

Date: 18.01.2021

Announcement regarding current restrictions regarding COVID-19 in ICELAND

Governmental measures aiming to prevent the novel coronavirus COVID-19 from being carried by travelers to Iceland.

I) Quarantine, testing and special precautions

On 15 January 2021 new regulation on quarantine, isolation and testing at Iceland's border to combat COVID-19 No. 18/2021 was issued by the Minister of Health that mandates double screening and removes the option to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Iceland. The regulation is intended to remain in force until 30. April 2021.

As from 15 January 2021, all passengers traveling to Iceland who have stayed for more than 24 hours in the last 14 days in an area defined as risk by the Chief Epidemiologist, must undergo a PCR test upon arrival in Iceland, followed by a 5-6 day quarantine and a second screening at the end of quarantine period. If the second test is negative, then quarantine is lifted.

The Chief Epidemiologist shall regularly revalue which countries and areas are defined as risk having taken into consideration information from international organisations such as WHO and ECDC. **Iceland's chief epidemiologist has determined that at present all countries and territories of the world are now considered to be risk areas.**

Children born in 2005 or later are not required to undergo a PCR-test upon arrival but are required to go into quarantine along with their parents or guardians after entering Iceland. Children born in 2005 and later who travel alone are however, required to undergo a PCR-test after 5 days in quarantine. If the second test is negative, then quarantine is lifted.

Testing of travellers for COVID-19 at Iceland's borders is free of charge.

Only in rare circumstances, such as in the case of **valid medical reason**, exemptions from double screening will be made and the person in question **can quarantine for 14 days instead.**

Certain exemptions from quarantine and testing requirements

1. International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis

If a person can present a **qualified copy** of an **International Certificate of Vaccination** confirming full vaccination against COVID-19 he/she is exempt from the quarantine and testing requirements. The certificate is **valid only** if the vaccine against COVID-19 used has been **approved by the World Health Organization (WHO)**. From 31.12.2020 only the COVID-19 vaccine from Comirnaty (from Pfizer/BioNTech) has been approved by WHO. A completed vaccination is 2 doses separated by 19-42 days.

The same exemption applies if a person presents a qualified certificate of a full vaccine issued by an EEA/EFTA state that complies with the Chief Epidemiologist's guidance on certificates.

More details on the certificate of vaccination requirement can be found here (*now only available in Icelandic*): <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item44039/Vottord-um-bolusetningu-vegna-COVID-19-tekni-gild-a-landamaerum>

Border control will evaluate whether a certificate is valid and will consult a representative of the Chief Epidemiologist (health care worker) as needed. The final decision of whether a certificate is valid is at the discretion of the Chief Epidemiologist. If a passenger presents a document that is deemed invalid, i.e. if any of the necessary requirements are missing, the passenger must, as other arrival passengers, undergo double testing with 5-day quarantine in between.

Please note that although we accept these certificates at the Icelandic border for exemption of testing and quarantine that does not necessarily apply in general in other countries.

2. Certificates regarding previous COVID-19 infection that are accepted at the border in Iceland.

Certificates of prior COVID-19 infection (positive PCR test and/or presence of antibodies) are accepted upon arrival in Iceland for exemption of testing and quarantine based on presumed immunity for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.

A certificate here means **documented results from a laboratory within the EEA/EFTA-area**, including Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican, or a **confirmation from the Chief Epidemiologist in Iceland**. Clinical diagnoses are not deemed valid.

Certificates may be in paper or electronic format. Border control will evaluate whether a certificate is valid and will consult a representative of the Chief Epidemiologist (health care worker) as needed. The final decision of whether a certificate is valid is at the discretion of the Chief Epidemiologist. If a passenger presents a document that is deemed invalid, i.e. if any of the necessary requirements are missing, the passenger must, as other arrival passengers, undergo double testing with 5 day quarantine in between.

The following certificates are considered a valid confirmation of a previous COVID-19 infection:

- Positive PCR-test result for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 that is older than 14 days.
- Presence of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 measured by ELISA serologic assay*.

Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs are **not** accepted (antigen or antibody tests).

A certificate is required to include the following details:

- Be in the Icelandic, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish or English language. A document in another language can be valid if accompanied by a certified stamped translation in one of the languages required.
- First name and last name (as in travel documents).
- Date of birth.
- When test was performed (date).
- Where test was performed (country/city/address).

- Name of laboratory/issuer of certificate.
- Date of certificate.
- Phone number of laboratory or responsible authority.
- Type of test performed (PCR-test or antibody test with ELISA/serologic assay*).
- Result of test (PCR-test positive for SARS-CoV-2 or antibodies present).

*EIA, ECLIA, CLIA, CLMIA are equivalent tests to ELISA

Please note that although we accept these certificates at the Icelandic border for exemption of quarantine that does not necessarily apply in general in other countries.

<https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item43709/Certificates-regarding-previous-COVID-19-infection-that-are-accepted-at-the-border-in-Iceland>

3. Transit passengers

Transit passengers who do not leave the terminal facilities at the border are not required to undergo screening or quarantine. Transit passengers who leave the terminal facilities but stay in Iceland for less than 48 hours are permitted to choose quarantine instead of screening.

4. Specific precautions while traveling abroad for work

The Chief Epidemiologist can exempt from the quarantine/testing requirement **persons who observe specific precautions while travelling abroad for work**. Only persons who work in health care service, flight and freight ship crews and employees of the police who must travel for their work, can be exempted.

Exempt from the quarantine requirements are flight and freight ship crews who are residents in Iceland who have observed specific precautions while travelling for work. <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item39194/Skilgreind-ahaettusvaedi---Defined-high-risk-areas>.

More detailed information on exemption from quarantine requirements for **ship crews** in Iceland can be found here.

<https://www.landlaeknir.is/servlet/file/store93/item41756/Exemption%20from%20requirement%20for%20quarantine%20in%20Iceland%20for%20ship%20crews.pdf> and on the exemption from requirement for quarantine in Iceland for **flight crews** travelling abroad for work:

<https://www.landlaeknir.is/servlet/file/store93/item41755/Exemption%20from%20requirement%20for%20quarantine%20in%20Iceland%20for%20flight%20crews%20travelling%20abroad%20for%20work.pdf>

More details on quarantine requirements and testing of passengers

Instructions for quarantine for visitors in Iceland

<https://www.landlaeknir.is/servlet/file/store93/item42645/Instructions%20for%20travellers%20in%20quarantine%2015.08.2020.pdf>

Message for all passengers on testing at the border: <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item41974/Message-for-all-passengers-who-have-opted-for-testing-at-the-border>

Testing will be available upon arrival to Iceland at Keflavik airport and in Seydisfjordur (for passengers arriving on Smyril Line). Those arriving in other international airports (Reykjavik, Akureyri, Egilsstadir) or ports will be tested either at the airport or at the closest local healthcare centre. The second is available at health care services all over the country. Information on where people can take the 2nd test: <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item42633/covid-19-border-testing>

Those who arrive in Iceland outside testing hours and are not on a scheduled route can be asked to be tested but the cost for each mobilisation can be up to ISK 60.000.

Negative test results does not guarantee that an individual will not later be required to self-quarantine if they have been exposed to infection, e.g. on the flight to Iceland. If a passenger tests positive, they may be offered to undergo further tests to determine whether or not they have an infection. In the case of an active infection, the passenger must self-isolate.

Person in quarantine must remain in the same designated place (home or other accommodation) for the duration of quarantine and they are responsible for their own expenses during the quarantine, including housing and living expenses, as they have traveled to the country voluntarily despite the governments quarantine requirements. More detailed information on appropriate housing while in quarantine can be found via this link: <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item41241/Appropriate-housing-while-in-quarantine>

Pre-registration (covid.is/english)

All passengers, **born 2004 or earlier**, are required to **fill out a pre-registration form** (on www.covid.is/english) **before arrival** to Iceland, which requires passengers to provide their personal details and contact information, flight information, travel dates and address during quarantine in Iceland. The form also includes a declaration of health and passengers are required to provide information on countries they have visited before arrival, whether they have any symptoms of COVID-19, whether they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 before their arrival, or if they have been in close contact with an infected individual. The pre-registration form provides passengers with information on the conditions for entry into Iceland.

Passengers are also encouraged to download and use the contract tracing app *Rakning C-19*. The app contains important information on COVID-19 and how to contact the health care service in Iceland. They are also encouraged to follow information on the official COVID-19 information portal www.covid.is/english, which hosts the most up to date information and important announcements in 8 different languages.

Upon arrival

Law enforcement authorities at border points will have a conversation with all arriving passengers and inform them about the requirements for quarantine, isolation and testing for COVID-19 according to regulation No. **18/2021**, and about the contract tracing app, *Rakning C-19*. If serious grounds are shown to prove that the passenger will not obey the quarantine requirement he/she can be dismissed at the border or later. The police can check whether a person is at their intended place of stay during quarantine or isolation. If a person breaches the requirement to quarantine or isolate financial penalties can be imposed.

Obligations of the carrier

Aircraft and ship operators carrying passengers to Iceland are obliged to present securely to their passengers the requirement to fill out a pre-registration form in due time before arrival to Iceland. It must also be ensured that quarantine requirements have been presented securely to travelers that have already booked tickets to Iceland. The requirements should also be available for all travelers booking tickets to Iceland, including on booking sites. Aircraft and ship operators are urged to inform their passengers on the requirement to fill out a pre-registration prior departure to Iceland, on the contract tracing app, *Rakning C-19*, and about www.covid.is/english where they will find useful information in 8 foreign languages.

Further information can be found on <https://www.covid.is/english> and www.landlaeknir.is/english

II) Travel Restrictions to Iceland as a result of COVID-19

Here you can find all the necessary information on the travel restrictions in effect for travel to Iceland due to COVID-19: <https://www.logreglan.is/english/regarding-travel-restrictions-to-iceland-as-a-result-of-covid-19/>

BREXIT – The end of transition period on 1st of January 2021

From 1st of January 2021 (at 00h00 CET) UK nationals have had **the status of third-country nationals** when the transition period following the UK's departure from the EU ended on 31st of December 2020.

This means that UK nationals are subject to the same entry requirements as other third country nationals, [including in relation to COVID-19](#), and so Schengen related travel restrictions may apply.

NOTE however that UK nationals (and their family members) who resided in Iceland or had residence permit or right of residence before 31st of December 2020 maintained their residence rights after 1st of January 2021 in accordance with the Separation Agreement signed by the EEA EFTA states and the UK. **Those UK nationals (and their family members) are therefore able to travel to and from Iceland and [travel restrictions due to Covid-19](#) do not apply to them.** Until Icelandic authorities start issuing the new type of residence permit card for British citizens who had the right to reside in Iceland prior to 1.1.2021, UK nationals benefiting from the Separation Agreement can prove their right of residence in Iceland with the Residence certificate (C-122) issued by Registers Iceland.

<https://www.logreglan.is/english/brexit-the-end-of-transition-period-on-1st-of-january-2021/>

For further information please go to the web of the Directorate of Immigration: <https://utl.is/index.php/en/information-for-british-citizens>