

Frequently asked questions about requirements for entering Latvia

Since when is international passenger transport allowed?

From 15 January 2021.

To which countries can one travel from Latvia with international passenger carriers (by airline, road, train, ships)?

European Union Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Ireland, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Finland, Spain, Hungary, Germany, and Sweden), the European Economic Area (EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

What are the requirements for entering Latvia?

From January 15, in addition to the safety measures already in force, travellers shall present a confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test result, at the same time a note on the test result must be in the filled-in *covidpass.lv* questionnaire. Until January 25, 2021, the test must be recognized in the country of departure, but after January 25, 2021, entry into Latvia will be allowed only after presenting a negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test result. The COVID-19 test must be performed not earlier than 72 hours before boarding the carrier's vehicle, for example, an airplane or, if driving by road, crossing the Latvian border.

Are there any changes to self-isolation?

The condition of a mandatory 10-day self-isolation after entry from [high-risk countries](#) remains unchanged.

If an individual has a positive COVID-19 test result, will they be allowed to return to Latvia?

Latvian citizens and EU permanent residents with residence permits, who have a positive COVID-19 test result, will be able to return to Latvia by private vehicle. Those individuals must comply with national safety measures.

What should individuals who leave Latvia and return within 72 hours do?

The test must be performed not earlier than 72 hours. In this case, when returning to Latvia, you can use a test that you have performed, for example, in Latvia, before leaving, but not earlier than 72 hours before returning. One must emphasise that even in this case if an individual enters from [a country with a high risk of morbidity](#), they must observe 10-day self-isolation.

If flying and transferring, when should one present a negative COVID-19 test result?

Confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test result must be presented on a flight flying to Latvia. Please remember that to enter Latvia, the test cannot be performed more than 72 hours ago. At the same time, we invite you to familiarise with the requirements of the country regarding the need for a test for transit passengers, where the transfer to Latvia will be made.

Questions about confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test result

In force until January 25, 2021

What is a negative COVID-19 test result? To whom shall one present it?

Confirmation of a negative test result is the result of a COVID-19 test, a certificate of physician, a certificate of physician on the presence of antibodies, or other medical document that certifies that an individual is not infectious. Certificate of a negative test result must be presented to a carrier, such as an airline; otherwise the individual will be denied boarding. One must present the certificate primarily in printed form to the carrier but when it is not possible, in electronic form.

If an individual enters the country by road, but does not provide commercial transportation, a note on the test result must be in the filled-in *covidpass.lv* questionnaire. The State Border Guard or the State Police will check the existence of a negative test result.

What test should one undergo? Is an express test suitable?

Until January 25, 2021, the test must be recognised in the country of departure. The COVID-19 test must be performed no earlier than 72 hours before boarding the carrier's vehicle. If express tests are recognised in the country of departure, a negative result of the express test is also valid until January 25, 2021. **After January 25, 2021, only one kind of test will be recognized in Latvia - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.**

For safety reasons, we recommend contacting the carrier, who also has more information on what tests are available in the country concerned and in what form the results are issued.

In force from January 25, 2021

What kind of Covid-19 test is recognized in Latvia and should be presented upon arriving in Latvia from January 25, 2021?

Starting from January 25, 2021, only one kind of test will be recognized in Latvia - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The PCR test is widely used all over the world because it has been internationally recognized as the most precise method for detecting Covid-19. The test detects specific genes of a specific virus. **No other kind of test will be recognized in Latvia!**

What kind of certificate is necessary if the person has recovered from Covid-19?

A certificate by a physician that confirms the fact that the person has recovered from Covid-19 and is not infectious is necessary to enter Latvia. According to international research and recommendations in force in the European Union, the certificate is valid for 3 months starting from the day when the person exhibited the first symptoms of Covid-19.

Can an antibody test be presented to gain entry to Latvia?

No, a certificate by a physician that confirms the fact that the person has recovered from Covid-19 and is not infectious is necessary.

In which language should one have a test certificate?

The test certificate must be in English, French, German, Russian, or in the case of the use of the carrier's services, also in the language of the country wherefrom the individual travels to Latvia. If the test results are presented to the State Border Guard or the State Police upon entering Latvia from Estonia and Lithuania, the test results may also be presented in Lithuanian or Estonian.

Can I present a confirmation that was sent in a text message?

The test result must be presented primarily in printed form, but if it is not possible, then electronically, such as a file on a personal smart device or a text message.

If there is no evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result or it is done more than 72 hours ago, can one be denied boarding on the carrier's vehicle, such as an airplane or bus?

The COVID-19 test must be performed no earlier than 72 hours before boarding. Confirmation of a negative test is the result of a test, a medical certificate, or a medical certificate on the presence of antibodies, which must be presented to the carrier, such as an airline; otherwise the individual will be denied boarding.

If an individual does not have such proof, boarding on the carrier's vehicle will be denied.

What penalty will be applied if the COVID-19 test is performed more than 72 hours before crossing the Latvian border by road transport?

An individual will be held liable under the rules in force during the emergency for violating the rules. Each case is assessed individually, but infringements of the emergency restrictions can be punished by the fine of up to 2,000 euros.

Questions on exceptions

Are there any exceptions to the COVID-19 test requirement for entering Latvia with a passenger carrier, such as an airplane?

Exception groups:

- Children under 11 years of age;
- Delegations, diplomats, and their families, diplomatic couriers;
- Aircraft passengers who are in transit in Latvia and do not leave the controlled area of the airport ("sterile area" of the airport terminal);
- Borderland residents, who cross the border daily for work, education, and similar needs, can provide proof of employment or education. This would, for example, apply directly to the residents of Valka and Valga, who cross the Latvian-Estonian border regularly due to their daily needs;
- Other groups of individuals listed in Cabinet Regulation No 360

An individual covered by one of the exceptions must have a document to that effect. We recommend that you contact the carrier in advance and discuss this situation.

Do business employees, who leave Latvia on an everyday basis to perform their work duties and can provide documents attesting to the fact of employment, have to perform the Covid-19 test?

Business employees, who need to cross the border on an everyday basis to perform work or service duties and have a document attesting to the fact of employment, are allowed to cross the border without performing the Covid-19 test (in accordance to Cabinet Regulation 360, Paragraphs 58.1. and 58.5.). These individuals must be able to provide a filled in Covidpass.lv, which they must fill in every 30 days, and a document attesting to the fact of the person's employment after the request of the State Border Guard or the State Police.

Does the exception also apply to people returning from business trips?

No, the exception does not apply to people returning from a business trip. In this case, the individual must also perform the COVID-19 test not earlier than 72 hours before boarding the vehicle.

More information provided in [Cabinet Regulation No 360](#).

For commercial carriers, the regulation remains unchanged

Should I perform the COVID-19 test when entering Latvia from January 15 if I work abroad as a driver and I have a job on schedule (I work for two weeks, then rest). After those two weeks, I will go home to Latvia.

Commercial carriers are enabled to continue business within the framework of the already existing regulations, and the employees of commercial carriers do not have to present a negative COVID-19 test result when entering Latvia. It applies to transport and passenger carrier service providers, including courier workers and members of the crew of passenger, freight, or technical flights, who will cross the Latvian border in the course of their work, in transit to another country, or to get to or return from their workplace. The mentioned employees, when crossing the Latvian border or before boarding the carrier's vehicle, for example, an airplane, must present a confirmation of a specific form - the "[Form of an employee in the international transport sector](#)" developed by the [European Commission](#).

Before arriving in Latvia, one must fill in the questionnaire *covidpass.lv*. The requirement for self-isolation during the performance of their duties shall not apply to staff of transport and passenger transport providers and to crews of passenger, freight, or technical cruises returning from business trips and missions if they show no signs of acute respiratory illness. Outside working hours, those individuals must self-isolate.