

Germany mulls bringing back masks this autumn

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Karl Lauterbach, Federal Minister of Health, speaks at a press conference on the further development of the Corona situation in Berlin, Germany, Friday, April 8, 2022. Germany's health minister said Friday that the country may need to reintroduce requirements to wear face masks in public this fall after lawmakers rejected a proposed coronavirus vaccine mandate. Credit: Carsten Koall/dpa via AP

Germany's health minister said Friday that the country may need to bring back a requirement for wearing face masks in public this autumn after [lawmakers rejected a proposed coronavirus vaccine mandate](#).

Karl Lauterbach acknowledged that the Bundestag's vote Thursday against requiring COVID-19 vaccination of people 60 and over was a personal setback for him. The bill was a watered-down compromise after some government [lawmakers](#) refused to back a vaccine mandate for all adults.

The vote was "a clear and bitter defeat for all those who advocate [compulsory vaccinations](#)," said Lauterbach, adding that any wiggle room to further relax the rules "has been completely exhausted."

Germany recently ended the requirement to wear masks in many indoor settings, though they are still compulsory on public transport.

Lauterbach also urged people to get tested for COVID-19 before traveling to visit relatives over the Easter vacation.

New infections in Germany are on a downward trajectory, with 175,263 additional confirmed cases reported in the past 24 hours—down from a recent peak of almost 300,000 a day. But there continued to be around 300 COVID-related deaths a day, he said.

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