

Denmark introduces temporary requirement for COVID-19 testing prior to entry

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[Press release COVID-19](#)

Effective 27 December 2021, the Danish Government is introducing a temporary requirement that all persons who are not resident in Denmark must take a COVID-19 test prior to entry into Denmark. Entrants who are resident in Denmark can choose to take a test no later than 24 hours after entry. In connection with the introduction of the new requirement, the requirement for testing upon arrival to Denmark from certain airports will be lifted.

The Danish entry rules are being tightened so that effective 27 December 2021, all persons entering Denmark are subject to a general requirement that they have been tested with a PCR test (72 hours prior to entry) or a rapid test (48 hours prior to entry). The requirement also applies for vaccinated persons but not for previously infected people (from 14 to 180 days). However, persons resident in Denmark may choose between taking a test abroad prior to entry into Denmark or taking a test up to 24 hours after entry.

Exemptions also apply for certain groups of categories, e.g. children under the age of 15, persons resident in the border regions, entrants from Sweden in transit from Bornholm who did not stop while in Sweden, entrants for the purpose of freight transport, and persons in transit through Denmark who will be departing the country within 24 hours of entry (e.g. Swedish air passengers using Denmark as a hub).

[Questions and answers regarding entry into Denmark \(coronasmitte.dk\)](#)

Non-compliance with the requirements is punishable by a fine of DKK 3,500 for first-time offences.

The requirements are being introduced on the basis of a recommendation from Statens Serum Institut (SSI) and by a recommendation of the Epidemic Commission, which is also agreed upon in the Epidemic Committee. The tightening of travel restrictions is part of a mitigation strategy which, combined with the national measures, aims to slow down the growth in infection rates.

The purpose of the test requirements is to prevent the arrival of new transmission chains via travellers in the coming period, during which time the spread of infection with the Omicron variant is expected to increase globally. When infection rises globally, the risk of importing additional transmission chains to Denmark from abroad increases. Furthermore, testing travellers prior to boarding can reduce the risk of infection onboard aircrafts. The recommendation of SSI for testing of *all* entrants regardless of vaccination status is based on studies that have shown that the first and second vaccine shots provide significantly less protection against the Omicron variant than against previous variants.

The new general test requirement take effect at 00.00 on Monday 27 December 2021 and have a preliminary duration of three weeks, i.e. until 17 January 2022, unless extended.

At the same time that the new general test requirement takes effect, the requirement for testing upon arrival at Danish airports from certain foreign airports – currently Hamad International Airport i Doha (DOH) and Istanbul Airport (IST) – will be lifted.