

ROADMAP FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Airports Division
An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Introduction

The following briefing is based on the decisions made by Government on 28 May.

General

Existing public health measures on international travel will remain in place until 18 July. The Minister for Health will keep the international epidemiological situation under review, especially as regards the presence of variants of concern and areas of very high incidence. Should he consider that Ireland should exercise its discretion to strengthen (or ease) measures with regard to a given country, having consulted with relevant Ministers, he will make a proposal to Government.

Advice on travel

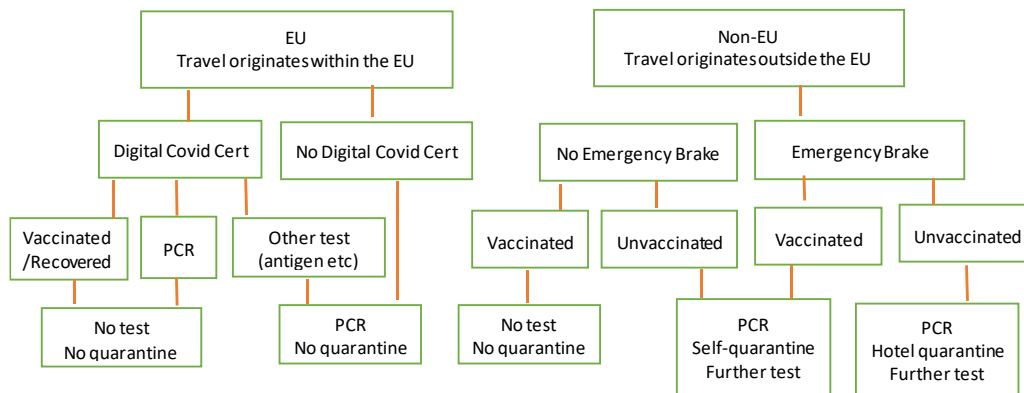
Government advice to avoid non-essential travel, and related penalties, will remain in place until 18 July. As and from 19 July this will be changed to advise citizens to travel safely and in accordance with public health guidance and restrictions and to avoid non-essential travel to countries to which an emergency brake has been applied.

Arriving passengers

Subject to epidemiological developments, as and from 19 July, Ireland will:

- with regard to passengers arriving from the EU, fully operate EU Digital Covid Certificates for travel within the EU as set out below; and
- with regard to passengers arriving from third countries, broadly align itself to the approach to non-essential travel to the EU from third countries contained in amended Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912.

Overview of Measures for in-bound travel from 19 July



Passengers arriving from the EU

The EU Regulation on Digital Covid Certificates (DCC) will come into effect on 1 July, with a six-week phasing-in period during which Member States must become compliant. It is proposed that, from 19 July, subject to epidemiological developments, the approach for passengers arriving in the State whose travel originates within the EU/EEA will be:

- Passengers presenting a DCC will not be required to quarantine
- Passengers who present a DCC based on a test not acceptable for travel purposes in Ireland (eg an antigen test) will be required to present also proof of a negative PCR test taken not more than 72 hours before arrival
- Passengers without a DCC will be required to present proof of a negative PCR test taken not more than 72 hours before arrival
- Children aged over seven and under eighteen (who are not vaccinated or recovered) will be required to present proof of a negative PCR test taken not more than 72 hours before arrival.
- All passengers will be advised to present for post-arrival testing if they develop symptoms of Covid19.

Passengers arriving from third countries

On 20 May the EU Council of Ministers adopted Amended Council Recommendation 912/2020 to amend restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU from third countries. Once Digital Covid Certificates are in place, the Commission will adopt an implementing act for treating third country vaccination certificates as equivalent - or for issuance of such certificates to people vaccinated in third countries.

To guard against importation of variants of interest and of concern, an 'emergency brake' – coordinated at EU level - will allow Member States to adopt urgent and time-limited measures to react to the emergence of a variant, in particular one designated a variant of concern/interest by the ECDC, in a given third country. (ECDC is the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)

While this proposed non-legislative instrument is aimed at Member States within the Schengen zone – and thus Ireland is not obliged to participate- Ireland will broadly align itself to this approach in a way that is compatible with operation of the Common Travel Area and with an open border on the island.

- Passengers arriving from a third country not subject to an emergency brake with proof of vaccination will be treated the same as their EU equivalents and will be advised to present for post-arrival testing if they develop symptoms of Covid19.
- All other passengers will be required to present proof of a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival.
- In addition:
 - Passengers arriving from third countries not subject to an emergency brake who do not present proof of vaccination will be required to undertake 14 days self-quarantine, with the possibility of release with a negative result from a PCR test taken no earlier than 5 days after arrival.
 - Passengers arriving from a third country subject to an emergency brake, or who were in such a country in the past 14 days, who present proof of vaccination will be required to undertake 14 days self-quarantine, with the possibility of release with a negative result from a PCR test taken no earlier than 5 days after arrival.
 - Passengers arriving from a third country subject to an emergency brake, or who were in such a country in the past 14 days, without proof of vaccination will be required to undertake Mandatory Hotel Quarantine for a period of 14 days with the possibility of release with a negative result from a PCR test taken no earlier than 10 days after arrival.

Operational Arrangements

Operational measures necessary to give effect to the measures above, including for envisaged amendments of the legal framework, adaptations to the Passenger Locator Form, etc. will be developed over the coming weeks.