



Covid-19 : Weekly Situation Bulletin

21th of December 2020

Epidemic situation in Europe

The latest figures published by the WHO show that viral pressure remains very high and is on the rise again in most European countries.

This rise remains relatively contained in France, with an incidence rate of 200/100,000 compared with 176 the previous week, and in Belgium, with a rate of 223/100,000 compared with 197. On the other hand, it is more marked in Spain, where the incidence rose to 200/100,000 against 134 the previous week, and in Germany, where it reached 261/100,000 against 241, the highest level in that country recorded since the start of the second wave. Finally, the incidence rate jumped sharply in the Netherlands to 914/100,000 against 663.

In this context, only Italy remains stable with an incidence at 223/100,000 versus 224/100,000.

Epidemic situation and screening in the Korian network

This continued epidemic pressure can be seen within our European network, with the number of affected sites stabilising over the last few days.

On 17 December, 226 retirement homes had at least one positive case, 28% of the European network, compared to 221 last week with about 3% (2,014) of residents positive for coronavirus, a very stable figure compared to last week with 2,084 residents. As last week, 118 of the affected establishments have 4 cases and more (4S), i.e. 14% of the medico-social network.

As in previous weeks, the majority of the positive persons (90.4%) remain asymptomatic (61.6%) or pauci-symptomatic, and only 9.6% present a symptomatology requiring, among other things, oxygen therapy.

36 establishments emerged from the epidemic phase this week, several of which were in 4S.

Since 1 November, 4,996 residents have recovered from Covid-19, of which 2,249 in December and 704 in the last 7 days. In total, nearly 12,000 residents have recovered from Covid-19 since the beginning of the epidemic.

The number of employees affected by the virus also remains stable, with a total of 1.8% of employees testing positive for Covid-19 on 17 December and almost 5,000 cases of recovery recorded since 1 August.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Stock and Testing Policy

There is no strain on PPE stocks or supplies. A management system is in place in all countries.

The use of rapid antigenic tests is particularly important in France and Germany. In France, more than 15,000 tests have been carried out in the last 7 days, including more than 4,800 rapid antigenic tests.

For the holiday period from 16 December to 10 January, Germany is reinforcing its testing policy with a daily antigen test of every employee, a biweekly test of all residents and a weekly test of every visitor.

A total of almost 20,000 RT-PCR tests were carried out last week, not counting the rapid antigenic tests.

Vaccination

On Monday 21 December, the European Medicines Agency recommended the conditional marketing authorisation of the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNtech. It seems that the first vaccines could be available as early as the first week of January (January 04 in France). All the teams are mobilised and are ready to start the first information campaigns for staff, residents/patients and their families as soon as the health authorities provide the ad hoc information.

Similarly, each country has anticipated the procedures for obtaining consent to enable vaccination campaigns to be organised according to the procedures validated by the national or regional authorities.

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 respect the specific recommendations provided by the authorities of each country in which it is present.

In France, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health has published precise recommendations on the measures to be taken to ensure the safety of visits by relatives, family outings by residents and the organisation of festive events within the establishments. These instructions will be applicable from 15 December and will end on 3 January.

The Group's establishments have organised themselves to implement these requirements, in particular :

- 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.

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.