



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from [Ministry of Justice](#)

Temporary ban on travel to the EU via Sweden due to COVID-19

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In response to the European Council's and the European Commission's call for travel restrictions, the Government decided on 17 March to temporarily stop non-essential travel to Sweden from all countries except those in the EEA and Switzerland so as to mitigate the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and reduce the spread of the disease.

The decision takes effect on 19 March and will initially apply for 30 days. This is an exceptional measure that will not apply for longer than necessary.

All travel to Sweden will not be stopped. Swedish citizens and people who are resident in Sweden will be able to return to Sweden. Nor will the entry ban apply to people who have particularly important grounds for travelling to Sweden. This includes diplomats, people in need of international protection and people who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden, such as health care professionals and people transporting goods to Sweden.

The entry ban applies primarily to foreign citizens attempting to enter Sweden from all countries except those in the EEA and Switzerland. Travel to Sweden from the following countries is therefore allowed: Austria,

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Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The entry ban does not affect travel from another EU country to Sweden, nor does it apply to Swedish citizens.

The COVID-19 virus is a matter of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordinated measures. Today's decision is in line with the European Council's and the European Commission's call to EU Member States to introduce a temporary travel restriction on non-essential travel to the EU from third countries.

Who is included in the entry ban?

The entry ban applies to all foreign citizens attempting to enter Sweden from all countries except those in the EEA and Switzerland. Exemptions are made for people whose reason for travelling is to return to their homes, if they:

- are an EEA or Swiss citizen, or are a family member of such a citizen;
- have long-term resident status in Sweden or another EU Member State;
- have a temporary or permanent residence permit in Sweden or another EEA State or Switzerland; or
- have a national visa for Sweden.

In addition, the entry ban does not apply to people who have particularly urgent needs or who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden. This includes, among others, health care professionals, transport workers engaged in the haulage of goods and people travelling for imperative family reasons.

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> [FAQs - entry to the EU via Sweden banned](#)

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