

COVID-19 pandemic

New Commission proposal to ensure
coordination on safe travel in the EU

NOVEMBER 2021

#coronavirus




EU citizens have the fundamental right to free movement within the EU. The Coronavirus pandemic however led to various travel restrictions across the EU for the reason of public health. To provide clarity to citizens and make their lives easier, Member States agreed to improve coordination of travel measures. Today, the Commission is proposing a new Recommendation for a better coordination of safe free travel.

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO ENSURE SAFE FREE MOVEMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?



- ✓ If you have a valid **EU Digital COVID Certificate**, in principle you should not be subject to any additional restrictions.
- ✓ If you do not have a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate yet, you should be allowed to travel based on a **test** carried out prior to or after arrival.
- ✓ Vaccination certificate issued for the primary vaccination series should have a validity of **9 months (6+3 months)**.
- ✓ If you travel from a **'green' area** or are an essential traveller, you should not need an EU Digital COVID Certificate to travel.
- ✓ If you travel from a **'dark red' area** and do not have a vaccination or recovery certificate, you should be required to undergo a test prior to departure and to quarantine for 10 days after arrival, with a possibility to end quarantine with a negative test after day 5.
- ✓ Any measures restricting your free movement must be **proportionate**. You should in principle **not be refused entry**.



The Commission's proposal will now be discussed by the EU Member States, who will decide on the final version of the Recommendation. The Commission proposes for the new rules to apply as of 10 January 2022.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I'M TRAVELLING DURING THE PANDEMIC?



- ⚠️ Make sure that you have a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate, either in digital or paper format. You might also need it at your destination to access restaurants, museum, etc., which is based on national rules.
- ⚠️ If you are travelling from a 'dark red' area, the Member State of arrival should ask you to undergo quarantine if you are not in possession of a vaccination or recovery certificate.
- ⚠️ You should visit "[Reopen EU](#)" to find out about the measures where you are going.
- ⚠️ You should check the map to know what the risk is where you're going.
- ⚠️ You might need to submit passenger locator forms travelling to another Member State regardless of if you have a EU Digital COVID Certificate or not.



IS THE COMMISSION PROPOSING TO UPDATE THE "TRAFFIC LIGHT" MAP?



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has been publishing a weekly traffic light map on the epidemiological situation across the EU. The Commission is proposing to update the methodology for this map, in particular to take into account the positive impact of COVID-19 vaccination. While EU citizens should in most cases be able to travel based on their EU Digital COVID Certificate, the traffic light map should still help to provide information and form the basis for certain travel measures.

The Commission proposes to base the traffic light map on three criteria:

- **the number of new cases ("notification rate")**
- **vaccinated uptake**
- **the number of tests carried out ("testing rate")**



The Commission proposes a formula that would see the **number of new cases weighted by the percentage of vaccinated persons**. The formula takes into account that vaccinated persons are better protected from transmitting the virus – but not completely. In an area where half of the population is vaccinated, the formula would result in a weighted rate that is 75% of the notification rate. The **weighted rate** resulting from this formula is then assigned a colour code.

GREEN

Weighted rate' of less than 40.

ORANGE

'Weighted rate' of less than 100 but 40 or more.

RED

'Weighted rate' of less than 300 but 100 or more.

DARK RED

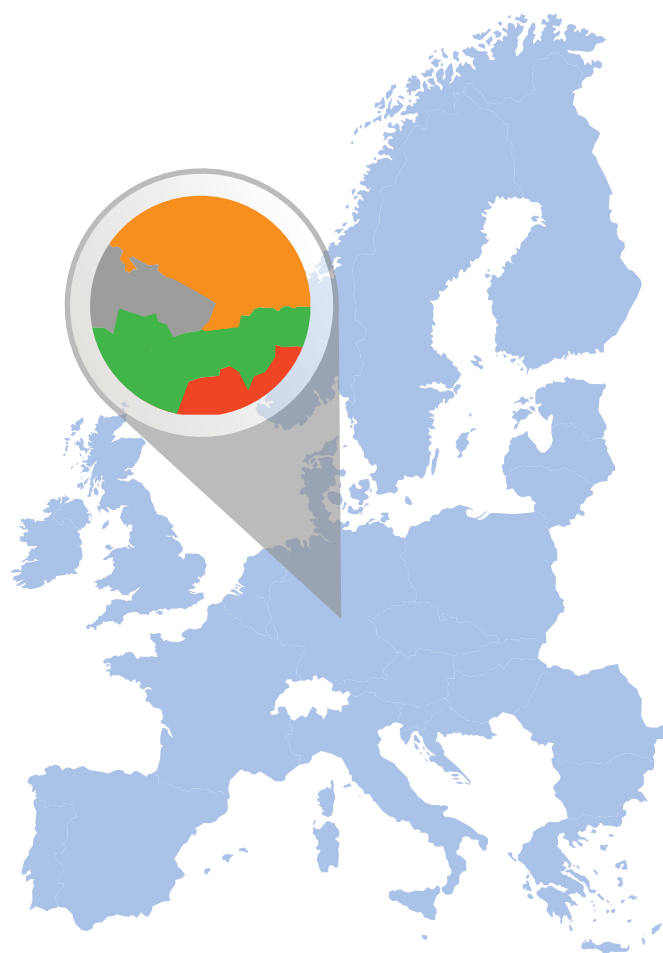
'Weighted rate' of 300 or more.

DARK GREY

Insufficient number of tests carried out

GREY

Insufficient information available



The Commission's proposal on the traffic light map will now be discussed by the EU Member States. This means that the map can still change in the version to be agreed by the Council.