Poland sees record spike in coronavirus cases

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Poland on Friday reported a record spike of 1,587 new coronavirus cases over a 24-hour period, in line with a rise in other parts of eastern Europe where numbers have been relatively low.

The number of daily reported cases has been rising steadily in Poland in

recent days, with 711 on Tuesday, 974 on Wednesday and 1,136 on Thursday.

The health ministry also reported 23 COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours, bringing the total to 2,392.

Masks have been made compulsory in all public spaces in some parts of Poland because of the rise in cases and the obligation is likely to be extended in the coming days, the ministry said.

The biggest increases were seen in the central region where Warsaw is located and in a southern region bordering Slovakia.

Slovakia's daily increase of 419 on Friday was also a record high for the country, while the Czech Republic saw a rise of 1,627—well below a peak of 3,130 cases registered last week.

The sharp rise in the Czech Republic forced Prime Minister Andrej Babis to issue a mea culpa this week apologising for easing restrictions aimed at containing the virus.

Governments across Europe are struggling with a second wave of COVID-19 infections following the holiday months in which the number of cases began rising and as schools and universities re-open.

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