

1. Incoming passenger traffic in Belgium

A. For Belgian nationals, persons having their main residence in Belgium and long-term residents

- Principle

The general principle is that any person with Belgian nationality with or without their main residence in Belgium, long-term residents in Belgium and persons with legal residence in Belgium, may return to Belgium subject to two conditions (see next point).

- Conditions

- The two conditions are that:
 - The person must remain in self-isolation at home for 14 days; and
 - The person is prohibited from working outdoors for 14 days (even if they are employed in an essential sector), although teleworking is still permitted.
- These two conditions always apply to returnees and cover all possible modes of transport used (air, land and sea) for their return.
- In case of return via a domestic or abroad airport, these two conditions also apply to the person who is going to pick up the returnee(s), but not to the rest of the family. The person picking up the returnee should preferably be a family member, but if the family members are employed in an essential sector, it is recommended that they do not pick up the returnee.
- These two conditions do not apply to frontier workers, drivers employed by professional transport companies and persons who have made an essential journey abroad (as listed in point 2), with the exception of persons who have picked up returnees from a abroad airport (see previous point).

- Means

- As a rule, the returnee, regardless they arrive on Belgian territory or abroad, is using public transport (including a taxi) to get to their destination;
- If public transport/taxi is not an option, the returnee can be picked up by another person (preferably a member of the same family, but not employed in an essential sector);
- Preferably, no more than two people should travel in the vehicle. An exception to this is if several persons from the same family have to be picked up.
- During the travel, social distancing measures must be respected.

- Remark

- The person going to pick up another person must be in possession of:

- An identity document and/or passport; and
 - If the pick-up takes place abroad, credible proof to cross the border justifying the essential journey.
- It should also be borne in mind that neighbouring countries and other countries may take measures to regulate access to their territory. These measures must be observed and can in principle be consulted in the travel advice sections published on the website of Foreign Affairs <https://diplomatie.belgium.be>, as well as by the countries in question on their own official websites.

B. For foreign nationals who do not have their main residence in Belgium

B.1. Transit through Belgium

- Principle

The general principle is that foreign nationals must be able to enter and leave Belgian territory easily in order to continue their travel to their destination.

- Means and additional measures

- Individuals in transit through Belgian territory must at most observe the social distancing measures in the chosen means of transport.
- If the transport is by road, buses and vehicles do not stop on Belgian territory as a rule.
- If the journey is by train, a minimum number of connections and the shortest travel route must be ensured.

- Documents

Persons in transit through Belgian territory must be in possession of:

- An identity document and/or passport; and
- Credible justification.

B.2. In transit on arrival in Belgium via air, train, road or sea

- Principle

The general principle is that foreign nationals in transit on Belgian territory must be able to leave Belgian territory as quickly as possible.

- Means
 - As a rule, persons in transit through Belgian territory use public transport (including taxis) to travel to their destination.
 - If public transport/taxi is no longer an option, persons in transit through Belgian territory can be picked up by another person or authority (possibly from abroad) to leave Belgian territory immediately after pick-up.
 - During transport through Belgian territory, at most the social distancing measures must be observed. If the transport is being organised by the employer, the social distancing measures must be observed.
 - As a rule, road journeys cannot stop on Belgian territory.
 - If the journey is by train, a minimum number of connections and the shortest travel route must be ensured.

- Documents
 - Persons in transit through Belgian territory must be in possession of:
 - An identity document and/or passport.
 - Persons picking up another person in transit through Belgian territory must be in possession of:
 - An identity document and/or passport; and
 - Credible proof that confirms the necessity of the trip.

B.3. Foreign nationals staying temporarily in Belgium

B.3.1 Frontier workers

- Principle

The generally principle is that when performing their professional activities, both in essential and non-essential sectors, frontier workers must be able to enter and leave Belgian territory smoothly to reach their destination.

- Means
 - The person's own choice of means of transport.
 - During transport through Belgian territory, at most the social distancing measures must be observed.

- Documents

Frontier workers must be in possession of:

- An identity document and/or passport; and
- A certificate from the employer is strongly recommended;
- And for the work-related journeys of employees in vital professions/crucial sectors, a paper vignette is used bilaterally between Belgium and the Netherlands.

B.3.2. Border crossings for medical reasons and other emergency services

- Principle

The general principle is that the emergency services are free to cross the border and are not subject to any form of control.

Urgent medical assistance and vital medical treatments may be continued, but no new treatments may be started.

- Means

- The person's own choice of means of transport.
- With specific means of transport (e.g. ambulance, fire truck, etc.).

- Documents

- For acute medical assistance on Belgian territory, a declaration of hospitalisation from the receiving hospital is required.
- A medical certificate is required for the continuation of vital medical treatment.

B.3.3. Other professional essential travel to Belgium with limited frequency

- Principle

The general principle is that all essential professional travel is permitted.

- Means

The person's own choice of means of transport.

- Documents

These persons must be in possession of:

- An identity document and/or passport;
- An employer's certificate; or
- A company document (e.g. proof of self-employed status).

B.3.4. Other essential journeys to Belgium

- Principle

The general principle is that assistance and care for the elderly, minors, vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities; co-parenting; care for animals; executing deeds; attending funerals/cremations in intimate circle; and attending civil/religious weddings in intimate circle is allowed.

- Means

The person's own choice of means of transport.

- Documents

These persons must be in possession of:

- An identity document and/or passport; and
- Credible proof to justify the essential journey.

2. Outgoing traffic from Belgium

- Principle

The general principle is that any non-essential travel abroad is prohibited.

On Belgian territory, the measures included in the Ministerial Order of 23 March 2020 are currently in force.

- Application of the principle of essential travel

- The following journeys are currently being resumed as essential reasons to travel abroad:
 - Journeys abroad in the context of professional activities, including commuting;
 - Journeys to continue medical care;
 - Journeys to provide assistance or care to an elderly person, minor, disabled or vulnerable person;
 - Journeys to take care of animals;
 - Journeys in the context of co-parenting;
 - Journeys to pick up any person with Belgian nationality with or without their main residence in Belgium, long-term residents in Belgium and persons with legal residence in Belgium, from abroad and bring them back to Belgium;

- Journeys to take family members abroad so they can carry out their activities for essential reasons;
 - Journeys of Belgian nationals to their main residence abroad. Journeys to a second residence abroad are excluded in this regard;
 - Journeys in the context of the execution of a deed (if necessary and cannot be done digitally);
 - Journeys in the context of funerals / cremations in intimate circle;
 - Journeys in the context of civil / religious marriages in close circle.
- A specific arrangement applies to visiting a partner who does not live under the same roof but across the national border. For this reason, the mayor can issue a transit permit.
 - In other countries, the respective national regulations and any additional measures must be respected.
 - In accordance with the regulations in force in the country of destination, the necessary documentation must be prepared before departure.
 - From the moment of return, the principles set out in point 1 apply.
 - Documents

These persons must be in possession of:

 - An identity document and/or passport; and
 - Credible proof for making the essential journey.