



Protocol and Host Nation Department
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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands and has the honour to inform them as follows.

•Negative Covid-19 test result

As of 29 December 2020 at 00.01, all passengers, including Dutch nationals, must demonstrate a negative Covid-19 test result in order to board an aircraft bound for the Netherlands. This requirement has already been in effect since 15 December 2020 for non-EU residents who are exempt from the EU travel ban. The Dutch government has now decided to expand the requirement for all passengers travelling to the Netherlands by air. The paragraphs below outline the requirements of the Covid-19 test and specify which groups are obliged to demonstrate a negative test result.

In addition to the negative test result, those passengers travelling to the Netherlands by air from outside the EU/Schengen area must also demonstrate a completed and signed Negative Test Declaration, available on www.government.nl. Both documents must be provided in hardcopy.

If these passengers fail or refuse to demonstrate a negative Covid-19 test result before departure, they may not board the aircraft to travel to the Netherlands. Passengers may be asked to present their negative test result (and the abovementioned declaration for passengers travelling by air from outside the EU/Schengen area) again upon arrival in the Netherlands. If they cannot do so, they can in some cases be refused entry to the Netherlands.

•Requirements Covid-19 test

- The test must have been a standard COVID-19 PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, not a rapid test.
- The test must have been conducted no more than 72 hours prior to arrival of the aircraft in the Netherlands, taking the time difference into account.
- The test result must be negative.
- The test result must be written in Dutch, English, French, German or Spanish.
- The test result must include the following information:
 - the passenger's first and last names as stated in their passport;
 - the date and time the test was conducted; and
 - the details of the institute/laboratory that performed the test.

•Scope

The obligation to demonstrate a negative test result applies to all passengers (aged 13 years and older) travelling to the Netherlands by air, including those passengers travelling from a country within the EU/Schengen area, as well as Dutch nationals. This also applies for flights within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

•Exemption categories

There are certain categories of passengers who are exempted from this requirement. A full list including every exemption category will be published in English on www.government.nl > *topics* > *Coronavirus COVID-19* in the coming days. Currently, this information is already available in Dutch on www.rijksoverheid.nl/testverklaring.

•For the purposes of the current Note Verbale, the Ministry wishes to highlight two exemption categories that might be of special relevance to diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands:

- 1. Individuals registered with the Protocol and Host Country Affairs Department to whom a valid diplomatic ID card has been issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;**
- 2. Holders of a valid foreign diplomatic passport;**
- 3. Holders of a valid Dutch diplomatic passport, provided they need to travel to carry out their duties or are travelling to or from the location where they need to carry out their duties.**

Individuals that belong to one of these two categories are not obliged to demonstrate a negative Covid-19 test result. They must demonstrate their MFA-issued diplomatic ID card or their diplomatic passport upon boarding and when passing through immigration in the Netherlands in order to be declared exempt from the negative Covid-19 test requirement.

We would like to advise incoming new embassy staff that is not yet in the possession of a Dutch MFA card, but will be registered in the Probas system after arrival, to carry this NV with them when travelling to the Netherlands.

•Further information

The latest information regarding the negative Covid-19 test requirement has been published on www.government.nl > latest > news > Negative test declaration now mandatory for all international air travel to the Netherlands (published 23 December 2020). This page also includes links to factsheets containing all the relevant information.

Questions regarding the negative Covid-19 test requirement can be addressed to covidenreizen@minvws.nl. Questions on Covid-19 that specifically deal with diplomatic missions, International Organisations and their clients can be addressed to DPG-COVID-19@minbuza.nl.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 24 December 2020