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The Danish model for entry restrictions

This fact sheet provides an overview of the Danish model for travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 1 February 2022, all persons from anywhere in the world with valid proof of full vaccination with an approved vaccine or proof of previous infection may enter Denmark without being subject to requirements for testing or isolation. The conditions for when a person is considered fully vaccinated or previously infected are outlined below.

Persons who are not vaccinated and have not previously been infected are subject to requirements for testing or requirements for testing *and* isolation after entry into Denmark, depending on whether they enter from an EU or Schengen country (test), from a COVID-19 risk country (test), or a COVID-19 high risk country (test and isolation).

Special rules apply for persons entering from a country with virus variants of concern.

More information about the entry restrictions can be found at coronasmitte.dk, including the applicable exemptions, e.g. for children and business travellers.

Violation of the requirements for testing or isolation is punishable by a fine of DKK 3,500 for first-time offences.

Restrictions upon entry from EU or Schengen countries

All persons from anywhere in the world with a valid proof of full vaccination with an approved vaccine or proof of previous infection may enter Denmark without being subject to requirements for testing or isolation, unless the emergency brake for virus variants of concern has been activated.

Persons entering from an EU or Schengen country without valid proof of vaccination with an approved vaccine or proof of previous infection must take an antigen or PCR test no later than 24 hours after entry, unless they have a negative antigen (48 hours) or PCR test (72 hours) taken prior to entry.

Restrictions upon entry from third countries

A **requirement for testing** after entry into Denmark applies for persons entering from a **COVID-19 risk country** who cannot present valid proof of full vaccination with an approved vaccine or previous infection.

The test must be taken no later than 24 hours **after** the time of entry and may either be an antigen or PCR test. The conditions for when a person is considered fully vaccinated or previously infected are outlined below. You can see which countries are COVID-19 risk countries at coronasmitte.dk.

A **requirement for testing _and_ isolation** after entry into Denmark applies for persons entering from a **COVID-19 high risk country** who cannot present valid proof of full vaccination with an approved vaccine or previous infection. The isolation period is ten days, but may be broken after a negative PCR test taken no earlier than the sixth day after entry.

Table 1. Model for entry restrictions

Risk areas	
EU or Schengen countries	Countries that are members of the European Union or Schengen cooperation*, as well as Andorra, San Marino, Monaco and Vatican City State.
COVID-19 risk countries	Third countries on the EU positive list and from which Denmark has opened for entry.**
COVID-19 high risk countries	All other third countries.
Virus variant areas*	Country, region or area with a prevalence of virus variants of concern.

* Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein are part of the Schengen cooperation.
** The list of COVID-19 risk countries can be seen at coronasmitte.dk.
*** The decision to categorise a country, region or area as a virus variant area is made by the national COVID-19 task force for travel restrictions on the basis of a recommendation from Statens Serum Institut. The recommendation is based on a scientific assessment of the country's COVID-19 situation, including the spread of virus variants of concern.

Emergency brake for virus variants of concern

If the COVID-19 situation in a country, region or area worsens as the result of a new virus variant of concern, tightened travel restrictions (an emergency brake) may be introduced on short notice.

The decision to categorise a country, region or area as an area with a virus variant of concern is made by the national COVID-19 task force for travel restrictions on the basis of a recommendation from Statens Serum Institut. The recommendation is based on a scientific assessment of the country's COVID-19 situation, including the spread

of virus variants of concern. The emergency brake is typically introduced at the country level. However, exceptions may be made in some cases for regions or areas.

Activation of the emergency brake means that: 1) all travel to the country in question is advised against in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark's travel advice, in which the country is categorised as "red"; 2) foreign nationals who are resident in the country in question must be able to present a negative test taken prior to entry; 3) foreign nationals who are resident in the country in question must have a particularly worthy purpose to be granted entry; 4) testing will be required prior to boarding aircraft destined for Denmark; and 5) a requirement for testing and isolation after entry will also apply for fully vaccinated persons.

Since 23 December 2021, no country has been categorised as an area with virus variants of concern.

Who is considered fully vaccinated?

You are considered fully vaccinated if you are vaccinated with a vaccine approved for marketing in the EU on the recommendation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)[1] or with a vaccine on the WHO's list of vaccines approved for use in emergency situations.[2] The vaccination series must have been completed within the last 270 days (approximately 9 months), and if a single-dose vaccine has been taken, at least 14 days must have passed since the administration of this one dose before the vaccination series is considered completed. If you have been re-vaccinated, you are also considered fully vaccinated.

To avoid the requirement for testing and isolation, you must be able to present valid proof that you are fully vaccinated. If you possess the EU Digital COVID Certificate, you can present this certificate. If not, you should check whether your vaccine certificate contains the following information:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Name of vaccine
- Date of administration – time of the first and second vaccination (for vaccination series where a second dose is necessary) and the date of re-vaccination, if any.

Table 2 provides an overview of the applicable entry restrictions when entering Denmark.

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[1]At present, the EMA has approved the folllowing vaccines against COVID-19: Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty), Johnson & Johnson - Janssen Pharmaceutical (COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen), Moderna (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna), AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria, tidligere COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) and Novavax (Nuvaxovid).
[2]The following vaccines are presently on the WHO's list of vaccines approved for use in emergency situations: Covishield, Covaxin, Sinovac and Sinopharm.

Who is considered previously infected?

In connection with entry into Denmark, you are considered previously infected if you can present documentation of a positive PCR test for COVID-19 that was taken at least 11 days and no more than 180 days prior to the time of entry.

Table 2. Entry restrictions

	Test requirement before boarding aircraft	Test requirement after entry (no later than 24 hours after entry)	Isolation requirement after entry	Requirement for a worthy purpose for foreigners without a residence permit/ residence in Denmark	Test requirement before entry for foreign nationals without a residence permit/residence in Denmark
EU or Schengen countries	No	Yes* **	No	No	No
COVID-19 risk countries	No	Yes**	No	No	No
COVID-19 high risk countries	No	Yes**	Yes**	No	No
Virus variant areas	Yes	Yes***	Yes	Yes	Yes

* If you enter from the EU or Schengen, you are exempt from the requirement for testing after entry if you have a negative antigen (48 hours) or PCR test (72 hours) taken prior to entry.
** If you have valid proof of vaccination with an approved vaccine or previous infection, you are exempt from the test and isolation requirements. Exemptions also apply for certain groups of people.
*** If you have valid proof of previous infection, you are exempt from the test requirement.

Attention to other countries' entry rules due to the COVID-19 infection situation

Danish travellers must be aware that many countries have entry restrictions or strict quarantine or test requirements for certain travellers. Other countries may also have different definitions of when a person is considered fully vaccinated or previously infected. Some countries have one set of requirements that apply for entry and another, stricter set of requirements applying within the country, e.g. requirements for access to cultural or sporting facilities and restaurants. Therefore, it is important to familiarise yourself with the country's COVID-19 entry rules on the COVID-19 websites of the Danish embassies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark's travel advice for each country contains a link to the applicable COVID-19 website.