



**Protocol and Host Country Affairs Department**  
**DPG-Min-BuZa.2021.6488-13**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands and has the honour to inform them as follows.

**Travel restrictions**

The Ministry has informed diplomatic missions and International Organisations via various Notes Verbales that persons in possession of a diplomatic identification card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or holders of a foreign diplomatic passport are exempt from a number of COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Persons in possession of either of these documents:

- are exempt from entry restrictions  
<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/exemptions-to-the-entry-ban>;
- may be declared exempt from the negative PCR-test requirement and negative rapid-test requirement when travelling to the Netherlands from a high-risk area  
<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/mandatory-negative-test-results-and-declaration>
- are permitted to temporarily interrupt their self-isolation period upon arrival in the Netherlands for official purposes  
<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine/exemptions>.

The Ministry emphasizes once again that these exemptions constitute an exceptional measure intended to facilitate diplomatic missions and International Organisations to continue official travel which is essential to the work of the organisation/mission. These exemptions should therefore only be used by staff members who urgently need to travel for official purposes and whose trip cannot be postponed to a later date. Exemptions are not intended to facilitate leisure trips or family visits.

In the interest of public health, staff members whose travels cannot be postponed and who must travel are urgently requested to get themselves tested (regular PCR-test and rapid-test) before returning to the Netherlands and to observe the self-isolation period of 10 days upon arrival, despite the availability of exemptions.

Dutch embassies in high-risk areas have mapped out PCR-test and rapid-test facilities in order to inform travellers where they can get tested before their flight to the Netherlands. This information can be accessed via the following website:  
[www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/documents/frequently-asked-questions/where-can-i-get-a-pcr-or-rapid-test-outside-the-netherlands](http://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/documents/frequently-asked-questions/where-can-i-get-a-pcr-or-rapid-test-outside-the-netherlands).

**Adherence to COVID-19 measures**

COVID-19 is an exceptional challenge to (inter)national public health, which necessitates not only government measures, but a strong sense of responsibility among all individuals and organisations to contribute as much as possible to limiting the spreading of the virus.

In light of the above, it has come to the attention of the Ministry that the emergency exemptions provided by the Dutch government to staff members of diplomatic missions

and International Organisations are not always used with the manner of discretion and restraint as has been asked by the Ministry.

The Ministry reemphasizes that exemptions have been provided in order to facilitate movements that are urgently necessary for the functioning of diplomatic missions and International Organisations. **If exemptions are used without the manner of discretion and restraint described above, there is a risk that in the interest of public health, exemptions can no longer be continued.**

The Ministry therefore implores diplomatic missions and International Organisations once again to limit the travel of their staff as much as possible. If staff must travel, diplomatic missions and International Organisations are requested to urge them to get themselves tested before travelling to the Netherlands and to self-isolate upon return as much as possible.

The Ministry asks all diplomatic missions and International Organisations to disseminate this message widely amongst their staff members.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 25 February 2021

**To all diplomatic missions and International Organisations in the Netherlands**