



COVID 19 ACTIVE INFECTION DIAGNOSTIC TEST (AIDT) REQUIREMENT FOR TRAVELLERS COMING TO SPAIN FROM HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q & A)

1. Which travellers will be required to submit/present a negative AIDT?

It will be required to all passengers coming from a high-risk country or area (*referred to the country/area where their journey started in*) with a Spanish port or airport as their final destination, regardless their nationality or usual residence. **From December 10, 2020, children under 6 years of age are not subject to the obligation to submit/present a negative AIDT ([Resolution of December 9, 2020, of the General Directorate of Public Health](#)).**

2. What is an Active Infection Diagnostic Test (AIDT)?

An AIDT is a diagnostic test performed on an individual to detect the presence of active infection by SARS-CoV-2.

3. Which AIDT will I be required to submit/present upon arrival in Spain?

The required SARS-CoV-2 AIDT will be the **PCR (COVID-19 RT-PCR)** and other molecular viral RNA detection techniques with equivalent reliability for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. In this regard, **Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA) and Reverse Transcriptase Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) tests are also accepted.** Other diagnostic tests such as rapid serology tests, rapid antigen detection tests or high performance serological tests (ELISA, CLIA, ECLIA) will not be admissible, as long as their harmonized use is not accepted across the European Union.

4. How long in advance should I have my AIDT done?

The AIDT should be carried out within 72 hours prior to your arrival in Spain.

5. Which countries or areas are considered high-risk?

The list of high-risk countries and areas will be published every fifteen days on the Ministerio de Sanidad website (www.mscbs.gob.es) and on the Spain Travel Health website (www.spth.gob.es). Any change in the list of affected territories will become effective from seven days after its publication.

Each published list of high-risk countries or areas will clearly indicate the effective dates.



- 6. Must travel agencies, tour operators, air or passenger ship companies or any other agent commercializing tickets solely or as a part of a package tour inform me of the requirement of a negative AIDT test upon arrival in Spain?**

Travel agencies, tour operators, air or passenger ship companies or any other agent commercializing tickets solely or as a part of a package tour must inform their passengers, at the beginning of the ticket selling process with destination to Spain, as well as during the process of emission of the boarding pass, about the obligation of submitting/presenting the Health Control Form at the destination port or airport. Likewise, if the country or area of origin is classified as high-risk, they must inform about the obligation of having a negative SARS-Cov-2 AIDT done within 72 hours prior to arrival.

- 7. Why are the travellers with destination Spain required to submit a negative AIDT done within 72 hours prior to arrival?**

Since within the ambit of the European Union there have been adopted criteria and the common framework about the measures to impose on passengers coming from high-risk areas by means of the European Union Council Recommendation 2020/1475, on October 13th 2020, about a coordinate approach to the restriction of free circulation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking into account the evolution of the pandemic, it has been considered adequate to adopt this measure, which complements the rest of actions carried out in health controls upon international travellers arrival.

- 8. Which accreditation document of the AIDT will I be required to present upon arrival?**

During their journey, passengers must carry along the document that proves that an AIDT with a negative result has been done. The document must be original, written in **Spanish, English, French or Deutsch** in paper or electronic format, and contain at least name and surname of the passenger, Personal Identity Card or passport number, date of test performance, identification and contact information of the laboratory that performs the test, technique used and a negative test result. The identity document in the Health Control Form must be the same on the AIDT certificate. If it is not possible to obtain it in these languages, the certificate or supporting document must be accompanied by a translation into Spanish, carried out by an official body.

- 9. If I test negative in my AIDT am I exempt from going through the border health controls?**

All international travellers must go through health controls at points of entry. In the case of travellers coming from high-risk countries or areas, they also must be in possession of a negative AIDT performed within 72 hours prior to arrival in Spain.

- 10. If I come to Spain by road or train must I go through Health Controls or present an AIDT upon arrival?**

Health controls at points of entry apply to all travellers coming to Spain by air or sea, not by land.



11. If I arrive in Spain while being in transit to a final destination in another country, must I present an AIDT upon arrival in Spain?

If the transit in Spain is carried out without leaving the international zone, you will not be required to present an AIDT. If the transit involves passing through border control centres and therefore entry into Spanish territory, you must present the boarding pass or ticket for the next flight(s) of the connection to demonstrate that the final destination is international. The transit must last less than 24 hours and you cannot leave the airport.

12. Does this requirement apply to crew members on duty?

The new regulation only applies to passengers coming from a high-risk country or area (referred to the country/area where their journey started in), whose final destination be a Spanish port or airport, regardless their nationality or usual residence.

13. If I am vaccinated against COVID19, do I have to present a AIDT upon my arrival in Spain?

Yes. At the present time and taking into account the available scientific evidence, the fact of having received vaccination against COVID-19 does not exempt from the presentation of the AIDT.

14. What happens if I am not able to fill in the Health Control Form online and therefore I do not have a QR code?

Exceptionally, those passengers who were not able to fill in the Health Control Form online will be allowed to present it in paper format before boarding, always along with the accreditation document of the AIDT.

15. What are the legal grounds to require the travellers with destination Spain to present a PCR?

Health controls for travellers arriving in Spain are mandatory and based on the [Resolution on November 11th 2020 of the General Directorate of Public Health](#), relative to health controls at points of entry in Spain, enacted under the sixth additional provision of the [Royal Decree-Law 23/2020, June 13th](#), in which measures in the matter of energy and others were approved for economic reactivation.

16. Where and how should I present the certificate of my AIDT?

If you are coming from a high-risk zone, upon arrival in Spain health control staff may request the presentation of the accreditation document of a negative AIDT.

17. Who is going to check whether I have that document?

The certificate will always be assessed by health staff located at the arrival airport checkpoints.



18. Which travellers will get tested at the entry point in Spain?

Those passengers coming from a high-risk country or area who do not present a negative AIDT performed within 72 hours prior to arrival will get tested with the AIDT decided by the Foreign Health services.

In addition, those passengers suspected of having COVID-19 after temperature, visual or document controls will also get an AIDT.

19. What happens if, having declared that I had it, I do not present the accreditation document of my negative AIDT upon arrival in Spain?

You will get tested. Furthermore, you will be breaching a Spanish entry health requirement and will have committed forgery. Hence, the Title VI of the Public Health General Law 33/2011, October 4th will be applicable, referring to infringements and sanctions.

20. Which infringement do I face if, having declared the possession of a negative COVID-19 AIDT test certificate in the Health Control Form, I do not present the accreditation document upon arrival in Spain?

The Public Health General Law 33/2011, October 4th, ranks breaking the health rules in force as a minor infringement if the repercussions on population health have been zero or little, and as a severe or very severe infringement if there is harm to health.

Minor infringements will result in fines up to 3000 euros. Severe infringements will result in fines from 3001 up to 60000 euros.

21. Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 diagnostic tests taken in Spain?

If I get tested with an AIDT at the point of entry because I am suspected of having COVID-19 after health controls, the cost of the test will be paid by the State.

Nevertheless, if the tests are performed because of the absence of a mandatory AIDT, this will be a breach of the rule, and the Title VI of the Law 33/2011, October 4th, referring to infringements and sanctions, will be applicable.

22. How long does the Rapid Antigen Test performed at points of entry take?

The result of the AIDT at the points of entry will be available in approximately an hour after the health control.

23. What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Spain?



If you test positive for SARS-Cov-2 in an AIDT upon arrival, the health alert protocols established in coordination with regional (Comunidades Autónomas) health authorities will be activated, in order to take you to a medical centre or any other centre designated for your medical attention.

24. What happens if I test negative for COVID-19 upon arrival in Spain?

In that case you will be able to resume your journey normally, unless any other medical reasons warrant your referral to a medical centre.

25. Can I refuse to get tested upon arrival in Spain?

No. Health controls upon arrival are mandatory for all passengers coming to Spain by air or sea. The infringement of this rule will result in the corresponding sanction. Furthermore, according to the Rule INT/1006/2020, entry will be denied to any third country national not complying with the health control requirements established for COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health, after evaluation by health authorities.

26. What happens if, due to medical reasons, I cannot get tested for COVID-19?

At the present time, no medical exemptions are contemplated to justify not receiving an AIDT. Nevertheless, health staff at points of entry could evaluate each case.

27. I have a persistently positive PCR after having recovered from COVID-19. Can I travel to Spain?

You can travel to Spain with a persistently positive PCR after having recovered from COVID-19, as long as the medical services consider the disease as resolved. To do this, you must provide the following documents:

- Certificate of the PCR result, carried out in the 72 hours prior to your arrival
- Medical report in which it is determined that the SARS-CoV-2 disease is resolved, although a positive PCR persists. This report must be written in Spanish or English and must contain the following sentence:

"MR / MRS XXXXXXXX CAN TRAVEL BY PLANE AS HE / SHE DOESN'T TRANSMIT COVID-19 IN SPITE OF HIS / HER POSITIVE PCR"

"DON/DÑA XXXXXXXX PUEDE VIAJAR EN AVION, AL NO SER CONTAGIOSO/A, A PESAR DE PRESENTAR UNA PCR POSITIVA DE COVID-19"