Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and the dynamic pandemic situation some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of the last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.

Date: 17.01.2022 Last update: 24.01.2022

Table 1: Country response:

(New) measures due to OMICRON

Country	(New) measures due to OMICRON	Any (further) containment measures	Shortened quarantine	Changes to risk classification systems
Albania	 The key measures that currently are in place in Albania Close of bars/restaurants and all other activities at 23:00. Not permitting gatherings of more than 50 persons in open spaces Mandatory vaccination for all public servants as well as people working in supermarkets, shopping centers (started implementation in 2022. No risk classification system is conducted 	No	N/A	N/A
Austria	 Austria has been in lockdown until mid-December. The containment measures that came into force after the lockdown essentially have not been changed since, except for a shortening of quarantine. (Continued lockdown for individuals without vaccination or recovery status; most places and activities can be accessed with vaccination/recovery certificates and sometimes a PCR-test in addition). The law for a general mandatory vaccination (which has been decided on before the Omicron wave) is currently planned to come into force in February. National risk assessment system Austria is using a traffic light system for the risk assessment on national and regional level that is updated by an assessment committee once a week. Currently, the main indicators used are (adjusted) incidence of cases and ICU capacities. Due to the reduced virulence but increased transmissibility of Omicron there are plans to switch from ICU capacities to general hospital capacities. 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	 Containment measures are not different from those in the Delta wave. There was a general recommendation to citizens to be more careful. Cultural sector opened already before X-mas. Self isolation rules here: https://covid-19.sciensano.be/nl/procedures/quarantaine 	No	No, but in discussion	N/A
Croatia	 New measures are effective as of 07.01.: mandatory mask wearing for religious and cultural events and politic gatherings, gatherings of people without COVID certification inside are now limited to 50 people (instead of 100), outside still to 200 people. For sport events inside the capacity is now limited to 20% of maximum for viewers, outside to 40%. National risk assessment system 	Yes	N/A	No





	Indicators for risk assessment are incidence and ICU capacities.			
Czech Republic	 COVID pass is required for gastronomy and cultural sector. Access with PCR test instead of COVID pass is allowed in exceptions. Gatherings are limited to 1000 people in combination with mandatory face masks and people seated. Schools are currently open but test once a week. In factories antigen tests are mandatory twice a week. A positive antigen test requires quarantine. Both, isolation and quarantine are shortened to 5 days (before isolation was 14 days). No risk classification system 	Yes	Yes	N/A
Estonia	 In accordance of epidemiological data from health board and to support people's mental health and working lives, as well as the economy as a whole the quarantine and isolation periods are shortened to 7 days. Travelling to Estonia and from Estonia to other countries is allowed for everyone but there is a special order in force at the national border. Restrictions related to travelling depend on the risk level currently in force in Estonia and the risk level in the country of departure. http://kriis.ee/en/travelling-crossing-state-border/travelling-estonia/coming-estonia Kindergartens, schools, hobby groups, and educational and youth institutions offering refresher training are open. Activities are allowed if all restrictions in force are adhered to. Public meetings and events are allowed (have to end no later than at 23.00), but participants who are 18 years old and older have to prove that they do not pose an infection risk by presenting a COVID certificate stating vaccination or recovery. Young people from the age of 12 years and three months up to 17 years (included) have to present a certificate proving vaccination or recovery or a certificate proving a negative result of a PCR or antigen RT test done by a health care service provider in order to participate. Stores and Shopping Centres are operating. It is obligatory to wear a mask in shopping centres, stores and service facilities. Dispersion and availability of disinfectants have to be ensured in sales and service spaces. Cafes, restaurants and catering establishments are open with restrictions, to visit them it is necessary to present a valid COVID certificate and wear a mask, except while eating. Organising sports competitions, trainings, camps, sports and exercise events is allowed with restrictions both indoors and outdoors. Saunas, water parks, public pools and swimming facilities are open with restrictions, including the obligation to check that the visitors do not pose an infe	Yes	Yes	In discussion
Finland	• In general, current restrictions are valid until the end of January 2022. They include closer of gyms and other indoor sporting facilities including spas, dance venues, indoor playparks and public facilities in the shopping centres, restaurants have to stop serving alcohol at 17:00 and close at 18:00. Indoor events are not allowed and in private event its recommended to limit the number of people. Schools	No	N/A	No



	are open with intensified hygienic protocols and there has been discussion that students should be tested twice a week with antigen tests, but this is still under discussion. Detailed information about restrictions can be found at https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/information-on-coronavirus/current-restrictions • National risk classification system has remained unchanged.			
Ireland	 No further containment measures have been introduced in Ireland since those mentioned at the last REF. We have, however, changed the quarantine and testing requirements. From last Friday, close contacts who have had a booster and have no symptoms are no longer required to restrict their movements (whereas non-boosted close contacts must restrict movements for 7 days). They must, however, do 3 antigen tests over 7 days and wear medical or respirator face masks for 10 days when around other people. The isolation period for positive cases has been reduced from 10 to 7 days, and those aged 4 to 39 with a positive antigen test no longer need a confirmatory PCR test. An online portal has been set up to allow people to upload antigen test and close contact details. Some of the reasons that have been suggested for not introducing new restrictions include: Despite the fact that we have had the highest ever numbers of COVID cases in Ireland these past few weeks, hospital and ICU numbers have not increased at the same rate, indicating that disease is generally mild. Ireland has had 20,000+ daily cases over the past few weeks with 50% positivity rate and over 1 million confirmed positive cases since the pandemic began (population of Ireland is approx. 5 million). At this rate, the virus is not contained, and it is believed that if we have not already reached the peak of Omicron, it is near. It is hoped with this level of transmission that population immunity could be nearly reached. Our Chief Medical Officer has written to the immunisation advisory council in Ireland for a report on this. The booster programme is well underway and anyone over the age of 16 can get theirs. 60% of the eligible population have received their booster so far. The primary vaccination course is open to anyone aged 5 and above. The national public health emergency team (NPHET) will be meeting later this week so we will have more information on COVID restrictions moving forward soon.<td>No</td><td>Yes</td><td>No</td>	No	Yes	No
Italy	Most of the requested information can be drawn and updated from the following link: Novel coronavirus (salute.gov.it). In summary: The new ""anti-Covid-19 Decree Law"", published in the Official Gazette on January the 7th and entered into force on January the 8th, 2022 introduces urgent measures to deal with the pandemic emergency, in particular in the workplace and in schools. The Decree, in addition to confirming the measures set out in the previous "Christmas Decree" (Decree-Law December 24, 2021, n. 221), provided for the vaccination obligation for all those who have reached the age of 50, workers and others, and extended the obligations for the use of the Basic Green Pass and the Enhanced Green Pass. The goal is to try to ""slow down"" the growth curve of infections related to the pandemic and to	Yes	Yes	Yes



provide greater protection to those categories that are most exposed and who are at greater risk of hospitalization.

The main measures are here following summarised:

- No quarantine for asymptomatic subjects who have received the booster dose, or have completed the primary vaccination course in the previous 120 days, or have recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the previous 120 days, with the obligation to wear FFP2 type masks for at least 10 days. The self-monitoring period ends on day 5. In case of high-risk contacts, health professionals must also perform daily swabs up to day 5.
- Vaccination obligation for over 50s (and Reinforced Green Pass for over 50 workers). The obligation starts from Saturday 8 January 2022, until 15 June 2022 and, if you are not vaccinated by the 1st of February 2022, the penalty of 100 euros is triggered. From 15 February 2022, public and private workers aged 50 will need the Enhanced Green Pass to access the workplace. The Enhanced Green Pass is obtained only if you are vaccinated or cured of Covid, while it is not valid for those in possession of only a negative swab, be it antigenic or molecular. Without this type of certification, workers over 50 are considered unjustified absent, without disciplinary consequences and with the right to retain the employment relationship, until the submission of the green certification and in any case no later than June 15, 2022. For days of unjustified absence, no remuneration or other remuneration or emolument is due. Thus, for those who have not yet vaccinated, the possibility is given to book the vaccine by January the 31st and to obtain the Green Pass which becomes valid 15 days after administration (and be in order for February the 15th).
- From Monday the 10th of January 2022 and until the end of the state of emergency (by the moment, established for the 31st of March 2022), the Enhanced Green Pass (obtained following vaccination or recovery from Covid) is mandatory to access a range of facilities and services: Hotels and accommodation facilities; Parties resulting from civil or religious ceremonies; Festivals and fairs; Convention centers; Outdoor catering services; Lifts with tourist-commercial purposes even if located in ski areas; Gyms, swimming pools, swimming centers, team sports and wellness centers, even outdoors; Cultural centers, social and recreational centers for outdoor activities; Planes, trains and ships; Local public transport.
- Basic Green Pass for Personal Services (hairdressers, barbers, beauticians): from Thursday the 20th of January 2022, and until the 15th of June 2022, the obligation of Green Pass Base (which is issued following vaccination, healing or with a negative antigenic pad valid for 48 hours or molecular valid for 72 hours) is activated for all customers of hairdressers, barbers and beauty centers, or Services to the Person. From Tuesday the 1st of February 2022, and until the 15th of June 2022, the Green Pass Base will also be extended to customers of public offices, postal, banking and financial services and commercial activities, with the exclusion of shops that sell food, pharmacies and that ""satisfy the essential and primary needs of the person"". With a DPCM, which will be adopted within 15 days, the activities considered as such and therefore affected by the measure will be specified.

The rules already in force with the so-called ""Christmas Decree"" remain confirmed, in particular:
- Masks: obligation until January the 31st, 2022 to wear masks even outdoors and also in the white area; until the end of the state of emergency (31/03/2022), for shows open to the public that take place indoors or outdoors in theatrical halls, concert halls, cinemas, entertainment venues and live music and in other similar premises, as well as for sporting events and competitions that take place indoors or outdoors, it is mandatory to wear FFP2 type respiratory protection devices. In the aforementioned

	places, other than the catering services provided by any establishment, and for the same period of time referred to in the first period, the consumption of food and drinks indoors is prohibited. Until the end of the state of emergency (31/03/2022), the obligation to wear FFP2 type masks on all means of transport, including buses used for rental services with driver and those used for local or regional public transport (bus, tram and metro). - Indoor restaurants and clubs: until the end of the state of emergency (03/31/2022), there is an obligation to have the Enhanced Green Pass for catering for consumption even at the counter. - Events, parties, and discos: until January the 31st, 2022, parties however named, similar events and concerts that involve gatherings in open spaces are prohibited, and activities that take place in ballrooms, discos and similar venues are suspended. - Visitor admission to social and health facilities and long term care facilities (RSA): until the end of the state of emergency (31/03/2022), the access of visitors to residential, social-welfare, social-health and hospice facilities is allowed only to subjects with a green COVID-19 certification, issued following of the administration of the booster dose following the primary vaccination cycle (vaccination cycle + so-called third dose), or to subjects in possession of a green COVID-19 certification, issued following the completion of the primary vaccination cycle or upon healing, together with a certification attesting the negative result of the rapid or molecular antigen test, performed in the 48 hours prior to access. - Training courses: Basic Green Pass obligation to access private training courses held in person. - Trips - Entrances on the national territory: The Offices of maritime, air and border health and health assistance to seafaring personnel of the Ministry of Health carry out, even on a sample basis, at airports, sea and land, antigenic or molecular tests of travellers entering the national territory. In the event of a			
Malta	Several changes since before Christmas: quarantine for unvaccinated is shortened to 10 instead of 14 days. As of 17.01. new restrictions are effective: cultural, sports and gastronomy sectors are restricted to vaccinated (1G), what means now that validity periods for travel certificates and internal access certificate are different. Boostered individuals may stay outside without mask when not in a crowded area.	Yes	Yes	N/A



	Recovered persons are allowed access to venues up to 6 weeks post infection, since the recommendation is to wait 4 weeks after infection to get vaccinated. Peak of Omicron in Malta has passed around 1.5 weeks ago but descent is slow. https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances.aspx			
Netherlands	 The rules for sports, artistic and cultural activities, contact-based industries, shops and education have been relaxed on Saturday 15 January 2022. Non-essential shops, gyms and sports clubs, music schools, and locations where contact-based professions are carried out (such as hairdressers) can reopen. The rules on the use of face masks have been tightened. Higher education has reopened, after primary and secondary education were already opened on January 10th. Other sectors remain closed. On Tuesday 25 January the government will decide if more restrictions can be lifted. More detailed summary below. National risk assessment system Current risk level: serious (3 and last level, 1 being caution and 2 being concern). Which level applies depends on the average number of hospital and ICU admissions over the past 7 days. A change in risk level does not automatically mean a change in the coronavirus measures. The government looks at more than just the risk level when determining what measures are necessary. Other important factors include available ICU capacity, the burden on other parts of the healthcare sector, and whether people with COVID-19 who are admitted to hospital have been vaccinated. The government also considers the number of positive tests and the concentration of coronavirus particles in wastewater, which is analysed by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). In addition, the government takes account of the recommendations of the Outbreak Management Team (OMT) and considers the potential social and economic impact of the measures. 	Yes	N/A	No
Norway	New measures/recommendations are effective as of 17/01 that are less strict than in the last four weeks. Although the main principle is to keep social and physical distance (1 meter). The government is making changes to the strategy for testing, isolation, tracking and quarantine (TISK). The infection quarantine is changed to more use of self-testing, and the individual makes sure to notify their close contacts in the event of a positive test. Details about the new measures are on the link (in Norwegian): https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/regjeringen-letter-pa-tiltakene/id2895460/ A traffic light system is only implemented for schools. Yellow light for all type of schools including kindergartens. National recommendation for a green level in upper secondary schools and in adult education, but the municipalities must make their own assessments according to the local situation.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Poland	Measures and quarantine rules have not changed. Mandatory vaccination for HCW is planned by March.	No	No	N/A
Portugal	 Isolation is reduced from 15 days to 1 week. 30% of population ist already boostered. For bars and restaurants a negative test is obligatory. The traffic light system based on incidence, hospital and ICU capacities shows red. 	Yes	Yes	No
Slovakia	No corrective measures reflecting Omicron incidence will be taken before 19/01.	No	No	No
Slovenia	• Strict measures have been applied on 8.11.2021 like strict limitation of gathering, obligatory wearing masks, restaurants are closing at 10 pm, etc. No new measures are applied only due to Omicron since Slovenian advisory board on Covid believes that these measures shall be efficient.	No	No	N/A



Spain	Nota bene: Any of the measures described below are not taken because of the Omicron VOC (as in	1	1	<u> </u>
Opani	the past for the other VOCs) but because of the evolution of the pandemic and the health system			
	response in Spain; thus, the decisions are made considering the high vaccination coverage, even			
	across age groups and territories; high coverage of booster doses; the actual capacities for diagnosis			
	and close contacts tracing capacities at specific moments within the surge of cases, the diversion of			
	resources between covid and non-covid patients, etc.			
	• At national level, people over six years old have to wear facemasks in public indoor spaces and			
	since December 23, wearing facemasks is also mandatory outdoors except when practising sports or			
	in natural open spaces if a minimum 1.5 meter distance is maintained with other people (RDL 30/2021			
	https://boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2021-21307).			
	Furthermore, on December the maximum capacity for mass sports events was reduced from 80% to			
	50% when indoors and from 100% to 75% when outdoors.			
	In general, Spanish regional authorities implement measures according to the epidemiological situation			
	(mostly based on incidence and hospitalization and ICU occupancy rates). For example, responding to			
	the growing number of cases, some regions are requesting the COVID certificate for admission to			
	restaurants, pubs, or other premises, other are limiting restaurants occupancy or closing nightclubs.			
	Regarding testing strategy, the Public Health commission adapted the strategy to face the surge of			No
	cases and the increase in community transmission. In that line, if regional authorities are unable to test			
	on time, they have to prioritise those cases with severe symptoms or affecting vulnerable people. It			
	was also agreed that depending on the epidemiological situation (i.e., high incidence areas or large			
	outbreaks), each region could consider self-test results to prescribe isolation measures without	Yes	Yes	
	requiring confirmation of active infection. Guidelines for early diagnosis, surveillance and control of			
	COVID-19 regarding quarantine and isolation were also updated.			
	Since December, fully vaccinated people deemed close contacts are exempted from quarantining			
	(including those cases caused by the Omicron variant that were recommended to quarantining in the			
	previous update - 1st December 2021). Instead, they are advised to carry out only essential activities			
	and to reduce social contacts in the 10 days after the contact with the infected case. They are also			
	recommended being tested (by PCR preferably) at least once during these 10 days. Non-vaccinated			
	close contacts have to quarantine seven days instead of the former ten days, provided they do not			
	show any symptom during that period, but need to extreme precautions up to day 10. Diagnostic tests in asymptomatic contacts can be considered for vulnerable persons or those in contact with vulnerable			
	person. The Public Health Commission also agreed on reducing the isolation of asymptomatic people or with			
	mild symptoms from ten to seven days if the person has passed at least three days without any			
	symptom. This norm also applies to cases occurring in nursing and long-term care facilities, but			
	workers in these centres will need to test negative in an antigen test before reinstated to their job. In			
	any case, until 10 days after the diagnosis or beginning of the symptoms, patients have to reduce			
	social interaction, above all with vulnerable people.			
	On November 29, the Public Health Commission approved the modification of the traffic-light			
	thresholds used to decide on the COVID-19 restrictions measures, due to the high vaccination			
	coverage and the consequent decrease of severe cases and impact on the health system. So,			
	accumulated incidence thresholds have been widened and the indicator related to contact tracing has			
	accumulated incidence tinesholds have been widehed and the indicator related to contact tracing has			l

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	been removed, whereas two new indicators measuring new hospitalisation rates due to COVID-19 (total and UCI admissions) have been added.				
United Kingdom	* England You will not be required to wear a face covering, including in communal areas of schools, but the government suggests you continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. You'll no longer need to show your NHS COVID Pass at venues and events by law. Wales There will be no limits on how many people can meet indoors at pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres. Nightclubs will reopen. Scotland There will be no limits on how many households can meet indoors or outdoors. There will be no need for physical distancing between groups at indoor and outdoor venues including bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and gyms. Table service will not be needed Northern Ireland Up to 30 people can meet in a private home. Organisers of large indoor gatherings at places like pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres need to carry out a risk assessment. Nightclubs will reopen. You will still need to show your NI domestic certificate. * England You can stop self-isolating at the start of day 6 if you get 2 negative rapid lateral flow test results on days 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. If either test is positive, wait until the next day before testing again. Wales People who have tested positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 7 full days. On days 6 and 7 they should take rapid lateral flow tests 24 hours apart. If the results are positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get 2 negative tests, or after day 10, whichever is sooner. If they are negative they can stop self-isolating https://gov.wales/self-isolation Scotland If you test positive for COVID-19 you should self-isolate for 10 days. You can end self-isolation early if you do not have a high temperature and get 2 negative lateral flow test results on days 6 and 7, taken at least 24 hours apart. If you do not have symptoms and get a positive rapid lateral flow test result, you must self-isolate. You do not need to ta	No	Yes	N/A	
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