

## April 12, 2021: COVID-19 Regional Update #96: AECO Operational Area

Please note that this overview has been created by scanning relevant government websites and news sources and reflect the information that has been detected by AECO at the time of compiling the overview. The overview may contain errors and outdated information. This overview is intended to be used for guidance only, to assist AECO members in their efforts to navigate developments related to COVID-19.



New information (new requirements and old requirements previously not included in the overview) is marked in red.

| Country/region<br>Outbreak and vaccination status   | Entry requirements, official travel recommendations, cruise regulations  |
|---|--|
| <b>NORWAY AND SVALBARD</b>  |  |
| <p>Population: 2400 (Longyearbyen, Ny-Ålesund)</p> <p><b>OUTBREAK STATUS</b></p> <p>0 cases in Svalbard.<br/>103 621 cases in Norway<br/>(up from 99 249 on April 6)<br/>17 998 recovered</p> <p><b>VACCINATION STATUS:</b> Vaccines will be offered free of charge as part of the Norwegian <a href="#">vaccination program</a>. Vulnerable groups followed by health sector workers will be prioritized. Vaccinations <a href="#">started</a> 27.12.2020</p> <p>As of April 11, 1 165 421 doses (first and second dose) have been administered.<br/><a href="#">Overview of vaccination statistics in Norway</a></p> <p><b>Vaccinations in Svalbard:</b> Vaccination of permanent residents in Svalbard will be prioritized. <a href="#">Link</a>. April 8, mass vaccination started for permanent Svalbard residents who</p> | <p><b>ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:</b> To limit the risk of transmitting the significantly more contagious variant of the coronavirus, the Government is imposing far stricter rules on foreign nationals who seek entry to Norway. Please note that these are measures are temporary and that will be reassessed based on the latest developments. In general, only foreign nationals who reside in Norway will be permitted to enter. Exemptions are still provided for some groups. Groups with permission to enter include seafarers and aviation personnel, close family members of persons residing in Norway, and foreign nationals who work in critical public functions, among others. On March 12, the government further tightened non-Norwegian citizens' entitlement to enter Norway and announced that current restrictions will be in place until April 7. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>Svalbard:</b> A negative result on the corona test taken within 24 hours before departure is required. The test see <a href="#">link</a>) must be completed on the mainland. Approved test method is PCR or antigen rapid test, in accordance with § 9a of the <a href="#">Norwegian COVID-19 regulations</a>. The requirement does not apply to children under 12 years of age or people who arrive Svalbard by boat. All travel to Svalbard that is not considered as strictly necessary is discouraged. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>TESTING:</b> All persons travelling to Norway <a href="#">are required to be tested</a> for Covid-19 as soon as possible and no later than one day after arrival. This includes Norwegian citizens. Travelers who are foreign nationals are also <a href="#">required to present a negative test</a> that has been taken within 24 hours prior to departure (<a href="#">link</a>). All persons who have been to the UK, South Africa, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Brazil must undergo a PCR test at the Norwegian border. If you have visited an area that triggers quarantine duty (Norwegian citizens</p> |

are aged 45 and over or are in the age 18-75 and have a pre-existing condition. [Link](#). The Moderna vaccine will be used in Svalbard. [Link](#).

**TYPE OF VACCINE CURRENTLY APPROVED:**

[Moderna vaccine](#) (conditional EU approval 06.01.21)

[BioNTec/Pfizer vaccine](#) (conditional EU approval 21.12.20)..

[AstraZeneca vaccine](#) (conditional EU approval 29.01.21).

[J&J Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (conditional EU approval 11.03.21).

**Links to official COVID-19 information**

[The Norwegian Institute for Public Health](#)

[The Norwegian Government](#)

[The Governor of Svalbard](#)

[Norwegian Foreign Ministry](#)

included) you are required to take a rapid SARS-CoV-2 test at the Norwegian border. All positive rapid-tests will be immediately followed up by a PCR-test at the border.

**QUARANTINE:** All person travelling to Norway are required to [quarantine for ten days](#). At the earliest, it is possible to end quarantine on day seven if the person travelling tests negative for Covid-19 twice after arrival. There is an exception for some European countries with sufficiently low covid-19 transmission, indicated as yellow in [this map](#) by the Norwegian Institute for Public Health. Persons who do not have a fixed residential address (rented or owned) or a suitable quarantine location, provided by their employer or contracting authority, in Norway, are required to stay at a quarantine hotel. On March 12, Norway announced that Norwegian citizens returning from abroad after non-essential travel will no longer be permitted to quarantine in a suitable location of their choosing but must check into a quarantine hotel. [Link](#).

**Svalbard:** Travelers subject to quarantine need to complete their full quarantine period in mainland Norway [prior to travelling on to Svalbard](#).

**EXEMPTIONS DUE TO VACCINE/IMMUNITY:**

In an information page targeted at Norwegian citizens, the Norwegian Government writes: If you can document that you during the course of the past six months have had COVID-19, the rules related to entry quarantine, quarantine hotel, negative test requirement upon entry and quarantine following contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, no longer apply to you. The test must have been taken while you were sick and must confirm a COVID-19 infection through viral RNA molecular testing (PCR). A so-called antibody test is not sufficient. It is not required that the test was carried out in Norway. The test should be at least 2 weeks old. [Source](#).

**ENTRY REGISTRATON:** In order to improve infection control, all persons travelling to Norway must [register](#) prior to crossing the border. This also applies to Norwegian citizens. The purpose of registration is to ensure compliance with the duty to quarantine, to strengthen infection control and to contribute to improved contact tracing – and thereby limit import infection. Travelers must register prior to their arrival in Norway and may only register their journey within 72 hours of their time of arrival. Source: [Norwegian Government webpage - Travel to Norway](#)

**RULES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OWN CITIZENS:**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a [travel advice](#) cautioning against non-essential travel to all countries. This advice is valid until May 15 and may be extended beyond that date. There is an exception to this recommendation for some European countries with sufficiently low COVID-19 transmission, indicated as yellow in [this map](#) by the Norwegian Institute for Public Health.

**Svalbard:** Unnecessary travel between Svalbard and mainland Norway [should be avoided](#).. According to Norwegian health authorities. However, there is no official recommendation by the Norwegian government to

avoid leisure travel to Svalbard ([link](#), Norwegian only). See the Governor of Svalbard's [information page](#) about COVID-19 and Svalbard.

**CRUISE REGULATIONS:**

A [ban on cruise activity on Svalbard](#) was implemented by [regulation](#) of Norway's [covid-19 regulation](#) on 14.09.2020. The ban does not apply to day cruises and cruises that start and finish in Svalbard with up to 30 people on board and include overnight accommodation is part of the cruise.

Operators that offer day trip by boat must still follow the requirements outlined in the [guidance document for the travel sector in Svalbard](#) which was published 24.07.2020.

Operator that offer cruises that start and finish in Svalbard with up to 30 people on board and include overnight accommodation is part of the cruise must comply with the guidance document for Svalbard expedition cruising which was published 14.07.2020 (see [document in Norwegian](#) and [AECO's unofficial translation of the document](#)).

In a [press release](#) dated 04.02.21, the Government announced that no changes will currently be made to the strict requirements for coastal cruises along the Norwegian coast and on Svalbard. A new assessment will be made during the spring, or if significant changes indicate a need to do so.

**MARITIME REGULATIONS**

Updates from the Norwegian Maritime Authority regarding the coronavirus can be found here: [Link](#). Norwegian COVID-19 protocols with regards to crew change on ships are available here: [Link](#).

Crew coming to Norway to work on vessels must be tested several times and onboard quarantine must be carried out in a single cabin. Details are found in this announcement (Norwegian only): [Link](#).

The Norwegian Coastal Administration's information page about The Coronavirus and Seagoing Traffic. [Link](#). Norwegian Institute of Public Health information regarding the handling of COVID-19 on vessels, and planning of cruise activities. [Link](#) (Norwegian only).

**Greenland**

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| <p>Population: 56,000</p> <p><b>OUTBREAK STATUS:</b></p> <p>31 cases in Greenland<br/>(31 recovered)</p> <p>238 484 cases in Denmark<br/>(up from on 234 489 April 6)<br/>227 935 recovered</p> <p><b>VACCINATION STATUS:</b> Vaccinations <a href="#">started</a> 04.01.21. Greenland has completed stage 1 of their vaccination strategy which targeted vulnerable groups, elderly people and health care workers. Stage II continues to target vulnerable groups, elderly people and health care workers. At stage IV, the vaccine will be offered to all citizens over the age of 18, <a href="#">according to health authorities</a>. The vaccine is <a href="#">free of charge and voluntary</a>. As of April 9, 9 808 doses (first and second dose) have been administered.</p> <p><b>TYPE OF VACCINE CURRENTLY APPROVED:</b> BioNTec/Pfizer vaccine (conditional EU approval 21.12.20) is <a href="#">currently being administered</a>.</p> <p>The Moderna vaccine is also <a href="#">expected</a> to be approved for and distributed in Greenland.</p> <p>The AstraZeneca vaccine has received a conditional approval for use in Denmark.</p> <p>J&amp;J Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine has received a conditional approval for use in Denmark. (conditional EU approval 11.03.21).</p> | <p><b>ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:</b> Only necessary travel is permitted, and travelers must apply in advance before traveling. The sale of inbound airline tickets to Greenland <a href="#">has been closed</a> for January and February. Greenland warns travelers that if you have visible symptoms, you will be rejected at the gate.</p> <p><b>RULES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OWN CITIZENS:</b><br/>The Government of Greenland is asking companies, authorities and citizens <a href="#">not to make any unnecessary trips to and from Greenland</a>. If one chooses to travel out of Greenland, there is no guarantee one is permitted back in. Upon entry, the purpose of travel must therefore be characterized as necessary travel. Travelers that need to carry out necessary travel must apply in advance and must fulfil strict criteria to justify that their travel is necessary. Application form and definition of necessary travel are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Greenland <a href="#">was closed for all entry</a> Jan 1 – 12, 2021, with the exception of certain professionals that are employed in critical society functions. Greenland is now working to enable <a href="#">the return of Greenlandic citizens</a> who were prevented from returning to Greenland during the temporary closure. Government regulated flights will be continued all of February. It is possible to apply for permission to enter the country in the period February 1 – 28. <a href="#">Link</a>. Greenland has announced that restrictions on flights will be in place until May 2. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>ENTRY REGISTRATON:</b> In order to improve infection control, all persons travelling to Greenland fill out the online <a href="#">Sumut form</a> before arrival.</p> <p><b>TESTING:</b> Travelers to Greenland must get tested for COVID-19 before travelling to Greenland. The test must be negative cannot be older than 3 days (72 hours). <a href="#">Link</a>. Travelers from outside the Danish Realm must have a test carried out in one of the Nordic countries. Source: <a href="#">Greenland Chief Medical Officer</a>.</p> <p><b>QUARANTINE:</b> Greenlandic citizens who are permitted to travel to Greenland from Denmark must be tested before departure, stay in home quarantine, and be retested before going to work or other activities. This retest can at earliest be done one the 5<sup>th</sup> day after arrival. <a href="#">Link</a>. Quarantine rules for people who have been in contact with persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 are stricter than travel quarantine and may only leave quarantine after a negative test on day 14. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>CRUISE REGULATIONS</b></p> <p>On 2020-07-06 Greenland Government announced new entry regulations from July 21 to December 31, 2020. Cruise vessels may not enter Greenland waters if they have visited a port in another country within 14 days before arrival to Greenland. <a href="#">Link</a> (Danish).</p> |
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| <p><b>Links to official COVID-19 information</b></p> <p><a href="#">Official landing page for COVID-19 related information</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greenland Chief Medical Officer official site on the Covid-19 situation</a></p> <p><b>Other resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">Visit Greenland – Status of COVID-19 in Greenland</a></p>   |  |
| <b>Arctic Canada</b>   |  |
| <p>Population: 84,000 (Nunavut, NWT)</p> <p><b>OUTBREAK STATUS:</b></p> <p>395 in Nunavut (391 recovered)<br/>43 in NWT (42 recovered)</p> <p>1 067 764 cases in Canada<br/>(up from on 1 017 130 April 6)<br/>972 153 recovered</p> <p><b>VACCINATION STATUS:</b><br/><b>Canada:</b> <a href="#">According to the Government of Canada</a>, Everyone who lives in Canada will have access to a safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccine in 2021. A phased approach to vaccine delivery will begin with the arrival of limited doses, which will be prioritized for high-risk people. Adults in Indigenous communities are considered a priority high-risk group.</p> | <p><b>ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:</b> Temporary border restriction implemented on March 21, 2020 continues. To limit the further spread of coronavirus in Canada, travel restrictions are in place across all ports of entry. This <a href="#">online tool</a> assist travelers who want to know if they may enter Canada. For foreign nationals, entry is permitted only under certain travel exemptions for essential visits, as defined <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Foreign nationals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 <a href="#">will not be allowed</a> to enter Canada. Foreign nationals who do not have an adequate quarantine/isolation plan may be denied entry into Canada. Air travelers must verify that they comply with the requirements of the <a href="#">Flying to Canada checklist</a>.</p> <p><b>TESTING:</b> Starting 06.01.21, all air passengers five years of age or older, including Canadians, will be <a href="#">required</a> to show a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to boarding their scheduled departure to Canada, unless they are travelling from a destination temporarily exempted from this measure. Starting February 21, all people arriving in Canada by air <a href="#">must take a test</a>.</p> <p><b>RULES CONNECTED TO VACCINE/PREVIOUS INFECTION:</b><br/>Travelers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 must provide proof of a positive COVID-19 molecular test conducted between 14 and 90 days prior to departure, instead of a negative COVID-19 molecular test. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>QUARANTINE:</b> Everyone entering Canada must follow mandatory 14-day isolation or quarantine <a href="#">requirements</a>, including demonstrating an adequate plan for quarantine. Travelers entering Canada must isolate for 14 days if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you know you have COVID-19, or quarantine for 14 days if you do not have symptoms. On 29.01.21, the Government of Canada announced new rules on international travel: "As</p> |

Vaccination started in December 2020. As of April 7, at least 10 542 312 vaccine doses have been [distributed](#) to provinces and territories.

**Nunavut:** Vaccinations for priority groups has begun. This is enough for 75% of the population, [according to the Government of Nunavut](#). As of April 7, at least 37 500 vaccine doses have been delivered to the territory. As of April 9, 22 865 doses of the Moderna vaccine have been administered. The Government of Nunavut [expects](#) enough vaccines for 75 per cent of Nunavummiut over the age of 18 by the end of April 2021.

**Northwest Territories:** Vaccination of priority groups [has begun](#). The GNWT [expects](#) that the general population can expect to have the opportunity to be vaccinated starting in March 2021. As of April 9, 38 574 vaccine doses (first and second dose) have been administered ([source](#)).

**TYPE OF VACCINE CURRENTLY APPROVED:**

Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine  
Moderna vaccine  
AstraZeneca vaccine  
Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

**Links to official COVID-19 information**

[Department of Health for information on preventive measures](#)

[Government of Canada for information on travel and related advisories](#)

soon as possible in the coming weeks, all air travelers arriving in Canada, with very limited exceptions, must reserve a room in a Government of Canada-approved hotel for three nights at their own cost, and take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival at their own cost. More details on these new measures is available on [Canada.ca/coronavirus. Link](#).

**Nunavut:** Prior to boarding a plane into the territory, residents will undergo a mandatory 14-day isolation period in either Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton or Yellowknife. At the end of the 14 days, asymptomatic residents will be cleared and provided a letter signed by the Chief Public Health Officer allowing them to return to their home community. This also includes medical travel patients. Source: [Government of Nunavut](#).

**Northwest Territories:** Those who do not have an exemption under the public health order, or have not been granted one for exceptional circumstances, are not allowed to travel within the Northwest Territories. Everyone is required to complete a self-isolation plan, and with few exceptions, to mandatorily self-isolate for 14 days in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith only. Source: [Government of NWT](#).

**REGISTRATION:** All travelers are required to provide contact and quarantine information upon and after entry into Canada using [ArriveCAN](#).

**RULES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OWN CITIZENS:**

**Canada:** Official Global Travel Advisories state: Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice, and Avoid all cruise ship travel outside Canada until further notice.

[Special rules apply](#) for travels between certain Common Travel Areas. [Special rules also apply](#) to Critical Employees and Exempted Travelers.

**CRUISE REGULATIONS:**

Canada is [advising](#) Canadian citizens and permanent residents to avoid all travel on cruise ships outside Canada until further notice.

On Feb 4, Canada [announced](#) two new Interim Orders, which prohibit pleasure craft in Canadian Arctic waters and cruise vessels in all Canadian waters until February 28, 2022. This means:

- Adventure-seeking pleasure craft are still prohibited from entering Arctic waters.
- Passenger vessels carrying more than 12 people are still prohibited from entering Arctic coastal waters, including Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and the Labrador Coast.
- Cruise vessels carrying more than 100 people are still prohibited from operating in Canadian waters.

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| <p><a href="#">Government of Northwest Territories COVID-19 information page</a></p> <p><a href="#">Government of Nunavut COVID-19 information page</a></p>  | <p>COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance for marine transportation issued by Transport Canada are published <a href="#">here</a>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Iceland</b></p>  |   |
| <p>Population: 366,000</p> <p><b>OUTBREAK STATUS:</b></p> <p>6267 cases, up from 6241 on April 6)<br/>6140 recovered</p> <p><b>VACCINATION STATUS:</b></p> <p>Vaccination have started. In Iceland, <a href="#">the plan</a> is to vaccinate approximately 75% of the nation who were born in 2005 or earlier. Vaccinations are and will be free of charge, and no one will be forced to accept the vaccination. As of April 12, 89 190 people have started or completed vaccination doses (first or second dose) have been administered.</p> <p><b>TYPE OF VACCINE CURRENTLY APPROVED:</b></p> <p>Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine<br/>Moderna vaccine<br/>AstraZeneca vaccine<br/>J&amp;J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine</p> <p>Source: <a href="#">Icelandic Medicines Agency</a>.</p> <p><b>Links to official COVID-19 information</b></p> <p><a href="#">The office of the Director of Public Health and the Civil Protection Department site on the Covid-19 situation in Iceland</a></p> | <p><b>ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:</b> Travel restrictions apply to all third-country nationals. From April 1, all those who are coming from countries where a 14-day COVID-19 case notification rate exceeds 500 per 100.000 population is required to stay in government quarantine facilities during quarantine or if they must undergo isolation due to infection. This applies to all areas defined by the <a href="#">European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control</a> as dark red (case notification rate over 500) or grey (information not available). If one or more areas within a state is dark red, the country as a whole is then defined as dark red. The stay in quarantine facilities is free of charge. The rules will expire at the end of April. <a href="#">Source</a>.</p> <p>UK nationals <a href="#">are categorized</a> as non-EEA nationals. Some non-EEA travelers are exempted from travel restrictions, e.g. in the case of essential travels or family ties in Iceland. Exemption rules are explained <a href="#">here</a>. Overview travel restrictions to Iceland as a result of COVID-19 is available on the <a href="#">website</a> of the Icelandic police. Travel to Iceland from outside the EEA/Schengen area is currently restricted. However, on March 26 a government regulation will come into effect that allows non-essential travels to Iceland from outside the EEA/Schengen-area for passengers who can provide valid proof of vaccination or prior infection, in addition to those on essential business. <a href="#">Link</a>.</p> <p><b>TESTING AND QUARANTINE:</b> All arriving travelers to Iceland must submit a certificate of a negative PCR-test for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) before boarding an aircraft or ship to Iceland and again upon arrival. The negative test result must have been collected no more than 72 hours before departure (on the first leg of the journey). Rapid antigen tests are not valid. The certificate must be submitted in either Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, or English. Certificates in other languages are not considered valid. The results of the test must be pre-recorded. The fine for violating the rule requiring a negative PCR test is 100,000 Icelandic Krónur (ISK) for residents and Icelandic nationals. Non-citizens and non-residents without a negative PCR tests will be refused entry at the border. Arriving travelers must also take two tests to screen for the presence of COVID-19 after arrival in Iceland, with a mandatory 5-6 day quarantine between each test. Sampling is free of charge. Travelers must also complete quarantine with a negative result (no virus is found) following the second screening.</p> |

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|                     | <p><b>EXEMPTIONS FROM QUARANTINE RULES</b></p> <p>Those who have confirmed with PCR-testing or antibody testing from an EU/EFTA state that they have previously had a COVID-19 infection are exempt from quarantine. All those who present a valid international vaccination certificate for full vaccination with an approved vaccine against COVID-19 are exempt. <a href="#">Source</a>. This applies to those presenting certificates from the EU/EEA Area and everyone who can provide proof of a full vaccination with a vaccine that has been certified for use by the European Medical Agency as well as requirements defined by the Chief Epidemiologist of Iceland and Icelandic regulations. <a href="#">Link</a>. Approved vaccines are listed <a href="#">here</a>. Passengers arriving from Greenland who have not stayed outside Greenland for the past 14 days are also exempted from border screening and quarantine rules. <a href="#">Link</a>. Iceland has <a href="#">announced</a> that from 1 May it will use the ECDC risk assessment color code at the border. From that time travelers from low-risk areas (green and yellow) will be exempt from quarantine measures if they present a negative PCR result at the border.</p> <p><b>REGISTRATIONS:</b> All travelers are under obligation to complete a <a href="#">pre-registration form</a> for visiting Iceland.</p> <p><b>RULES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OWN CITIZENS:</b> Icelandic residents are <a href="#">advised</a> to avoid travelling to <a href="#">risk areas</a>; at present, this means all countries are defined as risk areas due to COVID-19.</p> <p><b>CRUISE REGULATIONS</b></p> <p>The Directorate of Health in Iceland has published <a href="#">instructions</a> for foreign vessels in Iceland if there is a risk of COVID-19 on board.</p> |
| <b>Russia</b>       |   |
|                     | <p><a href="#">Official Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation information page about COVID-19</a> (Russian only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation announcements regarding COVID-19: <a href="https://covid19.rosminzdrav.ru/news/">https://covid19.rosminzdrav.ru/news/</a> (Russian only)</li> </ul> <p>Russian government information page about COVID-19: <a href="http://government.ru/support_measures/">http://government.ru/support_measures/</a> (Russian only)</p>  |
| <b>Other/global</b> |   |
|                     | <p><b>WORLD:</b> Overview of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally: <a href="https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html">https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html</a></p>   |

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is planning to launch a digital [Covid Travel Pass](#). The Travel Pass is a mobile app that aims to inform passengers on what tests, vaccines and other measures they require prior to travel, details on where they can get tested and give them the ability to share their tests and vaccination results in a verifiable, safe and privacy-protecting manner.

**USA:** The US CDC issued the [US CDCR - Framework for Conditional Sailing Order for Cruise Ships](#). This Order shall remain in effect until the earliest of the expiration of the Secretary of Health and Human Services' declaration that COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency, the CDC Director rescinds or modifies the order based on specific public health or other considerations, or November 1, 2021. On April 2, the CDC released [technical guidelines](#) for cruise ships seeking to operate under CDC's Framework for Conditional Sailing Order. According to a [Cruise Industry News summary](#), the CDC is asking cruise lines to demonstrate they can handle a COVID-19 incident themselves, from a quarantine, healthcare, and transportation standpoint. The CDC recommends in its regulations that all port personnel, and travelers (passengers and crew) receive a COVID-19 vaccine. However, the CDC does not mention a date of when ships could sail, or trial voyages could begin.

According to news articles (link [here](#) and [here](#)), Canadian restrictions on cruising and quarantine requirements will likely impact the Alaska cruise season. Please note that this information is from non-official sources. According to news articles mentioned above, internationally flagged vessels that operate cruises in Alaska with embarking from a U.S. port must (usually Vancouver or Victoria in Canada) to comply with what are known as US cabotage laws. Outside of Canada, the closest foreign port for an Alaskan cruise is Ensenada, Mexico. That means that, under current U.S. law, if Canada bans cruise ships for the remainder of the Alaska 2021 season (or beyond), the United States would have to amend the Passenger Vessel Services Act in order to allow sailings to depart. US-flagged vessels would be exempt. On February 4, Canada announced two new Interim Orders, which prohibit pleasure craft in Canadian Arctic waters and cruise vessels in all Canadian waters until February 28, 2022. [Link](#).

Alaskan senators have proposed legislation to help the Alaskan tourism industry by providing a waiver of Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) restrictions for cruise ships transporting passengers between Washington and Alaska. The proposed [Alaska Tourism Recovery Act](#) will allow cruise ships to sail to Alaska without requiring that they stop in Canada, as the U.S. law normally would require. (Non-official source: [GCaptain](#)). On March 16, media reported: "There is not currently a vote scheduled in the U.S. Senate for the Alaska Tourism Recovery Act," according to Hannah Ray, press secretary for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (Non-official source: [Cruise Industry News](#))

**Vaccines in Alaska:** The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for anyone living or working in Alaska who is age 16 or older. According to the State of Alaska website ([link](#)), appointments are limited, but more appointments open

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|  | regularly. According to this <a href="#">vaccination dashboard</a> , 29% percent of Alaskans have received the first vaccine dose, while 20 % are fully vaccinated. |
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## **News of interest**

[Silversea to Mandate Vaccine; Silver Moon to Cruise in June](#)  
[Seabourn to Cruise in Greece Starting July 3; Vaccine Required](#)  
[CDC Open to U.S. Cruising This Summer](#)  
[Carnival CEO Donald 'Very Disappointed' in CDC Guidance](#)  
[States Join Efforts to Pressure CDC to Restart U.S. Cruise Industry](#)

## **Log of recent updates, regulations and travel advice from governments and national authorities**

### **Svalbard**

- 2021-04-09 Norway announced that the legal provision that allows Norway to impose mandatory quarantine hotel will be extended until November 10, 2021. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-30 Governor of Svalbard announced that that COVID-19 tests will be free of charge for permanent residents of Svalbard travelling to Svalbard. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-27 Norway announces changes in testing and quarantine requirements for seafarers. Crew coming to Norway to work on vessels must be tested several times and onboard quarantine must be carried out in a single cabin. Details are found in this announcement (Norwegian only): [Link](#).
- 2021-03-26 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has extended its [travel advice](#) cautioning against non-essential travel to all countries. This advice is valid until May 15 and may be extended beyond that date. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-26 The Governor of Svalbard announced that mass vaccination will start April 8 of permanent Svalbard residents who are aged 45 and over or are in the age 18-75 and have a pre-existing condition. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-26 Norway prologues the temporary law on entry restrictions for foreigners for reasons of public health. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-15 Norway announces a hearing in a proposal to extend legal requirements connected to location for carrying out entry quarantine. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-19 Norway announced that they will prioritize vaccines for permanent residents in Svalbard. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-12 The government further tightened non-Norwegian citizens' entitlement to enter Norway. [Link](#). Norway also announced that Norwegian citizens returning from abroad after non-essential travel will no longer be permitted to quarantine in a suitable location of their choosing but must check into a quarantine hotel. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-24 Norway announces that rules connected to quarantine hotels will be tightened. [Link](#) (Norwegian only)

- 2021-02-19 Norwegian government specified that there is no recommendations against Norwegian residents traveling to Svalbard for leisure, although Norwegian health authorities recommend avoiding all unnecessary travel within Norway. [Link](#) (Norwegian only).
- 2021-02-19 Norway announced stricter rules upon arrival in Norway. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-12 Norway announced the introduction of legal basis for expelling foreigners who violate testing and registration requirements upon entry in Norway. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-10 The government extends the tightened restrictions on entry into Norway that were introduced on 29 January, with some minor adjustments. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-09 The global travel advice against non-essential travel to all countries will be extended to apply until 15 April 2021. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-08 Government announced a hearing for a proposal to extend the Interim Act relating to entry restrictions for foreign nationals out of concern for public health. The Interim Act was originally valid until June 1, 2021. Under the new proposal, the statutory provisions shall apply until 31 December 2021. In the [press release](#), the Government states: "It is uncertain how long the need will be for the use of entry restrictions related to the covid-19 pandemic. It is not a given that we will have entry restrictions until December 2021. The duration of the entry restrictions must be assessed continuously, in line with the development of infection. The entry restrictions can therefore be lifted earlier if the situation so requires." [Link](#).
- 2021-02-04 Government announced that no changes will currently be made to the strict requirements for coastal cruises along the Norwegian coast and on Svalbard. A new assessment will be made during the spring, or if significant changes indicate a need to do so. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-03 Governor of Svalbard announces that the quick test for SARS-CoV-2 is approved as a covid-test for travellers to Svalbard. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-29 The AstraZeneca vaccine received a conditional EU approval and is thereby also approved for use in Norway. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-28 The government tightens the rules for entry to Svalbard. A negative result on the corona test taken within 24 hours before departure is required. The test must be completed on the mainland. All travel to Svalbard that is not considered as strictly necessary is discouraged. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-27 To limit the risk of transmitting the significantly more contagious variant of the coronavirus, the Government is imposing far stricter rules on foreign nationals who seek entry to Norway. In general, only foreign nationals who reside in Norway will be permitted to enter. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-25 If you have visited an area that triggers quarantine duty (Norwegian citizens included) you are required to take a rapid SARS-CoV-2 test at the Norwegian border. All positive rapid-tests will be immediately followed up by a PCR-test at the border. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-23 Stricter rules for testing and quarantine upon arrival to stop coronavirus mutation. [Link](#).
- 2020-01-18 Visit Svalbard updated their information page about traveling to Svalbard. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-15 Stricter rules applied to travelers from South Africa due to prevalence of mutated virus. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-12 Global travel advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended until March 1, 2021. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-07 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maintaining its global advice against all non-essential travel to all countries. This advice currently applies until 1 March 2021
- 2020-12-31 Effective 02.01.21, government has imposed mandatory testing for Covid-19 for all travelers to Norway. [Link](#).
- 2020-12-21 Stricter entry requirements apply to travelers from the UK. [Link](#).
- 2020-11-19 Norwegian Maritime Authority published an updated version of the Norwegian COVID-19 protocols with regards to crew change on ships, (first published 15.06.20, currently under revision). [Link](#).

- 2020-11-16 The Norwegian Maritime Authority announced that they are extending the validity of all trading certificates, company certificates and vessel instructions expiring before 1 July 2021. [Link](#).
- 2020-11-11 On Nov 5, new national infection control measures were implemented by the Norwegian government, which also apply to Svalbard. This means, among other things, that unnecessary travel to/from the Norwegian mainland should be avoided. Business trips that are considered as necessary can be carried out. [Link](#).
- 2020-10-11 The Norwegian Coastal Administration updated their information page about [The Coronavirus and Seagoing Traffic](#).
- 2020-09-21 The Norwegian Institute of Public Health published a landing page with information regarding the handling of COVID-19 on vessels, and planning of cruise activities. [Link](#) (Norwegian only).
- 2020-09-03 Norway announced a [ban on cruise activity on Svalbard](#) was implemented by [regulation](#) of Norway's [covid-19 regulation](#) on 14.09.2020. The ban does not apply to day cruises and cruises that start and finish in Svalbard with up to 30 people on board and include overnight accommodation is part of the cruise. The government stated that an assessment of this regulatory change would be carried out by November 1, 2020.
- 2020-09-01 Governor of Svalbard [states](#) that travelers subject to quarantine need to complete their full quarantine period in mainland Norway [prior to travelling on to Svalbard](#).
- In August, Norway passed temporarily new and more restrictive regulations for cruise operations in Svalbard, and along the Norwegian coast. We refer to mail sent out to members on August 6.
- 2020-07-14 The Governor of Svalbard [announced](#) that infection prevention plans are mandatory are mandatory for coastal cruises.

## Greenland

- 2021-03-29 Greenland published an update on vaccination plans. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-31 Greenland launches a landing page for information related to COVID-19 in Greenland: <https://corona.nun.gl/>.
- 2021-01-27 Government regulated flights will be continued all of February. It is possible to apply for permission to enter the country in the period February 1 – 28. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-27 Quarantine rules for people who have been in contact with persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 are stricter than travel quarantine and may only leave quarantine after a negative test on day 14. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-29 The AstraZeneca vaccine received a conditional EU approval and is thereby also approved for use in Denmark. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-21 Travelers to Greenland must get tested for COVID-19 before travelling to Greenland. The test must be negative cannot be older than 3 days (72 hours). [Link](#).
- 2021-01-15 Visit Greenland updated their [FAQ page](#).
- 2021-01-01 Greenland announced that Greenland [was closed for all entry](#) Jan 1 – 12, 2021, with the exception of certain professionals that are employed in critical society functions.
- 2020-11-06 Effective Monday November 9, Greenland's airspace is closed, meaning that only flights to and from Copenhagen are allowed. Some flights are excepted, such as emergency flights. The press release states that the duration of this measure is yet to be determined. [Link](#) (Danish)
- 2020-09-29 The Greenland Government has updated the Executive Order on travel to Greenland of September 29, 2020. [Link](#) (Danish)

- 2020-07-16 Greenland Government announced new entry regulations from July 21 to December 31. Cruise vessels may not enter Greenland waters if they have visited a port in another country within 14 days before arrival to Greenland. [Link](#) (Danish).

## Iceland

- 2021-03-30 Iceland announced amended rules at the border related to testing and quarantine. [Link](#).
- 2021-03-23 Iceland announced Stricter COVID-19 measures at the Icelandic border. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-23 Iceland announces significant easing of domestic restrictions. [Link](#).
- 2021-02-16 Travelers required to present negative PCR test before boarding. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-29 The AstraZeneca vaccine received a conditional EU approval and is thereby also approved for use in Iceland. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-18 Iceland published the latest information on screening and infections at Iceland's borders [Link](#).
- 2021-01-15 Iceland [announced](#) that current testing regime for arriving passengers remain in place until 1 May, when cautious steps will be taken to ease restrictions, based on the epidemiological situation at passenger's point of departure. The option to choose a 14-day quarantine instead of screening will however be removed.
- 2020-11-18 Iceland announced that testing of travelers for COVID-19 at Iceland's borders is to be free of charge, on a temporary basis, from 1 December 2020 until 31 January 2021. [Link](#).
- 2020-11-05 Iceland announced that foreign nationals staying in Iceland that have been unable to return to their home countries due to travel restrictions, quarantine or isolation were given permission to stay without a residence permit or visa until 10 November 2020. The permission to stay without a residence permit or visa will not be extended again and such stays beyond 10 November 2020 may result in an expulsion. See [link](#).
- 2020-09-14 The Directorate of Health in Iceland published [instructions](#) for foreign vessels in Iceland if there is a risk of COVID-19 on board.
- Information about Iceland and COVID-19 by Visit Iceland. [Link](#).

## Arctic Canada

- 2021-02-12 Canada announced additional testing and more stringent quarantine requirements for travel to Canada. Link to [news release](#) and [backgrounder](#).
- 2021-02-04 On Feb 4, Canada announced two new Interim Orders, which prohibit pleasure craft in Canadian Arctic waters and cruise vessels in all Canadian waters until February 28, 2022. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-29 International flight restrictions at Canadian airports which requires international flights to be funneled to Canada's four largest airports has been extended. This includes, among other things, that international charter passenger flights and international business / private passenger flights are no longer exempted. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-29 The Government of Canada announced new rules on international travel: "As soon as possible in the coming weeks, all air travellers arriving in Canada, with very limited exceptions, must reserve a room in a Government of Canada-approved hotel for three nights at their own cost, and take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival at their own cost. More details will be available in the coming days." [Link](#). Backgrounder: [Link](#).

- 2021-01-21 New COVID-19 GN Department of Health Update published. [Link](#).
- 2021-01-07 Nunavut's Minister of Health Lorne Kusugak has extended the territory's public health emergency until January 21, 2021. All existing measures under the public health emergency order remain in effect. [Link](#).
- 2020-09-28 Updated information published regarding temperature screening for air travel. [Link](#).
- Nunavut has published a strategy for dealing with COVID-19: Nunavut's Path: Moving forward during COVID-19 [Link](#).
- 2020-11-9 Travel Nunavut published a Statement and Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) [Link](#).
- 2020-03-13 The Canadian Government announced in a [press release](#) that given the limited public health capacity in Canada's Northern communities, the cruise ship season for vessels with Canadian Arctic stops will be deferred for the entire season this year. This would apply to cruise ships of all sizes.

## Russia

- Official Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation information page about COVID-19: <https://covid19.rosminzdrav.ru/> (Russian only)
- Latest Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation announcements regarding COVID-19: <https://covid19.rosminzdrav.ru/news/> (Russian only)
- Russian government information page about COVID-19: [http://government.ru/support\\_measures/](http://government.ru/support_measures/) (Russian only)
- Some information about requirements for foreign citizens, stateless persons and citizens of the Russian Federation arriving in the territory of the Russian Federation is available on the website of Russia's embassy to the US ([Link](#)) and the website of Russia's Embassy to the UK ([Link](#)).
- Aeroflot's information page about COVID-19 travel precautions (not an official source): <https://www.aeroflot.ru/ru-en/covid-19>

## Other regions and global developments

- 2020-10-30 CDC issued the [US CDCR - Framework for Conditional Sailing Order for Cruise Ships](#). This Order shall remain in effect until the earliest of the expiration of the Secretary of Health and Human Services' declaration that COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency, the CDC Director rescinds or modifies the order based on specific public health or other considerations, or November 1, 2021.