

Broadcast to IRMCT staff, 24 December 2020

Requirements for negative COVID-19 test to enter the Netherlands – important updates

Earlier this month, the Netherlands instituted a requirement for a negative COVID-19 tests for travelers from outside the EU or Schengen zone. This was shared with you by broadcast on 11 December. A few important changes are now being made.

1. As of 22 December, all passengers aged 13 or older travelling to the Netherlands from South Africa and the UK must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours before arrival in the Netherlands. This requirement is mandatory irrespective of nationality or mode of transportation (i.e. also applies when arriving from the UK by ferry or international train).
2. As of 29 December, all passengers aged 13 or older travelling internationally to the Netherlands by air are subject to the negative COVID-19 PCR test requirement, when travelling from countries which are not included on the “EU’s List of Epidemiologically Safe Countries Amid COVID-19” (Safe Country List). <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands/travel-and-holidays/eu-list-of-safe-countries>.

This requirement was in place already for non-EU citizens for arrivals from outside the EU/Schengen. The difference as of 29 December are as follows:

- a. EU citizens are no longer exempted. However, holders of a privileged person ID issued by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“MOFA card”) are exempted.
- b. The test requirement as of 29 December will apply to international flights from within the EU/Schengen.

Technical requirements

The traveler age 13 or older arriving in the Netherlands from countries that are not on the Safe Country List must present:

- (i) **A negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate** (in hard copy), with the test conducted no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in the Netherlands (see further details below); and
- (ii) **A signed Negative Test Declaration** (in hard copy), available at <https://www.government.nl/documents/forms/2020/12/04/coronavirus-negative-test-declaration-form>; and
- (iii) **A health declaration** (in hard copy), available at <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2020/07/20/gezondheidsverklaring-reizigers-nederlands> or <https://www.schiphol.nl/en/page/do-i-need-a-health-certificate-to-travel/>

These documents must be presented to the airline prior to the flight (airlines may refuse boarding if the traveler cannot present them) and again at the border control upon arrival in the Netherlands.

In addition, upon arrival in the Netherlands such passengers must immediately self-quarantine for a period of 10 days.

Technical requirements for the COVID-19 test certificate:

- The test conducted must be a molecular PCR-test for Sars-Cov-2/COVID-19;
- The test result must be documented in English, German, French, Spanish or Dutch and should include the details of the institute/laboratory that conducted the test;
- The name on the test result must match the traveler's passport details;
- The test must be conducted a maximum of 72 hours before arrival in the Netherlands (* see below); and
- The test must be conducted before departure from the country of origin.

(*) In case a traveler's arrival in the Netherlands is delayed due to no fault of his own, then the negative test result for a test taken up to 96 hours prior to arrival in the Netherlands may be accepted. The traveler must then prove that the delay in arriving in the Netherlands was not due to the traveler's fault. For example, if an aircraft experiences a delay in departure or a delay at an intermediate stop.

Further information:

<https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2020/12/23/negative-test-declaration-now-mandatory-for-all-international-air-travel-to-the-netherlands>

Factsheets, both available through the link above:

- Negative COVID-19 test result and declaration required for people arriving from outside the EU/Schengen area.
- Negative COVID-19 test result required for people arriving from an EU/Schengen area country.