

# Danish travel restrictions for the EU and Schengen countries as well as the UK

The main elements of the model described below are known and have been in force since 27 June 2020. Since then, adjustments have been made, including the introduction of the category 'high-risk countries' and now the regionalisation of travel advice. This factsheet has been drawn up to provide a comprehensive overview of the Danish model of travel restrictions for the EU and Schengen countries as well as the UK.

## The main elements of the model

Each week, a table of the individual countries/regions will be drawn up using the objective criteria based on the health situation in the relevant countries/regions. Countries/regions are accordingly classified into different risk levels for use by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Danish National Police in their work. The table will be published on Fridays, for the first time on 11 December 2020 at [www.coronasmitte.dk](http://www.coronasmitte.dk). The travel advice will be updated on Fridays accordingly, while the entry restrictions will be updated the following Saturdays at 12.00 midnight (night between Friday and Saturday). This timing might be adjusted if ECDC changes the day for publishing data. The main elements of the model are presented below.

**Table 1. Main elements of the adapted Danish model of entry restrictions and travel advice**

	Entry restrictions	Travel advice <sup>1</sup>
<b>Open countries</b>	Foreigners may enter Denmark regardless of purpose.	Persons are generally encouraged to be extra careful (yellow) when travelling.  All non-essential travel to high-risk regions is discouraged (orange), cf. the regional mechanism.
<b>Quarantine countries</b>	Foreigners must have a worthy purpose in order to enter Denmark.	All non-essential travel is discouraged (orange).

<sup>1</sup> Note that business travel is regarded as essential travel regardless of how a country or region is categorised.

	Special arrangements apply for persons resident in the border regions and in the Nordic countries, cf. table 2.	Travel is permitted to low-risk regions if regional test data is reported to ECDC (yellow – extra caution), cf. the regional mechanism.
<b>High-risk countries</b>	<p>Foreigners must have a worthy purpose in order to enter Denmark and must be able to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before the time of entry. Certain exemptions from the test requirement apply.</p> <p>Special arrangements apply for persons resident in the border regions and in the Nordic countries, cf. table 2.</p> <p>In general, people are strongly advised to follow the Danish Health Authority recommendation of self-isolation for 10 days, which can be broken by a negative COVID-19 test taken earliest on the fourth day after entry into Denmark. A number of groups are exempted, cf. table 4.</p>	<p>All non-essential travel is discouraged (orange).</p> <p>Travel is permitted to low-risk regions if regional test data is reported to ECDC (yellow – extra caution), cf. the regional mechanism.</p>

A safety valve remains in place for extraordinary situations not covered by the model, such as a situation where the spread of infection increases rapidly in a region or a country, or where Statens Serum Institut (SSI) assesses that the information or other data available is inaccurate. In these cases, tourists who are resident in the region or the country may be denied entry, the list of worthy purposes may be shortened, and the travel advice may be revised to orange, meaning that all non-essential travel is discouraged.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also continue to advise people from Denmark against all non-essential travel to countries with extensive entry restrictions regardless of the infection rate situation in the particular countries.

### **Regional and Nordic mechanism as well as border regions arrangement**

A regional mechanism for travel advice has now been introduced. The classification of regions follows ECDC data published on the basis of the EU Council Recommendation of 13 October 2020. The same regional categorisation will be used in future for the Nordic mechanism and for the border regions arrangement.

The main elements of the regional and Nordic mechanism as well as the border regions arrangement are presented below. A more detailed description of the regional mechanism for travel advice is presented in table 3.

**Table 2. Overview of the regional/Nordic mechanism and the border country arrangement**

	<b>Entry restrictions</b>	<b>Travel advice</b>
<b>Regional mechanism</b>	N/A	Applicable for travel advice, cf. table 3.
<b>Nordic mechanism</b>	If a Nordic country is defined as a quarantine or high-risk country, the country transfers to a regional arrangement, whereby single regions are assessed as open, quarantine or high-risk. Regions categorised as open, quarantine or high-risk are treated in the same way as countries in the three categories, cf. table 5. Eligibility for regionalisation requires that regional data about tests is available through ECDC.	N/A See regional mechanism, cf. table 3.
<b>Border regions</b> Schleswig-Holstein, South Sweden (Skåne and Blekinge) and West Sweden (Halland and West Gothia)	If Germany or Sweden is defined as a quarantine or high-risk country, the following applies to the border regions:  Persons resident in the border regions can travel into Denmark regardless of purpose provided the region is classified as open, cf. table 5. (Only data about the number of new COVID-19 cases is used).  If a border region is in quarantine, persons wishing to enter Denmark from this region are required either to have a worthy purpose or to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before entry.	In the border regions, the regional mechanism is applied, cf. table 3, as only data about the number of new COVID-19 cases is used.

**Table 3. Overview of the regional mechanism in travel advice**

<b>Regions in open countries / yellow countries</b>	<p><b>When does a region become a high-risk region in open countries?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A region that has more than 75 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week is a high-risk region. The travel advice for the region changes from yellow to orange.</li> </ul> <p><b>When does a high-risk region open?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A region that has 75 or less new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week is no longer a high-risk region. The travel advice for the region changes from orange to yellow.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note:</i> If a region has a positivity rate that equals or exceeds 4%, the limit for the high-risk region is 25 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week. If a country does not report regional test data to ECDC, the country's national positive percentage is used.</p>
<b>Regions in quarantine</b>	<b>When does a region become a low-risk region in quarantine countries?</b>

<b>countries / orange countries</b>	<p>A precondition for a region to become a low-risk region is that the country reports regional test data to ECDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A region with less than 20 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week is a low-risk region. The travel advice for the region changes from orange to yellow.</li> </ul> <p><i>If a country transfers from an open to a quarantine country, an open region will remain open if it has less than 30 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week. The travel advice for the region remains yellow.</i></p> <p><b>When does a low-risk region close?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A region with 30 or more new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week is no longer a low-risk region. The travel advice for the region changes from yellow to orange.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: If a region has a positivity rate that equals or exceeds 4%, the threshold for new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 per week for a low-risk region is divided by 1.5.</i></p>
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**Remarks:** The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants is calculated as a weekly average over 14 days. Both regions and countries must meet the criteria for test frequency, cf. table 5.

## Infection prevention recommendations

The recommendations designed to halt the spread of infection in connection with travel have been adjusted with the aim of implementing the Danish Health Authority's recommendation of 10 days' self-isolation, which can be broken by a negative COVID-19 test taken earliest on the fourth day after entry into Denmark. A number of groups are exempted, cf. table 4.

The infection prevention measures supplement the entry restrictions described below and apply also to persons entering Denmark from other countries than the EU and Schengen countries as well as the UK.

More detailed information about the Danish Health Authority recommendation can be found at [www.coronasmitte.dk](http://www.coronasmitte.dk) and [www.um.dk](http://www.um.dk), along with further information about entry restrictions and travel advice.

**Table 4. Infection prevention recommendations when travelling**

<b>Travel out of Denmark</b>
<p>Persons returning to Denmark from a trip to countries/regions to which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against all non-essential travel are strongly urged to follow the Danish Health Authority's main recommendation of 10 days' self-isolation, which can be broken by a negative COVID-19 test taken earliest on the fourth day after entry into Denmark. This applies in general to both essential and non-essential travel – with certain exceptions.</p> <p>The recommendation to self-isolate on returning to Denmark is waived for <b>business travellers</b>. The concern for sustaining the Danish economy means that the main recommendation of self-isolation can be waived if the business traveller and their employer deem this is necessary to enable the business traveller to perform their job function in Denmark. The precondition for this exemption is a negative result to a PCR test or rapid test (antigen) taken immediately upon arrival back in Denmark. In addition, business travellers are urged to pay extra attention to possible symptoms of COVID-19 and to follow the Danish Health Authority's advice on preventing the</p>

spread of infection in society until they obtain a negative result to a PCR test taken on the fourth day after arrival back in Denmark.

The definition of **essential travel** follows as far as possible the approach to worthy purpose, which includes, for example, urgent family visits and essential personal commitments such as attending a funeral, a birth or court case. For persons resident in the border regions, participation in activities as part of border life is regarded as essential travel and is therefore not discouraged. Commuters are also not covered by the strong advice to follow the Danish Health Authority's main recommendation. For more details, go to [www.um.dk](http://www.um.dk)

Travellers staying in a country in a country/region where the travel advice **changes colour** from yellow to orange can remain in the country/region until their stay is over and, as before, are encouraged to take a test on arrival back in Denmark.

### Entry into Denmark

<b>Quarantine countries</b>	Travellers entering Denmark are encouraged to follow the Danish Health Authority's advice on preventing the spread of infection in society during their stay.
<b>High-risk countries</b>	<p>Travellers entering Denmark are encouraged to follow the Danish Health Authority's advice on preventing the spread of infection in society during their stay. The following also applies:</p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> All persons not in groups 2, 3 or 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommended</b> to self-isolate for a period of 10 days, which can be broken by a negative COVID-19 test taken earliest on the fourth day after entry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 2:</b> Persons on short visits to Denmark, i.e. up to 9 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Encouraged to pay particular attention</b> to possible symptoms of COVID-19 and to follow the Danish Health Authority's advice on preventing the spread of infection in society.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 3:</b> Migrant labour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strongly advised to take a PCR test</b> after entry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 4:</b> Persons travelling through Denmark (transit), persons entering in connection with freight transport, and persons resident in the border country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further requirements or recommendations when entering.</li> </ul>
<b>Danish expatriates</b>	Encouraged to follow the Danish Health Authority's recommendation - with possible exceptions, cf. above, and to take a COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours before time of entry or to take a test in Denmark immediately upon entry.

### The criteria of the adapted model

The overview below shows the criteria of the Danish model for travel restrictions for the EU and Schengen countries as well as the UK.

**Table 5. The criteria for COVID-19 in the Danish model**

<b>Open (When does a country/region open?)</b>	The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per week is below 20.
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<b>Quarantine (When does a country/region go from open to quarantine?)</b>	The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per week equals or exceeds 30.
<b>High-risk</b>	<p>The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per week exceeds 75.</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p>The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per week equals or exceeds 25 if the positivity rate in the latest week equals or exceeds 4%.</p>
<b>Test</b>	<p><b>Test frequency:</b> The number of tested per 100,000 inhabitants per week must exceed 300. If the country/region is unable to meet this target, it will be treated as a high-risk country/region in respect to entry restrictions and labelled orange (all non-essential travel discouraged) in respect to travel advice.</p> <p><b>Positivity rate:</b> In relation to the criteria for open and quarantine, the threshold criteria are divided by 1.5 if the proportion of positive tests of all persons tested in the latest week equals or exceeds 4% (positive percentage). This adjustment calculation does not apply to high-risk, as EU thresholds are used instead, cf. above.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The test criteria are not used for the border regions, cf. table 2.</p>
<b>Data availability</b>	<p>If data is lacking at country level, the country is treated as high-risk in respect to entry restrictions and labelled orange (all non-essential travel discouraged) in respect to travel advice.</p> <p>If test data is lacking at regional level, test data is used at country level in respect to regions in open countries (high-risk regions). In quarantine countries, activation of the regional mechanism (travel advice) and the Nordic mechanism (entry) requires that regional test data is reported to ECDC (low-risk regions).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> If test data is missing for the latest week, the previous week's data is used.</p>

**Remark:** The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants is calculated as a weekly average over 14 days.