

FAQs concerning temporary entry restrictions when travelling from China to Sweden

The Swedish Government has decided to impose temporary entry restrictions for travel from China to Sweden. These entry restrictions entered into force on 7 January and will now apply until 18 February 2023.

What are the implications of the Government's decision to impose temporary entry restrictions for travel from China to Sweden?

Entry restrictions mean that travellers arriving in Sweden from China must be able to present a certificate showing a negative COVID-19 test, regardless of their vaccination status. This requirement applies to adults and children over 12 years of age.

The requirement for a negative COVID-19 test does not apply to Swedish citizens. Other categories of traveller are also exempt from the requirement, including holders of a Swedish residence permit, permanent residents of the European Union, other citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) and their family members.

For further information concerning exemptions from entry restrictions, please see under the heading "Exemptions".

Why has the Government decided to impose entry restrictions?

The purpose of the requirement to present a certificate showing a negative test is to delay any introduction of new variants of the virus and to reduce the long-term burden on Sweden's health service. The decision is based on a recommendation by the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The Public Health Agency stated in a supplementary recommendation on 24 January that the government should consider an extension of the temporary requirement for a certificate of a negative test result.

In response to the current situation in China, in its capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, Sweden convened a meeting pursuant to the Council's Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangement. This meeting was held on Wednesday 4 January. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure a coordinated EU response in terms of measures to reduce the risk of infection associated with an increase in the number of travellers arriving from China. This meeting was preceded by a preparatory meeting of the EU's Health Security Committee. During the meeting, Member States were able to agree on joint measures that should be implemented both as a precaution and to identify new variants of the virus as early as possible. At a follow-up meeting on 20 January, Member States agreed on a continued need for a coordinated approach based on what was agreed on 4 January. The Swedish

Government intends to continue to follow the common EU line and has therefore decided on an extension of the temporary entry restrictions for travel from China to Sweden.

How long will entry restrictions apply?

The requirement to present a certificate showing a negative test entered into force on 7 January and will currently apply until 18 February 2023.

Who is subject to entry restrictions?

The requirement to present a certificate showing a negative test applies to adults and children over 12 years of age entering Sweden from China unless they fulfil one of the exemption criteria.

For further information concerning exemptions, please see under the heading “Exemptions”.

Are travellers from Hong Kong and Macao covered by the restrictions?

Travellers arriving from the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao are subject to entry restrictions.

What about travellers arriving from Taiwan?

Travellers arriving from Taiwan are not subject to entry restrictions.

Do entry restrictions also apply to Swedish citizens?

Entry restrictions do not apply to Sweden citizens, who may enter Sweden without presenting a certificate showing a negative test.

Which certificates showing a negative test will be accepted?

On the matter of the criteria a certificate showing a negative test must fulfil, the Government refers all inquiries to the Public Health Agency of Sweden, which has issued regulations on this.

[Information to people entering Sweden from abroad - The Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se)

Why is a certificate showing a negative test required even if I can show proof of vaccination?

The Public Health Agency of Sweden believes that this is justified in the interests of preventing the spread of infection and the Government has not reached any other conclusion.

Who will check certificates showing a negative test?

The main responsibility for checking certificates rests with the Swedish Police Authority.

Exemptions

Who is exempted from entry requirements?

The requirement for a certificate showing a negative test does not apply to:

- Swedish citizens; or
- children under 12 years of age.

The following are also exempt from the requirement:

- Citizens of the EEA, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or Vatican City State.
- People with permanent resident status in Sweden or another EU Member State.
- Holders of a permanent residence permit in Sweden or another EEA state, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or Vatican City State.
- Holders of a national visa in Sweden or a national visa valid for over three months in another EEA state, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or Vatican City State.
- People with such close family ties as are referred to in the first paragraph of Section 2 of Chapter 3a or first paragraph points 1–4 of Section 3 or Section 3a of Chapter 5 of the Swedish Aliens Act (SFS 2005:716) to a person covered by any of the above points or to a Swedish citizen, for example, spouse, cohabiting or registered partner and child.
- Citizens of the United Kingdom or their family members, on condition that she or he is 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 (Official Journal of the European Union L 029, 31 January 2020, p. 7), i.e., British citizens who have or have applied for resident status.
- People covered by Section 10 of Chapter 2 of the Swedish Aliens Act (SFS 2005:716), including diplomatic officers and consular officials who are employed in Sweden by foreign states, their families and employees.
- People with urgent family reasons.
- Asylum seekers or people with other humanitarian reasons.
- People invited to Sweden under separate arrangements by the Government Offices of Sweden.
- People transporting goods and other personnel in the transport sector.
- Seafarers.

It is the competent authority (primarily the Swedish Police Authority) in each individual case that interprets these exemptions and makes the appropriate decision. For information concerning practical application, the Government refers all inquiries to the Swedish Police Authority.

Shortcuts to relevant public authorities

- [Information to people entering Sweden from abroad - The Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se)
- [Travel to and stay in Sweden | The Swedish Police Authority \(polisen.se\)](https://www.polisen.se)
- [Official information about Covid-19 - Krisinformation.se](https://www.krisinformation.se)
- [The Government's work in response to the virus responsible for COVID-19 - Government.se](https://www.government.se)

European Economic Area (EEA)

In addition to Sweden, the following countries are members of the EEA:

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