



The News

May 16th, 9am ©

by Sarah Heath

From today, French citizens will no longer have to wear face masks on public transport – for the first time in two years. Facial covering is now not compulsory on buses, trains, taxis, and planes. The government made the decision after consultation with Covid experts who have stated that the health situation doesn't warrant such protection any more as figures remain stable. Mask wearing first came into force in May 2020.

Prime Minister Jean Castex is preparing to leave his role as the head of government which will culminate in a letter of resignation to President Macron. It is expected that the head of state will announce his new Prime Minister in the coming days.

The debate over whether the burkini should be allowed at public swimming pools is continuing in Grenoble today. At the request of Mayor Eric Piolle, the municipal council has been called upon to decide in favour of a modification to the regulations of the city's swimming pools, in order to allow this attire.

Sweden has announced its hope to join NATO after the governing Social Democratic party yesterday gave the green light for applying to become a member. Finland has also put themselves forward to become a member of the alliance and will study the process in greater detail today.

In football news, it has been declared that Kylian Mbappé is the best player in Ligue 1 for the third consecutive year. The French striker, who plays for PSG, was voted top footballer and given his award last night at the UNFP event. Other winners included William Saliba, the Marseille defender who won most promising player and Bruno Genesio who received the title of best trainer. In the women's game, Parisian Marie-Antoinette Katato was voted best player in the D1.

And finally, storm warnings across the country have now been lifted by Météo France. Normandy has, however, been left with storm damage in the past days – fires have broken out and roads damaged, and thousands of homes left without power.