



FAQ: New entry requirements

Date:

23 June 2021

The FOPH's risk list is being narrowed down to countries and areas with a variant of concern (VOC).

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to further ease the rules and sanitary measures at the border for people entering Switzerland. This move takes account of positive developments in the epidemiological situation and progress with vaccinations. The sanitary measures at the border are now to concentrate on people entering Switzerland from countries with a variant of concern. The quarantine requirement is to be lifted for those entering from the Schengen Area. In addition, the existing ban on entry for visitors from third countries is to be lifted for those who have been vaccinated. The new rules apply from 26 June.

Travel in the EU/Schengen Area

1. As a Swiss national can I travel throughout Europe again without any problems?

Depending on the country, different requirements apply (for example how long a test is valid or from what age children/adolescents must show a test result). You are urgently recommended to find out about the rules and requirements in your destination country.

When entering Switzerland it depends on the country you are entering from and the way you are entering. People who have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID can enter Switzerland without a test or quarantine requirement. If you have neither been vaccinated nor have recovered from COVID, depending on how you are entering Switzerland you must show a negative PCR or rapid antigen test result and go into quarantine after entry. People entering by air must supply their contact data. Various sanitary measures at the border remain in place for those entering Switzerland from countries with a variant of concern. For more details please consult [Entering Switzerland \(admin.ch\)](#).

2. Will the period for which the vaccination is valid in each country within the EU/EFTA area be the same once the EU Digital COVID Certificate is available?

No. Each EU/EFTA country also decides for itself how long it considers a vaccination to be "valid".

3. I have not been vaccinated and I have not had and recovered from COVID. In the future, will a negative rapid antigen test be sufficient to enter Switzerland?

From 28 June a negative rapid antigen test will also be recognised for entry into Switzerland.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

4. What happens if someone from the EU does not yet have an EU COVID certificate? Can they enter Switzerland despite this?

Until further notice other forms of vaccination or test certificates (the yellow international vaccination record and other paper certificates) will be recognised as proof of vaccination or a test for the purposes of entering Switzerland.

5. Can I travel to EU/Schengen countries even without a COVID certificate? What do I have to remember if I do?

In any case you must find out before you travel what rules apply and what forms of proof are accepted in your destination country at the relevant time. So please always inform yourself about the applicable entry regulations of your destination country.

6. How can people who have recovered from COVID and have had only one dose of vaccine travel? Under most entry requirements full vaccination (two doses) is needed. Do you get a special certificate for this?

The Swiss COVID certificate takes account of the fact that people who have recovered only need one dose to be deemed as fully vaccinated. However, each country has the authority to decide on its own entry rules. This also includes the matter of what requirements must be met to be deemed fully vaccinated or sufficiently vaccinated to enter the country in question.

COVID certificate

7. Is a COVID certificate sufficient to travel to other European countries?

The certificate is not a travel document. Scientific knowledge of COVID-19 vaccinations and tests and on recovery from COVID-19 infection is constantly evolving, also in relation to new variants of concern. Before you travel, please find out about the health measures and associated restrictions applicable at your destination.

The Swiss COVID certificate is designed to be compatible with the certificates of the EU/Schengen-associated states. The process of having the Swiss COVID certificate recognised by the EU is under way.

8. What should I do if my COVID certificate is no longer valid for my return journey (for example if I have not yet been vaccinated and need a test)?

You can have the European certificate issued abroad in Europe on the basis of a PCR or rapid antigen test and travel back to Switzerland with that.

9. What should I do if I'm travelling abroad and my COVID certificate is prolonged?

The validity of the relevant certificates for people who have been vaccinated will be adjusted automatically .

10. What happens if the validity of the test result or vaccination is different in my destination country than in Switzerland? Is there the risk that on entry, the Swiss test certificate will be invalid in the destination country?

The period of validity depends on the rules IN THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION.

11. What non-Swiss COVID certificates are recognised by Switzerland?

The basis has been laid for Switzerland to recognise certificates from the EU/Schengen area that are issued in accordance with the specifications of the EU Digital COVID Certificate. For certificates from third countries, there is the possibility of recognition.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

Air travel

12. What rules apply for air travel?

A negative PCR or rapid antigen test is required for boarding and subsequent entry into Switzerland. Everyone entering by air must also supply their contact data.

13. Who checks documents when you fly: the airline or the border officials?

Documents are checked by the airline before take-off.

14. Why is contact data still be collected on entering by air?

The recording of contact data on entry enables contact tracing in the event that an infected person has been aboard a means of transport with other people for a protracted period of time. It also helps the cantonal authorities check whether people who enter from a country or area with an immuno-evasive variant of concern report for quarantine.

Children and adolescents

15. What rules apply to young people below age 16 who have not yet been vaccinated? Do they have to show proof of a PCR or rapid antigen test when entering Switzerland?

Children and young people below age 16 do not have to show proof of a negative PCR or rapid antigen test on entering Switzerland. This applies starting 28 June.

16. What happens if young people below age 16 travel on holiday abroad?

Here the entry requirements of the country in question apply. They may diverge from the requirements in Switzerland. They may even vary from country to country within the Schengen Area.

17. What happens if children and young people enter Switzerland from a country with a variant of concern (VOC)?

From 28 June, a test and quarantine will only be required if the children and young people are entering Switzerland from a country with a variant of concern against which the vaccination does not provide protection (an immuno-evasive variant). If the vaccination does not provide protection against a variant, everyone entering Switzerland, including children and young people, is subject to the test and quarantine requirement.

Entry to Switzerland from a third country for Swiss nationals, people resident in Switzerland or those entitled to freedom of movement (EU/Schengen).

18. What happens if I want to enter Switzerland from a third country with a variant of concern?

People who have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID can enter Switzerland from a country with a variant of concern without being subject to a test and quarantine requirement. If you have neither been vaccinated nor recovered from COVID, you must show a negative PCR test or rapid antigen test result and go into quarantine after entering Switzerland.

19. What vaccinations are recognised in Switzerland?

Anyone who has been vaccinated with a vaccine that is authorised in Switzerland (Swissmedic) or the EU (EMA) or who is on the WHO list can enter Switzerland without a test or quarantine.

The lists can be found under the following links:

Swissmedic: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic \(swissmedic.ch\)](https://www.swissmedic.ch)

EMA: [COVID-19 vaccines: authorised | European Medicines Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

WHO Emergency Use Listing: [Regulation and Prequalification \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int) or [Status of COVID-19 Vaccines within WHO EUL-PQ evaluation process - 3 June 2021.pdf](#)

20. Are Sputnik V and Sinovac also authorised?

Sinovac is already authorised; Sputnik V has not yet been authorised at this time (23 June 2021).

21. What happens if I want to enter Switzerland from a third country with a variant of concern from which the vaccination does not provide protection?

The test and quarantine requirement is only being lifted for people who have been vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID. If the vaccination is not effective against a variant, everyone entering Switzerland is subject to the test and quarantine requirement.

22. In the future will travellers from the UK be allowed to enter Switzerland without testing and quarantine if they have been vaccinated?

Yes. In the case of variants against which the vaccination is effective, the quarantine requirement is waived for people who have been vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID.

23. I am a Swiss national abroad and have been vaccinated with a vaccine that is not recognised in Switzerland. Am I allowed to enter Switzerland?

Entry is always possible for Swiss nationals. Those who do not have a recognised vaccination will be treated in the same way as those who have not recovered and have not been vaccinated with regard to testing and quarantine obligations.

Entry requirements for third-country nationals (SEM)

For questions relating to entry from third countries, please visit [the site](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM.