

# COVID-19 Fact Sheet: Europe, the Caucasus, & Central Asia



**Author:** *Stephanie Kiefer, Senior Regional Analyst – Europe, the Caucasus, & Central Asia*

**Contact:** [Stephanie.Kiefer@everbridge.com](mailto:Stephanie.Kiefer@everbridge.com)

## OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Numerous countries in Europe have been seeing increasing daily COVID-19 cases numbers following the relaxation of nationwide and cross-border restrictions in many instances. Although many of those affected countries have not yet seen sustained major spikes harkening back to spreading outbreaks in the springtime, officials have sought to apply localized restrictions to avoid the risk of broader countrywide spreading of COVID-19, which could then increase pressure on officials to institute more aggressive national restrictions. The varying outbreak levels in many countries are also resulting in shifting restrictions on international travel and possible quarantine mandates on people arriving from abroad. Given the dynamics of COVID-19 outbreaks and the potential for relatively rapid shifts, regular changes in restriction on international travel and arrivals for each country should be anticipated for the foreseeable future. Wariness of the potential reintroduction of restrictions on cross-border movements is likely to continue to suppress international travel, with the countries that are more reliant on their tourism sector potentially being more heavily hit this year than had been hoped when travel around Europe was initially resuming post-lockdowns. Governments have also encouraged people to remain vigilant in their everyday behaviors to mitigate transmission, as officials stress that it is important to keep as much control of the current outbreak situation in order to better cope with anticipated rises in transmission during the autumn and winter.

## EUROPE

**Finland's** government is planning to introduce additional measures next week as officials caution that the spread of COVID-19 is accelerating in the country. Nonetheless, the country still has one of the lowest incidence levels of COVID-19 in Europe. In addition to measures being announced next week, the government plans to set forth its "autumn roadmap" then.

**France's** health ministry warned on Friday that there is "more active circulation" of COVID-19 around the country as nearly 2,300 new cases for a single day were reported. President Emmanuel Macron is convening the defense council next week to consider the recent increase in cases. In conjunction with the increase in new cases and demand for testing, media reports have suggested challenges in providing testing due to facilities being closed as staff take vacation. The challenges in locating testing facilities operating during the traditional holiday period have fueled calls for greater government organization to ensure such services are available in a timely manner.

**German** officials continue to urge the public to abide by virus mitigation measures such as distancing and wearing masks in response to the recent rise in new cases. School reopenings, which vary by state, have started this week and at least two subsequent closures have occurred due to confirmed COVID-19 cases. Germany had two consecutive days of new cases above 1,000 on Thursday and Friday.

**Ireland** is placing restrictions on three counties from the morning of August 8, including Kildare, Laois, and Offaly, due to a jump in new cases. Movement is limited to essential activities, including for work, while restaurants and pubs will be required to close indoor dining. On Thursday, the country's average rate of transmission (the R number) was estimated to be 1.8.

**Italy** had the highest number of daily new cases on Friday (552) since late May, as the country sees a rise in new cases. The Veneto region had the highest number of new cases (182) of any single region on Friday, with some of the new cases in the Veneto involving people recently returned from other countries. Despite the increase in cases, the death toll rose only by three on Friday. Italy has threatened to bar Ryanair from operating in the country due to alleged non-compliance with COVID-19 policies, though Ryanair has rejected the allegations.

On Friday, **Malta** had its second-highest number of daily new cases to date, with authorities introducing restrictions on mass gatherings and expanding mask-wearing requirements in response to the jump in cases. Malta had avoided a major outbreak earlier in the year, and officials remain wary of a surge in cases harming the remaining summer tourism season. About a third of the country's GDP comes from tourism. The number of testing centers is being expanded to accommodate increased demand with the rise in new cases.

The **Netherlands'** prime minister has called on tourists to avoid busy areas of Amsterdam as the government says a second lockdown is not needed, in response to rising cases in the country.

**Norway** has advised citizens against all travel abroad, with officials saying that it is critical to avoid a resurgence of cases that would force the country to close again. On August 14, a decision is

expected on an anticipated requirement to wear masks on public transport, with people being encouraged to cycle when possible in lieu of taking public transport. Officials have also called on employers to have half the number of people on public transport during rush hour compared to the current levels. Restrictions on gatherings will remain in effect while bars will be prohibited from serving past midnight as of this Saturday. New cases in Norway remain relatively low, but have been on a slowly rising trajectory.

New cases in **Poland** continue to climb, exceeding 800 new daily cases on Friday. Authorities have said they would not institute a second nationwide lockdown. Almost 260 of the new cases were from Silesia, with most cases on Friday around the Silesian capital of Katowice, as well as around Warsaw and Krakow. Despite efforts to conduct widespread testing of miners due to a substantial portion of cases among those workers, there has been criticism that overall testing and tracing has not been sufficient to stem transmission. The country's education minister insisted this week that the government was planning on the full reopening of schools in September despite the increase in cases.

**Romania** set a one-day record for COVID-19 deaths in one day in the country, with 50 deaths reported on Friday. The climb in deaths underscores the country's ongoing challenges in controlling the current outbreak, with new daily cases continuing to exceed 1,000.

Daily reported figures from **Russian** authorities indicated that 4,499 people died from COVID-19 between June 2 and July 1, though the state statistics service said Friday that more than 5,400 people had died from COVID-19 nationwide in June. However, Russia also reported that there were 25,521 more deaths in June of 2020 than in June of 2019. The variance between the figures underscores ongoing questions regarding the seemingly low death rate from COVID-19 in Russia, despite having a high total number of cases on a global level.

**Spain's** latest "light lockdown" has been ordered for Aranda del Duero, about 90 miles north of Madrid and home to some 32,000 people. People in Aranda del Duero are being asked to keep their movements to a minimum, while entering or leaving the town is restricted. Localized restrictions have also been in use in Aragon, the Basque Country, and Catalonia. Following previous remarks by the Spanish government hoping to avoid automotive plant closures following the economic downturn, Nissan reached a deal with union officials for three Barcelona factories this week to postpone plant closings until December of next year.

New cases have continued to rise in **Ukraine** overall, with the country under varying levels of restrictions. Much of the increase in recent cases has been in the west of the country and around Kyiv. Officials have reiterated the importance of the public complying with restrictions and guidance such as wearing masks and distancing, with some of the spread being attributed to more use of public transport as well as religious service attendance.

In the **United Kingdom**, senior officials from the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the British Medical Association have called on the NHS to avoid closing normal care services during a second wave of COVID-19, cautioning that such a move could cause thousands of deaths from limits to non-COVID-19 services. The Chancellor of the Exchequer cautioned this week that the government would not hesitate to place countries on the list of mandatory quarantine for arrivals,

emphasizing that restrictions are under constant review. In the UK, Aberdeen and Preston are the latest to see rising cases numbers eliciting tightened restrictions to tamp down transmission in those areas.

## CAUCASUS

**Armenia's** daily new cases levels have overall continued a downward trend after peaking in late June. The country's seven-day moving average for new cases is now below 240.

**Azerbaijan** has lifted the requirement for the online or SMS registration of movement within quarantine zones, with daily new cases steadily declining for multiple weeks following a peak earlier in the summer.

**Georgia's** outbreak remains under control, with fewer than 25 daily new cases since the start of June.

## CENTRAL ASIA

**Kazakhstan** permitted several thousand Kyrgyz and Uzbek migrant workers to transit the country after they had been stranded in Russia for several months due to COVID-19 restrictions affecting cross-border travel. Clashes had previously occurred between Russian police and migrants frustrated at being unable to cross the border earlier. Kazakhstan has had declining new case numbers, though the seven-day moving average remains relatively high at nearly 1,200.

**Kyrgyzstan** has also had an overall trend of declining new cases since late July, with the seven-day moving average dipping under 500 daily cases.

**Uzbekistan** has seen the number of new cases continuing to rise overall, with the seven-day moving average above 700 cases daily.

## TABLE FOR REOPENING

Country	Lockdown/Curfew in Effect; Expiration	Business Reopening Status Open*/Closed/Phased	Compulsory Face Mask Use	Gov't Links
<b>Albania</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Andorra</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Armenia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Austria</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Localized Restrictions; August 31	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Belarus</b>	None	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Belgium</b>	Localized Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No Mandatory Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Croatia</b>	Localized Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Cyprus</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Varies by Location	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	No Longer Mandatory	<a href="#">Open</a>	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Denmark</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Estonia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Finland</b>	No Longer Mandatory	<a href="#">Open</a>	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>France</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Georgia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Germany</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Greece</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Greenland</b>	None	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Hungary</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Iceland</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Ireland</b>	No Longer Mandatory	<a href="#">Open</a>	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Italy</b>	No Longer Mandatory	<a href="#">Open</a>	Varies by Location	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Localized Restrictions	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Kosovo</b>	Localized Restrictions	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Localized Restrictions	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Latvia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Lithuania</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Malta</b>	None	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Moldova</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Monaco</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Montenegro</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Netherlands</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Localized Restrictions	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>

<b>Norway</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Poland</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Portugal</b>	Localized Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Romania</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Russia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Varies by Location	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>San Marino</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Serbia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Slovakia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Slovenia</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Spain</b>	Localized Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Sweden</b>	None	Open	No	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Switzerland</b>	No Longer Mandatory	<a href="#">Open</a>	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	None	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	None (Claims No Cases)	Phased	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Ukraine</b>	Localized Restrictions	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Localized Restrictions	Phased	Varies by Location	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Localized Restrictions in Zones	Phased (red, yellow, green zones)	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Vatican</b>	No Longer Mandatory	Open	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>

\*Open status may nonetheless include limited restrictions, such as for gyms and cinemas, still in effect