

Frequently asked questions - Coronavirus

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Inhalt

FAQs: Austria is testing	8
Free testing opportunities.....	8
Should I get tested if I have symptoms which indicate an infection with COVID-19?.....	8
Where can I get tested free of charge when I do not have symptoms?	8
How do I get the test result?.....	8
What should I do if the result is positive?.....	9
Does my test result count as an access test and as a test for occupational groups?.....	9
Free testing opportunities at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities.....	9
Who can be tested at a testing site?.....	10
What do I have to take with me to the testing site?	10
Can I cancel my appointment?.....	10
Can I print my registration sheet out again?	10
Why I am I referred to the hotline when I want to confirm the appointment using the appointment link?	10
Free testing in pharmacies	11
Who can be tested at a pharmacy?	11
Is testing in pharmacies free of charge for everyone?	11
Are the tests in pharmacies also free for persons who only have private health insurance?	12
How do I register for a free COVID-19 antigen test in a pharmacy?	12
What do I have to take with me for a test in a pharmacy?	12
Free testing in companies	12
Who carries out the tests in companies?	13
Can the company view my data?	13
Can a company charge for the tests?.....	13
I would also like to offer tests in my company. Where can I find all the information I need?	13
Free home tests from pharmacies	14
Where can you obtain information on free home tests in pharmacies?.....	14
Which pharmacies issue free home tests?	14
How can persons who are not currently participating in ELGA obtain free home tests?	15
I left ELGA. If I register with ELGA again, can I receive the free home tests, and when?	15
FAQs: Types of tests and test certificates.....	16

The vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G).....	16
How long is evidence of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 valid?	16
How long are medical certificates and self-isolation orders valid?	16
How long is a positive test for neutralising antibodies valid?	16
From when and how long is evidence of vaccination valid?	17
Overview of types of tests.....	17
Overview of types of tests (version from 20.05.2021).....	18
Antigen/lateral flow tests.....	19
How do I carry out an antigen test correctly?	19
Does a molecular test (such as a PCR) have to be additionally carried out in the case of a positive test?	19
Does a person have to self-isolate in the case of a positive antigen test result?.....	20
Does a negative antigen test mean that a contact person (CP1) does not have self-isolate?	20
How much does an antigen test cost and where can I get one?	20
In which ways are samples for antigen tests taken?	20
Molecular tests (e.g. PCR or LAMP tests).....	21
What is a PCR test?	21
What is a LAMP test?	21
In which ways are samples for molecular tests taken?	22
Antibody tests	22
What is an antibody test and what is it used for in relation to COVID-19?.....	22
Which kind of antibody test frees me for 90 days from the obligation to be tested in order to enter certain venues?	23
Home tests.....	24
Which types of home tests are there?.....	24
How should home tests be carried out?.....	24
What do I do if the result is positive, and do I have to report it?.....	25
Does a negative result from a home test count as proof in the sense of the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule?	25
Medical certificates and test certificates	25
Who can issue a test certificate?	25
What information does a test certificate need to include?.....	26
FAQs: Health, care and risk groups	27
Health care and health services	27
Which rules apply for doctor’s appointments?	27

Which rules apply to visits to hospitals, convalescence / rehabilitation homes and health spas, and other places where health care services are provided?.....	28
Which rules apply to health services such as physiotherapy, medical massages, psychotherapy and speech therapy?	28
Care.....	29
How can one care for the mental health of older people and look after persons with dementia in the best possible way?.....	29
Which rules apply to visits to residential homes for the elderly and nursing homes? ..	29
Who will look after me when my carer (a family member, mobile care service or 24-hour carer) cannot come?.....	30
Which effects does the pandemic have on the subsidisation of 24-hour care?	30
FAQs: Business, events and employment law	31
Hospitality sector.....	31
Which measures apply to hospitality businesses?.....	31
How many people can visit a hospitality venue together?.....	32
What applies to snack bars/stalls	32
Which rules apply to night clubs?	32
Tourist accommodation	32
Which rules apply to hotels and tourist accommodation businesses?	32
Services, retailing and companies	33
Which measures apply to retailers and in shops?	33
Which rules apply to services, and to services with physical proximity (e.g. hairdressers, pedicures)?.....	33
My company is currently affected by COVID-19. Where can I obtain information?.....	33
Where can I find information on the various subsidies and support offers provided by the Austrian Federal Government?	34
Events	34
Which events can currently take place without limitations?	34
Which rules apply to meetings and gatherings?.....	34
Which rules apply to occasional markets such as flea markets?.....	35
Can demonstrations take place?.....	35
Labour law	36
What is coronavirus short-time working, and where can I find information on it?.....	36
If I have to self-isolate due to an official self-isolation order, am I entitled to reimbursement of lost income?.....	36
Where can I find information on labour law issues and periods of special care (of children)?.....	36

FAQs: Social life	37
Social life.....	37
Which rules apply to weddings?	37
Which rules apply to funerals?	38
Which rules apply to religious worship?	38
Which rules apply to carpooling, taxis, school transport and transport for people with disabilities?.....	38
Which rules apply to leisure facilities?.....	38
Which rules apply to cultural establishments?.....	39
Which rules apply to night clubs, discos and night-time hospitality venues?.....	39
Can choirs, brass bands and other music groups rehearse together again?.....	39
Training and further training.....	39
Sport	40
Which rules apply to sports facilities?	40
Can amateur sports take place in public spaces?	40
What is the current situation for cable cars and ski lifts?	40
What has to be taken into account in professional sports?	40
FAQs: Protective measures.....	41
Protective measures.....	41
Does having recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2 exempt you from adhering to protective measures?	41
Does being vaccinated against COVID-19 exempt me from protective measures?.....	41
Does a positive antibody test exempt me from the protective measures?	42
Who monitors adherence to the protective measures, and how much are the fines? .	42
Which rules apply to meetings and gatherings?.....	42
Obligation to wear a mask.....	43
Which kinds of face masks are there? And what is the difference?.....	43
What is the right way to use a face mask or FFP2 mask?	44
Where does a face mask have to be worn?	44
Do I have to wear a mask in my workplace?.....	45
Who is exempted from the obligation to wear an FFP2 mask or a simple mask?	45
Which masks are permitted in accordance with the obligation to wear FFP2 masks? ..	45
Can an FFP2 mask be re-used?.....	46
Hygiene measures	47
What does correct hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette involve?	47
What do I need to do if I think I am a suspected case, or have had contact with persons infected with COVID-19?.....	47

I am pregnant, what do I need to be aware of?	48
What has to be taken into account regarding medication?	48
Quarantine.....	49
Which rules and regulations apply to quarantine?.....	49
What has to be noted during self-isolation?.....	49
When can quarantine due to an infection with SARS-CoV-2 be ended?.....	50
Which quarantine rules apply to entry to Austria?	50
Are other people in a household affected by self-isolation?.....	50
How are official decisions on self-isolation orders delivered to the affected person? ..	51
Does one get any help, such as with food?.....	51
What do dog owners do when they have to self-isolate? Who goes out with their animals?	52
Access tests	52
What counts as an access test?	52
What does NOT count as valid evidence of a test for services with physical proximity?	53
From what age is evidence necessary for services with physical proximity?.....	53
Do I need evidence for physiotherapy or medical massages?.....	53
Who checks whether customers have valid proof of their status?	53
Do I have to provide 3-G evidence if a provider of services with physical proximity comes to my home?.....	53
Do providers of services with physical proximity need to provide 3-G evidence?.....	53
FAQs: Entry into Austria	54
Entry into Austria.....	54
Where can I find the forms and appendices of the COVID-19 Entry Regulation?.....	55
How does the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G) apply to entry to the country?	55
Does the COVID entry regulation also apply to children?	56
What is considered entry for work reasons?	57
Who can Austrians abroad contact about their questions/problems?	57
Where can I find travel information and travel warnings?.....	57
Entry from states and regions with a low epidemiological risk (Appendix 1).....	58
Which rules apply for entry into Austria from states or regions in Appendix 1?.....	58
How are the countries and regions in Appendix 1 selected?	59
Entry from virus variant areas and states (Appendix 2).....	60
Who can enter despite the ban on entry from ‘virus variant’ areas and states in Appendix 2?.....	61

Who can nevertheless enter from 'virus variant' areas and states (Appendix 2) under less strict conditions?	62
Entry from other states and regions which are not in Appendix 1 or 2	63
Which rules apply for entry into Austria from other states and regions?.....	63
Which persons can enter under more relaxed conditions from other states and regions?	64
Exceptions related to entering Austria	64
Which rules apply in the case of entry for medical reasons?	65
What other exceptions apply in relation to entering Austria?	65
Pre-travel clearance:	66
What information is asked for during registration with the pre-travel clearance form? 66	
At what point in time do you have to register with the pre-travel clearance form?	67
In which way do I receive confirmation of registration?	67
When do I have to show the pre-travel clearance form?	67
How should the pre-travel clearance form be shown?	67
How long is the data obtained during registration stored for?	67
I have filled in a pre-travel clearance form, but the relevant data has changed since then. Do I need to cancel it?	68
When do I have to renew my registration with a new pre-travel clearance form?	68
Showing the results of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2	68
Which confirmations of test results are accepted as proof?	68
How do the authorities check whether I have a medical certificate or a test result issued in German or English?	69
Quarantine regulations in relation to entering Austria	70
Who has to pay the costs of a PCR or antigen/lateral flow test in order to end self-isolation early?	70
How, where and when is it possible to end self-isolation early by testing?.....	70
Is it possible to leave Austria again before the end of self-isolation?	70
FAQs: The Green Passport	71

FAQs: Austria is testing

Free testing opportunities

In Austria, regular testing is an important mainstay of the strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In this way, infected persons without symptoms can be recognised and isolated at an early stage, thus interrupting chains of infection. This is why the federal government in Austria has decided to make access to PCR and antigen/lateral flow tests for SARS-CoV-2 as simple as possible and free of charge for the entire population. With these testing offers, Austria has taken on a pioneering role worldwide.

Registration for tests can be made on the [Österreich Testet](#) website or via the hotline on **0800 / 220 330**

Should I get tested if I have symptoms which indicate an infection with COVID-19?

If you have symptoms such as a cough, a runny nose or breathlessness, or have lost your sense of smell or taste, please contact your doctor or the Health Hotline on 1450.

In some provinces there are separate testing facilities for people with symptoms. Information on this topic can be found on the websites of the respective provinces.

Where can I get tested free of charge when I do not have symptoms?

In Austria, it is possible to get tested free of charge at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities, at pharmacies and in participating companies. This diverse range of offers is intended to provide blanket coverage.

How do I get the test result?

You will receive the test result in electronic form as a PDF file, or printed out on site. In addition, the result is sent to you by e-mail via a link. As this is confidential health-related data, you must confirm your identity in order to obtain access to the results. The link to retrieve the results can be sent by text message (SMS) or by e-mail. You can choose how

you wish to receive the results during registration. Currently one receives the test results with a QR code in the case of tests made in companies, at pharmacies and at the testing sites of the provinces. The QR code is only valid in combination with photo ID in order to ensure that the result is assigned to the right person.

What should I do if the result is positive?

If you have tested positive, please self-isolate as quickly as possible and contact the Health Hotline 1450 or your general practitioner. In the case of a positive test in a company, the person responsible for testing in the company will notify the health authorities.

In order to confirm a positive antigen/lateral flow test, a second test (PCR) is usually carried out.

Does my test result count as an access test and as a test for occupational groups?

Test results from the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities, pharmacies and participating companies and from schools – regardless of whether they are in electronic or paper form – count as access tests. If the test is negative it counts for the next seven days as evidence of participation in the obligatory weekly tests of occupational groups and can be presented to the employer if requested.

The result of a free antigen home test, such as those offered by pharmacies, can only be used as evidence if it is recorded in an official data processing system of the provinces.

Free testing opportunities at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities

These testing sites are organised by the provinces and local authorities. At fixed locations in towns/cities and local authority areas, it is possible to be tested on certain days of the week after registering online or by phone. The weekdays and times vary from testing site to testing site.

Registration for tests can be made on the [Österreich Testet](https://www.oesterreich-testet.at) website or via the hotline on **0800 / 220 330**

Who can be tested at a testing site?

All persons of school age or older can be tested free of charge for SARS-CoV-2 at testing sites in Austria. Persons who are currently in Austria due to their work, as students, or who are on holiday here can also take part. Minors must be accompanied by their parents or guardians.

What do I have to take with me to the testing site?

You should take the **registration sheet** which you were sent during registration. This can be shown in electronic or printed form. Persons are identified using **photo ID**. In some provinces, it is also necessary to show an **e-card**. For more detailed information on this, please view the registration pages of the provinces.

A face mask should always be taken to a testing site and worn there.

Can I cancel my appointment?

It is always possible to cancel an appointment which you have booked. This function can be found in the link you received notifying you of the appointment. To do so, you have to confirm your date of birth. If you registered by telephone, please call **0800 / 220 330** again.

Can I print my registration sheet out again?

It is possible to print out the registration sheet again at any time. This function can be found in the link you received notifying you of the appointment. To do so, you have to confirm your date of birth.

Why I am I referred to the hotline when I want to confirm the appointment using the appointment link?

If you repeatedly enter your date of birth incorrectly when retrieving the test results, access is blocked for security reasons. To unblock access, please contact the hotline on **0800 / 220 330**.

Free testing in pharmacies

Since Monday 8 February 2021, it has been possible to have an antigen test for COVID-19 free of charge in pharmacies throughout Austria. This offer is available in around 900 Austrian pharmacies. You can find out which pharmacies carry out these tests during registration or on the [website of the Chamber of Pharmacies](#).

Registration for tests can be made on the [Österreich Testet](#) website or via the hotline on **0800 / 220 330**

Who can be tested at a pharmacy?

Pharmacies carry out free COVID-19 antigen tests solely for persons without symptoms who are insured in the Austrian social insurance system. If you have symptoms such as a cough, a runny nose or breathlessness, or have lost your sense of smell or taste, please contact your general practitioner or the **Health Hotline on 1450**.

In some provinces there are separate testing facilities for people with symptoms. For more detailed information on this, please view the websites of the respective provinces.

Is testing in pharmacies free of charge for everyone?

The costs of COVID-19 tests are initially only being assumed for persons insured with social insurance institutions which belong to the relevant umbrella organisation (ÖGK – former regional health insurance funds, SVS-GW - Gewerbliche Wirtschaft (social insurance Institutions for businesses, SVS-LW - agriculture, BVAEB-OEB – public-sector employees and BVAEB-EB – railways and mining) as well as for those insured with the health insurance institutions (KFAs) for employees of the cities of Vienna, Graz and Salzburg and that of Upper Austrian teachers.

Work is already being carried out on a solution for persons insured with other social health insurance institutions. In the meantime, those affected can make use of the free testing opportunities at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities.

Are the tests in pharmacies also free for persons who only have private health insurance?

Persons who only have private health insurance have to pay for the test themselves, but they can then apply for reimbursement from their insurance company. The situation should, however, first be clarified with the respective insurance company with regard to whether the costs can be refunded.

How do I register for a free COVID-19 antigen test in a pharmacy?

Be sure to register for an appointment in the pharmacy of your choice: registration via [Österreich testet](#) or via the free telephone number **0800 / 220 330**, every day from 7.00 - 22.00.

What do I have to take with me for a test in a pharmacy?

Take your e-card with you to the appointment. It is needed for identification purposes.

Free testing in companies

The broad deployment of antigen rapid tests is of key significance in interrupting chains of infection and thus keeping infection figures low. For this reason, company-based tests have been included in the testing strategy of the federal government. Companies with over 50 employees are called upon to set up their own testing facilities and to offer free antigen and PCR tests. This helps to contain the pandemic. They can not only test their own employees, but also persons who do not work for the company, such as the families of employees, customers and persons from other companies. These tests are subsidised by the federal government.

Companies with fewer employees can have the tests carried out by doctors, providers of emergency services, pharmacies or external service providers, and can also have their costs reimbursed.

Registration takes place via the participating company.

Who carries out the tests in companies?

In companies with 50 or more employees, the company doctor is responsible for testing. If there are fewer staff, the tests are carried out in cooperation with – for example – doctors, pharmacies, emergency services organisations or companies. These entities are also responsible for taking the samples.

Can the company view my data?

Before the data is processed, a data protection declaration has to be signed by the person to be tested. Companies are obliged to obtain this data.

Registrations are also subject to the strict guidelines of the General Data Protection Regulation. All of the data obtained, including the test result, is entered into the screening register, and the positive results are also entered into the epidemiological registration system.

Only company doctors and authorised medical staff have access to the test results. Employers can only view the anonymised total figures, but not the data of individual tested persons.

Can a company charge for the tests?

As testing in companies is a subsidised programme, the company may not charge anything for it. The tests are free.

I would also like to offer tests in my company. Where can I find all the information I need?

All of the information can be viewed on the website of the Österreichischen Wirtschaftskammer (Economic Chamber).

Free home tests from pharmacies

Since 01.06.2021, it has been possible to obtain up to ten free home tests per person and month. The tests can be obtained by persons aged 10 and over (as of 01.01.2012) in all pharmacies participating in the programme. An additional condition for the receipt of the free home tests is that the person is insured in the Austrian social health insurance system. When picking up the tests, an e-card must be presented or the person's social insurance number given. Persons who do not currently participate in ELGA also have to present the letter of confirmation.

Home tests are an easily accessible additional opportunity to carry out a test in order to counteract the spread of the virus and avoid further COVID-19 cases. For persons without symptoms, they provide information about their own status, for example before visiting family members. As a test result is always only an indication of the current moment, protective measures such as the obligation to wear a mask in certain situations also have to be adhered to when the test result is negative. This applies particularly to meeting persons who are at a higher risk of serious illness if they become infected.

Further information on how home tests work and how to use them is available in the FAQs on types of tests and test results.

Where can you obtain information on free home tests in pharmacies?

The ELGA Service line is available nationwide on **050 124 4411** on weekdays from 07.00 - 19.00 for general enquiries about the free home tests.

Additional information is also available on the [ELGA website](#).

Which pharmacies issue free home tests?

The tests can principally be obtained from all participating pharmacies. To be sure to get your tests, we recommend that you contact your favoured pharmacy online or by telephone.

How can persons who are not currently participating in ELGA obtain free home tests?

Persons who are not currently participating in ELGA can fill in an application form at www.sozialversicherung.at/covidtests. If you are currently covered by statutory health insurance, you will subsequently receive a letter of confirmation by post.

When you present the confirmation in any public pharmacy you will receive ten free home tests per month. Every issue is confirmed by the pharmacy with a stamp on the letter of confirmation.

Additional information is also available on the [ELGA website](#).

I left ELGA. If I register with ELGA again, can I receive the free home tests, and when?

When you register with ELGA again and the check on your entitlement is positive, a prescription will be saved in the E-Medication service on the first day of the next month. It is not possible to re-register with retroactive effect.

As long as you do not participate in ELGA, there is, however, the possibility to obtain the free home tests by using the letter of confirmation for persons who are not currently in ELGA. The application form can be filled in at www.sozialversicherung.at/covidtests. If your status regarding participation changes, you will receive the free home tests automatically in future as an ELGA participant. The letter of confirmation thus becomes redundant.

FAQs: Types of tests and test certificates

The vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G)

These three forms of evidence are proof of a low epidemiological risk. A low level of epidemiological risk can be assumed in the case of the following persons:

- Vaccinated persons
- Tested persons
- Persons who have recovered

Evidence in the form of a certificates about a vaccination, a test or recovery is of equal value, but their periods of validity vary.

How long is evidence of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 valid?

- Molecular test (e.g. PCR test): 72 hours from when the sample was taken
- An antigen/lateral flow test from an authorised site (e.g. Österreich getestet): 48 hours from when the sample was taken
- An antigen home test which is recorded in an official data processing system of the provinces: 24 hours

How long are medical certificates and self-isolation orders valid?

A medical certificate is valid for 180 days from the end of an infection with SARS-CoV-2. The infection must have been confirmed with a molecular test (e.g. PCR).

An official self-isolation order is also valid for 180 days.

How long is a positive test for neutralising antibodies valid?

Evidence of a positive test for neutralising antibodies is valid for 90 days. It is possible to have another test carried out after the original test result has expired.

From when and how long is evidence of vaccination valid?

- Immunisation with two doses:
evidence of vaccination is valid for 90 days from the 22nd day after the first dose of an EMA-approved vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. After the second vaccination the validity of the vaccination certificate is extended by a further 270 days.
- Immunisation with a single dose:
evidence of vaccination is valid for 270 days from the 22nd day after receipt of a single dose of an EMA-approved vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.
- Immunisation by vaccination of persons who have recovered:
If at least 21 days before vaccination a positive molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 was presented, or evidence of neutralising antibodies is present at the time of the first vaccination with a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 which has been approved by the EMA, the vaccination certificate is valid for 270 days from the day of the first vaccination.

The following are considered evidence of vaccination: the yellow vaccination passport, a vaccination card, or data from the e-vaccination passport (either printed out or electronically as a PDF file (e.g. on a mobile phone)).

Overview of types of tests

- Antigen tests are valid for different periods of time depending on who carries them out:
 - First of all, professionally conducted or professionally monitored tests are valid for 48 hours. Free tests of this kind include those carried out in pharmacies, companies, the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities, school tests and specific screening programmes (such as those in residential or nursing homes or for hospital staff).
 - Antigen home tests are valid for 24 hours and can only be used as evidence of your COVID-19 status if they are recorded digitally in an official data collection system. Free tests of this kind are the home tests available from pharmacies.
 - Antigen tests which are carried out by oneself under observation by staff are only valid for immediate entry to a location. Free tests of this kind are the home tests available from pharmacies and tests which are offered on site at venues.
- PCR tests are valid for 72 hours.
 - PCR tests carried out professionally or monitored by staff are offered at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities.



- PCR tests carried out oneself at home are only valid if they are recorded digitally. Free tests of this kind are the testing kits which can be obtained from specific shops.
- Alongside these free testing opportunities, there are also paid testing services, the results of which can be used for access to various places. The range of offers is very broad and thus cannot be covered in the figure below.

In the following diagram, the different kinds of tests are illustrated in a table. The table is also available as a download in PDF format. [Overview of types of tests \(PDF, 88 KB\)](#) (version from 20.05.2021)

Overview of types of tests (version from 20.05.2021)

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection

Overview of types of tests

Type of test	Procedure	Validity	Important note on validity	Free testing opportunities
Antigen-test 	Professional sampling with observation	48h		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests in pharmacies • Company tests • Testing sites of the provinces and local authorities • School tests • Specific screening programmes (e.g residential and care homes, hospital staff)
	Self-sampling (at home)	24h	Only valid with digital recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home tests available from pharmacies
	Self-sampling on site/ observation by staff	Only for immediate access		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home tests available from pharmacies • Tests offered on site at venues
PCR-test 	Professional sampling with observatio	72h		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing sites of the provinces and local authorities
	Self-sampling (at home)		Only valid with digital recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test kits available from specific shops or collection points

Alongside these free testing opportunities there are also paid services which can be used for access tests. The range of offers is very substantial and cannot be shown in this table.

Antigen/lateral flow tests

A correctly conducted antigen test can identify viral antigens of SARS-CoV-2 in a short space of time (15 to 30 minutes). Unlike a PCR test, antigen tests do not detect the genetic material of the virus, but only its protein or protein envelope.

Antigen tests can be differentiated according to their users:

- antigen tests for use by specialist staff (sampling, evaluation and interpretation are carried out by medical staff)
- antigen tests for home use (sampling, evaluation and interpretation are carried out by the user themselves). Information on antigen tests for home use is provided below.

How do I carry out an antigen test correctly?

In order to carry out an antigen test correctly, a sample has to be taken from the upper respiratory tract (e.g. nasopharyngeal swab). Information on how to take a sample is given in the leaflet provided by the manufacturer of the test.

Unlike molecular tests (such as PCR tests), a laboratory and laboratory personnel are not required for the analysis and interpretation of the results of an antigen test. However, antigen tests should be carried out under the supervision of an experienced person in order to ensure correct interpretation. The result has to be interpreted in relation to the specifications of the test, any symptoms and the medical history of the patient as well as the pretest probability.

Antigen tests for home use only provide personal information about your infection status.

Does a molecular test (such as a PCR) have to be additionally carried out in the case of a positive test?

Yes. Positive antigen test results in the case of healthy, asymptomatic persons who have had no known contact to an infected person have to be confirmed by a molecular test.

Only persons with symptoms and contact persons (contact person 1) are exempted from this.

If there is too great a demand on the facilities for molecular testing, the need for confirmation with a molecular test can be waived in the case of patients with symptoms (sus-

pected cases) and a positive antigen test result. The antigen test must be recorded in the epidemiological registry system (EMS).

Does a person have to self-isolate in the case of a positive antigen test result?

Yes. There is a legal reporting requirement for positive antigen test results: a positive antigen test is considered a suspected case and the district administration authority (BH) has to be notified.

If a second test is to be carried out (a molecular test), such as in the case of a positive antigen test in a person without symptoms, the person has to self-isolate at least until the result of the molecular test is available. If this is positive the person has to self-isolate for 14 days. If the result is negative, the person can end their self-isolation.

Does a negative antigen test mean that a contact person (CP1) does not have self-isolate?

No. As in the case of a molecular test, an antigen test is only a reflection of the present moment. As the person could be in the incubation stage, quarantine has to be adhered to until the 14th day after the last contact with the infected person, also in the case of a negative test result. Ending self-isolation is possible with a negative molecular (PCR) or antigen test. This can be taken at the earliest ten days after the last infectious contact.

How much does an antigen test cost and where can I get one?

In Austria, it is possible to get tested free of charge at the testing sites of the provinces and local authorities, at pharmacies and in participating companies. This broad range of offers provides low-threshold and free access to testing.

Additional information is also available at [FAQ: Österreich testet](#).

In which ways are samples for antigen tests taken?

A sample from the throat via the nose (nasopharyngeal swab) is the gold standard, as experience shows that with this method a large amount of virus material is obtained for the test. There are, however, also other ways of obtaining a sample, such as from the throat via the mouth. Information on how to best take a sample is always given in the leaflet provided by the manufacturer of the test kit.

Molecular tests (e.g. PCR or LAMP tests)

Here, SARS-CoV-2 is detected directly via the virus genome or virus protein (antigen). The gold standard for the early detection of an infection is thus, according to scientific evidence and international recommendations, to verify the presence of the pathogen directly by means of quality-assured PCR procedures or other molecular tests.

What is a PCR test?

A PCR test is a highly sensitive molecular procedure with which the genome of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is detected in a laboratory. It is used to detect a current infection with SARS-CoV-2. The test evaluates the current situation, and can thus lead to different results within a period of a few days. In the PCR procedure, the virus material is multiplied in several cycles in order to determine how much virus material was present at the beginning of the process. Due to this multiplication and the processing in a laboratory, the result takes longer to obtain than in the case of an antigen test. These highly sensitive tests are carried out in special laboratories.

In the early phase of a SARS-CoV-2 infection, PCR tests can – depending on the quality of the sample – identify the virus with a high degree of accuracy. A positive test result means there is an infection with SARS-CoV-2.

Here you can download the [Austrian Test Strategy for SARS-CoV-2 \(PDF, 1 MB\)](#).

What is a LAMP test?

The so-called LAMP test is also a molecular procedure with which the genome of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is detected, but in a shorter period of time than a PCR test. A laboratory is not absolutely necessary for the LAMP procedure, and the analysis can also be carried out on site in a suitable environment and with the aid of the necessary apparatus. With regard to sensitivity, the LAMP procedure achieves similar results to a PCR and can thus be used to support or ease the burden on PCR facilities. The decisive disadvantage of this method, however, is a significantly lower throughput of samples compared to PCR tests.

In which ways are samples for molecular tests taken?

A sample from the throat via the nose (nasopharyngeal swab) is the gold standard, as experience shows that with this method a large amount of virus material is obtained for the test. In the case of indications which speak against sampling via the nose, medical staff can also take a sample from the throat via the mouth (throat sample). There are also other variants such as gargling or saliva tests.

Antibody tests

Antibody tests examine the presence of antibodies in the blood. A positive antibody test means that the body has already formed antibodies to protect itself against the virus. As antibodies are only formed in the later stages of an infection, they can only be detected around two weeks after an infection. These tests are not suited to early diagnosis.

What is an antibody test and what is it used for in relation to COVID-19?

Antibody tests examine the presence of antibodies in the blood.

There are principally two methods of testing for antibodies:

- A sample of blood is taken and subjected to special testing systems in a laboratory (e.g. ELISA test, neutralisation test)
- Rapid antibody tests, which can, for example, be carried out with a drop of blood from a fingertip.

The challenge for antibody tests is that the test has to find those antibodies which are specific to SARS-CoV-2 in the blood. Some tests can also detect antibodies of other human coronaviruses, such as the common cold, instead of SARS-CoV-2, and thus provide a false result.

It is important to speak to a doctor about the results of antibody tests, particularly rapid tests, as medical knowledge is required to interpret them correctly.

Evidence of neutralising antibodies after having recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2 frees the person for 90 days from the obligation to be tested in order to enter certain locations. The tests required to enter Austria are an exception, however. Carrying out

tests to detect neutralising antibodies must take place in accordance with specific requirements.

Which kind of antibody test frees me for 90 days from the obligation to be tested in order to enter certain venues?

Antibody tests which are used to provide evidence of neutralising antibodies have to fulfil the defined requirements. This also includes the requirement that the laboratory carrying out the test confirms that there is an adequate correlation between the test kit used and a neutralisation test. The detection of neutralising antibodies, for which the laboratory confirms that the defined requirements were fulfilled, frees the tested person for 90 days from the obligation to be tested in order to enter certain locations.

Additional information is available in the [Clarification of "Evidence of Neutralising Antibodies"](#)(in German, PDF, 242 KB).

Home tests

Antigen tests for use at home (home tests) are an easily accessible additional opportunity to carry out a test in order to counteract the spread of the virus and avoid further COVID-19 cases. For persons without symptoms, they provide information about their own status, for example before visiting family members. For this reason, it is important that protective measures such as wearing a mask are also strictly adhered to when the test result is negative. This applies particularly to meeting persons who are at a higher risk of serious illness if they become infected.

Home tests are particularly suited to detecting high virus loads. This means that they are especially good at identifying highly contagious persons.

Further information on free home tests is available at [FAQ: Österreich testet](#).

In cases with symptoms specific to COVID-19 the Health Hotline 1450 should be informed immediately.

Which types of home tests are there?

There are currently two types of tests which lay persons are allowed to use.

- Tests with self-sampling: the person takes the sample themselves and sends it to a laboratory which carries out the analysis and interpretation of the results (e.g. gar-gling tests).
- Do-it-yourself home tests The person carries out the sampling , analysis and interpretation of the results themselves (e.g. antigen home tests from a pharmacy).

The Federal Agency for Safety in Health Care (BASG) publishes on its website a list of the tests which can currently be used in Austria without medical staff. You can view this list on the website of the [Bundesamt für Sicherheit im Gesundheitswesen](#).

How should home tests be carried out?

Certain antigen rapid tests have been approved for use by lay persons. However, before using them the [instructions](#) should be read carefully.

What do I do if the result is positive, and do I have to report it?

A positive test result has to be reported to the Health Hotline on 1450. The staff will inform you about the nearest place where a second (PCR) test can be carried out, or will organise it for you. The second test should take place within 48 hours. You have to immediately self-isolate at home until the result of the new test is available. Ideally, your contact persons during the last 48 hours should also be informed.

Does a negative result from a home test count as proof in the sense of the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule?

Evidence of a negative result of a SARS-CoV-2 antigen test for home use which was recorded in an official data processing system is valid for 24 hours in accordance with the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G rule).

Digitally recorded home tests are also recognised as part of the testing of occupational groups.

Medical certificates and test certificates

Regular testing is an important element in dealing with the pandemic. For example, entering Austria, access to services involving physical proximity or the unrestricted exercise of the work of some occupational groups is only possible if they can show a negative test result.

Who can issue a test certificate?

Persons who can issue confirmation of a negative test are listed in the [updated information on the issue of certificates in connection with COVID-19 tests \(PDF, 95 KB\)](#). They include, for example:

- Testing sites of the provinces and local authorities
- Pharmacies
- Laboratories
- Doctors
- Companies – but only when the tests have been carried out by qualified and authorised health professionals
- Schools (with regard to their staff and pupils).

What information does a test certificate need to include?

- The test certificate must confirm that the person named was tested for SARS-CoV-2 with a molecular or antigen test, and must include at least the following data:
- Surname and first name(s) of the tested person
- Date of birth
- Period of validity of the certificate
- Barcode or QR code. (exception: school tests).

FAQs: Health, care and risk groups

The information given below principally applies to the whole of Austria. However, the legal provisions and measures in individual provinces and districts may diverge. Information on your region is provided at [FAQs: measures in the provinces and districts](#).

Health care and health services

Also in the current health crisis, preventive health care and health services are of key importance. Alongside COVID-19 there are many other diseases whose treatment has to be ensured in order to avoid an overloading of the health care system and to ensure optimal health services for the population of Austria.

The protective measures taken by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection also help to reduce the risk of infection in the field of health services as far as possible. Health services are necessary and therefore also permitted during an acute pandemic and are thus exempted from the obligation for access tests. However, the operators of health care facilities can lay down stricter measures to protect their patients as part of their site regulations.

Which rules apply for doctor's appointments?

Doctor's appointments are allowed - also during lockdowns – as they form part of necessary basic needs. This also includes routine and preventive examinations (such as preventive check-ups, mammograms, etc.). Arranging an appointment is recommended.

When visiting health care facilities, the following points should be observed:

- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas

For the duration of the pandemic it is possible to obtain sick leave or to have medication prescribed without going to the doctor's. Medical prescriptions are organised via the Service bei Kassenärztinnen und Kassenärzten which is connected to the ELGA e-Medication System (in other cases e.g. by fax to the pharmacy). To this end, simply contact a doctor

who is contracted to the statutory health insurance system (Kassenärztin/Kassenarzt). Prescriptions are issued as usual and the information is sent to the pharmacy electronically. The medicines required can be picked up without a paper prescription. Detailed information is available at [chipkarte.at](https://www.chipkarte.at).

Which rules apply to visits to hospitals, convalescence / rehabilitation homes and health spas, and other places where health care services are provided?

For visitors to hospitals and health spas, the following applies for the duration of their visit:

- The vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G)
- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas

Accompanying a person to prenatal examinations and to the birth itself is possible, as are visiting a person in a palliative or hospice setting.

Which rules apply to health services such as physiotherapy, medical massages, psychotherapy and speech therapy?

The following applies to the use of health services:

- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas

Speech therapists and their patients are exempted from the obligation to wear a mask for the duration of their work. Being able to recognise facial features and expressions is essential for successful speech therapy work.

Care

People in need of care are particularly at risk during the pandemic. In their case, the risk of serious illness with SARS-CoV-2 is significantly higher. This group of persons thus has to be protected as well as possible.

On its website and on the number **0800/555 621**, the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) answers questions related to COVID-19 and care.

How can one care for the mental health of older people and look after persons with dementia in the best possible way?

Advice for caregivers is provided in the [Recommendations for carers of older people \(PDF, 111 KB\)](#).

Information and points of contact on caring for people with dementia are given on the website Demenzstrategie.at.

Which rules apply to visits to residential homes for the elderly and nursing homes?

- Adhere to the 3-G rule (vaccinated, tested or recovered)
- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas

Residential and nursing homes can, however, also impose stricter rules via their in-house regulations

Who will look after me when my carer (a family member, mobile care service or 24-hour carer) cannot come?

The provinces have set up care hotlines for cases when carers cannot come due to SARS-CoV-2.

Please contact the relevant office in your province under the following telephone number:

- Burgenland:
Care advice: 05/7600-1000
- Carinthia:
Care hotline: 05/0536-22134
- Lower Austria:
Care hotline: 02742/9005-9095
- Upper Austria:
Hotline (Caritas): 05/1775-775
- Salzburg:
Salzburg care advice: 0662/8042-3533
- Styria:
Social Services office: 0800/500 176
- Tyrol:
Coronavirus hotline: 0800/808030
- Vorarlberg:
General hotline: 05574/511-24105
- Vienna:
Vienna Social Fund telephone advice: 01/24524

Which effects does the pandemic have on the subsidisation of 24-hour care?

If a self-employed carer has to extend her/his normal working rhythm of two weeks on / two weeks off due to staffing shortages, care is provided by only one carer. The subsidy is granted on a per-carer basis and can amount to €275 for one self-employed carer and €550 for two self-employed carers.

For the duration of the pandemic, the following applies: in order to avoid financial hardship, the subsidy for a self-employed carer is increased to €550 as soon as extended care takes place for at least two weeks. An employed carer may not work for longer than 14 days, therefore the previous subsidy levels are maintained here.

FAQs: Business, events and employment law

The information given below principally applies to the whole of Austria. However, the legal provisions and measures in individual provinces and districts may diverge. Information on your region is provided at [FAQs: measures in the provinces and districts](#).

Hospitality sector

Picking up ordered food and drink and entering hospitality venues and consumption on the premises are allowed.

Information on the current measures as well as guidelines for hospitality businesses are provided at www.sichere-gastfreundschaft.at (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Austrian Economic Chambers).

Which measures apply to hospitality businesses?

Due to the current epidemiological situation, the following rules apply to visiting hospitality venues:

- The vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G)
- Obligatory registration

When picking up ordered food and drinks, a face mask has to be worn in indoor areas.

At venues where seats are not or, not usually, taken up for the duration of the stay (particularly bars with dancing, clubs and discotheques), the operator must ensure that 75% of the capacity (available space) of the venue is not exceeded.

Operators have to draw up a COVID-19 prevention concept and nominate a COVID-19 officer.

How many people can visit a hospitality venue together?

There is no limit on the number of persons at a table.

What applies to snack bars/stalls

The 3-G rule does not apply to visiting snack bars/stalls. It should be noted, however, that customers have to wear a face mask in indoor areas.

Which rules apply to night clubs?

From 22 July, access to night clubs will only be allowed for persons who are vaccinated and persons with a valid PCR test result (maximum of 72 hours from when the sample was taken).

Tourist accommodation

Information on the current measures as well as guidelines for tourist accommodation businesses are available at www.sichere-gastfreundschaft.at/beherbergung/ (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Austrian Economic Chambers) and on the website of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism in the section [Informationen zum Corona-Virus](#).

Which rules apply to hotels and tourist accommodation businesses?

- When entering the first time, the 3-G rule applies (vaccinated, tested or recovered)
- For the use of the culinary offers in hotels and tourist accommodation, the rules for hospitality venues apply
- For the use of hospitality, wellness and fitness offers, the 3-G rule must be observed.

Operators have to draw up a COVID-19 prevention concept and to nominate a COVID-19 officer.

Services, retailing and companies

Shops can currently open at the usual times.

Which measures apply to retailers and in shops?

When entering a shop:

- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas

Which rules apply to services, and to services with physical proximity (e.g. hairdressers, pedicures)?

All services, including those with physical proximity, can currently be provided.

Before and during the use and provision of services one has to:

- Wear a face mask.

For services involving physical proximity such as hairdressers, pedicures and cosmetics one also requires 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered).

The obligation to wear a mask does not apply to the use of services involving physical proximity.

If a service involving physical proximity is provided outside the usual business premises (e.g. other locations, home visits, etc.), this is only possible when 3-G evidence is presented to the service provider.

Services with physical proximity are currently also allowed in residential and nursing homes.

My company is currently affected by COVID-19. Where can I obtain information?

The [Austrian Economic Chamber](#) has set up a central [Information Service](#) for all companies affected by COVID-19. Here you can find answers to questions about short-time working, company closures or support measures, and you can also speak to the staff personally.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism provides important information on its website regarding the subject of COVID-19 for [farms](#) and [tourism businesses](#).

Where can I find information on the various subsidies and support offers provided by the Austrian Federal Government?

Comprehensive information is available at FAQs: The COVID-19 aid package of the Austrian Federal Government (Federal Ministry of Finance).

Events

Events and meetings/gatherings can currently take place. However, they are subject to conditions in order to avoid the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

Which events can currently take place without limitations?

- Gatherings in private accommodation, with the exception of meetings in places which are not of a specifically residential nature such as garages, gardens, sheds or barns
- Funerals
- Gatherings in accordance with the Assemblies Act 1953, FLG I no. 98/1953
- Meetings for work-related purposes when they are needed to maintain the functioning of this work
- Meetings of the bodies of political parties
- Meetings of the bodies of legal entities
- Meetings in accordance with the Labour Constitution Act (ArbVG, FLG no. 22/1974
- Attending open-air theatres, concert halls and arenas, cinemas, variety shows and cabarets, if this is done with and from a car.–

Which rules apply to meetings and gatherings?

Events with 100 persons or more have to be announced to the district administrative authorities, and those with 500 persons or more require a permit. In addition, from a total of 100 participants a prevention concept has to be drawn up and implemented, and a COVID-19 officer has to be appointed.

The following applies to visitors:

- At events with more than 100 participants, the 3-G rule applies.

Which rules apply to occasional markets such as flea markets?

Markets which do not take place regularly are subject to special regulations. In order to be considered a market of this kind, they must not take place more than once a month. They also cannot be open for more than ten weeks at a time. If they fulfil these requirements, they can sell goods, food and drink, and offer services.

If there are more than 100 participants, the organisers have to inform the district administration authority (BH), appoint a COVID-19 officer and draw up and implement a COVID-19 prevention concept. From 500 participants, occasional markets also have to be approved by the authority.

For visitors, the following rules apply:

- From 100 participants, 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered) has to be shown.
- Obligatory registration

Regarding food and drink, the same rules apply as in the hospitality sector.

If the market is an occasional market where goods are sold, the 3-G rule does not apply and there is no obligation to register with the authorities. At these markets, only goods, food and drinks can be sold.

Can demonstrations take place?

Demonstrations are gatherings in the meaning of the Assemblies Act and are permitted under the conditions of this federal law. This means that the respective administrative authority can also prohibit an assembly, for example when the situation with regard to safety or health makes it necessary to do so.

During demonstrations, the following has to be noted:

- Masks have to be worn in indoor areas unless all persons present 3-G proof (vaccinated, tested or recovered).

Labour law

In order to also provide the best possible protection to the population of Austria during the current pandemic, and also in their work, the federal government has made some changes in the field of labour law.

Further information on this topic can be viewed on the [website of the Federal Ministry of Labour](#).

What is coronavirus short-time working, and where can I find information on it?

Coronavirus short-time working is a new, simpler form of short-time working.

Further information is available at [FAQs short-time working](#) (Federal Ministry of Labour).

If I have to self-isolate due to an official self-isolation order, am I entitled to reimbursement of lost income?

Yes. In the case of an official self-isolation order due to a COVID-19 infection, you are entitled to reimbursement of lost earnings in accordance with Section 32 of the Epidemics Act 1950.

All self-employed and employed persons can apply for reimbursement of lost earnings. Informal applications can be made with evidence of the loss of earnings to the district administration authorities (public health office).

Where can I find information on labour law issues and periods of special care (of children)?

Comprehensive information is available in the [FAQs: labour law issues](#) and [FAQs: periods of special care for children](#) (Federal Ministry of Labour, Families and Youth).

FAQs: Social life

The information given below principally applies to the whole of Austria. However, the legal provisions and measures in individual provinces and districts may diverge. Information on your region is provided at [FAQs: measures in the provinces and districts](#).

Social life

The current pandemic has significantly changed the life of our society. Due to the epidemiological situation, intensified protection and hygiene measures are necessary. The main goal of the Austrian government is to avoid the health care system becoming overwhelmed.

In order to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2, it is still important that everyone in Austria adheres to the current protective measures.

The population is called upon to keep their distance to others, adhere to the hygiene measures, wear face masks, and take advantage of testing opportunities and the free COVID-19 vaccinations.

Which rules apply to weddings?

Registry office weddings and religious events are exempted from the regulations, so both registry office and church weddings can take place while taking the in-house rules of the respective venue into account.

Weddings with 100 or more guests have to be announced to the district administration authority, and from 500 persons the event has to be approved by this authority. In addition, a COVID-19 prevention concept has to be drawn up and implemented, and a COVID-19 officer has to be appointed.

It should also be noted that when 100 guests or more attend the 3-G rule applies. If wedding celebrations with less than 100 persons take place behind closed doors, food and drink can be consumed without 3-G evidence being shown.

Which rules apply to funerals?

Funerals can take place. In indoor settings with more than 100 persons, face masks should be worn if not all guests can provide 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested, recovered). With regard to the exceptions from having to wear a mask, please note the [FAQs on protective measures](#).

Which rules apply to religious worship?

Religious services are exempted from the currently applicable regulations on events. However, churches and religious communities have intensified their COVID-19 preventive measures in coordination with the health authorities. Please contact your church or religious community about the details of the respective measures and rules.

Which rules apply to carpooling, taxis, school transport and transport for people with disabilities?

The joint use of vehicles by persons who do not live in the same household is permitted. This also applies to trips with taxis. A face mask has to be worn.

Which rules apply to leisure facilities?

Entering leisure facilities such as amusement parks, swimming baths, dance schools, betting offices, heritage railways, zoos, botanical gardens is permitted during their respective opening hours. The following applies to visits:

- Compulsory registration (except when the visit is mostly outdoors and the minimum distance to others is maintained, such as at open-air swimming baths or zoos).

In addition, 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered) has to be shown.

Which rules apply to cultural establishments?

Entering cultural venues such as museums, libraries and archives is allowed during the respective opening hours. The following applies to visits:

- A face mask has to be worn in indoor areas
- For other cultural establishments, 3-G evidence is obligatory, as are a COVID-19 prevention concept and a COVID-19 officer.

Which rules apply to night clubs, discos and night-time hospitality venues?

In hospitality venues where food and drink are mostly consumed standing up (such as bars with dancing, clubs and discotheques), no more than 75% of the maximum capacity is permitted. From 22 July there are no longer any limits on capacity, but access to night clubs and bars will only be allowed for persons who are vaccinated and persons with a negative PCR test result (valid for a maximum of 72 hours from the taking of the sample).

Can choirs, brass bands and other music groups rehearse together again?

Yes. Choirs, brass bands and other music groups can rehearse. Face masks do not have to be worn.

In the case of groups with over 100 participants, 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered) has to be shown.

Training and further training

Education is one of the cornerstones of a democratic society. In the current pandemic, it is therefore particularly important to ensure the best possible access to schools and universities as well as to initial and further vocational training.

Information on nurseries, schools, universities and universities of applied sciences is provided on the [website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research](#).

Sport

Sport is an important factor in maintaining physical and mental health. However, due to the epidemiological situation in Austria, there are also necessary restrictions in this area of life. Special protection measures apply because of the increased production of aerosols as a result of physical activity.

The Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport offers comprehensive information about sports on its website: [Frequently asked questions on the effects of COVID-19 on sport.](#)

Which rules apply to sports facilities?

When entering sports facilities, 3-G evidence has to be shown and kept available for the duration of the stay.

The operators of private sports facilities have to create a COVID-19 prevention concept and appoint a COVID-19 representative.

Can amateur sports take place in public spaces?

Yes, amateur sports can take place in public spaces. For example, playing football with friends is allowed.

What is the current situation for cable cars and ski lifts?

Cable cars and ski lifts are open for normal operations. In closed and covered cars (such as gondola lifts and coverable chair lifts) and related buildings (stations), a face mask has to be worn. In addition, stricter measures may be imposed at a regional level.

What has to be taken into account in professional sports?

Important factors are the creation of a COVID-19 prevention concept adapted to the sport and the appointment of a COVID-19 officer.

During sports activities outdoors, a face mask does not have to be worn.

Sportspeople and their trainers and support staff have to present 3-G evidence once a week at least.

FAQs: Protective measures

The information given below principally applies to the whole of Austria. However, the legal provisions and measures in individual provinces and districts may diverge. Information on your region is provided at [FAQs: measures in the provinces and districts](#).

Protective measures

Adhering closely to various protective measures during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic makes a decisive contribution towards overcoming the crisis.

The protective measures are constantly evaluated by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, and adapted to the epidemiological situation.

The most important measures to reduce the risk of infection in everyday life are keeping your distance to others, disinfecting your hands regularly and wearing a mask.

Does having recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2 exempt you from adhering to protective measures?

No. Having recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2 does not exempt you from having to follow protective measures such as wearing a mask and quarantine.

Confirmation of having recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2 can, however, be used as evidence in accordance with the 3-G rule.

Does being vaccinated against COVID-19 exempt me from protective measures?

No. Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 does not exempt you from having to follow protective measures such as having to wear a mask and quarantine.

Confirmation of having been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 can, however, be used as evidence in accordance with the 3-G rule.

If they come into contact with a suspected case, vaccinated persons can be classed as a contact person 2. Confirmation of having been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 can, however, be used as evidence in accordance with the 3-G rule.

According to the current state of scientific knowledge, vaccination minimises the risk of becoming seriously ill or dying due to COVID-19. In exceptional cases, it is possible to contract COVID-19 in spite of a vaccination, but the course of the illness is significantly milder and usually without complications and deaths. For this reason, the protective measures such as wearing a mask have to be maintained until a sufficient number of persons have been vaccinated.

Does a positive antibody test exempt me from the protective measures?

No. Persons with a positive antibody test are not exempted from protective measures such as having to wear a mask and quarantine.

Confirmation of a positive test for neutralising antibodies can, however, be used as evidence in accordance with the 3-G rule.

Who monitors adherence to the protective measures, and how much are the fines?

The police have the option to issue an on-the-spot fine of €90 for not adhering to the obligation to wear a mask (instead of bringing charges). Checking on adherence to quarantine (self-isolation) is the responsibility of the district administrative authority which imposes it. Infringements of quarantine are sanctioned as administrative offences. Fines of up to €1,450 can be issued. In addition, the provisions of Sections 178 and 179 of the criminal code (endangering persons with contagious diseases) can be applied.

Which rules apply to meetings and gatherings?

Gatherings of up to 100 persons are allowed again.

Obligation to wear a mask

There are different classes of face masks. To protect others, a simple face mask is an effective measure in everyday life to minimise droplet infections.

When FFP2 masks are mentioned in the FAQs, this always includes masks which at least have the same standard, or a higher one. Face masks may not have an exhalation valve.

Which kinds of face masks are there? And what is the difference?

Particle filtering half masks (FFP2, FFP3 and CPA masks) filter particles out of the breath and are predominantly used by different occupational groups as personal protective equipment in order to shield the wearer from toxic substances. They are designed to protect the user and also others. These special kinds of protective masks are subject to statutory regulations and have to fulfil specific test criteria. Masks with a valve (where exhaled air is blown out) are NOT suited to protecting others. They can therefore only be used by health professionals when interacting with infectious patients or home residents.

FFP3:

- These masks filter up to 99% of particles and are mainly used by medical staff
- They are recommended for health professionals during work which causes aerosols (aspiration, intubation, etc.)
- Recommended for dental work with aerosol production

FFP2:

- Filters up to 94% of particles and protects wearers and also others (as long as there is no exhalation valve)
- Recommended for the care and support of infectious patients and COVID-19 suspected cases as long as no aerosol-producing activities are carried out
- Those without a valve are obligatory for visitors to residential homes for the elderly and nursing homes
- Those without a valve have been obligatory since 25 January 2021 when entering shops and public transport as well as during certain gatherings outdoors (such as at markets, at funerals and demonstrations).

SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic Respirator (CPA):

- Can be used for the care and support of infectious patients and COVID-19 suspected cases as long as no aerosol-producing activities are carried out.

Protective masks are special masks such as medical masks (e.g. surgical masks) which are subject to the Medicinal Products Act. They protect persons in the surroundings of the wearer of the medical mask from droplets which the wearer produces during speaking, sneezing and coughing (for example during an operation). They thus only protect others.

Simple face mask:

A simple mask is for private use as a mechanical barrier and is intended – as part of attentive interaction with other people – to protect others from droplets which occur during speaking, sneezing and coughing. There are no special legal requirements and test criteria for simple face masks, so they provide less protection to the wearer.

What is the right way to use a face mask or FFP2 mask?

Here you can find information on the right way to use an FFP2 mask or a simple mask:

- [Coronavirus: this is the right way to wear and use my face mask \(PDF, 510 KB\)](#)(information leaflet)
 - This information leaflet is also available in other languages: [Coronavirus – current information in other languages \(sozialministerium.at\)](#)
- [Coronavirus: This is the right way to wear and use my face mask \(PDF, 510 KB\)](#)(Information leaflet)

Where does a face mask have to be worn?

In the following areas, a mask still has to be worn in indoor areas:

- Public pharmacies
- Business premises of food retailers (including sales premises of food producers as well as petrol stations which also sell foods)
- Banks
- Post offices in the meaning of Section 3(7) of the Post Market Act (PMG) and the premises of providers of postal services and their 'post partners'
- Residential homes for the elderly and nursing homes
- Health spas and hospitals.

Do I have to wear a mask in my workplace?

A face mask has to be worn in the workplace in indoor settings, when there is contact with customers, and when the risk of infection cannot be minimised with other protective measures (such as a partition or Perspex screen). Obligatory mask wearing is not required when the employee and the customer both have 3-G evidence.

Who is exempted from the obligation to wear an FFP2 mask or a simple mask?

Small children up to the age of two should not wear masks (danger of suffocation). Children up to the age of six are exempted and do not have to wear a face mask.

Persons who cannot be reasonably expected to wear a mask due to health-related reasons (such as people with respiratory diseases, anxiety or advanced dementia, asthma, children with ADHD, etc.), are also exempted from the obligation to wear a mask.

In the case of checks (e.g. by the police), evidence has to be provided of the reason for not wearing a mask. This should take the form of a medical certificate from a doctor who is authorised to practice the profession on a self-employed basis in Austria.

Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and those persons with whom they are communicating with are also exempted from the obligation to wear a mask while they are communicating.

Speech therapists and their patients are exempted from the obligation to wear masks for the duration of the work of the therapist, because the recognition of facial expressions is essential for successful speech therapy work.

Which masks are permitted in accordance with the obligation to wear FFP2 masks?

According to the regulation, an FFP2 mask or a mask which has at least the same standard, or a higher one, can be worn. This refers to the use of respiratory masks by private individuals.

The following standards are considered to be of at least the same value:

- FFP3 (Europe)
- N95 (NIOSH-42C FR84, USA)
- P2 (AS/NZ 1716:2012, Australia/New Zealand)
- KF94 (Korea 1st Class KMOEL-2017-64)

- DS (Japan JMHLW-Notification 214,2018)
- KN95 (GB2626-2006, China)

Can an FFP2 mask be re-used?

FFP2 masks are principally a disposable product. However, according to research, FFP2 masks can be reused as long as they only become damp from a person's breath. After use they should be hung up to dry for seven days.

If a respiratory mask which has been dried in this way still fits well, is completely dry and not visibly soiled or contaminated, it can be used again up to five times.

Hygiene measures

The following hygiene measures are recommended:

- Washing your hands regularly with soap or a hand disinfectant
- Do not touch your face, and particularly not your mouth, eyes and nose, with your fingers
- Avoid shaking hands and hugging
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow or a paper tissue
- Air rooms once an hour (cross ventilation if possible)
- Stay at home and avoid contact in case of signs of illness
- Wear a simple mask or an FFP2 mask which conforms to the recommended standards
- Keep the minimum distance to persons from other households

What does correct hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette involve?

The following video by the Medical University of Vienna provides tips for proper hand hygiene.

The following video from the German Federal Centre for Health Education provides tips for correct coughing and sneezing etiquette.

Correct hand hygiene: video from the Medical University of Vienna

https://youtu.be/HwMDo_QZkkl

Correct cough and sneeze etiquette: Video from the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)

<https://youtu.be/1XdIvqg008E>

What do I need to do if I think I am a suspected case, or have had contact with persons infected with COVID-19?

Stay at home, minimise contact with others, call the health hotline 1450 or your doctor if you have symptoms or are afraid you have caught COVID-19.

I am pregnant, what do I need to be aware of?

Generally speaking, due to the physiological and immunological changes which take place during pregnancy, an increased possibility of infections cannot be completely ruled out. It is therefore particularly important for you to adhere to the general hygiene measures: good hand hygiene and correct cough and sneeze etiquette.

Because of the danger of infections, pregnant women should certainly wear a face mask. Higher quality masks can also be worn on a voluntary basis, of course.

Further information on pregnancy and COVID-19 can be viewed on the [website of the Austrian Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics](#).

Studies have shown that from the beginning of the 14th week of pregnancy the risk of more serious illness with SARS-CoV-2 can be higher. Expecting mothers can therefore apply for leave from jobs where they may be more exposed to infection. This is the case for women from the 14th week of pregnancy whose work requires physical contact with other persons. From this time onwards, employers are urged to reduce the risk by changing these women's working conditions or moving them to another workplace. The possibility of working from home also has to be taken into consideration.

If this is not possible, the pregnant employee is entitled to leave with continued pay.

Further information on leave for pregnant women is available on the [website of the Federal Ministry of Labour](#).

It is not yet clear whether the virus can be passed on to the child during pregnancy or breast feeding. A normal birth is also possible if there is a suspected infection, unless another medical reason speaks against this. Given the positive qualities of breast milk, breast feeding should also continue as long as the clinical condition of the mother allows.

What has to be taken into account regarding medication?

[Information on the website of the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care](#)

Quarantine

Self-isolation can be ordered for persons who are infected, are suspected cases, or may be contagious. Adhering to self-isolation is particularly important, because it is only in this way that chains of infection can be interrupted and the spread of SARS-CoV-2 contained. A self-isolation order has to be imposed by an official decision of the medical officer (health authority) on persons who have been in contact with an infected person. Self-isolation can also be necessary when entering Austria.

The respective medical officer (health authority) informs the persons affected about the symptoms, the course of the illness and risks of contagion, how they can monitor their own state, and what they should do at home.

In the case of difficulties in obtaining food and medicines, you can contact Team Österreich (an initiative of the Red Cross and Hitradio Ö3) on **0800 600 600** (free, daily from 7.00 – 19.00).

If acute medical care is necessary, **please call 1450 or 144.**

Which rules and regulations apply to quarantine?

Throughout Austria, quarantine rules apply which are based on the principles and specifications of the WHO (World Health Organisation) and the ECDC (European Centre for the Prevention and Control of Diseases).

The precise rules are laid down by the district administration authority and communicated to those affected.

What has to be noted during self-isolation?

The following rules apply:

- Do not leave your home
- Do not let visitors enter
- If you live together with others, isolate yourself in another room if possible (social distancing)
- Use the bathroom etc. at different times to other members of the family or flat-/housemates
- Use separate toiletries (including towels)

- Use paper tissues or cough/sneeze into your elbow. Put used tissues into a separate bin bag
- Wash your hands frequently, and always after sneezing and coughing, before eating and after using the toilet.

If you experience specific symptoms, please contact the hotline on 1450. For general enquiries, call **0800 555 621**.

When can quarantine due to an infection with SARS-CoV-2 be ended?

Information is provided in the [Recommendation for ending the self-isolation of COVID-19 cases \(PDF, 122 KB\)](#) (as at: 25.06.2021; based on the recommendations of the German Robert Koch Institute).

Which quarantine rules apply to entry to Austria?

If self-isolation is obligatory after entering the country, it must be begun immediately. It can also be spent at the home of relatives, whereby they should not live in the same room(s). If this is not possible in the respective flat or house, tourist accommodation such as a hotel can also be used. If you are going to stay in tourist accommodation, a booking confirmation should be shown upon entry into the country.

Quarantine which is necessary in order to enter Austria can be ended early. This can take place either

- With a molecular or antigen/lateral flow test – at the earliest on the fifth day (whereby the day of entry is viewed as day zero), or
- simply by leaving Austria.

In spite of self-isolation it is possible to leave your place of residence or accommodation to be tested or to leave the country . In these cases, care must be taken to minimise the risk of infection (always wear an FFP2 mask, keep 2 metres distance, avoid public transport).

Are other people in a household affected by self-isolation?

An official self-isolation order in accordance with Section 7 of the Epidemics Act principally applies to the person named in the order (to whom it is addressed). However, members of the household are principally classified as category 1 contacts and therefore also usually subjected to an official self-isolation order. If they come into contact with a suspected

case, vaccinated persons can be classed as a contact person 2. Further information on which measures apply to classified contact persons can be viewed at: [Information for contact persons \(PDF, 119 KB\)](#).

For household members who are classified as category one contacts and cannot adhere to measures against infection (see [Information for Contact Persons \(PDF, 119 KB\)](#)), quarantine of a duration of 14 days applies from the beginning of symptoms of the COVID-19 case or from the day on which the sample was taken in the case of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 cases (=day 0), regardless of the occurrence of further cases in the same household.

However, if protective measures against infection can be adhered to by the other household members during the isolation of the COVID-19 case, the duration of their quarantine is ten days from the last potentially contagious contact.

Exception: if household members can credibly explain to the authorities that there was no close contact to the person who tested positive (e.g. in a flat which is not shared with family or partners), they will not be subject to a self-isolation order and can go about their lives as normal. However, you should stay apart from the person who has tested positive, for example by remaining in separate rooms, by using the bathroom at different times and only using your own toiletries and towels. It is also important to act responsibly and not to come into contact with other persons.

How are official decisions on self-isolation orders delivered to the affected person?

Official decisions on self-isolation orders are delivered via a registered letter. In this way, the official decision can also be received by another person apart from the addressee, and thus contact with the sick person can be avoided. If delivery by post is not possible, the health authorities can also deliver the official decision personally.

Does one get any help, such as with food?

The provision of food should be carried out by family or neighbours if possible.

However, if this is not possible, it is possible to turn to Team Österreich (an initiative of the Red Cross and Hitradio Ö3) by calling 0800 600 600 (free, daily from 7.00 to 19.00), or contacting social services. Local authority offices, district administration authorities, or municipal authorities in chartered towns and cities are responsible for social services. In Vienna this role is played by the Social Vienna Fund (Fonds Soziales Wien).

Further information is available from [oesterreich.gv.at](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at): [General information on social services](#)

If acute medical care is necessary, **please call 1450 or 144.**

What do dog owners do when they have to self-isolate? Who goes out with their animals?

In quarantine you are not allowed to leave the place of quarantine. You cannot have personal contact with others or go out onto the road or to a park with a dog. You can move around your own plot if you have a house, but social contacts are not allowed there either.

However, pets need to fulfil their needs. It is therefore necessary in such cases to use external support for looking after dogs (kennels, dog sitters).

Access tests

Access tests are obligatory for services involving physical proximity. These include the services of hairdressers, beauticians, masseurs, tattoo and body piercing studios as well as manicures, pedicures and nail studios.

The result of a molecular test is valid for 72 hours. An antigen/lateral flow test is valid for 48 hours, or for 24 hours if it is a home test which has been recorded digitally. Validity begins with the time of sampling.

Proof in the sense of the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G) also counts as an access test.

What counts as an access test?

All forms of proof in the sense of the 3-G (vaccinated – tested – recovered) rule count as valid evidence.

What does NOT count as valid evidence of a test for services with physical proximity?

Tests where proper sampling cannot be guaranteed by authorised entities cannot be used as access tests. These include, for example, the results of free home tests from pharmacies without digital recording.

From what age is evidence necessary for services with physical proximity?

For children up to the age of 12, the evidence of their parents or guardians is valid. From the age of twelve, children require their own form of 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered).

Do I need evidence for physiotherapy or medical massages?

No. For health services such as physiotherapy, speech therapy or medical massages, it is not necessary to show a negative test result. However, a face mask does need to be worn.

Who checks whether customers have valid proof of their status?

The respective business may only allow persons to enter who have 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered). The local health authorities will carry out spot checks on this in cooperation with the police.

Do I have to provide 3-G evidence if a provider of services with physical proximity comes to my home?

In the case of services with physical proximity which take place in private accommodation, there is no need for an access test.

Do providers of services with physical proximity need to provide 3-G evidence?

3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered) only needs to be provided for mobile care and support services.

FAQs: Entry into Austria

On the following pages we explain the rules for entry into Austria. You can find the rules which apply to you more quickly by using the search function control + F and the name of the country from which you are entering Austria. If the search yields no results, the regulations for entry from other states and regions apply.

More detailed information on pre-travel clearance, the obligation to test and quarantine is provided in the chapters at the end of the page.

Entry into Austria

The current COVID-19 pandemic has not only created major challenges for national health policies, it has also changed the conditions of travel between individual countries all over the world. Travel between different states poses the danger of the uncontrolled spread of SARS-CoV-2 and problems for national health care systems. For this reason, travel between individual states has been drastically reduced. Entry into Austria from some states is therefore only allowed for certain reasons and has been controlled by the [COVID-19 Entry Regulation](#) since the beginning of the pandemic in Austria.

Regardless of this, other statutory provisions on entry to Austria must also be complied with (such as those on visas and residency). Further information is available from the [Website of the Ministry of the Interior](#).

Where can I find the forms and appendices of the COVID-19 Entry Regulation?

- [Appendix 1](#)
- [Appendix 2](#)
- [Appendix A: medical certificate](#)
- [Anlage B: medical certificate](#)
- [Appendix C: vaccines pursuant to Section 2 para. 1 \(3\)](#)
- [Appendix D: Registration pursuant to Section 2a COVID-19 Entry Regulation 2021](#)
- [Appendix E: Registration pursuant to Section 2a of the COVID-19 Entry Regulation \(COVID-19-EinreiseV 2021\)](#)
- [Appendix F: Confirmation of the absolute necessity of using a medical service](#)
- [Appendix G: Confirmation of the absolute necessity of using a medical service](#)
- [Appendix H: Medical certificate \(recovery pursuant to Section 10 para.3\)](#)
- [Appendix I: Medical certificate \(recovery pursuant to Section 10 para.3\)](#)
- [Pre-travel clearance in German](#)
- [Pre-travel clearance in English](#)

How does the vaccinated – tested – recovered rule (3-G) apply to entry to the country?

Medical certificates prove that the person named on the certificate

- has tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 with a molecular test (e.g. PCR) or an anti-gen/lateral flow test, or
- has received a vaccination against the coronavirus, or
- has recovered from an infection with SARS-CoV-2.

Medical certificates must be in German or English (in Latin characters) in accordance with [Appendices A](#) or [B](#). The period of validity of different forms of proof is given below.

Evidence of vaccinations and certificates that the person has recovered from the coronavirus are of equal value as long as they are in German or English (in Latin characters).

Test results for SARS-CoV-2 lose their validity for entering the country when the sample was taken more than 72 hours ago in the case of a molecular test (e.g. PCR), or more than 48 hours ago in the case of an antigen/lateral flow test. Antigen tests for home use which are recorded digitally by the authorities are valid for 24 hours.

In the case of regular entry (commuter travel), test results are valid for seven days in the case of entry from a state or region listed in [Appendix 1](#). If entry takes place from another

state or country (not in [Appendix 1](#) or [Appendix 2](#)) all test results are valid for 72 hours at the most.

A document confirming a vaccination mentioned in [Appendix C](#) of the COVID-19 Entry Regulation is valid as evidence of vaccination when the following conditions are given:

- the first vaccination took place at least 22 days ago, but not longer than 90 days ago, or
- a second vaccination has been received, whereby this may not be longer than 270 days ago, or
- the first vaccination took place at least 22 days ago in the case of vaccines where only one vaccination is needed, whereby this may be no longer than 270 days ago, or
- the person has been vaccinated once, and at least 21 days before the vaccination a positive molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 was made, or before the vaccination a positive test for neutralising antibodies was made, whereby the vaccination may not have been more than 270 days ago.

Evidence of recovery can take the form of a medical certificate or confirmation from the health authorities of an infection with SARS-CoV-2 from which a person has recovered and which was confirmed by a PCR test at the time. A test for neutralising antibodies, which may not be older than 90 days, is of equivalent value.

Does the COVID entry regulation also apply to children?

Children up to their twelfth birthday are exempted from the obligation to provide evidence of a test. If they have to self-isolate, this is considered to be concluded when the quarantine of the accompanying adult(s) is over. Registration using the pre-travel clearance form has to be carried out for the child if necessary.

For children from the age of twelve, the normal entry regulations such as registration with the pre-travel clearance form, testing and quarantine apply.

Minors between the ages of 12 and 18 only require a negative test result or a medical certificate on a negative test result if they enter the country without proof of vaccination or recovery and the adults accompanying them do have proof of this kind. When entering from other states and regions, the obligation for children to register and self-isolate can be waived as long as they are accompanied by a vaccinated person in whose case 14 days have passed since they received the last dose of vaccine required for full immunisation.

For minors travelling alone, the normal entry regulations such as registration with the pre-travel clearance form, testing and quarantine have to be fulfilled.

What is considered entry for work reasons?

Entry for work-related reasons is given when the reasons for entry are directly linked with work. Re-entry for work reasons is given when a person has left Austria for work-related reasons. Work-related reasons can be confirmed, for example, by confirmation from an employer, delivery notes, an order confirmation, or evidence of a business appointment or a job interview, etc. A time-related component should also be taken into account: for example, a stay of several weeks is not plausible if the business appointment is only planned to last for three days. Confirmation of this kind should contain the time of the appointment and its duration, or in the case of a new job the date when the employment relationship begins.

Who can Austrians abroad contact about their questions/problems?

Austrians who are abroad and require consular assistance in connection with COVID-19 should get in touch with the relevant embassy. The respective 24-hour help line numbers can be found on the websites of the embassies. For medical assistance, the embassy's doctor is responsible (details are also given on the websites).

The Foreign Service APP has all of the contact details of Austrian representations worldwide.

In the headquarters in Vienna, the Citizen's Service is the point of contact. However, Austrians living abroad should always contact the respective embassy first. The Citizen's Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports Austrians abroad around the clock **on +43 190 115 4411 in the case of emergencies abroad.**

Where can I find travel information and travel warnings?

All of the travel information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is available at www.bmeia.gv.at

Entry from states and regions with a low epidemiological risk (Appendix 1)

In some countries there is a low risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2. The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection evaluates these states at regular intervals in order to facilitate travel to them as best possible.

Entry from a state or region in Appendix 1 is given when the person involved can credibly claim that they spent to last ten days exclusively in one of these states or regions, or in Austria.

These states and regions currently include Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, the Duchy of Liechtenstein, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Canada, Qatar, Kosovo, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Czech Republic, Hungary, the Vatican, USA, Vietnam and Cyprus.

Which rules apply for entry into Austria from states or regions in Appendix 1?

For entry from states or regions in Appendix 1 the following conditions have to be fulfilled:

- 3-G evidence (vaccinated, tested or recovered)

When entering Austria, a valid negative test result, a certificate of vaccination or recovery, or a medical certificate confirming this status have to be in your possession. These documents must be issued in German or English (in Latin characters) and have to be shown to the authorities upon request.

If you travel without valid proof of your COVID-19 status, a pre-travel clearance form has to be filled in before entry, and a test for SARS-CoV-2 has to be carried out promptly after arrival, or at the latest within 24 hours.

How are the countries and regions in Appendix 1 selected?

The decisions on which states and regions are listed in [Appendix 1](#) of the entry regulation are based on a long process involving experts from the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection as well as recommendations of the EU and the ECDC.

The evaluation is carried out on the basis of various indicators such as the 14-day incidence, the number of tests carried out and the positive rate, plus the current trend. In addition, qualitative criteria are used, such as reports from the embassies of these states. The assessment of EU states is orientated towards the Council recommendation 2020/1475 and the Council recommendation 2020/912 on the assessment of third countries.

Special provision for entry into Austria by air from certain states or regions in Appendix 1

Due to the dynamic nature of the epidemiological situation and the increased frequency of travel in the summer months, from 3 August stricter entry regulations apply to travellers returning from abroad.

This special provision only applies to direct flights from the above-mentioned areas.

These states and regions currently include the Netherlands, Spain and Cyprus.

Which rules apply for the entry into Austria by air from the Netherlands, Spain and Cyprus?

For entry by air from the above-mentioned states, the following conditions have to be fulfilled:

- Presentation of a negative molecular test result (e.g. a PCR test)
When entering Austria, you must present a medical certificate or a test result in German or English referring to a negative molecular test (e.g. a PCR test). The sample must not have been taken longer than 72 hours ago.

OR

- You must present evidence of vaccination
In this case, you must present upon entry to the country a document confirming vaccination with a vaccine listed in Appendix C of the COVID-19 Entry Regulation and which fulfils one of the following conditions:
 - a second vaccination has been received, whereby this may not have been longer than 270 days ago, or
 - the first vaccination took place at least 22 days ago in the case of vaccines where only one vaccination is needed, whereby this first vaccination may have taken place no longer than 270 days ago, or
 - you have been vaccinated once, and at least 21 days before the vaccination a positive molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 was made, or before the vaccination a positive test for neutralising antibodies was made, whereby the vaccination may not have taken place more than 270 days ago.

If you cannot provide such proof, you need to **register using the pre-travel clearance form and have a molecular test carried out immediately at the airport**. If, due to special circumstances, it is not possible to have a test carried out immediately at the airport, this can be done within 24 hours in exceptional cases.

Who can enter the country by air from the Netherlands, Spain and Cyprus without a negative molecular test (e.g. PCR)?

Due to a past infection with SARS-CoV-2, it is possible to return a positive molecular test result even after you have recovered. For persons who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days, it is thus possible from 3 August 2021 to present a medical certificate in accordance with [Appendix H](#) or [Appendix I](#).

Entry from virus variant areas and states (Appendix 2)

States and regions with a high level of virus variant infections are listed in [Appendix 2](#). Generally speaking, entry from these countries is prohibited with only a few exceptions.

These states include: Botswana, Brazil, Eswatini, India, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Russia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uruguay and the United Kingdom.

Who can enter despite the ban on entry from 'virus variant' areas and states in Appendix 2?

- The following groups of persons are exempted from the ban on entry into Austria:
- Austrian citizens, EU/EEA citizens and persons who live in the same household as them
- Swiss citizens and persons who live in the same household as them
- Persons who are normally resident or have a place of residence in EU/EEA states or Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican and Switzerland and persons who live in the same household as them, persons who on the basis of a residence permit or documentation of a right of residence have a right to live in Austria pursuant to the Settlement and Residency Act FLG I no. 100/2005 or the Asylum Act 2005, FLG I no. 100/2005 .
- Persons who possess confirmation of an application in accordance with Art. 18 para. 1 of the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, ABl. L Nr. 29 of 31.01.2020, p. 7 (withdrawal agreement).
- Members of staff of diplomatic missions or consulates and persons who live in the same household as them
- Employees of international organisations and persons living in the same household as them
- Persons who work for a domestic regional administrative body or a domestic public-law body and whose place of work is abroad, as long as the work of this body is in the interests of the Republic of Austria
- Persons who are entering the country to take up or continue a course of study or research at an Austrian university
- Persons who are entering the country to attend a school
- Persons who are entering in connection with work, with other important and predictable family-related events such as weddings, christenings, birthday parties or visits to a partner.

For these persons, the following rules apply to entry:

- Registration via the pre-travel clearance form. This may only be made 72 hours before entering Austria at the earliest. If checks are carried out by the authorities, this has to be presented in electronic form or printed out. The authenticity of this document can be checked via the QR code.
- Presentation of a negative molecular test result (e.g. a PCR test).
When entering the country, you have to present a medical certificate or a test result

in German or English referring to a negative molecular test (e.g. PCR test), the sample for which must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours ago.

- You have self-isolate for ten days: a period of quarantine lasting ten days has to be begun immediately. This can only be ended earlier from the fifth day after arrival by obtaining a negative molecular test result (e.g. PCR test). The day of entry counts as day zero.

Who can enter the country from ‘virus variant’ regions and states in Appendix 2 without a negative molecular test (e.g. PCR)?

Due to a past infection with SARS-CoV-2, it is possible to return a positive molecular test result even after you have recovered. For persons who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days, it is thus possible from 3 August 2021 to present a medical certificate in accordance with [Appendix H](#) or [Appendix I](#).

The obligation to register using the pre-travel clearance form and to self-isolate remains, however.

Who can nevertheless enter from ‘virus variant’ areas and states (Appendix 2) under less strict conditions?

The following groups of persons can enter Austria under less strict conditions:

- Humanitarian aid workers
- Persons who are entering the country to visit an international organisation in the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Official Residence Act.
- Persons who are entering the country for work-related reasons largely in the interests of the Republic (e.g. culture and sport).
- An accompanying person in the case of entry for medical reasons pursuant to Section 6.
- Persons who are entering the country due to an obligation imposed by a court or authority, such as a summons to court proceedings.
- Entry is possible without restrictions for unforeseeable family-related reasons which are worthy of special consideration and cannot be postponed, such as severe illness, death, funerals, births, and, in emergency cases, caring for people in need of support.
- Persons who have photo ID pursuant to Section 5 of the Official Residence Act, FLG I no. 54/2021.

For these persons, the following rules apply to entry:

- Registration via the pre-travel clearance form. This may only be made 72 hours before entering Austria at the earliest. If checks are carried out by the authorities, the form has to be presented in electronic form or printed out. The authenticity of this confirmation can be checked via a QR code.

When entering Austria, you must present a medical certificate or a test result in German or English referring to a negative molecular test (e.g. a PCR test). The sample must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours ago. If such a test result cannot be presented, a ten-day period of self-isolation must be embarked upon immediately, which can only be ended earlier with a negative molecular test (such as a PCR test) from the fifth day after entry. The day of entry counts as day zero.

Entry from other states and regions which are not in Appendix 1 or 2

Entry from other states or regions which are not listed in [Appendix 1](#) or [2](#) is possible under certain conditions. In the meantime, certain groups of persons can, diverging from the general entry regulations, travel to Austria on the basis of more relaxed conditions.

Which rules apply for entry into Austria from other states and regions?

Entry from other states or regions is possible under the following conditions:

- Registration via the pre-travel clearance form. This may only be made 72 hours before entering Austria at the earliest. If checks are carried out by the authorities, this has to be presented in electronic form or printed out. The authenticity of this confirmation can be checked via a QR code.
- 3-G evidence: when entering Austria, a valid negative test result, a certificate of vaccination or recovery, or a medical certificate confirming this status have to be in your possession. These documents must be issued in German or English (in Latin characters) and have to be shown to the authorities upon request.
- A ten-day period of self-isolation must be embarked upon immediately, which can only be ended earlier with a negative molecular test (such as a PCR test) from the fifth day after entry. The day of entry counts as day zero.

Which persons can enter under more relaxed conditions from other states and regions?

The following groups of persons can enter Austria under more relaxed conditions from other states and regions:

- Persons who carry out regular commuter trips to attend school or university
- Persons who enter the country regularly for family-related reasons or to visit their partner
- Vaccinated persons in whose case 14 days have passed since they received the last dose necessary for full immunisation (or 21 days when only one dose is needed for full immunisation) and minors between the ages of 12 and 18 who are accompanying these persons.
- Persons who enter the country for work-related reasons.
- Humanitarian aid workers
- An accompanying person in the case of entry for medical reasons pursuant to Section 6.
- Persons who enter the country due to an obligation imposed by a court or authority, such as a summons to court proceedings.
- Persons who enter the country for unforeseeable family-related reasons which are worthy of special consideration and cannot be postponed, such as severe illness, death, funerals, births, and, in emergency cases, caring for people in need of support.
- Persons who have photo ID pursuant to Section 5 of the Official Residence Act, FLG I no. 54/2021.

These persons have to observe the following rules:

- Providing evidence which fulfils the 3-G rule
Entry is possible without quarantine and registration with the relevant proof of your status.

Exceptions related to entering Austria

The COVID-19 entry regulation facilitates entry to the country for specific reasons. If the reasons for these exceptions are fulfilled, entry to Austria is possible from all states and regions.

Which rules apply in the case of entry for medical reasons?

Entry is possible without restrictions when it takes place for the use of absolutely necessary medical services in Austria. This rule applies to:

- Austrian citizens
- Persons who are subject to compulsory health insurance in Austria
- Persons whom an Austrian hospital has agreed to provide treatment to for reasons worthy of particular consideration.

After undergoing absolutely necessary medical treatment abroad, the re-entry of persons with a place of residence in Austria, or who are normally resident in Austria, is possible without restrictions.

When entering the country, confirmation has to be shown of the absolute necessity of using medical services in accordance with [Appendix F](#) (German) or [Appendix G](#) (English).

What other exceptions apply in relation to entering Austria?

The following groups of persons are exempted from the COVID-19 entry regulation when entering and leaving the country:

- Persons who enter the country to ensure public transport and the transport of goods; when their destination is not Austria, it must be ensured that they will leave the country again
- Persons who, in individual cases, have to provide urgent care to animals or carry out work required in agriculture or forestry.
- Persons who enter the country in the context of the professional transport of vehicles and aircraft.
- Persons who enter for compelling reasons in the interests of the Republic.
- Transit passengers or persons who travel through Austria without stopping.
- Persons who enter the country to carry out a repatriation flight or an overland repatriation mission.
- Persons who begin their journey in Austria and cross the territory of other countries without stopping in order to reach their destination in Austria.
- Persons in vehicles of the police and emergency services or public service vehicles in the meaning of Section 26a of the Road Traffic Regulation.
- Persons who enter the Mitterberg and Jungholz local authority areas as well as the Riss Valley in the local authority area of Vomp and Eben am Achensee.

In these cases, the entry regulations such as registration with the pre-travel clearance form, the 3-G rule and quarantine do not apply.

Pre-travel clearance:

Many cases of infection are directly related to travel, and also in this regard we need to support the functioning of contact tracing. Here we are also making use of the experiences of other EU Member States.

In order to have the necessary information available for the monitoring of quarantine and for contact tracing, all persons wishing to enter the country are obliged to provide certain information in advance via a form which can be filled in online. This particularly includes information about the address where the person is staying or where they are spending quarantine, and which countries the person has stayed in during the past ten days. The pre-travel clearance form serves exactly this purpose.

Registration with the pre-travel clearance form is available in [German](#) and [English](#). If registration via the online form is not possible, one can also print out and fill in the form [Appendix D](#) (German) or [Appendix](#) (English) and show it at the border if required.

What information is asked for during registration with the pre-travel clearance form?

The following information must be given during registration:

- First name and surname
- Date of birth
- Contact details (telephone number, e-mail address)
- Your home address in Austria or the address at which you will be staying during quarantine, if this is not the same
- Date of entry
- Date when you will leave (if applicable)
- State or area you are coming from
- Countries in which you have stayed in the past ten days before entry
- Presentation of proof that you pose a low epidemiological risk.

At what point in time do you have to register with the pre-travel clearance form?

You can register with the pre-travel clearance form 72 hours before planned entry at the earliest.

In which way do I receive confirmation of registration?

After registration using this [link to the pre-travel clearance online form](#) (English), you can download the form. It is also sent by e-mail to the address you have given.

When do I have to show the pre-travel clearance form?

The form must be shown to the authorities upon request so that they can check whether the information is correct. Its authenticity can be checked via a QR code.

How should the pre-travel clearance form be shown?

It is best to bring the document in electronic form (on a phone or other device). If this is not possible it can also be shown printed out. Showing the QR code on mobile devices such as a smartphone is only for checks by the authorities, but does not replace the document itself.

If registration via the online form is not possible, in exceptional cases one can also print out and fill in the form [Appendix D](#) (German) or [Appendix E](#) (English) and show it at the border if required. The border control officers then send it on to the relevant district administration authority.

How long is the data obtained during registration stored for?

The data is stored for 28 days from the date of entry to the country by the district administration authority which is responsible for the place in which you are staying. The data is subsequently deleted. The storage of personal details is thus carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Regulation.

I have filled in a pre-travel clearance form, but the relevant data has changed since then. Do I need to cancel it?

If relevant data you have given has changed, you have to register again. When entering the country you only have to take the updated form with you.

When do I have to renew my registration with a new pre-travel clearance form?

If you need to fill in a pre-travel clearance form, this should be done before entry into Austria. Registration is only valid for one person and for entering once. If relevant information you have entered changes after registration but before entering Austria, registration has to be carried out again with the updated data. When entering the country you only have to take the updated form with you.

If you are a commuter (persons who enter Austria at least once a month), registration using the pre-travel clearance form only has to be renewed every 28 days or when relevant data changes.

Showing the results of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2

Regular testing is an important mainstay of the strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In this way, infected persons without symptoms can be recognised and isolated at an early stage, thus interrupting chains of infection.

Which confirmations of test results are accepted as proof?

For entry into Austria, one has to present a medical certificate ([Appendix A](#) or [Appendix B](#)) or the result of a valid negative test for SARS-CoV-2 issued in German or English (in Latin characters). At the time of entry, the sample must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours previously in the case of a molecular test and no earlier than 48 hours ago in the case of an antigen test.

For entry, results from the official testing sites of the provinces, from pharmacies, or results from the weekly tests of occupational groups are valid.

Evidence of a negative result of a SARS-CoV-2 antigen test for home use which was recorded in an official data processing system is valid for 24 hours when it fulfils the following specifications:

1. Surname and first name(s) of the tested person
2. Date of birth
3. Date and time when the sample was taken
4. Test result (positive or negative)

Signature of the person who carried out the test and the stamp of the institution which carried out the test, or a bar code or QR code.

How do the authorities check whether I have a medical certificate or a test result issued in German or English?

Proof of a negative test result has to be shown to border control officers if they carry out checks. Checks can be carried out in the form of border controls or as part of vehicle spot checks, etc.

Quarantine regulations in relation to entering Austria

Alongside testing for SARS-CoV-2, quarantine ensures the swift interruption of chains of infection and the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In some circumstances, it is therefore necessary to self-isolate for ten days after entering the country. This can be ended earlier by means of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 on the fifth day of your stay (the day of entry is considered to be day zero). In the case of entry from a virus variant area or state ([Appendix 2](#)), a molecular test always has to be carried out.

Who has to pay the costs of a PCR or antigen/lateral flow test in order to end self-isolation early?

The costs incurred for the test have to be paid for oneself. Testing is possible in [various laboratories \(PDF, 487 KB\)](#). There are also a wide range of free testing opportunities throughout Austria. Further information on this is available from [FAQs: Österreich testet](#).

How, where and when is it possible to end self-isolation early by testing?

Testing to end quarantine early (test to release) is possible on the fifth day after entry at the earliest using a molecular (e.g. PCR) or an antigen test. The day of entry counts as day zero. It is possible to leave your place of residence or accommodation to be tested in spite of self-isolation. However, when doing so precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of infection as far as possible.

Testing is possible in [various laboratories \(PDF, 487 KB\)](#). These tests have to be paid for oneself. In addition, there are also a wide range of free testing opportunities throughout Austria.


Further information on this is available from [FAQs: Österreich testet](#).

Is it possible to leave Austria again before the end of self-isolation?

Yes. For the purpose of leaving Austria, self-isolation can be ended early. However, when doing so precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of infection as far as possible (social distancing, FFP2 mask, etc.).

FAQs: The Green Passport

<https://www.gruenerpass.gv.at/>



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