



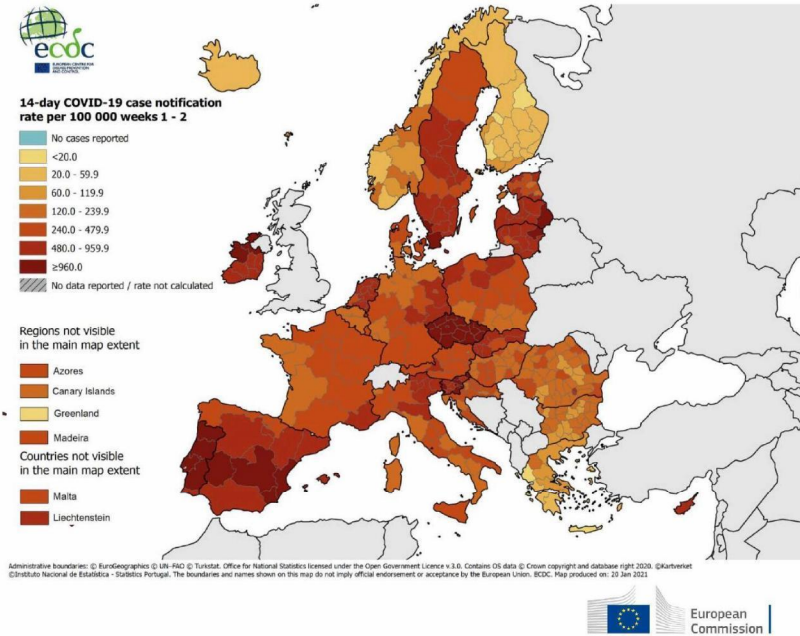
# Coordination of travel restrictions within the EU in view of new variants and high infection numbers

Commission Proposal to amended Council Recommendation  
2020/1475

*IPCR Working-level Roundtable, 25 January 2021*

## Background

- High level of community transmission across most of EU
- More transmissible new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- Need to maintain supply chains, notably for vaccine delivery



## Guidance from Leaders on 21 January 2021

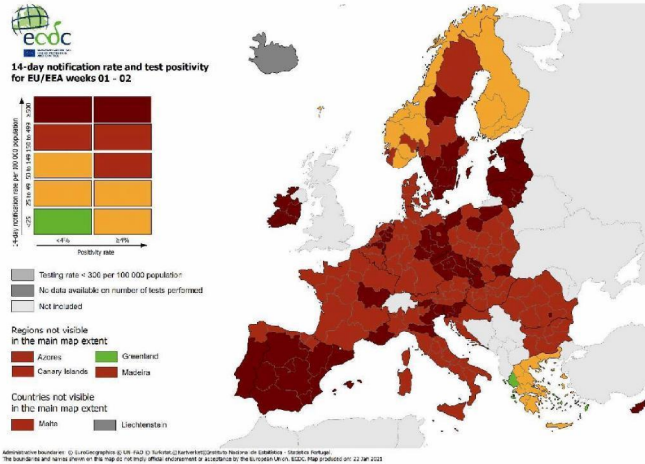
- Leaders noted the seriousness of the situation especially in the light of the new **variants**. They are determined to limit the spread of the virus by adopting **similar measures among the Member states**. In this context, increasing our sequencing capacity is key.
- **Borders need to stay open to ensure the functioning of the Single market**, including the flow of essential goods and services. No indiscriminate travel bans should be imposed.
- However, **measures restricting non-essential travel in the EU may be needed** to contain the spread of the virus.
- While upholding its principles, the Council may **need to review its recommendations** on intra-EU travel and non-essential travels into the EU in light of the risks posed by the new virus variants.

## Commission Proposal to amend Council Recommendation 2020/1475 – key points

- **'Dark red'** areas introduced to show where virus is circulating at very high levels, possibly due to more infectious variants of concern (VOC).
- MS should **strongly discourage** all non-essential travel to/from 'dark red' areas, discourage to/from 'red' areas to reduce travel-related transmissions.
- **Pre-departure test and quarantine after arrival** recommended for 'dark red' areas.
- Exceptions for essential travellers, notably **transport workers**.
- Special provision for **border residents** crossing frequently crossing border

## Dark red as new colour in common map

### Simulation:



- **Dark red**, if notification rate  $\geq 500$
- To show where virus circulates at very high levels
- As VOC increase transmissibility, high numbers proxy for prevalence
- We considered mapping VOC explicitly but concluded that insufficient data available to do so
- However, VOC new qualitative criterion in point 13(e)

## Additions to measures for travellers from risk areas

- Non-essential travel should be
  - a) **strongly discouraged** to/from 'dark red' areas
  - b) **discouraged** to/from 'red' areas
- For '**orange**'/'**red**' areas – more emphasis on **pre-departure tests**, for MS to decide whether PCR or RAT test
- For '**dark red**' areas – traveller should do **pre-departure test and quarantine** in line with HSC Rec (shortened if combined with test)
- For '**dark red**' areas – MS should strengthen non-pharmaceutical interventions, contact tracing, and sequencing of tests to control VOCs
- Residents should be able to do test **after arrival** instead

## Exceptions for essential travellers

- No change to existing list in point 19, and exceptions when coming from 'orange', 'red' or 'grey' areas.
- When coming from '**dark red**' areas: comply with test and quarantine requirements unless there is a **disproportionate impact on essential function** (e.g. because task cannot be postponed).
- By derogation, **no quarantine for transport workers while exercising**, and **in principle no test** (given limited exposure to general population).
- Where transport workers are nevertheless required to do a test – **RAT**, which should not lead to transport or supply chain disruptions.

## Exceptions for border residents

- No quarantine for **border residents** travelling across the border daily/frequently for the purposes of work, business, education, family, medical care or caregiving.
- **Frequency** of any **testing requirements** to be proportionate.
- Where the **epidemiological situation** on both sides of the border is **comparable**, **no travel-related testing requirement** should be imposed.
- Border residents could be required to provide **documentary evidence** or submit a **declaration** to this effect.

# Thank you

## Contacts:

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