



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

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AUSTRIAN NATIONAL REPORT FEMS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 15 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Austrian Medical Chamber elected new Executive Committee in June

On June 24th, 2022 a new Executive Committee of the Austrian Medical Chamber was elected by the General Assembly for a 5-year term. The Executive Committee consists of MR Dr. Johannes Steinhart (President), Dr. Harald Schlögl (1st Vice-President) Dr. Harald Mayer (2nd Vice-President), OMR Dr. Edgar Wutscher (3rd Vice-President), Dr. Michael Sacherer (Treasurer) and MR Dr. Burkhard WALLA (Deputy Treasurer).

Physician shortage in Austria

Due to the ongoing physician shortage in Austria, vacancies in hospitals as well as vacancies in the self-employed sector cannot be filled anymore. In Upper Austria e.g. there were 180 openings in the self-employed sector this year, but only 125 physicians showed interest to take over one these practices. In Lower Austria, at the Hospital Waidhofen the department of gynaecology and obstetrics even had to close down due to lack of doctors.

COVID-19 in Austria¹

Status: 22.08.2022

Tests performed so far: 194.771.813

Cases confirmed overall: 4.915.074

Current active cases: 62.411

In hospital: 1.094 (w/o intensive care patients)

Intensive care unit: 66

Persons recovered: 4.832.090

Confirmed deaths: 20.573

Vaccinations²: 77, 05% of the overall population with at least 1 dose,
56,62% of the population have received a 3rd dose (basic immunisation)
4.75% of the population have received a 4th dose.

Overview of current measures

Since 1 August 2022, **quarantine rules are no longer applicable**. Instead, certain restrictions apply for persons tested positive with Covid-19:

It is obligatory to wear an FFP 2 mask indoors in public areas, public transport and also in a private setting if contact with persons from other households is likely. In addition, entry bans are in place for particularly sensitive areas such as hospitals, elderly homes, child care institutions, primary schools and health spas.

¹ Source: Covid19 Dashboard Ages, all data from 25.04.2022

² Source: <https://orf.at/corona/daten/impfung>, all data from 25.04.2022

Employees of these institutions may, however, enter these institutions and also work there, conditional upon wearing a FFP 2 mask.

Outdoors, positive persons have to wear a FFP 2 mask if a 2-meter safety distance cannot be maintained to other persons.

These restrictions for Covid-19 positive persons are generally valid for a maximum of 10 days from the time the sample is taken. Restrictions may be lifted after 5 days conditional upon a negative PCR Test (negative test or CT \geq 30).

In general, FFP 2 masks are no longer mandatory in essential shops and when using public transport in all Austrian federal provinces except for Vienna. However, FFP 2 masks still have to be worn in hospital and other health care institutions as well as in elderly homes.

Covid Medication³

Currently, the following drugs are authorized to be used for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in Austria. In total these drugs were used in about 30.000 cases in Austria so far.

Xevudy (Number available: 28.585)

Medication administered so far (intramural): 8.170

Lagevrio (Number available: 102.942)

Medication administered so far (intramural) 9.607

Regkirona (Number available: 60.000)

Medication administered so far (intramural) 109

Paxlovid (Number available: 107.258)

Medication administered so far (intramural): 8.918 extramural: 2.256

Evushed (Number available: 8.640)

Medication administered so far (intramural): 1.349

Xevudy and Lagevrio are among the most-used drugs and may only be used in hospitals. Paxlovid is also among the most-used drugs in hospitals, however, it is also available for out-patients in Austria. However, Paxlovid was only dispensed in 2.256 cases to out-patients so far.

Although there is a sufficient number of drugs available, the Austrian Corona Commission (GECKO) recently criticised that Covid medication is not as used as widely as it should.

According to GECKO, Patients need to be better informed about therapy options with Covid-19 medication. GECKO is a consortium composed of scientists, legal advisors and health care experts, among them MR Dr. Johannes Steinhart, President of the Austrian Medical Chamber.

CM, August 21st, 2022

³ Source: Ad Hoc Executive Report of the Austrian Corona Co-ordination Commission (GECKO), issued on August 5th, 2022, [GECKO - Bundeskanzleramt Österreich](#)