪ There must be a guarantee of at least 50% face-to-face teaching for each student.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning courses, except for practical work and vocational training which cannot be held at a distance.</li> <li>▪ Wearing a mask is still compulsory and mixing between the different levels should be avoided as much as possible.</li> <li>▪ Tutorials have resumed in half-groups for first year students.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is no restriction on travel during the day and therefore no need for a travel certificate between 6am and 6pm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parks and gardens.</li> <li>▪ Beaches, lakes and bodies of water.</li> <li>▪ Libraries, archives, and bookstores.</li> <li>▪ Galleries.</li> <li>▪ Artistic establishments relating to performing arts and plastic arts, in particular music schools and conservatories, are authorized to accommodate underage students, except for singing lessons.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

France <sup>(30)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Various – Various
	<p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theatres, shows and cinemas although professional artists wishing to rehearse or to record can go these establishments.</li> <li>▪ Play centres.</li> <li>▪ Zoos.</li> <li>▪ Sports halls, casinos, gaming rooms, fairs.</li> <li>▪ Nightclubs.</li> <li>▪ Winter sports resorts.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children's sports activities may continue but must take place near or within the school premises.</li> <li>▪ Individual outdoor sports activities permitted.</li> <li>▪ Extra-curricular outdoor activities permitted.</li> <li>▪ Amateur sports competitions are suspended.</li> <li>▪ Sports halls are closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional sports competitions can take place but must be done behind closed doors.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facemasks are compulsory in school from 6 years of age.</li> <li>▪ Facemasks must be worn in all open shops.</li> <li>▪ Facemasks must be worn on all public transport.</li> <li>▪ Facemasks must be worn if social distancing can't be respected.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific local area restrictions may also be in place.</li> <li>▪ 23 departments are currently under enhanced surveillance.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Germany <sup>(36)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Various – 28/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People are asked to refrain from non-essential travel for personal reasons and from visiting people, including relatives.</li> <li>▪ Home working has been extended until 30 April.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Social gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advised to limit contact with people as far as possible.</li> <li>▪ Private get-togethers with friends, relatives and acquaintances limited to your own household and to one other household, but in any case max 5 people. Children up to 14 years of age are generally exempt from this. In the state of Berlin, for example, only children up to the age of 12 are exempt from the contact restrictions.</li> <li>▪ If the 7-day incidence in a region is below 35 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants, 3 households with a max of 10 people can come together. Children up to the age of 14 are not counted.</li> <li>▪ If the 7-day incidence in a federal state or region rises to over 100 per 100,000 inhabitants on 3 consecutive days, the contact restriction is tightened again. A private get-together is then limited to your own household and 1 other person.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious celebrations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special religious celebrations such as baptisms, circumcisions and weddings as well as funeral services may take place in small groups. The details are regulated by the respective federal states.</li> <li>▪ Religious acts that attract large numbers of visitors should be avoided (for example pilgrimages or processions).</li> <li>▪ Congregation and choir singing as well as orchestral accompaniment are not recommended.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retail trade can open where there is an incidence of less than 50 per 100,000 inhabitants with square meter restrictions. If the incidence is over 50, "Click and Collect" applies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hairdressers open.</li> <li>▪ Personal services open - if a mask cannot be worn during the services (such as with cosmetic facial treatments) a daily negative rapid test must be presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restaurants and cafés, as well as bars, pubs and similar establishments closed.</li> <li>▪ Exceptions are permitted for the delivery and collection of food that can be taken away and consumed at home, and for the operation of canteens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accommodation in Germany will now only be provided for necessary and explicitly non-tourism purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bookshops open.</li> <li>▪ Flower shops and garden centres open with hygiene measures and customer restrictions.</li> <li>▪ Driving and flight schools open but students must have a negative test.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elementary schools are open with some schools rotating face-to-face and distance learning.</li> <li>▪ Measures vary between states.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secondary school students undertaking state exams this year have returned to the classroom.</li> <li>▪ Measures vary between states with some returning all together and others doing so on rotation.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Germany <sup>(36)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Various – 28/03/2021
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are asked to generally refrain from non-essential travel for personal reasons and from visiting people, including relatives.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoos, zoological gardens, animal parks, museums and galleries can open if there is a 7-day incidence of less than 50 new infections per 100,000 in a region.</li> <li>These facilities can open where incidence is &gt;50/100,000 inhabitants provided an appointment is made and visitors are documented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutions and facilities classified as recreational including theatres, cinemas, amusement parks, amusement arcades, brothels, and similar facilities.</li> <li>Clubs, discotheques, and similar establishments.</li> <li>Events for the purposes of entertainment are prohibited.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual sport engaged in alone, in pairs or with your own household is permitted.</li> <li>Institutions and facilities classified as recreational are closed including gyms and similar facilities, recreational and amateur sport in all public and private sports venues.</li> <li>For regions with a 7-day incidence below 50, max 10 people can meet outdoors for non-contact sport.</li> <li>In places with an incidence between 50 and 100, two households with max 5 people can meet for exercise.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional sports events may only take place without spectators.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face masks are mandatory in all public places.</li> <li>A surgical mask (mouth and nose protection, MNS) or an FFP2 mask (or KN95 or N95 mask) should be worn on buses, trains and in shops.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All opening steps are with an emergency brake so if the 7-day incidence rises above 100/100,000, the rules that were in effect until 7 March will come back into effect.</li> <li>The federal and state governments will discuss further opening steps at their next meeting on 22 Mar 2021.</li> <li>If there is a stable or falling incidence for 14 days, the next opening step will be on 22 March at the earliest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would include outdoor catering if the incidence is below 50/100,000, with prior booking required if the incidence is over 50/100,000.</li> <li>It would include cinemas, theatres, concert and opera houses with a requirement for a rapid test where incidence &gt;50/100,000.</li> <li>It may include certain sporting events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A further opening step will be considered no earlier than 14 days later, i.e. on 5 April. The focus then is on opening up the retail trade if the incidence remains stable, as well as further sports opportunities. If the incidence is below 50, outdoor leisure events with a max of 50 participants may be possible.</li> <li>If the incidence is over 100/100,000 on 3 consecutive days, measures in place before 8 March may have to be reintroduced.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Ireland <sup>(26)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5	Effective from and to: 24/12/2020 – 05/04/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People are required to stay at home except for travel for work, education or other essential purposes.</li> <li>▪ People are permitted to take exercise within 5km of home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>In your home or garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No visitors permitted in private homes or gardens except for essential family reasons such as providing care to children, elderly or vulnerable people, or as part of a support bubble.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other settings outside your home or garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No social or family gatherings should take place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Organised outdoor gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No organised outdoor gatherings should take place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Organised indoor gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No organised indoor gatherings should take place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Services online.</li> <li>▪ Places of worship open for private prayer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 6 guests.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 10 mourners.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail and services (for example, hairdressers, beauticians, barbers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All retail closed except for essential retail.</li> <li>▪ All non-essential services closed.</li> <li>▪ Click and collect for non-essential retail outlets not permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage (including hotel restaurants and bars)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take away food and delivery only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open only for essential non-social and non-tourist purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wet pubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special schools</li> <li>- Junior and Senior infants, 1st and 2nd class.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face education for final year Leaving Certificate classes.</li> </ul>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Ireland <sup>(26)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5	Effective from and to: 24/12/2020 – 05/04/2021
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Higher, further and adult education should remain primarily online.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walk or cycle where possible.</li> <li>▪ Avoid public transport - except for essential workers and essential purposes only.</li> <li>▪ Public transport capacity will be restricted to 25%.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries will be available for browsing, e-services, and call and collect. No seating or events.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor playgrounds, play areas and parks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nightclubs, discos and casinos.</li> <li>▪ Museums, galleries and other cultural attractions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Exercise and sport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People may meet with people from 1 other household in outdoor settings when taking exercise.</li> <li>▪ No indoor or outdoor exercise group activities, including those involving children.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor golf and tennis are not permitted.</li> <li>▪ Individual training only.</li> <li>▪ No exercise or dance classes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gyms, leisure centres and swimming pools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gyms, leisure centres and swimming pools closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional and elite sports, horse-racing and greyhound racing are permitted to continue behind closed doors.</li> <li>▪ No other matches or events are to take place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Face coverings must be worn by those aged 13 years and over in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shops, including pharmacies</li> <li>- supermarkets</li> <li>- shopping centres</li> <li>- libraries</li> <li>- cinemas and cinema complexes</li> <li>- theatres</li> <li>- concert halls</li> <li>- bingo halls</li> <li>- museums</li> <li>- nail salons</li> <li>- hair salons and barbers</li> <li>- tattoo and piercing parlours</li> <li>- travel agents and tour operators</li> <li>- laundries and dry cleaners</li> <li>- betting shops and bookmakers</li> <li>- on public transport.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ In restaurants and cafes (including pubs that serve food and hotel restaurants), face coverings must be worn by staff in customer facing roles where no</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Ireland <sup>(26)</sup>	Current Level: Level 5	Effective from and to: 24/12/2020 – 05/04/2021
	<p>other protective measures are in place, for example: protective screens and where physical distancing of 2m is not possible. They must also be worn by customers when arriving to and leaving their table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teachers, Special Needs Assistants and other staff and students attending post primary schools are required to wear a face covering when a physical distance of 2m from other staff and students cannot be maintained.</li> <li>▪ Wearing of face coverings is also recommended in the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- by people visiting the homes of those who are over 70 years of age or who are medically vulnerable</li> <li>- by people who are being visited in their homes by those who are over 70 years of age or who are medically vulnerable</li> <li>- if travelling in a vehicle with someone you don't live with</li> <li>- crowded workplaces</li> <li>- places of worship</li> <li>- busy or crowded outdoor spaces where there is significant congregation</li> <li>- in circumstances where 2m distance can't be maintained.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeted return for face-to-face teaching of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class on 15 March.</li> <li>▪ Targeted return for face-to-face teaching of 5th years on 15 March.</li> <li>▪ Targeted return for face-to-face teaching of 1st to 4th years on 12 April.</li> </ul> <p>▪ The situation will be subject to ongoing review taking account of the evolving epidemiological situation and available evidence in relation to vaccine deployment, uptake and effectiveness.</p> <p>▪ However, public health advice is that it is too early to say how and when other restrictions should be eased given current uncertainties.</p> <p>▪ Government will meet in advance of the 5th of April to review the level of restrictions.</p>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Italy <sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Basilica, Campania and Molise)	Current Level: Red area (maximum risk)	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 –14/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew from 10pm to 5am.</li> <li>▪ Forbidden to travel within one's own municipality, from one municipality to another and from one region to another, except for reasons of work, urgent matters, and health.</li> <li>▪ Strongly recommended to refrain from travelling by public or private means of transport, with the exception of work, study and health related reasons, any urgent matters, or when carrying out activities or using services that are still available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Travel to private dwellings other than one's own are not allowed, unless they are due to work, necessity or health reasons.</li> <li>▪ Gatherings of people in public places or places open to the public is forbidden.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Religious functions with the participation of people can be carried out, as long as they comply with the protocols signed by the Government with their respective confessions.</li> <li>▪ Burials are allowed respecting the interpersonal distance of 1metre between those assisting at the burial.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed, except for supermarkets, food, newsstands, tobacconists, pharmacies and parapharmacies and launderettes. Home delivery is permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed 7 days a week.</li> <li>▪ Take-away from 5am until 6pm allowed without restrictions.</li> <li>▪ Take-away from 6pm until 10pm not allowed for businesses whose main activity is without a kitchen or is retail trade in beverages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hotels</b></p> <p>Hotel restaurants are open to guests staying there.</p>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forbidden to travel from one region to another and from one municipality to another, even within one's own municipality, except for reasons of work, urgent matters, and health.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Museums and exhibition halls.</li> <li>▪ Theatres and cinemas, although spaces can be used to stream events.</li> <li>▪ Amusement arcades, betting rooms and bingo facilities (also in bars and tobacco shops).</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exercise in proximity of home and individual outdoors sports activities are allowed.</li> <li>▪ All sports competitions suspended.</li> <li>▪ Activities in sports centres suspended.</li> <li>▪ Gyms closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Those recognised as being of national interest by the International Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

<b>Italy<sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Basilica, Campania and Molise)</b>	<b>Current Level: Red area (maximum risk)</b>	<b>Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 –14/03/2021</b>
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mandatory to carry a face mask with you at all times.</li> <li>▪ These must be worn, not only in closed spaces accessible to the public, as in the past, but also in indoor spaces in general, other than private homes, and also in all outdoor spaces.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face mask is also strongly recommended in private homes, if there are non-residents visiting.</li> <li>▪ Exceptions are made in cases where, due to the characteristics of the place or the actual circumstances, the condition of isolation from non-residents is continuously guaranteed.</li> <li>▪ Children under 6 years of age, people with pathologies or disabilities incompatible with the use of a face mask and those who interact with the latter, are excluded from the obligation to wear a face mask.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face will not be mandatory during any sports activity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March, 11 regions will be classified as Red.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Italy <sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Abruzzo, Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Marche, PA Bolzano, PA Trento, Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria, Veneto)	Current Level: Orange area (high risk)	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 14/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew from 10pm to 5am, unless there are proven reasons for work, necessity, and health, with the recommendation not to travel except for health, work, study reasons or urgent matters.</li> <li>▪ Movements to other municipalities are allowed only for proven work needs, situations of necessity or health reasons.</li> <li>▪ Strongly recommended to refrain from travelling by public or private means of transport, with the exception of work, study and health related reasons, any urgent matters, or when carrying out activities or using services that are still available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visits by up to 2 people to another private home are allowed, once a day between 5am and 10pm, in the same Region or Autonomous Province. The person or 2 people can also bring children under 14, disabled or non self-sufficient people living with them.</li> <li>▪ People who live in a municipality with up to 5,000 inhabitants are also allowed to move, between 5am and 10pm, within 30 km from the border of their municipality (therefore possibly also into another region or autonomous province)</li> <li>▪ Gatherings of people in public places or places open to the public is forbidden.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Religious functions with the participation of people can be carried out, as long as they comply with the protocols signed by the Government with their respective confessions.</li> <li>▪ Burials are allowed respecting the interpersonal distance of 1metre between those assisting at the burial.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open but on public holidays and pre-holidays, the shops inside the shopping centres and markets are closed except for pharmacies, parapharmacies, food shops, tobacconists, and newsagents inside the shopping centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed 7 days a week.</li> <li>▪ Take-away from 5am until 6pm allowed without restrictions.</li> <li>▪ Take-away from 6pm until 10pm not allowed for businesses whose main activity is without a kitchen or is retail trade in beverages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hotels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotel restaurants are open to guests staying there.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pre-schools, primary schools, and middle schools open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online schooling for high schools, except for students with disabilities and in the case of the use of laboratories.</li> <li>▪ From 7 Jan, face-to-face teaching activities must be guaranteed to 75% of the student population.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning but based on the progress of the epidemiological framework, universities can make plans for the organisation of teaching and curricular activities to be carried out remotely or in person.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Movements to other municipalities are allowed only for proven work needs, situations of necessity or health reasons.</li> <li>▪ Strongly recommended to refrain from travelling by public or private means of transport, with the exception of work, study and health related reasons, any urgent matters, or when carrying out activities or using services that are still available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Italy <sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Abruzzo, Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Marche, PA Bolzano, PA Trento, Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria, Veneto)	Current Level: Orange area (high risk)	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 14/03/2021
	<p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Museums and exhibition halls.</li> <li>▪ Theatres and cinemas, although spaces can be used to stream events.</li> <li>▪ Amusement arcades, betting rooms and bingo facilities (also in bars and tobacco shops).</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exercise in proximity of home and individual outdoors sports activities are allowed.</li> <li>▪ All sports competitions suspended.</li> <li>▪ Activities in sports centres suspended.</li> <li>▪ Gyms closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Those recognised as being of national interest by the International Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mandatory to carry a face mask with you at all times.</li> <li>▪ These must be worn, not only in closed spaces accessible to the public, as in the past, but also in indoor spaces in general, other than private homes, and also in all outdoor spaces.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face mask is also strongly recommended in private homes, if there are non-residents visiting.</li> <li>▪ Exceptions are made in cases where, due to the characteristics of the place or the actual circumstances, the condition of isolation from non-residents is continuously guaranteed.</li> <li>▪ Children under 6 years of age, people with pathologies or disabilities incompatible with the use of a face mask and those who interact with the latter, are excluded from the obligation to wear a face mask.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face will not be mandatory during any sports activity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March, 5 regions will be classified as Orange.</li> <li>▪ On the 3, 4 and 5 April 2021, throughout the national territory, with the exception of the Regions or Autonomous Provinces whose territories are located in the white zone, the measures established for the red zone will apply.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Italy <sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Aosta Valley, Apulia, Calabria, Lazio, Liguria, Sicily)	Current Level: Yellow area	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 14/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew from 10pm to 5am, unless there are proven reasons for work, necessity, and health, with the recommendation not to travel except for health, work, study reasons or urgent matters.</li> <li>▪ Movements to other municipalities are allowed only for proven work needs, situations of necessity or health reasons.</li> <li>▪ Strongly recommended to refrain from travelling by public or private means of transport, with the exception of work, study and health related reasons, any urgent matters, or when carrying out activities or using services that are still available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visits by max 2 people to another private home are allowed, once a day between 5am and 10pm, in the same Region or Autonomous Province. The person or 2 people can also bring children under 14, disabled or non self-sufficient people living with them.</li> <li>▪ Gatherings of people in public places or places open to the public is forbidden.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religious services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Religious functions with the participation of people can be carried out, as long as they comply with the protocols signed by the Government with their respective confessions.</li> <li>▪ Burials are allowed respecting the interpersonal distance of 1metre between those assisting at the burial.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open but on public holidays and pre-holidays, the shops inside the shopping centres and markets are closed except for pharmacies, parapharmacies, food shops, tobacconists, and newsagents inside the shopping centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open to consume food and drinks inside between 5am and 6pm.</li> <li>▪ Take-away allowed without restriction between 5am and 6pm.</li> <li>▪ Take-away from 6pm until 10pm not allowed for businesses whose main activity is without a kitchen or is retail trade in beverages.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pre-schools, primary schools, and middle schools open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online schooling for high schools, except for students with disabilities and in the case of the use of laboratories.</li> <li>▪ From 7 Jan, face-to-face teaching activities must be guaranteed to 75% of the student population.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning but based on the progress of the epidemiological framework, universities can make plans for the organisation of teaching and curricular activities to be carried out remotely or in person.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Movements to other municipalities are allowed only for proven work needs, situations of necessity or health reasons.</li> <li>▪ Strongly recommended to refrain from travelling by public or private means of transport, with the exception of work, study and health related reasons, any urgent matters, or when carrying out activities or using services that are still available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries.</li> <li>▪ Museums and cultural sights from Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theatres and cinemas, although spaces can be used to stream events.</li> <li>▪ Amusement arcades, betting rooms and bingo facilities (also in bars and tobacco shops).</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exercise in proximity of home and individual outdoors sports activities are allowed.</li> <li>▪ All sports competitions suspended.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Italy <sup>(11)</sup> (Regions of Aosta Valley, Apulia, Calabria, Lazio, Liguria, Sicily)	Current Level: Yellow area	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 14/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activities in sports centres suspended.</li> <li>▪ Gyms closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Those recognised as being of national interest by the International Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mandatory to carry a face mask with you at all times.</li> <li>▪ These must be worn, not only in closed spaces accessible to the public, as in the past, but also in indoor spaces in general, other than private homes, and also in all outdoor spaces.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face mask is also strongly recommended in private homes, if there are non-residents visiting.</li> <li>▪ Exceptions are made in cases where, due to the characteristics of the place or the actual circumstances, the condition of isolation from non-residents is continuously guaranteed.</li> <li>▪ Children under 6 years of age, people with pathologies or disabilities incompatible with the use of a face mask and those who interact with the latter, are excluded from the obligation to wear a face mask.</li> <li>▪ The use of a face will not be mandatory during any sports activity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March, 4 regions will be classified as Yellow.</li> <li>▪ From 15 March to 6 April 2021, the same measures as the orange zone apply to the Regions in the yellow zone.</li> <li>▪ On the 3, 4 and 5 April 2021, throughout the national territory, with the exception of the Regions or Autonomous Provinces whose territories are located in the white zone, the measures established for the red zone will apply.</li> <li>▪ From 27 March, museums located in yellow areas will also be able to open on Saturdays and public holidays, provided that visitors book their tickets online or by telephone, at least 1 day in advance.</li> <li>▪ From 27 March, theatres and cinemas located in yellow areas will be able to reopen with pre-assigned seats. The capacity of the facility may not exceed 25% of the max capacity, up to 400 people outdoors and 200 indoors per theatre.</li> </ul>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Netherlands <sup>(27)</sup>	Current Level: Severe Level 4 – national lockdown	Effective from and to: 16/03/2021 – At least 30/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curfew between 9pm and 4.30am.</li> <li>▪ If people go outdoors during this time without having a valid reason to do so, they risk a €95 fine.</li> <li>▪ Stay at home as much as possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Households</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 1 visitor per day to your house (excluding children under 13).</li> <li>▪ Visit no more than 1 other household per day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 2 people or 1 household in a group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Events are generally banned and most indoor locations are currently closed.</li> <li>▪ At locations that are open, max 30 people provided everyone can keep 1.5m apart.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 50 mourners.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shops selling essentials, including supermarkets, greengrocers and chemists, may remain open.</li> <li>▪ Shops selling mainly groceries may remain open until 10pm. While the curfew is in force, these shops must close no later than 8.45pm and open no earlier than 6am.</li> <li>▪ Shops selling non-food essentials must close no later than 8pm and open no earlier than 6am.</li> <li>▪ Shops may not sell alcoholic drinks between 8pm and closing time.</li> <li>▪ Non-essential shops closed but shopping by appointment (See below), 'click and collect' and delivery allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shopping by appointment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shops allowed to admit 2 customers per floor or 1 customer per 25m<sup>2</sup>, up to max 50 customers at a time, if the shop is big enough.</li> <li>▪ Appointments must be made at least 4 hours in advance and each customer slot must be a min of 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People working in contact-based professions, like hairdressers and driving instructors, can perform their work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All establishments that serve food and drinks, including bars, cafes and restaurants must remain closed. Exceptions are: hotels serving hotel guests, funeral locations, airports (after security).</li> <li>▪ Take-away will still be possible.</li> <li>▪ Alcoholic drinks may not be picked up from takeaway restaurants after 8pm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partially open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remote teaching.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Netherlands <sup>(27)</sup>	Current Level: Severe Level 4 – national lockdown	Effective from and to: 16/03/2021 – At least 30/03/2021
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Travel as little as possible.</li> <li>▪ Use public transport for essential travel only.</li> <li>▪ Stay in the Netherlands. Do not travel abroad in the period up to and including 15 April.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small-scale, not-for-profit, managed outdoor playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Libraries and community centres only for collection and return of books and to support vulnerable people, including organised daytime activities and youth work (max 30 people).</li> <li>▪ Rehearsals and recordings by professional performing artists for online performances, can go ahead.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Adults</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only outdoor sports allowed.</li> <li>▪ Adults aged 18 to 26 can participate in team sports outdoors at sports facilities without staying 1.5m apart.</li> <li>▪ Adults aged 27 and over can participate in sports activities at outdoor sports facilities in groups of up to 4 people. They must stay 1.5m apart.</li> <li>▪ All indoor sports facilities remain closed.</li> <li>▪ Matches and competitions are not allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children aged 12 and under can attend swimming lessons to achieve their A, B or C diplomas.</li> <li>▪ Children can participate in team sports outdoors at sports facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elite athletes with a status at assigned locations (such as the National Sports Centre); footballers (including support staff in a 'bubble') in the Premier and First Divisions may take part in group sports.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p>Everyone aged 13 or over is required to wear a face mask for general use in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In buildings and covered spaces that are accessible to the public (in so far as these are open) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shops, town halls, airports, covered car parks and petrol stations</li> <li>- schools, while people are walking or standing but they can take off their face mask as soon as they have taken their seat.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Both customers and staff should wear a face mask in locations where contact-based professions are carried out.</li> <li>▪ On public transport, in stations, on platforms and at bus and tram stops.</li> </ul> <p>People do not have to wear a face mask in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While swimming in a swimming pool (but face masks should be worn in the changing room and by poolside trainers or supervisors).</li> <li>▪ In churches, mosques and other places of worship.</li> <li>▪ When they are unable to wear a face mask on medical grounds or because of other limitations.</li> <li>▪ When the face mask prevents them from doing their work properly and safely.</li> </ul> <p>Face shields do not offer the same level of protection as face masks and may not be worn as an alternative. However, if you are unable to wear a face mask you may choose to wear a face shield.</p>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to restrictions</b></p> <p>The government is planning to ease some restrictions as of 31 March as per below, but only if the number of intensive care admissions remains stable and the reproduction number stays close to or below 1. A decision on this will be taken on 23 March.</p> <p><b>Outdoor seating areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels, restaurants, cafés and bars may be allowed to open their outdoor seating areas subject to certain conditions.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Netherlands <sup>(27)</sup>	Current Level: Severe Level 4 – national lockdown	Effective from and to: 16/03/2021 – At least 30/03/2021
	<p><b>Retail shops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shops may be given more scope to open further.</li> </ul> <p><b>Visitors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People may be allowed to receive up to 2 visitors aged 13 or over at their homes each day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutions of higher professional education and universities may be allowed to offer students in-person classes at least 1 day per week, subject to certain conditions.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Portugal <sup>(28)</sup>	Current Level: Severe – General State of Emergency	Effective from and to: 02/03/2021 – 15/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay at home, leave only for the essentials.</li> <li>▪ Forbidden to move between municipalities between 8pm on Fridays and 5am on Mondays.</li> <li>▪ Teleworking is mandatory where feasible.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor movement must be limited to your own municipality and done on your own or with members of your own household only.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship &amp; religious ceremonies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ According to local Health Authority rules.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings and baptisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only stores that offer basic necessities or other essential goods or that provide basic necessities or other essential services may operate.</li> <li>▪ Grocery stores can operate until 8pm on weekdays and until 5pm on weekends and holidays.</li> <li>▪ All other establishments can operate until 8pm on weekdays and until 1pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.</li> </ul> <p><b>Restaurants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed except for take-away. Alcohol cannot be supplied after 8pm.</li> <li>▪ Those in shopping centres can only offer home delivery - no take-away from the premises.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bars and Nightclubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hotels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels, tourist establishments, local accommodation establishments can remain open, as well as those establishments that guarantee student accommodation.</li> <li>▪ Bars and restaurants of the hotels can function for room service or take-away.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattoo and piercing services etc. closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning with limited exceptions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students needing therapeutic support</li> <li>- children of essential service workers</li> <li>- students at risk or danger signalled by the child and youth protection commission and whose school considers distance learning ineffective and they are in particular danger of school dropout.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning with limited exceptions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students needing therapeutic support</li> <li>- children of essential service workers</li> <li>- students at risk or danger signalled by the child and youth protection commission and whose school considers distance learning ineffective and they are in particular danger of school dropout.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distance learning only.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Portugal <sup>(28)</sup>	Current Level: Severe – General State of Emergency	Effective from and to: 02/03/2021 – 15/03/2021
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public transport continues to operate with the necessary adjustments to serve the population.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<b>Closed</b>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical activity and individual outdoor sports are allowed.</li> <li>Outdoor individual training can be supported by a coach as long as the rules are respected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gyms.</li> <li>Leisure centres.</li> <li>Golf courses, tennis courts and paddle courts.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and competitive activities for athletes from national Olympic and Paralympic teams, from the 1st national division, from competitions of corresponding competitive level, as well as for international championships are permitted within guidelines.</li> <li>Public attendance not allowed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facemask use is mandatory in closed public spaces, such as commercial establishments and on public transport.</li> <li>Mandatory use of facemasks in the workplace.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to restrictions.</b> The Government has established an easing plan, crossing several scientific criteria, divided into 4 phases and with a period of 15 days between each phase, in order to be able to assess the impacts of the measures on the evolution of the pandemic.</p> <p><b>General rules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teleworking whenever possible.</li> <li>Opening hours of establishments: 9:00 pm during the week; 1 pm on weekends and holidays and 7pm for food retail.</li> <li>Prohibition of movement between municipalities on the 20 and 21 of March and in the Easter period (between the 26 March and 5 April).</li> </ul> <p><b>From 15 March the following open/resume:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site educational and teaching activities resume in public, private and cooperative education establishments and in the social and solidarity sector, pre-school education and the 1st cycle of basic education.</li> <li>Activities in person, family support and curriculum enrichment, as well as activities provided in leisure time centres and study centres and the like, only for children and students who resume educational and teaching activities.</li> <li>Possibility of restarting home delivery and click and collect of non-essential goods.</li> <li>Non-food retail and service provision activities can open until 9pm on weekdays and 1pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.</li> <li>Food retail activities close at 9pm on weekdays and at 7pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.</li> <li>Take-away drinks are allowed in restaurants and similar establishments.</li> <li>Hairdressing salons, barbers, beauty salons and similar establishments are allowed to operate by appointment.</li> <li>Establishments for the sale of books and musical supports is allowed.</li> <li>Parks, gardens, green spaces and leisure spaces, as well as libraries and archives can open.</li> </ul> <p>From 5 April the following open/resume:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd and 3rd cycle social facilities in the area of disability.</li> <li>Museums, monuments, palaces, art galleries and the like.</li> <li>Stores up to 200 m2 with door to the street.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Portugal <sup>(28)</sup>	Current Level: Severe – General State of Emergency	Effective from and to: 02/03/2021 – 15/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fairs and non-food markets (by municipal decision).</li> <li>▪ Terraces (max 4 people per table)</li> <li>▪ Low-risk sports</li> <li>▪ Outdoor physical activity for max 4 people and gyms without group classes.</li> </ul> <p><b>From 19 April the following open/resume:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High schools.</li> <li>▪ University education.</li> <li>▪ Cinemas, theatres, auditoriums, theatres.</li> <li>▪ Citizen stores with face-to-face service by appointment.</li> <li>▪ All stores and shopping centres.</li> <li>▪ Restaurants, cafes and pastries (max 4 people or 6, per table, on terraces) until 10pm or 1pm at weekends and holidays.</li> <li>▪ Medium-risk sports</li> <li>▪ Outdoor physical activity for up to 6 people and gyms without group classes.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor events with reduced capacity.</li> <li>▪ Weddings and baptisms with a 25% capacity.</li> </ul> <p><b>From 3 May the following open/resume:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restaurants, cafes and pastries (max 6 people or 10, per table, on terraces) with no time limit</li> <li>▪ All sports.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor physical activity and gyms.</li> <li>▪ Large outdoor events and indoor events with reduced capacity.</li> <li>▪ Weddings and baptisms with 50% capacity.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Spain <sup>(31)</sup>	Current Level: National State of Alarm	Effective from and to: 27/10/2020 – Uncertain
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A nationwide curfew between 11pm and 6am with a number of exceptions.</li> <li>▪ Each regional government may modify the start from between 10pm and midnight and the end from between 5am and 7am.</li> <li>▪ Each regional government may decide on limitations on the arrival to and departure from their regions, which may cover the whole or part of the region.</li> <li>▪ Each regional government may limit gatherings in public or private spaces to a max of 6 people unless from the same household.</li> <li>▪ Covers the whole country except the Canary Islands where the epidemiological situation is better.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>General gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each regional government may limit gatherings in public or private spaces to a max of 6 people unless from the same household.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max capacity - 1/3rd.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funeral services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wakes - max 15 people in outdoor spaces/10 in closed spaces, whether or not they are living together.</li> <li>▪ Entourage for the burial or cremation of the deceased person - max 15 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Establishments, commercial premises and services open to the public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum capacity - 50%.</li> <li>▪ Closing time may not exceed 10pm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Hotels, Restaurants, Gaming and Betting establishments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max capacity 50% indoors and 60% outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Consumption at bar not permitted.</li> <li>▪ Tables or groups of tables must keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters with respect to the chairs assigned to the other tables or groups of tables.</li> <li>▪ Max 6 people per table.</li> <li>▪ New customers cannot be admitted after 10pm</li> <li>▪ Closing time may not exceed 1 pm, with the exception of home delivery services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Academies, driving schools and private non-regulated education and training centres</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum capacity 50%.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not reported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regions will also have the authority to restrict the entrance to and exit from their territories unless this is for essential reasons such as going to work or to get to the doctor.</li> <li>▪ This would allow regions to close their borders should they have a neighbouring territory that is particularly hard hit by the virus.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 6 people for any activity or event of a social nature, both on public roads and in public and private spaces, unless from the same household.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In sports facilities, both outdoors and indoors, the max capacity is 50% indoors and 60% outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Max 6 people for group sports.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not reported.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Spain <sup>(31)</sup>	Current Level: National State of Alarm	Effective from and to: 27/10/2020 – Uncertain
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People aged 6 years and older are required to wear masks in the following instances:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on a public road or in an outdoor space where interpersonal distance is less than 1.5m</li> <li>- in closed spaces where interpersonal distance is less than 1.5m</li> <li>- always on public transport</li> <li>- in school and on school transport.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Exceptions include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people with respiratory illness of difficulty</li> <li>- people with disabilities or dependency who do not have the autonomy to remove the mask or who have behavioural disorders that make it unfeasible</li> <li>- cause of force majeure or situation of need</li> <li>- activities with which it is incompatible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Measures may vary between regions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Easter holiday restrictions</b></p> <p>A series of mandatory measures and recommendations have been introduced in all municipalities, except Madrid, both for the period between 17 and 21 March in those territories where the 19 March is a holiday, and from 26 March 26 to 9 April in all other territories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Large events that involve crowding should not be held.</li> <li>▪ Travel between municipalities will be restricted except for the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands.</li> <li>▪ Night time mobility will be limited at most from 11pm to 6am.</li> <li>▪ Meetings in closed public spaces will be limited to a max 4 people and 6 in open public spaces.</li> <li>▪ In private spaces meetings will be limited to cohabitants.</li> <li>▪ The alert level in which each autonomous community finds itself from the 2 weeks prior to the start of Holy Week should not be lowered even if the indicators are favourable, and therefore measures established at that time should be maintained or increased if the evolution of the indicators require it.</li> </ul>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Sweden <sup>(40)</sup>	Current Level: Unreported	Effective from and to: Various - Various
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only employees who must be physically present to carry out their work should be present on authorities' premises (until 31 May).</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Public gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 8 people at public gatherings and events until further notice.</li> <li>▪ If a private gathering is held at an event venue, in a meeting room and at other rented premises, a maximum of eight people are allowed to attend.</li> <li>▪ Public gatherings include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gatherings that constitute demonstrations or which are otherwise held for discussion, expression of opinion or providing information on public or private matters</li> <li>- lectures and speeches held for the purposes of teaching or for public or civic education</li> <li>- gatherings for religious practice</li> <li>- theatrical and cinema performances, concerts and other gatherings for the performance of artistic work, and circus performances</li> <li>- other gatherings at which freedom of assembly is exercised.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Public events include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- competitions and exhibitions in sports and aviation</li> <li>- dance performances</li> <li>- fairground amusements and parades</li> <li>- markets and fairs</li> <li>- other events not regarded as public gatherings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Schools, public transport, private events and visits to shops are excluded.</p> <p><b>Funeral services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 20 people permitted at funerals services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open.</li> <li>▪ Max of 500 people may simultaneously visit a department store or shop (until 11 April).</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dining party size at any 1 table limited to max 4 people. If a party is larger than 8 people, they must be divided between several tables with at least 1m between them.</li> <li>▪ Venues serving food and drink must close no later than 8.30pm (from 1 March).</li> <li>▪ The serving of alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverage-like preparations is prohibited between 8pm and 11am.</li> <li>▪ Any catering establishment that is located in a shopping centre, such as shopping malls, can only serve customers eating alone. If a catering establishment has its own entrance, the limit of 1 person per party does not apply.</li> <li>▪ Businesses to supply food for collection (take-away).</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> <li>▪ Teaching at the country's upper secondary schools may be conducted as a combination of distance education or distance education and face-to-face education.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All forms of education above upper secondary school level are to be regarded as workplaces because the students are adults.</li> <li>▪ The same applies to education at upper secondary level within folk high schools and municipal adult education.</li> <li>▪ At present, everyone who can is encouraged to work from home, which means that the starting point for these educations is distance learning.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Sweden <sup>(40)</sup>	Current Level: Unreported	Effective from and to: Various - Various
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoid public transport and other means of transport where it is not possible to book a seat.</li> <li>▪ On buses and trains that have line distances of more than 15 miles, the number of passengers may not be more than half of the vehicle's seat capacity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 8 people at public gatherings and events until further notice.</li> <li>▪ If a private gathering is held at an event venue, in a meeting room and at other rented premises, a max of 8 people are allowed to attend.</li> <li>▪ Public gatherings include theatrical and cinema performances, concerts and other gatherings for the performance of artistic work, and circus performances.</li> <li>▪ Public events include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dance performances</li> <li>- fairground amusements and parades</li> <li>- other events not regarded as public gatherings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Young people born in 2002 or later may participate in organised sports and leisure activities, both indoors and outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Max of 500 people may simultaneously visit a swimming centre, gym or sports facility (until 11 April).</li> <li>▪ Max 8 people at public events including sports competitions and exhibitions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p><b>Face masks on public transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 7 January 2021, people born in 2004 or earlier and travelling on public transport without assigned seating are recommended to wear a mask during weekdays from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm.</li> <li>▪ Individuals who are, for medical reasons, unable to wear a mask are exempt from this advice.</li> <li>▪ The Public Health Agency of Sweden are recommending that companies operating public transport provide masks for any travellers who have not been able to acquire their own.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Regional Restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Public Health agency of Sweden may introduce stricter guidelines in the individual 18 regions.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

England <sup>(10)</sup>	Current Level: National lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – Various
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay at home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Socialising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person.</li> <li>▪ No household mixing indoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 30 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 6 people.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only essential retail open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> <li>▪ Takeaway food and non-alcoholic drinks permitted between 5am and 11pm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal care services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels, B&amp;Bs, campsites, and guest houses must close with limited exceptions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March for practical higher education.</li> <li>▪ University students undertaking practical or practice-based courses who require specialist equipment and facilities can attend face-to-face teaching and learning with regular testing now in place. All other students should continue to learn remotely.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not reported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Libraries for click and collect.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Sculpture parks.</li> <li>▪ Stately or historic homes, castles or other heritage sites.</li> <li>▪ Botanical gardens.</li> <li>▪ Biomes or greenhouses.</li> <li>▪ Landmarks including observation decks and viewing platforms.</li> <li>▪ Community facilities (community centres and town and parish halls) for the purposes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- formal education or training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

England <sup>(10)</sup>	Current Level: National lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support groups</li> <li>- registered childcare or supervised activities for children</li> <li>- wedding ceremonies, funerals and wakes (numerical limits must be adhered to).</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sports and leisure facilities closed.</li> <li>▪ Indoor sport and exercise classes must not go ahead unless they are part of formal education or training or form a supervised activity for children.</li> <li>▪ Exercise classes and personal trainer sessions can continue to go ahead, but must only take place one-on-one unless everyone is within the same household or support bubble.</li> <li>▪ These should only go ahead in public outdoor places (such as a park) and not in private homes or gardens.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Businesses will be permitted to be open for elite sports persons to train and compete (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities).</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A face covering must be worn by those aged over 10 years in the following indoor settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- public transport (airplanes, trains, trams and buses)</li> <li>- taxis and private hire vehicles</li> <li>- transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals)</li> <li>- shops and supermarkets (places which offer goods or services for retail sale or hire)</li> <li>- shopping centres (malls and indoor markets)</li> <li>- auction houses</li> <li>- premises providing hospitality (bars, pubs, restaurants, cafes), except when seated at a table to eat or drink (see exemptions)</li> <li>- post offices, banks, building societies, high-street solicitors and accountants, credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses</li> <li>- estate and lettings agents</li> <li>- theatres</li> <li>- premises providing personal care and beauty treatments (hair salons, barbers, nail salons, massage centres, tattoo and piercing parlours)</li> <li>- premises providing veterinary services</li> <li>- visitor attractions and entertainment venues (museums, galleries, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, cultural and heritage sites, aquariums, indoor zoos and visitor farms, bingo halls, amusement arcades, adventure activity centres, indoor sports stadiums, funfairs, theme parks, casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas including soft-play areas)</li> <li>- libraries and public reading rooms</li> <li>- places of worship</li> <li>- funeral service providers (funeral homes, crematoria and burial ground chapels)</li> <li>- community centres, youth centres and social clubs</li> <li>- exhibition halls and conference centres</li> <li>- public areas in hotels and hostels</li> <li>- storage and distribution facilities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ A face covering should also be worn in indoor places not listed here where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where pupils and students in year 7 and above (and their equivalents) are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff, pupils and students when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils and students when outdoors on the premises.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

England <sup>(10)</sup>	Current Level: National lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is also now recommended that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above (and their equivalents) are educated, <b>face coverings should be worn in classrooms</b>, in other learning environments such as workshops, and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to restrictions from 29 March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.</li> <li>▪ Opening of outdoor sport and leisure facilities.</li> <li>▪ Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).</li> <li>▪ Minimise travel. No holidays.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor parent &amp; child groups (up to 15 parents).</li> </ul> <p><b>Roadmap out of lockdown</b>  <b>Step 1: 8 and 29 March</b>  <b>As above</b></p> <p><b>Step 2: not before 12 April</b>  <b>Business and activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- non-essential retail</li> <li>- personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons</li> <li>- public buildings, including libraries and community centres</li> <li>- indoor leisure facilities such as gyms (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups)</li> <li>- most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas</li> <li>- self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service').</li> <li>▪ Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.</li> </ul> <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While funerals can continue with max 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3: not before 17 May</b>  <b>Social contact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.</li> <li>▪ This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal.</li> <li>▪ Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.</li> <li>▪ As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business and activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

England <sup>(10)</sup>	Current Level: National lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits.</li> <li>▪ Indoor hospitality will reopen and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and nor will there be a curfew.</li> <li>▪ Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.</li> <li>▪ Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children’s play areas</li> <li>- the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&amp;Bs</li> <li>- indoor adult group sports and exercise classes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number).</li> <li>▪ In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).</li> </ul> <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of social distancing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission.</li> <li>▪ This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1m plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 4: not before 21 June</b></p> <p><b>Social contact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business, activities and events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3.</li> <li>▪ This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection.</li> <li>▪ The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Northern Ireland <sup>(38)</sup>	Current Level: Lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 31/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay at home and only leave your home for essential reasons.</li> <li>▪ Work from home unless unable to do so.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<p><b>Household gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No mixing of households in private dwellings or gardens.</li> <li>▪ One bubble can be formed with one other household.</li> <li>▪ No overnight stays from your home.</li> </ul> <p><b>Household Bubble gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 10 people from 2 households.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 10 people from 2 households.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed - online services only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 25 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings and civil partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 25 people.</li> <li>▪ A risk assessment for is required for more than 15 people.</li> <li>▪ No receptions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essential retail open.</li> <li>▪ Non-essential retail closed.</li> <li>▪ Click and collect for baby equipment; clothing; footwear and electrical goods.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hospitality sector closed.</li> <li>▪ Take-away services open until 11pm.</li> <li>▪ Off sales closed at 8pm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All tourism accommodation closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phased return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March.</li> <li>▪ Special schools open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phased return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March.</li> <li>▪ Special schools open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universities and Further Education to provide learning at distance except where it is essential to provide it face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No unnecessary travel.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Northern Ireland <sup>(38)</sup>	Current Level: Lockdown	Effective from and to: 08/03/2021 – 31/03/2021
<b>(including transport)</b>		
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public parks and outdoor play areas.</li> <li>▪ Libraries for 'call and collect' services and access to the internet.</li> <li>▪ Community centres with restrictions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor and indoor visitor attractions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gyms, swimming pools, indoor sport and exercise facilities closed.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor exercise with own household or with 1 person from another household.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elite sport permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p>Face coverings are required for those aged 13 years and over in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On public transport including school transport services (excludes junior pupils not yet receiving secondary education), in taxis, private buses, coaches and on aircraft, in train and bus stations and in airports. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- boarding any mode of public transport</li> <li>- when on board any mode of public transport and</li> <li>- when present on public transport premises or stops.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ In a shop or shopping centre. "Shop" means any building, room or other indoor establishment which is open to the public in whole or in part and is used wholly or mainly for the purposes of retail sale or hire of goods or services. This applies not only to ordinary day-to-day shopping for items such as clothes, food or electrical goods – a face covering is required in any other indoor place where goods or services are available to buy or rent. This includes, for example, a bookmakers, a food takeaway business, a dry cleaner etc.</li> <li>▪ In hospitality settings, such as takeaways.</li> <li>▪ When entering or leaving a place of worship and within a place of worship (this requirement is in the Principal Regulations).</li> <li>▪ In banks, building societies, credit unions and undertakings which by way of business operate a currency exchange office, transmit money (or any representation of money) by any means or cash cheques which are made payable to customers.</li> <li>▪ When visiting a government office e.g. jobs and benefits office.</li> </ul> <p>▪ Staff in retail, transport and hospitality settings should now also wear a face covering in areas accessible to the public, unless they are protected by a partition.</p>	
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Advised changes to Restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The current regulations are in place until 1 April 2021. They will be reviewed on 16 March 2021.</li> </ul>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Scotland – 2/32 local authority areas <sup>(43)</sup>	Current Level: Level 3	Effective from and to: Subject to regular review
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essential travel only to or from a level 3 local authority.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No in-home socialising.</li> <li>▪ Max 6 people from up to 2 households can meet outside their home.</li> <li>▪ Marches, parades and static demonstrations not permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open - max 50 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 20 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings/civil partnership registrations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 20 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other life events (e.g. christenings, bar mitzvahs) should not take place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open.</li> <li>▪ Close contacts services open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open until 5pm. Premises closed at 6pm.</li> <li>▪ No alcohol served.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for work related use.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open for face-to-face teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Colleges and universities can operate using a mix of face-to-restricted mix of face and distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active travel (walk, run, cycle, and wheel) where possible.</li> <li>▪ Essential use of public transport only.</li> <li>▪ Avoid car sharing with people not in your household.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public buildings open.</li> <li>▪ Visitor attractions open.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Indoors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual exercise only (exemption for under 18s).</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All permitted except adult (18+) contact sports.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permitted.</li> <li>▪ Stadia must be closed to spectators.</li> <li>▪ No live events are permitted.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Scotland – 2/32 local authority areas <sup>(43)</sup>	Current Level: Level 3	Effective from and to: Subject to regular review
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A face covering must be worn by law by all those aged 5yrs and over in the following places:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- health and social care settings, including staff, patients and visitors</li> <li>- public transport</li> <li>- workplaces (other than early learning or school settings)</li> <li>- any premises open to members of the public and used for the retail sale or hire of goods or services, such as shops, takeaway restaurants, pharmacies, estate agents, beauty parlours and shopping malls.</li> <li>- hospitality premises such as bars, pubs and cafes and restaurants, and canteens (including workplace canteens)</li> <li>- banks, building societies, credit unions and post offices</li> <li>- courts and tribunal buildings</li> <li>- places of worship</li> <li>- visitor attractions, indoor tourist, heritage or cultural sites such as museums and galleries, aquariums, indoor zoos or visitor farms,</li> <li>- entertainment venues such as cinemas, indoor theatres, comedy clubs, concert halls, soft play centres, bingo halls, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, snooker and pool halls, and other leisure facilities, indoor funfairs and indoor skating rinks</li> <li>- community centres</li> <li>- crematoriums and funeral directors' premises</li> <li>- libraries and public reading rooms</li> <li>- storage and distribution facilities, including collection and drop-off points</li> <li>- indoor fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres</li> <li>- sports stadiums</li> <li>- conference or exhibition centres</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Advised to wear a face covering in all other indoor places and where there is a risk of being within 2m of people who are not members of your household. This includes public toilets.</li> <li>▪ Recommended that you wear face coverings outdoors in situations where 2m physical distancing is not always possible, such as at the school gate or at the entrance to a building. In such circumstances you are expected to wear a face covering.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	N/A	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Scotland – 30/32 local authority areas <sup>(97)</sup>	Current Level: 'Stay at Home' (replaced Level 4)	Effective from and to: Subject to regular review
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only leave home if it's essential and avoid unnecessary travel.</li> <li>▪ Stay as close to home as possible.</li> <li>▪ Leaving home to go on holiday, in Scotland, the UK or abroad is not permitted.</li> <li>▪ Employers must support staff to work from home wherever possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No in-home socialising.</li> <li>▪ From 15 March, max 4 adults from up to 2 households can meet outside their home.</li> <li>▪ From 15 March, max 4 young people aged 12-17 years from up to 4 households can meet outside their home.</li> <li>▪ Marches, parades and static demonstrations not permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed for public acts of worship.</li> <li>▪ Open for the purpose of leading an act of worship (broadcast or online)</li> </ul> <p><b>Funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 20 people.</li> <li>▪ No post funeral events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings/civil partnership registrations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 5 people (6 if interpreter is required). No receptions allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other life events (e.g. christenings, bar mitzvahs) should not take place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essential retail open.</li> <li>▪ Non-essential retail closed.</li> <li>▪ Close contacts services closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars closed.</li> <li>▪ Takeaways can still operate as normal, provided food and drink is sold for consumption off the premises.</li> </ul> <p><b>Holiday accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All holiday accommodation closed to tourism.</li> <li>▪ Hotels, B&amp;Bs and self-catering can remain open for essential customers only.</li> <li>▪ Hotels and other accommodation providers can serve food to guests staying in their premises up to 10pm.</li> <li>▪ Room service, including alcohol, is allowed as normal.</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In-person school based learning for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- children of key workers</li> <li>- vulnerable pupils</li> <li>- pupils in primaries 1-3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Scotland – 30/32 local authority areas <sup>(97)</sup>	Current Level: 'Stay at Home' (replaced Level 4)	Effective from and to: Subject to regular review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pupils with additional support needs where there is a demonstrable and immediate need.</li> <li>- All other pupils will continue with remote learning at home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In-person school based learning for the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- children of key workers</li> <li>- vulnerable pupils</li> <li>- senior phase pupils (part-time and on a limited basis) to allow in-school practical work that is necessary for the completion of national qualification courses</li> <li>- pupils with additional support needs where there is a demonstrable and immediate need.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- All other pupils will continue with remote learning at home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colleges and universities can operate using a mix of face-to-restricted mix of face and distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stay at home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All indoor leisure and entertainment premises are closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Max 15 adults for outdoor non-contact sport and organised group exercise from 15 March.</li> <li>- Max 15 young people aged 12-17 years for outdoor non-contact sport and organised group exercise from 15 March and can travel across local council boundaries to take part in these activities.</li> <li>- Organised sport and exercise for under-12s can continue in line with guidance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor gyms.</li> <li>- Golf courses.</li> <li>- Tennis courts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indoor sports facilities closed.</li> <li>- Snow sport centres closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permitted.</li> <li>- Stadia must be closed to spectators.</li> <li>- No live events are permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A face covering must be worn by law by all those aged 5yrs and over in the following places:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- health and social care settings, including staff, patients and visitors</li> <li>- public transport</li> <li>- workplaces (other than early learning or school settings)</li> <li>- any premises open to members of the public and used for the retail sale or hire of goods or services, such as shops, takeaway restaurants, pharmacies, estate agents, beauty parlours and shopping malls.</li> <li>- hospitality premises such as bars, pubs and cafes and restaurants, and canteens (including workplace canteens)</li> <li>- banks, building societies, credit unions and post offices</li> <li>- courts and tribunal buildings</li> <li>- places of worship</li> <li>- visitor attractions, indoor tourist, heritage or cultural sites such as museums and galleries, aquariums, indoor zoos or visitor farms,</li> <li>- entertainment venues such as cinemas, indoor theatres, comedy clubs, concert halls, soft play centres, bingo halls, bowling alleys, amusement arcades,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Scotland – 30/32 local authority areas <sup>(97)</sup>	Current Level: 'Stay at Home' (replaced Level 4)	Effective from and to: Subject to regular review
	snooker and pool halls, and other leisure facilities, indoor funfairs and indoor skating rinks - community centres - crematoriums and funeral directors' premises - libraries and public reading rooms - storage and distribution facilities, including collection and drop-off points - indoor fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres - sports stadiums - conference or exhibition centres. ▪ Advised to wear a face covering in all other indoor places and where there is a risk of being within 2m of people who are not members of your household. This includes public toilets. ▪ Recommended that you wear face coverings outdoors in situations where 2m physical distancing is not always possible, such as at the school gate or at the entrance to a building. In such circumstances you are expected to wear a face covering.	
<b>Other</b>	<b>Advised changes to Restrictions</b> ▪ Plan to allow communal worship to restart with max 50 people from 26 March – this will depend on virus levels. ▪ The first minister will give indicative dates for the opening of shops, hairdressers, gyms and hospitality in the week commencing 15 March.	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Wales <sup>(29)</sup>	Current Level: Alert Level 4	Effective from and to: Until such time as the situation changes
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay at home.</li> <li>▪ Work from home if you can.</li> <li>▪ Not travel without reasonable excuse.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do not create an extended household (single adults or single parents may join with one other household to form an exclusive support bubble).</li> <li>▪ Meet only the people you live with or your support bubble indoors.</li> <li>▪ Meet only your household or support bubble in private gardens.</li> <li>▪ Meet only your household or support bubble outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Places of worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crematoriums</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weddings and funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weddings allowed in venues that are allowed to be open with ceremony limit set based on capacity of venue. No reception/social gathering permitted.</li> <li>▪ Funerals allowed with ceremony limit set based on capacity of venue.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essential retail only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-essential retail (click and collect allowed).</li> <li>▪ Hospitality (except for takeaway and delivery).</li> <li>▪ Close contact services.</li> <li>▪ Licensed premises. Takeaway and delivery only between 6am and 10pm.</li> <li>▪ Holiday accommodation (open only if essential only, for example for work or other reasons).</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March 2021, all primary school children will be back learning onsite.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 15 March 2021, students in exam years will return (years 11 &amp; 13).</li> <li>▪ Schools will also have flexibility to bring back students in years 10 and 12.</li> <li>▪ Students in years 7, 8 &amp; 9 will return after Easter.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mix of in-person and remote learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<p><b>Public Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Services are continuing, particularly during peak times.</li> <li>▪ However, bus and rail timetables have been reduced and potentially subject to late cancellations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Taxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taxis can still operate where measures are in place to mitigate the risks which are involved when sharing a vehicle.</li> <li>▪ However, all journeys must be for one of the very limited purposes allowed under alert level 4 restrictions.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Wales <sup>(29)</sup>	Current Level: Alert Level 4	Effective from and to: Until such time as the situation changes
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community centres - limited opening (for example, for essential public services).</li> <li>▪ Playgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Public parks.</li> <li>▪ Libraries and archive services (click and collect only).</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Venues for events and conferences.</li> <li>▪ Theatres and concert halls.</li> <li>▪ Indoor and outdoor visitor attractions.</li> <li>▪ Entertainment venue.</li> <li>▪ Nightclubs and adult entertainment venues.</li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor exercise with household, support bubble, or with people from 1 other household, as long as the max number of people exercising is 4 (excluding any carers or children under 11 from either of those households).</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sport courts.</li> <li>▪ Golf courses.</li> <li>▪ Leisure and fitness facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The requirement to wear a face covering applies to all those aged 11 and over.</li> <li>▪ The requirement applies to all enclosed public transport vehicles including buses, coaches, trains, trams, ferries and aircraft (where they take off or land in Wales). It also applies to taxis and to tourist services, such as mountain railways and excursion buses.</li> <li>▪ Face coverings should be worn for the duration of the journey on public transport. This means they must be worn from when you get on the vehicle and they must stay in place until you get off.</li> <li>▪ Face coverings must be worn at bus stations, railway stations, airports and ferry ports.</li> <li>▪ The Chief Medical Officer for Wales recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded enclosed spaces where social distancing is difficult to achieve.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	N/A.	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Switzerland <sup>(33)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Easing of measures from 01/03/2021
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homeworking compulsory where possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ban on events including club gatherings, a meeting or event in the parish community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Private gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 5 people indoors.</li> <li>▪ Max 15 people outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public gatherings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 15 people at outdoor gatherings in public spaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Worship, religious services and funerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max 50 people.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open with limits on the number of customers allowed in shops and service businesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and beverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closed</li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Classroom teaching permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Classroom teaching permitted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Face-to-face teaching is permitted only if the students absolutely need to be on site (e.g. instruction on operating a particular machine, dissection during medical studies) and if the teaching forms an essential part of the course of study.</li> <li>▪ Examinations linked to study courses or higher vocational training and the examinations necessary for obtaining an official certificate may be held on site provided that the precautionary measures are observed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not reported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zoos and botanical gardens.</li> <li>▪ Ice rinks.</li> <li>▪ Museums and reading rooms in libraries and archives.</li> <li>▪ Max 15 people at outdoor cultural events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural venues indoors.</li> <li>▪ Leisure facilities indoors.</li> <li>▪ Discos and nightclubs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under 20s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restrictions on cultural activities lifted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practices, rehearsals and training for cultural activities are all permitted without restriction.</li> <li>- Performances and competitions are also permitted provided there is no audience.</li> <li>- Singing together is permitted, also in choirs and music lessons. Concerts are allowed provided there is no audience (e.g. with video streaming).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Switzerland <sup>(33)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Easing of measures from 01/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's and youth activities are permitted.</li> <li>- Youth clubs are open.</li> <li>- Parties and dance events are still banned.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adults born in 2000 or earlier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indoors: Recreational cultural activities may be held indoors with a max 5 people provided everyone wears a mask and maintains sufficient distance.</li> <li>▪ Outdoors: Recreational cultural activities may be held outdoors with a max 15 people provided everyone wears a mask or maintains sufficient distance. This rule allows, for example, rehearsals of theatre groups, but not performances in front of an audience.</li> </ul> <p><b>Singing - Adults born in 2000 or earlier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Singing is prohibited in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Almost everywhere where people sing together in a non-professional setting, e.g. in religious services, among friends, in a band and in amateur choirs.</li> <li>- The ban applies both indoors and outdoors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Singing is permitted in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alone or among family</li> <li>- In one-to-one lessons</li> <li>- For professional singers: rehearsals are basically allowed, performances only at permitted events, for example accompanying a religious service</li> <li>- For professional choirs: rehearsals are allowed, performances only without an audience (e.g. with video streaming).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p><b>Open</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ice skating rinks.</li> <li>▪ Tennis courts.</li> <li>▪ Football grounds.</li> <li>▪ Ski areas.</li> <li>▪ Leisure facilities outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Sports facilities outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Max 15 people at recreational sporting activities outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sports facilities indoors.</li> <li>▪ Leisure facilities indoors.</li> <li>▪ Fitness centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under 20s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restrictions on sporting activities lifted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice, rehearsals and training for sporting activities are all permitted without restriction</li> <li>- Performances and competitions are also permitted provided there is no audience.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Adults born in 2000 or earlier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact sports are prohibited (e.g. martial arts, ice hockey, football).</li> <li>▪ For all other sports, outdoor training is allowed with a max 15 people provided everyone maintains a distance of at least 1.5m or everyone wears a mask.</li> <li>▪ Indoor training sessions are not allowed.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Switzerland <sup>(33)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Easing of measures from 01/03/2021
	<p><b>Rules for ski resorts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ski areas (e.g. transport installations with ski slopes) may only be opened if authorised by the canton.</li> <li>▪ The criteria for a canton to grant authorisation include, in particular, the availability of the necessary capacity in healthcare facilities and an epidemiological situation that permits the opening of the ski areas.</li> <li>▪ Operators of ski areas must implement stringent precautionary measures, including the mandatory wearing of masks in both the transport installations and the waiting areas for these installations.</li> <li>▪ The closure of restaurant businesses also applies in ski areas.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional sporting activities, practice and training sessions, and competitive events are permitted but no spectators or audience.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<p><b>Wearing of masks compulsory on public transport and on airplanes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You must wear a mask on the following public transport services and in the following public transport facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trains, trams and buses</li> <li>- Mountain railways and cable cars</li> <li>- Ski lifts and chair lifts</li> <li>- Ships and boats</li> <li>- Aircraft (all scheduled and chartered flights taking off or landing in Switzerland)</li> <li>- On railway platforms and at tram and bus stops, even if these areas are outdoors</li> <li>- In railway stations, airports and other public transport access areas, even if they are outdoors</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Note: Masks are compulsory at all times, no matter how many people are travelling. If you refuse to wear a mask on public transport, you may be asked by the transport staff to get off at the next stop. If you refuse to do so, you may receive a fine. You may remove your mask briefly to eat or drink on public transport.</p> <p><b>Wearing of masks compulsory in publicly accessible areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is compulsory to wear a mask in all publicly accessible areas of businesses and establishments that are still permitted to open. This applies to both indoor and outdoor areas. This includes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shops, open air markets, shopping centres, banks and post offices</li> <li>- Libraries</li> <li>- Hotel restaurants and bars, and hotels (with the exception of guest rooms)</li> <li>- Healthcare facilities, medical practices and publicly accessible areas of hospitals and care homes</li> <li>- Churches and religious establishments</li> <li>- Social facilities, advisory centres and neighbourhood centres</li> <li>- Publicly accessible areas of administrative buildings, including those of social services and courts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Wearing of masks compulsory in public spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In public spaces including, for example, streets, pavements (sidewalks), parks and playgrounds, the mask-wearing requirement applies as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In busy pedestrian areas in town and village centres</li> <li>- Anywhere where there are so many people that you cannot keep a distance of 1.5m from other people. This also applies if you meet friends and acquaintances along the way and cannot keep the requisite distance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Wearing of masks compulsory in indoor spaces at work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You must wear a mask in all indoor spaces at work.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Switzerland <sup>(33)</sup>	Current Level: Not reported	Effective from and to: Easing of measures from 01/03/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Masks must be worn anywhere where more than 1 person is in a room. You must wear a mask even if you can maintain a large distance from co-workers in the same room.</li> <li>▪ There is no requirement to wear a mask if you are working in a separate room or if for safety or medical reasons you cannot wear one.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wearing of masks compulsory in upper secondary schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Masks are required in upper secondary schools (secondary level II), for example high schools and vocational schools.</li> <li>▪ Young people, teachers and other staff must wear a mask.</li> <li>▪ The mask-wearing requirement applies during class as well as in the school and on the school grounds.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stricter rules may apply in certain cantons.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advised changes to Restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provided the epidemiological situation permits, the next easing of measures will take place on 22 March.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vaccination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you are fully vaccinated, at private gatherings with other fully vaccinated people you do not have to take the precaution of social distancing and wearing a mask. Fully vaccinated means that you have received the 2 doses of vaccine and 14 days have elapsed since you had the second injection.</li> <li>▪ In all other cases the precautionary measures must continue to be followed.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Israel <sup>(32)</sup>	Current Level: Various	Effective from and to: Various
<b>Movement of people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social/mass gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max 20 people indoors.</li> <li>Max 50 people outdoors.</li> <li>Max 20 people if the gathering place includes both indoor and outdoor spaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Houses of worship – without a Green Pass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max 20 indoors.</li> <li>Max 50 outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Houses of worship – with a Green Pass</b> (Subject to advanced registration with the local council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a house of prayer with regular seats, max 50% capacity.</li> <li>In a house of prayer without regular seats, a ratio of 1 person per each 7 sqm. In any case, max 500 people. A distance of 1 empty seat between people who do not live together.</li> </ul>	
<b>Business Activities</b>	<p><b>Retail</b> The following may open with no requirement to present the Green Pass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential stores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food stores, stores selling hygienic products, pharmacies, optics shops, laundromats, laboratories for repairing communication devices and computers, stores selling essential appliances and stores selling essential housekeeping products.</li> <li>Max 1 person per each 7sqm up to max 20 people, whichever is higher.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commercial centres and street-facing stores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small store (less than 150 sqm) - 1 person per each 7 sqm or max 20 people.</li> <li>Large store (over 150 sqm) – 1 person per each 15 sqm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shopping malls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the common areas – 1 person per each 15 sqm.</li> <li>Inside stores – according to store type (essential, small or large).</li> <li>No eating in the shopping mall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 person per each 15 sqm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Any business may offer delivery and take away services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal services (hair salons, beauty and cosmetics parlours, tattoo parlours)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 person per each 7 sqm or max 20 people indoors – whichever is higher.</li> <li>When providing bodily care, care givers must wear a mask and a face guard and sanitize the equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b> The following may open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest units and Zimmers (B&amp;B) up to 6 units, excluding the use of the common areas (such as pools and dining rooms) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each unit may only house a group of people living in the same house.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Hotels and guest units serving as substitute residence (whether long-term or short-term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for anyone renting them (such as foreign workers)</li> <li>excluding the use of the common areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Israel <sup>(32)</sup>	Current Level: Various	Effective from and to: Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Isolation hotels or motels for the use of patients and their families adjacent to a medical establishment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism - Green Pass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels (including guest complexes with over 6 units) – for Green Pass holders and children younger than 16 who tested negative for coronavirus up to 48 hours before arriving in the hotel               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the common areas – 1 person per each 7 sqm or max 20 people indoors and max 50 people outdoors – whichever is higher.</li> <li>- In the dining areas: Max 50% capacity and max 300 people, 2m distance between tables and no self-serving.</li> <li>- Jacuzzis (hot tubs) are only open for people who arrived together.</li> <li>- Saunas are closed.</li> <li>- Swimming pools or gyms – require 2m distance or partitions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Restaurants</b></p> <p>The following may open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restaurants, cafes and bars – outdoor dining               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- max 100 people</li> <li>- 2m distance between table and at least one empty seat between people who don't live together when seated at the bar.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Restaurants - Green Pass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green: Event venues and gardens – for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity 50% and max 300 people</li> <li>- Up to 5% of all participants may present negative coronavirus test results for a test taken up to 48 hours before the event</li> <li>- 2m distance between tables</li> <li>- No self-serving.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Green: Restaurants, cafes and bars – indoor dining - for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity 75% and max 100 people</li> <li>- 2m distance between table and at least one empty seat between people who don't live together when seated at the bar.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 11 March 2021 schools reopen in all green, yellow and orange-designated localities with students assigned to designated groups receiving a combination of face-to-face and distance learning (capsule model).</li> <li>▪ Schools in red-designated localities closed for face-to-face teaching and will operate by distance learning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 11 March 2021 schools reopen in all green, yellow and orange-designated localities with students assigned to designated groups receiving a combination of face-to-face and distance learning (capsule model).</li> <li>▪ Schools in red-designated localities closed for face-to-face teaching and will operate by distance learning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact of vaccination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishments where 90% of all returning 11th and 12th grade pupils are either vaccinated or recovered will not be required to follow the capsule model.</li> <li>▪ In red-designated localities in which the entire education system is closed, establishments where 75% or higher of all 11th and 12th grade pupils are either vaccinated or recovered will be allowed to reopen schools for them and will be required to follow the capsule model.</li> </ul>	
<b>Higher and adult education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not reported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Domestic travel (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public transportation operating at 75% capacity.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Israel <sup>(32)</sup>	Current Level: Various	Effective from and to: Various
<b>Culture/leisure/entertainment</b>	<p>The following may open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Museums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small museum (fewer than 150 sqm) – 1 person per each 7 sqm or max 20 people, whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Large museum (over 150 sqm) – 1 person per each 15 sqm.</li> <li>- Tickets should be purchased in advance.</li> <li>- Guided tours max 20 people, subject to advanced reservation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Nature reserves, national parks, national heritage sites and monuments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per each 15 sqm or max 50 people, whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Outdoor activities only.</li> <li>- Excluding the use of facilities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Zoos and safaris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per each 15 sqm or max 50 people, whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Outdoor activities only.</li> <li>- Excluding the use of facilities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Tourist Attractions – indoor – for Green Pass holders.</li> <li>- Except for attractions whose opening for non-Green Pass holders was approved by the Ministry of Health's Director General.</li> <li>▪ Tourist attractions – no Green Pass required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor attractions, excluding the use of facilities.</li> <li>- Attractions whose reopening for non-Green Pass holders was approved by the Ministry of Health's Director General (to be announced later).</li> <li>- 1 person per each 15 sqm.</li> <li>- Only people living together may stay together in each activity unit (compartment, car, boat, kayak, float etc.) in the attraction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Libraries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per each 7 sqm or max 20 people indoors – whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Guided Tours.</li> <li>- Subject to advanced reservation.</li> <li>- Outdoor activities only.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Green Pass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green: tourist attractions for Green Pass holders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per every 7 sqm or according to restrictions on capacity (max 20 people indoors and max 50 people outdoors), whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Only people living together may stay together in each activity unit (compartment, car, boat, kayak, float etc.) in the attraction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Green: Theatres, cinemas and cultural venues – for Green Pass holders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Max 300 people indoors and max 500 people outdoors.</li> <li>- In a venue or stadium with over 10,000 seats: max 1,000 people indoors and max 1,500 people outdoors.</li> <li>- Tickets are to be purchased in advance.</li> <li>- Marked seats with one empty seat separating groups. Those who bought tickets together may be seated together.</li> <li>- Gradual entry and exit to and from the venue.</li> <li>- Seated spectators only, no breaks and no dancing.</li> <li>- No eating and drinking in place.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Israel <sup>(32)</sup>	Current Level: Various	Effective from and to: Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green: Cultural events – for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In venues of up to 10,000 seats: max 75% capacity with max 500 people in indoor venues and max 750 people in outdoor venues.</li> <li>- In venues and stadiums of over 10,000 seats: max 1,000 people indoors and max 1,500 people outdoors.</li> <li>- In the gathering areas: 1 person per each 7 sqm.</li> <li>- Tickets are to be purchased in advance.</li> <li>- Marked seats with one empty seat separating groups. Those who bought tickets together may be seated together.</li> <li>- Gradual entry and exit to and from the venue.</li> <li>- Seated spectators only, no breaks and no dancing.</li> <li>- No eating and drinking in place, or in events where food is served max 50% capacity and max 300 people.</li> <li>- In the gathering areas: 1 person per each 7 sqm.</li> <li>- 2-meter distance between tables and at least one empty seat between people who do not live together.</li> <li>- No self-service or buffet.</li> <li>- A ratio of 1:75 between ushers and spectators for observing the guidance</li> <li>- Signs and sanitization – in accordance with the regulations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Green: Exhibits (outside of museums) – for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Max 1 person per 7 sqm.</li> <li>- Indoors: max 300 people simultaneously.</li> <li>- Guided tours of max 20 people, subject to advanced reservation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Green: Conferences – for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In venues of up to 10,000 seats: max 75% capacity and max 500 people in indoor venues and max 750 people in outdoor venues.</li> <li>- In venues and stadiums of over 10,000 seats: max 1,000 people indoors and max 1,500 people outdoors.</li> <li>- In the gathering areas: 1 person per 7 sqm.</li> <li>- Tickets are to be purchased in advance.</li> <li>- Marked seats with one empty seat separating groups. Those who bought tickets together may be seated together.</li> <li>- Gradual entry and exit to and from the venue.</li> <li>- Seated spectators only, no breaks and no dancing.</li> <li>- No eating and drinking in place, or in events where food is served max 50% occupancy and max 300 people.</li> <li>- In the gathering areas: 1 person per each 7 sqm.</li> <li>- 2m distance between tables and at least one empty seat between people who do not live together.</li> <li>- A ratio of 1:75 between ushers and spectators for observing the guidance.</li> <li>- Signs and sanitization – in accordance with the regulations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Amateur sport and recreation</b>	<p>The following may be opened and operated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dancing studios for competitive dancers younger than 16               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per each 7 sqm or max 10 people – whichever is higher.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Green Pass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gyms and studios – for Green Pass holders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per 7 sqm or max 20 people indoors and max 50 people outdoors – whichever is higher.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Table 3** Summary of current public health measures by country (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Israel <sup>(32)</sup>	Current Level: Various	Effective from and to: Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early booking.</li> <li>- Partitions or a 2m distance between every two stations and every two patrons.</li> <li>- Jacuzzis are only open for people who arrived together.</li> <li>- Saunas are closed.</li> <li>▪ Swimming Pools– for Green Pass holder               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 person per 7 sqm or max 29 people indoors and max 50 people outdoors – whichever is higher.</li> <li>- Inside the water – 1 person per each 6 sqm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Early booking.</li> <li>- No seating in the concession stand area.</li> <li>- Jacuzzis are only open for people who arrived together.</li> <li>- Saunas are closed.</li> <li>▪ Stadiums, sport fields, sport courts and sporting events– for Green Pass holder - Outdoor facility used for the training or matches of professional or competitive athletes.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In venues of up to 10,000 seats: max 75% capacity and max 500 people in indoor venues and max 750 people in outdoor venues.</li> <li>- In venues and stadiums of over 10,000 seats: max 1,000 people indoors and max 1,500 people outdoors.</li> <li>- In the gathering areas: 1 person per each 7 sqm.</li> <li>- Tickets are to be purchased in advance.</li> <li>- Marked seats with one empty seat between people who arrived together. Those who bought tickets together may be seated together.</li> <li>- Gradual entry and exit from the venue.</li> <li>- Audience must be seated, no breaks and no dancing.</li> <li>- No eating or drinking in place.</li> <li>- A ratio of 1:75 between ushers and spectators for observing the guidance.</li> <li>- Signs and sanitisation – in accordance with the regulations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Professional sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indoor facilities used for training or matches of professional or competitive athletes are open for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor athletes.</li> <li>- Adult athletes in the water sports.</li> <li>- Adult athletes who are Green Pass holders.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Senior league soccer and basketball matches.</li> </ul>	
<b>Facemasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Everyone from 7 years of age must wear a face mask everywhere outside the home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	N/A	



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## Appendix A – Latest summary epidemiological data by country

**Table A.1** Latest summary epidemiological data by country with weekly percentage change

Country	14-day cases / 100,000 population (weekly % change) [14-Mar-21]	14-day deaths / million population (weekly % change) [14-Mar-21]	Number in hospital / million population (weekly % change) [7-Mar-21]	Number in ICU / million population (weekly % change) [7-Mar-21]	Testing rate per 100,000 population (weekly % change) [7-Mar-21]	Weekly % test positivity (weekly % change) [7-Mar-21]
<b>EU</b>						
Austria	378.9 (14.9%)	34.6 (-4.6%)	128.2 (13%)	35.2 (12.0%)	18,558.1 (10.1%)	1.0% (20.5%)
Belgium	317.3 (10.0%)	31.4 (1.7%)	167.1 (2.2%)	36.7 (4.4%)	2,663.7 (16%)	5.4% (-8.7%)
Czechia	1,527.7 (-2.7%)	269.6 (15.3%)	776.4 (10.9%)	167.7 (13.9%)	6,241.7 (37.9%)	12.8% (-6.8%)
Denmark	160.0 (27.6%)	5.2 (-26.8%)	38.7 (-3.0%)	6.4 (-9.7%)	18,195.6 (25.6%)	0.3% (-11.9%)
France	484.5 (5.6%)	61.3 (-6.8%)	380.2 (-1.8%)	57.3 (7.2%)	2,990.2 (-4.7%)	7.4% (11.1%)
Germany	153.4 (12.6%)	39.5 (-18.0%)	No data ‡	No data ‡	1,366.9 (3.5%)	5.1% (8.1%)
Ireland	144.8 (-12.4%)	43.5 (-24.8%)	85.7 (-23.6%)	20.9 (-23.1%)	1,924.7 (-9.4%)	3.8% (-26.9%)
Italy	492.7 (15.3%)	73.5 (9.3%)	392.8 (13.8%)	43.1 (16.8%)	3,705.4 (16.9%)	6.4% (39.2%)
Netherlands	405.1 (8.4%)	29.9 (-17.7%)	76.2 (-1.2%)	31.8 (3.6%)	2,519.9 (43.6%)	7.2% (-23.6%)
Portugal	95.1 (-22.9%)	36.0 (-36.5%)	138.7 (-34.7%)	34.7 (-26.9%)	1,648.5 (-15.1%)	3.2% (-38.0%)
Spain	-10.4 (-130.5%)*	66.6 (-22.8%)	No data ‡	No data ‡	1,611.4 (-18.3%)	4.6% (-36.2%)
Sweden	546.8 (2.6%)	31.7 (-9.6%)	141.5 (7.4%)	23.3 (5.9%)	2,310.5 (7.2%)	11.6% (9.7%)
<b>Non-EU</b>						
United Kingdom	122.1 (-20.0%)	39.3 (-32.0%)	139.0 (-26.2%)	20.5 (-21.8%)	No data †	No data †
Israel	498.8 (-16.2%)	29.9 (-17.5%)	153.3 (-10.9%)	31.0 (-6.9%)	No data †	No data
Switzerland	181.6 (8.3%)	16.9 (-9.3%)	No data ‡	No data ‡	No data †	No data †

Source: ECDC and OWID

\* Due to the de-notification of 74,347 cases on 2 March 2021, a negative 14-day incidence rate was estimated for Spain

‡ Daily hospital / ICU data are not available for Germany, Spain, and Switzerland

† Testing data for Israel, Switzerland, and the UK are not routinely captured by the ECDC (includes RT-PCR and antigen tests)

## Appendix B – Developed frameworks for living with COVID-19 by country

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
<b>Austria</b> <sup>(6, 19, 98)</sup>	<p>Austria uses a traffic light approach to determine the level of risk of SARS-CoV-2 in different areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Red:</b> Very high risk: Uncontrolled outbreaks, large scale spread.</li> <li>▪ <b>Orange:</b> High risk: Accumulation of cases, no longer predominantly clusters.</li> <li>▪ <b>Yellow:</b> Medium risk: Moderate cases whose origin and distribution are known (= mainly in clusters).</li> <li>▪ <b>Green:</b> Low risk: Individual cases, isolated clusters.</li> </ul>	<p>The evaluation of the current epidemiological situation at federal, state and district level is carried out on the basis of four indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Transferability (cases):</b> The indicators "7-day number of cases" (new cases that have occurred in the past 7 days), "7-day incidence" (new cases that have occurred over the past 7 days per 100,000 inhabitants), "Number of new clusters within a calendar week", "Number of districts with new cluster cases within a calendar week" and "Number of cluster case-free districts within a calendar week" are intended to help assess the epidemiological development of the SARS-CoV2 spread.</li> <li>▪ <b>Source search (cluster):</b> The indicator "Cases with a clear source" shows the traceability of the transmission chain as a result of Case &amp; Contact Tracing.</li> <li>▪ The newly occurring cases are also assessed with regard to their clinical manifestation of the SARS-CoV2 infection (symptomatic/asymptomatic).</li> <li>▪ <b>Resources (in healthcare):</b> Here indicators are used that show the existing and required supply capacities. They contain the current occupancy in normal and intensive care units as well as the current utilisation of the existing hospital capacities.</li> <li>▪ <b>Tests:</b> The indicators "tests per 100,000 inhabitants", "number of tests in the past 7 days" and the "positivity rate" (proportion of positive tests in all tests per region) allow statements about the test activity and provide information about the transmission in the respective region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing evaluations</b> The Corona Commission assesses the epidemic situation on the basis of various factors. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous developments</li> <li>▪ Mobility of population</li> <li>▪ Regional particularities</li> </ul> <p>Traffic light colour is recommended at federal, state and/or district level.</p> <p><b>Evidence-based ratings</b> The decision on determining the traffic light colour is made at a political level. The competent authorities then set specific measures according to the traffic light colour by ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For Austria, the Minister of Health.</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For a federal state/ several federal states, the governors in coordination with the health minister.</li> <li>▪ For districts/regions, the district administrative authorities in coordination with the provincial governors and the health minister.</li> </ul> <p><b>Targeted action</b> A guideline for preventative measures in all areas of society/economy enables a largely uniform approach in similar epidemiological situations.</p>
<b>Belgium</b> <sup>(7, 99)</sup>	<p>The COVID-19 Control Tower is a system controlled by Sciensano which closely monitors the situation regarding the number of coronavirus infections in Belgium. On the basis of the resulting figures, the control tower can assign a threat level at national and provincial level.</p> <p>In first instance, the number of infections per 100,000 inhabitants over the previous 14 days is taken into account. The more infections in an area, the higher the level of alarm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>No alarm:</b> no or only a few sporadic infections</li> <li>▪ <b>Pre-alarm phase:</b> 1 to 14 infections</li> <li>▪ <b>Alarm level 1:</b> between 15 and 30</li> <li>▪ <b>Alarm level 2:</b> between 31 and 50</li> <li>▪ <b>Alarm level 3:</b> between 51 and 100</li> <li>▪ <b>Alarm level 4:</b> more than 100.</li> </ul> <p>Other measures aimed at safe guarding schools are also in place. Under these measures schools are colour coded; under 'code yellow' pupils can attend school at all levels of education. Code yellow means that the virus is still present and active, but the situation is under control. This system will allow a normal working week consisting of 5 days.</p> <p>In municipalities experiencing peaks of infected people, the Ministers of Education can decide to move to 'code orange'. Under 'code orange' certain changes will be made, such as the number of school days will be reduced.</p>	<p>The following is also taken into account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trend of the figures (upward or downward)</li> <li>▪ Percentage of positive tests</li> <li>▪ Possible additional information relating to the nature of local outbreaks.</li> </ul> <p>Each of these alert levels is linked to specific actions and there are also guidelines in terms of measures to be taken. These actions and measures are best taken and implemented as locally as possible, in consultation with the regional health agencies and with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. Measures can also be phased out on the basis of defined criteria for each threat level. For example, it can be decided to switch schools from code yellow to orange. It is the responsibility of the Minister of Education to decide this in consultation with the local authorities.</p> <p>Additional federal measures can also be taken within alarm levels 3 and 4. An assessment is also made on a regular basis at the level of the municipalities. Based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Figures</li> <li>▪ Type of outbreaks</li> <li>▪ Other previous criteria.</li> </ul> <p>If the situation evolves unfavourably for certain municipalities, the local crisis unit may be asked to come together and analyse the situation and, if necessary, take additional measures.</p>
<b>Czechia</b> <sup>(8, 20)</sup>	<p>The Ministry of Health maps the current epidemiological situation using the anti-epidemic system (PES in Czech) risk score. Based on the risk score, the regions will be assigned to 1</p>	<p>The four indicators detailed below are taken into consideration when deciding what level of risk to assign to each region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 14-day numbers positive for COVID-19 (per 100,000 inhabitants).</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<p>of 5 levels, on which the respective anti-epidemic measures will depend.</p> <p>The risk scores corresponding to different levels of restrictive measures are as follows:</p> <p><b>Level 1: Green</b> <b>Risk score (0-20)</b>  <b>State of caution:</b> the epidemic is under control, the number of infected in the whole population is low, the epidemic is not growing significantly, testing and tracing contacts is effective, low risk community spread of the disease.</p> <p><b>Level 2: Yellow</b> <b>Risk score (21-40)</b>  <b>Attention status:</b> local outbreaks of disease appear that require immediate anti-epidemic intervention with the protection of vulnerable groups, high emphasis on maximum effectiveness of testing and tracing of contacts.</p> <p><b>Level 3: Orange</b> <b>Risk score (41-60)</b>  <b>Emergency:</b> the spread of the epidemic is growing, the pressure on the health care system is increased, the situation requires intensive monitoring of the number of infected and hospitalised, high emphasis on maximum effectiveness of testing and tracing of contacts, high risk of community spread of the disease.</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> <b>Risk score (61-75)</b>  <b>Serious condition:</b> the number of infected in the population is high, there is a significant immediate risk of further deterioration of the situation, tracing of contacts is limited, community spread of the disease is taking place.</p> <p><b>Level 5:</b> <b>Risk score (76-100)</b>  <b>Critical state:</b> the total capacity of the hospital inpatient and intensive care system is beginning to approach its limit, the number of infected in the population is high, tracing of contacts is significantly limited, community spread of the disease is taking place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 14-day numbers positive for COVID-19 (per 100,000 population aged 65 and over).</li> <li>▪ Simplified calculation of the reproduction number.</li> <li>▪ Proportion of hospitalised unrecorded cases in the community in the last 14 days.</li> </ul>
Denmark <sup>(9, 21)</sup>	A risk assessment is carried out on the basis of an overall professional assessment and, as a starting point, weekly. On the basis of the current risk assessment, the so-called Task Force determines the national and regional risk level on a scale from 1-5. Based on this, the Action Group recommends which	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New cases of infection per week per 100,000 population.</li> <li>▪ Positive percentage.</li> <li>▪ Growth rate in new cases of infection (R), weekly average.</li> <li>▪ Newly admitted patients per week, per 100,000.</li> <li>▪ Number of inpatients of whom were admitted to intensive care.</li> </ul>



**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<p>initiatives, measures and restrictions should apply in order for control of the epidemic in Denmark to be maintained.</p> <p>Risk level 1 reflects that the level of infection is low and that the infection is typically seen locally. Risk level 5 reflects that there is widespread infection in large parts of society, that the health service is under pressure and that there is a risk that the treatment capacity in the hospitals will be exceeded.</p> <p>The level of risk in the regions may be different because outbreaks and infection development may be different locally and regionally. Therefore, measures and restrictions are not necessarily implemented geographically alike.</p> <p><b>Risk level 1:</b> Low and local infection with possibility of flare-up.  <b>Risk level 2:</b> Local and regional outbreaks of infection that can spread.  <b>Risk level 3:</b> Widespread societal infection with potential for fast acceleration.  <b>Risk level 4:</b> Widespread societal infection and pressure capacity on the hospitals.  <b>Risk level 5:</b> Widespread societal infection, the healthcare system is under pressure and there is a risk that treatment capacity at the hospitals will be exceeded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 14-day incidence per 100,000</li> </ul>
France <sup>(100-103)</sup>	<p>The French Government does not have a set framework in place. A variety of factors and triggers are taken into consideration before implementing or alleviating restrictions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Epidemic activity (incidence rate)</b>  The incidence rate corresponds to the number of people who tested positive (RT-PCR and antigen test) for the first time in more than 60 days compared to the size of the population. It is expressed per 100,000 inhabitants and makes it possible to compare geographic areas with one another.   Three levels have been set for this indicator:  <i>Green:</i> &lt;10 people test positive out of 100,000 people, over a rolling week;  <i>Orange:</i> &gt;10 people tested positive out of 100,000 people, over a rolling week;  <i>Red:</i> &gt;50 people tested positive out of 100,000 people, over a rolling week.</li> <li>2. <b>Positive rate of virological tests</b>  The positivity rate corresponds to the number of people tested positive (RT-PCR and antigen test) for the first time in more than 60 days compared to the</li> </ol>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
		<p>total number of people tested positive or negative over a given period; and who have never tested positive in the previous 60 days.</p> <p>Three levels have been set for this indicator:  <i>Green</i>: positivity rate between 0 and 5%.  <i>Orange</i>: positivity rate between 5 and 10%.  <i>Red</i>: positivity rate greater than 10%.</p> <p><b>3. Virus reproduction factor (evolution of R0)</b>  The virus reproduction number: this is the average number of people that an infected person can infect. If the effective R is greater than 1, the epidemic develops; if it is less than 1, the epidemic decreases. This indicator, stopped on Tuesday and updated on Thursday, is an indicator of the epidemiological situation approximately 7 days previously and must be interpreted in the light of screening and data reporting activities. The indicator is updated once a week.</p> <p>Three levels have been set for this indicator:  <i>Green</i>: R0 between 0 and 1  <i>Orange</i>: R0 between 1 and 1.5  <i>Red</i>: R0 greater than 1.5.</p> <p><b>4. Hospital pressure on resuscitation capacity</b>  This indicator reflects the level of demand for resuscitation but also the level of stress on hospital resuscitation capacities. This is the proportion of patients with COVID-19 currently in intensive care or in a continuous monitoring unit compared to the total beds in initial capacity, that is to say before increasing the capacity of resuscitation beds in a hospital.</p> <p>Three levels have been set for this indicator:  <i>Green</i>: occupancy rate between 0 and 30%  <i>Orange</i>: occupancy rate between 30 and 60%  <i>Red</i>: occupancy rate greater than 60%.</p> <p>Other indicators taken into consideration when considering a change in public health measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>New confirmed cases</b>: This indicator, available only at the national level, corresponds to the number of new cases tested positive for COVID-19 and</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
		<p>reported since the day before. This indicator is very sensitive to the quality and rate of data feedback and does not exactly reflect the epidemiological situation of the day before. For example, the data reported at the start of the week are less numerous due to a decrease in laboratory activity on weekends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>New patients in intensive care:</b> This is the number of new patients with COVID-19 admitted to intensive care, or a continuous monitoring unit, during the last 24 hours.</li> <li>▪ <b>Positivity rate:</b> The positivity rate corresponds to the number of new people tested positive for COVID-19 compared to the total number of people tested for the first time over the same period. Thus, people performing several tests over the same period are not counted several times.</li> <li>▪ <b>Number of people who received a first vaccine injection:</b> Total number of first doses of vaccine injected.</li> <li>▪ <b>Number of people who received a second vaccine injection:</b> Total number of second doses of vaccine injected.</li> <li>▪ <b>Vaccine doses in stock in health establishments:</b> These data represent the stocks available in pivotal health establishments (hospitals and university hospital centres). These data are entered daily by the hub establishments.</li> </ul>
<b>Germany<sup>(104)</sup></b>	<p>Germany currently does not have a set framework of restrictions in place. Restrictions are imposed or lifted in districts or towns depending on the cumulative 7-day total of COVID-19 cases in that area. Federal and state governments impose clamp-downs at local level to address any regional rise in numbers of new cases.</p> <p>The Federal Chancellor and the Heads of Government of the Länder have developed a planning perspective on how and when restrictions can be lifted. There are a number of steps involved in lifting restrictive measures and a number of indicators that will be taken into consideration before moving to another step.</p> <p><b>First step to ease restrictions:</b> Possibility for private gatherings.</p>	<p>In the past, indicators that had been taken into consideration when making decisions about restrictive measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New cases per 100,000 population per week.</li> <li>▪ R value.</li> <li>▪ Intensive care capacities.</li> <li>▪ Rates of recovery.</li> </ul> <p>More recently, the 7-day incidence of new COVID-19 infections per week, per 100,000 population will be a key factor when deciding what step to move to with regards to the easing of restrictions.</p>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<p><b>Second step to ease restrictions:</b> Involves the reopening of bookshops, florists and garden centres which will be treated uniformly as retail for daily needs in all Länder.</p> <p>Personal care service providers as well as driving schools and flight schools can also reopen with appropriate hygiene measures whereby a COVID-19 rapid test is performed or self-administered by the customer that day and testing for staff are required for the use of services in which a mask cannot be worn permanently, such as for cosmetics or shaving.</p> <p><b>Third steps to ease restrictions:</b> Includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening retailers with a limited number of customers being allowed on the premises depending on capacity (i.e. 1 customer per 10 sqm for the first 800 sqm of retail space, plus one customer for each additional 20 sqm).</li> <li>▪ Opening museums, art galleries, zoological and botanical gardens and memorials to visitors by prior appointment, with documentation provided for contact tracing.</li> <li>▪ Non-contact outdoor sports in small groups (max. 10 people) and also using outdoor sports facilities.</li> <li>▪ Opening retailers that operate click and collect.</li> <li>▪ Individual sport with a max 5 people from 2 households and sport in groups of up to 20 children up to 14 years of age outdoors and also using outdoor sports facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fourth steps to ease restrictions:</b> Includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening outdoor cafés and restaurants to guests by prior appointment, with documentation for contact tracing; a COVID-19 rapid test or self-administered test of patrons performed that day is required for persons from more than one household who sit together at one table.</li> <li>▪ Opening theatres, concert and opera houses as well as cinemas for visitors with a COVID-19 rapid test or self-administered test performed that day.</li> </ul>	

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-contact indoor sports as well as outdoor contact sports, provided that all participants have a COVID-19 rapid test or self-administered test performed that day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fifth steps to ease restrictions:</b> Includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening leisure activities for up to 50 participants outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Non-contact indoor sports, outdoor contact sports (without testing requirements).</li> </ul> <p><b>Further steps to ease restrictions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The prospects for establishments in the café and restaurant, cultural, events, travel and hotel sectors that have not yet been specified.</li> </ul> <p>Note that the steps to ease restrictions detailed above are a summarised version of the report and do not include every detail relevant to each step.</p>	
<b>Ireland</b> <sup>(26, 105)</sup>	<p>The framework that exists in Ireland consists of 5 levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Level 1 (least restrictive)</li> <li>▪ Level 2</li> <li>▪ Level 3</li> <li>▪ Level 4</li> <li>▪ Level 5 (most restrictive)</li> </ul> <p>The lower levels of the framework will be activated when there is low incidence of the disease, with isolated outbreaks, low community transmission. The higher levels will be used to deal with higher incidences of the disease. It is possible for different regions and counties to be at a different level to the national level, depending on the incidence of the virus in that particular region or county.</p>	<p>The following factors are also taken into consideration when making decisions about whether to lift or re-impose restrictive measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The number, location and dispersion, and characteristics of cases and clusters, including the extent of secondary/tertiary spread.</li> <li>▪ 14-day and 7-day cumulative incidence, 5 day rolling average of cases by county and nationally.</li> <li>▪ Indicators of viral transmission (including the number of cases, positivity rate(s) and titre production number).</li> <li>▪ Incidence, protective and outbreak management capacity in at risk settings and vulnerable groups.</li> <li>▪ The capacity and performance of the programme of sampling, testing, contact tracing and disease surveillance.</li> <li>▪ The capacity and resilience of the health service in terms of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hospital occupancy and new admissions</li> <li>b. Critical care occupancy and new admissions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Numbers of deaths.</li> <li>▪ Other measures including infection prevention and control data and uptake of seasonal flu vaccine and the international situation.</li> <li>▪ These criteria will be considered collectively, in context and along with WHO and ECDC guidance to guide recommendations. A description of the</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures															
		<p>combined trigger points for each level are explained in further detail in the Plan for Living with COVID-19 document referenced below.</p> <p><b>With regards to the 'Path Ahead' plan, the following will be taken into consideration before making decisions in relation to the lifting of restrictive measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disease prevalence (case numbers/incidence) is brought to much lower levels that can be managed and controlled by public health and that the reproduction number ("R" number) is such that we can be confident we can continue to suppress the disease e.g. at or below 1.</li> <li>▪ Hospital and critical care occupancy are reduced to low levels to protect the health service and allow for the safe resumption of non-COVID-19 care.</li> <li>▪ Ongoing and steady progress on the vaccination programme such that the most vulnerable are protected through vaccination.</li> <li>▪ Emerging information on variants of concern.</li> </ul>															
<b>Italy</b> <sup>(11, 18)</sup>	<p>Regions and Autonomous Provinces are classified into four areas, according to the data and indications of the Control Room/Cabina di Regia. Each area corresponds to different epidemiological risk scenarios and levels, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the most restrictive measures are in the <b>red area</b>, referring to the regions and autonomous provinces with a scenario of maximum severity and a high level of risk.</li> <li>▪ slightly less restrictive measures are in the <b>orange area</b>, including the regions and autonomous provinces with a high severity scenario and a high-risk level.</li> <li>▪ general restrictive measures in the <b>yellow area</b>.</li> <li>▪ no restrictions in the <b>white area</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 7-day incidence per 100,000.</li> <li>▪ Number of reported cases in a week.</li> <li>▪ Source of cases and the number of outbreaks.</li> <li>▪ Estimate of Reproduction number.</li> <li>▪ Classification of risk (Moderate, Low or High).</li> </ul>															
<b>Netherlands</b> <sup>(12, 106)</sup>	<p>At least once every two weeks the coronavirus situation in the various regions is reviewed. Based on this, each region is given a risk level and certain measures apply at each risk level. The four levels of risk are:</p> <p><b>1. Caution</b> The situation is manageable. The number of new confirmed cases is fewer than 35 per 100,000 inhabitants per week. There is sufficient healthcare capacity.</p> <p><b>2. Concern</b> The situation is becoming difficult to manage. The number of new confirmed cases is between 35 and 100 per 100,000</p>	<p>The risk level of each region is assessed on the basis of the number of new confirmed cases and the number of hospital admissions. Below is an illustration and explanation of how the risk level in a region is assigned.</p> <p><i>Indicators used to determine associated Risk Level</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Indicators</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Risk Level*</th> <th>Positive tests per 100,000 inhabitants per week</th> <th>Hospital admissions (inc. ICU) per 1 million inhabitants per week</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Caution</td> <td>&lt;35</td> <td>&lt;4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Concern</td> <td>35-100</td> <td>4-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serious</td> <td>100-250</td> <td>16-27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Indicators		Risk Level*	Positive tests per 100,000 inhabitants per week	Hospital admissions (inc. ICU) per 1 million inhabitants per week	Caution	<35	<4	Concern	35-100	4-16	Serious	100-250	16-27
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**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures			
	<p>inhabitants per week. Pressure on healthcare capacity is increasing.</p> <p><b>3. Serious</b> The situation is serious. The number of new confirmed cases is between 100 and 250 per 100,000 inhabitants per week. Pressure on healthcare capacity is very high.</p> <p><b>4. Severe</b> The situation is severe. The number of new confirmed cases is higher than 250 per 100,000 inhabitants per week. Pressure on healthcare capacity is extreme.</p> <p>On the 8 March 2021, the Central Government of the Netherlands published a Roadmap for measures. The roadmap illustrates which measures are necessary in the case of more or fewer infections. With the roadmap, the government can both tighten and ease restrictions. Relaxation of measures will always take place in small steps. The content of the roadmap will be regularly updated to reflect new developments, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ - new variants of the virus</li> <li>▪ - the effect of measures</li> <li>▪ - vaccination coverage</li> <li>▪ - information in relation to COVID-19 testing.</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>Severe</i></td> <td>&gt;250</td> <td>&gt;27</td> </tr> </table> <p>*The number of new confirmed cases and the number of hospital admissions in a region to determine the risk level. The highest figure is what counts. For example, if the number of new confirmed cases is at the 'serious' level and the number of hospital admissions is at 'concern', the risk level for the region will be set at 'serious'.</p>	<i>Severe</i>	>250	>27
<i>Severe</i>	>250	>27			
Portugal <sup>(13, 25, 28)</sup>	<p>From midnight on 24 Nov 2020 Municipalities were assigned to one of the below levels of risk depending on the epidemiological situation in each municipality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Moderate:</b> Municipalities with less than 240 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.</li> <li>▪ <b>High:</b> Municipalities with a number of cases between 240 and 479 per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.</li> <li>▪ <b>Very high:</b> Municipalities with a number of cases between 480 and 959 per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.</li> <li>▪ <b>Extremely high:</b> Municipalities with more than 960 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.</li> </ul> <p>The most restrictive measures will be implemented in municipalities associated with 'extremely high' risk, with the</p>	<p>Exceptional measures are currently in place in 121 municipalities. The decision on which municipalities would be covered by the new measures was based on three criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 240 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.</li> <li>▪ proximity to another municipality that fulfils the first criterion.</li> <li>▪ not considering outbreaks in low-density counties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Plan for Easing State of Emergency:</b> It is unclear what indicators will be taken into consideration to inform the Plan for Easing.</p>			

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Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures																																
	<p>least restrictive measures implemented in municipalities with 'moderate' risk.</p> <p>A State of Emergency and national lockdown was subsequently put in place across Portugal on 15 Jan 2021.</p> <p><b>Plan for Easing State of Emergency</b></p> <p>On 11 March 2021, the Portuguese Government established a Plan for easing the State of Emergency. It is divided into 4 phases with a period of 15 days between each phase in order to be able to assess the impacts of the measures on the evolution of the pandemic. The plan details easing of restrictions which will occur between 15 March and 3 May. Not all restrictions will be eased as of 3 May with further details of the plan to be provided in due course.</p>																																	
Spain <sup>(107)</sup>	<p>The indicators for risk assessment detailed in Table A will be taken into consideration when deciding what territories fall into each level of risk.</p> <p><b>Alert level 1:</b> When at least two indicators from block I and one from block II are at low level</p> <p><b>Alert level 2:</b> When at least two indicators from block I and one from block II they are in the middle level</p> <p><b>Alert level 3:</b> When at least two indicators from block I and one from block II are at high level</p> <p><b>Alert level 4:</b> When at least two indicators from block I and one from block II they are at a very high level</p> <p>From block I, only one of the two general indicators of the accumulated incidence will be taken into account, both for global AI and incidence in &gt; 65 years: if there is no delay in notification, AI will be used in 7 days and otherwise, 14 days.</p> <p>The indicators for risk assessment detailed in Table 1 will be taken into consideration when deciding what territories fall into each level of risk. The most restrictive measures will be imposed in areas associated with the most risk.</p>	<p><b>Table A: Indicators for risk assessment</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4"><b>BLOCK I: Evaluation of the transmission level</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th><b>Indicators for alert levels</b></th> <th><b>Low</b></th> <th><b>Medium</b></th> <th><b>High</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Incidence accumulated cases diagnosed in 14 days</i></td> <td>&gt;25 to ≤50</td> <td>&gt; 50 to ≤150</td> <td>&gt; 150 to ≤250</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Incidence accumulated cases in 7 days</i></td> <td>&gt; 10 to ≤25</td> <td>&gt; 25 to ≤75</td> <td>&gt; 75 to ≤125</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Incidence accumulated cases 65 or over diagnosed in 14 days</i></td> <td>&gt; 20 to ≤50</td> <td>&gt; 50 to ≤100</td> <td>&gt; 100 to ≤150</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Incidence accumulated cases 65 or over diagnosed in 7 days</i></td> <td>&gt; 10 to ≤25</td> <td>&gt; 25 to ≤50</td> <td>&gt; 50 to ≤75</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Global positivity of PDIA by week</i></td> <td>&gt; 4% to ≤7%</td> <td>&gt; 7% to ≤10%</td> <td>&gt; 10% to ≤15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Percentage of cases with traceability</i></td> <td>≤80% to &gt; 65%</td> <td>≤65% to &gt; 50%</td> <td>≤50% to &gt; 30%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>BLOCK II: Level of use of healthcare services due to COVID-19</b></p>	<b>BLOCK I: Evaluation of the transmission level</b>				<b>Indicators for alert levels</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<i>Incidence accumulated cases diagnosed in 14 days</i>	>25 to ≤50	> 50 to ≤150	> 150 to ≤250	<i>Incidence accumulated cases in 7 days</i>	> 10 to ≤25	> 25 to ≤75	> 75 to ≤125	<i>Incidence accumulated cases 65 or over diagnosed in 14 days</i>	> 20 to ≤50	> 50 to ≤100	> 100 to ≤150	<i>Incidence accumulated cases 65 or over diagnosed in 7 days</i>	> 10 to ≤25	> 25 to ≤50	> 50 to ≤75	<i>Global positivity of PDIA by week</i>	> 4% to ≤7%	> 7% to ≤10%	> 10% to ≤15%	<i>Percentage of cases with traceability</i>	≤80% to > 65%	≤65% to > 50%	≤50% to > 30%
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**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures			
		<i>Occupation of beds of hospitalization for COVID-19 cases</i>	> 2% to ≤5%	> 5% to ≤10%	> 10% to ≤15%
		<i>Occupation of care beds critical for cases of COVID-19</i>	> 5% to ≤10%	> 10% to ≤15%	> 15% to ≤25%
<b>Sweden</b> <sup>(108, 109)</sup>	The Swedish Government does not have a set framework of restrictions in place. However, The Government has adopted a Government Bill for a temporary Act to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The legislation is intended to give the Government the authority to adopt more binding communicable disease control measures than was previously possible. The Act entered into force on 10 January 2021 and is in effect until 30 September 2021.	The combination of the result of the indicators, positions the territory evaluated at a level of risk that corresponds to four levels of alert, from 1 to 4. The final decision on the level of alert assigned to the evaluated territory is based not only on the level of risk resulting from the combination of the main indicators, but will be modulated according to the level of risk of the complementary indicators, as well as other variables related to the context, socioeconomic, demographic and mobility of the evaluated territory.			
<b>England</b> <sup>(10, 22, 110, 111)</sup>	<p>Prior to current lockdown, England used a three tiered system of restrictive measures.</p> <p>The three local COVID-19 Alert levels include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alert Level - Medium</li> <li>▪ Alert Level - High</li> <li>▪ Alert Level - Very High</li> </ul> <p>Alert levels were assigned to different regions depending on the prevalence of COVID-19 in that area.</p> <p><b>COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021</b></p> <p>On the 22 Feb 2021, the UK Government published a document outlining the roadmap out of lockdown. This plan consists of 4 steps. Step 1 of the plan commenced on 8 March and Step 4 is set to take place no earlier than 21 June 2021.</p>	<p>It is unclear what triggers will be taken into consideration when deciding on whether or not to impose restrictions. However, it has been previously noted that the starting point has been that the measures taken to reduce the spread of infection are to be characterised by persistence and participation, taking into account the effects on society and public health in general.</p> <p>In relation to the three tiered system implemented by the UK, the following indicators were taken into consideration before implementing or easing restrictive measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ number of new infections of the disease identifies during a specific time period (incidence)</li> <li>▪ the estimate of R and growth rate</li> <li>▪ proportion of the population that test positive for the disease in the community at any given point in time (positivity rate or prevalence)</li> <li>▪ data on testing, cases, healthcare and deaths.</li> </ul> <p><b>COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021</b></p> <p>The design of the roadmap has been guided by some important principles. Decisions on easing restrictions will be led by data rather than dates. It takes around 4 weeks for the data to show the impact of easing restrictions and the Government will provide a further week's notice to the public and businesses ahead of any further changes. For that reason, there will be at least 5 weeks between the steps in the</p>			

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
		<p>roadmap. The indicative, 'no earlier than' dates in the roadmap are all contingent on the data and subject to change.</p> <p>Before taking each step, the Government will review the latest data on the impact of the previous step against 4 tests. The tests are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.</li> <li>▪ Evidence shows that vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.</li> <li>▪ Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.</li> <li>▪ Assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.</li> </ul>
<b>Northern Ireland</b> <sup>(23, 38, 112)</sup>	<p>The Northern Ireland Executive does not have a set framework of restrictions in place.</p> <p>On the 2 March 2021, the Northern Ireland Executive published a guidance document, 'Moving Forward', detailing a pathway out of restrictions. The guidance document details 5 stages moving from lockdown restrictions to cautious first steps, gradual easing, further easing and the future. The Executive has committed to a 4-week review cycle, where they will monitor the data on a range of health and societal impacts, before considering what relaxations can be made safely. The dates for comprehensive formal reviews by the Executive are: 16 March, 15 April, 13 May and 10 June 2021.</p>	<p>Following an increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, additional restrictive measures are implemented for people living in Northern Ireland. The reproductive number (R) helps inform decision making with regard to social distancing and other restrictions. The Executive has indicated that keeping R below 1 is a key objective.</p> <p>In relation to the plans to reopen, the following factors will be taken into consideration:</p> <p><b>Health Trends (set figures not specified)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rates of virus transmission and incidence.</li> <li>▪ Healthcare capacity (COVID and non-COVID).</li> <li>▪ Population immunity and vaccination.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mental health and physical wellbeing.</li> <li>▪ Education of children and young people.</li> <li>▪ Impacts upon vulnerable people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economy Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact on businesses/sectors.</li> <li>▪ Impact on employees.</li> <li>▪ Availability of economic support packages.</li> </ul>
<b>Scotland</b> <sup>(24, 113)</sup>	<p><b>Previous framework:</b> Previously, Scotland had a 5 level protection plan, with levels ranging from 0 to 4 inclusive. Level 0 was associated with the lowest level of risk and level 4 associated with the highest level of risk.</p> <p><b>Updated framework:</b></p>	<p><b>Indicators relevant to previous framework:</b> The protection levels are reviewed weekly. The following factors are taken into consideration when deciding what level of restrictions should be implemented in each region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of cases per 100,000 people over the past 7 days.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of tests that are positive over the past 7 days</li> <li>▪ Forecasts of the number of weekly cases per 100,000 in 2 weeks' time</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures																																	
	<p>More recently, the framework has been updated, with the 5 level protection plan ranging from level 0 to 4 still being applied. Additionally the updated framework details plans for a gradual easing of restrictions with a minimum 3 week gap between each phase of reopening. Each phase of easing restrictions will be conditional on 6 conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transmission is controlled.</li> <li>2. Sufficient public health and health system capacities are in place.</li> <li>3. Outbreak risks are minimized in high vulnerability settings.</li> <li>4. Preventative measures are established in work places.</li> <li>5. Manage the risk of exporting and importing cases.</li> <li>6. Communities have a voice, are informed, engaged and participatory in the transition.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current and projected future use of local hospital beds, compared with capacity</li> <li>▪ Current and projected future use of intensive care beds, compared with capacity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indicators relevant to updated framework:</b> Some indicators that will be taken into consideration before moving between levels of the updated framework are illustrated in the table below, where a comparison is made between the Scottish guidance and the WHO guidance. Scotland will continue to give careful consideration to WHO advice as it continues to develop and they will seek to tailor such advice to Scotland’s particular circumstances where appropriate.</p> <p>A number of other indicators including vaccinations will also be taken into consideration. More clarity around indicators and data that will be taken into consideration will be published in a separate analytical paper in due course.</p> <p><b>WHO advised indicators compared to Scotland’s current indicators. Adapted from Scotland’s Strategic Framework</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Level 0</th> <th>Level 1</th> <th>Level 2</th> <th>Level 3</th> <th>Level 4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Weekly cases/ 100k</td> <td>Scotland’s current range</td> <td>&lt;20</td> <td>20-75</td> <td>75-150</td> <td>150-300</td> <td>300+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WHO range</td> <td>Close to 0</td> <td>&lt;20</td> <td>20-50</td> <td>50-150</td> <td>150+</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Test Positivity</td> <td>Scotland’s current range</td> <td>&lt;1.5%</td> <td>1.5-3%</td> <td>3-5%</td> <td>5-10%</td> <td>10%+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WHO range</td> <td>Close to 0</td> <td>&lt;2%</td> <td>2-5%</td> <td>5-20%</td> <td>20%+</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Weekly cases/ 100k	Scotland’s current range	<20	20-75	75-150	150-300	300+	WHO range	Close to 0	<20	20-50	50-150	150+	Test Positivity	Scotland’s current range	<1.5%	1.5-3%	3-5%	5-10%	10%+	WHO range	Close to 0	<2%	2-5%	5-20%	20%+
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Wales <sup>(16)</sup>	<p>The Welsh Government published their risk framework in January 2021. The framework consists of 4 risk levels, with the least amount of restrictions under alert level 1 and the most restrictions associated with alert level 4 as follows:</p> <p><b>Alert level one (low risk)</b> This represents the level of restrictions closest to normality, which are possible while infection rates are low and other</p>	<p><b>Alert level one indicators:</b> This represents the closest to normality that is likely to be experienced until the summer and the widespread roll-out of vaccines. At this alert level the following might be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All new infections being reported can be accounted for by contact tracing teams.</li> <li>▪ Low levels of community transmission and no evidence of wider transmission.</li> </ul>																																	

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<p>preventative measures, such as social distancing and working from home, remain in place.</p> <p><b>Alert level two (medium risk)</b> This includes additional controls to limit the spread of coronavirus. These may be complemented by more targeted local actions to manage specific incidents or outbreaks.</p> <p><b>Alert level three (high risk)</b> These represent the strictest restrictions short of a firebreak or lockdown. This responds to higher or rising level of infections where local actions are no longer effective in containing the growth of the virus.</p> <p><b>Alert level four (very high risk)</b> Restrictions at this level would be equivalent to the firebreak regulations or lockdown. These could either be deployed as a preventative firebreak or as a lockdown measure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimal introduction of infection into closed settings (such as care homes, schools, and prisons).</li> <li>▪ Sustained low incidence rates. Slightly higher incidence rates may be tolerable if explained by outbreaks being understood and managed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alert level two indicators:</b> This includes additional controls to ensure sustained low incidence (consistent with alert level one). These may be complemented by more targeted local restrictions put in place by incident management teams and others to manage specific incidents or outbreaks. At this alert level the following might be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Almost all new infections reported are responded to by contact tracing teams.</li> <li>▪ NHS Wales Test Trace Protect evidence shows, while the majority of cases can be accounted for, there is emerging evidence of onward transmission from previously identified risks.</li> <li>▪ There is increasing introduction of infections in closed settings, such as care homes, and in the community.</li> <li>▪ Likely to be multiple clusters and increased community transmission.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alert level three indicators:</b> This represents the strictest restrictions short of a firebreak or lockdown. At this alert level, the restrictions at alert level two and supportive local actions are no longer effective in containing the growth of the virus or a wider spread. At this alert level the following might be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not all new infections are being investigated.</li> <li>▪ Resources are targeting clusters and incidents in high risk settings (for example care homes).</li> <li>▪ Widespread community transmission evidenced by number of small household and social clusters which cannot be linked. Significant impact on closed settings.</li> <li>▪ Numerous cases which are linked to workplaces.</li> <li>▪ Hospital admissions increasing on a trajectory that would lead to unsustainable levels and care homes in red, delaying discharge and causing bottlenecks.</li> <li>▪ Incidence rates in the over 60s increasing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alert level four indicators:</b></p>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
		<p>Restrictions at this level would be equivalent to a firebreak or lockdown. At this alert level the following might be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very high or exponential growth of cases with widespread introduction into closed settings.</li> <li>▪ NHS Wales Test Trace Protect is prioritising the most vulnerable, and backward contact tracing is no longer feasible as there are too many cases.</li> <li>▪ Epidemiological review shows random spread of virus across Wales without a comprehensive understanding of transmission drivers.</li> <li>▪ Evidence that national and local mitigating measures no longer proving effective.</li> <li>▪ Health and social care under significant pressure and not sustainable, elective procedures are being cancelled across the board and capacity limits reached or about to be breached.</li> </ul>
<b>Switzerland</b> <sup>(114)</sup>	The Swiss Government does not have a set framework of restrictions in place. However, there are various measures, rules and bans in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The number of cases of people infected with the virus</li> <li>▪ The number of people requiring hospital treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Israel</b> <sup>(32)</sup>	<p>In Israel, a traffic light plan for restrictions consists of four colours; red, orange, yellow and green. Each colour is associated with different levels of restrictions with areas falling under the red traffic light having the most restrictions imposed and those under the green traffic light having the least restrictions.</p> <p><b>Traffic light plan:</b>  <b>Red:</b> minimal activity  <b>Orange:</b> limited activity  <b>Yellow:</b> limited activity  <b>Green:</b> extended activity</p> <p><b>Vaccination and the Green Pass (plan for reopening)</b>  <b>What is a Green Pass?</b>  The Green Pass is an entry permit to places or facilities for recovered coronavirus patients and vaccinated people.</p> <p><b>Who is eligible for a Green Pass, and what is the limitation of the Pass?</b>  The Green Pass is personal and is given to any person who is vaccinated for coronavirus, or people who recovered from coronavirus. No others are eligible for the Green Pass at this</p>	<p>To inform what traffic light colour is applied, the following indicators are taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of positive tests.</li> <li>▪ New patients per 10,000 people.</li> </ul>

**Table B.1** International frameworks for living with COVID-19 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Framework for living with COVID-19	Triggers to inform a change in public health measures
	<p>stage.</p> <p>Each group has a different limitation on the Pass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vaccinated individuals: the Pass is valid for six months (similar to the vaccination certificate), effective the week after receiving the second dose for six months.</li> <li>- Recovered coronavirus patients: the Pass is valid until 30 June 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Green Pass Establishments</b></p> <p>Who can be admitted into establishments that comply with the Green Pass restrictions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vaccinated individuals – any individual who received 2 doses and at least a week has passed since the administration of the second dose (people with a vaccination certificate).</li> <li>- Recovered individuals – people with a certificate of recovery who were confirmed coronavirus patients or who people who have a positive serological test result.</li> <li>- One-year olds or younger.</li> <li>- At this stage, people undergoing testing or children under 16 years of age who are not recovered coronavirus patients will not be admitted.</li> <li>- There are exceptions for event venues and gardens as well as for admitting children to hotels.</li> </ul> <p><b>How is the Green Pass used?</b></p> <p>You may enter establishments or events that comply with Green Pass restrictions, if you present the Pass (either printed or on an App) with an identification document or if you show a vaccination certificate or a recovery certificate.</p> <p><b>What are the rules when in an establishment complying with Green Pass restrictions?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Even in establishments that comply with Green Pass restrictions, it is important to continue practicing the public behaviour rules to reduce the risk of infection.</li> <li>- Occupancy restrictions must be observed by every location.</li> </ul>	

## Appendix C – International testing strategies

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
<b>Austria</b> <sup>(34, 60, 61, 75, 115)</sup>	<p>Testing strategy consists of two main pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Test symptomatic individuals and contacts.</li> <li>2. Test asymptomatic individuals as part of screening programs, outbreak investigations and identified contacts.</li> <li>3. Population wide testing for infection control.</li> </ol>	<p>Screening of staff in RCFs and high risk healthcare settings.</p> <p>Target group-specific screening for high risk settings.</p> <p>Screening of admissions and readmissions of residents and visitors to RCFs.</p> <p>Screening of students (mandatory) and staff (voluntary):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At elementary and special schools, self-tests (anterio-nasal tests) will be carried out 3 times a week.</li> <li>- At all other schools once a week.</li> <li>- Boarding school students on first arrival at the boarding school.</li> </ul>	<p>Rapid antigen for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic at GPs, hospitals pre-admissions and outpatient departments, RCFs and schools.</li> <li>2. Asymptomatic individuals in outbreak management. All positives results followed up by PCT test, with the exception of symptomatic close contacts. Mobile testing team on site at companies with more than 100 employees. Large scale population-wide testing conducted during December on a voluntary basis. All positive tests followed up with PCR test at the same test location.</li> </ol>	<p>Population-wide voluntary testing was conducted in Austria in December. All positive tests followed up with PCR test, the person concerned will be officially segregated and retested within 24 hours. If confirmed by the PCR test, the immediate official separation of the contact persons of the past 48 hours takes place.</p>
<b>Belgium</b> <sup>(76, 116-118)</sup>	<p>Laboratories prioritise samples for testing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic patients, with particular attention to critically ill patients, health professionals and people over 65 years of age and suffering from co-morbidities.</li> <li>2. Clusters/homes within communities, both within and outside care institutions.</li> <li>3. Screening new residents in RCFs; new residents with a risk profile (over 65 years of age or co-morbidities) in other care institutions; and hospitalised persons.</li> </ol>	<p>Screening of new residents in RCFs, new residents with a risk profile in other care institutions, and hospitalised persons.</p> <p>Periodic screening of staff at RCFs and also home nurses according to the epidemiological situation</p> <p>Screening of visitors to RCFs (optional).</p> <p>Screening of all asymptomatic people following high-risk contact identified based a self-assessment tool.</p> <p>Pooling of samples can be used for screening of large asymptomatic populations expected to have a low prevalence.</p> <p>A large-scale pilot has begun investigating whether weekly PCR screening using morning saliva on</p>	<p>Rapid antigen tests can be used for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic individuals with symptoms for <math>\leq 5</math> days presenting at emergency services; hospitals; triage and collection centres; GP practices.</li> <li>2. Asymptomatic individuals, in the context of cluster research (<math>\geq 2</math> cases) in group settings with a low-risk profile (not RCFs): essential services, e.g. police, fire brigade etc.; education, childcare, youth assistance; essential sectors and companies. All positive test results followed up with PCR test. Pilot projects are ongoing to evaluate the use of antigen tests in the context of cluster investigation in RCFs, and for the testing of high-risk contacts in schools at the start of their quarantine.</li> </ol>	<p>No population wide testing</p> <p>Preventative testing in local communities is "not recommended and not reimbursable" in all three phases of the pandemic (pre-alarm, alarm and epidemic).</p>

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
		all staff can effectively prevent outbreaks in non-infected RCFs. In Antwerp, saliva PCR tests are being compared with deep-nose PCR tests in secondary schools.		
<b>Czechia</b> <sup>(45, 79, 89, 119)</sup>	Testing is provided for symptomatic individuals and close contacts, as well as high-risk groups (for example, patients with comorbidities). All health insurance policyholders (mandatory in Czechia) can request a test regardless of symptoms or close contact status free of charge once every 5 days.	Screening of all staff and residents of LTCFs at least once every 7 days. Screening all staff at social service providers and outpatient departments at least once every 7 days. Screening of visitors on arrival to all healthcare services including LTCFs. Workplace screening of employees in companies who employ at least 50 people at least once every 7 days.	Rapid antigen tests can be used for: Screening staff and residents in LTCFs and outpatient facilities. Screening is performed by a medical professional and all positive results with no symptoms or negative results and symptoms followed up by PCR test. Screening of visitors to LTCF and other healthcare facilities using rapid antigen (not required for visitors with positive PCR result within 90 days). Rapid antigen tests available for screening teaching staff in pilot to assist with the return to school. Not intended for symptomatic patients or for quarantined persons (PCR only).	Close-to-blanket testing using rapid antigen tests have been conducted (for example, via free tests and mandatory workplace testing).
<b>Denmark</b> <sup>(46, 71, 87, 120, 121)</sup>	All citizens aged 2 and over can request a PCR test. Priority is given to symptomatic individuals in need of medical attention, close contacts of confirmed cases, and residents/patients and staff in healthcare facilities.	Regular screening of staff at all healthcare services and LTCFs where there are people at increased risk at COVID-19, up to twice a week. Screening at admissions at hospitals. Regular or as a point testing of staff and older students (unspecified) at schools and other educational institutions in connection with reopening. People working in special occupations. Epi surveillance, testing of staff in regions of high infection levels.	When notified as a contact via contact tracing app. Screening staff at care centres and LTCFs, staff and older students at educational institutions, employees at workplaces, and selected age groups or areas where there is a widespread spread of infection. Low risk contacts in the event of an outbreak of infection in a workplace, schools or institution. Screening selected age groups or areas where there is a widespread spread of infection, depending on the situation PCR might be preferred. Selective urgent situations where simultaneous PCR testing must also be	No population wide testing.



**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
			<p>performed, such as patients presenting at admission with symptoms that are compatible with COVID-19 so that relevant treatment can be initiated or for outbreak management in a RCF or other LTCF to screen residents and staff for an immediate decision to initiate cohort isolation.</p> <p>When used in regular screening an interval of between 3 and 4 days is recommended.</p> <p>If antigen testing is used outside of screening scenarios, a negative test result should always be followed up with a PCR test. Not allowed for use in testing relatives of particularly vulnerable people prior to visiting, for example screening RCF visitors.</p>	
<p><b>France</b><sup>(47, 63, 85, 122, 123)</sup></p>	<p>Anyone in France can request a PCR test free of charge. Priority is given to symptomatic individuals, close contacts, and nursing or similar staff.</p>	<p>Individuals considered medically vulnerable and their caregivers. Individuals who live in areas with high transmission rates. Residents of LTCFs and other high risk settings in the event of the first confirmed case. Territories identified as vulnerable because of their density or the distance from access to care. Companies that suspect a cluster among its employees can organise a collective screening operation after having declared it to the State authorities.</p>	<p>Rapid antigen for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic individuals <math>\leq 4</math> days. Positive results for individuals aged 65 or over and people who present with at least one risk factor, as defined by the High Council of Public Health, must be followed up with PCR test.</li> <li>2. Asymptomatic individuals when they are contacts detected individually or within a cluster and symptomatic people within the first 4 days after the onset of symptoms, screening RCF, and as part of a diagnostic process, if the professional considers it necessary. Antigenic tests are not intended for close contacts of confirmed cases.</li> </ol> <p>Rapid antigen tests are used as part of targeted screening when there is a risk of increased transmission (e.g. LTCF, high schools and universities, factories,</p>	<p>None underway, however, testing is widely available.</p>

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
			collective accommodation, etc.). Patients admitted urgently to a health establishment, to make the right management decisions (for hospitalization after going to the emergency room, for example)	
<b>Germany</b> <sup>(48, 124-126)</sup>	Symptomatic individuals Asymptomatic persons with criteria of exposure or disposition e.g. close contacts or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in facilities. Priority is given to vulnerable groups and their carers, HCWs, and specific close contacts.	Residents and patients before (re)admission to hospitals, LTCFs, and other care facilities without a confirmed case. Residents, carers, patients, possibly visitors and all staff at facility with a confirmed case. Staff at hospitals and other facilities (residential and non-residential LTCF) undergo random testing independent of cases and up to once a week in areas with an increased incidence (e.g. 7-day incidence > 50 / 100,000). Staff at medical and dental practices with an increased incidence (as above). Epidemic regions with an increased incidence (as above). People in community facilities and communal accommodation (e.g. doctors' practices, schools, etc.) where a case has emerged. For serial testing maximum once a week is allowed.	Rapid antigen tests can be used for staff at all care facilities without a COVID case or residents, carers, patients, possibly visitors and all staff at facility with a confirmed case only when PCR is not available. In the case of increased regional incidence (e.g. 7-day incidence > 50 / 100,000), weekly random testing of inpatients, residents and those in care in inpatient and outpatient settings, and for each visitor to inpatient and LTCF settings (excluding RCFs). Other exceptional cases: - when PCR is not available or there is an urgency, and - only for use in people for whom a false negative result does not lead to serious consequences (e.g., an undetected entry of an infection upon admission to a hospital). All positive results must be followed up with a PCR test.	No population wide testing, however, large scale community testing based on regional incidence rate can be implemented.
<b>Ireland</b> <sup>(49, 88, 127-131)</sup>	Testing is provided to symptomatic individuals and close contacts with a confirmed case (including asymptomatic close contacts).	Serial testing of all staff in nursing homes is undertaken every fortnight. Serial testing of all primary and secondary meat processing facilities is currently paused. Previous serial testing programmes	Rapid molecular testing, using RT-PCR, has been widely deployed in hospital laboratory settings. Adoption of such tests has been contingent on completion of validation testing. Alternative molecular testing approaches and RADT have not as yet been deployed	None underway.

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Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
		included residents of direct provision centres.	as part of the publicly funded national testing strategy.  Antigen tests are offered to some: - hospital patients who have symptoms of COVID-19, including people attending an emergency department. - people in a setting with an outbreak of COVID-19.	
<b>Italy</b> <sup>(11, 50, 81, 93)</sup>	Regions and autonomous provinces are responsible for their own approach to testing as per the "Relaunch Decree" 19 May 2020. However, the Ministry for Health issues guidance which recommends testing symptomatic individuals and close contacts of confirmed cases.	Vulnerable patients/residents and staff in high-risk healthcare settings. A wide range of settings are now permitted to implement screening strategies including workplaces and schools.	Rapid antigen tests including using saliva samples can now be used in a wide range of settings: People with symptoms or close contact of a confirmed case. Negative test result followed up with PCR or non-rapid antigenic tests (laboratory), rapid antigenic tests with fluorescence reading and those based on microfluidics with fluorescence reading, which meet the minimum sensitivity and specificity characteristics indicated (sensitivity $\geq 80\%$ and specificity $\geq 97\%$ , with a more stringent sensitivity requirement ( $\geq 90\%$ ) in low incidence settings). For contact tracing (although PCR remains first line). Screening in hospitals, LTCFs, schools and airports is permitted.	None underway.  Provincial-level screening expanded to include voluntary targeted antigen testing of randomly selected subgroups, once a week for four weeks, representative of the population of South Tyrol.
<b>Netherlands</b> <sup>(51, 77, 83, 92, 132-134)</sup>	Testing is provided to symptomatic individuals, close contacts and household members of a confirmed case. Not all people who have symptoms will be tested with priority given for seriously ill, specific patients in higher-risk groups and HCW who are caring for vulnerable groups.	Admissions and discharge from a healthcare setting. Staff in key industries, sports participants and for attendance to events, and expanded testing to include home sampling kits. On 20 January 2021, the cabinet approved the organization of the first practical tests (field labs)	Symptomatic individuals in the following situations can be tested using ADT or LAMP (negative ADT result followed up with PCR or LAMP): - Seriously ill people (vulnerable and non-vulnerable) who report to the healthcare system (e.g. GP, emergency care). - In institutions and for vulnerable people. - Not in institutions and for vulnerable	None underway.  Large-scale testing pilots to begin in January with the aim to expand the programme to population-wide screening on a monthly basis from March 2021. No further updates.

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
		research program aimed at large events.	<p>people: ADT is possible in vulnerable persons with recent mild symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Works with or is in contact with vulnerable people (care workers, informal carers, visitors to institutions where vulnerable persons reside): Breath test possible (positive breath test must always be confirmed with another test).</li> </ul> <p>Asymptomatic individuals in the following situations can be tested using ADT or LAMP or breath test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With known exposure where a positive breath test must be confirmed with another test.</li> <li>- Screening in institutions where vulnerable persons reside (in the context of an outbreak investigation) where a negative rapid antigen test and a 'positive' breath test must be confirmed with a PCR test or LAMP test.</li> <li>- Screening in the event of other clusters reside (in the context of an outbreak investigation in other institutions, schools, work situations, etc.) where a positive breath test must be confirmed with another test.</li> <li>- Returning or arriving from abroad where a positive breath test must be confirmed with another test.</li> <li>- Without known exposure in certain situations where confirming a 'positive' test result with a different test.</li> </ul>	
<b>Portugal</b> <sup>(52, 91)</sup>	Tests are provided for symptomatic individuals and for all contacts (low or high) of confirmed cases.	Asymptomatic individuals with high-risk contact may be screened. Before carrying out aerosol-generating procedures. Before admission as inpatient to hospital, as a resident to a LTCF	Rapid antigen for asymptomatic users with face-to-face consultation for hospitals and primary health. Rapid antigen tests for diagnosis for symptomatic without hospitalization criteria and used in the first 5 days	No population wide testing, however, large scale community testing based on local incidence rate can be implemented.

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
		and for pregnant women for childbirth assistance, to centres for refugees/migrants, and to prisons. Regular screening in HCWs who provide direct healthcare and with a higher risk of contagion, appropriate to the context of each service / institution and according to the level of exposure of professionals, between seven and 14 days. In schools, prisons, factories and civil construction (occupational contexts of high social exposure) in the municipalities with a 14 day cumulative incidence of Covid-19 cases of over 480 per 100 thousand inhabitants.	(inclusive) of symptom onset. Negative test result followed up with PCR test in situations of high clinical suspicion of COVID-19. If the molecular test is not available or does not allow the result to be obtained in less than 12 hours, a rapid antigen test should be used. Rapid antigen tests preferred in an outbreak situation (such as schools, educational establishments, LTCFs including RCFs and similar or closed institutions). Rapid antigen for occupational contexts of high social exposure.	Conducting sero-prevalence studies in samples of the population.
<b>Spain</b> <sup>(53, 135)</sup>	Any person with suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection should receive a diagnostic test for active SARS-CoV-2 infection in the first 24 hours. The type of test (PCR or Antigen) used depends on a number of criteria: disease severity; availability of resources; speed at which the results are needed.	Screening of asymptomatic individuals is permitted in certain circumstances (e.g., workers or inpatients/residents in healthcare and LTCF settings; new admissions to health or social health centres; population subgroup Epi studies). PCR is preferred (pooled if possible); however, rapid antigen represents an acceptable alternative. All positive antigen test results followed up with PCR test.	Rapid antigen tests approved for widespread use. Test must have sensitivity >80% and specificity > 97%, must meet WHO criteria and have undergone independent validation studies.	The National Strategy does contain considerations for population-wide testing. However, the autonomous nature of various regions in Spain makes a nation-wide screening programme unlikely.  Ongoing studies as part of the National Study of SARS-CoV2 sero-prevalence Epidemiology in Spain.
<b>Sweden</b> <sup>(54, 86, 136-139)</sup>	Testing is provided to symptomatic individuals and contacts. Prioritisation is given to patients, persons with risk factors and persons in long-term care, health and medical staff, personnel in other socially important activities, and individuals in other	At admission and readmission to a RCF. People with home care or home health care are tested when they return home after a hospital stay or short-term stay. All care and nursing staff, regardless of type of employment, who work in special housing for the	Rapid antigen test can be used for: Symptomatic patients, ≤ 5 days from symptom onset when there is a need for increased test capacity or quick result. Screening workers in RCFs. For contact tracing investigation and for people who are not in need of hospital care (e.g. primary care, outpatient or	None underway.  Ongoing Epi PCR and sero-prevalent studies within the general population and within specific areas (regions and municipalities).

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Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
	relevant parts of society to enable the return to work more quickly.	elderly, are eligible for screening. The screening should take place at least once a week. Sentinel sampling in nursing homes from patients with flu-like illness every week include COVID PCR test and is reported to the Swedish Public Health Agency for analysis. Stockholm region offers tests for antibodies and tests for ongoing disease to all citizens. Several other regions are doing the same. Dalarna and Gotland regions has introduced PCR self-sampling to increase testing capacity.	RCF). All positive test results followed up by PCR test.	
<b>England</b> <sup>(66, 70, 82, 94, 140-142)</sup>	The two main testing strategies used are: 1) PCR tests (mainly for people with symptoms) 2) rapid lateral flow tests (only for people with no symptoms) Focus is on symptomatic testing with priority to vulnerable groups, staff and residents in RCF, then personnel from industries critical to society. With the current national lockdown in place, the focus of the Community Testing Programme is on testing asymptomatic people who are permitted to leave home for work (including essential voluntary work) and who are unable to access asymptomatic testing through other routes, particularly those who are	The Community Testing Programme offers tailored large-scale testing of asymptomatic individuals to communities experiencing high incidence which includes targeting high-risk workplaces and hard-to-reach communities and schools. New Variant Surge Programme is using PCR tests to test for new variants of concern in localised areas with detected cases of the new variants. Serial testing of NHS patient-facing staff, RCF staff and other high risk care and supported living staff, twice a week, and for residents, once a week. Serial testing of staff at food manufacturing plants, closed settings such as prisons for staff and prisoners, and staff at other critical functions, weekly. Regular testing will be offered to up	Rapid lateral flow tests including home test kits for: 1. Asymptomatic persons as part of screening programmes including frontline staff and patients and residents in health and social care (including RCFs) settings, large-scale community testing, schools, universities and workplaces 2. Testing of persons without symptoms is only recommended as a formal part of one of the programmes or pilot studies within the National Testing Programme. Rapid molecular tests are being used in certain clinical settings to support urgent clinical assessment/diagnosis, for example. Tests on saliva are being trialed for people without symptoms. If an lateral flow test result in an asymptomatic person is positive, the person who has been tested may be asked to take an RT-PCR test, for instance if disease prevalence is low or	No population wide testing, however, large scale community testing based on local incidence rate is in operations.

**Table C.1** International strategies for the detection of current infection with SARS-CoV-2 (extracted on 12 March 2021)

Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
	critical to supporting communities, responding to the pandemic and/or at higher risk of infection and transmission.	<p>to 2 family members or friends per resident in LTCFs with negative results allowing physical contact with family member.</p> <p>Serial testing of students (three times a week) and staff (twice a week) at primary and secondary schools, nurseries and colleges.</p> <p>Serial testing of members of households, childcare or support bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges, twice a week.</p> <p>A pilot has begun for cohort pooled testing of university students using self-sampling lateral flow tests in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (groups of 5 or household).</p> <p>Plans have been created to facilitate rapid testing for specific one-off events.</p> <p>Plans to introduce frequent testing as an alternative to the need for self-isolation for people who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19.</p>	where the LFD Ag test result is self-reported	
<b>Northern Ireland</b> <sup>(56, 67, 72, 74, 140, 143)</sup>	Testing is provided for symptomatic individuals, screening programmes and outbreaks.	<p>RCF with outbreak free status: test all asymptomatic residents every 28 days and all asymptomatic staff testing every 7 days.</p> <p>Screening of HSC staff. Currently there is a pilot where selected HSC staff are being asked to carry out the twice weekly test.</p> <p>Screening of workers in key sectors and cohort pooled testing of university students.</p>	<p>Pilot in progress using lateral flow test as part of the larger mass testing pilots in 67 local authorities in the UK.</p> <p>Screening programmes in HSC and workplaces using Lateral Flow test.</p> <p>Queen's University in Belfast has launched a rapid Covid-19 testing programme for students. All positive test results followed up with PCR test.</p>	No population wide testing.

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Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
<b>Scotland</b> <sup>(57, 69, 140, 144)</sup>	Scotland's Testing Strategy prioritises PCR tests: 1) Symptomatic individuals. 2) Testing contacts and testing in outbreaks. 3) Vulnerable and preventing outbreaks in high risk settings. 4) All ICU patients and all symptomatic patients admitted to hospital have been tested.	Serial testing of all staff members in patient-facing roles who work in NHS Scotland hospitals, the Scottish Ambulance Service, COVID-19 Assessment Centres, COVID-19 Vaccinators, Community Workforce and District Nurses, twice weekly Serial testing of RCF staff alongside PCR testing (enhanced testing), twice a week. If suspected case of COVID-19 then all residents and staff are tested. Screening of designated family/friend visitors and professional visitors to RCFs (e.g. podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, essential maintenance staff, and site contractors). Cohort pooled testing of university students. Outbreak testing of all asymptomatic HCWs in hospitals following outbreak in previously COVID-free wards.	Lateral flow testing for: Serial testing in a wide range of settings and populations using LFD testing including for designated visitors and professional visitors to RCFs. Community testing on general population using lateral flow test. Testing of Scotland's university students using self-sampling lateral flow tests. All positive test results followed up with PCR test.	No population wide testing.
<b>Wales</b> <sup>(58, 68, 145-147)</sup>	Testing focused on symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic close contacts (not as an alternative to self-isolating). Pilot within a primary care cluster with GPs, dental surgeries and pharmacies to consider the application of asymptomatic RT-PCR testing within community settings. Pilot testing for asymptomatics has begun in areas with high COVID-19 rates to reduce the	Screening of asymptomatic individuals for contact tracing and targeted action through local outbreaks in communities or within businesses. Screening of all hospital admissions including emergency and at discharge to RCF. Screening of all residents and staff of RCFs that have cases of Covid-19 among their residents or staff. Screening of elective admissions when prevalence in the community is high. Outpatients / diagnostic	Lateral flow testing for asymptomatic testing: -available in areas of high incidence (currently available in Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf for the next 4 weeks). -Serial testing using lateral flow testing in health and social care settings. -As well as in universities, schools and other workplaces. Home test kits available. All positive test results followed up by PCR test.	No population wide testing.



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Country	Testing strategy	Expanded use of testing (e.g., screening)	Use of rapid or near-patient testing (for the detection of current infection)	Population-wide testing
	onward transmission of the virus. If you live in an eligible area you can access a test if you do not have any symptoms.	interventions based on patient and procedural risk. Serial and strategic testing of HCWs. Antibody tests are used on HCWs for surveillance.		
<b>Switzerland</b> <sup>(33, 59, 65, 78, 114)</sup>	Testing is provided free of charge to anyone who requests a test, including symptomatic individuals, for personal reasons or work related, critical personnel (regular testing) and contacts that have been exposed to the virus.  Variations may exist across the cantons.	Regular testing of critical personnel and patients/residents/inmates in healthcare and social settings and other LTCFs (if employed, every 5-7 days, if possible at least 3 times in a row), is permitted. Visitors to hospitals, RCFs and other care facilities is permitted. Screening at a sporting event, concert, etc. is permitted. Screening at workplaces is permitted. From 15 March, regular testing in companies using pooled saliva samples will be permitted.	Rapid antigen tests for: Symptomatic- individuals (<4 days from onset). Excluding vulnerable groups, frontline HCWs and at outpatient settings. Asymptomatic - for personal reasons, close contacts of confirmed cases, outbreak investigation in settings such as schools, ski areas, in certain regions, etc., visiting a hospital or RCF, or screening at a sporting event, concert, etc. or at the recommendation of your employer/workplace. In most situations (undefined) a positive result must be confirmed with a PCR test.	No population wide testing.
<b>Israel</b> <sup>(32, 64)</sup>	Anyone wishing to be tested for coronavirus may do so. It is recommended that members of a confirmed patient's household will also be tested, even if they do not have any symptoms.	Unable to identify relevant guidance.	Unable to identify relevant guidance.	No population wide testing.

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