Procedures for travellers crossing the borders of the Republic of Croatia – health monitoring of travellers

Version 23, July 26, 2021

Based on the Decision on temporary bans and restrictions at border crossings in the Republic of Croatia, rendered by the Civil Protection Directorate of the Republic of Croatia on July 23rd, 2021, with the purpose of reducing the risk of imported cases and spread of COVID-19, here are the guidelines for travellers who are allowed entry into Croatia pursuant to the Decision:

- Pursuant to the Decision, at Croatian border crossings travellers must present a negative molecular (PCR) SARS-CoV-2 test, taken within the past 72 hours, or a rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen test (RAT) from the Common list of rapid antigen tests recognised by the EU Member States and published by the European Commission, taken within the past 48 hours. Travellers who do not have this test shall be registered by the border police on the digital platform for monitoring COVID-19 and imposed with mandatory quarantine (self-isolation). Thereafter, they shall be instructed to take the shortest route to their destination, where they shall remain in quarantine until obtaining a negative test result. They shall be provided with information on testing sites and contacts, with an e-mail address where to send their test results, if they wish to get tested in order to reduce their quarantine period. Mandatory quarantine period is ten days, or until presenting a negative PCR or RAT test result.

- Persons who wish to get tested need to schedule a PCR or RAT test according to their location of quarantine. Leaving their home/accommodation to get tested during quarantine is justified. On their way to the testing site and back, they are required to wear a face mask, disinfect their hands before leaving their home/accommodation and keep the prescribed distance from others at all times when outside of their home/accommodation.

- Negative PCR or RAT test result shall be sent to the e-mail address indicated on the leaflet issued by the border police. Based on the test result, the police shall revoke (deactivate) mandatory self-isolation on the designated digital platform.

- In the case of a SARS-CoV-2 positive PCR or RAT test result, or if a person develops symptoms of the disease during quarantine, he or she needs to inform their doctor by telephone (persons who do not have a designated doctor in Croatia and are staying in a hotel or private accommodation, need to notify the accommodation owner/manager, who will subsequently connect them with a healthcare facility – an epidemiologist assigned to the area and/or healthcare practice designated for tourists).

- Persons who, for some reason, are unable to take a PCR or RAT test within ten days must stay in quarantine, which will automatically expire ten days after entry into Croatia.

- Persons who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past nine months are exempt from submitting a negative PCR or RAT test and quarantine. As proof of recovery, they need to submit a positive PCR or antigen test result, not older than 270 days and older than 11 days from the date of arrival at the border crossing point, or a medical certificate of recovery.

- Persons vaccinated within the past 270 days with the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine administered in the EU Member States (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Gamaleya, Sinopharm) as a part of full vaccination consisting of two doses, are exempt from submitting
a negative PCR or RAT test and quarantine after presenting the certificate of the received doses of said vaccines.

- Persons vaccinated with one dose of Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccine over 14 days ago and less than 270 days ago, are exempt from submitting a negative PCR or RAT test and quarantine after presenting the certificate of vaccination.
- For persons who have recovered from COVID-19 and received one vaccine dose within eight months after the onset of the disease, when the vaccine was administered less than 270 days ago, and who have a certificate of recovery and vaccination with one dose, the exemption from submitting a negative PCR/RAT test or quarantine shall be extended until the end of nine months after vaccination.
- Persons vaccinated with the Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or Gamaleya vaccine are allowed entry into the Republic of Croatia in the period of 22 to 42 days from receiving the first dose of the Pfizer, Moderna or Gamaleya vaccine, or 22 to 84 days from receiving the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.
- Children aged twelve or younger, who travel with their parents/guardians, are exempt from submitting a negative test result and quarantine if their parents/guardians have a negative PCR or RAT test result or certificate of recovery from COVID-19 or vaccination.

Based on the Decision on temporary bans and restrictions at border crossings in the Republic of Croatia rendered by the Civil Protection Directorate, entry requirements for travellers from countries subject to special epidemiological measures, depending on the categorisation of the state in question, include: 1) A negative PCR test result obtained within the past 72 hours and 14-day quarantine/self-isolation; or 2) A negative PCR/RAT test result at entry into Croatia, regardless to vaccination status and recovery from COVID-19.

Travellers from countries for which quarantine is required can shorten their quarantine/self-isolation period by testing negative after a PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 at an authorised facility. The test can be taken after Day seven of self-isolation, at the traveller’s expense. Documentation on recovery and vaccination shall not constitute an exemption from providing a negative PCR test and quarantine for travellers arriving from said countries. The list of countries from the above two categories, subject to special epidemiological measures, can be found on the website of the Croatian Institute of Public Health: https://www.hzjz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Popis-dr%C5%BEava-za-koe-se-pri-dolasku-u-Republiku-Hrvatsku-primjenjuju-posebne-epidemiolo%C5%A1ke-mjere-prilikom-prelaska-granice.pdf