



## **Exemption from requirement for testing and quarantine upon return to Iceland for flight crews travelling abroad for work and procedures necessary to maintain the exemption**

An exemption from the general requirement for testing and quarantine is granted for flight crews of companies based in Iceland and for crew members of companies based elsewhere who reside in Iceland who have stayed in COVID-19 risk areas for longer than 24 hours according to the following criteria:

1. Duration of the trip is less than 72 hours from departure from Iceland to arrival.
2. Crews based in Iceland or who reside in Iceland who have travelled only for work and followed the Chief Epidemiologist's instructions (see below) for infection prevention while abroad which may be considered equivalent to protective quarantine measures.
3. Crew members, who come in **contact with a confirmed case** despite precautions, whether within the family, circle of friends or at work, are not subject to this exemption and **must fully observe the [rules for quarantine](#)** issued by the Chief Epidemiologist.
4. Crew members must monitor their health closely and specifically for the following symptoms:
  - a. Runny or stuffed nose (cold symptoms), sore throat, sudden change in sense of taste or smell
  - b. Cough or shortness of breath
  - c. Fatigue, body aches, headache
  - d. Fever over 38°C

If any symptoms arise, the crew member must contact staff health to decide if they may work.

Please note that those who present a valid confirmation at the border from the **EEA/EFTA-area** of a [previous COVID-19 infection](#) or a [full vaccination against COVID-19](#) are exempt from testing and quarantine upon arrival in Iceland regardless of working conditions abroad.

The Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland

## **Recommendations for companies working in international air transport during COVID-19:**

1. Crew members who reside in Iceland should not be scheduled to work with crew members who reside in other countries if avoidable.
2. When crew members who reside in different countries work together, ideally the **same crew** should work together for 14 days or longer.
3. When crew members who reside in different countries work together for assignments of duration shorter than 14 days it is important to keep meticulous records of those schedules and notify crew of possible workplace-exposure to COVID-19.
4. Arranging work schedules to limit the number of people each crew member works with is prudent regardless of residency. Jump seat passengers should be limited to crew or trainees of the same company **or** crew of companies with **similar rules** who are travelling for work or returning to their country of residency from an assignment. They should commit to notifying the carrier of illness occurring up to 72 hours after a trip.
5. Should crew be notified of exposure to COVID-19 infected individual in the 14 days before coming to Iceland, whether the exposure is at work or within the family or circle of friends, the involved party is **no longer eligible for this exemption** and must **cease all contact** with unrelated individuals and remain in **private** accommodations or in a local official quarantine facility to observe fully the [quarantine instructions](#) as put forth by the Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland.
6. Crew should pay careful attention to **any** symptoms of illness at all times:
  - a. Cold symptoms or sore throat, sudden changes in sense of taste or smell
  - b. Cough or breathlessness
  - c. Fatigue, body aches or headache
  - d. Fever over 38°C

If any symptoms arise crew must contact their employer and occupational health or the closest primary care clinic/on-call service (if in Iceland: 1700/+354 544 4113) for appropriate medical care including testing for COVID-19. In that situation, please refer to the [requirements for isolation](#). If applicable, the company and the crew may find instructions for cleaning and other considerations on the website for the [Directorate of Health](#). **Please note that COVID-19 illness may result in quarantine for colleagues and anyone else whom the person who is ill has been in contact with while symptomatic or 24-48 hours before symptoms according to** current rules in effect in Iceland.

## Overview of precautions for working in international air transport during COVID-19:

1. Hygiene measures and general infection control measures in the workplace
  - a. Crew should practice strict infection control throughout the assignment, including during travel. This includes maintaining 2-metre distance from others as much as possible during travel, avoiding touching common surfaces without strict hand hygiene afterwards. Frequent use of hand disinfectant while traveling and during the assignment is strongly recommended.
  - b. Disinfectant appropriate for the materials in the work environment should be available in the workplace to sanitize common surfaces after touch. See instructions about [Infection Prevention and Cleaning](#) and also [Instructions about Infection Prevention for Airports and Airlines in Icelandic](#) (only in Icelandic).
  - c. Disposable gloves and masks may need to be available for certain tasks or situations. See further [Advice about sensible use of disposable gloves and masks](#).
  - d. Universal precaution kits should be available on board
  - e. Direct interaction with ground crew should be avoided when possible. When interaction is unavoidable workers should maintain 2-metres distance from each other as much as possible and use masks when closer proximity is unavoidable. [Face shields can be used as eye protection but should only be used instead of a mask as an exception](#). Interactions should occur only in well-ventilated areas and last only as long as necessary, limited to 15 minutes or less, if possible.
  - f. If a task must be completed by non-crew on board, the area should be cleared of other personnel if feasible during the task. The area should be cleaned and/or sanitized after the non-crew worker has left the vessel before crew uses the space.
  - g. Aircraft will be cleaned and sanitized after flights to high-risk areas as required by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).
2. Travel between airport and accommodations (during turnarounds lasting >24 hrs **or** at base outside of Iceland)
  - a. In all areas where other people may be encountered, such as the airport and hotel lobby, crew should practice strict infection control measures, such as maintaining at least 2-metre distance from other people, use a face-mask, avoid touching common surfaces and strict hygiene measures, especially hand hygiene.
  - b. It is recommended to use dedicated crew transport/chartered vehicles, rental car or taxi for all ground transport on foreign soil. Use of public transportation is discouraged.
3. Outside of workplace (during turnarounds lasting >24 hrs **or** at base outside of Iceland)

- a. When not at work, quarantined individuals should remain in their hotel room or other [appropriate accommodations](#) as much as feasible.
- b. Avoid public hygiene facilities if possible. When unavoidable, sanitizing surfaces that must be touched before (and after) use is recommended.
- c. It is recommended that crew members dine in their room. If possible, all necessities should be delivered or ordered online for delivery or pickup without interaction with staff in the store/restaurant. Dining in restaurants is not recommended if other options are available. Restaurants are a high-risk environment for COVID-19 transmission, even with limitations on occupancy and distancing measures. If restaurants are the only available option, limiting the time spent there is the best way to reduce risk of unknown exposure to COVID-19.
- d. Crew can go for a walk or run for the purposes of exercise but must maintain careful distance from passers-by and should avoid potentially crowded areas.

**The above overview represents the minimum requirements for the exemption from testing and quarantine to apply upon return to Iceland.**