The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations based in Belgium and has the honour of provide them with clarifications regarding the latest state of play on the COVID-19 measures.

The National Security Council met on August 20th 2020 in order to discuss the further measures. These measures are described in the Prime Minister's press release of August 20th 2020 and have an influence on the aspects previously mentioned in the "COVID-19/11" note of 17 July 2020 and the "COVID-19/12" note of 29 July 2020 send by the Protocol Directorate: the organization of events, health measures and travel.

1. The organization of events and other basic rules.

- **Wearing a mask** from the age of 12 also is still compulsory outdoors, in high-traffic areas designated locally by the municipal authorities (for example: shopping streets, markets, etc.) or even throughout the territory of towns or municipalities.
- **Teleworking** remains the norm. International organizations and diplomatic missions are encouraged to apply it as much as possible, taking into account their essential tasks and their organizational constraints.
- Gatherings are limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- **Events are allowed, but under strict conditions.** Every visitor older than 12 years participating in an event is required to cover their mouth and nose with a mouth mask. The organizer is responsible for the strict observance of hygiene measures and social distance rules. Outdoor activities are encouraged as much as possible; otherwise the room must be sufficiently ventilated. A model risk analysis according to the type of event, as well as the appropriate measures, is available on the website [www.covideventriskmodel.be](http://www.covideventriskmodel.be).

The events are subject to a capacity limit of:

- 100 persons for indoor activities;
- 200 persons for activities organized outdoors.

2. Travel and associated health measures.

- The provisions set out in the notes [COVID-19/11 dd. 17th July](https://www.covideventriskmodel.be) and [COVID-19/12 dd. 29 July](https://www.covideventriskmodel.be) remain applicable.
- In particular, the travel ban to and from countries outside the EU+ remains unchanged. These temporary restrictions do not apply to the categories of persons with an essential function or need within the framework of their function. Within the EU+, the evolution of the red and orange areas should be monitored day by day. To clarify: the orange color code refers to recommendations while the red color code means an obligation.

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1 As a reminder: European Union, United Kingdom, four non-EU Schengen countries (Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and four European micro-states (Andorra, Monaco, Saint-Marino, Holy See).
• National rules and possible additional measures in the country of destination must always be observed.

• In addition, all travelers coming to Belgium, whatever their status, their country of origin or their transportation means, must complete in advance the PLF form: Passenger Locator Form, available online. Exception: people who travel by other means than plane or boat and who stay less than 48 hours in Belgium or who have stayed less than 48 hours outside Belgium.

• The fourteen-day self-containment (quarantine) imposed on travelers coming from countries outside the EU+ or from high-risk zones inside the EU+ (red zones), does not apply to people with an essential function, but only within the context of activities strictly related to their function. Example: a diplomat newly arrived in Belgium is allowed to go to his place of work (unless the mission itself applies stricter measures), but is not allowed to go to the pictures. The quarantine period must be complied with in its entirety, even in the case of a negative COVID-19 test.

   Family members must respect the quarantine.

• Travelers from countries outside the EU+ or from risk areas within the EU+ (red zones) are also expected to have themselves tested for COVID-19. The travel details mentioned on the PLF form upon arrival in Belgium will trigger an SMS or e-mail message requesting to go to a test center. Only tests taken within the Belgian system will be recognized. Visitors who stay in Belgium for less than 48 hours will normally not be contacted.

• Upon the departure of a staff member to a country outside the EU+ and specific zones in lockdown, the mission, as already mentioned in the COVID-19/11 note, must demonstrate the essential character of the travel by means of a verbal note. The copy of this verbal note must be sent to the Protocol Directorate at least 4 working days in advance through the mailbox corona-protocol@diplobel.fed.be.

It is generally advised to observe the officially announced measures and to demonstrate common sense. Everyone has the individual and collective responsibility to respect these principles. Each diplomatic mission or international institution may always decide for itself to take more restrictive measures for their staff or visitors.

The Protocol Directorate of the FPS Foreign Affairs reiterates that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities have the duty to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, in particular the measures taken by the authorities to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Protocol Directorate also recalls that targeted and practical information relating to COVID-19 measures that may have an impact on diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations, is updated and published on its webpage.

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation thanks the diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations established in Belgium for their co-operation, and avails itself of the opportunity to renew them the assurances of its highest consideration.

Done in Brussels on August 26th 2020.

To the diplomatic missions, consular posts
and to international organizations established in Belgium