

Guidelines for border traffic

Updated 8.4.2020

With regard to traffic at internal borders, which means between Finland and another Schengen country, the Finnish border authorities permit the following:

1. Return to Finland

- Finnish nationals and their family members
- Nationals of EU and Schengen countries residing in Finland and their family members
- Third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit

2. Return traffic to other EU and Schengen countries or via them

- Nationals of other EU and Schengen countries and their family members
- Third-country nationals residing in another EU or Schengen country with a residence permit

3. Essential commuter travel and other essential travel

- Health and rescue personnel (including first aid) and elderly care professionals
- Goods transport and logistics personnel
- Employees who, based on a permanent employment contract, work in the intrinsic travel-to-work area on the border with Sweden or Norway
- Diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers carrying out their duties
- Persons travelling for imperative family reasons (e.g. right of access, funeral)
- Persons in need of international protection or who are travelling for other humanitarian reasons
- Other essential and justified travel, such as work that is important for the functioning of society or security of supply, requires work tasks to be carried out by persons from another country, and cannot tolerate delay

During their stay in Finland, all persons arriving in Finland across internal borders (excluding emergency medical care and rescue services personnel and transport and logistics personnel) are obliged to follow the instructions issued by the Finnish health authorities and remain quarantined for 14 days from the time of their most recent arrival in Finland.

Goods transport and logistics personnel are provided with instructions from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on measures to reduce the risk of infection that should be adhered to while carrying out their work.

With regard to traffic at external borders, which means between Finland and a non-Schengen country, the Finnish border authorities permit the following:

1. Return to Finland

- Finnish nationals and their family members
- Nationals of EU and Schengen countries residing in Finland and their family members
- Third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit

2. Return traffic to other EU and Schengen countries or via them

- Nationals of other EU and Schengen countries and their family members
- Third-country nationals residing in another EU or Schengen country with a residence permit

3. Removal of a third-country national from the country

4. Essential travel

- Health and rescue personnel (including first aid) and elderly care professionals
- Goods transport and logistics personnel
- Diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers carrying out their duties
- Passengers travelling for imperative family reasons
- Persons in need of international protection or who are travelling for other humanitarian reasons
- Other essential and justified travel, such as work that is important for the functioning of society or security of supply, requires work tasks to be carried out by persons from another country, and cannot tolerate delay

During their stay in Finland, all persons arriving in Finland across external borders (excluding emergency medical care and rescue services personnel and transport and logistics personnel) are obliged to follow the instructions issued by the Finnish health authorities and remain quarantined for 14 days from the time of their most recent arrival in Finland.

Goods transport and logistics personnel are provided with instructions from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on measures to reduce the risk of infection that should be adhered to while carrying out their work.

Essential commuter travel at the borders with Norway and Sweden

Essential commuter travel also includes employees who, based on a permanent employment contract, work in the intrinsic travel-to-work area on the border with Sweden or Norway.

According to the operating model of the border check authorities that will enter into force on 8 April 2020, a person crossing the border with Sweden and Norway must present an employer's certificate to the border check authority regarding the necessity of crossing the border for work reasons.

In their freely worded written statement, the employer must explain why the employee's commuter travel in the intrinsic travel-to-work area on the border with Sweden or Norway it is essential. Clear written documentation makes crossing the border easier.

Essential border crossings by emergency medical and rescue personnel or goods transport and logistics personnel are not subject to the requirement to remain for 14 days in conditions corresponding to quarantine.

Finns working on the Swedish or Norwegian side of the border should remain in quarantine conditions when they are in Finland. Employees coming to Finland from Sweden or Norway should comply with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare's guidelines on reducing the risk of infection and remain where possible in conditions corresponding to quarantine both when they are in Finland and when they are at home.

Other essential travel at internal and external borders

Other essential travel refers to border traffic which is related to work that is important for the functioning of society or security of supply, requires work tasks to be carried out by persons from another country, and cannot tolerate delay.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has overseen the process of defining the types of work that are important for the functioning of society or security of supply and cannot tolerate delay. This list of critical tasks does not constitute an advance decision granting entry into the country. The employer must use a separate form to justify why the work of the employee coming to Finland is critical and cannot tolerate delay. The Employer fills in the form entitled 'Employer's explanation of the employee's need to enter the country during the state of emergency' and gives it to the employee. In addition to the other documents required for border crossing, the employee seeking to enter Finland presents this form at the border check.

A third-country national with the above form who is arriving to carry out critical work tasks in the seasonal work sector (agricultural sector, forest sector) can enter the country by presenting a seasonal work certificate, seasonal work visa or seasonal residence permit.

The border control authority will take into account the list of critical tasks and the employer's explanation when assessing whether the case qualifies as essential travel. Decisions as to what is essential travel are made by the border control authority at the particular border crossing point in

question, based on the instructions issued by the Finnish Border Guard and case-by-case consideration.

For a list of work tasks that are deemed acute or critical from the perspective of security of supply and the operation of particular sectors, see the link below: https://tem.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/linjaus-valttamattomien-tyotehtavien-maahantulosta-valmistunut

Material distributed to those crossing the border

The quarantine guidelines of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare are distributed to all persons arriving in the country.

In addition, goods transport and logistics personnel are issued with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare's instructions for heavy goods traffic, which explain how to reduce the risk of infection.

Cooperation with health authorities at border crossing points

With the exception of goods transport and logistics personnel, all passengers will receive a form for committing to a self-enforced quarantine.

All passengers that are either showing symptoms or facing difficulties with arranging quarantine conditions for themselves are directed to the health care point. The others are permitted to continue their journey in accordance with the instructions they have received and commence their home quarantine.

At border crossing points where the health authorities are not present, persons with symptoms are immediately directed to the health care service in the locally agreed manner.

In addition, goods transport and logistics personnel are informed that they should follow the instructions of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on how to reduce the risk of infection and remain in conditions equivalent to quarantine.

THL: Instructions for passengers arriving in Finland:

New coronavirus – COVID-19

Instructions for passengers arriving in Finland

Avoid close contact with others for 14 days

All Finnish citizens and permanent residents who are returning to Finland from another country are required to remain in conditions equivalent to quarantine for 14 days. They should avoid close contact with other people and avoid leaving their home as much as possible.

When arriving from abroad, arrange a period of absence of 14 days from your workplace, place of study and/or day care.

To avoid close contact, a distance of one metre from other people must be maintained. Increasing one's attention to hand hygiene is also important.

If you develop serious respiratory tract infection symptoms such as shortness of breath, or if your general state of health drops significantly, immediately contact your local healthcare provider by phone.

Protect yourself and your family from coronavirus

Maintain good hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap carefully and frequently.
- Use alcohol-based handrub if washing your hands is not an option.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cough and sneeze into either your sleeve or a disposable tissue. Immediately put the used tissue in the rubbish bin.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not into your hands.

Avoid close contact with others

- Don't shake hands.
- Keep 1–2 metres away from other people at all times.

Protect your loved ones

- Do not visit hospitals or health care facilities.
- Avoid visiting elderly people or people who are chronically ill. If the visit is essential, maintain good hand hygiene and coughing hygiene.

Contact details

The national helpline can answer general questions regarding coronavirus in Finnish, Swedish and English. The helpline does not offer health advice.

0295 535 535 (normal operator-specific fee)

Further information

Read more about coronavirus on the website of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare.

thl.fi

