

Meeting of the Commission's advisory panel on COVID-19 - agenda

Thursday 26/11/2020 at 19h00

Point for discussion

1. An EU strategy for continued control measures of COVID-19

There are calls for the relaxation of control measures ahead of the holiday season and in view of the relative improvement of the epidemiological situation in several Member States. Modelling simulations show that any relaxation of the control measures in a high incidence context would quickly lead to an increase the transmission of the virus and ultimately hospitalisations.

The Commission is preparing a set of short-term recommendations to avoid a repetition of the quick relaxation of the control measures before summer.

- What are the lessons from other parts of the world?
- Can a safe epidemiological threshold be defined for adopting less stringent measures? Can we define optimal testing rates and contact tracing features?
- What settings appear to lead to increased transmission of the virus? For how long should these settings be subject to increased restrictions?
- How can we move towards common control measures? Is it possible to define a set of control measures applicable to all Member States above the abovementioned thresholds?
- We know that in the current context, quarantines linked to travel have limited impact. However, most Member States still impose them. How could we define a travel quarantine framework that makes sense and at least limits fragmentation of approaches?