

The Cabinet of Ministers has extended the list of countries the COVID-19 certificates of which comply with entry requirements to Latvia

Published: 02.09.2021.

Summary of the entry and stay conditions in the Republic of Latvia within the framework of Covid-19 restrictive measures

State	Level of risk	Allowed non-essential entry		Pre-entering Latvia test (including before boarding)		Test upon entering Latvia		Self-isolation in Latvia	
		Vaccinated, recovered (with interoperable certificate) (or USA, GBR, AUS, ISR, NZL, CAN valid certificate of vaccination, recovery)	Others	Vaccinated, recovered (with interoperable certificate) (or USA, GBR, AUS, ISR, NZL, CAN valid certificate of vaccination, recovery)	Others	Vaccinated, recovered (with interoperable certificate) (or USA, GBR, AUS, ISR, NZL, CAN valid certificate of vaccination, recovery)	Others	Vaccinated, recovered (with interoperable certificate) (or USA, GBR, AUS, ISR, NZL, CAN valid certificate of vaccination, recovery)	Others
From the EU, EEA, CH and UK									
List of CDC	<u>low risk</u>	ALLOWD	ALLOWD	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES, if there is no valid proof of the test prior to entry	NO	NO
List of CDC	<u>high risk</u>	ALLOWD	ALLOWD	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES, if there is no valid proof of the test prior to entry	NO	YES
List of CDC	<u>particularly high risk</u>	NOT ALLOWED ²	NOT ALLOWED ²	YES ¹	YES ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES
From third countries									
List of CDC	<u>low risk</u>	ALLOWD	ALLOWD	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES, if there is no valid proof of the test prior to entry	NO	NO
List of CDC	<u>high risk</u>	ALLOWD	NOT ALLOWED ²	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES
List of CDC	<u>particularly high risk</u>	NOT ALLOWED ²	NOT ALLOWED ²	YES ¹	YES ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES

¹ - must have an interoperable test certificate (or USA, GBR, AUS, ISR, NZL, CAN test certificate) or, when entering from a third country, the test result.

² - Paragraph 38.⁴⁰ of Cabinet Regulation

³ - Paragraph 38.⁴⁰ of Cabinet Regulation

⁴ - Paragraph 38.⁴⁰ of Cabinet Regulation - a person who enters the Republic of Latvia by crossing the external land border at the border crossing point "Grebneva", "Terehova", "Pāternieki", or "Silene" without delay, take a COVID-19 test at the abovementioned border crossing point using his or her own resources

On 24 August 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers approved draft regulations, "Amendments to the Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No. 360 of 9 June 2020, Epidemiological Safety Measures for the Containment of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection". Its purpose is to supplement the list of countries the COVID-19 vaccination and recovery certificates issued by which are to be considered acceptable for entry in Latvia.

Beginning on 1 September, travel to Latvia without additional restrictions is allowed for persons from the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of Israel, New Zealand and Canada who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine authorised with the European Medicines Agency or with an equivalent regulator or recognised by the World Health Organization, or persons recovered from COVID-19 and holding a document certifying that.

This certificate need not be in the form of an interoperable digital COVID-19 certificate as issued in the European Union Member States. Current regulations permit entry in Latvia with a non-interoperable certificate till 1 September only from the United Kingdom, while the amendments also provide for such entry from the UK after 1 September.

Until now, persons vaccinated in third countries with vaccines recognised by the European Medicines Agency and holding an appropriate certificate, but not in the form of an interoperable certificate, were subject to additional restrictions upon entry in Latvia. This situation seriously impeded ability to travel and caused incomprehension among Latvians residing abroad, especially in the countries with a large Latvian diaspora and a high vaccination coverage or low COVID-19 incidence.

The United States of America and Canada are Latvia's strategic partners. A national-level recognition of certificates issued by

those countries is a major step towards sustaining and strengthening the link. For its part, an active political dialogue and economic cooperation are underway with the State of Israel, alongside close people-to-people relations.

It is important to promote favourable conditions for travel of the members of the diaspora in order to ensure their connection with Latvia under the pandemic-related crisis thereby also supporting economic recovery.

Under the European Union Regulation on a digital COVID certificate, it is possible for third countries to agree with the EU on mutual operability of their COVID certificates; for instance, such decisions have been made by Turkey and Ukraine. However, it is impossible to predict how long further talks and technical interoperability solutions will take.

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<https://www.rs.gov.lv/en/article/cabinet-ministers-has-extended-list-countries-covid-19-certificates-which-comply-entry-requirements-latvia>