Host country COVID-19 regulations

Please note: This document is solely for informational purposes concerning COVID-19 regulations in Finland. Participants are ultimately responsible for providing the necessary documentation in order to enter and exit Finland. We strongly recommend that speakers and participants consult their countries' travel advise and recommendations directly from their respective embassies regarding any COVID-19 restrictions.

International travel regulations

Travelers born before 2006 need to meet the following requirements in relation to health security measures. You can travel from any EU or Schengen country to Finland if you:

- Have been fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine 7 or more days prior to arrival, and can produce a certificate of a complete and valid vaccination series (either one or two doses, depending on the vaccine), **or**
- If you have a proof of recovery that shows that you have had COVID-19 during the last 6 months,
 or
- If you have a certificate that proves that you have had COVID-19 and one approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Travelers that do not meet the above requirements, should undergo a COVID-19 test at arrival **or** must have a certificate of a negative COVID-19 result of less than 72 hours **or** you should have a certificate of having received the first dose in the COVID-19 vaccination series that is still valid. Additionally, after 3 to 5 days these travelers need to do a second COVID-19 test in Finland. Please note, that to be considered fully vaccinated, you need to have had your most recent dose of an EU approved vaccine during the last 9 months. After this, a booster vaccination is mandatory. After this booster vaccination, the EU COVID Certificate will be valid again until further notice.

Recently, Finnish authorities have made amendments to several restrictions on international travel. As of 15 February 2022, travelers from outside of the Schengen Area are no longer required to present a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival. However, please take note that such individuals are still required to produce a certificate of full vaccination or recent recovery from COVID-19. Travel from all other countries is permitted for individuals with a certificate of vaccination or a certificate of recovery linked to the EU Digital COVID Certificate gateway. Some exceptions are made for limited categories of essential travel. For arrival from a green list country or questions concerning categories of essential travel, please check <u>Guidelines for border traffic during pandemic | The Finnish Border Guard (raja.fi)</u>. Furthermore, please ensure that you are aware of the most recent regulations for travelling back to your country after the conference.

EU Digital COVID Certificate

If you are in possession of a certificate proving a full vaccination or having recovered from COVID-19, you do not need to get tested when entering Finland. COVID-19 certificates referred to in the Communicable Diseases Act for all persons born in 2006 or earlier constitute:

- <u>a vaccination certificate</u> of a complete series of vaccinations, or
- <u>a recovery certificate</u> verifying recovery from the COVID-19 disease within the last 6 months, or
- <u>a test certificate</u> obtained in a test taken no earlier than 72 hours before entry and showing a negative result. Health officials at the point of entry will decide which types of COVID-19 tests taken before entry are accepted, and at the moment they recommend PCR and antigen tests.

All persons arriving in Finland are bound by the obligations stated in the Communicable Diseases Act. See the Communicable Diseases Act for further information concerning the COVID-19 regulations any visitor to Finland has to adhere to: <u>Communicable Diseases Act 1227/2016 - Up-to-date legislation - FINLEX</u> [®]

The aforementioned guidelines are valid until 13 March 2022.

COVID-19 testing in Finland

If you need to take a COVID-19 test when arriving in Finland please refer to the **FINENTRY** for managing the coronavirus testing required for entry. COVID-19 tests booked through <u>FINENTRY</u> are free of charge. Appointments booked by phone may be charged. COVID-19 tests provided by the public health care are not intended for recreational travelers.

In the case that you feel sick while in Finland and would like to be tested or if you need a test for travel to you home country, please see the list of private operators in proximity of the Helsinki-Vantaa airport here:

- <u>Aava</u>: Doctor's referral is required for COVID-19 test. PCR test, with referral and travel certificate is 245 euros. Expect 10-12 hours of waiting for result. Rapid antigen test costs 139 euros with a referral and a certificate.
- <u>Finnair</u>: (Vantaa) PCR test and travel certificate cost 120 euros and 93 for Finnair customers. Rapid antigen test and certificate cost 79 euros and 65 euros for Finnair customers. PCR test will be ready next morning at 9 AM.
- <u>HUS</u>: (Helsinki) PCR test free for those with symptoms. Certificate may in some cases be used for travelling, but not every airline accepts this.
- <u>Medipulssi (Helsinki)</u>: PCR test and certificate for travel is 100 euros. Rapid antigen is 50 euros, test results in 15-20 minutes.
- More options: <u>Helsinki: PCR tests and travel certificate prices in Finland | Koronatestihinta.fi</u>

Internal Restrictions

Since February 1st 2022, COVID-19 measures in Finland have been eased. The opening hours of restaurants and bars have been extended. In general, non-essential businesses and services are allowed to operate. Restrictions on gatherings, capacity limits and opening hours vary by region. It is recommended to wear facemasks in enclosed public spaces. Several services can require from customers that they present a COVID passport that proves vaccination, a recent negative test result or recovery.

General health and safety measures in the fight against COVID-19 in Finland include avoiding physical contact, maintaining a safe distance from other people and observing good hand and respiratory hygiene. Health authorities require using face masks in public transport in large cities and recommend using it in other situations where it is difficult to maintain 1-2 m distances from other people.

Sources

Helsinki: PCR tests and travel certificate prices in Finland | Koronatestihinta.fi Finland and COVID-19 | Visit Finland Coronavirus testing in Helsinki | City of Helsinki Coronavirus FAQ | City of Helsinki Finentry Travel and the coronavirus pandemic - THL Tartuntatautilaki 1227/2016 - Ajantasainen lainsäädäntö - FINLEX @ Covid19-info | The Finnish Border Guard (raja.fi)