



Covid-19 : Weekly Situation Bulletin

14th of December 2020

Epidemic situation in Europe

The latest figures published by the WHO urge us to be very cautious and show how high the viral pressure remains. Thus, the incidence* has reduced in Spain at 134/100,000 compared to 165 the week before, in Belgium at 197/100,000 vs 239 and in Italy at 224/100,000 against 406. It has stabilized in France, at 176/100,00 compared to 180 previous week and in Germany, at 241/100,000. However it continues to rise sharply in the Netherlands, to 663/100,000 against 517 a week earlier.

Faced with these developments, all countries remain particularly vigilant on the eve of the festive season and are maintaining, or even strengthening, their precautionary measures and travel restrictions, as in the case of the Netherlands, which has decided on strict confinement until 19 January.

Epidemic situation in the Korian network

As of 11th of December, 221 retirement homes had at least one positive case, i.e. less than 27% of the European network compared to 234 last week with about 3% of residents (2,024) positive for coronavirus compared to 3.2% (2,384) the week before. Among these establishments, 118 have 4 cases and more (4S) compared to 126 last week, or less than 14% of the network. It should be noted that 33 establishments emerged from the epidemic this week, among which several were in 4S.

As in previous weeks, the majority of patients (91.2%) remain asymptomatic or pauci-symptomatic, with only 8.8% presenting symptoms requiring, among other things, oxygen therapy. 4,268 residents have recovered from Covid-19 since 1st November, 947 of them in the last 7 days. More than 11,200 residents have recovered from Covid-19 since the beginning of the epidemic.

To date, 1,8% of our health and medico-social network employees have been affected by Covid-19, and more than 4,500 have been cured since 1st of August.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Stock and Testing Policy

There is no strain on PPE stocks or supplies.

The use of rapid antigenic tests is increasing rapidly. For example, in France this week, nearly 6,000 tests were carried out, compared to 3,000 last week. These rapid antigenic tests are mainly carried out among employees to ensure systematic weekly screening.

As far as PCR tests are concerned, nearly 17,000 tests were carried out last week, with a positivity rate of around 6% (plus 2 points) among residents/patients (an increase linked to the higher rate in Germany) and 2.4% among employees.

The main focus is on France and Germany. In France this week, more than 6,200 tests were carried out, including nearly 4,800 with employees. Germany, thanks to the increase in tests provided by the authorities, is organising itself to be able to test all employees on a daily basis, especially during the holiday season.

In Wallonia, a salivary PCR test is currently being tested and shows excellent results as well as 2 very promising respiratory tests which could be used as early as next summer.

Concerning the PCR tests, more than 16,000 tests were carried out last week, with a positivity rate of around 7% among residents/patients, which takes into account the high rate measured in Germany, around 11%, and 1.8% among employees.

Vaccination anti Covid-19

The practical arrangements for organising the first vaccination campaigns against Covid-19 are being clarified in each country, pending the issue of the first marketing authorisations by the European Medicines Agency.

Germany is planning to set up specific centres dedicated to mass vaccination of the population, supplemented by mobile vaccination units visiting retirement homes. France is currently giving priority to making doses available via networks of city pharmacies and/or hospitals and to the organisation of vaccination campaigns by the establishments themselves, in conjunction with the treating doctors, following the example of the provisions governing annual influenza vaccination campaigns.

End of year celebrations

In view of the health situation, the various health authorities in all the countries have decided to take stronger precautionary measures to limit the risk of an outbreak resuming during the end-of-year festivities.

The Korian Group will strictly comply with these measures.

In France, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and Solidarity, the following measures have been taken for the festive season:

- Recommend that all visitors carry out an RT-PCR or antigenic test before any visit;
- Recommend that family carers carry out regular screening;
- To propose to each visitor who has not been able to carry out a test beforehand to carry out a rapid antigenic test on site;
- Widen the range of visits, while maintaining appointment scheduling;
- Allow the possibility of room visits (2 visitors maximum) on medical advice and for situations that do not allow a visit in a dedicated area;
- Enable elderly people who wish to do so to be able to spend holidays with their families by respecting strict precautionary measures (recommend that the family and friends and the person concerned carry out a preliminary screening before the family event, maintain the wearing of surgical masks and compliance with barrier measures during the outing or the stay with the family, carry out a screening on return to the establishment and limit contact with the other residents/patients for 7 days, unless the person has tested positive in the previous two months);
- Organise festive activities in small groups and in compliance with the rules of social distancing; as far as meals are concerned, the rule of 6 people at the table will in particular be strictly observed.

These measures are comparable to those that will be applied in Belgium or Spain.

In Germany, a similar guide has been distributed to establishments and families to inform them of all the measures to be respected. It is also recommended that they are tested before each meeting and 3 days after any visit to the establishment.

In Italy, the measures decided by the health authorities are stricter: visits by family carers are limited and going out with the family to spend the holidays is not allowed.

We would like to thank our network for its great mobilisation on this subject which is particularly close to our hearts.



Doctor Didier Armaingaud,
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Director of the Korian Group

Korian is Europe's leading Care Group serving the elderly and frail. It is present in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands. In total, the Group has 963 establishments: 708 nursing homes, 147 shared flats and serviced residences, 108 clinics and 229 homecare agencies.

1.Incidence: number of new cases per 100,000 people per week with an epidemic threshold of 50/100,000.