



European  
Commission

# COVID-19 pandemic

New rules to ensure  
coordination on safe travel in the EU

JANUARY 2022

#coronavirus



EU citizens have the fundamental right to free movement within the EU. The Coronavirus pandemic, however, led to various travel restrictions across the EU for the reason of public health. To provide clarity to citizens and make their lives easier, Member States agreed to improve coordination of travel measures. Today, the EU Council has agreed on a new Recommendation for a better coordination of safe free travel proposed in November 2021.

## WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES TO ENSURE SAFE FREE MOVEMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?



- ✓ If you have a valid **EU Digital COVID Certificate**, in principle you should not be subject to any additional restrictions.
- ✓ If you do not have a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate yet, you should be allowed to travel based on a **test** carried out prior to or after arrival.
- ✓ Vaccination certificate issued for the primary vaccination series will have a validity of **270 days**.
- ✓ If you travel from a **'dark red' area** and do not have a vaccination or recovery certificate, you could be required to undergo a test prior to departure and to quarantine for 10 days after arrival, with a possibility to end quarantine with a negative test after day 5.
- ✓ Any measures restricting your free movement must be **proportionate**. You should in principle **not be refused entry**.



EU Member States agreed on the final version of the Recommendation and rules will enter into application as of 1 February.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I'M TRAVELLING DURING THE PANDEMIC?



- ⚠️ Make sure that you have a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate, either in digital or paper format. You might also need it at your destination to access restaurants, museum, etc., which is based on national rules.
- ⚠️ Visit "[Reopen EU](#)" to find out about the measures where you are going.
- ⚠️ Check the [map](#) to know what the risk is where you're going.
- ⚠️ Submit passenger locator form as required to travel to another Member State, regardless of whether you have a EU Digital COVID Certificate or not.



## WHAT ABOUT THE "TRAFFIC LIGHT" MAP?



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has been publishing a weekly traffic light map on the epidemiological situation across the EU. Member States have agreed to update the methodology for this map, in particular to take into account the positive impact of COVID-19 vaccination. While EU citizens should in most cases be able to travel based on their EU Digital COVID Certificate, the traffic light map should still help to provide information and form the basis for certain travel measures.

The traffic light map will be based on three criteria:

- **The number of new cases ("notification rate")**
- **Vaccination update**
- **The number of tests carried out ("testing rate")**



According to the formula used, the number of new cases is weighted by the percentage of vaccinated persons. In an area where half of the population is vaccinated, the formula would result in a weighted rate that is 75% of the notification rate. The **weighted rate** resulting from this formula is then assigned a colour code.

## GREEN

'Weighted rate' of less than 40

## ORANGE

'Weighted rate' between 40 and 99

## RED

'Weighted rate' between 100 and 299

## DARK RED

'Weighted rate' of 300 or more

## DARK GREY

Insufficient number of tests carried out

## GREY

Insufficient information available

