



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

N° 2021- 0053131 /PRO/PIDC

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Protocol – presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions accredited in France, the international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, and to the delegations and permanent representations to these international organizations, and has the honour to inform them of the following:

The French authorities have defined, in Decree No. 2021-99 of 30 January 2021 amending Decree No. 2020-1262 of 16 October 2020 and Decree No. 2020-1310 of 29 October 2020 stipulating the general measures necessary to face the COVID-19 epidemic within the framework of the health state of emergency, new rules for travelling to Metropolitan France from an external border of the European space.

1 – This travel is now only possible on pressing personal, family or professional grounds justified with a certificate to be presented to the transport company and border control authorities.

This certificate, which can be downloaded on the Ministry of the Interior's website (<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/>), can take several forms, which should be selected on the basis of two criteria:

- The traveller's nationality: a distinction is made between citizens from France and from other countries of the European space, and citizens from a country outside of the European space;
- The state of circulation of the infection in the country of departure (at the time of publication of this note verbale, however this information is to be updated regularly):
 - i. Country in a zone in which the infection is circulating;
 - ii. Country that is not in a zone in which the infection is circulating (1 February 2021: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand);
 - iii. The United Kingdom.

Each certificate form states, for the situation that applies, the list of pressing grounds, the required documents and the categories of travellers authorized to enter Metropolitan France.

2 – All travellers to Metropolitan France from a country outside the European space must, in addition to the certificate mentioned in point 1 of this note verbale, present to the transport company and border control authorities:

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED IN FRANCE

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTERED OR HAVING AN OFFICE IN FRANCE
PERMANENT DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

- The results of a virological RT-PCR test carried out less than 72 hours prior to departure (of the first flight, if the journey includes connecting flights) which proves that the traveller does not have COVID-19;

- A **sworn declaration** which can be downloaded on the Ministry of Interior's website (<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr>) stating that:
 - i. The traveller has no symptoms of COVID-19 infection;
 - ii. The traveller has not, to their knowledge, been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to the journey;
 - iii. The traveller agrees to take a virological RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival in France (this requirement does not apply to children aged 11 and under);
 - iv. The traveller agrees to carry out a preventive seven-day self-isolation period after arriving in France and to take a virological RT-PCR test at the end of that period.

Where an RT-PCR test cannot be carried out in the country of departure, the traveller can ask the embassy or consulate of France for a specific document called a "PCR test exemption" (Dispense de test PCR), subject to pressing grounds for travel (limited to a very small number of circumstances) and prior acceptance of:

- A virological screening test capable of detecting SARS-CoV-2 (antigen/lateral flow test) upon arrival;
- A seven-day isolation period in an establishment designated by the French authorities, subject to presentation of a booking;
- A virological screening test at the end of the isolation period.

In countries where antigen/lateral flow tests are available, the "PCR test exemption" is valid only if accompanied by the results of such a test carried out less than 72 hours before boarding and which does not identify COVID-19 contamination.

Further information concerning the health check measures is available on the Ministry of the Interior's website (<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr>).

3 – Specific measures may apply to travel to French overseas territories and have been specified on the Ministry of the Interior's website (<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr>).

4 – Departure from France to destinations outside Europe is also subject to the pressing grounds system. A departure exemption form is available on the Ministry of the Interior's website (<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr>).

5 – Concerning the progression of the epidemic, the French authorities kindly request, in accordance with the Vienna Convention and without prejudice to immunities recognized by it, that delegation members on official missions, staff of diplomatic and consular missions and staff in international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, as well as their spouses and children over the age of 11, present:

- The results of a virological RT-PCR test carried out less than 72 hours prior to departure (of the first flight if the journey includes connecting flights) which proves that the traveller(s) does not have COVID-19, **unless they have a specific exemption from the French Embassy or consulate;**
- An exemption certificate where it is required to check the box "**professional purpose that cannot be postponed**" (see point 1 of this note verbale).

Specific assignments related to the prerogatives of public authorities, including diplomatic missions, are in the category of pressing grounds.

Delegation members on an official assignment are not required to self-isolate nor are staff of international organizations headquartered or having an office in France and their spouses and children.

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Protocol – avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the diplomatic missions accredited in France, international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, and permanent delegations and representations to these international organizations, the assurances of its high consideration.

Paris, 3 February 2021