



Protocol and Host Country Affairs Department
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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands and has the honour to inform them as follows.

Mandatory quarantine for travelers from *very high-risk* areas

As of 1 June 2021, a quarantine period of 10 days upon arrival in the Netherlands is mandatory for travelers from *very high-risk areas*. This applies to all modes of transport used. Countries which have been indicated as a very high-risk area by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS) are listed on www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine/mandatory-quarantine. Currently this applies to: Argentina, Bahrein, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Lithuania, Maldives, India, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Seychelles, South-Africa, Surinam, Sweden Uruguay and Venezuela.

The mandatory quarantine period also applies to travelers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. The quarantine period may be shortened if the traveler concerned is tested negative for COVID-19 after at least 5 days of quarantining.

For travelers from a *high-risk* area, a quarantine period of 10 days is not mandatory but strongly advised. A *high-risk* area is any country or area that is not on the [list of safe countries with a low COVID-19 risk](#).

Exemptions

Certain travelers are exempt from the mandatory quarantine period. A full list containing all applicable exemptions is available on www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/reizen-en-vakantie/in-thuisquarantaine-bij-aankomst-in-nederland/uitzonderingen-op-de-quarantaineplicht (only in Dutch). An English translation will be made available soon on www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine/exceptions-mandatory-quarantine. These websites also state which documents a traveler must present in order to proof which exemption applies to them.

Diplomatic passport holders are exempt from the quarantine period regardless of the purpose of their travel. They must carry their diplomatic passport with them as proof of exemption.

Heads of State, Heads of Government and cabinet ministers are exempt from the quarantine period regardless of the purpose of their travel. They must carry their diplomatic passport or a Note Verbale issued by their embassy with them as proof of exemption.

Staff members of diplomatic and consular missions and International Organisations, as well as the persons forming part of their official household, are exempt from the mandatory quarantine period when they are travelling in an official capacity (for instance in case of a duty trip or when travelling to/from post). They must carry their Diplomatic Identification Card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with them as proof of exemption. In case a staff/family member is not (yet) in possession of a Diplomatic Identification Card, their employer may instead issue them a Note Verbale confirming their position with the organisation, which serves as proof of their exemption.

Persons invited by a diplomatic or consular mission or an International Organisation are also exempt from the mandatory quarantine period if they are travelling in an official capacity. The inviting organisation must issue the travelers concerned a Note Verbale

confirming the official purpose of their travels and attesting to the essential nature of the visit in question.

In the interest of public health, the Ministry calls upon all diplomatic missions and International Organisations to use the abovementioned exemptions with discretion and restraint, namely only to allow for the continuation of urgent, official travel.

Quarantine declaration

All travelers from high-risk areas must complete and sign a quarantine declaration (see Annex) before boarding their flight/train/ferry/coach to the Netherlands. This includes travelers who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine period. In the declaration, they must state which exemption category is applicable to them. Upon request, they must demonstrate the completed declaration together with the document proving their exemption (as described above).

Travelers must be prepared to present the quarantine declaration to relevant authorities or their transport provider upon request. Persons who do not carry a quarantine declaration with them may be fined €95.

Checks on mandatory quarantine

Persons who are required to quarantine and who do not adhere to it can be fined €339. Teams of officials and public servants with investigative powers – for example, special enforcement officers (BOAs) – will check compliance with the mandatory quarantine requirement. They can check whether a person remains in quarantine at the address which they have provided on their quarantine declaration. A traveler must also be reachable on the phone number that they provided. If they do not open the door or answer the phone, they may be fined.

The Ministry respectfully reminds the members of diplomatic and consular missions of the obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the Netherlands, and it reminds the International Organisations of the applicability of the laws and regulations of the Netherlands. This is without prejudice to their respective privileges and immunities, and internal law as appropriate, and the Ministry kindly ensures the diplomatic and consular missions and International Organisations that the Netherlands will observe its obligations under the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and the relevant host state agreements, as appropriate.

Negative COVID-19 test requirement

The mandatory quarantine period is an additional measure to the negative COVID-19 test requirement applicable to travelers from *very high-risk* and *high-risk* areas. As of 1 June 2021, travelers from these areas are required to present a negative NAAT(PCR)-test result before departure based on a sample collected no more than 72 hours before arrival in the Netherlands.

Travelers from an *extremely-high risk* area with a so-called “variant of concern” are required to present a negative NAAT(PCR)-test AND an official negative rapid test based on a sample collected no more than 24 hours before arrival in the Netherlands before boarding their flight/coach/train/ferry to the Netherlands. This is currently applicable in the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, , Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, India, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Seychelles, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela, South-Africa.

The negative test requirement applies regardless of the travel modality. Passengers travelling to the Netherlands by car are no longer exempt from this requirement.

The negative COVID-19 test requirement will be lifted for transit passengers who do not leave the transfer zone of the airport.

The existing exemptions to the negative COVID-19 test requirement continue to apply. All exemptions are listed here: www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/mandatory-negative-test-results-and-declaration?utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_source=government.nl/mandatory-negative-test&utm_medium=redirect.

Ban on passenger flights lifted

The ban on passenger flights from India, South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela has been lifted as of 1 June 2021.

Additional information

- Elaborate information about the mandatory quarantine period and its exemptions is available on www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine/mandatory-quarantine.
- Quarantine declarations in multiple languages are available on: <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/documents/publications/2021/05/26/quarantine-declaration>.
- Individual travelers can check whether they are obliged to self-quarantine upon arrival in the Netherlands on the following website: reizentijdenscorona.rijksoverheid.nl/en/bestemming.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 1 June 2021

To all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands