



EU response to COVID-19: preparing for autumn and winter 2022-2023

The COVID-19 pandemic is not behind us, and it is important to be prepared for a challenging autumn and winter. The Commission urges Member States to quickly take the necessary **measures to avoid a surge of cases** in autumn and winter, causing unnecessary human suffering and putting further strain on healthcare systems, economies and society in general.



COVID-19 vaccines and closing the vaccination gap

Currently available vaccines within the EU's **portfolio** continue to offer high levels of **protection against hospitalisation, severe disease and death**.

The development and successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is a scientific triumph and saved around **20 million lives** worldwide during 2021.










National vaccination strategies should:

- ▶ Clarify which **vaccines should be used** for which population groups, including the new and adapted vaccines
- ▶ **Increase vaccine uptake** by maintaining sufficient vaccination capacities and increasing vaccine confidence
- ▶ Focus on **primary vaccination and first booster** doses to those who are eligible, whilst ensuring additional booster doses for the most vulnerable
- ▶ Consider **combining COVID-19 and influenza vaccination campaigns**
- ▶ Ensure **clear and regularly updated communication**, based on epidemiological developments, behavioural insights and public perception

Sustained EU collaboration at the heart of our European Health Union

Coordination between Member States regarding **surveillance, prevention, preparedness** and **response** remains essential to mitigate the impact of new pandemic surges, and future health crises. Member States should be ready for:

-  Integrated **surveillance systems for respiratory infections**
-  A possible reintroduction of **non-pharmaceutical interventions**, including facemasks and limiting the size of gatherings, on the basis of the epidemiological situation
-  Strengthening **healthcare systems and capacity**
-  Joint procurement of COVID-19 **therapeutics**
-  Cooperation on safer, more transparent **multi-country clinical trials**
-  Addressing **post-COVID condition (“long-COVID”)**
-  Facilitating **safe, free movement** of people and goods in the EU

The global dimension

The fight against COVID is a **global fight**. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the EU supported many other countries. We must continue to ensure:

- Rapid **development, scale-up and equitable distribution** of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide
- Capacity building, diversification and matchmaking with African partners
- Supply of medical countermeasures through a €150 million pledge to the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism
- Implementation of the Global Action Plan to beat the pandemic
- WHO reinforcement: new, international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, strengthened International Health Regulations from 2005

Team Europe: the EU has provided **one third** of the vaccine doses used to vaccinate people worldwide, sharing almost 480 million doses with countries in need so far.

The upcoming **EU global health strategy** will provide a political framework help ensure Team Europe’s capacity to protect and promote health globally.

