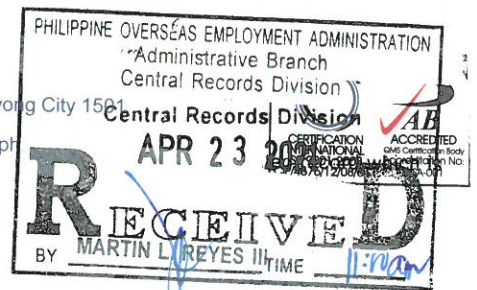




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New Travel Restrictions and Quarantine Regulations for OFWs in Various European Countries

The Governments of various European countries announce the following updates on COVID-19 travel restrictions:

1) Sweden

Non-essential travel to Sweden from countries outside the European Union (EU) is banned until 31 May 2021.

The following are the exemptions to the ban on entry to Sweden:

- citizens and their families from EU/EEA countries and Switzerland;
- permanent residents or holders of residence permits or national visa in Sweden or holders of residence permits in another EU country;
- people with particularly urgent needs;
- seasonal workers employed in agriculture, forestry and horticulture.

The Swedish border control officials will determine the manner in which the exceptions should be interpreted and the decisions that should be taken. Foreigners need to present a negative COVID-19 test result in order to be allowed entry into Sweden. The test should be done 48 hours before entry to Sweden. Likewise, foreigners crossing the border for work purposes/frontier workers (between two EEA* countries) need to present a test no older than one week. The test results need to verify that the traveler do not have an ongoing COVID-19 infection.

2) Denmark

The Danish government has announced its decision to extend the existing entry restrictions and travel ban until 20 April 2021 due to a warning on a third wave of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against all travels worldwide. The tightened travel includes restrictions for all arrivals who do not have an essential purpose to enter Denmark. However, certain exceptions apply such as delivery of goods and services in and out of the country.

A flight ban has been imposed on transportation of passengers from the entire world, who are unable to present a negative COVID-19 test taken no later than 24 hours prior to departure. The flight ban is also extended until 20 April 2021.



Persons entering Denmark are still required to undergo mandatory testing and 10-day isolation.

3) Norway

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maintaining its global advice against all non-essential travel from all countries until 15 May 2021. Only Norwegian and European Economic Area (EEA) citizens are permitted to enter Norway. The move has been done to limit import infection due to foreigners' access to Norway.

Persons arriving in Norway to carry out work or contract assignments and who are able to prove that their employer has placed pre-approved accommodation at their disposal are not required to stay in a quarantine hotel but the employer must document that it is possible to reside in that location without coming into contact with other people. Mandatory testing is required. If the worker has been in a country or area within the last 14 days that necessitates quarantine, he/she must take a COVID-19 test upon your arrival in Norway.

4) Finland

Currently, entry into Finland is only permitted for necessary and justified reasons, such as studies or family-related ones. The restrictions on entry to Finland will end on 30 April 2021.

Travelers do not need to undergo COVID-19 tests at the border crossing point if they already have a certificate of a negative coronavirus test taken not earlier than 72 hours before entry, or a certificate that he/she have had coronavirus less than 6 months earlier. For easy tracking purposes, health authorities will require contact information. Disclosure of contact information is mandatory. Refusal to undergo testing may result to a 14-day official quarantine, ordered by the Communicable Disease Control Physician, who also decides the termination of the official quarantine.

As of 19 March 2021, travelers from third countries such as the Philippines are restricted, however, return travel and essential traffic (air traffic) is permitted.

5) Greenland

Greenland is closed to regular passenger traffic into the country until 02 May 2021. Only critical workers and travelers approved by the authorities (Corona Secretariat) will be permitted to enter the country. There are no restrictions on passenger traffic out of the country during the same period.

6) Iceland

All travelers to Iceland who are coming from countries where a 14-day COVID-19 case notification rate exceeds 500 per 100,000 population is required to stay in government quarantine facilities. The said restriction applies to all areas defined by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control as dark red. This restriction came into force last 01 April 2021 and will be implemented until April 30, 2021.

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7) Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands have successfully reduced the spread of COVID-19 and issues the following guidelines to take the greatest possible care to prevent the spread of infection:

- The Government of Faroe Islands advises against all non-essential overseas travel.
- Travelers to the Faroe Islands are advised to test for COVID-19 three days before departure. This will reduce the risk of bringing the infection to the Faroe Islands.
- All travelers to the Faroe Islands must test for COVID-19 at the border. This requirement also applies to vaccinated travelers and to Faroese citizens and residents returning from abroad.
- Vaccinated travelers should still adhere to all recommendations, such as cleanliness and social distancing, put forward by the government.
- Vaccinated travelers, who have completed their vaccination at least eight days prior to their journey, are not required to self-isolate after arrival in the Faroe Islands.
- Previously infected travelers, whose positive test is more than ten days old, are also not required to self-isolate. Travelers are responsible for their own self-isolation.
- Travelers by plane will be tested upon arrival.
- All travelers will receive a pamphlet upon arrival for ample information.

8) Gibraltar

Any person entering Gibraltar, who has been in a 'Relevant Area' in the 14-day period preceding their entry, are required to report to Borders and Coastguard Agency or Gibraltar Port Agency if arriving by vessel. The Philippines belongs to a "relevant area" list.

Travelers who declare having been to a 'Relevant Area' will be required to adhere to the following conditions:

- Self-Isolate for five days. If staying in a hotel, the traveler must remain in his/her room and not use any of the public areas;
- Do not use public transportation with the exception of a Gibraltar Taxi booked via the Gibraltar Taxi Association; and
- Must be swabbed on Day one and Day five after arrival.

On 08 April 2021, Hon Samantha Sacramento MP, Minister for the Health Authority, Justice, Multiculturalism, Equality and Community Affairs, announced that Gibraltar is totally COVID-19 free and announced the lifting of restrictions within Gibraltar:

- it is no longer deemed necessary to continue with any numerical restrictions on the numbers of persons who can gather in public beyond 16 April 2021 when the current regulations will lapse;
- going forward, any events that are organized in public places will be subject to the same rules that were in place before the pandemic. That means that events will

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require the usual notification and permits and for now, may also require public health advice and some additional requirements. This arises from the advice provided to the Government that it is the continued surveillance of the presence or absence of the virus in the community that will keep their continued, prudent, return to socializing possible; and

- it is important to note that test, trace and isolate will remain as crucial now as it was in the earlier periods in this pandemic. As such, citizens of Gibraltar are advised to continue cooperating with their contact tracing bureau.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

13 April 2021

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- Title: Denmark Extends Entry Restrictions & Travel Ban to April 20 (date: 27 March 2021)

www.regjeringen.no (Norway's official website)

- Title: Global travel advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be extended until 15 May 2020 (date: 26 March 2021)

https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/advice_extended/id2841812/

www.valtioneuvosto.fi (Finland's official website)

- Title: Current entry restrictions and public health measures in Finland (date: 19 March 2021) <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/entry-restrictions>

www.government.is (Iceland's official website)

- Title: COVID 19: Amended rules at the borders on testing and quarantine on the 1st of April (date: 30 March 2021) <https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/embassy-article/2021/03/30/COVID-19-Amended-rules-at-the-borders-on-testing-and-quarantine-on-the-1st-of-April/>

www.corona.fo (Faroe Islands official covid/travel website)

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