

Inhoud

1. Overview of countries and colour codes.....	2
1.1 Arrivals from the EU and countries on the EU White List	2
1.2 NEW! Travel ban for the following ‘very high risk’ third countries.....	2
1.3 Rest of the world = considered red	3
2. Specific measures for travellers	3
2.1 Passenger Locator Form	3
2.2 PLF, test and quarantine requirements.....	4
3. Information for international travellers.....	5
3.1 What is a valid vaccination certificate?.....	5
3.2 Essential travel for non-vaccinated travellers from a red zone	5
3.3 How can international travellers get a PCR or Rapid Antigen test in Belgium?	6
3.4 Belgian Covid Safe Ticket and CST for Foreigners	7
4. Current measures in Belgium	7
4.1 New measures announced on November 26 and applicable since November	7.3
4.2 Extended mandatory use of face masks.....	8
4.3 NEW: Winter activities in Flanders (christmas markets etc...)	8
5 Specific measures for international travellers returning from Belgium.....	9
5.1 United Kingdom.....	9

Dec 10: what's new?

- As of Feb 1, travellers will probably need a booster shot (3rd vaccination) to continue to travel freely from one EU country to another
- Stricter measures for travellers from red 3rd countries
- Mask mandate for all children older than 6.

OVERVIEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO AND FROM BELGIUM

1. Overview of countries and colour codes

[Belgium follows the ECDC colour codes. Here's the link to the map and to Reopen.eu for news on restrictions.](#)

1.1 Arrivals from the EU and countries on the EU White List

When travelling from one of the **27 EU member states and Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Vatican, San Marino, Monaco, Norway or third countries on the EU White List:**

Fully vaccinated or recovered travellers with a Digital EU Covid Certificate can travel freely from one country to another, regardless of the colour code. Travel from any of these countries to Belgium is allowed!

PLEASE NOTE: the European Council has decided travellers will need to get a boostershot in order to have a valid Digital EU Covid Certificate. This measure will probably start on February 1.

[More details about the exact colour of regions can be found here.](#)

GREEN	ORANGE	RED
Bahrein Indonesia New Zealand Kuwait Namibia Rwanda Saudi Arabia Hongkong Macau Taiwan United Arab Emirates	Argentina Australia Canada Chili Colombia Peru Qatar South Korea Uruguay	

2

1.2 Travel ban for the following 'very high risk' third countries

Following the outbreak of the potentially very dangerous Omicron variant, the following countries are put on the list of 'very high risk' countries as of November 28:

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa

Please note it is **forbidden** for people who have been on the territory of third countries classified as very high risk at any time during the past 14 days, to travel, either directly or indirectly, to the Belgian territory.

Only the following people are allowed to travel to or through Belgium:

- People holding Belgian nationality
- People having their main residence in Belgium
- The spouse or partner of a person who has Belgian nationality or has his/her main residence in Belgium and his or her children, but only if they live under the same roof.
- People who travel through Belgium from a very high-risk country to the country of the European Union or Schengen Area of which they are a national or where they have their main residence
- People transiting outside the European Union and the Schengen Area (transit via a high-risk country without leaving the international zone of the airport or transit in Belgium from a high-risk country without leaving the airport's non-Schengen Area)

See below for the specific measures applying to these travellers.

1.3 Rest of the world = considered red

All other countries are considered RED and specific measures apply, see below for the details. Borders with China are completely closed.

2. Specific measures for travellers

2.1 Passenger Locator Form

<https://travel.info-coronavirus.be/public-health-passenger-locator-form>

You can now fill it in up to 6 months BEFORE your arrival in Belgium.

When do you need a PLF?

- Anyone older than 12
- ALWAYS when you travel with by air or sea
- ALWAYS when you have your own transportation, AND you stay more than 48hrs
- ALWAYS when you are travelling to Belgium **by train or bus from a country outside the EU or the Schengen area** (e.g. Eurostar from the UK);
- ALWAYS if you have **stayed in a very high risk country during the last 14 days.**

2.2 PLF, test and quarantine requirements

	Vaccinated/Recovered	Non-vaccinated
Green and orange countries	PLF	PLF
Red EU countries or White List	PLF	PLF Before arrival: PCR test (72hrs) OR RA Test (day before arrival) OR RA Test on day of arrival and quarantine until result Day 7: PCR test
Red third countries	NEW AS OF DEC 10: PLF Before arrival: PCR or RAT DAY 1: PCR Test and self-isolate until result DAY 7: PCR test	PLF Only essential travel is allowed Before arrival: PCR or RAT DAY 1: PCR Test and self-isolate until for 10 days DAY 7: PCR test. If negative, self-isolation is lifted
Any traveller from any red country staying in Brussels coming from a red EU or non EU country	Same as above, depending on EU or non EU country	PLF Only essential travel Before arrival: PCR or RAT DAY 1: PCR Test and self-isolate until for 10 days DAY 7: PCR test. If negative, self-isolation is lifted
'Very High Risk' countries	Travel is forbidden , except for certain categories of travellers, see above (1.2) 1/ PCR test 72hrs before arrival 2/10-day quarantine 3/PCR tests on day 1 and day 7	Travel is forbidden , except for certain categories of travellers, see above (1.2) 1/ PCR test 72hrs before arrival 2/10-day quarantine 3/PCR tests on day 1 and day 7

No test or quarantine is required for

- Children under 12, unless the adults who accompany them need to quarantine
- When they travel by their own means of transportation (car, bike...) AND the stay is less than 48hrs

3. Information for international travellers

3.1 What is a valid vaccination certificate?

- The Digital EU COVID Certificate from one of the EU countries
- **OR** the certificates of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Scotland, Wales, Vatican City, Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Monaco, Morocco, North Macedonia, Panama, Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia.
- **OR** the vaccination certificate issued by a country that is not part of the EU if and only if it contains at least the following information:
 - o It's in EN/FR/DE or NL!!
 - o Data to identify the person who was vaccinated: name, date of birth and or ID number
 - o Data to attest all the doses of the vaccine were administered at least 14 days earlier, following the instructions of that particular vaccine.
 - o The name of the vaccine. Only Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca-Vaxzeria-Covishield, Johnson are allowed.
 - o The brand name and the name of the manufacturer or commercial licence holder of the vaccine.
 - o The date of the administration of the vaccine.
 - o The country in which the vaccine was administered
 - o The issuer of the vaccination with their signature, stamp, or digitally readable unique certificate identification code

5

3.2 Essential travel for non-vaccinated travellers from a red zone

The conditions to be considered as an essential traveller are strict. The traveller needs to take the following steps:

- Apply for a certificate by the local Belgian consulate (apply at least 5 days before departure)
- OR get official documentation => a letter from VISITFLANDERS. [You can use our drafts. We can use this solution in cases where we are 100% sure the essential motive will be accepted.](#)
- If the traveller needs to apply for a visa, the consulate will decide of the essential character of the trip. Sometimes, an extra push from TVL may be necessary to explain why it's an essential trip.

In specific cases, travellers from RED zones who don't have a valid Covid Certificate can be partially exempted of quarantine. It's the case for our journalists, bloggers, chefs, jury members etc. If they come to Belgium for a specific event, we can provide them with a letter proving the essential character of their trip.

With this letter, these people can travel to Belgium. They will have to show it at border control. On their PLF, they need to tick the box for essential travel.

In this case, and only in this case, our guest will be able to attend their program (and event) in Belgium. However, they're only partially exempted! As soon as their official program is over, they have to quarantine in their hotel. So it's important to include meals etc in the program.

3.3 How can international travellers get a PCR or Rapid Antigen test in Belgium?

<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/testing/>

Travellers may need a **PCR test** on arrival or to travel back to their home country, to continue their journey to another country. As they don't have a Belgian identity number or a Belgian general practitioner (huisarts), many test centres can't accommodate them.

These are the test facilities which can register foreign travellers:

- Brussels:
 - o Midi Station (open every day from 9:30 to 23:30), it's in a bus at the main entrance of the station, testing goes quickly and results take often around 6hrs (officially it's 24...)
 - o [Brussels Airport](#)
 - o [Testing facilities located in Brussels](#): Pacheco (city centre), Molenbeek, Albert, Merode, Schaarbeek, Anderlecht
- Antwerpen: Wilrijkse Plein/Antwerpen Expo: <https://antwerpen.testcovid.be/>
- Gent: University hospital (UZ)
- Brugge: Testcentrum Daverlo, Dries 2, open 7/7 between 9-12.30 and 13-17. Before taking the test, you need to create a 'CTCP' code via the website [Mijngezondheid.belgie.be](https://mijngezondheid.belgie.be). Cost 55€, to be paid in the center. Results in 24hrs max via app [CovidSafeBE](#). You need the CTCP code and your phone number for the results. No ID will be required.
- Charleroi Airport <https://www.brussels-charleroi-airport.com/en/news/COVID-19-test-center>
- Private laboratories in any city, mostly by appointment

6

The PCR test costs minimum 47EUR and needs to be paid on the spot. It's not a fixed price so it can be higher and especially private laboratories ask a higher fee. In Brussels, you get your test result most often within 12hrs, but officially, it can take up to 48hrs.

Visitors from red 3rd countries can now also take a **Rapid Antigen Test** on arrival. The test is cheaper (starting at 20EUR) and they get the result in 15 minutes, which means no quarantine is required while waiting for the result.

Where can you get a RAT?

- At Bru Airport (see above, PCR)
- <https://www.pruvo.com/blog/covid-19-rapid-antigen-test-centers-in-brussels-belgium/>
- Lots of pharmacies/drugstores: you'll find the map here (website is in NL/EN) <https://www.apotheek.be/nl/apotheker/Pages/In-welke-apotheken-kan-ik-me-laten-testen-op-COVID.aspx>

Important: when a traveller takes a test during their stay in Belgium, e.g. before re-entry in their country, and that test is positive, they have to self-isolate IMMEDIATELY in Belgium. They can't leave the country and train/bus/airline companies can't allow them to travel. This means they have to stay 7 to 10 days extra and take extra tests. How to self-isolate? <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/quarantine-isolation/>

Travellers from the European Union should be advised to bring proof of their European social security in case they need to get a doctor's appointment or go to the hospital.

3.4 Belgian Covid Safe Ticket and CST for Foreigners

To enter any bar, restaurant, night club, bigger event in Brussels and in Flanders, and also any museums in Brussels, you need to show a Covid Safe Ticket. Rules are strict, and often when a traveller shows proof of vaccination that can't be scanned with the Belgian app, they won't be allowed inside.

How does it work for international travellers?

- If you're Belgian, you use your CST app.
- If you're from a country in the EU, you should use the EU Digital Certificate. The Belgian app is able to scan your QR code.
- The certificates of the following countries are also valid in Belgium: Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Scotland, Wales, Vatican City, Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Monaco, Morocco, North Macedonia, Panama, Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia. The Belgian app will be able to scan your QR code.

If you have been vaccinated correctly in another country, with a vaccine approved by EMA, you can apply for a temporary Belgian Covid Safe Ticket for foreigners. Travellers should do so a few days before arriving in Belgium, as it can take a few days to get the ticket.

From a fellow traveller: "The first step is to go to Belgian [CST for Foreigners](#), where you fill out a form at the bottom of the page. Note that they may call the vaccine brand you got by a different name. For example, Pfizer's new name is Comirnaty. And Johnson & Johnson is Covid-19 Vaccine Janssen. So, if you don't see your brand, do some Googling to see if it goes by one of the names listed on the drop down menu on the form. Answer yes, to "Does your vaccination certificate have a (digital) signature, a (digital) stamp or a watermark on it?"

Then you'll need to upload an image taken with your phone camera of your passport and vaccination certificate (CDC card). They'll translate and register your certificate then email you a digital key to access a digital covid certificate, which you download to the Covid Safe App. Then you'll have a QR code that you can easily show to gain access most anywhere in Belgium."

Visitors who don't have one of the above certificates can get a PCR test (validity 48hrs) or a Rapid Antigenic Test (validity 24hrs). A lot of events have organized their own RAT center at the entrance of the venue.

Example: A RAT taken on Thursday is valid for Thursday AND Friday. In that case, the visitor will get a bracelet or another visible sign certifying they had a test.

4. Current measures in Belgium

4.1 New measures announced on November 26 and applicable since November

Please note that new measures have been announced and are now applicable, but that Belgium is NOT IN A LOCKDOWN!

These are the new measures:

- Bars, restaurants etc close at 23:00 every night
- The maximum number of people per table is restricted to 6.
- All nightclubs are closed

- All private events are banned, except for private gatherings that take place at home, or marriages and funerals
- Indoor public events must be seated and use the CST and masks
- Masks are required at trade fairs and the CST will apply
- We work remotely for a minimum of 4 days every week
- Schools are implementing measures, but there's no general closure
- Universities mostly do remote learning, or allow only smaller groups to come to the campus

4.2 Extended mandatory use of face masks

NEW: December 3: masks are now mandatory for all children older than 6.

We're required to wear a face mask in indoor areas of:

- Shops and shopping centres
- Care institutions
- Publicly accessible areas of companies, government buildings, courthouses
- Facilities for cultural, festive, sports, recreational activities, including theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums, indoor amusement and theme parks, indoor fitness centres and sports centres
- Libraries, game and multimedia libraries
- Places of worship

As of November 20, you need to keep your mask even if you're in a place where your CST has been checked. You can only take it off when sitting down in a horeca (hotel, restaurant, bar) setting.

8

The mask is also required for outdoors activities such as winter markets, ice skating rinks, light festivals...

4.3 NEW: Winter activities in Flanders (christmas markets etc...)

Some cities have decided to cancel their Christmas/winter activities (Gent, Leuven, Lier, ...).

Other cities have decided to maintain them, but with extra measures. Masks will be mandatory everywhere.

- In Brussels, a Covid Safe Ticket is required to eat, drink or buy anything at the winter market, also at the ice skating rinks and other activities. You need to keep your mask at all times in the streets where the activities take place (Beurs, Grand Place, Grasmarkt, Brouckère, Munt, Sint-Katelijne, Vismarkt...)
- Bruges maintains their 'Wintergloed' activities. More informations about the covid measures can be found here: [Coronavirus measures during Winter Glow - Visit Bruges](#)
- Antwerp cancels their chalet village and the New Year's Eve fireworks, but keeps their ice skating rink and a few other activities. Best check their website for an update.

5 Specific measures for international travellers returning from Belgium

5.1 United Kingdom

Boris Johnson announced new measures for all travellers coming from abroad, including the British nationals or residents:

- A PCR test on Day 0, Day 1 or Day 2 after arrival (the day of arrival being considered Day 0)
- Self-isolate until you get the negative result