

Restrictions Update

European:

- The European Union has ended the travel ban that was imposed against flights from southern African countries.

International:

- **Bulgaria:** The majority of countries are placed on the red list, meaning that travellers from there are subject to more stringent entry rules. The green category currently includes only Vatican City and Romania. People arriving from countries falling into the "red zone" are allowed on the territory of the country upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID certificate for vaccination or disease, or a similar document, simultaneously with a negative result from a PCR test conducted up to 72 hours before entering the country.
- **Greece:** The Greek authorities have decided to extend their entry rules imposed against all travellers until 24 January.
- **Spain:** The Government has announced that all European Union/Schengen Area countries will continue to be categorised as risk countries.
- **France:** The Government has slightly eased its travel ban on the UK. The list of legitimate business reasons for entry has been extended.
- **Germany:** The Government has added 40 countries to the 'high risk' list. They include Sweden, Israel, Australia and the United Arab Emirates. They will be required to quarantine for 10 days but can take a test on day 5, if negative they are free to end the quarantine.
- **Malta:** Authorities in Malta have announced that starting from 17 January they plan to set an expiration date to its vaccination certificate, making it valid only for three months from the second dose instead of the nine-month period that was recommended by the European Commission.
- **Estonia:** Romania and The Vatican are on the green list, the UK, all other EU and EEA countries are on the red list.
- **Lithuania:** People coming from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe now have to follow the same rules that apply to all countries in the red and grey list. Currently, all the countries in the world fall into this category.
- **Latvia:** The ban to enter Latvia from the Omicron-affected countries are lifted. As of January 12, a negative Covid-19 test result will not be required for persons holding a vaccination or recovery certificate for entry into Latvia, except on entry from very high-risk countries, when a negative Covid-19 test result is required for everyone to enter Latvia.
- **Finland:** Finland has imposed a pre-entry negative covid-19 test on fully vaccinated travellers from the UK. Until 16 January the same negative test will be requested for EU nationals in addition to proof of vaccination or recovery.

- **Sweden:** All travellers over the age of 12 must still present a negative Covid-19 test certificate when arriving in Sweden, regardless of vaccination status. Permanent residents and Swedish nationals are exempted. The entry ban on non-essential travel to Sweden from outside the EU/EEA is extended until 31 January.
- **Croatia:** A PCR test will no longer be mandatory, and soon Croatian rapid antigen tests will be enough to detect and prove a Covid-19 infection and later obtain EU digital covid certification.

Domestic:

- **Italy:** Access to hotels and other accommodation facilities are only permitted to those who have been fully vaccinated or recovered from the Covid-19 disease. Access to public transport, including planes, trains, ships, and ferries, will also be possible only for those who hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate. Museums, exhibitions, festivals, and fairs, among others, will also only permit entry to those who hold a Strengthened Green Pass.
- **Germany:** The Government has tightened Covid-19 restrictions for bars and restaurants. A negative test or proof of a booster jab is required.
- **Portugal:** The Government has reopened schools next week. Meanwhile, clubs will be allowed to reopen from 14 January. The work-from-home order will also continue until 14 January.
- **Spain:** The Government have announced [d that under 65's who have had Covid-19 will have to wait 4 weeks before having a booster.](#)
- **Luxembourg:** Parliament approved a new law on Tuesday evening to relax some Covid-19 measures. Isolation periods for fully vaccinated people who contract Covid have been reduced from ten days to six - provided they register two negative lateral flow test results - while a booster jab is no longer required to enter bars or restaurants.
- **Cyprus:** Authorities in Cyprus agreed that there is no need for additional measures at this stage.
- **Greece:** Greece's National Vaccination Committee approved on Tuesday the administration of the fourth dose of a coronavirus vaccine to immunocompromised people. Young people under 18 years of age do not have to get a booster shot unless they suffer from reduced immunity due to medication or an illness, the head of the National Vaccination Committee in Greece, Maria Theodoridou, said. Meanwhile, an administrative fine of 100 euros per month will be imposed as of next week on citizens over 60 who do not get vaccinated by Sunday.
- **Bulgaria:** People with confirmed COVID-19 are subject to mandatory isolation for 10 days from the date of the confirmatory laboratory test. All close contacts of a proven case of coronavirus infection are subject to 7-day quarantine.
- **Romania:** Romania has imposed stricter pandemic measures amid rising COVID-19 cases. The new measures include mandatory mask-wearing with fines of up to €500. Bars and restaurants can stay open until 10 p.m. and operate at 50% or 30% capacity depending on the area's infection rate, and COVID-19 passes are required.
- **Hungary:** Hungary's chief medical officer has recommended that everyone should receive their booster jab as protection will diminish 3-4 months after the second jab.

- **Poland:** Poland has become the latest country to pass 100,000 deaths from covid-19. 24,000 of these deaths have occurred since October.
- **Slovenia:** Slovenia introduced restrictions on the use of public transport across the country. As of 10 January, public transport in the country can only be used by vaccinated persons or persons who were infected with covid-19 in the last six months or possess a negative PCR test, as wearing a mask in transport is mandatory, the government said.
- **Slovakia:** Slovakia has been easing coronavirus restrictions after a decline in new infections while the fast-spreading Omicron variant is yet to fully hit the country. The changes include the cancellation Monday of the overnight curfew between 8 pm and 5 am. The move allows bars and restaurants, stores and others to stay open without restrictions. Only fully vaccinated people and those who have recovered from covid-19 are eligible to enter bars, restaurants, hotels, ski resorts, religious services and stores selling non-essential goods.
- **Estonia:** Estonia's coronavirus risk level has risen to "very high" or "red" due to the rapid spread of the Omicron strain.
- **Lithuania:** Lithuania will temporarily suspend the requirement for under-16-year-olds to have Covid certificates. Instead, the government has decided to hand out rapid tests to children in schools on Fridays so that they can get tested before going back to classes on Monday, according to the prime minister.
- **Latvia:** Latvia has decided to extend its coronavirus state of emergency to the end of February. For the performing of work duties, the requirement of the completion of primary vaccination remains with booster shots being strongly recommended.
- **Denmark:** Denmark wishes to reduce the validity of the Covid19 vaccination certificate from 7 to 5 months.
- **Finland:** The City of Helsinki and 11 other municipalities in the Uusimaa region have announced changes to practices regarding the tracing and quarantining of people exposed to coronavirus. Anyone exposed to the virus within their family circle, at work, in school or in a daycare environment is no longer required to quarantine.
- **Sweden:** The new measures include a work-from-home mandate, where possible, and a cap on the number of people allowed at public events. Restaurants will have to close by 11 p.m. and guests will have to be seated and in groups of no greater than eight people. Adults will be asked to limit social contact in indoor settings.
- **Croatia:** Indoor private social gatherings are capped at 25. There can be a maximum of 50 persons at the site of private gatherings provided that all of them have COVID certificates. Hospitality establishments can operate without any new restrictions, however, they can expect more frequent inspections and controls of the number of patrons. It is mandatory to wear masks at religious and art events, film screenings and exhibitions, as well as sessions of representative bodies.
- **Austria:** The FFP2 mask requirement has been extended to outdoors when a distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained such as in outdoors queues or pedestrian crossings. The current quarantine period for those who test positive for Covid-19 or who are contact cases is shortened to five days after which there will be an option to end self-isolation through taking a test. Working from home (where possible) should now be the rule for businesses and not the exception.

Source: DeHavilland