



European  
Joint  
Support Unit

# BELGIUM GUIDE TO COVID TESTING AND VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

SHAPE





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COVID precautions are likely to be with us for a long time, there will be a continued requirement for testing and multiple ways that you will be required to prove you are vaccinated. In addition there is a strong likelihood that the rules will continue to change, at short notice, and the goal post moving within each and every Country.

This guide has been put together to try and explain the various different routes to follow for providing proof of vaccination certifications, gaining access to testing facilities and how to stay on top of the ever changing rules. Hopefully it will give a little clarity to a very confusing picture.

Further information on International Travel can be found on [EJSU.Net](#). SHAPE SNR has also produced a useful note on travel and access to SHAPE which can be found [here](#).

### **COVID certification.**

Those been vaccinated with a UK vaccination can, using this guide, demonstrate a UK vaccination certificate that is accepted across the EU. [NHS LOGIN](#)

Whilst the UK login can be used throughout Europe, the Belgian COVIDSafe App is worth considering. This will give you more than one way of proving certification but also assist with living in Belgium under COVID precautions and of course travel through Europe.

The Belgian App not only gives access to certification, it will show all test results undertaken the HN and provide Recovery certificates recognised by the HN. There are some useful links to the Reopen EU and the most up to date COVID rules for Belgium. \_

### **HN COVID CERTIFICATES**

The following pages give a user guide on how to get the NHS and Belgian certificates as well as how to have your NHS certificate loaded onto the Belgian COVIDSafe.be app.

### **VACCINATION CERTIFICATE VIA BELGIAN GP**

The COVID Safe Ticket (CST) is required across Belgium, whilst your will be able to use your NHS certificate and/or the Belgian Safe App you can also request a CST through SHAPE if you have not yet received your National Number (NN). **COVID SAFE TICKET WITH BIS NUMBER**

## NHS COVID CERTIFICATES

If you received your COVID-19 immunisation at a DPHC clinic, or sent your evidence of vaccination to the Medical Centre, you can access the NHS Vaccination Certificate. In order to access your NHS COVID Certificate you need to create an NHS login account (note the NHS App does not work overseas):

### STEP ONE:

- Using a personal device with camera access (not MODNet) set up an NHS Login. You will be required to validate your account with a form of ID such as passport or driving licence. Note: this system *does* work overseas and is separate to the NHS App.



- When you are asked for a postcode, use the DPHC practice postcode **BF1 2AG**
- You will need to know your NHS Number. NHS numbers are also on all NHS correspondence and prescriptions and some emails about immunisation invite or screening. If you do not hold this it can be found on MyNavy, Army JIVE Responsive or MyRAF App on the Defence gateway.

### STEP TWO:

#### Certification

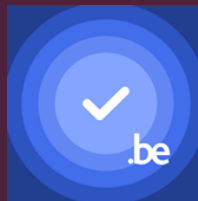
- A link to the Government information on COVID-19 Certification is [here](#) and certificates may be downloaded at <https://covid-status.service.nhsx.nhs.uk/>.
- The COVID 19 vaccination certificate has a 4 week expiry date but you can refresh it as required. There is an option to print your certificate from your device.
- The NHS certificate has reciprocal status in the EU, you must ensure you have downloaded one after the 01 Nov to ensure it works in Belgium and the Netherlands.

**The NHS certificate is accepted across the EU as an EU ‘equivalent’ certificate in hard copy, electronic via an App or through an iPhone Apple Wallet, ensure you refresh your QR code every 28 days.**

## DIGITAL KEYS

A digital key allows residents holding a Protocol ID (without eID or 'Itsme' logon) to access the HN government eHealth site on the Covidsafe.be app. To use this key you need to be identified and obtain an activation code. The current process can be found at this [link](#), once activated you will be able to use the COVIDSafe.be app or eHealth login to find the status of any COVID tests and/or recovery certificates that have been done by the HN (tests undertaken on SHAPE will not be shown) i.e. travel tests taken in Soignies/Brussels airport etc:

### STEP ONE – Download the APP



### STEP TWO - Obtain the Activation Code – there are two way to do this:

- Visit or contact your nearest local registration office with your National registration number, protocol ID and passport.- List of offices at this link:

[https://dt.bosa.be/sites/default/files/content/2021\\_07\\_registration\\_offices.pdf](https://dt.bosa.be/sites/default/files/content/2021_07_registration_offices.pdf)

- After you are identified, an activation code will be issued to you on paper and an activation link will be sent to your personal email, the following guide will assist you in [activating your account](#).

Or

### Attend in person to [Commune La Louviere](#):

- You can turn up with all your information or book an appointment +32 65 277 811. Hours of operation without an appointment – **08.30-12.00 and 13.30-15.30**.
- If booking an appointment complete the [Fiche Info Token](#) and send to [accueil@lalouviere.be](mailto:accueil@lalouviere.be) prior to your visit for each person needing the activation of a Digital Key (you need a different email address per person).
- Take your National number, protocol ID and passport with you to the appointment. After you are identified, an activation code will be issued to you on paper and an activation link will be sent to your personal email. Children can be added to a parent's key.
- The team in La Louviere will assist you in activating your digital key and show you how to access your certificates and test results.

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## UPLOADING YOUR VACCINATIONS TO BELGIAN COVIDSAFE.BE APP

Once you have activated your Digital Keys you will be able to see any test results or recovery certificates undertaken by the HN. In addition, you can apply to have your vaccinations uploaded to use for travel and any Covid Safe Ticket (CST) events.

The SHAPE UK Medical Centre will help enter your vaccination information into the Belgium system, this has been difficult to arrange hence early delays. To request assistance in doing this please email the following information to [UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-MON-Grp@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-MON-Grp@mod.gov.uk)

- A. Name.
- B. Belgian National Registration Number (NN)** You will only have a NN if you have received your Protocol ID. It is 11 digits and starts with your DOB backwards YYMMDD. You may have received your NN from NSE or can obtain from the commune, federal police or Belgian tax paperwork. **If you have not received your NN but have a BIS number** this is also accepted.
- C. **Belgian Postcode.**
- D. Consent.** Specify consent for UK med staff to pass vaccine information and your personal details above to the Belgian national system. For information about how we process your data you can see the [Defence Primary Healthcare Privacy Notice](#)

**Note: There may be a delay to these showing on Vaccinnet.**

## GETTING A BELGIAN CERTIFICATE WITHOUT THE APP

If you do not wish to download the App and your vaccines are on the Belgian system, you can also request to have your vaccination certificate sent to you by post by calling the helpdesk.

Flemish residents should call **078 78 78 50**, Walloons can call **071 31 34 93**, and people living in the Brussels-Capital Region can **02 214 19 19**.

However, there will be a waiting period between ordering and receiving the certificates. What information is on the certificate?

The certificate contains data such as the holder's name, date of birth, date of issue, information about the vaccination, the Covid-19 test or recovery from the virus, and a unique QR code.



## LOADING VACCINATIONS VIA A BELGIAN GP WITHOUT AN NATIONAL NUMBER

Another way to have your vaccination information visible on COVIDsafe.be is via a Belgian GP, however this will be at your expense:

- Book an appointment with a Belgian GP (**you do not need to be a registered patient**) to upload your vaccination certificates.
- Take your identification documents and your vaccination certificate with you for the appointment.
- The GP will create a BIS number and load your certificate(s) into the Belgian Vaccinnet.
- Activate your digital keys as per the [guide](#).

## CHILDREN

### Vaccination Certificate

- Children vaccinated by the HN will already have a BIS number/NN, contact the vaccination Centre and request a COVID vaccination certificate - this will come through the post.

Or

- Take the child's identification and vaccination details to a Belgian GP as per above and then undertake the activation of your digital keys as per the [guide](#).

### Recovery Certificate

There is some reciprocal recognition of other countries' Recovery Certificates but there is currently no way of uploading other national information in the NHS or Belgian system. GPs cannot access this system.

- If you have received a Recovery Certificate keep a copy with you at all times.

A BIS number is automatically created when you attend a Belgian GP appointment or have to attend a medical facility IF you do not have a National Number (NN).

For those who have a BIS number already (but are not in receipt of a NN/Protocol ID) you can utilise the SHAPE facility to download your COVID Safe Ticket.

*Date of Release: 13 Oct 2021*

**Base Support Group/Family Support Central Processing Branch**



**BSG/FSCEP**  
**REGISTRATION SECTION INFORMATION**

**BISS-numbers/COVID Safe Ticket**

The Registration (RGN) Section (Bldg 210) will soon be able to act as a limited **Local Registration Authority (LRA)**.  
It will be able to check if SHAPE members have a Belgian BISS number: this is a number automatically created for those persons who don't have a BEL ID or Protocol ID, when they visit a BEL medical facility or a BEL doctor.

For these people and only for them, the RGN Section will be authorized to create an individual access to the Belgian governmental online websites.

Once the account is created, SHAPE members will be able to access:

- the linked website/application,
- check their vaccination data (inserted in the Belgian databases by BEL medical personnel)
- print/download their COVID Safe Ticket (CST) (<https://www.masante.belgique.be/#/>).

Depending on BEL Federal and/or Regional decisions, this CST may be required to access public places as restaurants, bars, cinemas, fitness, ...

A dedicated appointment booking line on the website SHAPE2day (<https://shape-navo.appoint.be/en/>) will be activated as soon as the RGN Section are granted the required access.

Please note, at this time, RGN Section **IS NOT** able to **CREATE** BISS numbers.

**POC**  
Registration Section SHAPE  
Building 210 – Room 110  
Tel: 0032 (0) 65 44 8348

**Base Support Group/Family Support Central Processing Branch**





## TRAVEL TO/FROM BELGIUM

Personnel undertaking travel either privately, or on duty, should ensure that they keep themselves updated with any changes to the travel requirements for any country to which they visit or transit through, in addition you should remain alert to the fact that things can change at very short notice whilst you are away.

Be vigilant and check the relevant countries COVID travel website to keep on top of the changes. You **MUST** check the requirements in the Country you are travelling to, any countries you are transiting through and of course what is required in reverse to get back into Belgium.

Below is some useful information relating to travel and COVID testing facilities in Belgium. A Travel Guidance, which includes links to the different country websites, can also be found on [EJSU Net](#) which has a check list for travel. [SHAPE2DAY | Where to get tested?](#) is also a useful source of information

### Before Travelling

- Download your **COVID Vaccination Certificate** using the methods mentioned in this guide.
- Keep up to date at [COVID-19 – European Joint Support Unit \(ejsu.net\)](https://ejsu.net)
- If using an NHS certificate have an e-copy and print it. Keep it in date, refresh every 28 days and take it with you.
- Ensure you have activated your Belgian COVIDSafe.be app.
- If travelling to/through France, ensure the French App has a refreshed vaccination certificate.
- Download the COVID scanner for the country you are visiting and check your QR code, the following are some of the scanners close to Belgium:
  - [COVIDScan.be](https://www.covidscan.be)
  - [CoronaCheck.nl](https://www.coronacheck.nl)
  - [COVIDCheck.lu](https://www.covidcheck.lu)

### Travel through the EU (not UK)

- Check the '[reopen EU](#)' website for the most up to date information. Use the tool-travel Tab, input departure country, destination country and add any transit countries then hit GO! You will then get the most up to date information for the information you have entered. This is also available on the TousAntiCovid App under Useful Links.

### Travel to UK

- Check the latest information [here](#).



COVID Testing rules can be a minefield, they change very quickly and different countries require different types of tests for travel.

Testing is available in many different forms here in Belgium and this guide aims to assist you in understanding what the tests are and how you can get them locally depending on whether you are leaving or returning to Belgium. Those who have a Protocol ID will have a NN and can access testing using their NN through the HN online booking system, this should be the preferred process for all forms of HN testing. You will receive your results quicker and they will be loaded onto your COVIDSafe.be app.

**ANTIGEN TESTING** - Many countries will now accept an antigen test for travel. This section gives details as to where you can go for supported testing.

**PCR TESTING WITHOUT NN** – New arrivals may not have received their Protocol ID as yet and therefore do not have a NN. This section explains how you can get travel testing without your NN.

**RETURNING TO BELGIUM**. On your return to Belgium you may be required to have a negative test before travel, quarantine on arrival and/or undertake mandatory testing. **Always check the requirements before you travel, this guidance should help with the PLF completion depending on your circumstances.**

**TESTING WITH TRAVEL SMS** If you are required to quarantine/test then you will receive a code via SMS on your phone based on the PLF completion, this code is your 'prescription' to get a test and you MUST follow HN rule. How to use the SMS will depend on whether you have a NN or not and this guidance shows the difference.

## **PAYMENT FOR TESTING**

A bill may be raised for testing undertaken with an SMS from the completion of the Belgian PLF. If you receive a bill for travel testing you should pay it direct and within the timeframe indicated on the bill. Once paid, an expense claim can be submitted for any mandatory tests undertaken for eligible duty travel periods (i.e. valid SCV, PRE, GYH(O) or compassionate travel) via JPA and HRMS (or equivalent). **Private travel will not be reimbursed. Please also note that you may also receive bills for any visitors to your address, these must be paid either by you, or the visitor, and will not be reimbursed.**

**The 'free' travel test advertised in Belgium is only applicable to those with Belgium Health Insurance. The MOD do not hold external insurance and have no link to the mutuelle so we are not able to take advantage of the HN offer.**

## Testing on departure from Belgium

### Rapid Antigen Testing

Antigen test in Soignies **cost €16.85**

- Results within 2 – 4 hrs in English by email
- **Where : Le Tilleriau** - [laboratoire@chrhautesenne.be](mailto:laboratoire@chrhautesenne.be)
- Chaussée de Braine 49, 7060 Soignies
- [location](#)
- Antigen Test pre-travel CHR comments are [here](#).  
**When : Mon - Fri** 07.30 to 18.00. Sat 08.00 to 12.00

**Brussels Airport.** Appointments should be booked in advance and you can register online. Open from 0330 until midnight daily for testing but the Call Centre is open Monday to Sunday 08:00 until 22.00 on +32 (0) 78 48 58 26. Tests available are:

- €67 for a standard PCR test – **results available within 24 hours.**
- €135 for the PCR rapid test – **results depend on when the test was taken ranging between 4-6 hrs.**
- €47.4 for an antigen test - **results available within 50 minutes after the test was taken.**

Check local pharmacy's for Antigen testing for travel, many of them now will assist you in undertaking the test and providing certification for travel – ensure you confirm their certification is fit for your country of transit/travel.

Reimbursement for these tests can be obtained for duty travel such as:

- SCV
- GYH(O)
- TDY
- Compassionate

If in doubt please contact the NSE for further guidance. UKBC's should contact DBS for their support.

## PCR Test without NN

Location : [HORNU](#) , Route de Mons, 230 - Laboratoire LIMS

- Entrance via the Institute Medical Specialise 's carpark (IMS Clinic), opposite to CORA Shopping. No appointment but less crowded than hospital.
- Open : Mon to Fri : 09.00 – 17.00 and Sat 08.00 – 10.00
- Remarks : fill out the document they give you with the mobile nr (test result sent on first), email address, home address in BE, travel date, mention **URGENT** to get the test result asap (between 24 and 48 hrs).
- No prescription, no NN required but Passport and ID. Be prepared to pay prior to the test or request a bill to be sent by email. Bills can take some time to come through.
- **MYSYNLAB.** <https://mysynlab.synlab.be/en/patient/rendez-vous-centre> An appointment can be booked online (all in English) Passport number and travel date/destination details will be required, we advise you request an email bill. Timings and contact details are [here](#) under (Synlab) – Uccle.
- .For travel out of Belgium without an appointment:
- [CH-Epicura Baudour](#)
  - -From Monday to Friday:
    - Labo, site Ath: from 12.00 to 16.00
    - Labo, site Baudour: from 12.00 to 15.00
    - Labo, site Hornu: from 12.00 to 18.00
  - -On Saturday:
    - Labo, site Ath: from 08.00 to 10.00
    - Labo, site Baudour: from 08.00 to 10.00
    - Labo, site Hornu: from 08.00 to 10.00

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## RETURN TO BELGIUM

- Fill out a [Passenger Locator Form](#) in accordance with the guidance [here](#).
- Check the Belgium rules [here](#) for travel back after travel.
- The [Colour codes by country](#) will tell you what colour the country is from which you have travelled or transited through.
- The requirements for testing and quarantine is detailed [here](#) for your return to Belgium.
- Quarantine until you have confirmation on your required actions from the HN and **avoid mixing with other members of the Community**

**Note: The Access to SHAPE form previously required was a UK specific direction and is no longer needed. Follow all HN direction at all times.**

**Note:** For those who have been assigned to SHAPE you are considered a 'Resident' and should be in receipt of a Protocol ID and therefore a NN – you should tick 'I am a resident' and enter your NN (not the number on your Protocol ID).

If you haven't received a NN/Protocol ID you should tick 'I am not a Resident' and use your passport number. If you have not yet applied for a Protocol ID you should do it immediately, this is your proof of residency in Belgium (it is not mandatory for SPs but is strongly advised).

## BOARDING SCHOOL / UNIVERSITY CHILDREN

The HN Support office within the BEL NMR team has advised the UK NMR that there is an exemption to quarantine/testing for our eligible Boarding School/University children in the UK (those who have an entitlement to a Protocol ID card or SOFA card).

Those children who are studying in UK and their parents reside in Belgium, can be considered as "cross border students". They are fully exempted from quarantine and testing after staying abroad [Exemptions from testing and quarantine | Coronavirus COVID-19 \(info-coronavirus.be\)](#) and on completion of the PLF they need to tick in the box "Exceptional category" as "Cross border students". If the child is vaccinated then that box should also be ticked.

For those who have tested COVID +ve between 11 and 180 days of their travel to Belgium, if not in receipt of a Belgian Recovery Certificate, the advice from HN track and trace is to ensure you have proof of the +ve test result, showing child's name and date of +ve result, and be prepared to show it should you receive a visit from a member of the Government team.

Moreover, when commuting, the child(ren) must ensure they have their proof of being a student in the UK (student card/ID) as well as their proof of residence in BEL (Protocol-ID, SOFA card) with them at all times, they should be prepared to produce both documents on request.

Whilst applying this guidance, you must remain fully compliant with the HN's other travel rules.



## WITH NATIONAL NUMBER

Those personnel who have been issued their National Number (NN) are strongly advised to book an appointment online for the testing facility of choice, provide your mobile number to aid the speed in which you receive your results. You will not have a National Number if you are not in receipt of your Protocol ID!

A map of all testing centres can be found [here](#), click the marker and it will tell you the address and opening hours of that facility.

You can book an appointment [here](#) for the testing centre of your choice.

**Do not use this if you do not have your NN.**

## WITHOUT A NATIONAL NUMBER

If you haven't received your NN yet, or you have just arrived, attend one of the drive through facilities only, be prepared for a delay if the queues are long:

- **Ambroise Pare**. Park at stadium and walk through.
- **Binche. Drive through only**
- **CH Epicura.** ([Info here](#)) For return to Belgium with an SMS from a passenger locator form:
- Labo Epicura Ath
  - **Only without symptoms**
  - Monday to Friday from 11.00 to 16.00
  - Without appointment
  - Go to the consultation registration desk
- Labo Epicura Hornu – **Drive through only**
  - Only without symptoms**
  - Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri from 11.00 to 13.00
  - With appointment Tel: 078 150 170
  - Go to the consultation registration desk
- **St Vincent Hospital, Soignies, - Drive through only.**
  - **Only without symptoms**
  - Monday to Saturday from 1000-1200



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# SHAPE ON SITE TESTING

In addition to the HN testing facilities SHAPE personnel are eligible to access the facilities within the [SHAPE Healthcare Facility](#) at the ARC.



**Symptoms.** UK personnel with symptoms of COVID should phone the UK practice to make an appointment for a telephone consultation.

Tel: 0032 (0) 6544 5824

## **Mission essential (duty) travel.**

The US team have been conducting testing for mission essential travel across SHAPE. The test facility is at the end of the healthcare facility and results are obtained from the records desk in the main building. A certificate confirming mission essential travel is required and may be obtained from the EJSU COVID Ops or NMR's Registry. The volume of testing and prioritisation of those with symptoms now means that asymptomatic travel testing can take a minimum of 24 hours to turn around. It cannot be relied upon for same day travel.

Please also consider using a rapid antigen test when you have confirmed what the border requirement is for your journey. These are quicker, more readily available, lower cost and reduce the pressure on the US lab.

Those who have Innova lateral flow tests supplied to them by EJSU, who are undertaking a duty journey, can arrange medical supervision of the test in designated appointment with UK staff via the front desk. Alternatively host nation antigen tests in designated centres are now well-priced, local and readily available.

APP – An application

ARC – Acute Respiratory Clinic SHAPE

BIS - The BIS number is a unique identification number for individuals who are not registered in the National Register, but who still have a relationship with the Belgian government.

CST – COVID Safe Ticket

DR – Doctor

LFD – Lateral Flow Device (antigen test)

NN – Belgian National Number (this is not the number on your Protocol ID)

PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction

SHAPE – Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

SMS – Short Message (or messaging) Service on a mobile phone