



Ministry of Justice

Entering Sweden – restrictions and requirements that apply from 31 March 2021

The Government has decided to extend the general entry ban and the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test result for entry into Sweden until 31 May 2021.

The Government has also decided to lift the separate entry restrictions that apply for travel from **Denmark** and **Norway** as of 31 March. After 31 March, a negative COVID-19 test result is a requirement for entry into Sweden – with certain exceptions – under the same regulations that apply to other European Economic Area (EEA) States.

The Government's decision means that the general entry ban will continue to apply to **foreign citizens** who cannot present a negative COVID-19 result on arrival in Sweden. The test requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older; the exemptions that apply are outlined below. People travelling to Sweden from 'third countries' – in other words, countries outside the EU/EEA – must, in addition to presenting a negative COVID-19 result, belong to a category exempted from the entry ban.

As currently applies, a negative COVID-19 test result is only valid if taken within the previous 48 hours. For those who commute for work or study, the requirement has been relaxed: they will be able to present test results that are no older than 7 days.

The Government has also decided that as of 31 March entry to Sweden from the **UK** will be subject to the same rules that apply to other third countries, in other words, to countries outside the EU/EEA. In practice, this means that an entry ban and the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test result for people arriving from the UK will remain in effect; the exemptions that apply are outlined below.

Swedish citizens always have the right to enter Sweden and are not subject to entry bans or required to present a negative COVID-19 test result. However, everyone who has been abroad must follow the recommendations of the Public Health Agency on testing and quarantine after arrival: these recommendations are intended to curb the spread of the virus.

The rules are explained in brief below. More information will be available on the Government website.

The following will apply for entry from all EEA States¹ and Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican City as of 31 March.

Travellers from these countries may enter Sweden if they can present a negative COVID-19 result from a test conducted within 48 hours of arrival or if they are exempt from the test requirement.

The following categories are exempt from the test requirement:

- people under the age of 18
- people who live in Sweden
- people with imperative family reasons
- personnel transporting goods and other staff in the transport sector
- people who carry out, are involved in or are being transported by medical transport services
- people who are to undergo surgery or other types of care that cannot be delayed
- people who need to cross the border to engage in reindeer husbandry
- seafarers
- people covered by Chapter 2, Section 10 of the Aliens Act (2005:716), including diplomats and consular officers who are employed in Sweden by foreign states and their families and employees
- personnel within the scope of international police, customs or emergency services cooperation
- officials at Danish authorities or other Danish public bodies travelling on business between Bornholm and another part of Denmark via Sweden
- people in need of international protection or who have other humanitarian grounds.

People who regularly cross the border to work or study in Sweden or another state must be able to present a negative COVID-19 result from a test taken within 7 days prior to arrival in Sweden.

There is no special exemption from either the entry ban or the test requirement for people who can show that they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or have antibodies to the COVID-19 virus.

The Government refers to the Public Health Agency of Sweden for information concerning the criteria for negative test results.

¹ In addition to Sweden, the following states are EEA states:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

The following will apply for entry from third countries, in other words, from all countries outside the EU/EEA as of 31 March.

To be allowed to enter Sweden from these countries, a person must first belong to one of the following categories (those who do not cannot enter, even if they can present a negative COVID-19 test result):

These categories apply to people who

- are an EEA citizen or a citizen of Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City;
- have long-term resident status in Sweden or another EU Member State;
- have a residence permit in Sweden or another EEA state, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City;
- have a national visa for Sweden or a national visa valid longer than three months in another EEA State, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City;
- have close family ties as specified in Chapter 3 a, Section 2, first paragraph, or Chapter 5, Section 3, first paragraph, points 1–4, or Section 3a of the Aliens Act (2005:716) to a person covered by any of the points above or to a Swedish citizen, for example, spouses, cohabiting partners, civil partners and children under the age of 21;
- are a citizen of the United Kingdom or a family member of such a citizen, provided that they are covered by Article 10 of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p.7), i.e. UK nationals who have residence status or have applied for residence status; or
- live in Australia, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, or Thailand

The above categories also apply to foreign citizens with an essential need or function in Sweden, for example:

- people with imperative family reasons
- passengers in transit
- frontier workers
- people who travel for the purpose of studying
- personnel transporting goods and other staff in the transport sector
- seasonal workers in the agricultural, forestry and horticulture sectors
- healthcare workers, researchers in health and medical care and elderly staff
- people who work in international organisations or are invited by such organisations and whose presence is necessary for the organisations' activities, military personnel and other personnel within the scope of international defence cooperation, aid workers and civil defence staff

- people travelling for the purpose of performing highly skilled work, if their contribution is necessary from an economic perspective and the work cannot be postponed or performed remotely, including people who will take part in or perform necessary tasks at elite sports competitions
- seafarers
- people covered by Chapter 2, Section 10 of the Aliens Act (2005:716), including diplomats and consular officers who are employed in Sweden by foreign states and their families and employees
- people in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons.

A person belonging to one or more of these categories must *also* be able to present a negative COVID-19 test result. Exemptions to the test requirement apply to:

- people under the age of 18
- people with long-term resident status in Sweden
- people who have a right of residence or a residence permit in Sweden
- citizens of the United Kingdom or family members of such citizens, provided that they are covered by Article 10 of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p.7), i.e. UK nationals who have residence status or have applied for residence status
- people with imperative family reasons
- personnel transporting goods and other staff in the transport sector
- seafarers
- people covered by Chapter 2, Section 10 of the Aliens Act (2005:716), including diplomats and consular officers who are employed in Sweden by foreign states and their families and employees
- people in need of international protection or with other humanitarian grounds.

There is no special exemption from either the entry ban or the test requirement for people who can show that they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or have antibodies to the COVID-19 virus.

The Government refers to the Public Health Agency of Sweden for information concerning the criteria for negative test results.