

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS ENDING

Oct 3, 2021

WARM-UP QUESTIONS • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. How's your health? Would you say it's at 100%? If not, what could be better?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY • *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Restriction | a) the number of people that a place can hold |
| 2. Venue | b) rules that might be considered tough and that must be followed |
| 3. Capacity | c) to make something less unpleasant |
| 4. To date | d) a rule or law that limits what you can do |
| 5. Ease | e) able to do or receive something |
| 6. A way off | f) to make something longer in space or time |
| 7. Extend | g) not soon, further in the future |
| 8. Strict | h) until now |
| 9. Resident | i) a person that lives in a place |
| 10. Eligible | j) a place for organized events |

LISTEN • *Listen to the audio track on [eslnewsstories.com](https://www.eslnewsstories.com) or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words.*

Norway was able to end coronavirus-related _____ last week. Sport and entertainment venues, restaurants, and nightclubs can now _____ as they used to and at full capacity. This is the final step in Norway's plan to normalize following 561 days of restrictions in _____ to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. To date, Norway has fully vaccinated 67% of its _____.

Elsewhere, Japan ended a coronavirus state of _____ and began to ease related restrictions. Restaurants and _____ can operate longer, but for now, they are asked to close by 9pm. The Japanese government feels confident about making the change as infection rates have _____, and 59% of Japanese citizens have now been vaccinated.

However, in other countries, easing of restrictions is still a way off. New Zealand, where coronavirus infection rates have been kept low, has recently extended _____ lockdowns to regions beyond Auckland in response to minor _____. While in a lockdown, residents are discouraged from going out of their homes except for essentials and walks around their neighborhoods. Although the

government enjoys relatively strong support for its policies, there have been protests against the lockdown strategy. The Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has said strict lockdowns can end if 90% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated. Currently, the _____ vaccinated number is at 46%.

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Sources: reuters.com, nytimes.com, apnews.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION • *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F) and then discuss the answers with your partner(s).*

1. New Zealand ended coronavirus-related restrictions last week. (T / F)
2. People are now free to go to nightclubs in Norway. (T / F)
3. There are fewer infections in Japan than before. (T / F)
4. More than half of Japan has been vaccinated. (T / F)
5. Most people are against the Government's coronavirus policies in New Zealand. (T / F)

WORD FORMS • *Fill in the different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
			Restriction
Ease		x	
Extend			

	Strict		
			Resident
x	Eligible		

COMPLETE • Complete the following sentences. You may need to add letters, prepositions, articles, and change verbs.

1. new zealand / some / in / protest / people

2. can / restaurants / normally / norway / in / operate

DISCUSSION • Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.

1. Are there or were there coronavirus-related restrictions in your city? If so, what are/were those rules?
2. How has COVID-19 affected you personally?
3. Do you feel like the pandemic is ending? When will it be over?
4. What kind of damage, pain, or inconvenience has COVID-19 caused in your country?
5. What is the vaccination rate in your country? Has it been rising quickly enough? If not, why not?
6. Which countries have handled the coronavirus pandemic best?
7. Are you fully vaccinated? What vaccine did you receive? If not, when do you expect to be vaccinated?
8. Some people are 'anti-vax' (opposed to vaccinations). What do you think about this kind of opinion?
9. Which types of business have suffered most during the pandemic?
10. What kinds of activities do you look forward to doing after the pandemic?

Vocabulary answers: 1-d, 2-j, 3-a, 4-h, 5-c, 6-g, 7-f, 8-b, 9-l, 10-e.

Comprehension answers: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F.

Word Forms answers: restrict, restricted, restrictively, eased, easing, extended/extensive, extensively, extension, strictly, strictness, reside, residential, residentially, eligibly, eligibility

Complete answers: 1. In New Zealand, some people protested. 2. Restaurants in Norway can operate normally.