



Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 tests for travelers

October 14th 2021

Which COVID-19 tests does the Travel Clinic use?

The Travel Clinic uses the COVID-19 PCR test and the serological test.

What does the COVID-19 PCR test examine?

The COVID-19 PCR test is used to examine whether you are currently contaminated with COVID-19.

What does the serological test examine?

The serological test is used to examine whether you have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in your blood. This shows that you have already gone through infection with COVID-19. In the coming months, more and more people will receive the vaccination. If you take the serological test after an infection with COVID-19, it will give a positive result. This indicates that you were vaccinated successfully.

For who are these tests intended?

The tests we provide are only intended for people without any symptoms.

Do you have a test planned with us and do you develop symptoms such as a fever, a cough, a sore throat, a runny nose or sudden loss of taste or smell? Cancel your appointment with us (phone 010-704 5050) and contact the [GGD](#).

For who are these tests not intended?

If you suffer from symptoms matching a COVID-19 infection (a fever, a cough, a sore throat, a runny nose or sudden loss of taste or smell) you cannot be tested by the Travel Clinic. You fall under the national testing policy and need to contact the [GGD](#).

Do you also test children?

We do the serological test from the age of 18. We do the PCR test for children of all ages. We reserve a longer time slot for children and of course you as the parent can be present to make your

child feel comfortable. For a PCR-test we do not use the mid-nasal COVID-19 test used by the GGD. This is because this test is less sensitive.

How do the COVID-19 tests work?

Testing is done at the Travel Clinic Erasmus MC, Zimmermanweg 7 in Rotterdam.

For the PCR-test our nurse uses a cotton bud to swab the nose and throat. The material is then sent to the laboratory where it is examined for the presence of the COVID-19 virus. If you test negative you will receive your travel statement by secure email within 48 hours. If your test is taken before 12:00 am, you will receive the results within 24 hours. If you test positive we are obligated to inform the GGD. They will then contact you regarding the procedures to follow.

For the serological test our nurse draws a vial of blood. The blood is examined in the laboratory for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. If antibodies are found it means you have gone through an infection with COVID-19 or have been successfully vaccinated. You will receive the results and a travel statement via secure email within 1 to 2 working days.

Please note: We have good agreements with our laboratory about lead times. In rare cases it can happen that the results arrive late. For instance in case of a technical problem in the lab or if the result is borderline (neither positive nor negative). In this case the sample has to be reanalyzed. We are not liable for any delay. We will inform you as soon as possible and will do everything we can to obtain the test result.

What does it cost to be tested?

The PCR-test costs 95 euros, the serological test is 60 euros. If both tests are necessary and are done on the same day, you pay 150 euro. You will be asked to pay by PIN directly after the test.

On which days can I be tested?

COVID-19 tests are done by appointment. We are open from Monday to Friday from 8.45 am till 4.30 pm. You can make an appointment by phoning 010-704 5050 (Mon-Fri 8.30 am - 5 pm).

What information do you need to make an appointment?

When making an appointment, please have the cellphone numbers and email addresses to hand for all the people for whom you are making the appointment. This information is needed in order to send out the travel statement(s).

What do I bring to the appointment?

When you come for the appointment, bring the passport or ID-card with which you will be traveling. The document number must be listed on the travel statement. Without this document number, the travel statement is invalid and the airline or country of destination can refuse to admit you.

How long will it take until I receive the test result?

You will receive the results of the PCR-test by email within 48 hours. If your test is taken before 12:00 am, you will receive the results within 24 hours.

Serological tests are analyzed daily. This means you will receive the results within 1 or 2 working days.

Are you having both tests done? You will receive two separate mails.

Please note: We have good agreements with our laboratory about lead times. In rare cases it can happen that the results arrive late. For instance in case of a technical problem in the lab or if the result is borderline (neither positive nor negative). In this case the sample has to be reanalyzed. We are not liable for any delay. We will inform you as soon as possible and will do everything we can to obtain the test result.

What information is included in the travel statement?

The statement(s) include the following information in Dutch and English:

- Your name as stated on the passport or ID-card with which you are traveling
- The document number of the passport or ID-card with which you are traveling
- The date on which the test took place
- That you have tested negative (PCR-test)
- That you have tested positive or negative (serological test)

How long in advance do I need to be tested?

This depends on the demands made by your country of destination. You need to check this yourself on www.wijsopreis.nl (in Dutch).

How will I receive the statement(s)?

You will receive the statement(s) by secure email. In order to open this email, you need a code that you will receive from us via text message. If you do not own a cellphone, it is also possible to pick the statement(s) up at the Travel Clinic, or to have them sent to you by mail. Do bear in mind that sending the statement(s) by mail will mean it takes longer for you to receive them.

Please note: Sometimes the email will go into your Unwanted folder. This depends on your email program. Always make sure you check this folder too when you are expecting a statement.

What is a secure email?

Data privacy is very important. This is why we use a secure email to email you the test results and the travel statement(s). The message can not be read directly in your inbox. You need a code which you will receive from us via text message.

Please note: Sometimes the email will go into your Unwanted folder. This depends on your email program. Always make sure you check this folder too when you are expecting a statement.

What if the PCR-test is positive and I have COVID-19?

If the test comes back positive, we will inform you by phone. We are also obligated to report any positive result to the GGD so they can contact you for further testing and for advice on home isolation.

I have already had a negative test result from a PCR-test at the Travel Clinic Erasmus MC. Can I still get a travel statement?

Unfortunately you can not, because a past test does not indicate your current infection status.

For which countries do I need a negative COVID-19 test result?

Different countries have different guidelines. Whether you need a COVID-19 test in order to travel, and if so which one, can be found on www.wijsopreis.nl (in Dutch).

Do all countries require the same COVID-19 test?

No. Some countries only want to know if you are **currently contaminated** with COVID-19. For this they require a COVID-19 PCR test. Other countries also require a serological test. This test shows if you have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in your body, indicating that you have **already gone through** the infection or have been vaccinated successfully. Go to www.wijsopreis.nl (in Dutch) to check which test is necessary for your trip.

Can I drop in?

We can only give you a COVID-19 test by appointment. We are open from Monday to Friday from 8.45 am till 4.30 pm. You can make an appointment by phoning 010-704 5050 (Mon-Fri 8.30 am - 5 pm).