

Agreement on significant easing of travel restrictions relating to COVID-19

12 October 2021

The Danish Government (Social Democratic Party), the Liberal Party, the Danish People's Party, the Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, the Conservative Party, the Liberal Alliance and The Alternative have reached an agreement on significant easing and simplification of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Given the current situation – in which the majority of the Danish population is fully vaccinated and the general progress of the overall vaccine roll-out in Europe is satisfactory – the parties to the agreement agree that travel restrictions should increasingly apply only to travellers who are not vaccinated or previously infected. The parties to the agreement also agree that the Danish measures relating to travel should focus on potential variants of concern. As such, travel restrictions can be eased and simplified, while the parties to the agreement maintain the continued need for global epidemic monitoring and epidemic control.

The parties to the agreement agree on the following approach:

- The current entry restrictions for the EU and Schengen area, including ongoing colour categorisation of countries and regions, intensified COVID-19 border control by the Danish police and the double test requirement before and after entry, will be lifted. A uniform test requirement will be implemented for the entire EU and Schengen area instead, thus being the only entry restriction in effect, by which a test will be required within 24 hours *after* entry unless the entrant possesses a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate, including a vaccination certificate/certificate of recovery or a negative test. The requirement will also apply to persons holding Danish citizenship or with permanent Danish residence upon entering Denmark.
- Entry restrictions for the rest of the world, which are based on the recommendation of the European Council on the external borders, will remain in effect with some easing. The requirement of a worthy purpose prior to entry, the requirement of testing prior to entry, and intensified COVID-19-border control by the police are all being lifted. Going forward, testing will be required for entry from risk countries (i.e. countries on the EU positive list), and there will be a requirement for testing and isolation after entry from high-risk countries (i.e. the rest of the world). Travellers who are vaccinated within the EU and Schengen countries, OECD countries, risk countries (i.e. countries on the EU's positive list), or third countries linked up to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, and who are fully vaccinated with a vaccine approved for entry purposes, may enter Denmark without any restrictions.
- The applicable exceptions for children will remain in force.
- The travel advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in relation to travelling abroad will be normalised and the global travel advice will be formulated for vaccinated travellers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Denmark will continue to provide information on the COVID-19 situation abroad via the embassies' own websites.

- Current restrictions on cruise tourism will be lifted and replaced by eased restrictions that are recommended by the health authorities, after which there will be requirements for vaccination, recovery, or a negative test prior to the first boarding of any cruise ship. In the event of an infection aboard the ship, non-vaccinated and persons who are not previously infected will be required to obtain testing prior to disembarking the ship in Denmark. In the event of a major outbreak of infection, all disembarking will be prohibited. The ship's captain must report any infection aboard the ship to the Danish Patient Safety Authority, which will then decide whether to permit disembarking or to require testing and/or isolation.
- The current emergency brake for virus variants of concern can still be activated by the inter-ministerial task force on COVID-19 travel restrictions based on a recommendation from SSI on third countries and EU and Schengen countries. Activation of the emergency brake will normally mean that all travel is advised against in the travel advice, with all countries categorised as red. In this event, the following entry requirements will be implemented: testing prior to entry, the requirement of a particularly worthy purpose for entry (meaning COVID-19-border control will also resume), testing prior to boarding flights, and testing and isolation after entry. In connection to forthcoming EU negotiations, Denmark will work toward the preparation of improved data to support the emergency brake mechanism.
- As long as demand persists, testing will remain available to the public at the airports in Billund and Copenhagen.

The process going forward

The agreement to normalise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark's travel advice will take effect on Friday, 15 October 2021, while the remainder of measures (entry restrictions) will take effect by the end of week 42 (i.e. the night between Sunday and Monday). The applicable order, which includes requirements for testing and isolation after entry, will be presented to the Epidemic Commission and to the Epidemic Committee in turn before taking effect. In light of the common understanding on travel restrictions between the parties and their shared interest in rapid entry into force, the parties to the agreement understand that the presentation to the Epidemic Commission will be carried out in writing.

The European Council recommendations are expected to be subject to renegotiation in autumn 2021, where the Danish Government will work to ensure that the recommendation of the European Council is aligned with the agreed upon approach.

The parties to the agreement note that adjustments may be necessary during this period, e.g. in light of amended European Council recommendations, variants of concern, or infection outbreaks. If a need to change the agreed upon approach emerges, the Government will notify and/or convene the parties to the agreement.

The agreement is to be effective through 30 June 2022, at which point in time the regulation on the EU's Digital COVID Certificate expires. However, the parties to

the agreement will review the status of this approach in January 2022 and again in the spring of 2022 regarding the continued need for entry restrictions relating to COVID-19.