

CORRESPONDENT'S ADVICE

ESTONIA

20 SEP 2021

COVID-19 update

The following information was received from our correspondent on 20 September:

QUOTE

Please see below an updated information on safety measures/restrictions implemented by the governments of [...] Estonia due to outbreak of Covid-19. If the Members' vessels are going to call one of our ports, they may contact us to clarify the status on the day of call.

Estonian ports:

- General restrictions - From 26 August, a mask must be worn in public indoor areas where COVID certificates are not checked. In public areas where infection safety must be proved, all customers or participants, regardless of the number of people, must present a COVID certificate. In addition to the current obligation to wear a mask in public transport, the requirement will also extend to shopping centres and shops, as well as the provision of services in banks, post offices, and elsewhere. The obligation to wear a mask does not apply to children under the age of 12 or if wearing a mask is not possible for health or other crucial reasons.
- Travel restrictions - All persons, arriving to Estonia by all means of transport, are obligated to register with the [The Health Board's self-service portal \(terviseamet.ee\)](https://terviseamet.ee) three days prior to arrival.

Crossing of the state border for the purpose of entering Estonia is allowed for:

- Estonian citizens and residents and their family members. Estonian citizens and residents are admitted to the country regardless of whether they are symptomatic or not;
- citizens and residents of the European Union, the Schengen countries, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City, and long-stay visa holders and their family members if they are asymptomatic;



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- citizens of countries on the list in Annex 1 to the recommendation of the Council of the European Union;
- vaccinated third-country citizens for any purpose;
- third country citizens who have not completed a course of vaccination and who come to Estonia to work, study, see their family, or on a special permit if they have taken a coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR-test 72 hours before entering Estonia or a rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen test 48 hours before and can provide a certificate of a negative result.
- other exceptions remain, pursuant to which, for example, transporters of goods and raw materials, people involved in international freight and passenger transport, people involved in the technological work of a company operating in Estonia, health care providers, diplomats, people arriving in Estonia in the framework of international military cooperation, and people with special entry permit.
- As of September 1, people returning to Estonia from countries at-risk from COVID-19 can get tested at airports and harbours in order to reduce their self-isolation period so they can return to work earlier. Testing is free of charge for Estonian residents, and foreign nationals can make a card payment on-site. The test can be done at the Port of Tallinn, Terminals A and D for foot passengers, and at the Tallinn Airport based on a letter of referral, which will be made out on the spot.
- Disembarkation of crew members at Estonian ports and calls by foreign vessels. Restrictions on disembarkation have not been imposed. Regular disembarkation of crew members while their ship stays at an Estonian port is subject to possible restrictions imposed in the country. In case a crew member develops symptoms of disease, a health declaration must be submitted via the electronic maritime information system (EMDE) to the Health Board. Crew change is possible in ports which have official border crossing points of the Police and Border Guard Board. Ports with considerable international vessel traffic are the following: Sillamäe, Kunda, Muuga, Miiduranna, Vanasadam, Paljassaare, Lahesuu, Vene-Balti, Bekkeri, Meeruse, Paldiski North, Paldiski South, Heltermaa, Rohuküla, Kuivastu, Virtsu, Roomassaare, Saaremaa and Pärnu.
- Medical assistance - There are no issues with ambulatory treatment of seafarers. Local marine doctors currently carry out PEMEs, so the seafarers can undergo medical examinations and obtain PEME Certificates.
- Navigation in Estonian waters is ensured as usual, and no restrictions have been imposed due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Navigational information is being published via the ordinary channels. The pilotage service is being provided in the customary manner and no special measures have been established. The VTS and GOFREP systems continue operation in the ordinary manner and the safety of vessel traffic is ensured. The electronic maritime information system (EMDE) functions as usual;



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no additional reporting obligations have been added. As before, a completed health declaration form must be submitted through EMDE if there is a case of infectious disease on board.

- Port supervision all supervisory activities are performed in ports, taking health protection precautions. All activities related to cargo handling and ship maintenance shall be performed to minimize physical contact between persons.
- Courts operate in a normal regime.

UNQUOTE

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