

# COVID-19

Update 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

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# Switzerland COVID-19

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The number of new reported cases continues to drop week on week, with nearly 50% of the population having received their first vaccine and 34% both. There is still concern on the new Delta variant and any impact it might have in the coming months.

Indoor and outside restaurants are now open and working from home has been downgraded from required to a recommendation.

## Real estate

Real estate is operating in a more restrictive way (virtual viewings are sometimes the only option and tenant permission is needed), with the process taking additional time. The number of parties in the property at any given time might be limited and face masks are required in-line with Federal guidelines.

Entrance and exit inspections are taking place in accordance with the social distancing rules, and mask wearing.

## Transportation and shops

### Train/buses

These are running on a normal timetable (except across borders where there is a limited service). The advice is to travel during off-peak if possible and try and keep a distance between each other. Wearing of face masks is required at all times on all types of public transport (trains, buses, trams, cable cars etc.) for those aged 12 or older.

### Taxis

Taxi continue to run normally (regulated per law) although special measures for disinfection/safety have been introduced and again face masks.

## Shopping

Shops are open but operating with limited capacity, now only noticeable in small establishments. Online shopping for groceries is available with Coop and Migros offering platforms mainly in English with home delivery.

## Education

Local schools and International are open. Mask wearing is being applied depending on age and distancing where possible. Schools are providing regular local updates direct to the parent body. Please note each school is being regularly assessed and some localized closing of year groups or establishments is possible.

International schools are offering virtual tours (or in-person after hours for those with a negative test).

## Events

Rules have been relaxed and private gatherings outdoors are limited to 50 people and indoors 30.

## International travel

Travel for non-residents and citizens is opening up for fully vaccinated individuals but testing and quarantining may apply. <https://travelcheck.admin.ch/home> is a good way to check the current rules and status on the country you are coming from.

Airports are open with a restricted and variable timetable, intercontinental flights are more challenging to source than intra-European.

## Work and permits

Administrative offices are more likely to be operating with reduced opening hours or lightly staffed. Permit processing is therefore likely to be longer than normal.

Deregistration during the lockdown has been possible remotely, but now with offices open often an in-person notification is required (as was the case prior to situation).

Working from home has been downgraded from required to a recommendation.

## Tracing and information resources

Contact tracing app is now available called SwissCovid

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng>

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov.html>

## Helpline number

0041 58 463 0000 (for residents)

0041 58 464 4488 (for travelers 6am-11pm)

# Germany COVID-19

## Update 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Respecting the low infection figures throughout Germany, the federal "emergency brake" restrictions are now waived in favour of individual state regulations.

Federal and state governments rely on intensive testing and vaccination to reduce the rate of infections. It is possible for all citizens to receive one antigen test a week free of cost.

Special regulations apply for vaccinated and persons recovered from the infection. In certain situations, they are treated the same as persons who have tested negative.

If a state or an independent city exceeds an incidence of 100 on three consecutive days, the nationwide emergency brake automatically applies there from the following day.

Wearing of medical masks is still mandatory in certain areas, such as on buses and trains, in stores, elderly homes or at certain workplaces. Medical masks include so-called surgical masks and masks of the KN95 or FFP2 standards. Working from home is now recommended wherever possible. Noticeably, the state of Bavaria will require KN95 or FFP2 masks without exception, likewise some states for public transport.

The general hygiene, distancing, and contact restrictions remain in place, as well as individual regulations per state. In addition, Germany has introduced a Corona Warning App. Usage is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

## Real estate

Home finding viewings are possible, distancing and hygiene requirements remain in place. Separate travel arrangements to viewings and tours are encouraged. Housing prices remain solid.

Public authorities are open for in-person services, albeit on an appointment only basis. Distancing and Hygiene measures are in place.

## Transportation and shops

### Train/buses

Public transportation is available and running on regular schedules. All states will require wearing a mask when using public transport, as well as in stations. Some states will require FFP2/KN95 masks without exception.

### Taxis

Taxis continue to run normal (regulated per law) special measures for disinfection are in place.

### Cars

Fuel stations, as well as repair shops are open.

## Shopping

Local regulations are governed individually by the respective state.

With a 7-day incidence indicating less than 50 new infections, retail stores are opened. Generally, there should be no more than one person per 10 square meters of retail space in a facility with a total retail space of up to 800 square meters. For larger stores of 800 square meters or more, the allowance is one person for every additional 20 square meters of retail space. For shopping centers, the respective total sales area is to be applied.

When shopping, hygiene requirements must be met, access to the store must be controlled and queues must be avoided. Hairdressers and other services are available, negative test results for clients are requested depending on incidence rates.

If the incidence exceeds 50, restrictive measures apply, including appointment shopping ("click and meet"). In addition, at least 40 square meters of sales space must be available per customer.

All German states require customers to wear a medical mask when shopping. This refers to the following products: surgical masks or masks of the KN95 or FFP2 standards. The obligation to wear a mask also applies in front of retail stores and in parking lots.

## Education

Schooling attendance and measures are decided by the states individually. If face-to-face teaching takes place, students and teachers must be tested twice a week.

Above an incidence rate of 100, a limited schedule applies and mandatory testing twice a week is introduced. If the rate rises above 165 for three consecutive days, schools will be closed.

## Events

Public events with a limited possibility for contact tracing remain forbidden.

The states will allow for selected events observing hygiene, distancing, as well as contact tracing measures.

## International travel

As of 30 March 2021, all incoming travelers by plane will have to provide for a negative Covid 19 test prior to entering the plane, otherwise travel is prohibited.

Travelers having been in an area deemed as a risk area within the last 10 days, have to register digitally under the following address prior to arrival (English version available):

<https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de/#/>

The registration will be shared with the local health authorities to allow for individual checks. In addition, there is a ten-day quarantine obligation. An early termination of the quarantine is only possible by a negative test taken on the fifth day after entry at the earliest.

Travelers from particularly affected regions must present a negative test result prior to entry. Stricter quarantine rules apply to entrants from virus variant areas - insofar as they are exempt from the transport ban in individual cases. While test facilities are installed at all major airports, the requirement to test travelers is applicable for train, car, and ship arrivals as well.

Noticeably, travelers returning from an area deemed to be a virus variant area have to undergo a mandatory 14 days quarantine, regardless of the result of the required tests. This is also applicable for fully vaccinated or recovered people. Currently, identified areas of virus variants include Portugal, Russia, South Africa, and the UK.

Exceptions may apply for certain activities and depending on the respective federal state's legal requirements.

Travel within Germany is possible, although it is recommended to refrain from all non-essential activities. Borders are partly open for travel within the EU/Schengen

The list of areas deemed risk areas is available under:

[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete\\_neu.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html)

Flight schedules have been reduced significantly in the light of the recent lockdown measures, but are picking up.

## Work

Employers are encouraged to allow employees to work from home wherever possible, provided that the activities allow for this. There is no mandatory home office requirement as of 1 July. Masks must be worn when at work when distancing and hygiene measures cannot be met. Employers are also required to provide for masks and for at least two antigen tests a week.

## Vaccination

As per 28<sup>th</sup> June, over 44 million citizens have received at least one treatment/ vaccination, which equals 54% of the population. Almost 30 million have received full vaccination (i.e. two treatments, 36% of the population). In order to accelerate the status, Germany has introduced the option to receive vaccinations via local doctors, in addition to the vaccination centers which are available throughout the country. Vaccinations are open to all approved applicants (no prioritization).

## Timetable for lifting restrictions

This is provisional and subject to the trend of reduced infections continuing.

We will monitor the situation and will be able to advise individually, depending on the respective situation and request.

## Helpline number

+49(0)30 346465100 Mo – Thu 8:00am - 6:00pm, Fr 8:00am - 12:00pm

# Netherlands COVID-19

## Update 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

The vaccination program in The Netherlands has picked up the pace. Over 15 million people have received a shot and 6 million people are fully vaccinated. By mid-July everyone who want to be vaccinated will have their first shot and, in many cases, their second as well.

This is reflected in the number of new infections and the number of people being hospitalized, which are now can be considered as normal.

The government has therefore decided that most restrictions are no longer necessary, and step 4 of the opening reopening plan can be taken as of from the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/news/2021/04/13/plan-to-reopen-society-step-by-step>

The following restriction will be lifted as of from the 26<sup>th</sup> of June:

- All establishments can open their doors
- All events are permitted
- Sports will start up again
- Face mask are only needed when it is impossible for everyone to stay 1.5 metres apart, for example public transport, secondary school and festivals or events.
- No longer restrictions on the number of visitors people can receive at home
- Working at the office is an option again
- Free coronavirus test for travelling abroad

## Real estate

No restrictions! Only when the 1,5 meter distance rule cannot be observed, a face mask is necessary.

## Transportation and shops

### Train/buses

Public transportation is running on regular schedule, but passengers need to respect the social distancing rules. Wearing a mask is required in public transport.

### Taxis

Taxis continue to service customers, provided that a minimum distance of 1.5 m is maintained between passengers. The number of people that can be transported therefore varies according to the type of vehicle. People living under the same roof may share a taxi. In this case the rule of minimum distance is not applicable.

### Cars

Fuel stations, garages and other shops are open as normal.

## Shopping

All establishments are open. Only when the 1,5 meter distance cannot be observed, a face mask is necessary.

## Education

All schools are open. Only when the 1,5 meter distance cannot be observed, a face mask is necessary.

## Events

Event are permitted again. Only when the 1,5 meter distance rule cannot be observed, a face mask is necessary.

## International travel

Travel inside of The Netherlands is unrestricted.

When travelling it all depends on where the trip will be going to, and what the current situation is for that destination. When a country has the same or lower number coronavirus infections, they are marked as safe countries. The situation in these countries can change over time, therefore always check before departure what the status is, and what kind of measure will apply. Please find the list of countries, and the status they have in the following link:

<https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/documenten/vragen-en-antwoorden/welke-landen-hebben-welke-kleurcode>

Also, when returning to the Netherlands it depends on where you have start the travel, to know what kind of measures you need to take into account. To see what is needed check the following link:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/checklist-entry>

## Work

Teleworking is not mandatory anymore as of from the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

## Timetable for lifting restrictions

Please visit <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/news/2021/04/13/plan-to-reopen-society-step-by-step> for the opening-plan from the Dutch government.

## Helpline number

0800 1351 when in The Netherlands. From abroad you can dial +31 20 2051351.  
Lots of the relevant information can be found as well on [rijksoverheid.nl/coronavirus](https://rijksoverheid.nl/coronavirus)

# Belgium COVID-19

Update 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

## Travel

You can follow the evolution of the coronavirus in Europa and find information on the various restrictions in each country on <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>

Travel advices to red (high risk) zones and very high risks zones are still available and updated on the following website: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en>

It is still our recommendation that you check with the embassy and/or the border authorities on specific requirements, on a case-by-case base, before planning a travel.

It is expected from the traveller that he/she follows the travelling instructions carefully (violation of a mandatory Quarantine can be subject to a fine of 500 € ex VAT).

## Travelling to Belgium

The following rules will apply from 1 July

### Passenger Locator Form

All travellers imperatively need to fill in the Passenger Locator Form (electronic version available here: [electronic PLF](#); paper version available here: [paper PLF](#)), excepted those not travelling via a carrier and who have been abroad for less than 48 hours or will stay in Belgium for less than 48 hours. Our recommendation would be to fill-out the form anyway when travelling to Belgium, and to keep a print with the travel documents.

This form must be completed no earlier than 48 hours before their arrival in Belgium.

The Passenger Locator Form will allow the police to track travellers who do not get tested and anyone who fails to comply with the testing rules faces a fine of 250€.

## Testing and Quarantine

### Belgian residents:

Travellers coming from a green or orange zone are not required to get tested and to self-quarantine. It is however asked to the travellers coming from an orange zone to remain vigilant.

Travellers coming from a red zone are exempted of quarantine if they can provide a digital corona certificate with full vaccination (+ 2 weeks), a recent negative PCR test (no older than 72 hours) or recovery certificate. A quarantine is also not required if traveller takes a test immediately after his arrival in Belgium (day 1 or 2) and the result is negative.

Travellers coming from a very high risks zone (with variants concerns) are required to get tested on day 1 and day 7 and to self-quarantine for 10 days, even if they are fully vaccinated or have a recent negative PCR test from the arrival country.

Non-residents (whatever their nationality)

Travellers coming from a green or orange zone are not required to get tested and to self-quarantine. It is however asked to the travellers coming from an orange zone to remain vigilant.

Travellers coming from a red zone are exempted of quarantine if they can provide a digital corona certificate with full vaccination (+ 2 weeks), a recent negative PCR test (no older than 72 hours) or recovery certificate.

## Travelling from Belgium

### Travel certificate

Vaccinations are recorded in the Covid-19 certificate, also called digital or travel certificate. For the Belgian residents, this certificate is issued by [Vaccinet](#), and is available on the [CovidSafe](#) app. It is possible to obtain a paper vaccination certificate. To request a vaccination certificate by post, people can reach the helpdesk line at the following number +32 78 78 78 50 (available 24/24)

### The certificate is updated:

After each dose and the full vaccination (valid 365 days from the day of vaccination)  
After a recovery from Covid-19 stated by a doctor (valid 180 days after the time of the positive test)  
After a -PCR Outcome (valid 3 days after the time of the test, usually 24 to 48 hours from the moments the results are received)

Certificates issued in other EU/EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein) are recognized in Belgium, and someone who has received a first dose in one country could receive the second dose in another. Doses and full vaccinations received in another EU/EFTA country can be registered by a General Practitioner with Vaccinet.

At this stage there is no equivalency agreement yet between **non-EU/EFTA countries**, which means a certificate issued in a non-EU(EFTA) country won't be considered when crossing an EU border.

In all cases, before planning a travel, we recommend checking on a case-by-case base which are the requirements of the country of origin and of destination in terms of vaccination, PCR test and Quarantine.

For more information, you can always refer to <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/travels/>

## Vaccination

### Who will be vaccinated?

Anyone who is domiciled in Belgium (people having a Belgian national number and being registered with the Belgium social security) and at least 18 years old can be vaccinated in Belgium. People being registered with a social security abroad should get vaccinated in the country where they are registered to the social security.

### How to get vaccinated in Belgium?

The prerequisites to take part to the Belgian vaccination plan are a **valid BIS number** (or national number) and a **registered residence** in Belgium. Every resident who has a valid BIS (national) number will indeed be invited by his/her local authority (region of residency) to receive his first and (when applicable) second shot, by e-mail or regular post. Alternatively, every resident who has a valid

BIS (national) number can register with the waiting lists that are open in each region to the purpose of people who want a faster vaccination.

From October on General Practitioners should be able to proceed to the first and second injections.

## Information

For general information and FAQ's with regards to the Belgian vaccination plan, please refer to this website: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/vaccination/>

Quite some questions are still unanswered and the information is provided by the government along the way. So, if you need more accurate information, please let us know or dial the below info numbers (Mon-Sun 9AM-5PM): 0800 14 689 or, from outside Belgium: +32 78151771

## Daily life

The current partial lockdown reduces **social and professional contacts**. In brief: indoor gathering is limited to 4 people (not counting children under 12y). All other contacts need to take place outdoor, in groups of **maximum 10 people** wearing masks and keeping a distance of 1,5 meters. Home working has become the rule, which means one has to work from home when possible. When the tasks cannot be performed from home, working from the office is authorized, if social distancing and other measures are granted and the employer has filled-out the necessary declaration. More information here: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/news/occ-3010/>.

- Schools are open and all children are returning to school full-time.
- Essential and non-essential shops are open.
- Bars and restaurants are now open, both indoor and outdoor.
- Non-medical close contact profession (beauty salon, hairdressers...) are also now opened.

## Service delivery

Services will be delivered virtually or remotely where possible, for the comfort and safety of all parties involved. Where indispensable services cannot be provided remotely or virtually, we will first seek for alternatives, and if no alternative can match the individual's situation, we will, on a case-by-case base, look for arrangements that respect the government's instructions and keeps every party safe and comfortable. We will obviously take actions and decisions in close consultation with the assignee and his/her HR/account manager. Regarding the PLF exemption for travels of less than 48 hours, it is good to clarify that we can't plan bank appointments or home viewings during such a short trip.

An important note: physical home viewings are, since 13th February, permitted again. For safety reasons, we still do recommend virtual viewings. It is important to note though that the number of properties that are available for viewings is smaller than in ordinary times. A valuable alternative

would be to book (or extend) a temporary accommodation till the sky clears. In the meanwhile, as movements outside are unrestricted, walking through areas of interest can be a good orientation and preparation to a future house hunting. If a consultant is on the road with an assignee, it is recommended to arrange separate transportation. If this is not an option, and provided the assignee has been tested negative on the 7th day; the consultant will be allowed to drive him/her around. However, it will be only the assignee and no other passenger.

## About us

Packimpex with the support of all employees will be offering a flexible working solution. We will ensure we constantly have the staffing required to deliver the authorized services to your employees.

Please contact us if you have any specific concerns with regards to the current situation, our services or our ability to work with you and your colleagues in the weeks and months ahead.