



Q&A 18 February 2021 COVID-19 test certificate for ferrypassengers

Q: In what format must the certificate of a negative COVID-19 test be provided? Is a text message enough or must the certificate be printed in hardcopy format?

A: Shipping lines accept certificates that provide sufficient details of the test and date of testing as well as the information necessary for identifying the holder. The certificate may be presented in hardcopy or digital format, such as a text message, e-mail or screenshot, provided that it indicates the passenger's name, date of testing and the issuer of the certificate. See the attachment for more details.

Q: Is the 'home test' used in Sweden acceptable?

A: Shipping lines accept home tests analysed by a laboratory. The result of the home test must be presented before boarding. It is up to the passenger to take a screenshot of the test result if the result cannot otherwise be viewed several times.

Q: In what format should the medical certificate of recovery from the COVID-19 infection be provided? Is a printed antibody certificate enough? How recent should it be?

A: Shipping lines accept antibody certificates that provide sufficient details of the test and date of testing as well as the information necessary for identifying the holder. The certificate may not be older than 6 months. See the attachment for more details.

Q: Are persons carrying a vaccination certificate free to travel by boat?

A: No, not for the time being. According to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), those vaccinated must be treated the same as people who have not been vaccinated. This is also the position adopted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC).

Q: Is a certificate required from cruise passengers who do not go ashore in another country?

A: No certificate is required from cruise passengers who do not go ashore in another country. A test certificate is required from people who are arriving in Finland from abroad.

Q: Is a negative test certificate required from everyone, including Finnish citizens returning from abroad?

A: Yes, a negative test certificate is required from all passengers, including Finnish citizens returning to Finland. No certificate is required from cruise passengers who have not gone ashore in another country. Exempt from the obligation to present the certificate are children under 12 years of age as well as transportation crews, including marine crews, logistics drivers and professional people who play a key role in maintaining emergency stocks of critical supplies, because the test requirement would make it practically impossible for them to carry out their duties.

Q: Is a negative test certificate required from children under 12 years of age?

A: No, those under 12 are admitted without a certificate.

Q: What law says that a Finnish citizen must present a negative COVID-19 test certificate on arrival in Finland? By what right can shipping lines deny a Finnish citizen the right to board a ship?

A: THL has instructed that shipping lines should require a negative test result from all passengers arriving in Finland. The shipping lines comply with THL's instructions. Under article 15 of the Finnish Constitution, everyone's property is protected and article 18 stipulates that everyone has the right, as provided by an act



Suomen Varustamot
Rederierna i Finland

Finnish Shipowners' Association

of law, to earn his or her livelihood through the commercial activity of his or her choice. In its statement 49/2004, the Constitutional Committee holds that the selection of customers by entrepreneurs is justified by reference to the freedom of commercial activity guaranteed by article 18 and the protection of property guaranteed by article 15(1) of the Finnish Constitution. According to article 6 of the Constitution, no one shall, without an acceptable reason, be treated differently from other persons on the grounds of sex, age, origin, language, religion, conviction, opinion, health, disability or other reason that concerns his or her person. In this case, an entrepreneur's right to choose customers is not based on any of the foregoing non-acceptable reasons. Instead, it is based on the instructions issued by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL).

Q: Is a negative COVID-19 test certificate required for the Åland Islands?

A: No test certificate is required for internal transport between mainland Finland and Åland. Any special issues related to transport will be resolved by the local authorities. (More details later)

Q: A passenger accompanies a child who is on his/her way back to Sweden from Turku to Stockholm but the passenger him/herself only takes a cruise on the Turku-Stockholm-Turku route. Sweden does not require a COVID-19 test certificate from those under 18. Will either of the two passengers be required to present a test certificate when boarding the ship in Turku?

A: No. No certificate is required from cruise passengers who have not gone ashore in another country. A test certificate must be presented by those arriving in Finland from abroad. Sweden does not require a COVID-19 test certificate from people under 18.



Instructions concerning test certificates

The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has updated its instructions regarding arrival in Finland and travel in general. As of 23 February 2021, shipping lines will require a COVID-19 test certificate or equivalent document from customers.

In accordance with THL's recommendations, all customers arriving in Finland will be required to present

1. a certificate showing that they have tested negative for the COVID-19 virus or
2. a certificate showing that they have had and recovered from a coronavirus infection and are therefore free to travel

This requirement applies to all passengers, including Finnish citizens, who arrive in Finland on or after 23 February 2021. This is all part of our other comprehensive measures designed to ensure health and safety.

No certificate is required from

- persons who are on a cruise (without going to shore)
- drivers carrying freight in a professional capacity
- those under 13 years of age
- seamen whose tour of duty commences on a ship sailing from Finland or who are returning from such a tour to Finland.

We accept certificates of a negative COVID-19 test or a certificate of full recovery from a previous coronavirus infection issued by a reliable healthcare operator. The certificate may be in Finnish, Swedish, English, German, Norwegian, Danish or Estonian. The certificate may be presented in hardcopy or digital format, such as a text message, e-mail or screenshot, provided that it indicates the passenger's name, date of testing and the issuer of the certificate. The following coronavirus test methods are acceptable:

- PCR test taken no earlier than 72 hours before the trip
- PCR instant test taken no earlier than 72 hours before the trip
- LAMP test taken no earlier than 72 hours before the trip
- Antibody test taken no earlier than 72 hours before the trip
- Antibody instant test taken no earlier than 72 hours before the trip
- Home test ("hemtest") used in Sweden

Read more about THL's recommendations at [THL's web page,\(in finnish\)](#) .

Finnish Shipowners' Association: [As of 23 February 2021, shipping lines will require a negative COVID-19 test certificate from passengers arriving in Finland from abroad](#)

Traficom: [THL recommends that a negative COVID-19 test also be required from passengers arriving in Finland using other means of transport beside aircraft](#)