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by Emma Phillips

Paying for covid tests will come into force at the end of next week. From October 15th, getting tested will no longer be free to all. Instead, a PCR test will cost 44 euros and an antigen test done in a lab will be 22 euros. Self-tests will no longer be free when carried out in front of a pharmacist.

The end could also be in sight for the health pass. A conseil de defense is being held today to consider easing the measure which has seen it mandatory to be double vaxxed in order to enter public spaces such as restaurants, cafés, sports spaces and museums. The health pass could go in départements in which there are the lowest covid rates.

From Monday, primary school children in 21 more départements will no longer be required to wear a mask during their lessons. The measure will take effect in départements where there have been fewer than 50 covid cases per 100,000 residents for five days or longer. These include the Aube, Oise and Mayotte. Monday's lot join the 47 départements in which primary school children are already no longer required to wear a mask.

The end could be in sight for the diplomatic crisis caused by the cancelled France Australia submarine contract. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean Yves le Drian yesterday confirmed that the French Ambassador will return to Australia, although he gave no details as to when. The Ambassador was recalled to France after the Australians reneged on a multi-billion euro contract.

And finally, tonight's football sees France in the semi-final of the Nations League. Les Bleus will take on Belgium, in a match that mirrors the 2018 world cup semi-finals. Kick-off is at 8:45 p.m. Tonight's winner will play Spain in Sunday's final.