



Q&A COVID-19 test certificate for ferrypassengers (updated 7.6.2021)

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

A: As of Tuesday 8th June 2021, shipping lines will accept a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine certificate, or a certificate showing that they have tested negative for the COVID-19 virus, or a certificate showing that they have had and recovered from a coronavirus infection.

Q: What kind of COVID-19 vaccine certificate will be accepted?

A: The shipping lines will accept a certificate of receiving at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the World Health Organization or the European Medicines Agency. The vaccine must be taken at least 21 days before the trip. The vaccine certificate must indicate the name of the customer, the date of birth, the name of the vaccine, the date and place of administration of the vaccine, and the issuer of the certificate.

For the time being, a vaccine certificate, unlike a preliminary test and proof of recovery from COVID-19, does not exempt you from a health check carried out by the authorities at the border. [Finentry](#) can be used to streamline your entry in the ports of Helsinki.

Q: Are test certificates from the Swedish 1177 Vårdguiden app accepted when travelling by ferry? (The app says that it is not travel certificate)

A: Yes, test certificates shown in the 1177 system app are accepted when travelling by ferry.

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 instructions for more details: <https://shipowners.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Instructions-concerning-certificates.pdf>.

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: 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?



Suomen Varustamot

Rederierna i Finland

Finnish Shipowners' Association

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 16 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?

A: Children under 16 years of age are admitted without a certificate. It is however recommended to have test certificates for children between 12-15 years, to streamline entry in the country.

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 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.