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Europe

# Denmark lifts all coronavirus restrictions and celebrates ‘a whole new era’

By [Reis Thebault](#)



Yesterday at 2:05 p.m. EDT

After nearly 550 days, the Scandinavian country has lifted the last of its domestic pandemic-era restrictions, [declaring](#) that the coronavirus is no longer a “critical threat to society.” Denmark appears to be the first European Union member to issue such a declaration, potentially providing a glimpse into the future of the bloc’s recovery — or serving as a cautionary tale of a nation that moved too quickly.

The country’s leaders have pointed to its high vaccination rates — among the [best in the world](#), with nearly 75 percent of residents fully immunized — as evidence that the step is justified, though they have not claimed herd immunity has been reached. Denmark also has one of Europe’s lowest levels of newly reported infections.