



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Rolling review of International Public Health Guidance in relation to the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529)

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About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory authority established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

HIQA's mandate to date extends across a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector services. Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of health services and children's social services, and investigating as necessary serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use these services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Version History

Version number	Date	Details
V1.0	9 December 2021	
V2.0	13 December 2021	Updated review of public health guidance as of 13 December
V.3.0	15 December 2021	Updated review of public health guidance as of 14 December
V.4.0	5 January 2022	Only the following measures were reviewed for this version: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ social or mass gatherings▪ schools and any other measures for children such as out-of-school activities▪ business activities▪ culture, leisure entertainment▪ changes in infection, prevention and control measures▪ face coverings▪ COVID Pass.
V.5.0	19 January 2022	Updated review of public health guidance as of 18 January 2022

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Public Health Guidance Summary

Key points

Changes in public health measures are being advised or taken internationally following the identification of the Omicron variant. This report provides a summary of all **changes to mitigating measures from 26 November 2021**, when the Omicron variant was declared a variant of concern. Changes to public health measures reflect efforts to reduce the ongoing risks posed by the Delta variant as well as the threat posed by Omicron. The following seven measures were reviewed for changes in this version and these are summarised in the key points:

- social or mass gatherings
- schools and any other measures for children such as out-of-school activities
- business activities
- culture, leisure entertainment
- changes in infection, prevention and control measures
- face coverings
- COVID Pass.

This report is accurate to 18 January 2022.

Social or mass gatherings

- The ECDC recommends that large public or private gatherings should be avoided.
- Restrictions introduced relating to social or mass gatherings depend on the type of event and whether it is being held indoors or outdoors, these include maximum attendance numbers, reduced opening hours and social distancing.
- However, some countries are now relaxing these restrictions. Large outdoor events have resumed in Scotland and physical distancing requirements, limits on attendance at indoor public events and the guidance asking people to stick to a three household limit on indoor gatherings are to be removed from 24 January 2022. There has also been an increase in the maximum numbers that can attend indoor events in Norway and outdoor events in Norway and Wales.
- In the Netherlands, the maximum number of people aged 13 and over who can meet outdoors increased from two to four people. In Finland, it is recommended that people meet with no more than five individuals outside their immediate family at a time.

Primary schools

- In Ireland, parents are being asked to prioritise their children's activities so as to minimise contacts.
- In Belgium, primary schools opened on 10 January 2022 with measures such as, effective ventilation, mandatory face masks from six years and quarantining of year groups following four infections (children with symptoms).
- In Czechia, Denmark, Norway and Portugal, schools have introduced increased testing of pupils and staff. Plans are in place in Finland, France and Italy to move to online learning or a hybrid model of teaching (that is, in-person and online) should the number of infections increase.
- In general, face masks are to be worn by children in primary school; the age from which they should be worn ranges from, all children in primary school in Germany, to those aged 11 years or older in England.

Second-level education

- There are similar mitigation measures in second-level education as those in primary schools, with some additional measures.
- Czechia, England and Switzerland have recommended weekly or twice weekly testing for pupils and staff.
- Face masks should be worn by everyone indoors; in Italy FFP2 masks should be worn in the classroom when positive cases have been identified.

Higher and adult education

- Mitigation measures in higher and adult education are the same as those for primary and second-level education (that is, effective ventilation, use of face masks and regular self-testing).
- In addition, Denmark, Italy and Switzerland require proof of vaccination, recovery or a recent negative test to access University.
- In Denmark, England and Norway, students and staff are advised to test twice weekly.

Business activities

- In general, all countries advise working from home where possible. In Austria, Denmark, Germany and Italy, access to the workplace is restricted to only those vaccinated, recovered or persons with a negative test.
- A number of countries have restricted opening hours for certain businesses.
- In Northern Ireland and Wales, two metre social distancing is required in office settings.

- Regular ventilation of rooms with natural or a mechanical ventilation system, has been recommended by the ECDC and the WHO and is required in a number of countries.
- In the Netherlands, non-essential shops and non-medical contact-based professions can re-open until 17:00; essential shops such as supermarkets and pharmacies can continue to open until 20:00.

Culture, leisure and entertainment

- In general there are restrictions on the capacity allowed at indoor and outdoor cultural, leisure and entertainment events.
- In Ireland, all restaurants, bars and cafes, excluding take away or delivery services, must close at 20:00. Strict social distancing and a COVID Pass is required in all bars and restaurants, including hotels.
- In the Netherlands, all hospitality venues are closed, except for delivery and takeaway. In Norway, there is a ban on alcohol in public venues.
- The opening hours in the catering industry are from 05:00 (in Belgium, Czechia and Denmark) to 22:00 (in Czechia) and 23:00 (in Belgium and Denmark); alcohol must not be served after 17:00 in Finland, 22:00 in Denmark and 23:00 in Norway.
- In the Netherlands, all indoor and outdoor sports activities and artistic and cultural activities (such as music, theatre and dance) are permitted again, but without spectators and or audiences; in Denmark, audiences are permitted for the same but there is a maximum of 1,500 people permitted at indoor events, they must be in groups of 500 and all must be seated throughout the performance.
- In Germany, only vaccinated and recovered people with a daily test or with a booster vaccination can visit restaurants, cinemas and other leisure facilities.
- Nightclubs are closed in Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Wales.

Changes in infection, prevention and control guidance

- The ECDC recommends that for probable or confirmed cases of Omicron infection, contact tracing should be prioritised, regardless of vaccination status.
- In most countries, advice regarding close contact status depends on whether an individual is vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 and whether they have symptoms or not.
 - For example, in Ireland, close contacts who are boosted (that is, have had their primary vaccinations and booster more than seven days before the close contact, or have completed a primary series of

COVID-19 vaccination and recovered from COVID-19 in the past three months), do not need to restrict their movements; but they should take three antigen tests over seven days and wear a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days.

- In Denmark, vaccinated or previously infected (within 12 weeks) close contacts should get tested but they do not need to self-isolate. If they are symptomatic they must restrict movements and get tested. Those who are not vaccinated or have not been previously infected (within 12 months) must restrict movements and testing is recommended.
- In Italy, precautionary restriction of movements does not apply to close contacts if they have completed their primary vaccination course or have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 120 days.
- A number of countries have reduced the duration of restriction of movements to 7 days (Belgium, Denmark, France (10 days for those not vaccinated), Germany, Portugal and Spain) or 5 days (the Netherlands, Czechia and Finland). In Norway, non-household close contacts do not have to restrict their movements but should self-test on day 3 and 5; those who have had COVID-19 in the last three months do not need to follow these test recommendations.
- Similarly, advice regarding isolation of cases depends on whether an individual is vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 and whether they have symptoms.
 - In France, fully vaccinated persons who test positive are required to isolate for 7 days, and persons not fully vaccinated for 10 days, after the date of the symptom onset or the date of the positive test sample. No test is required to end isolation.
 - In Spain, the duration of self-isolation has reduced from 10 days to 7 days; in Czechia, it has reduced to 5 days.
 - In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the duration of self-isolation is 10 days, though it is possible to end self-isolation after seven days, following two negative lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart on days six and seven. In England, self-isolation can end after two negative lateral flow tests taken on days five and six.
 - In the UK, those who have a positive lateral flow do not need to confirm this with a PCR test.

Face coverings

- The WHO and ECDC continue to advise that the use of masks (in addition to physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces, crowd avoidance and hand hygiene) remains key to reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 even with the

emergence of the Omicron variant. For healthcare workers, the WHO recommend wearing a respirator or medical mask along with other personal protective equipment before entering a room where there is a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- In general, face coverings are recommended in all indoor and crowded outdoor spaces.
- In Ireland, face coverings are required in third class and above in primary school, on public transport and in bars, restaurants and hotels for those aged nine and older. Medical grade masks are recommended for vulnerable and people at high risk in indoor or crowded outdoor places, people with a confirmed diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19 and close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19, FFP2 masks are also recommended for this purpose.
- In Austria, FFP2 masks are mandatory for customers in all situations and when the recommended minimum distance of two meters from people outside the household cannot or is not observed outside. Exemptions apply for pregnant women and children under the age of 14.
- FFP2 type masks are required at events open to the public that take place in Italy and on public transport in Czechia and Italy.
- In France (for children aged 6 years or older), the Netherlands (for children aged over 12 years) and in England, Northern Ireland and Wales (for children aged 11 and older), wearing a face mask is mandatory in public settings and on public transport.
- In Switzerland, the requirement to wear a mask applies in all situations where a COVID-19 certificate requirement applies - except at private gatherings.

COVID-19 Pass

- A number of countries announced changes to COVID-19 passes relating to the vaccination status requirement.
- In Ireland, an EU Digital COVID Certificate (COVID-19 pass) (vaccine or recovery certificate) is required for indoor hospitality and events, gyms and leisure centres and hotel bars and restaurants.
- Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland and Wales have all extended the settings in which COVID passes are required.
- In Italy, an Enhanced Green Pass (that is, those who have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19) will be required for access to public and private workplaces from 15 February 2022.
- France reduced the duration of validity to less than 48 hours for PCR and antigen test results.

- Five countries (Austria, Czechia, Denmark, France and Italy) announced expiry dates for COVID-19 Passes which range from five months to 270 days, after the final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine series or recovery. In Austria, the reduction from 360 days to 270 days does not apply for people who are vaccinated at least once and also recovered.

Introduction

On 26 November 2021, Omicron (B.1.1.529) was declared a variant of concern. Subsequently, changes in public health measures are being advised or taken internationally to mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant. This report summarises changes in mitigating measures from 26 November 2021 onwards. Changes to public health measures reflect efforts to mitigate the ongoing risks posed by the Delta variant and the threat posed by Omicron. Although a comprehensive search of international resources for the included countries was undertaken, it is possible that the sources identified in this review are not current or do not accurately capture all public health measures and strategies that are being undertaken. The public health measures adopted by countries to limit the spread of COVID-19 are constantly changing. As such, the review may have missed relevant information that was just (or about to be) published at the time of the review. To the best of our knowledge, the review is accurate as of 18 January 2022.

Methods

The countries listed below were chosen, based on them being in a similar phase of pandemic response, guidance being available in English, widespread use of the organisation's advice, and/or the working constraints of the HTA team. The international resources included for review were from a range of ministries of health and public health agencies. These were reviewed to identify new or updated public health guidance on measures being advised or taken internationally in relation to Omicron. Mitigating measures taken from 26 November 2021 (when the Omicron variant was declared a variant of concern) were eligible for inclusion.

EU/EEA countries

- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway

- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden.

Non-EU/EEA countries

- England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Wales
- Switzerland
- United States.

International public health agencies

- WHO
- ECDC.

For this version, data were systematically reviewed for changes and extracted under the following headings:

- Social or mass gatherings
- Schools and any other measures for children such as out-of-school activities
- Business activities
- Culture, leisure entertainment
- Changes in infection, prevention and control measures
- Face coverings
- COVID Pass

Previous versions included changes in measures that were extracted under the following headings:

- Movement of people
- Amateur sport and recreation
- Religious activities
- Public transport
- International travel
- Domestic travel
- Vaccination programme

- Special arrangements for the Christmas or end of year period.

Results

Social or mass gatherings

In Ireland, no indoor events, including entertainment, cultural, community and sporting events, will take place after 20:00. For events earlier in the day, attendance should be limited to 50% of venue capacity or 1,000 attendees, whichever is lower. This does not affect religious, educational or normal workplace business activity and business events (for example conferences, trade fairs). Wedding receptions can take place with a capacity limit of 100 guests and continue until midnight. Attendance at outdoor events, including entertainment, cultural, community and sporting events, should be limited to 50% of venue capacity or 5,000 attendees, whichever is lower. Organisers of indoor and outdoor group activities should ensure that appropriate protective measures are in place, and where indoor groups have a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people indoors, pods of six should apply. For children under 18, the "pod of 6" system can be adjusted to allow for indoor games and competition activities only, with all other protective measures remaining in place. The "pod of 6" system should be retained for all other settings such as training activities and games as part of training. Fixed capacity limits will not apply to these indoor and outdoor group activities ([31 December 2021](#)).

In Czechia, from [2 January 2022](#) an event must not be attended by more than 3,000 people and strict public health measures must be observed. When more than 300 people participate, a ratio is given for how many people must be vaccinated, tested or within the protection period.

As per recommendations on [4 January 2022](#) there are no limits on gatherings indoors or outdoors in Denmark.

Restrictions on social and mass gatherings vary across Finland. For example, in areas with community transmission, many are requiring public events and general meetings to be limited to 50 people indoors, while in a small number of regions all public events and general meetings held indoors and outdoors are prohibited ([13 January 2022](#)). People attending private events indoors are advised to take a home test before meeting with people outside their immediate family. It is recommended that people meet with no more than five individuals outside their immediate family at a time ([7 January 2022](#)).

Standing concerts are prohibited in France until 24 January 2022. Events up to 2,000 people indoors and 5,000 people outdoors are permitted ([3 January 2022](#)).

In Germany, only persons of one's own household and a maximum of two persons of another household may attend private meetings with unvaccinated persons. Since [28 December 2021](#), a maximum of ten people who are fully vaccinated or recovered are allowed to meet at private gatherings. Children under 14 years of age are exempt. In areas with a 7-day incidence above 350 per 100,000, a limit of 50 persons (vaccinated and recovered) indoors and 200 persons (vaccinated and recovered) outdoors applies to private parties and gatherings ([3 December 2021](#)).

In Italy, proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test is required to attend gatherings ([5 December 2021](#)). Capacities of a maximum of 50% for outdoor events and 35% for indoor events are allowed ([29 December 2021](#)).

In the Netherlands, the maximum number of people aged 13 and over who can meet outdoors is four. Events are not permitted, except for funerals (no more than 100 people), weekly markets selling groceries, and professional sports matches and competitions without spectators ([19 December 2021](#)).

In Norway, a maximum of 30 people can attend indoor public events without designated seating and 200 people with designated seating. At outdoor public events, up to 200 people without designated seating can attend, and up to three cohorts of 200 people each with designated seating can attend ([14 January 2022](#)). Household visits should be limited to no more than ten guests in addition to your own household ([14 January 2022](#)).

In Portugal, the presentation of a digital certificate (or proof of vaccination or a negative laboratory test result) is mandatory for those aged 12 years and older when accessing small events (less than 5,000 people outdoors or less than 1,000 people indoors). Testing is required to access large events (from 5,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors); this is waived for workers and children under 12 years are exempt ([1 December 2021](#)).

Since [29 December 2021](#), Spain has reduced the maximum permitted capacity of up to 75% (previously 100%) for events in open venues and a maximum capacity of up to 50% (previously 80%) for events in closed venues.

In Sweden, from [23 December 2021](#), everyone should avoid crowded environments and work from home if possible. Only seated guests are allowed at restaurants and a distance of 1 meter between different parties is required. At public gatherings and events, only seated guests are allowed if there are more than 20 people, regardless of vaccination certificate. Participants must be divided into groups of a maximum of eight people ([12 January 2022](#)). Without a vaccination certificate, there are also

requirements for distance between the groups, and a maximum number of 500 guests or participants. At events of more than 500 guests or participants, vaccination certificates and distance between the parties are required. From [19 January 2022](#), up to 500 vaccinated participants can attend general gatherings and public events as well as trade fairs, which take place indoors. If the room is divided so that participants from different sections do not come into contact with each other, the restriction applies to 500 people in each section.

In England, from [15 December 2021](#), certain venues and events are required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated (as of 24 December 2021, this does not require a booster dose), have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or that they have an exemption. Venues include nightclubs, and other late night dance venues. Events include any event with more than 10,000 attendees. Lower attendee limits (500 attendees indoor and 4,000 outdoor) for passes apply where attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event.

In Northern Ireland, ([29 November 2021](#)) there are no restrictions on the number of persons that can gather outdoors at private dwellings for example in a garden. Social distancing however is still recommended. The maximum number of persons that can gather indoors at a private dwelling is 30, including children aged 12 and under. Large house parties and raves indoors are not permitted. Indoor gatherings in a private dwelling are permitted for the purpose of a marriage, a civil partnership or funeral up to a maximum of 30 persons. This number includes the officiant and children aged 12 and under. It is recommended that no more than three households should meet together in a private home. The limits to indoor or outdoor gatherings that are not at private dwellings is determined by a risk assessment. No risk assessment is required for indoor settings for 15 people or fewer or for outdoor settings for 30 people or fewer. Since [26 December 2021](#), indoor standing events are not permitted.

The Scottish Government's strong recommendation continues to be that everyone should take a lateral flow test before any occasion where they will be meeting another household ([14 December 2021](#)). Large outdoor events can resume beginning on [17 January 2022](#). COVID-19 certification still applies for events with more than 4,000 standing or more than 10,000 seated attendees. For events with more than 1,000 in attendance, a minimum of 50% of attendees are expected to be checked for certification of vaccination, a negative test or an exemption. From 24 January 2022, the following restrictions will be lifted: limits on attendance at indoor public events; the requirement for 1 metre physical distancing between different groups in indoor public places; the requirement for table service in hospitality premises serving alcohol on the premises; the closure of nightclubs; the guidance

advising adults against non-professional indoor contact sports; and the guidance asking people to stick to a three household limit on indoor gatherings ([18 January 2022](#)).

As of [26 December 2021](#) in Wales, organised events and gatherings must not take place for more than 30 people indoors. Until 28 January 2022, licensed premises must ensure there is physical distancing between individual households or groups of up to six people from a maximum of six households (not including children under 11 or carers of anyone present) at their premises and must provide table service only. From [15 January 2022](#), up to 500 people can be present at outdoor events. This does not include those participating in a team sport event, meaning 500 spectators can be present.

In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from [20 December 2021](#) until 24 January 2022. For private gatherings and parties indoors a maximum of 30 people are allowed if everyone is vaccinated or recovered. If one person is present who is not vaccinated or recovered and is aged over 16, only up to 10 people may gather; a maximum of 50 people are allowed at private gatherings and parties outdoors.

The ECDC ([15 December 2021](#)) recommend that large public or private gatherings should be avoided.

On [30 December 2021](#) South Africa advised that gatherings should be restricted to no more than 1,000 people indoors and no more than 2,000 people outdoors. Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used. All other restrictions remain in place.

Primary schools

In Ireland, parents are being asked to prioritise their children's activities by minimising indoor community gatherings and indoor mixed household gatherings, reducing the risk of exposure to the virus by opting for outdoor activities instead of indoor and reducing the number of children involved in any particular activity. Face masks are also required in third class and above in primary school ([10 December 2021](#)).

In Belgium, pre-primary and primary education settings re-opened on 10 January 2022 ([6 January 2022](#)). Preventive measures including effective ventilation, mandatory face masks from the age of six, year groups restricting movements following four infections (children with symptoms), meetings must continue to be held virtually, and the avoidance of mixing of year groups in communal indoor areas as much as possible. Day excursions are allowed in accordance with the applicable rules and out-of-school activities with an overnight stay remain prohibited.

In Czechia, from [17 January 2022](#) pupils and staff will be tested once per week.

In Denmark, face masks or visors are required in day care and primary schools for parents, visitors, students, and staff when they move around in the institution and stay in common areas. This requirement does not apply for teaching or exams. Indoor day care should be organised so that children are in assigned groups and each group is as far from each other as possible ([18 December 2021](#)).

Recommendations as per [16 January 2022](#) note that pupils from 1st grade onwards and staff in primary and lower secondary school are strongly encouraged to get tested on a weekly basis, unless they are fully vaccinated or previously infected with COVID-19 within the last six months. Twice weekly tests are recommended in municipalities and parishes with high infection rates.

In Finland, in areas where the epidemic is particularly severe, exceptional teaching arrangements such as hybrid teaching or distance learning can be implemented if necessary ([7 January 2022](#)). On [7 January 2022](#), it was recommended that all pupils in primary schools should be tested for COVID-19 twice a week. If several COVID-19 infections are identified in a teaching group, a decision to increase the testing interval to 3–5 times a week could be made.

France has issued new IPC guidance for schools which came into effect from [14 January](#) (see changes in IPC section for full details). France are at level 3 of the health protocol in primary schools (that is, face mask must be worn in the playgrounds and there should be limited mixing in the canteen and high-intensity

sports activities indoors). The rule of closing the class for a period of seven days from the first positive case no longer applies to primary schools since the week of 29 November 2021; students presenting a negative PCR test within 24 hours can continue to go to school. However, mass screening in the event of a positive case in a class is maintained and classes are closed when there are more than three positive cases ([6 December 2021](#)).

In Germany, since 2 December 2021, an incidence-independent and nationwide mask requirement has been applied in schools for all grade levels. If the federal state meets the criteria for the alarm levels, singing in closed rooms is only allowed with a mask. Playing wind instruments is only permitted in very large rooms or outdoors ([26 November 2021](#)).

In Italy, when there is a positive case in a class, activity in the classroom can continue by carrying out rapid or molecular antigen tests as soon as the case is identified and after five days. In the presence of two or more positive cases, distance learning is expected for ten days for the class in which the positive cases occur ([5 January 2022](#)).

In the Netherlands, primary schools, schools for special education and out-of-school care centres reopened on [10 January 2022](#).

In Norway, levels of public health measures in schools are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). All kindergartens and primary schools moved to yellow level by 16 December 2021 and have remained at this level. There can be a maximum of 20 participants at indoor activities, unless all of the participants come from the same class at kindergarten or school. Outdoor activities can be carried out as normal. For team sports, only individual matches are recommended. For individual sports, it is recommended to limit the group size of the competitions ([14 January 2022](#)). Regular twice weekly testing is recommended for employees and parents ([18 January 2022](#)). Testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission. Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last three months and those who have received their booster dose (no time limit).

In Portugal, schools reopened on [10 January 2022](#). There will be testing of teachers and students in the first two weeks after returning to school.

In England, recommendations were updated on [2 January 2022](#). Face coverings should be worn by staff, adults, and those aged over 11 (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas.

Second-level education

In Ireland, there has been no updated advice since 26 November 2021.

In Belgium, second-level education settings re-opened on 10 January 2022 ([6 January 2022](#)). Preventive measures including effective ventilation, mandatory face masks from the age of six, year groups restricting movements following four infections (children with symptoms), meetings must continue to be held virtually, and the avoidance of mixing of year groups in communal indoor areas as much as possible. Day excursions are allowed in accordance with the applicable rules and out-of-school activities with an overnight stay remain prohibited.

In Czechia, from [17 January 2022](#), testing will be carried out once a week for pupils and staff.

Regulations for second-level schools in Denmark are the same as those for primary schools ([29 November 2021](#)). Parents, visitors, students, and staff are required to wear face masks or visors in second-level schools ([18 December 2021](#)).

In Finland, in areas where the epidemic is particularly severe, exceptional teaching arrangements such as hybrid teaching or distance learning can be implemented if necessary ([7 January 2022](#)). On [7 January 2022](#), it was recommended that all pupils in secondary schools should be tested for COVID-19 twice a week. If several COVID-19 infections are identified in a teaching group, a decision to increase the testing interval to 3–5 times a week could be made.

France has issued new IPC guidance for schools which came into effect from [14 January](#) (see changes in IPC section for full details).

In Germany, masks are mandatory for all when attending second-level education.

In Italy, when there are two cases in the same class, integrated digital teaching is provided for those who have completed the primary vaccination cycle more than 120 days ago, who have recovered for more than 120 days, who have not received the booster dose. For all the others, classroom activities can continue with regular self-testing and the use of FFP2 masks in the classroom. With three cases in the same class, distance learning is expected for ten days ([5 January 2022](#)).

In the Netherlands, secondary schools and schools for special education reopened on [10 January 2022](#), with secondary vocational education reopening on [15 January 2022](#).

In Norway, levels of public health measures in school are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). Lower secondary schools (age 13 to 16), must operate at a yellow level. A maximum of 20 participants at indoor activities are permitted, unless all of the participants come from the same cohort. Outdoor activities can be carried out as normal. For team sports, only individual matches are recommended. For individual sports, it is recommended to limit the group size of the competitions ([14 January 2022](#)). A green level was recommended in upper secondary schools on ([14 January 2022](#)). Regular twice weekly testing is recommended ([18 January 2022](#)) for middle school and high school staff and students. Testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission. Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last 3 months and people who have received their booster dose (no time limit).

In England, as of [7 December 2021](#), face masks should be worn in communal areas of second-level schools by staff, visitors and pupils in year seven and above. From [4 January 2022](#), it is recommend that in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms. As of [3 January 2022](#), all secondary school students and staff have been advised to test twice per week.

In Wales, from [29 November 2021](#) face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in all indoor areas of all settings, including classrooms, where physical distance cannot be maintained. Face coverings also should be worn by secondary aged learners in all indoor areas, including classrooms, where physical distance cannot be maintained.

In Switzerland, in addition to routine testing, masks will be encouraged in lower second-level schools and mandatory in upper second-level schools ([17 December 2021](#)).

To minimise disruption to in-person learning, the CDC have advised that schools may consider forgoing restriction of movements for students ages 12-17 years who completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters ([13 January 2022](#)).

Higher and adult education

In Ireland, there has been no updated advice since 26 November 2021.

In Czechia, rooms and venues where conferences and lectures are held are closed ([17 December 2021](#)).

In Denmark, parents, visitors, students, and staff are required to wear face masks or visors in higher and adult education ([18 December 2021](#)). A COVID certificate is required at educational institutions such as universities, youth education and language schools ([4 January 2022](#)). From [16 January 2022](#), all students, course participants, as well as employees at youth and adult education institutions are encouraged to be tested twice a week. This also applies to students, course participants as well as employees who have been vaccinated or previously infected and thus have a valid COVID passport.

In Germany, masks are mandatory for all when attending higher and adult education.

In Italy, proof of vaccination, recovery or a recent negative test is required to access university ([5 December 2021](#)).

In the Netherlands, higher education can reopen for in-person learning ([15 January 2022](#)).

In Norway, levels of public health measures in school are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). A green level was recommended in adult education on ([14 January 2022](#)). Regular twice weekly testing is recommended ([1 January 2022](#)) for staff and students. Testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission. Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last three months and people who have received their booster dose (no time limit).

In England, as of [7 December 2021](#), face masks should be worn in communal areas of universities and colleges by staff and visitors. As of [3 January 2022](#), students and staff have been advised to test twice per week.

In Scotland on [17 December 2021](#), advice was issued on limitations on in-person teaching and strengthening of mitigation measures where possible. The advice was that activities that could be undertaken online, would be undertaken online.

Students were advised to perform lateral flow tests before they return to campus and to ensure that they avail of vaccination (including booster doses).

In Sweden, from [23 December 2021](#), infection control measures are recommended for adult education, so that congestion and large gatherings are avoided. For universities and colleges, distance education can be used as a tool to limit numbers on the premises.

In Switzerland, restrictions were introduced from [20 December 2021](#) until 24 January 2022, stating that access to certain educational offerings and exams is limited to people who are vaccinated or recovered or have a certificate for a negative test result, masks must be worn.

Business activities

In Ireland, everyone should work from home unless it is necessary to attend the workplace in person. This means a return to the situation on working from home as it applied before 20 September 2021 ([10 December 2021](#)).

In Austria, retail establishments (including close body services) may only be entered with valid 2G proof (proof of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19). Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol ([12 December 2021](#)). The 3G obligation (proof of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 and negative test) applies at the place of work. From [11 January 2022](#) there should also be a significant reduction in contacts at the workplace and employees should generally work from home wherever possible.

In Belgium and France, remote working, where possible, is obligatory, with a maximum of one day per week in the office ([Belgium](#)) and a minimum of three days per week out of the office and four days when possible ([France](#)). Team building and parties in the workplace are prohibited in Belgium ([3 December 2021](#)) and France ([3 January 2022](#)). From [3 January 2022](#) in France, it is required to regularly ventilate the rooms with natural or a mechanical ventilation system and to facilitate the measurement of carbon dioxide in the air in busy areas and during busy periods.

In Czechia, legal entities' board meetings and elections are allowed to take place, however, it is necessary to adhere to all public health regulations ([26 November 2021](#)). In shopping centres it is not possible to eat directly in food courts ([26 November 2021](#)). Rooms and venues where conferences and lectures are held are closed ([17 December 2021](#)). As of [3 January 2022](#), wherever customers and clients are required to provide proof of vaccination or illness, it will introduce an obligation for operators to check the validity of certificates. As of [17 January 2022](#), all employees in both the public and the private sectors, as well as self-employed persons and agents of legal entities, if they come into contact with people outside their households, will have to get tested at their workplace twice a week.

In [Denmark](#), from [16 January 2022](#) for people who physically attend work it is advised to work at home extensively in both public and private workplaces and that meetings should be held virtually. It is advised to cancel major social events at workplaces. Municipal employers can require their employees to present a COVID certificate. Employers may also require employees to be tested for COVID-19 and disclose the result of the test. However, employers must be able to objectively justify that a test is necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19 infection. Employees in the state and the regions will be required to present a COVID certificate. At restaurants,

cafés and bars, individuals must present a COVID certificate or similar. Face masks or shields must be worn when not seated. Staff with customer contact must also wear face masks or shields, and both customers and staff must wear a face mask or shield in grocery stores, shops and shopping centres. All stores and shopping centres are open.

In Finland, at general meetings, the organiser does not have to check for COVID-19 passes, but the meeting must comply with general restrictions ([26 November 2021](#)).

In Germany, access to the workplace is restricted to only those vaccinated, recovered or persons with a negative test (rapid test 24 hours, PCR test valid for 48 hours). Employers also continue to offer a free test option at least twice a week. If there are no operational reasons against it, home office must be made possible ([7 January 2022](#)). People who have not been vaccinated or do not have proof of infection are only allowed to shop in grocery shops and pharmacies. In all other shops, only vaccinated and recovered people are allowed to enter ([3 December 2021](#)).

In Italy, proof of vaccination, recovery or a recent negative test is required to access workplaces for public workers and private individuals, and during weekends to access shopping malls ([5 December 2021](#)).

In the Netherlands the following measures are in place:

- All hospitality venues are closed, except for delivery and takeaway.
- All non-essential shops can reopen until 17:00. People must stay 1.5 metres apart and wear face masks, the number of shoppers must be limited, and hygiene rules must be followed.
- Essential shops, such as supermarkets and chemists, can open until 20:00. Face masks must be worn. The maximum number of shoppers is one per 5m².
- Certain locations, such as petrol stations, pharmacies, libraries, driving schools, notaries' offices and lawyers' offices can open for their normal hours.
- All locations where non-medical contact-based professions are carried out, such as hairdressers and beauty salons may see customers before 17:00.
- Work from home. If this is impossible, stay 1.5 metres apart at work ([15 January 2022](#)).

In Norway, updated guidance on [14 December 2021](#) stated that employers are required to ensure that employees work from home if this is feasible provided it does not have a negative impact on services that are important and necessary for the business, including activities to protect children and vulnerable groups.

Recommendations on ventilation requirements for workplaces were published on [21 December 2021](#).

In Portugal, working from home was made mandatory up until [14 January 2021](#) and was made a recommendation post this date.

From [8 December 2021](#), the Swedish Public Health Agency have recommended that employers make it easier for employees to get vaccinated and inform them about the importance of staying at home when they have symptoms. Employers should also ensure that it is possible for employees to keep their distance from each other. Large indoor gatherings with many participants should be avoided. Where possible, employees should work from home. In restaurants, the number of visitors should be limited to allow physical distancing, or additional space should be created. Queuing should be limited through pre-booking. These recommendations are in place until 31 January 2022.

In [Northern Ireland](#), the advice is to work from home where possible. From 27 December 2021, two metre social distancing is required in office settings. As offices vary significantly in terms of size, layout and capacity, alternative measures such as screens should be put in place where two metre social distancing cannot be achieved.

In Wales, the [advice](#) is to work from home if you can. From [27 December 2021](#) there will be a 2 metre rule on social distancing in offices and extra measures to protect staff, such as physical barriers and one-way systems.

In Scotland, the advice from [10 December 2021](#) is to work from home if you can. In Scotland anyone who was working from home at the start of the pandemic is requested to do so now again. For those in sectors where working from home is not possible, regular testing with lateral flow tests should be undertaken ([14 December 2021](#)).

In Switzerland, working from home is mandatory. Employers may check whether their employees are vaccinated or recovered or have a certificate for a negative test result (3G) if this is necessary for deciding on appropriate precautionary measures or for implementing testing concepts. Masks are compulsory for all employees in indoor areas where several people are present. Exceptions apply in situations where a mask

cannot be worn for safety reasons or owing to the nature of the activity as well as to people who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. In particular, there is no exception to the mask-wearing requirement if it is an establishment in which employees meet the 2G+ requirements (vaccinated or recovered within last 4 months or vaccinated or recovered with negative test) ([20 December 2021](#)).

Culture, leisure and entertainment

In Ireland, all restaurants, bars and cafes, excluding takeaway or delivery services, must close at 20:00. This also applies to hotel restaurants and bars, except for overnight residents. Strict social distancing is required in all bars and restaurants, including hotels. The following measures are currently in place:

- COVID Pass required
- table service only (no counter service)
- 1 metre between tables
- maximum 6 adults per table (maximum 15 persons when including children aged 12 and younger)
- no multiple table bookings and no intermingling
- masks when not seated at table

Nightclubs are closed. ([31 December 2021](#)).

In Austria, access to restaurants is only permitted with a 2G certificate. FFP2 masks are required indoors and outdoors except when seated. Indoor functions can take place for up to 25 people indoors and up to 300 people outdoors. At markets where there is no consumption of food or drink, access is only permitted with valid 2G certificate, an FFP2 mask is required and operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol. The same rules are in place for markets at which food and or drink is consumed, but there is a maximum limit of 300 people allowed to access the market at one time ([12 December 2021](#)).

In Belgium, the opening hours in the catering industry are limited to 05:00 to 23:00. The number of people per table is limited to six, although a household may share a table, regardless of the size of that household. Only seats at the table are allowed ([26 November 2021](#)). Nightclubs and dance halls were closed on [26 November 2021](#). Since [3 December 2021](#), all indoor private activities and gatherings are temporarily prohibited, including organised activities, with the exception of sport, private meetings at home or in small tourist accommodation, and weddings and funerals. Events with more than 4,000 visitors can no longer take place from 4 December 2021. Since [6 December 2021](#), indoor activities (events, cultural and other performances and conferences) are allowed under the following conditions: a maximum of 200 visitors, sitting, with face masks and the use of the Covid Safe Ticket if 50 visitors or more.

In Czechia, catering establishments and music, dance, gaming and similar social clubs and discos, gaming rooms and casinos must close between 22:00 and 04:59 ([25 November 2021](#)). For events such as concerts and performances in theatres a maximum attendance of 3,000 people is permitted, and strict public health rules must be observed ([26 November 2021](#)). Fairs and similar traditional events can take place with a limit of 2,000 people outside and 1,000 indoors, but public health measures must be followed ([26 November 2021](#)). The maximum attendance at leisure activities for children and adults has been reduced from 1,000 to 100 participants ([26 November 2021](#)). From [2 January 2022](#) entry to the sports grounds is prohibited for persons who do not meet the ON (O-N-(T) system is based on three basic pillars: vaccination, tests, and having COVID-19 in the past), persons during group lessons must keep 1.5 m apart and the operator must ensure air circulation. There are restrictions on visits and tours of museums, and other culture sites. Visitors must keep 1.5 m apart, participants of the group tour must meet ON, otherwise the group tour may be attended by a maximum of 20 people.

[Denmark](#) requires restaurants, bars and cafés to close from 23:00 to 05:00. Face masks must be worn at restaurants, bars and cafes when guests are not sitting down. Alcohol must not be served or sold between 22:00 and 05:00. Discos and nightclubs are closed. Consumption of alcohol on buses is forbidden. From [16 January 2022](#) there is a participation limit of 1,500 people indoors separated in three sections of maximum 500 people in cinemas, venues and rooms where concerts, art performances, screenings, big screen events, conferences, lectures etc. are held and at indoor sporting events with spectators. Spectators must be seated. Libraries, archives, music schools, amusement parks, zoos and aquariums have re-opened. A COVID passport is required for the aforementioned venues. A COVID passport must also be presented to visit gyms and swimming pools and a face mask or shield must be worn when not being physically active. Arcades, casinos, play centres and water parks, trade fairs, rooms used for rent for parties such as weddings, confirmations and birthdays and rooms and venues where concerts and other cultural events are held with standing audiences remain closed. For church and religious communities, a COVID passport or similar must be presented if there is access for more than 100 people indoor and 1,000 people outdoor.

In Finland, since [28 December 2022](#), serving of alcoholic beverages in all food and beverage service businesses must end at 17:00. Food and beverage service businesses that primarily serve alcoholic beverages are required to close at 18:00.

In France, nightclubs are closed until 24 January 2021. Dancing is also prohibited in restaurants or bars ([3 January 2021](#)).

In Germany, since [7 December 2021](#) only vaccinated and recovered people with a daily test or with a booster vaccination (from the day of the booster vaccination) can visit restaurants, cinemas, theatres and other leisure facilities. Since [28 December 2022](#) clubs and discos are closed.

Italy requires proof of vaccination or recovery when attending restaurants and bars, shows (such as theatre performances), parties and nightclubs, theatrical halls, concert halls, cinematographic, local entertainment live music, dance halls and discos (with capacity at 100%). Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test is required for indoor access to exhibitions, museums and other places of culture ([5 December 2021](#)).

In the Netherlands, all hospitality venues are closed, except for delivery and takeaway. Cinemas, museums, theatres and concert venues are also closed ([19 December 2021](#)). All indoor and outdoor sports activities and artistic and cultural activities (such as music, theatre and dance) are permitted again, but without spectators and or audiences ([15 January 2022](#)). People over 18 taking part in sports indoors or in artistic and cultural activities indoors and outdoors must show a coronavirus entry pass ([15 January 2022](#)).

In Norway, from ([13 January 2022](#)), outdoor activities can be carried out as normal, with contact where necessary. A maximum of 20 people can participate in indoor activities and a distance of 1 metre is recommended. During intensive training, arrangements should be made for a distance of 2 metre. Guidance published on [17 January 2022](#) states that in licensed establishments, alcoholic drinks cannot be served after 23:00, and cannot be consumed after 23:30. Alcoholic drinks must be served at the table. Venues that serve food must not organise activities that naturally entail a shorter distance between guests than 1 metre (for example dancing). Venues that serve food or alcohol may not serve more than 30 guests at private indoor events or more than 50 outdoors. Amusement parks, soft play centres, amusement arcades, etc. must be closed. Indoor swimming pools, water parks, spa facilities, hotel pools, and fitness centres may open for limited activities.

In Portugal, a negative test is required to access corporate events, cultural shows and sports venues ([22 December 2021](#)). A reduction in capacity of all commercial spaces to 1 person per 5 m² was also introduced ([22 December](#)). Bars and clubs can reopen from [14 January 2022](#).

In Sweden, for cultural and leisure activities indoors, such as museums, art galleries and gyms, each person must have at least 10 m² at their disposal. There is an exception for activities aimed at children and young people born in 2002 and later

([28 December 2021](#)). From 12 January 2021, there will be a requirement of a maximum of eight people per party at serving places, 1 metre between the parties and only seated guests. Also closing times can be no later than 23:00 ([10 January 2021](#)).

In Northern Ireland, since 26 December 2021, dancing is not permitted in hospitality settings. Since [27 December 2021](#), a maximum of six people can be seated together in hospitality settings. More than six will be permitted if they all belong to a single household, as long as it is no more than 10. Children aged 12 and under are not counted in the total. This requirement does not apply to weddings and civil partnerships. Table service is also required and apart from entering and leaving the premises, the only movement allowed indoors is to access toilet or baby changing facilities, to select food from a buffet or to pay.

In [Wales](#) the requirement to check individuals' COVID passes are required in any venue that meets the following three criteria:

- authorised to serve or supply alcohol
- open late at night between the hours of midnight and 05:00
- where music is provided for dancing (this includes silent discos).

The venue must meet all three criteria to be captured by the requirement to operate a COVID pass. However, if music is provided for dancing, the requirement to operate the pass applies at all times in the venue (not just between the hours of midnight and 05:00). From [27 December 2021](#) nightclubs are closed.

In Switzerland, restrictions were introduced from [20 December 2021](#) until 24 January 2022. Access to indoor events for people aged 16 and over is restricted to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G); masks must be worn for all events indoors. Where neither wearing masks nor compulsory seating is possible, only vaccinated or recovered people who can present a certificate for a negative test result (2G+) are admitted. The requirement for a 2G or 2G+ certificate includes access to restaurants, bars and clubs. At outdoor events, access for people aged 16 and over is also restricted to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). The organiser can voluntarily limit access to vaccinated or recovered people who also have a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). Access restrictions can be waived if not more than 300 people are admitted and guests do not dance. For outdoor sports and cultural activities, there is no obligation to restrict access, to wear a face mask or to maintain the required distance.

In South Africa, alcohol establishments that have licences to operate beyond 23:00 will revert back to full licence conditions ([30 December 2021](#)).

Changes in infection, prevention and control guidance

In Ireland, advice for close contacts was updated on [17 January 2022](#). Close contacts who are aged 13 years or older and boosted (that is, have had their primary vaccinations and booster more than seven days before the close contact, or have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccination and recovered from COVID-19 in the past three months), do not need to restrict their movements unless they become symptomatic. Instead, they should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days. They should take regular antigen tests over seven days, with the last test on day seven. Close contacts who are aged 13 years and older who are not boosted, or have not had their primary vaccinations, should follow the same advice regarding use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days and regular antigen tests over seven days, with the last test on day seven. However, in addition they should restrict their movements for seven days. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen) should isolate for a minimum of seven days; those with symptoms should isolate for seven days from the date of onset of symptoms, while those without symptoms should isolate for seven days from the date of the first positive test. Self-isolation can end after seven days if symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final two of those seven days.

On [1 December 2021](#), Austria announced a recommendation that a distance of two metres should be kept from people outside the household. For employees in retirement and nursing homes, residential facilities, hospitals and health services facilities, the 3G *vaccinated, negatively PCR-tested, or recovered from COVID-19*) is required. An FFP2 mask is compulsory in all closed rooms, unless other suitable protective devices are available. Visitors are only permitted access with a valid 2G certificate and a valid PCR test (or antigen test) must also be presented. An FFP2 mask is required by visitors. Residents can have a maximum of two visits per day in retirement and nursing homes and residential facilities; those in hospitals and health services facilities can have one visit per day ([12 December 2021](#)). From [11 January 2022](#) pregnant people who do not have valid 2G evidence may instead show a negative PCR test. Access to high-risk settings (that is to 2G + and Booster + settings) is not permitted for unvaccinated pregnant women.

In Belgium, a new testing and isolation and restriction of movement policy came into effect on [10 January 2022](#). A PCR test is required for those older than six years who have COVID-19-related symptoms, for those who have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19 and for those who have been abroad or wish to have a COVID test certificate. Restriction of movement is required if a person is symptomatic, not fully vaccinated and had a high-risk contact with a person who has COVID-19 and in some cases where a person has abroad for more than 48 hours or will be staying in Belgium for more than 48 hours. Self-isolation is for a minimum of

seven days and can end if there has been no fever for at least three days and if there is a clinical improvement in symptoms.

In Czechia updated guidance recommends all other members of the household will need a PCR test if a member of the household tests positive, even if vaccinated and asymptomatic. They do not need to restrict movements but must wear a respirator until they receive a not-detected PCR test result (days 5 to 7 after contact with the infected person) ([29 November 2021](#)). From [11 January 2022](#) the ordered isolation and restriction on movements will be reduced to at least five days. Persons with a positive antigen test result will be able to end their isolation immediately after receiving a negative result of a subsequent RT-PCR test. People with COVID-19 symptoms will have to extend their five-day isolation and wait at least two days after the symptoms improve after a risk contact. Individuals who are COVID-19 vaccinated and recovered persons must also restrict movements.

In Denmark, from [12 January 2022](#) if a close contact has been vaccinated with a third dose or has been infected within the last 12 weeks, self-isolation is not necessary, but it is recommended to be tested. Testing on day 4 should be a PCR test, while the test on day 6 can be a rapid antigen test. If a close contact has not been vaccinated with third dose or infected in last 12 weeks they should immediately restrict their movements and take a test on day 4 and day 6 after the last contact with the infected person. The fourth day test should be a PCR test, while the test on day 6 can be a rapid antigen test. Restriction of movements may end if there is a negative outcome to the test taken on day 4. If distance cannot be maintained from the infected person a rapid antigen test is recommended as soon as possible as well as a PCR test again 48 hours after the infected person no longer has symptoms. If the infected person has no symptoms, in addition to the rapid test as soon as possible, a PCR test 7 days after the infected person's positive test was taken is recommended. Restriction of movement may end on receipt of a negative result to the last test.

In Finland, testing is not required for anyone experiencing mild symptoms. However, they are asked to voluntarily avoid people from outside their home, until five days have passed since symptom onset or they have been asymptomatic for at least two days. If several family members become ill, this five-day period should be calculated from the time when the last family member starts showing symptoms. Testing should be conducted when indicated by a healthcare professional, or for a person who works with clients or patients in social welfare and healthcare, or if a person is in a risk group for a serious COVID-19, or if the person is pregnant ([14 January 2022](#)). Home tests are recommended for those with mild symptoms and those exposed to coronavirus. There is no automatic need to confirm a positive test result

with a healthcare test, although it is still recommended within local testing capacity ([12 January 2022](#)).

From 14 January in France, new isolation guidance for close contacts in all school settings comes into effect ([13 January 2022](#)). When a positive case is detected in a classroom, children can use three self-tests (instead of a PCR test followed by two self-tests), which are provided free of charge. Parents will no longer be asked to produce a certificate after each self-test; instead, a single certificate will be requested.

In France, fully vaccinated persons (booster must be performed for people aged 18 and over) who test positive are required to isolate for seven days, and persons not fully vaccinated for 10 days, after the date of the symptom onset or the date of the positive test sample ([3 January 2022](#)). No test is required to end isolation. However, after five days (fully vaccinated) or seven days (not fully vaccinated), they can be released from isolation if they have a negative antigen or RT-PCR test result; and no clinical signs of infection for 48 hours. For close contacts, testing (antigen or PCR) is required when notified of being a close contact and also two self-tests on day two and day four after the last contact with the positive case, with all positive self-tests confirmed by PCR. Fully vaccinated persons (booster must be performed for ages 18 and over) and children under 12 years old are no longer required to restrict movements but must follow testing guidance and strictly follow general social distancing guidance, avoid at-risk individuals and work from home when possible. Those not fully vaccinated must restrict their movements for seven days. To end restriction of movements, those not fully vaccinated must have a negative antigen or RT-PCR result taken on day seven ([3 January 2022](#)). It is no longer mandatory to perform a PCR test to confirm a positive antigen test. However, a PCR test is still necessary after a positive self-test. If an antigen test result is negative for people over 65 years of age who have symptoms, or for people with risk factors for developing a severe form, confirmation of the antigen test by RT-PCR is required ([10 January 2022](#)). On [6 December 2021](#), France announced a recommendation to ventilate enclosed spaces for 10 minutes every hour.

Federal and state governments of Germany agreed ([7 January 2022](#)), that the rules for the isolation (of patients) and restriction of movements (for contacts) would change. Contact persons who show complete vaccination protection through the booster vaccination will be exempt from restriction of movement. This also applies to comparable groups (newly vaccinated and recovered, etc.). For all others, the isolation or restriction of movements ends after ten days (without a test). The restriction of movement or isolation can be ended early, after seven days with a negative PCR or rapid test (with proof). If employees in hospitals, nursing homes

and integration assistance facilities want to end the isolation after seven days, they must be free of symptoms for at least 48 hours and have a negative PCR test or Ct value over 30. For schoolchildren and children in the childcare services, the restriction of movement can be ended after five days with a PCR or antigen rapid test. Exceptions to restriction of movements are possible if there is a high level of protection (for example daily tests and mask requirements).

In [Italy](#), precautionary restriction of movements does not apply to those who have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case if they have completed their primary vaccination course or have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 120 days. However, they should wear FFP2 masks and if symptomatic, should take an antigen test or PCR test on the fifth day following exposure ([29 December 2021](#)).

In the Netherlands, those who have symptoms must stay at home and do a self-test. If the result is positive get a PCR test. If the PCR test is positive, they must self-isolate for ten days; self-isolation can end with a negative test on day five. Close contacts of a person who has COVID-19 do not need to restrict their movements if they do not have symptoms themselves and they received their booster vaccination at least one week ago or have had COVID-19 in the past eight weeks. Additional advice on restriction of movements for people in certain jobs who have not yet received their booster vaccination or have not had COVID-19 recently is expected to be issued soon ([15 January 2022](#)).

In Norway, restriction of movement rules differ depending on a person's history of recent infection, booster vaccine status and age. Rapid antigen or PCR tests are recommended for COVID-19 testing. Non-household close contacts are not obligated to restrict movements. It is recommended that they test on day 3 and 5 after last contact. If a non-household contact has had COVID-19 in the last 3 months or are included in regular testing, they do not need to follow these test recommendations ([14 January 2022](#)). However, it is recommended they monitor their symptoms for 10 days after exposure. Regular testing is recommended for COVID-19 in kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities ([18 January 2022](#)). Exceptions from testing apply to those who have had COVID-19 or have received their primary vaccinations in the last 3 months, those who have received their booster dose (no time limit), and those who do not want to be tested (testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission).

In Portugal since [1 December 2021](#) there is a mandatory negative test requirement (including for vaccinated people) in accessing home visits, visits to patients admitted to health facilities, large events without marked seats (or in improvised venues) and sports venues. Since [22 December 2021](#), this was extended to weddings and

baptisms, tourist establishments and local accommodation, corporate events, cultural shows and sports venues. Free tests in pharmacies increased from four to six per person (time frame not stated). Since [10 January 2022](#) the isolation period has been reduced to seven days. Isolation only applies to positive cases and their cohabitants. Individuals who have received a booster dose are exempt from isolation.

Spain's central and regional health authorities have agreed on updated close contact guidance for school settings. Restriction of movement for the entire group will be recommended only when there are five or more cases of active infections in the classroom, or over 20% of students are affected, in a period equal to or shorter than seven days ([7 January 2022](#)). Spain updated isolation (cases) and restriction of movement (close contacts) policy, reducing the period from 10 days to 7 days ([29 December 2021](#)). Close contacts who are vaccinated are not required to restrict movements ([21 December 2021](#)). The Health Ministry is finalising a coronavirus surveillance plan that will mirror the one used for the flu, which will mean a move to a sentinel reporting system for COVID-19 infections. Single diagnosed infection will no longer be reported and administration of tests will be more selective; this will be based on clinical judgment and not self-diagnosed symptoms, with surveillance data being extrapolated from a significant sample of the population. There is no set date, although the transition is not expected before the end of the current wave ([10 January 2022](#)). Five of Spain's regions are already rehearsing a pilot monitoring program in their healthcare centres, while nine are doing so in hospitals ([13 January 2022](#)).

In Sweden, school children who share a home with someone who has or has recently had COVID-19 must stay at home for seven days and take a PCR test ([7 January 2022](#)).

On [30 December 2021](#), guidance was updated in England to reflect changes in self-isolation requirements for those with a positive COVID-19 test result. These individuals are required to self-isolate for 10 days, from [17 January 2022](#), they will be able to leave self-isolation after negative lateral flow tests on days five and six. Household contacts who are aged 18 years or over and not fully vaccinated are legally required to stay at home and restrict movements for 10 days. Those who are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and living in the same household as someone with COVID-19, are not legally required to restrict their movements. However, they are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for seven days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive. On [11 January 2022](#), guidance was updated whereby a follow-up PCR test is no longer required after a positive lateral flow test.

As of [31 December 2021](#) in Northern Ireland, people with a positive PCR test should isolate for 10 days from the date the PCR test was taken or the date symptoms started, whichever is sooner. However, they may be able to end the self-isolation period before the end of the 10 days provided they have two negative lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart in the absence of a high temperature. These can be taken from day six of the isolation period. The second test should be taken the following day at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. The earliest anyone can end isolation is on day seven (providing the tests on day six and seven are both negative). Adults who are aged 18 and over and are either unvaccinated, have had one dose only, or if it is less than 14 days since the second dose, should self-isolate immediately for 10 days following last contact with the positive person if they become a close contact. They do not need to book a PCR test unless they develop symptoms. Fully vaccinated adults who become close contacts are advised to isolate and take a lateral flow test as soon as possible. If this is negative, they can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case. If any lateral flow test is positive they should isolate immediately. From [5 January 2022](#), those with a positive lateral flow test will no longer need a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure given the current very high COVID-19 prevalence.

In Scotland, those who have symptoms, should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. Anyone with a positive test, should self-isolate for 10 days from the date the symptoms started or from the date of the test if they have no symptoms. If they develop symptoms, they should re-start self-isolation from the day the symptoms started. People do not need to re-start self-isolation if someone they live with tests positive during the 10 day self-isolation. For those with a positive lateral flow test but no symptoms, they and their household should self-isolate immediately for 10 days from the date of the positive lateral flow test. From [6 January 2022](#), they are no longer required to take a PCR test to confirm the result. From [6 January 2022](#), it will be possible to end self-isolation earlier than 10 days if a person has no fever and negative lateral flow tests on days six and seven of their isolation period. From [6 January 2022](#), close contacts of positive cases are no longer required to restrict movements and are now required to take a lateral flow test every day for seven days. If one of these tests is positive, restriction of movements will then be required. Close contacts who are over 18 years and not fully vaccinated will still be asked to restrict movements for 10 days and to take a PCR test.

In South Africa, on the [24 December 2021](#) significant changes were made to IPC guidance. However, following feedback from the media, stakeholders and the public, these recommendations have been postponed ([see here](#)) in order to take additional input into consideration. The new guidance recommends that all contact tracing be discontinued except in congregated settings, cluster outbreak situations or self-

contained settings. All contacts of confirmed cases may continue their normal duties, and there is no longer a requirement to restrict movements, albeit with heightened monitoring (daily temperature testing, symptom screening) for any early sign of infection. If contacts develop symptoms they should be tested and managed according to the severity of the symptoms, but should not be tested, prior to developing symptoms. Isolation rules are applicable to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and to both low- and high-risk individuals. Individuals may return to work after eight days, if clinical status allows, but only those well enough to work should do so. No further testing is required following the isolation period.

As of [31 December 2021](#) in Wales, people who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for seven days. On days six and seven they should take rapid lateral flow tests 24 hours apart. If the results are positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get two negative tests, or after day 10, whichever is sooner. For those aged 18 and over, and not fully vaccinated who become close contacts, they must self-isolate from the day they were last in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 and for the next 10 days. Fully vaccinated adults or those aged between 5 and 17 do not need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact but are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for seven days or until 10 days since the last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. As of [6 January 2022](#), a positive lateral flow test result will not require a confirmatory PCR test for most people.

In [Switzerland](#), those (aged 6 and over) who have symptoms should stay at home and avoid all contact with other people. They should have a PCR test immediately, even if they have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID. If the test is positive, self-isolate immediately for five days. Close contacts who have been vaccinated or recovered before the contact do not need to restrict movements; this applies for 12 months.

The ECDC ([15 December 2021](#)) recommend that for probable or confirmed cases of Omicron infection, contact tracing should be prioritised, regardless of vaccination status, in a timely manner and as completely as possible. For probable or confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection, the following is also recommended:

- backward contact tracing (that is, tracing back contacts further than two days before symptom onset or positive result)
- testing of all high and low-risk exposure contacts (that is, starting to trace the contacts of the household members of a case while awaiting their testing results)
- releasing high-risk exposure contacts only after a negative RT-PCR test taken on day 14.

In guidance published on [28 November 2021](#), the WHO stated that contact tracing of COVID-19 cases to interrupt chains of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is strongly advised and that early warning systems should be in place to inform efficient adjustment of public health and social measures. The ECDC published similar advice on [26 November 2021](#), their guidance states at this early stage increased testing (with the sequencing of confirmed cases), and contact tracing of COVID-19 cases with an epidemiological link to the affected areas is strongly advised.

On [27 December 2021](#), the US CDC updated advice on isolation and quarantine recommendations for the public. The recommended time for isolation of those with COVID-19 has been shortened to five days and, if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms have resolved by this time, they should wear a mask for a further five days. For those exposed to COVID-19, and who are unvaccinated or more than 6 months from their second mRNA vaccine or two months from the J and J vaccine, five days quarantine as well as an additional five days of mask wearing is recommended. Those who have received a booster do not need to quarantine but should wear a mask for 10 days following exposure. If symptoms occur they should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19. To minimise disruption to in-person learning, schools may consider forgoing quarantine for students ages 12-17 years who completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters ([13 January 2022](#)).

Face coverings

In Ireland, face coverings are required in third class and above in primary school. The wearing of face masks is recommended for children aged nine years and older on public transport, in retail and other indoor public settings ([31 December 2021](#)). In addition, face masks are recommended if one has to break self-isolation in exceptional circumstances, at large and unmanageable gatherings, if considered high-risk or unvaccinated or visiting someone at high risk or unvaccinated. The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) ([1 December 2021](#)) recommend that medical grade masks are used by vulnerable and people at high risk in indoor or crowded outdoor places, people with a confirmed diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19 and close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19. As of [14 January 2022](#), FFP2 masks were also recommended for this purpose.

In Austria, updated advice from [11 January 2022](#) outlines that an FFP2 mask must be worn when vehicles are used by people who do not live in the same household. Wherever the recommended minimum distance of two meters from people outside the household cannot or is not observed, an FFP2 mask is required outdoors. This does not apply to situations where the minimum distance is only briefly exceeded, such as when simply "walking past" the sidewalk or during sports. Pregnant women and children from the age of 6 to 14 can wear a face mask or a close-fitting mechanical protective device instead of FFP2. Children under six are exempt from the mask requirement ([3 January 2022](#)).

Belgium announced on [2 December 2021](#) that it is now mandatory for children from six years old to wear a face mask.

In Czechia, from [13 December 2021](#) respiratory protective equipment with an efficiency of at least 94% is required on all means of public transport.

In Denmark, face masks are required in all public spaces such as on public transport, at cultural and sporting events, in shops, businesses, restaurants, cafes and bars when not seated, when visiting primary schools or day care, when attending second-level school or higher education, when attending or visiting health and social care settings and in common areas of public places. Face masks are recommended if one has to break self-isolation in exceptional circumstances ([20 December 2021](#)).

On [26 November 2021](#), Finland reissued its recommendation for mask use in public indoor spaces where many people are gathered close to each other and in public transport throughout the country, regardless of vaccination status. The use of face masks is not recommended outdoors, unless in crowded spaces. The recommendation is aimed at those over 12 years of age.

In France, wearing a face mask is compulsory from the age of six in internal public transport and in places open to the public ([13 January 2022](#)).

In Italy, masks are mandatory indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces; in bigger cities, mask mandates are in place for all outdoor spaces, regardless of the level of crowding ([5 December 2021](#)). FFP2 type masks are required at events open to the public that take place outdoors and indoors in theatres, concert halls, cinemas, entertainment and live music venues and for events and sports competitions that take place indoors or outdoors, and on all means of transport ([23 December 2021](#)).

In the [Netherlands](#), wearing a face mask is required by law (by those aged over 12 years) on public transport, such as trains, trams, buses and ferries; at stations, on platforms and at bus and tram stops; at airports and on planes; on other passenger transport, such as taxis or coaches; in public indoor spaces such as shops and libraries; at indoor events (where a coronavirus entry pass is mandatory, the face mask can be removed when seated); in primary schools: adults only, when moving around the building; in secondary schools: when moving around the building; in institutions for secondary vocational education and higher education: when moving around the building; at the hairdresser's, beauty salon, massage providers and other contact-based professions. Face masks can be taken off when seated, except on public transport and in planes.

In Norway, since [7 December 2021](#) it is mandatory to wear a face mask where social distancing (1 metre) cannot be maintained; this includes public transport, in taxis, in shops and in shopping centres. On [14 December 2021](#), requirements were expanded to include indoor events, libraries, and museums.

In Portugal, masks were made mandatory in closed spaces from [10 January 2021](#).

The use of face coverings were made mandatory in England on [30 November 2021](#) in indoor settings including, but not limited to shops, including personal care services, and on public transport, including taxis. From [10 December 2021](#), the face covering requirement was extended to other settings including, but not limited to, places of worship, public areas in hotels and hostels, indoor areas of sports stadiums, community centres (including village halls), youth centres, members clubs and social clubs and libraries. From [4 January 2022](#), face coverings are to be used in classroom settings for pupils and adults in Year 7 and above.

In Northern Ireland, since [27 December 2021](#), it is a legal requirement for all businesses, such as retail, hospitality, transport providers and close contact services to take reasonable measures to promote compliance with face coverings regulations. This may include effective signage, audio messaging, spot checks or providing face

coverings. Enforcement begins on 7 January 2022. Face coverings are mandatory on public transport (including school transport services, in taxis, private buses, coaches and on aircraft), in train and bus stations and in airports, in enclosed public areas of premises to which the public have or are permitted access, cafes, restaurants, public houses and bars unless seated at a table and when providing or receiving a close contact service ([29 November 2021](#)).

In Scotland, masks are [recommended to be worn in outdoor crowded](#) areas such as markets.

It is mandatory in Wales as of [26 December 2021](#) to wear a face covering in all indoor premises that are open to the public and on public transport (including taxis), other than public transport which is open to the air. Where food or drink is consumed in part of a premises, like a department store cafe, face coverings must be worn on the premises except when seated to eat or drink. This advice applies unless a person is exempt or are seated at a table, in hospitality settings, such as pubs, at a wedding and in the auditorium of a theatre, cinema or concert hall and the viewing areas of an indoor arena or stadium.

In Switzerland, as of [6 December 2021](#), the requirement to wear a mask applies in all situations where a COVID-19 certificate requirement applies - except at private gatherings.

The ECDC ([15 December 2021](#)) recommend that rapid reintroduction and strengthening of non-pharmacological interventions is necessary to reduce the ongoing transmission of the Delta variant, slow down the spread of the Omicron variant and keep the COVID-19-related burden manageable. These measures include encouraging the use of face masks.

The WHO recommend that healthcare workers wear a respirator or medical mask along with other personal protective equipment before entering a room where there is a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 ([22 December 2021](#)). The WHO also continue to advise that the use of masks (in addition to physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces, crowd avoidance and hand hygiene) remains key to reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 even with the emergence of the Omicron variant ([23 December 2021](#)).

COVID Pass

In Ireland, an EU Digital COVID Certificate (COVID pass) that indicates an individual has been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 is required for indoor hospitality and events, cinemas and theatres, gyms and leisure centres (excluding access to swimming pools or standalone swimming pool facilities), hotel bars and restaurants. There are exemptions for those for whom a hotel setting is their permanent residence, for example, those in emergency accommodation or other state-supported accommodation arrangements ([31 December 2021](#)).

In Austria, the duration of validity of vaccination certificates reduced from 360 to 270 days on 6 December 2021. Second vaccination must not be more than 270 days ago. After receiving a third dose, the validity of the vaccination certificate is again 270 days. For Janssen vaccinated persons (from 3 January 2022), a second dose is required for a valid Green Passport ([1 December 2021](#)).

In Belgium, COVID Safe Tickets are required for indoor public events with more than 50 visitors ([3 December 2021](#)).

Czechia announced from 1 January 2022 vaccination certificates will be valid for nine months after last dose of primary series; the booster dose will extend their validity for an unlimited period. ([2 December 2021](#)).

In Denmark, from [16 January 2022](#) people over the age of 15 are required to show a COVID passport. When vaccinated, COVID passports for people over 18 years will be valid for five months after the second vaccine. The COVID passport is valid without a time limit after the third vaccine. A COVID passport is required on public transport, in higher education settings, at culture, leisure and entertainment venues, at some workplaces where required by an employer, at restaurants, cafes and bars, at service professions, at parish events, church services and religious ceremonies where there is more than 100 participants at an indoor event or more than 1,000 participants at an outdoor event, for visitors to prisons and detention centres (with some exemptions) and for visitors to supported housing facilities, nursing homes and hospitals.

In Finland, the Government supports expanding the use of COVID-19 passports and introducing the passport system on a voluntary basis ([30 November 2021](#)). The obligation to present a COVID-19 passport does not apply in connection with statutory services (such as libraries), essential services (such as health and social services) or acquiring supplies or materials (food, medicines). In addition, the obligation to present a COVID-19 passport must not prevent people from fulfilling their rights and obligations. The use of the COVID-19 passport in specific domestic

settings will be in force until 31 January 2022 ([24 December 2022](#)). As of [12 January 2022](#) and until 31 January 2022, the COVID-19 passport cannot be used as an alternative to regional restrictions on public events and customer premises.

In France, adults (staff, parents, accompanying persons or interveners) and pupils going to a school or an educational establishment do not have to present a health pass. This applies to both school time and extracurricular time ([3 January 2022](#)). People aged 18 to 64 who had their last dose of vaccine before 17 June 2021 must have their booster by 15 January 2022, so that their pass is not deactivated. Since 29 November 2021, only PCR and antigen tests dating back less than 24 hours will be acceptable proof for the "sanitary pass" ([6 December 2021](#)). People vaccinated with Janssen are eligible, regardless of their age, for an additional dose of mRNA vaccine one month after their first injection, and from 15 December 2021 the additional dose will be a condition of the maintenance of their vaccination certificate under the "health pass" ([12 December 2021](#)).

Anyone in Germany who had SARS-CoV-2 more than six months ago and was vaccinated once afterwards is considered fully vaccinated ([11 January 2022](#)).

In Italy, from [23 December 2021](#), extension of the reinforced Green Pass (vaccinated against COVID, recovered within the last six months or tested negative) obligation to applies theme and amusement parks and indoors for: swimming pools, gyms and team sports, museums and exhibitions, wellness centres, spa centres (except for essential levels of assistance and rehabilitation or therapeutic activities), cultural centres, social and recreational centres (excluding educational centres for children), and game rooms, betting rooms, bingo halls and casinos. From [10 January 2022](#) until the end of the state of emergency, the use of the reinforced Green Pass is extended to the following activities: hotels and accommodation facilities; parties resulting from civil or religious ceremonies; festivals and fairs; convention centres; outdoor catering services; ski lifts with tourist-commercial purposes even if located in ski areas; swimming pools, swimming centres, team sports and wellness centres, even outdoors; cultural centre, social and recreational centre for outdoor activities. Italy have introduced a vaccination obligation for anyone aged 50 years or older. The Enhanced Green Pass (which only applies to those who have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19) will be required for access to public and private workplaces from 15 February 2022. The vaccination obligation has also been extended to university and school staff ([5 January 2022](#)).

Italy announced on [15 December 2021](#), that for doses following the first dose, the validity of the COVID-19 green certification for vaccination will expire if more than nine months have passed since the last dose. A new COVID-19 Green Certification

will be issued after receiving a booster dose and will be valid for nine months from the date of administration. From [1 February 2022](#) the duration of the vaccination green pass is reduced from nine to six months.

In the Netherlands ([26 November 2021](#)), everyone aged 13 and over must show a COVID-Pass at certain locations, for example, bars or restaurants, the cinema or theatre, or sports matches. Those visiting the Netherlands who do not have a COVID-Pass will need a negative test result to attend. At present, a 3G admission policy (proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or negative test result) applies in certain sectors. However, under the government's proposed 2G policy it will be possible to require visitors at certain locations to show a COVID entry pass based on proof of vaccination or recovery only. These locations may include high-risk settings in the cultural, hospitality and events sectors as well as non-essential locations such as amusement parks and zoos. In addition, the government want to make it possible to require people to show a COVID entry pass at their place of work, non-essential shops and services and schools. As of [19 December 2021](#), most activities where a COVID entry pass is required are temporarily closed.

In Portugal, the presentation of the digital certificate (or proof of vaccination or a negative laboratory test result) is mandatory when accessing a variety of locations including restaurants, tourist establishments, local accommodation and gyms ([10 January 2022](#)). A mandatory negative test or recovery certificate, except for those who have received a booster dose of the vaccine for at least 14 days, are required when accessing bars and clubs, big events and when visiting nursing homes and health facilities (from [14 January 2022](#)).

Spain has announced that from 1 February 2022, vaccination certificates issued more than 14 days after the date of administration of the last dose of the full vaccination schedule will be accepted as valid, provided that no more than 270 days have elapsed since the date of administration of the last dose ([29 December 2021](#)).

In England, from [15 December 2021](#), certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption. A recommendation was also made to expand the booster vaccination eligibility to include all adults aged 18 years to 39 years. COVID Pass required for nightclubs, some venues and large events to show you're fully vaccinated, have had a negative test result in the last 48 hours, or you have an exemption.

In Northern Ireland, COVID certification is required for events that consist, or are expected to consist of more than 10,000 people, events which will take place wholly

indoors and consist, or are expected to consist, of 500 or more people, where not all attendees will be seated or an event which will take place wholly outdoors and consists, or is expected to consist, of 4,000 or more people, where not all attendees will be seated. This includes attendees, staff, performers and persons responsible for the event. COVID certification is also required for premises that sell or provide intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises and for other premises to which the public have access, including private members clubs, theatres, concert halls, cinemas, indoor premises when used for the purpose of a performance, recording or rehearsal, other than private dwellings, premises used for the purpose of a conference or exhibition and premises hosting a relevant event as described ([29 November 2021](#)).

In Scotland, one may be asked to show their COVID status (passport) via the National Health Service phone app or a negative lateral flow test in some venues if they are aged over 18 years ([17 January 2022](#)).

In Wales, people over the age of 18 need to show their COVID-19 status to attend nightclubs, cinemas, theatres and concert halls indoor venues with more than 500 people in the audience where some or all of the audience are not normally seated, any outdoor or indoor venues with over 4,000 in the audience, where some or all of the audience are not normally seated and any event, which has more than 10,000 people in attendance ([10 December 2021](#)).

In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from [20 December 2021](#) until 24 January 2022. Event organisers must check the validity of the COVID certificate via COVID Certificate Check and always check against matching photo identification (for example, ID card, passport, driving licence). In addition, organisers of large-scale events must obtain a cantonal permit. The COVID certificate is the only permissible document for entry. This applies to both the Swiss COVID certificate and to recognised foreign certificates (for example the EU Digital COVID Certificate).

Table 1 Changes in public health measures as of 26 November 2021 (when WHO confirmed Omicron as a variant of concern)

Austria	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 11 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	Due to the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant additional measures were introduced on 11 January 2022
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	<p>Customer areas, trade & services (12 December 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retail establishments as well as (close to the body) services may only be entered with valid 2-G proof. ▪ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol. ▪ An FFP2 mask is mandatory for customers ▪ Business premises should only be open between 05:00 to 22:00 ▪ Exceptions to the 2-G obligation are basic service facilities (customers must wear an FFP2 mask) e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ public pharmacies ○ grocery retailers and farm direct marketers ○ drug stores ○ banks ○ gas stations. <p>Place of professional activity (12 December 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 3-G obligation continues to apply at the place of work. ▪ An FFP2 mask is compulsory in all closed rooms, unless other suitable protective devices are available. ▪ A home office arrangement is generally recommended. <p>Gastronomy (3 January 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General ban on night gastronomy ▪ General ban on the immediate vicinity of the dispensing point ▪ General ban on bar operations ▪ Unvaccinated people can also pick up food and drinks. ▪ An FFP2 mask is mandatory in closed rooms. ▪ Restrictions are exempted for employees work for hospitals, retirement and nursing homes, residential facilities for the disabled, schools and elementary educational facilities. <p>Occasional markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pure sales market (only sales of goods, food, beverages - no consumption): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. ○ An FFP2 mask is required. ○ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol. <p>Meetings for professional purposes (e.g. rehearsals, professional artistic performance) (3 January 2021):</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People who had a positive test result but no symptoms for at least 48 hours and has tested negative are allowed to attend the meeting. ▪ Other suitable measures shall be conducted if a mask cannot be worn due to the activity. <p>Accommodation establishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. ▪ There is an FFP2 mask requirement in all accessible areas. ▪ Operators have to collect contact details. ▪ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol. <p>Home working (11 January 2022) There should also be a significant reduction in contacts at the workplace and employees should generally work from home wherever possible.</p> <p>Obligatory 2G control in non-essential retail establishments (11 January 2022) The operators must check the customers' 2G evidence when entering the respective establishment - but at the latest when purchasing the goods.</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Leisure and cultural gatherings - Indoor/outdoor without assigned seats (3 January 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. ▪ Maximum 25 people between 05:00 and 22:00 ▪ Maximum 10 people between 22:00 and 05:00 ▪ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. ▪ There is an FFP2 mask requirement, also at the seat. ▪ Maximum limit: 25 people <p>Leisure and culture gatherings - Indoor/Outdoor with assigned seats (3 January 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention concept ▪ Access is permitted for maximum 500 people with valid 2-G proof ▪ Access is permitted for maximum 1,000 people with valid 2-G proof and PCR test within 72 hours ▪ Access is permitted for maximum 2,000 people with booster vaccination and PCR test within 72 hours <p>Extracurricular youth education and youth work, supervised holiday camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children and adolescents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access is only permitted with a valid 2.5 G certificate. If PCR tests are not available, antigen tests are also permitted. ○ Maximum number of persons: 25 ▪ Supervisors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 3G obligation applies at the place of work. ○ Personnel limit: max. 4 people in addition to the 25 children and adolescents 	
Changes in IPC guidance	<p>A distance of 2 metres should be kept from people outside the household. (1 December 2021)</p> <p>Retirement and nursing homes as well as residential facilities for the disabled (12 December 2021).</p>	

<p>(includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol ▪ Employees: inside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2.5 G obligation applies at the place of work. If PCR tests are not available, antigen tests are also permitted. ○ An FFP2 mask is compulsory in all closed rooms, unless other suitable protective devices are available. ▪ Visitors: inside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. A valid PCR test must also be presented. If PCR tests are not available, antigen tests are also permitted. ○ An FFP2 mask is required. ○ Operators have to collect contact details. ○ Visitors: upper limit: max 2 people per day (from the first day of stay). <p>Hospitals and health resorts and other places where health services are provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employees: inside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2.5 G obligation applies at the place of work. ○ An FFP2 mask is compulsory in all closed rooms, unless other suitable protective devices are available. ▪ Visitors: inside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access is only permitted with valid 2-G proof. A valid PCR test must also be presented. If PCR tests are not available, antigen tests are also permitted. ○ An FFP2 mask is required. ○ Visitors: upper limit: maximum 1 person per day (from the first day of stay). ○ Operators have to collect contact details. ▪ Operators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only let residents with a 2.5 G certificates in for new admission ○ Offer the residents an antigen test or PCR test at least every 3 days if they have left the home within this period ○ Operators have to appoint a COVID-19 officer and create a COVID-19 prevention protocol. <p>Pregnant people without 2-G evidence (11 January 2022) Pregnant people who do not have valid 2-G evidence may instead show a negative PCR test (valid for 72 hours from sampling). Access to the high-risk settings (i.e. to 2G + and Booster + settings) is not permitted for unvaccinated pregnant women.</p>	
<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>11 January 2022 A mask must be worn when vehicles are used jointly by people who do not live in the same household. A distance of 2 meters should be kept to people outside the household. If a distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained, an FFP2 mask must be worn. This applies in all areas.</p> <p>FFP2 mask requirement outdoors (11 January 2022) Wherever the recommended minimum distance of 2 meters from people outside the household cannot or is not observed, an FFP2 mask requirement now also applies outdoors. This does not apply to situations where the minimum distance of 2 meters is only briefly exceeded, such as when simply "walking past" the sidewalk or during sports, etc.</p>	

	<p>Children from the age of 6 up to the age of 14 are allowed to wear a face mask or a close-fitting mechanical protective device instead of FFP2. Children up to the age of 6 are exempt from the mask requirement. Pregnant women are also allowed to wear a face mask or a close-fitting mechanical protective device instead of FFP2. (12 December 2021).</p> <p>An FFP2 mask is compulsory in all closed rooms. This also applies at the workplace (unless other suitable protective devices are available) (12 December 2021).</p>	
COVID Pass	<p>The validity of the vaccination certificates in the Green Pass will be reduced from 360 to 270 days. This regulation comes into effect on 6 December 2021. Second vaccination must not be more than 270 days ago. After receiving a third dose, the validity of the vaccination certificate is again 270 days. For Janssen vaccinated persons, from 3 Jan 2022 a 2nd dose is required for the Green Passport to be valid. (1 December 2021)</p> <p>Validity of Janssen vaccination certificates (3 January 2022) Since 3 January 2022, vaccination certificates for a one-time Janssen vaccination have been shown as invalid when checked within Austria. In order for affected persons to receive a valid vaccination certificate, these persons need a second vaccination, which may take place at the earliest 28 days after the first vaccination. For the second vaccination, an EMA-approved mRNA vaccine (BioNTech / Pfizer or Moderna) should preferably be used. The one-time vaccination Janssen allows entry to Austria, but not a visit to a restaurant, as the one-time vaccination is no longer recognised as a 2-G proof within Austria.</p>	
Belgium	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 6 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	<p>The Consultative Committee has considered the preparatory work of the COVID-19 Commissariat with regard to a medium-term strategy and the draft coronavirus barometer. The COVID-19 Commissariat has been asked to refine and elaborate the barometer. (6 January 2022)</p>
Primary schools	<p>6 January 2022</p> <p>Educational establishments re-opened from 10 January. The following preventive measures must be observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ effective ventilation at all times ▪ mandatory face masks from the age of 6 ▪ testing and quarantine rules must be respected. Year groups must go into quarantine as from 4 infections (children with symptoms) ▪ meetings must continue to be held virtually ▪ mixing of year groups in communal indoor areas (study areas, canteen, etc.) must be avoided as much as possible ▪ day excursions are allowed in accordance with the applicable rules ▪ out-of-school activities with an overnight stay remain prohibited. <p>Parents are being urged to test their children as often as possible.</p>	
Second-level education	<p>6 January 2022</p> <p>Educational establishments re-opened from 10 January. The following preventive measures must be observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ effective ventilation at all times ▪ mandatory face masks from the age of 6 ▪ testing and quarantine rules must be respected. Year groups must go into quarantine as from 4 infections (children with symptoms) ▪ meetings must continue to be held virtually ▪ mixing of year groups in communal indoor areas (study areas, canteen, etc.) must be avoided as much as possible ▪ day excursions are allowed in accordance with the applicable rules 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ out-of-school activities with an overnight stay remain prohibited. <p>Parents are being urged to test their children as often as possible.</p>	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	<p>The obligation to telework is confirmed with a maximum of 1 return day per week. Team building and parties in the workplace are prohibited. (3 December 2021)</p> <p>The opening hours in the catering industry are limited to 05:00 to 23:00. The number of people per table is limited to 6. A household may share a table, regardless of the size of that household. Only seats at the table are allowed. (26 November 2021)</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Discotheques and dance halls must close. (26 November 2021)</p> <p>All indoor private activities and gatherings are temporarily prohibited, including organised activities, but with the exception of sport, private meetings at home or in a small tourist accommodation, and weddings and funerals. (3 December 2021)</p> <p>Events with more than 4,000 visitors can no longer take place from 4 December 2021. From 6 December 2021, only events, cultural and other performances and conferences are allowed inside under the following conditions: a maximum of 200 visitors, sitting, with mouth mask, the use of the COVID Safe Ticket from 50 visitors. (3 December 2021)</p> <p>Cinemas can receive the public with a maximum of 200 people per room and with respect for 1.5 metres between people. (3 December 2021)</p>	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>Testing (6 January 2022)</p> <p>When should you get tested?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you are older than 6 years and have COVID-19-related symptoms ▪ If you came into contact with someone who has the coronavirus. ▪ When you have been abroad. ▪ If you wish to have a COVID test certificate. <p>If you have symptoms stay home and do NOT call your GP, but complete the online questionnaire. If it is concluded that it is best for you to be tested, you will receive a test code which you can use this to make an appointment at a testing centre or lab, or at a pharmacist.</p> <p>Quarantine and isolation (6 January 2022)</p> <p>You have to quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ as soon as you feel sick, but have not yet taken a positive test ▪ when you aren't fully vaccinated and had a high-risk contact with a person who has COVID-19 (you were together for more than 15 minutes at a distance of less than 1.5 metres and without both of you wearing a face mask). ▪ in some cases if you were abroad for more than 48 hours or will be staying in Belgium for more than 48 hours. <p>Those who do not abide by the rules risk a fine of €250.</p> <p>Self-isolation</p> <p>You have to be in self-isolation when you test positive for the coronavirus. The isolation takes at least 7 days. Only leave your house after 7 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if you have not had a fever for at least 3 days 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if there's a clinical improvement of your symptoms. 	
Face coverings	Mandatory mask for persons aged six years and older (2 December 2021)	
COVID Pass	The use of the COVID Safe Ticket for indoor public events with more than 50 visitors. (3 December 2021)	
Czechia	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 17 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	2 January 2022 Events must not be attended by more than 3,000 people, and strict hygiene rules must be observed. e.g. when more than 300 people participate, a ratio is given - how many people must be vaccinated, tested or within the protection period.	State of emergency in the Czech Republic from 12:00 am on 26 November 2021 for 30 days, due to health risks related to the proven incidence of coronavirus (25 November 2021)
Primary schools	From 17 January 2022 pupils and staff will be tested once per week on Mondays.	
Second-level education	From 17 January 2022 pupils and staff will be tested once per week on Mondays.	No reference made to Omicron.
Higher and adult education	Rooms and venues where conferences and lectures are held are closed (17 December 2021).	
Business activities	Legal entities' board meetings and elections are allowed to take place, however, it is necessary to adhere to all public health regulations. (26 November 2021) Catering establishments and music, dance, gaming and similar social clubs and discos, gaming rooms and casinos must close between 22:00 and 04:59. (25 November 2021) Rooms and venues where conferences and lectures are held are closed (17 December 2021). 3 January 2022 As of 3 January, wherever customers and clients are required to provide proof of vaccination or illness, it will introduce an obligation for operators to check the validity of certificates through the mobile application of the Ministry of Health ČTečka. 5 January 2022 As of 17 January 2022, all employees in both the public and the private sectors, as well as self-employed persons and agents of legal entities, if they come into contact with people outside their households, will have to get tested at their workplace twice a week.	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	Concerts, performances in theatres, etc. must not be attended by more than 3,000 people, and strict public health rules must be observed e.g. when more than 300 people participate, a ratio is given - how many people must be vaccinated, tested or within the protection period (26 November 2021) Fairs and similar traditional events up to 2,000 people outside and 1,000 indoors can take place, but several public health rules must be followed (26 November 2021) For leisure activities for children and adults, such as various club, sports, cultural, dance, traditional and similar events and celebrations, the maximum number of participants is reduced from 1,000 to 100 people. (29 December 2021) 2 January 2022 Entry to sports grounds is prohibited for persons who do not meet the ON (point II / 17), persons during group lessons must keep 1.5 m apart and the operator ensures air circulation. Note: The O-N-(T) system is a way for a person to demonstrate that he or she meets the requirements for entry into the workplace, school, or service establishment. It is based on 3 basic pillars: vaccination, tests, and having COVID-19 in the past. Restrictions on visits and tours of museums, galleries, exhibition spaces, castles, chateaux and similar historical or cultural sites, observatories and planetariums, zoos and botanical gardens	

	Visitors must keep the spacing of 1.5 m, participants of the group tour must meet ON, otherwise the group tour may be attended by a maximum of 20 people.	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	In the case of an infected person within one household, other members of the household will also need a PCR test, even if they are vaccinated and do not have symptoms of the disease. They do not need to quarantine but must wear a respirator until PCR test (days 5 to 7 after contact with the infected person) result show negative (29 November 2021). 5 January 2022 As of 11 January 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the ordered isolation and quarantine will be reduced to at least 5 calendar days. To terminate the quarantine or isolation, a RT-PCR test will not be necessary, but persons with a positive antigen test result will be able to end their isolation immediately after receiving a negative result of a subsequent RT-PCR test. ▪ people with COVID-19 symptoms will have to extend their 5-day isolation and wait at least 2 days after the symptoms improve ▪ after a risk contact, quarantine will be ordered to COVID-19 vaccinated and recovered persons. 	
Face coverings	13 December 2021 It is ordered to wear respiratory protective equipment with an efficiency of at least 94% in all means of public transport.	
COVID Pass	From 1 Jan 2022, vaccination certificates will be valid for only 9 months, the booster dose will extend their validity for an unlimited period. Patients and people > 60 years of age can be vaccinated 5 months after the 2 nd dose with a booster dose of the vaccine. Others may receive a booster dose 6 months after the 2 nd dose. People who are vaccinated with Janssen can be vaccinated with a booster dose as early as 2 months (2 December 2021). As of 29 November, the rules for visits to reception and accommodation centers are the same as for prisons or detention facilities where proof of immunity or negative test is required. (29 November 2021)	
Denmark	Date extracted: 17 January 2022 Last updated: 16 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	As of 4 January 2022 there are no limits on gatherings indoors or outdoors but the government recommends limiting social contacts during Christmas period.	The Delta variant is twice as contagious as other variants we have had in the past. But we are in a different place than before due to the vaccines. The best solution to curb the infection is to continue to be vaccinated. (24 November 2021) Omicron cited as reason for changing isolation and testing requirements for close contacts.
Primary schools	Face masks or visors are required in day care and primary schools for parents, visitors, students, and staff when they move around in the institution and stay in common areas. This requirement does not apply for teaching or exams. Children should be dropped off and picked up from outside schools if possible. Indoor day care should be organised so that children are in assigned groups and each group is as far from each other as possible. Parents and visitors are required to wear face masks in day care and primary schools (18 December 2021). 16 January 2022 Pupils from 1st grade onwards and staff in primary school are strongly encouraged to get tested twice weekly, unless they have been previously infected with COVID-19 within the last 12 weeks.	
Second-level education	16 January 2022 Pupils from 1st grade onwards and staff in lower secondary school are strongly encouraged to get tested twice weekly, unless they have been previously infected with COVID-19 within the last 12 weeks.	

Higher and adult education	<p>Parents, visitors, students, and staff are required to wear face masks or visors in higher and adult education (18 December 2021).</p> <p>Corona passport/COVID certificate is required at educational institutions such as universities, youth education and language schools. 4 January 2022</p> <p>16 January 2022</p> <p>All students, course participants and participants as well as employees at youth and adult education institutions are encouraged to be tested twice a week. This also applies to students, course participants as well as employees who have been vaccinated or previously infected and thus have a valid corona passport.</p>	
Business activities	<p>16 January 2022</p> <p>People who physically attend work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is advised to work at home extensively in both public and private workplaces and that meetings, seminars etc. are held virtually. ▪ It is advised to cancel major social events at workplaces. ▪ Municipal employers can require their employees to present a corona passport/COVID certificate. Employers may also, under certain conditions, require employees to be tested for corona and disclose the result of the test. However, employers must be able to objectively justify that a test is necessary to limit the spread of infection with COVID-19. ▪ Employees in the state and the regions will be required to present a corona passport/COVID certificate. <p>You must wear a face mask or shield in grocery stores, shops and shopping centres. This includes staff. All stores and shopping centres are open. You may be required to present a corona passport/COVID certificate as businesses are allowed to make their own requirements. Corona passport/COVID certificate is required if you are going for a massage, haircut, tattoo etc.</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Restaurants, bars and cafés must close from 23:00 to 05:00. Face masks must be worn at restaurants, bars and cafes when guests are not sitting down. Alcohol must not be served or sold between 22:00 and 05:00. Discos and nightclubs are closed. Consumption of alcohol on buses is forbidden. (4 January 2022)</p> <p>16 January 2022</p> <p>There is a participation limit of 1,500 people indoors separated in three sections of maximum 500 people in the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cinemas ▪ Venues and rooms where concerts, art performances, screenings, big screen events, conferences, lectures and the like are held ▪ Cultural events, e.g. museums, cinemas, art galleries ▪ Indoor sporting events with paying spectators or spectators who are offered free tickets, which would normally be offered for sale ▪ Spectators must be seated. <p>Outdoor and indoor sporting events are open. Spectators must present a corona passport to enter. The spectators must be seated. At indoor sporting events spectators need to wear a face mask or shield when not seated.</p>	

	<p>You must present a corona passport to visit gyms and swimming pools. You must also wear a face mask or shield while not being physically active.</p> <p>Libraries, archives and music schools, amusement parks, zoos and aquariums re-open. You need a corona passport to enter.</p> <p>You must present a corona passport to visit gyms and swimming pools. You must also wear a face mask or shield while not being physically active.</p> <p>The following remains closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arcades, casinos, play centres and water parks, trade fairs, rooms used for rent for parties such as weddings, confirmations, birthdays and other private anniversaries ▪ Rooms and venues where concerts and other cultural events are held with standing audiences <p>Church and religious communities Present a corona passport or similar if there is access for more than 100 people indoor and 1,000 people outdoor. You must wear face mask or shield, except when sitting down.</p>	
<p>Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<p>Updated 4 January 2021. If infected (test positive), a person must go into self-isolation and contact the contact tracing hotline. Self-isolation can terminate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once symptom-free for 48 hours ▪ After 10 days self-isolation if free from fever for the past 48 hours (without the use of, for example, paracetamol), ▪ If feeling significantly better, and only have mild residual symptoms, such as loss of taste and/or smell, a slight cough, headache, fatigue, etc. ▪ If asymptomatic, 7 days after testing. <p>12 January 2022</p> <p>Close contact who has not been vaccinated with third dose/infected in last 12 weeks Immediately go into self-isolation. Take a test on day 4 and day 6 after the last contact with the infected person. The day 4 test should be a PCR test, while the test on day 6 can be a rapid antigen test. You may end self-isolation after a negative result to the test taken on day 4. If you cannot keep your distance from the infected person (e.g. because you are a parent taking care of an infected child), a rapid antigen test is recommended as soon as possible as well as a PCR test again 48 hours after the infected person no longer has symptoms. If the infected person has no symptoms, in addition to the rapid test as soon as possible, a PCR test 7 days after the infected persons positive test was taken is recommended. You may end the self-isolation when you have a negative result to the last test. In you have a positive test, self-isolation is maintained until 48 hours after symptom relief. In case of no symptoms, the self-isolation can be cancelled 7 days after the positive test was taken.</p> <p>Close contact who has been vaccinated with third dose You do not need to self-isolate, but it is recommended that you take a rapid antigen test as soon as possible and subsequently be tested on the day 4 and 6 after the last contact with the infected person. The test on day 4 should be a PCR test, while the test on day 6 can be a rapid antigen test, as there is currently a lot of pressure on PCR tests.</p>	

	<p>However, if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, immediate self-isolation and PCR testing is recommended as soon as possible. In you have a positive test, self-isolation is maintained until 48 hours after symptom relief. In case of no symptoms, the self-isolation can be cancelled 7 days after the positive test was taken.</p> <p>Close contact who has been vaccinated within infected in last 12 weeks You do not have to go into self-isolation nor are tests recommended. This is because the test during this period may be positive due to previous infection. However, if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, self-isolation and testing is recommended immediately.</p> <p>Close contact and continuously exposed to infection and have been vaccinated with the 3rd dose or have been infected within the last 12 weeks If you are continuously exposed to infection because the infected person (e.g. an infected child) cannot be isolated or kept at a distance, it is recommended that you go into self-isolation. If you have been vaccinated with the 3rd dose, you are recommended to take a rapid antigen test as soon as possible as well as a PCR test again 48 hours after the infected person no longer has symptoms. If the infected person has no symptoms, a PCR test is recommended (in addition to the rapid test as soon as possible) 7 days after the infected persons positive test was taken. You may end the self-isolation when you have a negative result to the last test. If you have previously been infected within the last 12 weeks, you do not need to be tested, but you are still recommended to go into self-isolation.</p>	
Face coverings	<p>Updated 20 December 2021 Face masks are required on public transport, cultural and sporting events, shops and businesses, restaurants, cafés and bars when not seated, when visiting primary schools or day-care, when attending youth or higher education, when attending healthcare centres or visiting or working in social care or nursing homes (residents and children under 12 do not have to wear face-masks), at churches and religious ceremonies when not sitting, at municipal citizen services centres, in common areas of hotels and hostels, in gyms when not engaging in sports activities, at driving schools and during driving tests, on flights and in airports. In addition face masks are recommended if one has to break self-isolation in exceptional circumstances, at large and unmanageable gatherings, if considered high-risk or unvaccinated or visiting someone at high risk or unvaccinated. (Exemptions apply)</p>	
COVID Pass	<p>16 January 2022 People over the age of 15 are required to show a corona passport in many situations in order to prevent the spread of infection. You can get a corona passport if you have been vaccinated, if you have been infected within the past 5 months or if you have tested negative for COVID-19 with a PCR test within the last 72 hours or a rapid antigen within the last 48 hours. When vaccinated, corona passports for people over the age of 18 will be valid for 5 months after the second vaccine. The corona passport becomes valid without a time limit after the third vaccine.</p> <p>A corona passport is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on public transport ▪ in higher education, youth and adult education, language centres and folk high schools ▪ at amusement parks, zoos, aquariums, traveling amusement parks, museums, knowledge pedagogical activity centres, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, cultural centers, lectures, conferences, performing arts, concerts and screenings and big screen events ▪ at some workplaces where required by an employer ▪ at restaurants, cafes and bars ▪ at service professions like tattooists, piercings, spas, body care, beauty and massage clinics, hairdressers, staffed solariums and driving schools and driving tests 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at parish events, church services and religious ceremonies such as baptisms, weddings and funerals where there is more than 100 participants at an indoor event or more than 1,000 participants at an outdoor event ▪ visitors to prisons and detention centers (Children under the age of 15, guardians, personal representatives and lawyers are exempt) ▪ visitors to supported housing facilities, nursing homes and hospitals. 	
Finland	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 14 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	People attending private events indoors are advised to take a home test before meeting with people outside their immediate family. The working group recommends that people meet with no more than 5 individuals outside their immediate family at a time (7 January 2022). Gathering restrictions are different in different parts of Finland. For example, in areas with community transmission many are requiring public events and general meetings be limited to 50 people indoors, while in a small number of regions all public events and general meetings held indoors and outdoors are prohibited (13 January 2022).	The Government has as of 3 December amended the decree restricting the activities of restaurants and other food and beverage service businesses due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The amendment to the decree will enter into force on 5 December 2021 (3 December 2021)
Primary schools	In areas where the epidemic is particularly severe, exceptional teaching arrangements such as hybrid teaching or distance learning can be implemented through local decisions if necessary. In line with the recommendation of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, no national recommendation on distance learning will be issued at this time (7 January 2022). Pupils in primary school should be tested for COVID-19 twice a week. If several COVID-19 infections are identified in a teaching group, a physician in charge of communicable diseases may issue a decision to increase the testing interval to 3–5 times a week (7 January 2022).	
Second-level education	In areas where the epidemic is particularly severe, exceptional teaching arrangements such as hybrid teaching or distance learning can be implemented through local decisions if necessary. In line with the recommendation of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, no national recommendation on distance learning will be issued at this time (7 January 2022). Pupils in secondary school should be tested for COVID-19 twice a week. If several COVID-19 infections are identified in a teaching group, a physician in charge of communicable diseases may issue a decision to increase the testing interval to 3–5 times a week (7 January 2022).	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	At general meetings, the organiser is not required to demand a corona passport, but must comply with restrictions. (26 November 2021)	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	In areas identified as community transmission areas: serving of alcoholic beverages in all food and beverage service businesses will end at 17:00. Such businesses may keep their premises open to food and beverage service customers between 5:00 and 18:00. The restriction will also apply to businesses that do not serve alcoholic beverages (e.g. cafes and fast food restaurants). Food and beverage service businesses that primarily serve alcoholic beverages may have only half the normal number of customer seats in use in their indoor and outdoor premises. Other food and beverage service businesses are restricted to 75% of their normal number of customer seats indoors. All customers must have their own seats at a table or similar in indoor premises. For all other areas, there are no separate restrictions on the number of customers or on licensing and opening hours. The restrictions laid down in the decree for community transmission areas do not apply to the activities of staff restaurants or to takeaway sales of food to customers. The restrictions on opening hours do not apply to food and	

	<p>beverage service businesses on vessels and aircraft that operate between Finland and other countries or abroad or to food and beverage service businesses that operate at distribution stations for liquid fuels. (12 January 2022).</p>	
<p>Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<p>In regions experiencing a backlog of testing and contact tracing, vaccinated or unvaccinated people who are experiencing mild symptoms, are advised testing is not required. However, they are asked to voluntarily avoid people from outside their home, until 5 days have passed since symptom onset or they have been asymptomatic for at least 2 days. If several family members become ill, this 5-day period should be calculated from the time when the last family member starts showing symptoms. If they develop serious symptoms such as shortness of breath, or their general condition gets worse, they are advised to contact the healthcare services without delay. Testing should be conducted when indicated by a healthcare professional, or for a person who works with clients or patients in social welfare and healthcare or in any role in 24-hour care or disability services, or if a person is in a risk group for a serious coronavirus disease, or if the person is pregnant. (14 January 2022). At-home test kits are recommended especially for people who are experiencing mild symptoms and symptomatic under 12-year-olds together with their parents and siblings. In addition, it is recommended that asymptomatic coronavirus-exposed individuals perform a home test at least twice every 3 days using a test designed specifically for asymptomatic testing. If the result of the home test is positive, the individual must self-isolate, i.e. stay at home, minimise contacts and, if possible, informing contacts who have been known for the previous 2-3 days. There is no automatic need to confirm a positive test result with a healthcare test, although it is still recommended within local testing capacity. (12 January 2022).</p> <p>Pupils in primary and secondary school should be tested for COVID-19 twice a week. If several COVID-19 infections are identified in a teaching group, a physician in charge of communicable diseases may issue a decision to increase the testing interval to 3–5 times a week (7 January 2022).</p> <p>Previously the national strategy for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing was updated on 10 December 2021. People of all ages who are experiencing symptoms indicative of COVID-19 regardless of vaccination or recovery status should be tested.</p> <p>According to the strategy, it is justified to conduct a COVID-19 test especially in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all patients admitted to hospital or visiting 24-hour service units at hospitals ▪ people exposed to COVID-19 within the past two weeks ▪ people at high risk of contracting a severe form of the COVID-19 disease, including pregnant women ▪ people who received their 2nd COVID-19 vaccine dose over 5 months ago but who have not yet received their booster dose ▪ healthcare and social welfare workers, and residents at care units for older people. <p>Children under the age of 12 should be tested particularly if their family members include persons who are not fully vaccinated, the child has been exposed to the virus within the past two weeks or the child has symptoms of infection which require testing based on a physician’s assessment.</p>	
<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>The Finnish institute of public health has reissued its recommendation for mask use in public indoor spaces where many people are gathered close to each other and in public transport throughout the country, regardless of vaccination status. The use of the mask is not recommended outdoors, unless long-term congestion occurs in the premises, where movement is difficult. The recommendation is aimed at those over 12 years of age. The recommendation can also be used by regional and local authorities and actors when drawing up local or situation-specific guidelines. (26 November 2021).</p>	

COVID Pass	<p>Until 31 January 2022 the COVID-19 passport cannot be used as an alternative to regional restrictions on public events and customer premises (11 January 2022). The use of the COVID-19 passport in specific domestic settings will be in force until 31 January 2022 (24 December 2022).</p> <p>The Government supports expanding the use of COVID-19 passports and introducing the passport system on a voluntary basis (30 November 2021). The obligation to present a COVID-19 passport does not apply in connection with statutory services (such as libraries), essential services (such as health and social services) or acquiring supplies or materials (food, medicines). In addition, the obligation to present a COVID-19 passport must not prevent people from fulfilling their rights and obligations.</p>	
France	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 13 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	For 3 weeks from 3 January 2022, standing concerts prohibited. Events up to 2,000 people indoors and 5,000 people outdoors are permitted (3 January 2022).	To deal with the epidemic circulation and the fifth wave, new measures come into force. (6 December 2021)
Primary schools	<p>From 14 January 2022, new isolation guidance comes into effect. See Changes in IPC section below (13 January 2022). Currently, passage to level 3 of the health protocol in primary schools (wearing a mask obligatory in the playgrounds and limiting mixing in the canteen and high-intensity sports activities indoors).</p> <p>The rule of closing the class for a period of 7 days from the first positive case no longer applies to primary school since the week of 29 November 2021: students presenting a negative test within 24 hours can continue to go to school. (6 December 2021)</p>	
Second-level education	From 14 January 2022, new isolation guidance comes into effect. See Changes in IPC section below (13 January 2022). Access to schools and educational establishments including universities is not subject to the obligation to present the "health pass" (3 January 2022)	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	<p>From January 3, recourse to teleworking will be made compulsory for all employees for whom it is possible, at a minimum of 3 days per week and 4 days when possible (3 January 2022).</p> <p>Businesses are recommended to ensure adequate natural ventilation (doors and / or windows open permanently or failing that 10 minutes every hour) or mechanical (mechanical ventilation system in accordance with regulations), and to facilitate the measurement of carbon dioxide in the air at significant places of frequentation and at periods of high frequentation (3 January 2022).</p> <p>Postponement of in person assemblies (6 December 2021)</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	Nightclubs are closed until 24 January 2021. Dancing is also prohibited in restaurants or bars (3 January 2021).	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>From 14 January 2022, new isolation guidance comes into effect for school settings (13 January 2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils identified as a contact case following a confirmed case in a class can continue the day or half-day of class while waiting for their legal guardians to come and pick them up at the usual end of school hours. ▪ Contacts for students under 12, as well as students over 12 who are fully vaccinated, will receive 3 self-tests free of charge in the pharmacy and will no longer have to carry out an antigen test or a PCR test. ▪ The legal representatives of the pupils will have to produce, when the contact case children return to class, a certificate on the sole honor of carrying out the first self-test, of the negative result of the latter as well as of their commitment to carry out the self-tests on Day 2 and on Day +4 and not to send their child to school if the result of one of these self-tests is positive. <p>In all other settings: Positive cases:</p>	

	<p>Fully vaccinated persons are required to isolate for 7 days, and persons not fully vaccinated are required to isolate for 10 days, after the date of the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test sample. No test required on day 7 to end isolation. However, after 5 days (fully vaccinated and boosted if age 18 or over) or 7 days (not fully vaccinated), the positive person can be released from isolation under two conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ negative antigen or RT-PCR test result; and ▪ no clinical signs of infection for 48 hours. <p>Positive cases < 12 years of age must isolate for 5 days if the antigen or PCR test carried out on day 5 is negative and in the absence of symptoms for 48 hours; 7 days isolation otherwise (3 January 2022).</p> <p><u>Close contacts:</u> Fully vaccinated persons no longer required to quarantine but must strictly follow general social distancing guidance, avoid at-risk individuals and work from home when possible. Testing (Ag or PCR) is required when notified of being a close contact and also 2 self-tests on day 2 and day 4 after the last contact with the positive person. With all positive Ag or self-tests confirmed by PCR. Persons not fully vaccinated must quarantine for the full 7 days. To end quarantine, these people must perform an antigen test or RT-PCR and have a negative result taken on day 7 (3 January 2022). Close contacts < 12 years of age are not required to isolate if an antigen or PCR test result taken on the same day is negative. Self-tests are still required on day 2 and day 4 (certificate on the honor of the parents) (3 January 2022).</p> <p>Frequent ventilation of enclosed spaces is more necessary than ever. It is recommended to ventilate each room for 10 minutes every hour (6 December 2021).</p> <p>It is no longer mandatory to perform a PCR test to confirm a positive antigen test. However, a PCR test is still necessary after a positive self-test. If an antigen test result is negative for people over 65 years of age who have symptoms, or for people with risk factors for developing severe disease, confirmation of the antigen test by RT-PCR is required (10 January 2022).</p>	
Face coverings	Wearing a mask is compulsory from the age of 6 in internal public transport and in places open to the public (13 January 2022).	

COVID Pass	<p>A bill will be submitted to Parliament to transform the "health pass" into a "vaccine pass" as of 15 January. It also aims to tighten the control and sanction conditions against false "passes" (3 January 2022).</p> <p>Access to schools and educational establishments including universities is not subject to the obligation to present the "health pass" (3 January 2022)</p> <p>People vaccinated with Janssen are eligible, regardless of their age, for an additional dose of messenger RNA vaccine 1 month after their first injection, and from 15 December 2021 the additional dose will be conditional the maintenance of their vaccination certificate under the "health pass" (12 December 2021)</p> <p>People aged 18 to 64 who had their last dose of vaccine before 17 June 2021 must have their reminder by 15 January 2022, so that their pass is not deactivated, since they will have passed the 5-month deadline by that date to be eligible for the recall and 8 weeks to carry out this recall.</p> <p>Starting on 15 December 2021, people ≥ 65 who were vaccinated with a Janssen vaccine must provide proof of booster vaccination for their COVID certificate to be extended. Since 29 November 2021, only PCR and antigenic tests dating back less than 24 hours will be acceptable proof for the "health pass". (6 December 2021)</p>	
Germany	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 11 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>Only persons of one's own household and a maximum of 2 persons of another household may attend private meetings with unvaccinated persons. A maximum of 10 people who are fully vaccinated or recovered are allowed to meet at private gatherings (28 December 2022). Children under 14 years of age are exempt.</p> <p>In areas with a 7-day incidence above 350, a limit of 50 persons (vaccinated and recovered) indoors and 200 persons (vaccinated and recovered) outdoors applies to private parties and gatherings. (3 December 2021)</p>	<p>New measures introduced to deal with the epidemic circulation and the fifth wave. (1)</p> <p>Since November 18, 2021, nationwide access restrictions have been in effect in public life, which are based on the hospitalisation rate in the respective federal state. In the event of a high infection rate with a particularly high burden on the public health system, restrictions also apply to vaccinated and recovered people. (3 December 2021)</p> <p>Alarm level I: From a hospitalisation rate of 3 per 100,000, only those who have been vaccinated or have recovered have nationwide access to leisure, cultural and sporting events, gastronomy and access to body-friendly services and accommodation.</p> <p>Alarm level II: If the hospitalisation rate is above 6 per 100,000, only those who have been vaccinated and those</p>
Primary schools	<p>Since December 2, 2021, an incidence-independent and nationwide mask requirement has also applied in schools for all grade levels. If the federal state meets the criteria for the alarm levels, singing in closed rooms is only allowed with a mask; Playing wind instruments is only permitted in very large rooms or outdoors. (26 November 2021)</p>	
Second-level education	<p>Since December 2, 2021, an incidence-independent and nationwide mask requirement has also applied in schools for all grade levels. If the federal state meets the criteria for the, singing in closed rooms is only allowed with a mask; Playing wind instruments is only permitted in very large rooms or outdoors. (26 November 2021)</p>	
Higher and adult education	<p>Masks are mandatory</p>	
Business activities	<p>Access to the workplace only for vaccinated, convalescent or negative tested persons (rapid test 24 hours, PCR test valid for 48 hours). Employers also continue to offer a free test option at least twice a week. If there are no operational reasons against it, home office must be made possible. For example, this could be due to a lack of spatial or technical conditions in the employee's home. An informal message is sufficient which outlines the personal circumstances that do not allow working from home (7 January 2022).</p> <p>People who have not been vaccinated and do not have proof of infection are now only allowed to shop in grocery shops, pharmacies and drugstores. In all other shops, only vaccinated and recovered people are allowed to enter. (3 December 2021)</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Restaurants, cinemas, theatres and other leisure facilities may only be visited by vaccinated and recovered people with a daily test or with a booster vaccination (from the day of the booster vaccination) (7 January 2022).</p> <p>Clubs and discos are closed. (28 December 2022)</p> <p>A negative RADT is valid for a maximum of 24 hours (30 November 2021).</p>	

Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>From 15 January, Federal and state governments have agreed the rules for the isolation (of patients) and Quarantine (for contacts) will change (7 January 2022):</p> <p>Contact persons who show complete vaccination protection through the booster vaccination will be exempt from quarantine. This also applies to comparable groups (newly vaccinated and convalescent, etc.)</p> <p>For all others, the isolation or quarantine ends after 10 days (without a test). To end the quarantine or isolation early, a negative PCR or rapid test (with proof) is required after 7 days.</p> <p>Employees in hospitals, nursing homes and integration assistance facilities must - if they want to end the isolation early 7 days after an infection - be free of symptoms for at least 48 hours and have a negative PCR test or Ct value over 30.</p> <p>For schoolchildren and children in the childcare services, the quarantine as a contact person can be ended after 5 days with a PCR or antigen rapid test. Exceptions to the quarantine are possible if there is a high level of protection (e.g. daily tests, mask requirement, etc.).</p>	<p>who have recovered after a negative test can access places with a particularly high risk of infection - such as discos, clubs or bars.</p> <p>Alarm level III: At the latest when the hospitalisation rate exceeds 9 per 100,000, further measures (e.g. contact restrictions) will be taken by the federal states.</p> <p>If the threshold is not reached for 5 days in a row, the 2G regulations can be withdrawn.</p>
Face coverings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
COVID Pass	Anyone who had the infection more than 6 months ago and was vaccinated once afterwards is considered fully vaccinated (11 January 2022).	
Ireland	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 14 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>Updated 6 January 2022</p> <p>Indoor events</p> <p>No indoor events, including entertainment, cultural, community and sporting events, will take place after 20:00. In relation to events happening earlier in the day, attendance should be limited to 50% of venue capacity or 1,000 attendees, whichever is the lower. This includes cinemas. This does not affect religious, educational or normal workplace business activity and business events (for example: conferences, trade fairs). Contact tracing data may be requested (for example: name, contact number). Wedding receptions can take place with a capacity limit of 100 guests and continue after 20:00, midnight closing time still applies.</p> <p>Outdoor events</p> <p>Attendance at outdoor events, including entertainment, cultural, community and sporting events, should be limited to 50% of venue capacity or 5,000 attendees, whichever is the lower.</p> <p>Group activities</p> <p>Organisers of indoor and outdoor group activities should ensure that appropriate protective measures are in place, and where indoor groups have a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people indoors, pods of 6 should apply. For children under 18, the "pod of 6" system can be adjusted to allow for indoor games and competition activities only, with all other protective measures remaining in place. The "pod of 6" system should be retained for all other settings such as training activities and games as part of training. Fixed capacity limits will not apply to these indoor and outdoor group activities.</p>	
Primary schools	<p>Parents and children's activities (10 December 2021)</p> <p>Parents are being asked to prioritise their children's activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ minimising indoor community gatherings and indoor mixed household gatherings ▪ reducing the risk of exposure to the virus by opting for outdoor activities instead of indoor ▪ reducing the number of children involved in any particular activity <p>On a temporary basis, subject to review in mid-February 2022, the wearing of face masks/coverings is recommended for children:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ aged ≥ 9 years on public transport, in retail and other indoor public settings as currently required for those aged ≥ 13 ▪ in third class and above in primary school (guidance will issue to schools from the Department of Education on this) 	
Secondary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	<p>Working from home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone should work from home unless it is necessary to attend the workplace in person. This means a return to the situation on working from home as it applied before 20 September 2021. 	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Updated 6 January 2022</p> <p>All restaurants, bars and cafes, excluding take away or delivery services, close at 20:00. This also applies to hotel restaurants and bars, except for overnight residents. Strict social distancing is required in all bars and restaurants, including hotels (reverting to pre-22 October measures):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COVID Pass required ▪ table service only (no counter service) ▪ 1 metre between tables ▪ maximum 6 adults per table (maximum 15 persons when including children aged 12 and younger) ▪ no multiple table bookings and no intermingling ▪ masks when not seated at table <p>Nightclubs are closed. Contact tracing data may be requested (for example: name, contact number).</p>	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>Those who have symptoms of COVID-19 (17 January 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ anyone with symptoms should immediately self-isolate and get tested ▪ those aged 0-3 and over 39 years old and all healthcare workers should seek a PCR test ▪ everyone else (that is everyone aged 4-39) should use repeated antigen tests. Those who have a positive antigen result, should regard it as definitive and register it with the HSE – a PCR confirmation is not required ▪ those who have an underlying health condition, and have symptoms of COVID-19, should talk to their GP by phone ▪ regardless of negative results, anyone with symptoms should continue to self-isolate until 48 hours after symptoms have substantially or fully resolved ▪ all those aged 13 years and older with symptoms should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask, including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household ▪ children aged 9-12 years old with symptoms should wear a well fitted mask, including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household. <p>Those who have a positive test result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all those with a positive test result, PCR or antigen, should isolate for a minimum of 7 days ▪ those with symptoms should isolate for 7 days from the date of onset of symptoms ▪ those without symptoms should isolate for 7 days from the date of the first positive test (PCR or antigen) ▪ ending of self-isolation after 7 days is on the basis that symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final 2 of those 7 days 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ all those aged 13 years and older with a positive result should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days, including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household▪ children aged 9-12 years old with a positive result should wear a well fitted mask for 10 days including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household. <p>All positive cases should, for 10 days (including 7 days self-isolation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ limit close contact with people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces▪ wear an appropriate face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people▪ avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19▪ follow all public health protective measures. <p>Those who are a close contact, aged 13 and older, AND boosted (that is, are 7 days post their booster vaccine OR who have completed their primary vaccination course and had infection in the past 3 months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days. They should take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7. There is no requirement to restrict movements (unless they become symptomatic), but they should fully adhere to protective measures (as below)▪ those of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movements or test unless they become symptomatic. If they become symptomatic, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate. <p>It is prudent for all close contacts to adhere to protective measures for 10 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ limit close contact with people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces▪ wear an appropriate face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people▪ take an antigen test before entering crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and prior to having close contact with other people from outside their household▪ avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19▪ follow all public health protective measures. <p>Those who are a close contact, aged 13 and older, and NOT boosted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days and restrict their movements for 7 days. They should also take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7. They should also fully adhere to protective measures (as above)▪ close contacts of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movements or test unless they become symptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate. <p>Those who are a close contact, aged 13 and older, who have not had a full primary course of COVID-19 vaccine</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days and restrict their movements for 7 days. They should also take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7 and should fully adhere to protective measures (as above)▪ close contacts of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movements or test unless they become symptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate. <p>Those who are a close contact aged 12 or under, who are a household contact of a confirmed case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ children aged 9-12 years old who are a household contact of a confirmed case should wear a well fitted mask for 10 days, including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household▪ all those aged 12 and under who are household contacts of a confirmed case should restrict their movements for 7 days▪ children aged 4-12 should take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7▪ those age 0-3 should only take a PCR test if they are symptomatic▪ those of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movements or test unless they become symptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate. <p>Those who are a close contact aged 12 or under, who are a non-household contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ children aged 9-12 years old who are close contacts of a case outside their household should wear a well fitted mask for 10 days, including when they may be at risk of coming into contact with others in their household▪ no restriction of movement is necessary unless symptoms appear▪ no testing necessary unless symptoms appear▪ asymptomatic children who are school/childcare pod contacts of cases will still be offered antigen testing▪ those of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movements and test unless they become symptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate. <p>Who must self-isolate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ anyone with symptoms should immediately self-isolate and get tested. Regardless of whether they have a negative result, anyone with symptoms should continue to self-isolate until 48 hours after symptoms have substantially or fully resolved▪ all those with a positive test result, PCR or antigen, should isolate for a minimum of 7 days. Self-isolation should commence from date of onset of symptoms or, if asymptomatic, from date of first positive test result. They should only stop isolating at that time if their symptoms have substantially or fully resolved. <p>Who should restrict movements?*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a person who is a close contact, aged 13 years and older who has not had their immunity boosted should use a well-fitted medical grade or FFP2 face mask for 10 days and restrict their movements for 7 days. They should take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7▪ a person aged 12 or under who is a close contact of a confirmed case in their household should restrict their movements for 7 days. They should also wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days if they are aged 9-12 years old.	
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	<p>Children aged 4-12 years who are close contacts of a confirmed case in their household should take regular antigen tests over 7 days, with the last test on day 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the period of restricted movements for close contacts applies from date of last contact with positive case if known or, if not, from date of notification as a contact. <p>It is important that all close contacts adhere to protective measures (see above) for 10 days (including the 7 days of restricted movements).</p> <p>*Close contacts of any age who have recovered from COVID-19 following a positive PCR or antigen test carried out since 1 December 2021 are not required to restrict movement and test unless they become symptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate, get tested and wear a mask as appropriate.</p>	
Face coverings	<p>Updated 6 January 2022</p> <p>Face coverings must be worn in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ shops, including pharmacies ▪ supermarkets ▪ shopping centres ▪ banks, credit unions and post offices ▪ libraries ▪ cinemas and cinema complexes ▪ theatres ▪ concert halls ▪ bingo halls ▪ museums ▪ nail salons ▪ hair salons and barbers ▪ tattoo and piercing parlours ▪ travel agents and tour operators ▪ laundries and dry cleaners ▪ betting shops and bookmakers ▪ on public transport ▪ staff in customer facing roles in bars, restaurants and cafés ▪ in taxis (drivers and passengers) ▪ bus stations and rail stations. <p>Wearing of face coverings is also recommended in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ by people visiting the homes of those who are > 70 years of age or who are medically vulnerable ▪ by people who are being visited in their homes by those who are > 70 years of age or who are medically vulnerable ▪ if you are travelling in a vehicle with someone you don't live with ▪ crowded workplaces ▪ places of worship 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ busy or crowded outdoor spaces where there is significant congregation ▪ in circumstances where 2 metres distance can't be maintained. <p>They can be removed for consumption of food or drinks as appropriate.</p> <p>The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) (Latest update 14 January 2022) recommend that medical grade or FFP2 masks are used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ anyone over 13 years with a positive COVID-19 test result ▪ anyone over 13 years with symptoms of COVID-19 ▪ all close contacts aged over 13 years old for 10 days ▪ vulnerable people in indoor or crowded outdoor places ▪ over-60s in indoor or crowded outdoor places ▪ anyone visiting a healthcare setting or when visiting those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 in any setting. 	
COVID Pass	<p>Updated 6 January 2022</p> <p>An EU Digital COVID Certificate (COVID pass) (vaccine or recovery certificate) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ indoor hospitality and events ▪ cinemas and theatres ▪ gyms and leisure centres (excluding access to swimming pools or standalone swimming pool facilities) ▪ hotel bars and restaurants (that is, removing exemption for residents) <p>There are exemptions for those for whom a hotel setting is their permanent residence (e.g. those in emergency accommodation or other state-supported accommodation arrangements).</p>	
Italy	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 10 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test required to attend civil and religious ceremonies Proof of vaccination or recovery required to attend other types of gatherings (5 December 2021). Capacities will be allowed a maximum of 50% for outdoor events and 35% for indoor events (29 December 2021).	On 26 Nov 2021, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region has been categorised as a yellow area. The Autonomous Province of Bolzano and Calabria have also been categorised as a yellow areas . All the other Regions and Autonomous Provinces remain in the white zone.
Primary schools	With a positive case, surveillance with testing is activated. The activity in the classroom continues by carrying out a rapid or molecular antigen test as soon as the positive case (T0) is known, a repeat test is done after five days (T5). In the presence of 2 or more positives, distance learning is implemented for the duration of 10 days for the class in which the positive cases occur (5 January 2022).	
Second-level education	With 2 cases in the same class, integrated digital teaching is provided for those who have completed the primary vaccination cycle for more than 120 days, who have recovered for more than 120 days, and who have not received the booster dose. For all the others, it is foreseen the continuation of the activities in presence with self-surveillance and the use of FFP2 masks in the classroom. With 3 cases in the same class, distance learning is expected for 10 days (5 January 2022).	
Higher and adult education	Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test required to access university (5 December 2021)	
Business activities	Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test required to access workplaces for public workers and private individuals. (5 December 2021) Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test required during weekends and holiday period to access shopping malls (5 December 2021)	

<p>Culture/leisure/entertainment</p>	<p>Proof of vaccination or recovery required when attending inside in theatrical halls, concert halls, cinematographic, locals entertainment live music, dance halls and discos, restaurants & bars, parties and nightclubs (with capacity at 100%) (5 December 2021)</p> <p>Proof of vaccination, recovery or recent negative test required for indoor access to exhibitions, museums and other places of culture (5 December 2021)</p> <p>Proof of vaccination or recovery required when eating or drinking in a hotel as a resident when the catering facilities are not exclusively for residents only (5 December 2021)</p> <p>In Yellow zone (see below): Maximum of four non-cohabiting people per table. Yellow zone: Any region above the threshold of 10% ICU, 15% general ward COVID patient occupancy, and with a new weekly incident rate of 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.</p>	
<p>Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<p>Precautionary quarantine does not apply to those who have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case if they have completed their primary vaccination course or from recovery and the administration of the booster dose in the 120 days. However, they should wear FFP2 masks and if symptomatic, should take an antigen test or PCR test on day 5 following exposure (29 December 2021).</p>	
<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>Masks are mandatory indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces; in bigger cities, mask mandates apply outdoors, regardless of the level of crowding. FFP2 type masks are required on all means of transport, at events open to the public that take place outdoors and indoors in theaters, concert halls, cinemas, entertainment and live music venues (and other similar venues) and for events and sports competitions that take place indoors or outdoors. In all these cases it is forbidden to consume food and drinks indoors (23 December 2021).</p>	
<p>COVID Pass</p>	<p>From 1 February 2022 the duration of the vaccination green pass is reduced from 9 to 6 months. The minimum period for the administration of the third dose will be reduced from 5 to 4 months from the completion of the primary vaccination cycle. From 23 December extension of the reinforced Green Pass obligation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ indoors for swimming pools, gyms and team sports; ▪ museums and exhibitions; ▪ indoors for wellness centres; ▪ spa centres (except for essential levels of assistance and rehabilitation or therapeutic activities); ▪ theme and amusement parks; ▪ indoors for cultural centres, social and recreational centres (excluding educational centres for children); ▪ game rooms, betting rooms, bingo halls and casinos. <p>From 10 January 2022 until the end of the state of emergency, the use of the reinforced Green Pass is extended to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ hotels and accommodation facilities; ▪ feasts resulting from civil or religious ceremonies; ▪ festivals and fairs; ▪ convention centres; ▪ outdoor catering services; ▪ ski lifts with tourist-commercial purposes even if located in ski areas; ▪ swimming pools, swimming centres, team sports and wellness centres, even outdoors; ▪ cultural centre, social and recreational centre for outdoor activities. 	

	<p>Vaccination obligation Introduced a vaccination obligation for all those who have reached the age of 50. For public and private workers aged 50, the Enhanced Green Pass will be required for access to workplaces starting from 15 February 2022. Without age limits, the vaccination obligation is extended to university staff thus equated to school staff (5 January 2022).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Green Pass is a certificate proving that the holder has been vaccinated against COVID, recovered within the last 6 months or tested negative in the last 2 days. ▪ The Enhanced Green Pass is a "reinforced" version of the "basic" Green Pass and only applies to those who have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19. The Enhanced Green Pass cannot be obtained via a negative COVID test result, meaning there are significant repercussions for people who are unvaccinated. 	
Netherlands	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 15 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>Events are not permitted, except for funerals (no more than 100 people), weekly markets selling groceries, and professional sports matches and competitions (no spectators).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From 15 January 2022 the following measures apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Always stay 1.5 metres apart. ○ Receive no more than 4 visitors aged 13 and over a day. Visit no more than 1 household a day. ○ Outdoors, people are advised not to meet in groups of more than 4 people aged 13 and over. <p>These measures apply in addition to the existing restrictions and advice, such as the basis rules, the face mask requirement, the advice to do a self-test before visiting others or receiving visitors and the advice to work from home. People aged 70 and over are advised to limit their contact with others, including children, as much as possible and to stay 1.5 m apart.</p>	On 25 January the government will decide if more restrictions can be lifted.
Primary schools	<p>Primary schools, schools for special education and out-of-school care centres on 10 January 2022.</p> <p>The rules in schools are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils and staff with symptoms, including mild cold symptoms, must stay at home and get a PCR test or do a self-test. ▪ Staff must wear a face mask while moving around the building. Face masks may be taken off in the classroom. Children in primary years 6, 7 and 8 are strongly advised to wear a face mask outside their classroom. ▪ If there is an outbreak in a particular class at a primary school, a school for special education or a special school for primary education, the municipal health service may advise everyone in the class to self-quarantine. ▪ Schools must take measures to prevent transmission of the virus, like one-way corridors, staggering breaks and limiting contacts between pupils in different classes (in so far as the building allows). Children who are able to go to and from school on their own should do so. ▪ All staff and pupils in primary years 6, 7 and 8 are advised to do a self-test twice a week. This also applies to staff and pupils who are vaccinated or have had COVID-19. If the result of the self-test is positive, the individual in question and anyone they live with must self-quarantine and get a PCR test. If that test comes back negative, they can return to school. ▪ The basic rules still apply. For schools, this means all adults (including teachers) must where possible stay 1.5m apart from each other, parents must stay outside and meetings must be held online. 	
Second-level education	Secondary schools and special secondary schools reopened on 10 January 2022 .	

	<p>The rules in schools are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils and staff with symptoms, including mild cold symptoms, must stay at home and get a PCR test or do a self-test. ▪ Staff and pupils must wear a face mask while moving around the building. Face masks may be taken off in the classroom. ▪ Schools must take measures to prevent transmission of the virus, like one-way corridors, staggering breaks and limiting contacts between pupils in different classes (in so far as the building allows). Children who are able to go to and from school on their own should do so. ▪ All staff and pupils in secondary education are advised to do a self-test twice a week. This also applies to staff and pupils who are vaccinated or have had coronavirus. If the result of the self-test is positive, the individual in question and anyone they live with must self-quarantine and get a PCR test. If that test comes back negative, they can return to school. ▪ The basic rules still apply. For schools, this means all adults (including teachers) must where possible stay 1.5m apart from each other, parents must stay outside and meetings must be held online. ▪ Secondary vocational education can reopen for in-person learning (15 January 2022). 	
Higher and adult education	Higher education can reopen for in-person learning (15 January 2022).	
Business activities	Non-essential shops can reopen until 17:00. People must stay 1.5 m apart and wear face masks, the number of shoppers must be limited, and hygiene rules must be followed. Hairdressers, nail technicians, sex workers and others in contact-based professions may see customers before 17:00. All restaurants, bars and cafés are closed, except for takeaway and delivery. Essential shops, such as supermarkets and chemists, can stay open until 20:00. Petrol stations, pharmacies, driving schools, notaries, lawyers and other essential service providers can be open for their normal opening hours (15 January 2022).	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Between 17:00 and 05:00 locations must be closed and events are not permitted. ▪ From 11 January 2022 the government intends to allow outdoor sports facilities to remain open until 20:00 for children under 18. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children under 18 are not required to stay 1.5 m apart while participating in sports. ○ They are allowed to take part in team sports and in matches and competitions against teams from their own club. ○ Competitions and matches against other clubs are not permitted. ▪ All indoor and outdoor sports activities and artistic and cultural activities (such as music, theatre and dance) are permitted again, but without spectators/audiences. Adults may now also take part in sports matches and competitions within their own club. People over 18 taking part in sports indoors or in artistic and cultural activities indoors and outdoors must show a coronavirus entry pass. Cinemas, museums, theatres and concert venues are closed (15 January 2022). 	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>For those who have symptoms, stay at home and do a self-test. If the result is positive get a PCR test. Close contacts of a person who has COVID-19 do not need to self-quarantine if they do not have symptoms themselves and they received their booster vaccination at least 1 week ago or have had COVID-19 in the past 8 weeks. This applies with immediate effect.</p> <p>Advice on self-quarantining for people in certain jobs who have not yet received their booster vaccination or have not had COVID-19 recently will be issued soon.</p>	
Face coverings	Settings in which face masks are mandatory	

	<p>Wearing a face mask is required by law (by those >12 years) in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on public transport, such as trains, trams, buses and ferries; ▪ at stations, on platforms and at bus and tram stops; ▪ at airports and on planes; ▪ on other passenger transport, such as taxis or coaches; ▪ in public indoor spaces such as shops and libraries; ▪ at indoor events – at indoor events where a coronavirus entry pass is mandatory, you can take off the face mask when seated. ▪ in primary schools: adults only, when moving around the building; ▪ in secondary schools: when moving around the building; ▪ in institutions for secondary vocational education and higher education: when moving around the building; ▪ at the hairdresser’s, beauty salon, massage providers and other contact-based professions. <p>Face masks can be taken off when seated, except on public transport and in planes.</p>	
<p>COVID Pass</p>	<p>Most activities where a corona entry pass is required will be temporarily closed from 19 December 2021.</p> <p>To be able to travel to other countries in the European Union/Schengen area (and an epidemiologically safe country outside the European Union or Schengen area), you need a COVID certificate (DCC). This can be based on a negative test result, proof of vaccination or proof of recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p>Digital COVID Certificate (DCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone aged ≥ 13 must show a coronavirus entry pass at certain locations, for example, to go to a bar or restaurant, an event, the cinema or theatre, or to a sports match. ▪ If you are visiting the Netherlands and would like to attend an activity, you can use your EU DCC, that is, proof of vaccination or proof of recovery of COVID-19. ▪ If you don't have a DCC, you will need a negative test result to attend. <p>2G coronavirus entry pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the moment, a 3G admission policy (proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or negative test result) applies in certain sectors. ▪ Under the government’s proposed 2G policy it will be possible to require visitors at certain locations to show a coronavirus entry pass based on proof of vaccination or recovery only. ▪ These locations may include high-risk settings in the cultural, hospitality and events sectors as well as non-essential locations such as amusement parks and zoos. <p>Coronavirus entry passes at places of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government wants to make it possible to require people to show a coronavirus entry pass at their place of work. ▪ Under the Coronavirus Entry Passes (Temporary Expansion) Bill employees will be required to show a coronavirus entry pass in sectors where customers are also required to do show one (such as the hospitality, cultural and non-essential retail sectors) and at places of work where the risk of infection is high. ▪ Which places of work will be designated 'high risk' and when the requirement will enter into force will be determined later by way of ministerial orders. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament will debate the Coronavirus Entry Passes (Temporary Expansion) Bill in January. <p>Coronavirus entry passes for non-essential shops and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The House of Representatives and the Senate have approved the government's proposal to make it possible to require people to show a coronavirus entry pass at non-essential shops and non-essential services. This means this measure could be introduced in the future if necessary. <p>Coronavirus entry passes in secondary vocational and higher education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the number of infections continues to rise, it may be necessary to make coronavirus entry passes mandatory in secondary vocational education and higher education in order for educational institutions to stay open. Parliament will debate a draft bill to this effect in January. 	
<p>Norway</p>	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 18 January 2022</p>	<p>Trigger for changes</p>
<p>Social or mass gatherings</p>	<p>How many can attend private gatherings and how many can attend an event? In Norway, a maximum of 30 people can attend indoor public events without designated seating and 200 people with designated seating. At outdoor public events, up to 200 people without designated seating can attend, and up to 3 cohorts of 200 people each with designated seating can attend. Organisers must keep a list of where each attendee sits at public events when everyone in the audience is has designated seating. There is also a requirement to wear a face covering at indoor events (14 January 2022)</p> <p>What are events and private gatherings? The following are defined as events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sporting events, including competitions, cups, tournaments and matches, but not organised training cultural events, including concerts, exhibitions, opera, ballet, theatre and cinema, but not organised rehearsals seminars, conferences, courses, membership meetings and other professional gatherings, but not meetings or gatherings as part of ordinary work or teaching at school or university philosophical gatherings and ceremonies, including ceremonies at weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations gatherings of persons carried out under the auspices of an external actor on behalf of companies and organisations private gatherings; gatherings for family, friends and acquaintances or social gatherings in connection with work or school, including events after ceremonies. <p>Gatherings in private homes You should not have more than 10 guests at home in addition to your own household (14 January 2022).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of measures are being introduced now to delay the spread of the new Omicron variant when it comes to the country. Stricter national measures to limit the spread of Omicron were announced on 14 December 2021. A report published in Norway signalled that as a result of the occurrence of the Omicron variant in Norway there is a need for extensive use of the quarantine with new quarantine rules for other close contacts.
<p>Primary schools</p>	<p>All kindergartens and primary moved to yellow level on 16 December 2021 and remain at this level.</p> <p>Levels of public health measures in school are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). (Definitions for upper secondary here)</p> <p>Green level:</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sick individuals may not attend school2. Good hygiene and regular cleaning3. Social distancing measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ avoidance of physical contact between individuals (shaking hands and hugging)▪ social distancing between staff▪ regular organisation of classes and school day. <p>Yellow level:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sick individuals may not attend school2. Good hygiene and increased cleaning3. Social distancing measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ avoidance of physical contact between individuals (shaking hands and hugging)▪ entire classes and groups can receive instruction together▪ students should have assigned seats in each classroom or designated partners/groups▪ social distancing between staff (of at least 1 m) in all situations▪ staff can switch classes, but should maintain a distance to students if possible▪ social distancing between students/staff outside the classroom/teaching situation▪ prevention of crowds and large gatherings. <p>Red level:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sick individuals may not attend school2. Good hygiene and increased cleaning3. Social distancing measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ avoidance of physical contact between individuals (shaking hands and hugging)▪ division of students into smaller groups – goal: reduce the number of contacts by half▪ students should have assigned seats in each classroom or designated partners/groups▪ social distancing between staff (of at least 1 m) in all situations▪ staff can switch classes▪ social distancing between students/staff (at least 1 m) in all situations▪ prevention of crowds and large gatherings▪ consideration of alternating attendance times/alternative rooms▪ partial online instruction. <p>Further descriptions of each level (i.e green, yellow and red level) can be found here.</p> <p>There can be a maximum of 20 participants at indoor activities, unless all of the participants come from the same class at kindergarten or school. Matches or tournaments that gather children from different places are not recommended. (14 December 2021). Outdoor activities can be carried out as normal. For team sports, only individual matches are recommended, and not indoor tournaments, cups, etc. For individual sports, it is recommended to limit the group size of the competitions (14 January 2022).</p>	
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	<p>Regular testing is recommended to be performed twice a week on employees and parents. People who do not want to be tested are exempt from testing (testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission) (18 January 2022). Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last 3 months and people who have received their booster dose (no time limit).</p>	
Second-level education	<p>Levels of public health measures in school are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). (See definitions provided under primary education). A green level was recommended in upper secondary schools on (14 January 2022).</p> <p>Lower secondary schools (age 13 to 16), must operate at a yellow level. A maximum of 20 participants at indoor activities are permitted, unless all of the participants come from the same cohort. Matches or tournaments that gather children from different places are not recommended while outdoor events where 1 m can be maintained can go ahead. Children and adolescents who have completed lower secondary school should also keep a 1-m distance in their leisure time (14 December 2021).</p> <p>Regular testing is recommended (18 January 2022) to be performed twice a week on middle school (5th-7th grade), middle school and high school: staff and students. People who do not want to be tested do not have to be tested (testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission). Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last 3 months and people who have received their booster dose (no time limit).</p>	
Higher and adult education	<p>Levels of public health measures in school are classified in a traffic light model from a relatively normal organisation of the school day (green level) to extensive measures that entail smaller groups and more distance between students and staff (red level). (See definitions provided under primary education). A green level was recommended in adult education on (14 January 2022).</p> <p>Regular testing is recommended (18 January 2022) to be performed twice a week on staff and students People who do not want to be tested do not have to be tested (testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission). Exceptions also apply to people who have had COVID-19 or received their primary vaccination in the last 3 months and people who have received their booster dose (no time limit) 14 January 2022.</p>	
Business activities	<p>Employers are required to ensure that employees work from home if this is feasible and does not have a negative impact on services that are important and necessary for the business, including activities to protect children and vulnerable groups (14 December 2021).</p> <p>In licensed establishments, alcoholic drinks cannot be served after 23:00, and cannot be consumed after 23:00. Alcoholic drinks must be served at the table (17 January 2022).</p> <p>Information on ventilation recommendations for workplaces added (21 December 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For people in light activity, a minimum air supply of 7 litres/second/person is recommended, and a maximum air speed of 0.2 metres/second. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) from exhalation should not exceed 1000 ppm (parts per million). CO₂ levels below 800 ppm are recommended for rooms with continuous speech (teaching), singing (choir exercises) and high physical activity (gyms), where the risk of infection is increased. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relative humidity below 20% should be avoided. However, the use of active humidification is not recommended. Air purification based on HEPA filters is assumed to be able to contribute to further reduced risk of infection, but does not replace the minimum requirements for ventilation. 	
<p>Culture/leisure/entertainment</p>	<p>The following rules and recommendations apply from (13 January 2022).</p> <p>Guidance for activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor activities can be carried out as normal, with contact where necessary. ▪ Indoors, a maximum of 20 people and a distance of 1 m is recommended. ▪ During intensive training, arrangements should be made for a distance of 2 m <p>Guidance for venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Venues that serve food or alcohol must not organise activities that naturally entail a shorter distance between guests than 1 m. A typical example of this is dancing. ▪ Venues that serve food or alcohol may not serve more than 30 guests at private indoor events or more than 50 outdoors. The rules for private events do not apply to venues that serve food or alcohol. The venue must operate in accordance with the infection control rules. ▪ Amusement parks, soft play centres, amusement arcades, etc. must be closed. ▪ Indoor swimming pools, water parks, spa facilities, hotel pools, and fitness centres may open for limited activities. ▪ In licensed establishments, alcoholic drinks cannot be served after 23:00, and cannot be consumed after 23:00. Alcoholic drinks must be served at the table (17 January 2022). 	
<p>Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Norwegian Government introduced new national measures on 29 November 2021 (in effect from 3 December 2021 00:00) to delay the spread of the Omicron variant. People are recommended to keep a distance and to avoid shaking hands and hugging each other. ▪ Adults are asked to consider whether they can slightly reduce the number of their close contacts. ▪ There is a national recommendation to wear a face covering when in contact with the health and care service. ▪ From 15 Dec 21, the COVID regulations changed so that the same rules for isolation and quarantine applied regardless of the virus variant. Measures for Omicron variant now differ depending on a person's immunity status. (Latest update 29 December 2021). ▪ The isolation period is 6 days after onset of symptoms AND 24 hours fever free without the use of antipyretic drugs. If symptoms occur after the test time, 6 days must be counted from the onset of symptoms. If asymptomatic the 6 day isolation period is counted from the time of the positive test. ▪ Transmission quarantine is required for 10 days for close contacts who are household members or corresponding close relations of people who there is reason to believe have been infected with the COVID-19. They are required to take a PCR test or a rapid antigen test as soon as possible and on day 7. They may leave quarantine if they receive a negative test result on day 7. ▪ For those living with one or more people who are isolated, it can be difficult to keep enough distance. Since most of the infection occurs in the days around symptom onset, contact can be considered as being from day 4 (for the last patient in the household) as the last exposure, and count 10 days from there. For those who live with one or more people who are isolated, a test to end the quarantine can be taken at the earliest 11 days (4 + 7) after the onset of the disease in the last patient in the household. ▪ The quarantine duty does not apply to household members and equivalent close contacts who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have had COVID-19 in the last 3 months before exposure 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have had a booster dose at least 7 days before exposure if they test daily with a rapid antigen test or every other day with PCR for 7 days after exposure. ▪ Everyone who is defined as other close contacts is not obligated to quarantine. It is recommended to test day 3 and 5 after the last close contact. The tests can be self-tests, rapid tests taken by healthcare professionals or PCR tests. Those who had COVID-19 in the last 3 months or are included in regular testing, do not need to follow these test recommendations (15 January 2022). It is recommended to monitor whether they experience symptoms for 10 days after exposure, and have a low threshold for testing with mild symptoms. ▪ Children below school age are only recommended to test if they have symptoms. ▪ Children under the age of 16 should not be tested if it is disproportionately demanding to have a test taken. <p>Regular testing for covid-19 in kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities (18 January 2022) In municipalities with high levels of infection, regular testing of children and adolescents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular testing is recommended to be performed twice a week. ▪ In case of major or confusing outbreaks, one can consider increasing the frequency to 3 times per week for 2-3 weeks. ▪ As a general rule, the municipality should try regular testing for at least 4 weeks before considering more intrusive measures such as quarantine, raising the traffic light level or limiting teaching offers and leisure activities. <p>Who should be tested regularly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kindergartens: employees and parents ▪ Primary school (1st-4th grade): employees, and students or parents (parents' guardians decide this) ▪ Middle school (5th-7th grade), middle school and high school: staff and students ▪ Universities and colleges: staff and students. <p>Exception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People who have undergone covid-19 or received other vaccine doses in the last 3 months ▪ People who have received the third vaccine dose (no time limit) ▪ People who do not want to be tested (testing is voluntary and cannot be required for school admission). 	
Face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a national recommendation to use face masks on public transport, in taxis, in shops and in shopping centres ▪ National injunction to wear a face mask where you cannot maintain a distance of 1 metre (8 December 2021). ▪ The requirement to wear a face covering also applies to indoor events, libraries, and museums (14 December 2021). <p>The requirement to wear a face covering does not apply when sitting at a table in a venue that serves food or when eating or drinking while seated. (14 December 2021)</p> <p>Children between the ages of 2 and 13 are not recommended to wear a face mask, therefore a face mask is not recommended for pupils in primary school.</p>	

COVID Pass	<p>Entry to Norway (updated 3 December 2021)</p> <p>Those who are fully vaccinated or have had COVID-19 during the last 6 months, with a verifiable corona certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Requirement for entry registration.▪ Requirements for post-arrival testing. You will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the border crossing point in Norway. In cases where there is no test station at the border, the test station is not open or the authorities have instructed that testing should not be carried out at the border crossing point, you have a duty to test yourself at another test station or to take a self-test within 24 hours of arrival. In the case of a positive antigen rapid test or self-test, you must take a PCR test as soon as possible and no later than within 24 hours. Persons over the age of 12 must use face masks in cases where it is not possible to avoid close contact with other persons until there is a negative test result. <p>Those who are over 18 years old, are fully vaccinated or have undergone COVID-19 during the last 6 months, without a verifiable corona certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Requirement for entry registration.▪ Requirements for completed test for SARS-CoV-2 before departure to Norway. You must present a certificate showing negative test for SARS-CoV-2. Approved test method is PCR or rapid antigen test. The test must be taken during the last 24 hours before arrival in Norway.▪ Requirements for post-arrival testing. You will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the border crossing point in Norway. In cases where there is no test station at the border, the test station is not open or the authorities have instructed that tests should not be carried out at the border crossing point, you have a duty to test yourself at another test station or to take a self-test within 24 hours of arrival. In the case of a positive rapid antigen test or self-test, you must take a PCR test as soon as possible and no later than within 24 hours. Persons over the age of 12 must use face masks in cases where it is not possible to avoid close contact with other persons until there is a negative test result.▪ Requirements for entry quarantine if you come from an area with a quarantine obligation. You can test yourself out of the entry quarantine in the event of a negative test result by PCR test taken no earlier than 3 days after arrival. <p>Those who are over 18 years old, are not fully vaccinated and have not had COVID-19 during the last 6 months, without a verifiable corona certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Requirement for entry registration.▪ Requirement to complete a corona test before leaving for Norway. You must present a certificate showing negative test for SARS-CoV-2. Approved test method is PCR or rapid antigen test. The test must be taken during the last 24 hours before arrival in Norway.▪ Requirements for post-arrival testing. You will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the border crossing point in Norway. In cases where there is no test station at the border, the test station is not open or the authorities have instructed that tests should not be carried out at the border crossing point, you have a duty to test yourself at another test station or to take a self-test within 24 hours of arrival. In the case of a positive rapid antigen test or self-test, you must take a PCR test as soon as possible and no later than within 24 hours. Persons over the age of 12 must use face masks in cases where it is not possible to avoid close contact with other persons until there is a negative test result.	
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	<p>Those who are 16-18 years old, are not fully vaccinated and have not had COVID-19 during the last 6 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requirement for entry registration. ▪ You do not need to take a test before departure. ▪ Requirements for post-arrival testing. You will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the border crossing point in Norway. In cases where there is no test station at the border, the test station is not open or the authorities have instructed that tests should not be carried out at the border crossing point, you have a duty to test yourself at another test station or to take a self-test within 24 hours of arrival. In the case of a positive rapid antigen test or self-test, you must take a PCR test as soon as possible and no later than within 24 hours. Persons over the age of 12 must use face masks in cases where it is not possible to avoid close contact with other persons until there is a negative test result. ▪ You should NOT be in the entry quarantine. It is still recommended to test 3 days after arrival. <p>Under 16 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No requirement for entry registration. ▪ You do not need to take a test before departure. ▪ Requirements for post-arrival testing. You will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the border crossing point in Norway. In cases where there is no test station at the border, the test station is not open or the authorities have instructed that tests should not be carried out at the border crossing point, you have a duty to test yourself at another test station or to take a self-test within 24 hours of arrival. In the case of a positive rapid antigen test or self-test, you must take a PCR test as soon as possible and no later than within 24 hours. Children under the age of 16 should not be tested where it is disproportionately demanding to have the test taken by the child. Persons over the age of 12 must use face masks in cases where it is not possible to avoid close contact with other persons until there is a negative test result. ▪ You should NOT be in the entry quarantine. It is still recommended to test 3 days after arrival. ▪ These rules apply regardless of whether you are a Norwegian citizen or a foreigner arriving in Norway. Which area or country you come from is relevant to the question of entry quarantine. 	
Portugal	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 14 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>The presentation of the digital certificate (or proof of vaccination or a negative laboratory test result) will be mandatory for those aged ≥ 12 years when accessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small events (less than 5,000 people outdoors or with less than 1,000 people indoors), whether indoors, outdoors or outside fixed venues. ▪ Family or corporate events ▪ Testing is required to access large events (from 5,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors). Those attending large events must provide a negative test or recovery certificate; this is waived for workers in spaces or establishments as well as any suppliers or service providers. ▪ Mandatory negative test is required for access to weddings and baptisms, corporate events, sports venues (unless exempted by the DGS) and cultural shows. ▪ Children under 12 years are exempt from testing. 	<p>Given the growth of Omicron, and knowing in advance that the Christmas and New Year seasons are, by their nature, moments of socialising and social interaction, the Government decided to reinforce measures to combat the pandemic, in a preventive manner, to mitigate the risks potentially associated with this time (22 December 2021).</p>
Primary schools	<p>Schools reopened on (10 January 2022). There will be testing of teachers and students in the first two weeks after returning to school.</p>	

Second-level education	Schools reopened on (10 January 2022). There will be testing of teachers and students in the first two weeks after returning to school.	
Higher and adult education	Between 2-9 January 2022, the following were suspended in person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaching and non-teaching face-to-face activities of higher education institutions, without prejudice to the evaluation periods in progress. 	
Business activities	From 25 December 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ teleworking was mandatory until (14 January 2022) and continues to be recommended after this date ▪ closing of clubs and bars ▪ closures of day care centres and voluntary services available to preschool and elementary school children. ▪ from 22 December 2021 – reduction in capacity in all commercial places to 1 person per 5 m² 	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	Mandatory negative test for access to corporate events, cultural shows, and sports venues unless decided by Directorate-General of Health of Portugal (DGS). Bars and clubs can reopen on (14 January 2022)	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	From (10 January 2022) there has been a general recommendation for regular testing. Free tests in pharmacies increased from 4 to 6 per person (time frame not stated). Mandatory negative test requirement (even for vaccinated people) in accessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home visits ▪ Visits to patients admitted to health facilities ▪ Large events without marked seats (or in improvised venues) and sports venues ▪ Weddings and baptisms ▪ Tourist establishments and local accommodation ▪ Corporate events ▪ Cultural shows ▪ Sports venues. Isolation requirements and exemptions since (10 January 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ isolation is now applied only to positive cases and their cohabitants ▪ people with a booster dose are exempt from isolation ▪ isolation is 7 days. 	
Face coverings	On (10 January 2021) masks were made mandatory in closed spaces. The use of a mask is mandatory to access or stay in the following places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spaces, equipment and commercial and service provision establishments, regardless of the respective area ▪ Public buildings or buildings for public use where services are provided or acts involving the public are carried out ▪ Education, teaching and day care establishments, except in outdoor recreational spaces ▪ Concert halls, cinematographic film exhibition halls, congress halls, venues for events of a corporate nature, improvised venues for events, namely cultural, or similar ▪ Enclosures for events of any nature and sporting celebrations, namely in stadiums; ▪ health facilities and services 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential or reception structures or home support services for vulnerable populations, elderly people or people with disabilities, as well as integrated long-term care units from the National Integrated Long-term Care Network and other residential structures and responses dedicated to children and young people ▪ Locations where this is determined in the norms of the General Directorate of Health. 	
COVID Pass	<p>The presentation of the digital certificate (or proof of vaccination or a negative laboratory test result) will be mandatory when accessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restaurants ▪ Gyms ▪ Cultural shows ▪ Events with reserved seats ▪ Tourist establishments and local accommodation. <p>Since (10 January 2022) mandatory negative test or recovery certificate, except for those who have already been vaccinated with a booster dose of the vaccine for at least 14 days, are required when accessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bars and clubs (from 14th January) ▪ Big events ▪ Visits to care and nursing homes and health facilities. 	
Spain	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 13 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	A maximum capacity of up to 75% is allowed (previously 100%) for events in open venues and a maximum capacity of up to 50% (previously 80%) for events in closed venues, respecting the non-pharmacological protective measures against COVID-19 (29 December 2021).	
Primary schools	The Government of Spain and the autonomous communities and cities have given a commitment to the return of in person classes on the 10 Jan when the school year is resumed (4 January 2022).	
Second-level education	The Government of Spain and the autonomous communities and cities have given a commitment to the return of in person classes on the 10 Jan when the school year is resumed (4 January 2022).	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021.	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021.	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated national advice since 26 Nov 2021. COVID-19 measures are being managed largely by the administration of the autonomous regions.	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>Spain's central and regional health authorities decided that in school settings, quarantines for the entire group will be recommended only when there are 5 or more cases of active infections in the classroom, or over 20% of students are affected, in a period equal to or shorter than 7 days (7 January 2022).</p> <p>The Health Ministry is finalising a coronavirus surveillance plan that will mirror the one used for the flu, which will mean a move to a sentinel reporting system for COVID-19 infections. Single diagnosed infection will no longer be reported and administration of tests will be more selective -based on clinical judgment and not self-diagnosed symptoms, with data instead being extrapolated from a significant sample of the population. This coronavirus will be monitored just like any other coronavirus or respiratory illness. There is no set date yet, although the transition is not expected before the end of the current wave (10 January 2022). Five of Spain's regions – which are in charge of their healthcare systems, vaccination campaigns and coronavirus restrictions – are already rehearsing a pilot monitoring program in their healthcare centres, while 9 are doing so in hospitals (13 January 2022).</p>	

	Isolation period for positive cases has been reduced to 7 days compared to the previous requirement of 10 days. Close contacts requiring quarantine (not fully vaccinated only) is also reduced to 7 days (29 December 2021). Close contacts who are vaccinated are not required to isolate (21 December 2021).	
Face coverings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
COVID Pass	From 1 February 2022, vaccination certificates issued more than 14 days after the date of administration of the last dose of the full vaccination schedule will be accepted as valid, provided that no more than 270 days have elapsed since the date of administration of the last dose (29 December 2021).	
Sweden	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 18 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>From 23 December, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone should avoid crowded environments. ▪ Everyone should work from home as far as the work allows. ▪ Only seated guests are allowed at restaurants and a distance of 1 meter between different parties is required. ▪ If there are more than 20 people at public gatherings and public events, only seated guests are allowed, regardless of vaccination certificate. Participants must be divided into groups of a maximum of 8 people (12 January 2022). ▪ Without a vaccination certificate, there are also requirements for distance between the companies, a maximum size of 8 people within the company and a maximum number of 500 guests or participants. ▪ At events of more than 500 guests or participants, vaccination certificates and distance between the parties and a maximum size of 8 people per party are required. <p>Indoor events (Public gatherings and public events)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From 19 January 2022, the following applies: For general gatherings and public events as well as trade fairs, which take place indoors and where vaccination certificates are used, the participation ceiling is 500 participants. If the room is divided so that participants from different sections do not come into contact with each other, the restriction applies to 500 people in each section. 	The Swedish Public Health Agency introduced new advice and recommendations to limit the spread of COVID-19 in society and to reduce the risk of healthcare being overburdened. From 8 December 2021 , everyone is recommended to keep their distance in public environments. The recommendations apply until 31 January 2022.
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	From 23 December 2021 , infection control measures are recommended for adult education, so that congestion and large gatherings are avoided. Local education is the main rule, but for universities and colleges, distance education can be used as a tool to thin out the teaching premises.	
Business activities	<p>The Swedish Public Health Agency further decides to recommend employers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make it easier for employees to get vaccinated and inform about the importance of staying home when you get symptoms. ▪ Make it possible for employees to keep their distance from each other, for example at meetings, in coffee rooms and changing rooms. Avoid large indoor gatherings with many participants. ▪ Make it possible for employees to work from home to a certain extent when the work allows it. <p>The person who runs a restaurant is responsible for ensuring that the premises are designed so that congestion is avoided. According to the Swedish Public Health Agency's general advice, this may mean that the person who runs the restaurant can, for example:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ limit the number of visitors staying at the same place at the restaurant, ▪ refurbish or otherwise create space, ▪ mark distance on the floor or otherwise mark what distance visitors should keep to each other ▪ use alternative solutions for queues such as number plate systems. 	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>For cultural and leisure activities indoors, such as museums, art galleries and gyms, each person must have at least 10 m² at their disposal. There is an exception for activities aimed at children and young people born in 2002 and later (28 December 2021).</p> <p>Serving places From 12 January 2021 there will be a requirement of a maximum of 8 people per party at serving places, 1m between the parties and only seated guests. Closing times can be no later than 23:00 (10 January 2021).</p>	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>No updated advice since 26 November 2021 School children who share a home with someone who has or has recently had COVID-19 must stay at home for 7 days and take a PCR test (7 January 2022).</p>	
Face coverings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
COVID Pass	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
England	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 17 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>From 15 December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged ≥18 years are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption. The use of the NHS COVID Pass is required as a condition of entry into the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nightclubs, dancehalls and discos; • other late night dance venues. These are any other venues that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ open between 1am and 5am ○ serve alcohol during this time ○ have a dancefloor (or designated space for dancing) ○ provide music, whether live or recorded, for dancing. • indoor events with 500 or more unseated attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as music venues with standing audiences or large receptions; • outdoor events with 4,000 or more unseated attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as outdoor festivals; and • any events with 10,000 or more attendees indoor or outdoor, such as large sports and music events <p>There are some settings that will be exempt from requirements to use the NHS COVID Pass including communal worship, wedding ceremonies, funerals and other commemorative events, protests, and mass participation sporting events.</p>	The government has announced that England has moved to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant.
Primary schools	Recommendations updated on 2 January 2022 , face coverings should be worn by staff, adults, and those aged over 11 (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas.	
Second-level education	<p>Face coverings should be worn in communal areas of universities, colleges and schools by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above. From 4 January 2022, it is recommend that in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms.</p>	

	As of 3 January 2022 , all secondary schools have been asked to provide one on-site test for pupils ahead of their return to the classroom this term. Students and staff have been advised to continue to test twice per week thereafter.	
Higher and adult education	Face coverings should be worn in communal areas of universities, colleges and schools by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above. As of 3 January 2022 , students have been asked to test before returning to campus. Students and staff have been advised to continue to test twice per week thereafter.	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	Those aged ≥ 18 years and not fully vaccinated, and living in the same household as someone with COVID-19, are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days. Those who are fully vaccinated or aged < 18 years living in the same household as someone with COVID-19, are not legally required to self-isolate. However, they are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive. As of 11 January 2022 , a follow-up PCR test is no longer required after a positive lateral flow test. Staying at home and immediate self-isolation is advised. On 13 January 2022 , it was announced that from 17 January 2022 , those who test positive will be able to leave self-isolation after negative lateral flow tests on days 5 and 6.	
Face coverings	Omicron variant: summary of changes New measures have been put in place as a precaution, because cases of a variant of concern have been found in the UK. The changes applied from 4am on Tuesday 30 November . The public, and staff in public facing areas, are also required to wear face coverings in these settings (this has been mandatory since 30 November 2021): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ shops and supermarkets (places which offer goods or services for retail sale or hire) ▪ auction houses ▪ post offices, banks, building societies, high street solicitors and accountants, credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses ▪ estate and letting agents ▪ premises providing personal care and beauty treatments (hair salons, barbers, nail salons, massage centres, tattoo and piercing parlours) ▪ pharmacies ▪ premises providing veterinary services ▪ retail galleries ▪ retail travel agents ▪ takeaways without space for consumption of food or drink on premises ▪ shopping centres (malls and indoor markets) ▪ public transport (aeroplanes, trains, trams, buses, coaches and ferries), taxis and private hire vehicles ▪ any car or small van during a professionally delivered driving lesson, a practical driving test, or during one of the practical tests for giving driving instruction, and in all HGV lessons and tests ▪ transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals) 	

	<p>From 10 December 2021 the public, and staff in public facing areas, are required to wear face coverings in these additional settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ community centres (including village halls), youth centres, members clubs and social clubs ▪ libraries and public reading rooms ▪ polling stations and premises used for the counting of votes ▪ places of worship ▪ crematoria and burial ground chapels ▪ visitor attractions and entertainment venues (museums, galleries, cinemas, indoor theatres, concert halls, cultural and heritage sites, indoor areas at aquariums, zoos and visitor farms, bingo halls, snooker and pool halls, amusement arcades, adventure activity centres, indoor sports stadiums, funfairs, indoor theme parks, casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas including soft-play areas) ▪ public areas in hotels and hostels ▪ indoor areas of sports stadiums 	
COVID Pass	<p>From 4 January 2022, face coverings are to be used in classroom settings for pupils and adults in Year 7 and above.</p> <p>The government announced on 9 December 2021 that England will move to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant. From 15 December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption.</p>	
Northern Ireland	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 5 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>Updated 27 December 2021</p> <p>Outdoor Gatherings at Private Dwellings There are no restrictions on the number of persons that can gather outdoors at private dwelling e.g. in a garden. Social distancing however is still recommended.</p> <p>Indoor Gatherings at Private Dwellings It is recommended that no more than 3 households should meet together in a private home. The maximum number of persons that can gather indoors at a private dwelling is 30 including children aged ≤ 12. Social distancing is recommended where possible between households. Large house parties and raves indoors are not permitted. "Large house party" means an indoor gathering of more than 30 persons at a private dwelling. "Rave" means a private indoor gathering of more than 30 persons (whether or not at a private dwelling) at which amplified music is played during the night with or without intermission which is likely to cause serious distress to inhabitants of the locality by reason of its loudness, duration and the time at which it is played.</p> <p>Marriage and civil partnership ceremonies in private dwellings Indoor gatherings in a private dwelling are permitted for the purpose of a marriage or a civil partnership up to a maximum of 30 persons. This number includes officiant and children aged ≤ 12.</p> <p>Funerals in Private Dwellings</p>	

	<p>The maximum number of persons that can attend in a private dwelling is 30. This number includes officiant and children aged ≤ 12.</p> <p>Indoor Gatherings There is no limit on the number of people that can gather indoors. The maximum number of people that can gather indoors will be determined by a risk assessment that must be carried out by the person responsible for organising or operating the gathering. The responsible person must take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. If 15 people or less are to be present then a risk assessment is not required. Since 26 December 2021, indoor standing events are not permitted.</p> <p>Outdoor Gatherings The maximum number of people who may gather outdoors is also determined by a risk assessment carried out by the person responsible for the gathering. The responsible person must take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. A risk assessment is not required if 30 people or less are attending the outdoor gathering.</p>	
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	<p>Updated 27 December 2021 People should work from home if that is possible. Two metre social distancing is required in office settings. As offices vary significantly in terms of size, layout and capacity, alternative measures such as screens should be put in place where 2 metre social distancing cannot be achieved.</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>Since 26 December 2021, dancing is not permitted in hospitality settings and nightclubs are not permitted to open. Since 27 December 2021, a maximum of six people can be seated together in hospitality settings. More than 6 will be permitted if they all belong to a single household, as long as it is not more than 10. Children aged 12 and under are not counted in the total. This requirement does not apply to weddings and civil partnerships. Table service is also required and apart from entering and leaving the premises, the only movement allowed indoors is to access toilet or baby changing facilities, to select food from a buffet or to pay.</p>	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>As of 31 December 2021, people with a positive COVID-19 PCR test should isolate for 10 days from the date the PCR test was taken or the date symptoms started, whichever is sooner. However, they may be able to end the self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days provided they have 2 negative lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart in the absence of a high temperature. These can be taken from day 6 of the isolation period. The second should be taken the following day at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. The earliest anyone can end isolation is on day 7 (providing the tests on day 6 and 7 are both negative).</p> <p>Adults who are aged 18 and over and are either unvaccinated, have had one dose only, or if it is less than 14 days since the second dose, should self-isolate immediately for 10 days following last contact with the positive person if they become a close contact. They do not need to book a PCR test unless they develop symptoms. Fully vaccinated adults who become close contacts are advised to isolate and take a lateral flow test as soon as possible. If this is negative, they can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the day 10 after the last date of contact with the positive case. If any lateral flow test is positive they should isolate immediately.</p>	

<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>From 5 January 2022, those with a positive lateral flow test will no longer need a confirmatory PCR test.</p> <p>Since 27 December 2021, it is a legal requirement for all businesses, such as retail, hospitality, transport providers and close contact services to take reasonable measures to promote compliance with face coverings regulations. This may include, but is not limited to, effective signage, audio messaging, spot checks or providing face coverings when necessary. There is a grace period before enforcement begins on 7 January 2022.</p> <p>From 29 November 2021 Face covering are mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on public transport including school transport services (excludes junior pupils not yet receiving secondary education), in taxis, private buses, coaches and on aircraft, in train and bus stations and in airports ▪ in enclosed public areas of premises to which the public have or are permitted access. Premises are "enclosed" if they would be considered enclosed or substantially enclosed for the purposes of regulation 2 of the Smoke-free (Premises, Vehicle Operators and Penalty Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 ▪ in cafes, restaurants, public houses and bars unless seated at a table ▪ when providing or receiving a close contact service as defined in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 unless it is not possible due to the nature of the service. 	
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COVID Pass	<p>Updated 29 November 2021 COVID Status Certification Events that must comply with these regulations are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an event that consists, or is expected to consist of more than 10,000 people, including attendees, staff, performers and persons responsible for the event, at any one time ▪ an event which will take place wholly indoors and consists, or is expected to consist, of 500 or more people, where not all attendees will be seated. This includes attendees, staff, performers and persons responsible for the event at any one time. ▪ an event which will take place wholly outdoors and consists, or is expected to consist, of 4,000 or more people, where not all attendees will be seated. This includes attendees, staff, performers and persons responsible for the event, at any one time. <p>“Relevant premises” which must comply with these regulations, are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ premises which sell or provide intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises and premises to which the public have access, including private members clubs, and where consumption is permitted. This excludes premises at a port or airport, the cross border inter-city Belfast-Dublin rail service, a place of worship during a service the premises of education establishments other than those parts where intoxicating liquor may be consumed on the premises; and premises, or parts thereof, being used solely for the purposes of blood donation at the time when they are being so used ▪ theatres ▪ concert halls ▪ cinemas ▪ indoor premises when used for the purpose of a performance, recording or rehearsal, other than private dwellings ▪ premises used for the purpose of a conference or exhibition ▪ premises hosting a relevant event as described above (other than exemptions) 	
Scotland (mainland)	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 18 January 2022	Trigger for changes

Social or mass gatherings	<p>Guidance for visiting care homes No more than 2 households to visit a resident at a time. In hospitals there should be no more than 2 visitors at any time.</p> <p>In all settings, people should take a lateral flow test before meeting, to support people to continue to connect with their loved ones.</p> <p>Updated 11 January 2022 Large outdoor events can resume beginning 17 January 2022. COVID-19 certification still applies for events with > 4,000 standing or >10,000 seated attendees.</p> <p>For events with > 1,000 in attendance, a minimum of 50% of attendees are expected to be checked for certification of vaccination, a negative test or an exemption.</p> <p>Last updated 18 January 2022 From 24 January 2022, the following restrictions will be lifted: Limits on attendance at indoor public events; the requirement for 1 m physical distancing between different groups in indoor public places; the requirement for table service in hospitality premises serving alcohol on the premises; the closure of nightclubs; the guidance advising adults against non-professional indoor contact sports; and the guidance asking people to stick to a 3 household limit on indoor gatherings.</p>	
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	On 17 December 2021 , a letter from the Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, was issued to advise limitations on in person teaching and strengthening of mitigation measures where possible. Advice was issued that activities that could be undertaken online. Students were advised to perform lateral flow tests before they return to campus and to ensure that they avail of vaccination (including booster doses).	
Business activities	<p>Updated 10 December 2021 Work from home if you can.</p> <p>Updated 14 December 2021 For those in sectors where working from home is not possible, regular testing with lateral flow tests should be undertaken.</p>	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>For those who have symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. If they test positive, they should self-isolate for 10 days from the date the symptoms started. For those with a positive PCR test result but no symptoms, they should self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. If they develop symptoms, they should re-start self-isolation from the day the symptoms started. People do not need to re-start self-isolation if someone they live with tests positive during the 10 day self-isolation.</p> <p>For those with a positive lateral flow test but no symptoms, they and their household should self-isolate immediately. They should self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive lateral flow test. From 6 January 2022, they are no longer required to take a PCR test to confirm the result.</p> <p>From 6 January 2022, it will be possible to end self-isolation earlier than 10 days if a person has no fever and negative lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7 of their isolation period.</p>	

	<p>From 6 January 2022, close contacts of positive cases (including household contacts - who are either under the age of 18 years, four months, or who are older than that and fully vaccinated (first, second and booster or third doses)), the requirement to self-isolate is no longer in place and is now a requirement to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days. If one of these tests is positive, self-isolation will then be required.</p> <p>Anyone identified as a close contact who is over 18 years and four months and not fully vaccinated will still be asked to self-isolate for 10 days and to take a PCR test.</p>	
Face coverings	<p>Updated 5 January 2022 Masks are recommended to be worn in outdoor crowded areas such as school and nursery gates and entrances.</p>	
COVID Pass	<p>Updated 17 January 2022 One may be asked to show their COVID status (passport) via the NHS phone app or a negative lateral flow test in some venues if they are aged > 18 years.</p>	
Wales	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 14 January 2022</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>As of 26 December 2021, organised events and gatherings must not take place for more than 30 people indoors.</p> <p>Updated 10 December 2021 Lateral flow tests are available, free of charge to everyone in Wales. People over the age of 11 are encouraged to take tests twice a week (every 3 or 4 days) if you do not have COVID-19 symptoms. You are also encouraged to take a test: if you are going to be in higher risk situations including spending time in crowded or enclosed spaces before you visit people who are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 you are travelling to other areas of Wales or the UK</p> <p>Updated 14 January 2022 From 15 January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to 500 people can be present at outdoor events. This does not include those participating in a team sport event, meaning 500 spectators can be present. <p>From 21 January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will no longer be any legal limits on the number of people that can meet outdoors. ▪ A COVID Pass will be needed for large outdoor events <p>From 28 January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nightclubs will be able to re-open. ▪ A COVID Pass will be need needed for large indoor events, nightclubs, cinemas, theatres and concert halls. ▪ Working from home remains important but moves from law to guidance. ▪ In hospitality, no restrictions on meeting people and no requirement for table service or 2 metre physical distancing. 	<p>Reviews of restrictions in Wales will be moving from every 3 weeks to weekly because of the speed at which things are changing.</p>
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	<p>Updated 29 November 2021 Face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in all indoor areas of all settings, including classrooms, where physical distance cannot be maintained. Face coverings also should be worn by secondary aged learners in all indoor areas, including classrooms, where physical distance cannot be maintained.</p>	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	

Business activities	Updated 10 December 2021 Wherever you can, you should work from home. From 27 December 2021 there will be a 2 metre rule on social distancing in offices and extra measures to protect staff, such as physical barriers or one-way systems.	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	There will be a 2 metre rule on social distancing and extra measures to protect customers and staff, such as encouraging customers to pre-book, collecting contact details for contact tracing purposes, controlling entry, physical barriers, one-way systems. From 27 December 2021 nightclubs will close. Until 28 January 2022, licensed premises must ensure there is physical distancing between individual households or groups of up to 6 people from a maximum of 6 households (not including children under 11 from any of those households or carers of anyone present) at their premises and must provide table service only.	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	As of 31 December 2021 , people who have tested positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 7 full days. On days 6 and 7 they should take rapid lateral flow tests 24 hours apart. If the results are positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get 2 negative tests, or after day 10, whichever is sooner. If they are negative they can stop self-isolating and resume normal activities on day 8 of the self-isolation period. For those aged ≥ 18 , and not fully vaccinated who become close contacts, they must self-isolate from the day they were last in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 and for the next 10 days. Fully vaccinated adults or those aged between 5 and 17 do not need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact but are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since the last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. As of 6 January 2022 , if you get a positive lateral flow test result, most people will not require a confirmatory PCR test.	
Face coverings	Updated 26 December 2021 It is mandatory to wear a face covering in all indoor premises that are open to the public and on public transport (including taxis), other than public transport which is open to the air. Where food or drink is consumed in part of a premises, like a department store cafe, or hotel restaurant, you must wear face coverings on the premises except when seated to eat or drink. This advice applies unless they are exempt or are seated at a table: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in hospitality settings, such as pubs ▪ at a wedding, civil partnership or alternative wedding ceremony or reception ▪ in the auditorium of a theatre, cinema or concert hall and the viewing areas of an indoor arena or stadium. 	

COVID Pass	<p>Updated 10 December 2021</p> <p>People over the age of 18 in Wales need to show their COVID-19 status to attend the following venues or events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ nightclubs and similar venues (see definition below) ▪ cinemas, theatres and concert halls indoor venues with more than 500 people in the audience where some or all of the audience are not normally seated ▪ any outdoor or indoor venues with over 4,000 in the audience, where some or all of the audience are not normally seated ▪ any event, which has more than 10,000 people in attendance. <p>An event is considered to be unseated when some attendees are seated and some are standing.</p> <p>COVID status can be demonstrated in either of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ via the digital NHS COVID pass - people who are fully vaccinated in Wales can already download a certificate proving their status. The NHS COVID Pass lets individuals demonstrate their coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination records in a secure way ▪ a paper based certificate of vaccination – this does not include vaccination cards ▪ confirmation of a negative test result by email or text provided by gov.uk ▪ confirmation of a positive test within the last 6 months which has been followed by the appropriate period of isolation (i.e., 10 days) - this can be evidenced in the COVID pass or by text or email. 	
Switzerland	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 13 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from 20 December 2021 until 24 January 2022.</p> <p><u>Private gatherings and parties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rule indoors without certificate: A maximum of 30 people is allowed if everyone is vaccinated or recovered. As soon as 1 person is present who is not vaccinated or recovered and is aged over 16, only up to 10 people may gather. ▪ Rule outdoors: A maximum of 50 people is allowed. 	<p>On 3 December 2021 Switzerland, introduced measures that would apply from 6 December 2021.</p> <p>These measures reflect the sharp rise in the number of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital and the emergence of the new Omicron variant. The new measures will remain in place until 24 January 2022.</p>
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	In Switzerland, in addition to routine testing, masks will be encouraged in lower second-level schools and mandatory in upper second-level schools (17 December 2021).	
Higher and adult education	In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from 20 December 2021 until 24 January 2022. Access to certain educational offerings and exams is limited to people who are vaccinated or recovered or have a certificate for a negative test result (3G). Masks must be worn.	
Business activities	<p>Working (20 December 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working from home: Working from home is mandatory. Employers must take appropriate organisational and technical measures to enable homeworking. ▪ COVID Pass: Employers may check whether their employees are vaccinated or recovered or have a certificate for a negative test result (3G) if this is necessary for deciding on appropriate precautionary measures or for implementing testing concepts. The information on immunity status or the test result may not be used for any other purpose. Employees must be consulted on the use of the certificate and the measures derived from this, and these must be documented in writing. On data protection grounds, employers must use the "light certificate" with minimised data wherever possible. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks compulsory indoors: Masks are compulsory for all employees in indoor areas where several people are present. Exceptions apply in situations where a mask cannot be worn for safety reasons or owing to the nature of the activity as well as to people who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. In particular, there is no exception to the mask-wearing requirement if it is an establishment in which employees meet the 2G+ requirements (vaccinated/recovered within last 4 months or vaccinated/recovered with negative test). 	
<p>Culture/leisure/entertainment</p>	<p>In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from <u>20 December 2021</u> until 24 January 2022.</p> <p>Indoor events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to indoor events for people aged 16 and over is restricted to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). Masks must be worn for all events indoors. Where neither wearing masks nor compulsory seating is possible, only vaccinated or recovered people who can present a certificate for a negative test result (2G+) are admitted. <p>Outdoor events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At outdoor events, access for people aged 16 and over is also restricted to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). The organiser can voluntarily limit access to vaccinated or recovered people who also have a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). Access restrictions can be waived if not more than 300 people are admitted and guests do not dance. <p><u>Trade fairs and consumer shows</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If trade fairs and consumer shows are not held exclusively outdoors, access for people aged 16 and over must be limited to those who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). The organisers of trade fairs and consumer shows must also draw up and implement a set of precautionary measures. If more than 1,000 people are present each day, authorisation must be obtained from the canton. For the mask-wearing requirement to be waived, the organiser can voluntarily limit access to vaccinated or recovered people who also have a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). <p><u>Restaurants, bars and clubs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For people aged 16 and over, access to the indoor areas of restaurants, bars and clubs where people consume food and drinks on the premises must be restricted to who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). Operators must also ensure the premises are aired properly. In restaurants, bars and clubs that limit access to 2G (vaccinated or recovered), guests may only remove their mask at the table and consume while seated. In restaurants, bars and clubs that limit access to 2G+ (vaccinated/recovered within last 4 months or vaccinated/recovered with negative test), neither the requirement to be seated nor the requirement to wear a mask applies to guests. For outdoor areas, operators are free to decide whether they wish to impose access restrictions or not. If an operator does not restrict access to outdoor areas, either the requisite distance of 1.5 m must be maintained between guest groups or a barrier must be installed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The abovementioned rules also apply to hotel restaurants (but not to the overnight hotel stay alone). No access restrictions apply for street vendors, company canteens and restaurants in airport transit zones that are only accessible to passengers with tickets. <p><u>Nightclubs and dance venues</u> Events where guests dance are only possible if admission is limited to vaccinated or recovered people who also have a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). Guests' contact details must also be collected.</p> <p><u>Cultural, sports and recreational facilities</u> If visitors are not confined to outdoor areas, access for people aged 16 and over must be restricted to vaccinated or recovered people (2G). This applies to the following, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ museums ▪ concerts ▪ theatres ▪ cinemas ▪ libraries (it is still possible to collect ordered/reserved books without a certificate) ▪ fitness centres ▪ zoos (if visitors can move between indoor and outdoor areas) <p>Masks must be worn in indoor areas. Facilities have the option of restricting access to those with a vaccination or recovery certificate and thus dispense with the requirement to wear a mask in indoor areas, e.g. indoor swimming pools, water parks and thermal baths.</p> <p><u>Cultural and sporting leisure activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For indoor cultural and sporting activities, access for people aged 16 and over must be restricted to those who are vaccinated or recovered (2G) (the people required to have a certificate also include those leading a group). In addition, the premises must have effective ventilation. ▪ For activities where masks cannot be worn (e.g. wind and brass band rehearsals), access for people aged 16 and over must be restricted to those who have a vaccination or recovery certificate as well as a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). ▪ For outdoor sports and cultural activities, there is no obligation to restrict access, to wear a face mask or to maintain the required distance. 	
<p>Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<p><u>Isolation and quarantine (13 January 2022)</u> Since 13 January 2022, quarantine is limited to people who live in the same household and who regularly share living space.</p> <p><u>For those (aged 6 and over) who have symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stay at home and avoid all contact with other people. ▪ Have a test immediately if you have symptoms, even if you have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID. ▪ Until you get your test results, stay at home and follow the instructions on isolation and avoid all contact with other people until the result of the test is available. ▪ If the test result is positive, self-isolate immediately for 5 days. ▪ If the test result is negative, stay home until your symptoms resolve. 	

	<p>For those who are close contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You had coronavirus and recovered before the contact: You do not need to quarantine. This applies for 12 months from the 11th day after the infection was confirmed. You don't need to automatically inform the authorities. However, you do need proof that you have had coronavirus within the last 12 months and recovered. You are fully vaccinated: You don't need to quarantine for 12 months from the time that you were fully vaccinated. You don't need to automatically inform the authorities, but you do need a vaccination certificate. The cantonal authorities may request such a certificate as part of contact tracing. You can present a positive antibody test: If you have had a positive antibody test in the last 90 days, you do not need to quarantine. But you must be able to provide evidence of this. 	
Face coverings	<p>The requirement to wear a mask now applies in all situations where a certificate requirement applies - except at private gatherings. Masks must be worn in publicly accessible indoor spaces, for example in shops or in enclosed areas of public vehicles. In indoor spaces, eating or drinking standing up is not permitted. People must be seated to eat or drink. Whenever they get up from their table in a restaurant or nightclub, they must wear a mask.</p> <p>There is now a general mask-wearing requirement for all employees in indoor spaces where there is more than one person, regardless of whether or not they hold a certificate. Exceptions apply for situations in which a mask cannot be worn for safety reasons or due to the type of activity, and for people who are exempt from mask-wearing e.g. on the basis of a medical certificate.</p>	
COVID Pass	<p>In Switzerland, new restrictions were introduced from 20 December 2021 until 24 January 2022.</p> <p>Entry checks with the COVID certificate</p> <p>When letting people in, it is important that event organisers check the validity of the COVID certificate via COVID Certificate Check and always check against matching photo identification (e.g. ID card, passport, driving licence, residence permit, student card). In addition, organisers of large-scale events must obtain a cantonal permit. The COVID certificate is the only permissible document for entry. This applies to both the Swiss COVID certificate and to recognised foreign certificates (e.g. the EU Digital COVID Certificate).</p>	
South Africa	<p>Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 30 December 2021</p>	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	<p>On 30 December 2021 gatherings are restricted to no more than 1,000 people indoors and no more than 2,000 people outdoors. Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used.</p>	<p>The changes to IPC recommendations made in 24 December were based on COVID-19 MAC advisories (see here). These were made because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people with some immunity from infection and/or vaccination is high past infection in 60-80% in several sero-surveys
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	<p>On 30 December 2021 gatherings are restricted to no more than 1,000 people indoors and no more than 2,000 people outdoors. Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used. All other restrictions remain in place.</p> <p>Alcohol establishments that have licences to operate beyond 23h00 will revert back to full licence conditions.</p>	
Changes in IPC guidance	<p>On 24 December 2021 the following revisions were accepted based on COVID-19 MAC advisories: However, the department has decided to put the implementation of the revised policy changes on hold, (see here) while taking all</p>	

<p>(includes close contact status, restriction of movement)</p>	<p>additional comments and inputs received into consideration. This means the status quo remains, and all prior existing regulations with regards to contact tracing, quarantine and isolation remain applicable.</p> <p>The revisions, which have not yet been implemented, are as follows:</p> <p>Contact tracing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All contact tracing be stopped with immediate effect except in congregate settings and cluster outbreak situations or self-contained settings. ▪ All contacts must continue with their normal duties with heightened monitoring (daily temperature testing, symptom screening) of any early signs. If they develop symptoms then they should be tested and be managed according to the severity of the symptoms ▪ All contacts must not be tested unless if they develop symptoms <p>Quarantining for contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All quarantine is to be stopped with immediate effect ▪ This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated contacts ▪ No testing for COVID-19 is required irrespective of the risk exposure unless the contact becomes symptomatic <p>Isolation rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isolation rules are applicable to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals ▪ Isolation rules are applicable to high and low-risk individuals ▪ Return to work from Day 10 onwards must as always take into consideration the individual’s clinical status. Only those patients well enough to work should do so <p>Return to work:</p> <p>All people that have been infected and have been in isolation, must be ready to return to work after completing a mandatory period of isolation as above and no further testing is required after either 8 or 10 days of isolation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Containment strategies are no longer appropriate – mitigation is the only viable strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially true of the newer, more infectious/transmissible variants like OMICRON 4. New knowledge about the virus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high proportion of asymptomatic disease, ▪ high degree of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread, ▪ aerosol spread. ▪ Only a small proportion of cases are diagnosed. 5. We never identify most high risk patients 6. “High risk” definition probably isn’t meaningful anymore 7. Quarantine has been costly to essential services and society as many people stay away from their work and thus lose their income and children miss on their schooling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Testing skewed towards symptomatic (minority) ▪ Not all symptomatic people test ▪ Not all negative tests are true negatives ▪ Doesn’t take into account aerosol spread ▪ Doesn’t take into account the newer variants (increased transmissibility) ▪ Doesn’t take into account pre-existing immunity.
<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>No updated advice since 26 November 2021</p> <p>Wearing of a face mask is mandatory for every person (excluding children under the age of 6 years) when in a public place.</p> <p>If a person is not wearing a mask, they will not be allowed to-</p> <p>(a) use, operate, perform any service on any form of public transport;</p> <p>(b) enter or be in a building, place or premises, including government buildings, places or premises, used by the public to obtain goods or services; or</p> <p>(c) be in any public open space..</p>	

COVID Pass	No COVID passes used.	
WHO	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 23 December 2021	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	<p>Given mutations that may confer immune escape potential and possibly transmissibility advantage, the likelihood of potential further spread of Omicron at the global level is high. Depending on these characteristics, there could be future surges of COVID-19, which could have severe consequences, depending on a number of factors including where surges may take place. The overall global risk related to the new VOC Omicron is assessed as very high.</p>
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	On 28 November 2021 guidance was published stating that contact tracing of COVID-19 cases to interrupt chains of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is strongly advised. Ensure early warning systems are in place to inform efficient adjustment of public health and social measures.	
Face coverings	The WHO recommend that healthcare workers wear a respirator or medical mask along with other PPE before entering a room where there is a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (22 December 2021). They also continue to advise that the use of masks (in addition to physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces, crowd avoidance and hand hygiene) remains key to reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 even with the emergence of the Omicron variant (23 December 2021).	
COVID Pass	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
ECDC	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 15 December 2021	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	Recommended to avoid large public or private gatherings (15 December 2021).	
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	<p>At this early stage increased testing (with sequencing of confirmed cases), and contact tracing of COVID-19 cases with an epidemiological link to the affected areas is strongly advised (26 November 2021).</p> <p>Setting limits for the number of participants in social and public events will support physical distancing efforts. Due to the current epidemiologic context, in combination with the uncertainties involved with the rapidly evolving situation concerning Omicron, timely and urgently reinforced implementation of NPIs in the EU/EEA is strongly advised</p> <p>For probable or confirmed cases of Omicron infection, contact tracing should be prioritised, regardless of vaccination status, in a timely manner and as completely as possible (15 December 2021).</p> <p>For probable or confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection, the enhanced contact tracing measures as set out in the ECDC contact tracing guidance should be considered (28 October 2021) .</p> <p>Measures outlined in this report include the investigation of the source of infection of a newly identified case – known as 'backward contact tracing', tracing back contacts further than 2 days before symptom onset or positive result, testing</p>	

	of all high and low-risk exposure contacts, starting to trace the contacts of the household members of a case while awaiting their testing results, and releasing high-risk exposure contacts only after a negative RT-PCR test taken on day 14. Measures also include asking the household members of high-risk contact persons ('secondary contacts') to quarantine until the primary contact has received a negative test result from their initial test and otherwise observing strict physical distance measures after that.	
Face coverings	Rapid reintroduction and strengthening of NPIs is necessary to reduce the ongoing Delta VOC transmission, slow down the spread of the Omicron VOC and keep the COVID-19-related burden manageable. These measures include encouraging the use of face masks (15 December 2021).	
COVID Pass	No updated advice since 26 November 2021.	
US CDC	Date extracted: 18 January 2022 Last updated: 13 January 2022	Trigger for changes
Social or mass gatherings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	Changes to isolation and quarantine recommendations (8 December 2021) are based on emerging evidence that the majority of transmission occurs early in the course of illness (1-2 days prior to and 2-3 days prior to emergence of symptoms).
Primary schools	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Second-level education	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Higher and adult education	To minimise disruption to in-person learning, schools may consider forgoing quarantine for students ages 12-17 years who completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters (13 January 2022).	
Business activities	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Culture/leisure/entertainment	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
Changes in IPC guidance (includes close contact status, restriction of movement)	On 27 December 2021 the CDC updated advice on isolation and quarantine recommendations for the public. The recommended time for isolation of those with COVID-19 has been shortened to 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving after this time, they should wear a mask for a further 5 days. For those exposed to COVID-19, and who are unvaccinated or more than 6 months from their second mRNA vaccine or more than 2 months from J and J vaccine, 5 days quarantine plus 5 additional days of mask wearing is recommended. Those who have received a booster do not need to quarantine but should wear a mask for 10 days following exposure. If symptoms occur they should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19. To minimize disruption to in-person learning, schools may consider forgoing quarantine for students ages 12-17 years who completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters (13 January 2022).	
Face coverings	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	
COVID Pass	No updated advice since 26 November 2021	

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