



Press Release 18 June 2021

## **Requirements for entering the country and health examinations for people entering the country in the Lapland Hospital District area**

The Lapland Border Guard District of the Finnish Border Guard and the Lapland Hospital District would like to provide guidelines related to crossing the border and health safety for the people crossing the border. When arriving in Finland, it is important to separate the government resolution for entering the country, (i.e. the border checks performed by the border authorities and guidelines issued by the Finnish Border Guard) from the regulations and guidelines related to health safety issued by the Regional State Administrative Agency for Lapland and the Lapland Hospital District.

At the border crossing points, the border authorities conduct border checks and the health authorities conduct health examinations. At the border crossing points where there are no health authorities to conduct the health examinations, the border authorities are responsible for directing the people entering the country to the health examinations, if necessary. Border checks are compulsory for everyone.

### **Requirements for entering the country via internal border control**

**According to the most recent government decision, starting on 21 June 2021, entering Finland from European Union and Schengen nations (e.g. from Sweden and Norway) and Andorra, Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, and Cyprus is permitted for persons who have a**

- Certificate that verifies that they have received the complete series of approved COVID-19 vaccines at least 14 days prior to entering Finland,
- or a doctor's certificate showing that they have had the COVID-19 infection within a period of the previous six (6) months.
- a doctor's certificate verifying that they have had the COVID-19 virus more than six (6) months before entering and in addition to a verifiable certificate indicating that they have received at least one of the approved coronavirus vaccine doses at least seven (7) days prior to entering Finland, or

A negative coronavirus test result alone does not allow anyone from any country to enter the country.

### **Earlier requirements for crossing the border for entering the country are still valid**

- return to Finland or return to another European Union or Schengen nation via Finland, and
- commuting trips and other necessary reasons, for example, family matters and traffic close to the border between Finland and Norway in the border communities. Commuting at the national borders is made easier, as the work no longer has to be vital for the proper functioning of society or security of supply.

According to the constitution, Finnish citizens shall not be prevented from entering the country, and similarly everyone has the right to leave Finland.

Citizens are asked to check the requirements and instructions currently valid for entering Finland from the website of the Finnish Border Guard <https://raja.fi/en/guidelines-for-border-traffic-during-pandemic> .

When travelling from Finland to another country, the currently valid requirements and regulations pertaining to health safety for entering the country in question must also be taken into consideration.



## **Health examination coronavirus tests for people entering the country**

In accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act and the regulations issued by the Regional State Administrative Agency for Lapland, taking a coronavirus test and COVID-19 health examination is mandatory for anyone entering the country who has, during 14 days prior to entering the country, has spent time in a country where the incidence rate for the coronavirus is greater than 25 per 100,000 people over a 14 period.

The incidence rate for the coronavirus in Sweden, Norway and Russia is currently higher than 25. Refusing a mandatory health examination as intended by the Communicable Diseases Act is a punishable health protection violation under the Criminal Code of Finland.

The person entering the country shall provide pre-information of their COVID-19 information no later than at the time they intend to enter the country. The pre-information can also be provided already prior to entering the country, which will make border crossing formalities quicker. At the border crossing point, the border authorities will check that the person entering the country has provided the requested pre-information. The information provided will be sent from the border crossing point to the corresponding health authority.

### **The following persons entering the country must take a mandatory coronavirus test health examination**

If a person entering the country cannot provide verifiable evidence of having had the COVID-19 infection or having received the vaccines, this person must take part in a mandatory coronavirus test health examination at the border crossing point or nearest testing site.

In addition, the person entering the country is recommended to take a coronavirus test after being in the country for 72 hours. Until such time, the person entering the country shall avoid all unnecessary contact with others and stay at their place of residence. A coronavirus test should be taken in the municipality that is the place of residence.

### **The following people entering the country do not have to participate in the coronavirus test health examination**

- The person entering the country was born in or after 2005.
- The person entering the country works in freight transportation or logistics and is conducting their work-related tasks.
- The person entering the country can present a verifiable certificate showing that they have received the complete vaccine series (also a person who has received coronavirus vaccines made by two different manufacturers is considered as having received the complete series of vaccines) and a period of at least 14 days has passed from the time they received the previous vaccine dose.
- The person entering the country can present a verifiable certificate of having had the COVID-19 virus and the same person has received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering the country.
- The person entering the country can present a verifiable certificate of having had the COVID-19 virus within the previous six (6) months that was confirmed at least 14 days prior to entering the country.
- The person entering the country is a member of the indigenous Sámi community and is crossing the border for the purpose of engaging in Sámi livelihood or culture.
- The person entering the country belongs to a special group who can produce a certificate that is in line with a procedure agreed with the local communicable diseases authority (persons who go to work regularly in accordance with the currently valid restrictions between Finland and Sweden or Finland and Norway, and they can produce a verifiable certificate showing that they have a negative test result for the coronavirus that is less than seven (7) days old).



**The following people entering the country do not have to take part in the mandatory health examination coronavirus test at the border. However, it is recommended for people entering the country to take a coronavirus test at the earliest 72 hours after entering the country.**

- A person entering the country must be able to produce a verifiable certificate of a negative COVID-19 test result issued no more than 72 hours prior to entering the country.
- The person entering the country has received at least one dose of the vaccine at least 14 days earlier.

For a period of three (3) days, i.e. for 72 hours, the person entering the country must avoid all unnecessary contact with others and stay at their place of residence until taking the coronavirus test. The coronavirus test shall be sought in the municipality of residence.

Although border crossing traffic is starting to return to normal, the authorities recommend citizens engage in special precautions when travelling in the EU and Schengen area and to continue to avoid all unnecessary travel outside of the EU and Schengen areas, with the exception of nations that have officially removed all restrictions pertaining to entering the country.

Link: [www.laplandentry.fi](http://www.laplandentry.fi)

Further information provided by

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