

## Corona Update for the 2021-2022 School Year

October 3, 2021

### I. Present Situation

Here are the current Corona numbers in Austria and Salzburg:

7-day incidence rate nation-wide in Austria (02.10.2021):	<b>141.8</b>	(was 133.1 on Sept. 27)
7-day incidence rate in Salzburg Province:	<b>165.3</b>	(was 137.1 on Sept. 27)
7-day incidence rate in Salzburg city:	<b>181.4</b>	(was 167.3 on Sept. 27)
Average number of positive infections per day in Austria:	<b>1,725</b>	
Number of positive cases in Salzburg city in the past 7 days:	<b>246.4</b>	(was 260 on Sept. 27)
Intensive-care beds occupied with Covid-19 patients nation-wide:	<b>11%</b>	(was 7% on Sept. 27)
Intensive-care beds occupied with Covid-19 patients in Salzburg City:	<b>7 or 5%</b>	(was 10 on Sept. 27)
Austrian population with at least one vaccination shot:	<b>5,750,656</b>	(was 5,707,472 on Sept. 27) (63.89%)
Austrian population with full vaccination:	<b>5,432,961</b>	(was 5,389,744 on Sept. 27) (60.34%)
Salzburg citizens with at least one vaccination shot:	<b>93,783</b>	(was 92,755 on Sept. 27) (60.34%)
Salzburg citizens that have received the full vaccination:	<b>88,698</b>	(was 87,799 on Sept. 27) (57.07%)

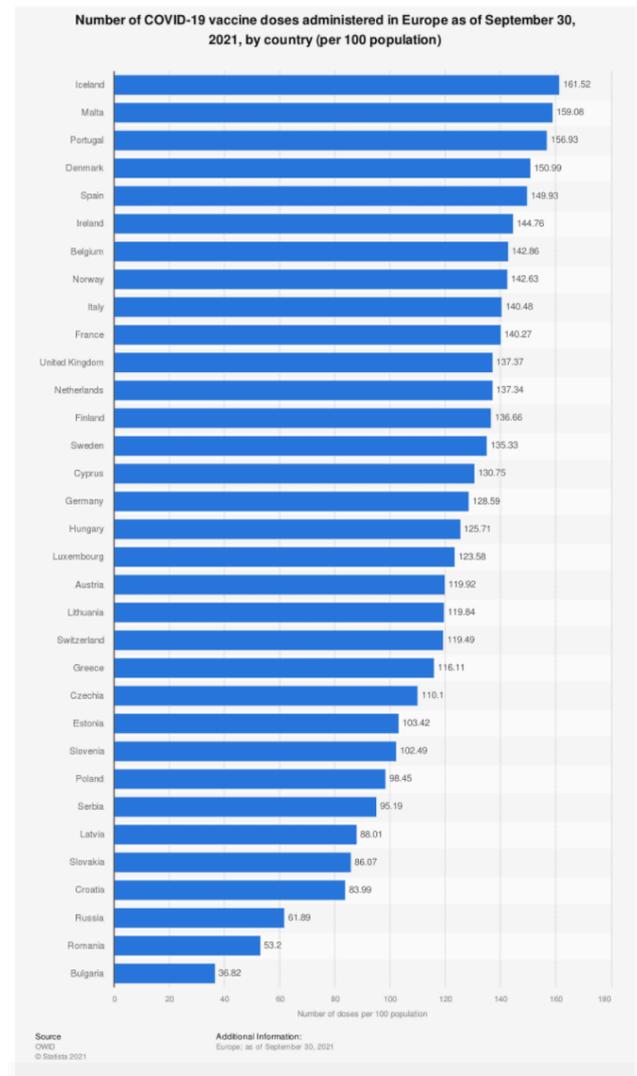
In the past week has seen an increase in positive cases of Covid-19 across Europe as well as in Salzburg Province and city. For a while, it looked as if the numbers were flattening out and that a decline for the present wave could be expected. Experts are now warning that the infection numbers are similar to those experienced in September, 2020, and may rise further in October and November. (In November, 2020, all schools were closed through the Christmas break period and a general lockdown was implemented.)

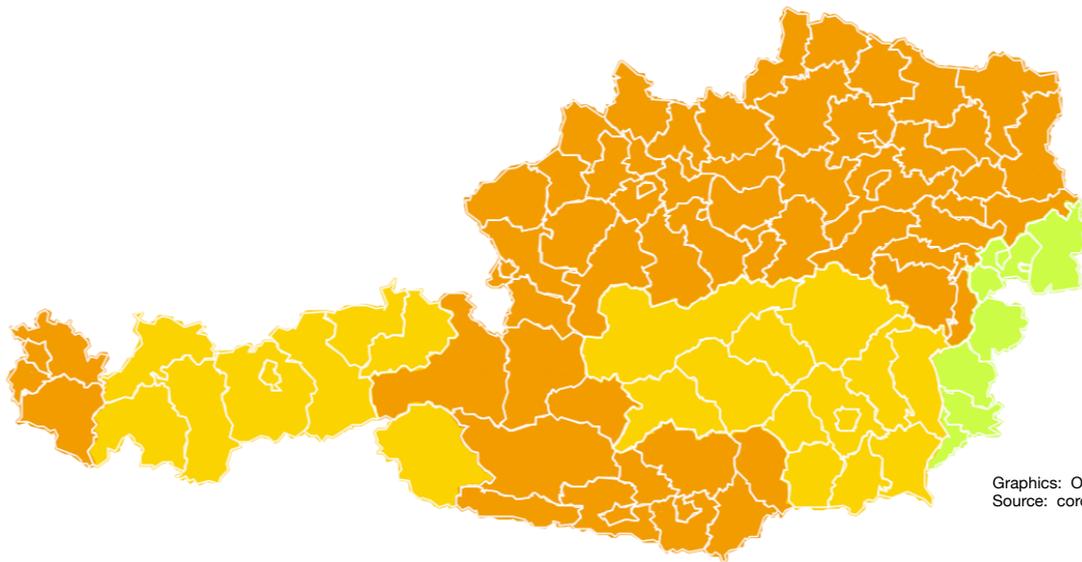
Across the country, the security phase in schools came to an end last Friday, October 1. The government has since determined that all educational institutions should continue the testing protocol for all unvaccinated students and staff members while the vaccinated are freed from this requirement.

In Vienna, the city government imposed restrictions of 2G (only those vaccinated with proof as well as those recovered from Covid-19 with official proof) are allowed in to bars, discos and other evening venues.

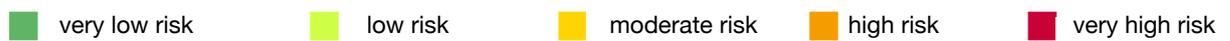
Austria's ranking, in terms of the percentage of the population vaccinated against Covid-19 is illustrated to the right. Austria presently ranks 19th among European nations and has one of the lowest vaccination rates among Western European nations. Despite the government's efforts, vaccination interest has stagnated and it will take a great deal of time to reach an 85% immunization rate.

The Corona 'Traffic Light' system in Austria has been updated on September 30th and Salzburg province and city are presently at the **ORANGE** level (high risk). Most of the rest of Austria (see map below) is also at the high-risk level; the remainder is yellow (moderate-risk) and only Burgenland, in the east, is at light green, low risk status.





Graphics: ORF.at/corona  
Source: corona-ampel.gv.at.



## II. At AIS-Salzburg

AIS-Salzburg has also exited the security phase of the first four weeks of school and has completed testing for all students and all staff three times weekly. Throughout this period, we have not experienced any positive results on either the PCR or the antigen tests. In accordance with government requirements, we will continue testing all unvaccinated students three times a week as required. These continue to include antigen tests (2x weekly) and PCR testing (1x weekly) with the PCR test samples sent to a local lab and results returned to our offices within 24 hours.

With a seven-day incidence rate in Salzburg city of 181.4, we are also implementing the measures listed in our Corona Strategy for this health-risk level (Level 2) as defined by the Austrian Education Ministry. These measures include the following:

### Health-Risk Level 2

- Non-fully vaccinated students tested 3x weekly, Monday and Friday antigen; Tuesday PCR (results on Wednesday)
- Staff members may test (antigen and/or PCR) voluntarily on testing days. Administrators and dorm parents will test twice weekly (antigen tests only).
- Masking up to entrance and upon departure from the school only. During sports team transport with school vehicles, non-fully vaccinated students must wear masks.
- Conferencing, meeting, assemblies and other group functions will proceed as planned. If any of these include persons from outside the school community, they must meet 3G requirements before participation is allowed.
- All third parties coming to the school for any length of time beyond dropping off a delivery must also meet 3G requirements.
- Hygiene measures remain in place (hand disinfectant, gloved in kitchen buffet, ventilation, etc.) throughout the day.
- Activities, outings, overnight trips, sports trips, excursions, etc., go as planned provided risk assessment is done with diligence beforehand and have received approval by the administration. Indoor venues may be restricted as destinations because of high risk. The administration will also require masking, etc., dependent upon the activity details. Overnight trips and excursions will be carefully assessed for risk and adjusted, altered in their details or postponed dependent upon location, local health risk and requirements, travel restrictions, etc.
- The dormitories are restricted in access to all except resident-care staff members, cleaning and house staff, and administrators.
- Hygiene measures remain in place (hand disinfectant, gloved in kitchen buffet, ventilation, etc.) throughout the day in all school facilities.

- Physical education classes will be held at Rif, preferably outdoors. Contact sports are discontinued except for minimal-contact activities. Hygiene measures are to be in place in changing rooms. Masking is required of all passengers in third-party transportation vehicles. Sports team transport with school vehicles require masking of all those who are not vaccinated.
- 5-day boarders returning from the weekend at home must be tested (antigen) upon entrance to the school and before entrance to the dormitory rooms.

For your reference, 'fully vaccinated' means that a person has received the second shot of a two-part vaccination (Biontech, Moderna or AstraZeneca) at least 21 days previously. If the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was administered, then 21 days following this single shot is required. Those are officially considered 'recovered' from Covid-19, if they have official medical confirmation that they were infected with the virus in the past six months.

AIS-Salzburg students that are not vaccinated to date continue to be offered the opportunity to do so while here at the school and under our care. In the past two weeks, over 15 students will have received the first shot of the two-part vaccination. All the administration requires is a statement of consent from the parents or guardians of the student and we will make the necessary arrangements.

For the time being, sports events, physical education (indoor and out) and other events and activities are going ahead as planned with extra emphasis being placed on risk assessment. We hope that the situation in Austria and in Salzburg particularly, remains stable at least and does not force us to curtail our programming to any great extent in the immediate future.

Planning continues for the Fall Excursions to Prague and Athens, Greece from November 24-28, 2021.

I thank you again for your patience and attention. Further updates will follow and your questions and concerns are always welcome.

Yours,



Paul McLean  
Headmaster