

Germany: 1 in 100 infected with virus, health minister says

December 3 2021, by Frank Jordans



Lavinia Israel, a testing center employee, takes a sample from a customer for a quick test at a Corona testing center at the Kaufpark Nickern shopping center in Dresden, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Credit: Sebastian Kahnert/dpa via AP

Germany's health minister said Friday that more than 1% of the population—almost a million people—are currently infected with the

coronavirus, and called on citizens to get vaccinated if they haven't done so yet.

The country confirmed 74,352 new daily COVID-19 cases and 390 additional deaths, figures published by the federal disease control agency showed. According to the Robert Koch Institute's calculations, some 925,800 people in Germany are considered actively infected with the virus.

Health Minister Jens Spahn noted that the number of unvaccinated residents who are infected and seriously ill is much higher than their share of the overall population.

"If all German adults were vaccinated, we wouldn't be in this difficult situation," he told reporters in Berlin.

Spahn spoke a day after federal and state leaders announced tough new restrictions that [largely target unvaccinated people](#), preventing them from entering nonessential stores, restaurants, sports and cultural venues.

The government also plans to submit a general vaccine mandate for parliament to consider. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert said lawmakers could vote on the issue in early January.

Spahn, who is likely to leave office next week when Germany's new center-left government takes office, has opposed compulsory vaccination and made clear Friday that he would vote against the measure.



Jens Spahn, Executive Federal Minister for Health, takes off his FFP2 mask at the beginning of the press conference on developments in the Corona pandemic at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.
Credit: Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP



A 24-year-old receives his booster vaccination with the active ingredient Biontech at the new vaccination centre in Bremen, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Numerous booths for the vaccinations against the corona virus are set up in the former cashier's hall in the main branch of the Sparkasse Bremen. In the newly opened vaccination centre, up to 5,000 corona vaccinations per day are planned. Credit: Joerg Sarbach/dpa via AP



From the Corona intensive care unit of the Paul Gerhard Stift Evangelical Hospital, a pregnant woman suffering from Covid 19 is taken to the DRF helicopter by Air Rescue emergency in Wittenberg, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021 For medical reasons, the woman is transferred to the prenatal centre at Halle University Hospital. Credit: Waltraud Grubitzsch/dpa via AP



Jens Spahn, Executive Federal Minister of Health, and Lothar H. Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), from right, leave the Federal Press Conference after a press conference on developments in the Corona pandemic in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Credit: Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP



Jens Spahn, Executive Federal Minister for Health, gives a press conference on the development in the Corona pandemic at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Credit: Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP



Lothar H. Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), gives a press conference on developments in the Corona pandemic at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Credit: Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP

About 68.8% of people in Germany are fully vaccinated, while the government has set a minimum target of 75%. For the first time since the summer, more than 1 million doses were administered on a single day Wednesday.

Authorities in Berlin have banned a protest planned Saturday by opponents of the pandemic measures. Police in the capital said past demonstrations had shown that participants failed to abide by infection prevention rules, including refusing to wear masks.

Germany's association for intensive care medicine, DIVI, has welcomed the newly agreed restrictions. But its head, Gernot Marx, told the dpa news agency that the number of COVID-19 patients treated in ICUs would likely reach a new record high over the festive period.

The head of the Robert Koch Institute, Lothar Wieler, cautioned that a plateau in new cases seen in some regions could be the result of labs and local health offices reaching the limits of what they can process.

"So it's too early to read a trend reversal into this, much less to refrain from tougher measures," he said.

© 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Germany: 1 in 100 infected with virus, health minister says (2021, December 3) retrieved 15 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-12-germany-infected-virus-health-minister.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--