





Germany declares a Covid 'third wave' has begun; Italy set for Easter lockdown

PUBLISHED FRI, MAR 12 2021-9:07 AM EST UPDATED FRI, MAR 12 2021-1:55 PM EST



SHARE







KEY POINTS

"We have clear signs: The third wave in Germany has already begun," Lothar Wieler, head of the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Diseases, told reporters during a news conference Friday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had previously warned the country could be caught in a third wave of infections if restrictive public health measures were lifted too quickly.

Italy, meanwhile, is reportedly set to impose another near national lockdown over the Easter weekend in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.















German Chancellor <u>Angela Merkel</u> had previously warned the country could be caught in a third wave of infections if restrictive public health measures were lifted too quickly.

Italy, meanwhile, is reportedly set to impose another near national lockdown over the Easter weekend in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

The move, which is expected to be signed into law on Friday, comes just over a year after it became the first country in the world to impose nationwide lockdown measures.

What's going on in Germany?

"We have clear signs: The third wave in Germany has already begun," Lothar Wieler, head of the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Diseases, told reporters during a news conference Friday.

"The virus is not going to disappear, but once we have a base level of immunity in the population, we can control it," he added.















VIDEO 04:38

Germany has been under prepared in vaccine distribution as opposed to test and trace, expert says

Wieler said he was "very worried" about the public health crisis. He described Germany's vaccination campaign as a race against a constantly evolving virus but expressed confidence that the country would ultimately be able to bring the virus under control.

Until such a time, Wieler reaffirmed the importance of people wearing face masks in public and maintaining a safe distance from others.

The RKI on Thursday said that the number of confirmed Covid cases over a 24-hour period rose by 14,356, the highest daily tally recorded in Germany in the last two weeks. It reflected an increase of 2,444 cases on the previous week.

The recent upsurge coincides with the spread of a highly infectious variant of the virus first discovered in the U.K. The variant, known as B.1.1.7, has been found to account for more than 46% of new infections nationwide.

To date, more than 2.5 million people have contracted Covid in Germany, with 73,127 deaths, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Italy set for an Easter lockdown













unnamed sources.

As part of these measures, Italy is expected to tackle the spread of the virus by placing almost the entire country in its so-called red zone from April 3 to April 5, a period which includes Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

Barcroft Media | Barcroft Media | Getty Images

The red zone is the maximum level of restrictions in Italy's tiered coronavirus system. At this level, schools, nonessential shops, restaurants and bars will all be closed.

Sardinia, a large Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea, is currently the only region in the country's white zone. This decision, announced on March 1, means that many measures designed to curb the spread of the virus have been dropped in this area.















Ireland, Netherlands become latest countries to suspend AstraZeneca vaccine over blood clot fears



Here's how to track the status of the third stimulus payment



Stripe raises new capital, reaching \$95 billion valuation ahead of highly anticipated market debut



Dow futures climb ahead of Monday's market open



India to reportedly propose cryptocurrency ban, penalizing miners and traders



Subscribe to CNBC PRO

CNBC Councils

CNBC on Peacock

Join the CNBC Panel

News Releases

Corrections

Internships

Licensing & Reprints

Supply Chain Values

Advertise With Us

Digital Products

Closed Captioning

About CNBC

Site Map





















News Tips

Got a confidential news tip? We want to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH

CNBC Newsletters

Sign up for free newsletters and get more CNBC delivered to your inbox

SIGN UP NOW

Get this delivered to your inbox, and more info about our products and services

Privacy Policy

Do Not Sell My Personal Information

CA Notice

Terms of Service

© 2021 CNBC LLC. All Rights Reserved. A Division of NBCUniversal

Data is a real-time snapshot *Data is delayed at least 15 minutes. Global Business and Financial News, Stock Quotes, and Market Data and Analysis.

Market Data Terms of Use and Disclaimers

Data also provided by







