

## Inhoud

1.	Overview of countries and colour zones.....	1
1.1	EU+EER/Schengen and 3 <sup>rd</sup> countries on EU White List .....	1
1.2	Rest of the world = considered RED.....	2
2.	Specific restrictions for GREEN-ORANGE-RED zones .....	2
2.1	Passenger Locator Form .....	2
2.2	Travel to Belgium from an ORANGE or GREEN zone.....	2
2.3	Travel from a RED zone in EU+EER/Schengen.....	2
2.4	Travel from a RED zone outside of the EU+/Schengen .....	2
3.	Information for international travellers .....	3
3.1	The following vaccination certificates are valid to travel to Belgium .....	3
3.2	Proof of essential travel: .....	3
3.3	Partial exemption of quarantine for essential travellers without proof of vaccination .....	3
3.4	Exemptions to the measures for travellers coming from a RED zone.....	4
3.5	How can international travellers get a PCR test in Belgium?.....	4
3.6	The Digital Corona Certificate is required for (big) events and in Brussels.....	5
3.7	Exemptions of quarantine for professional travellers under strict conditions .....	5
4.	Current measures in Belgium. More info on <a href="http://www.info-coronavirus.be">www.info-coronavirus.be</a> .....	6

# OVERVIEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO AND FROM BELGIUM

## 1. Overview of countries and colour zones

[Belgium follows the ECDC colour codes. Here's the link to the map and to Reopen.eu for news on restrictions. More details about the exact colour of regions can be found here.](#)

### 1.1 EU+EER/Schengen and 3<sup>rd</sup> countries on 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 can travel freely from one country to another, regardless of the colour code. Travel from any of these countries to Belgium is allowed!

GREEN	ORANGE	RED
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New Zealand Hongkong Macau Taiwan Saudi Arabia Bahrein Chili Kuwait Rwanda United Arab Emirates	Canada Jordan Qatar Australia South-Korea Ukraine Uruguay	Singapore
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1.2 Rest of the world = considered RED

## 2. Specific restrictions for GREEN-ORANGE-RED zones

### 2.1 Passenger Locator Form

NEW: you can now fill it in up to 6 months BEFORE your arrival in Belgium.

When do you need a PLF?

- Older than 12
- ALWAYS when you travel with a carrier
- ALWAYS when you have your own transportation, AND you stay more than 48hrs

2

### 2.2 Travel to Belgium from an ORANGE or GREEN zone

= EU+EER/Schengen and White List

Fill in the PLF

No test or quarantine, regardless of your vaccination status

### 2.3 Travel from a RED zone in EU+EER/Schengen

For any trip longer than 48hrs:

STEP 1: Fill in the PLF

STEP 2:

Vaccinated/Recovery: no tests, no quarantine

Non-vaccinated/no proof of recovery: PCR-test on day 1, quarantine until result, new test on day 7 **OR** PCR-test prior to arrival, test on day 7

### 2.4 Travel from a RED zone outside of the EU+/Schengen

For any trips longer than 48hrs:

STEP 1: Fill in the PLF

STEP 2:

Vaccinated/Recovery: Travel is allowed.

Test on day 1 and quarantine until result (and day 7, if they stay long enough)

**OR** PCR-test prior to arrival, no quarantine, test on day 7 (if they stay long enough)

Non-vaccinated/no proof of recovery: Only essential travel is allowed.

PCR test before arrival

10-day quarantine

PCR test on day 7

### 3. Information for international travellers

#### 3.1 The following vaccination certificates are valid to travel to Belgium

- The Digital EU COVID Certificate from one of the EU countries
- OR the certificate of countries with which Belgium has a bilateral agreement (Wales, England, Northern Ireland for now) or for which the EU considers the certificate equivalent (Turkey, North Macedonia, Ukraine)
- 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

3

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#### 3.2 Proof of essential travel:

- Official documentation => a letter from VISITFLANDERS. [You can use our drafts.](#)
- A certificate by the Belgian consulate (apply at least 5 days before departure)
- 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.

#### 3.3 Partial exemption of quarantine for essential travellers without proof of vaccination

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.

### 3.4 Exemptions to the measures for travellers coming from a RED zone

- Children under 12
- When they travel by their own means of transportation (car, bike...) AND the stay is less than 48hrs

### 3.5 How can international travellers get a PCR 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

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.

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.

### 3.6 The Digital Corona Certificate is required for (big) events and in Brussels

**NEW: Brussels will use the CST as of October 15 to give access to bars, restaurants, nightclubs, events... as is the case in Italy, France, ... See below.**

To be allowed access to certain events, you need to show your EU Digital Certificate or your certificate as recognized by the Belgian authorities. In Belgium, we call this certificate the 'Covid Safe Ticket' but it's the same thing.

The following certificates are allowed:

- The Digital EU COVID certificate issued by an EU member state
- The Covid certificates of San Marino, Monaco, Vatican, Andorra, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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.

When tests are taken outside of the event's organization, it's a little more complicated. They can get a Covid Safe Ticket as well if

- They first make a CTPC code via the page <https://www.myhealth.belgium.be/#/covid-19/prescriptions/request>
- They get the test, with or without an appointment, depending on the center
- When they get their result, they'll be able to get their certificate in the app CovidSafe.be or via myhealth.belgium.be

The hosts at the bus at Brussels Midi Station confirmed they make a CTPC code for anyone who presents themselves. Other test centers may do it as well.

When you go to these events, there is no social distance and mask required once you're inside. At the entrance, you still need to respect the covid measures.

The federal government has decided that smaller events will be able to use the certificate so they can skip masks and distancing.

### 3.7 Exemptions of quarantine for professional travellers under strict conditions

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.

## 4. Current measures in Belgium. More info on [www.info-coronavirus.be](http://www.info-coronavirus.be)

As of October 1, in Flanders (!) masks are no longer required in shops, shopping malls and horeca, weddings, sports clubs etc... You still need them in public transport. Almost all restrictions regarding gatherings are lifted.

However, the situation is different in Brussels, masks are still required in most indoor and some outdoor settings: public transport, railway/bus/metro/tramway stations, shops and shopping malls, conference venues, trade fairs, auditoria, places of worship, court houses, libraries and during protest marches, in busy shopping streets and at markets.

Nightclubs are open again but you need a Covid Safe Ticket to get in. The Brussels closing hour for horeca (01:00) is lifted. However, in Brussels, only groups of 8 people are allowed around the same table in restaurants and bars.

As of October 15 (previous date was October 1) Brussels will require a Covid Safe Ticket or a valid vaccination certificate/test result/proof of recovery if you want to go to:

- any restaurants and bars
- any nightclubs
- any events (theatre, concerts, sports, ...)
- any sports club
- any congresses over 50 attendees
- ...

In that case, attendees don't have to wear masks or socially distance (up to 500 people indoors)

From [www.info-coronavirus.be](http://www.info-coronavirus.be) :

Face masks and social distancing

From 1 October, wearing a face mask remains mandatory for anyone older than 12 in the following circumstances:

- on public transport, in stations and airports;
- in care settings;
- for all staff and customers in medical and non-medical contact professions;
- during events, cultural and other performances, sports competitions, sports training sessions and conferences with more than 500 people indoors. These obligations constitute a federal basis that applies to the entire country. Regional authorities may foresee stricter obligations if the epidemiological situation so requires.

Pubs and nightlife

From 1 October, dancing in pubs will be allowed again. Night clubs and dance halls can also reopen provided that the Covid Safe Ticket is used and adequate air quality and ventilation is provided in line with stricter protocols.

Use of the Covid Safe Ticket

The Covid Safe Ticket is proof of full vaccination, of a recent negative PCR test or of a recovery certificate. The Consultative Committee considers the Covid Safe Ticket a suitable alternative to restrictive measures or closures in those cities and municipalities where there is a significant deterioration of the epidemiological situation.

The federated entities must provide a regulatory basis by means of a Decree or Ordinance to establish the use of the Covid Safe Ticket. A consultation has been launched on the possible extension of the Covid Safe Ticket to publicly accessible indoor areas with an epidemiological risk.

Organisers of indoor events with 500 or more spectators, and outdoor events with 750 or more spectators, will already be able to use the Covid Safe Ticket from 1 October. In this case, the obligations regarding CIRM/CERM will no longer apply.

Wearing a face mask and social distancing will also no longer be mandatory at these events. Organisers of such events must, however, request permission from the local authority beforehand.