

Danish travel restrictions for EU and Schengen countries as well as third countries

This fact sheet has been prepared to provide a comprehensive overview of the Danish model for travel restrictions for EU and Schengen countries as well as third countries. A political agreement has been reached on the phases of a gradual reopening of travel activities. The first phase will enter into force on 21 April 2021. The fact sheet describes the main elements of the model in phase 1, while the main elements of the other phases can be found in the agreement text on www.coronasmitte.dk.

Main elements of phase 1 of the model

A weekly table of the individual countries/regions will be drawn up. The table will show the COVID-19 situation in the countries/regions in question based on objective criteria. On this background, the countries/regions are classified into different risk levels and, the world will be divided into yellow, orange and red countries/regions for use in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and the Danish National Police's practice. The table is published in a number of places, including on www.coronasmitte.dk. The main elements of phase 1 of the model are shown below.

Table 1. Travel restrictions in phase 1.

Travel advice	Pre-entry testing requirement incl. for travel by air	Post-entry testing requirement	Isolation requirement	Denied entry for foreigners without a worthy purpose
YELLOW Be careful	Yes	Yes	No	No
ORANGE Advises against unnecessary travel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RED Advises against all travel.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (short list)

Note: A regional approach applies to the travel advice for EU and Schengen countries that provide regional test data to the ECDC. The regional approach does not apply to EU and Schengen countries that are 'red' due to the occurrence of worrying coronavirus variants. The requirement for worthy purposes does not apply to Danish citizens and foreigners who have a permanent place of residence in Denmark. The requirement for a negative coronavirus test prior to entering the country on by land or harbor does not apply to Danish citizens and other persons residing in Denmark. The testing requirement for travel by air also applies to Danish citizens and persons residing in Denmark.

There are a large number of different exemptions to the above requirements, including special rules for border regions, transport of goods, seafarers, transport staff, transit to Bornholm, travellers visiting their own remote holiday home in the Nordic region, business travellers and travellers who have been in transit in orange countries. Details of the exemptions are found on www.coronasmitte.dk.

In addition, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs still advises against all unnecessary travel (orange) to countries with significant entry restrictions for travellers from Denmark regardless of the infection situation in these countries.

Model criteria

The tables below show the criteria in the Danish model for travel restrictions for EU and Schengen countries and the model for third countries, respectively.

Table 2. Criteria for COVID-19 in the Danish model for EU and Schengen countries

EU and Schengen countries

When is a country/region categorised as yellow?	The notification rate (number of new infections) per 100,000 inhabitants per week is below 20.
When does a country go from yellow to orange?	The notification rate (number of new infections) per 100,000 inhabitants per week is 30 or above.
When is a country/region categorised as red?	Is activated based on a recommendation from Statens Serum Institut (SSI), see below.

Testing

Test rate: The number of persons tested per 100,000 inhabitants per week must be more than 300. If the country/region does not meet this requirement, it is categorised as orange regardless of the level of infection, unless the country is categorised as red.

Test positivity rate: For yellow and orange countries/regions, the criteria are divided by 1.5 if the share of positive tests of all persons tested in the past week is equal to or above 4% (test positivity rate).

Note: The testing criteria do not apply to border regions, see Table 4.

Data availability

If test data are not provided at national level, the country is categorised as orange regardless of the notification rate, unless the country is categorised as red.

If test data are not provided at regional level, the test data at national level are used for regions in yellow countries. In orange countries, activation of the regional mechanism (travel advice) and the Nordic mechanism (entry) requires that regional test data are reported to the ECDC.

Note: If data are missing for just one week, the data for the previous week are used.

Comment: The notification rate (number of new infections) per 100,000 inhabitants is calculated as a weekly average over 14 days.

The common EU approach is applied to third countries. The approach follows from Council Recommendation of 30 June 2020 (2020/912), as amended. The notification rate threshold in this model is more restrictive. The coordinated EU approach for third countries means that a common EU list is prepared of countries that meet a number of criteria, for example the notification rate. The list is updated by the Council. Denmark has chosen to supplement the assessment with a number of national requirements, which are assessed by the national task force consisting of representatives from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish Ministry of Health, Statens Serum Institut, the Danish Ministry of Justice and the Danish Ministry of Transport.

Table 3. The Danish model for third countries

Third countries

When is a country categorised as yellow?	EU list and national assessment.
When is a country categorised as orange?	Countries that are not yellow or red are categorised as orange
When is a country/region categorised as red?	Is activated based on a recommendation from SSI.

A new red risk assessment will be introduced to handle the occurrence of worrying coronavirus variants, both in EU/Schengen countries and in third countries. Decisions to change a country's risk assessment to red are made based on a qualitative assessment by SSI of the country's COVID-19 situation, with particular focus on the outbreak of variants of concern.

The red risk assessment is activated based on a recommendation from SSI to the national task force, which will have a mandate to make a decision to activate the red category. The same procedure is followed when the risk assessment for a red country is changed. As a general rule, countries can be categorised as red. However, in special cases exceptions can be made.

Regional and Nordic mechanism as well as scheme for border regions

A regional mechanism still applies to the travel advice for EU and Schengen countries, and a Nordic mechanism still applies to entry restrictions. The regional breakdown follows the ECDC's data, which are published based on Council Recommendation of 13 October 2020 (2020/1475), as amended.

For travel advice, this means that a distinction is made in the risk assessment for COVID-19 between regions in a country instead of treating the country as one single entity. This presupposes that the country reports regional data on both notification rate and test rate to the ECDC.

The main elements in the regional and Nordic mechanism and the scheme for border regions are presented in Table 4 below. A more detailed description of the regional mechanism for the travel advice is provided in Table 5.

Table 4. Summary of regional and Nordic mechanism as well as scheme for border regions

	Travel advice	Entry restrictions
Regional mechanism	Applies to travel advice, see Table 5.	Does not apply to entry restrictions.
Nordic mechanism	Does not apply to travel advice. See, instead, regional mechanism, see Table 5.	If the risk assessment in a Nordic country is changed to orange, the country will switch to a regional scheme, in which it is assessed whether individual regions are yellow or orange. Regions that are yellow or orange are treated in the same way as countries in these categories, see Table 2. Regionalisation is subject to the requirement that regional test data are available via ECDC.
Border regions Schleswig-Holstein, Southern Sweden (Provinces of Scania and Blekinge) and Western Sweden (Provinces of Halland and Västra Götaland)	The regional mechanism, see Table 5, applies to border regions, as only data on the notification rate are used.	The Nordic mechanism applies to border regions, as only data on the notification rate are used.

Table 5. Summary of the regional mechanism in the travel advice

<p>Regions in yellow countries</p>	<p>When does a region change to orange?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a region in a yellow country has a notification rate higher than 75 new infections per 100,000 per week, it is a high-risk region. The travel advice change from yellow to orange for the region. <p>When does an orange region change back to yellow?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a region in a yellow country has a notification rate of 75 or less new infections per 100,000 per week, it is no longer a high-risk region. The travel advice change from orange to yellow for the region. <p>Note: If a region has a test positivity rate equal to or above 4, the notification rate threshold for the high-risk region is 25 new infections per 100,000 per week. If a country does not report regional test data to the ECDC, its national test positivity rate is used and the regional approach is not used.</p>
<p>Regions in orange countries</p>	<p>When does a region become yellow?</p> <p>For a region in an orange country to change to yellow, it is first and foremost a prerequisite that the country reports regional test data to the ECDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a region in an orange country has a notification rate of less than 20 new infections per 100,000 per week, it is a low-risk region, i.e. yellow. The travel advice change from orange to yellow for the region. <p>If a country changes from yellow to orange, a yellow region in the country in question will remain open if it has a notification rate below 30 new infections per 100,000 per week. The travel advice remain yellow for the region.</p> <p>When does a yellow region change to orange?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a region has a notification rate of 30 or more new infections per 100,000 per week, it is no longer a low-risk region. The travel advice change from yellow to orange for the region. <p>Note: If a region has a test positivity rate equal to or above 4, the notification rate threshold for new infections per 100,000 per week for a low-risk region is divided by 1.5.</p>

Comments: The notification rate (number of new infections) per 100,000 inhabitants is calculated as a weekly average over 14 days. Like countries, regions must meet the criterion for test rate. As a general rule, the red risk assessment is made at national level and the regional mechanism is therefore not used for red countries [with the possible exception of overseas regions].