



T.C. SAĞLIK BAKANLIĞI
AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ VE DIŞ İLİŞKİLER
GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

Submitted To	To Whom It May Concern
Issued By	Dr. Selami KILIÇ, Director-General
Date	June 17, 2021
Subject	Measures for Entering Turkey During Gradual Normalization, Quarantine applications and Information on Variants

FACT SHEET

As per the Circular issued by the Ministry of Interior on May 31, 2021, measures for entering Turkey as of June 1 2021 are as follows:

1. Individuals arriving from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, South Africa, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka** and those having been in the said countries within the last 14 days are required to present a negative PCR test result issued within a maximum of 72 hours before entering Turkey and these individuals shall be quarantined for 14 days at facilities to be determined by Governor's Offices. The quarantine shall be terminated in case of a negative result of a PCR test to be performed at the end of day 14 of quarantine. Those with a positive PCR test result shall be isolated starting from the day of the positive test result and their isolation shall be terminated upon a negative PCR test result at the end of day 14.
2. Individuals arriving from **the United Kingdom, Iran, Egypt and Singapore** are required to present a negative PCR test result obtained within a maximum of 72 hours before entering Turkey.
3. Individuals arriving from countries outside of those listed in item 2 and 3 from all border gates (land, air, and sea) shall not be required to present a negative PCR test result and shall not be placed in quarantine, provided that they present a document issued by the competent authority of the relevant country indicating that they received a vaccine within at least 14 days and/or were infected within the last 6 months before entering Turkey.
Should individuals fail to submit a vaccine certificate or a document indicating past infection, they can also present a negative PCR test result obtained within a maximum of 72 hours before entry or a negative rapid antigen test result obtained within a maximum of 48 hours before entry.
4. Individuals entering Turkey from all border gates, except for those arriving from the countries listed in item 2, may be subjected to PCR testing by the Ministry of Health at their destination for sampling purposes.
After sample collection, individuals will be allowed to go to their final destination and if their test results turn out to be positive, their treatment will be initiated in line with the COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health.
Persons, who are the close contacts of PCR-positive individuals, shall be quarantined for 14 days at a location of their choice and their quarantine shall be terminated upon a negative PCR test result at the end of day 10. Quarantine for those found to be carrying the Indian variant shall be terminated upon a negative PCR test result at the end of day 14.



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5. In order not to adversely affect foreign trade, aircraft crews, ship's company and truck drivers who qualify as key personnel shall be exempt from SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing and quarantine measures.

The brief issued by the Department of Infectious Diseases and Early Warning of the General Directorate of Public Health of the Ministry of Health is as follows:

- In order to ensure transparent data sharing, test data information (TR-NCOV test) by age group between week 1 and 20 of 2021 was entered on The European Surveillance System (TESSy) of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which operates in partnership with the World Health Organization, on May 28, 2021. Also, data on number of cases and deaths by age group, number of cases and deaths of healthcare workers, number of cases discharged, number of cases intubated, number of re-infections, number of cases in intensive care, total number of intensive care beds, number of vacant intensive care beds and number of variants (TR-NCOV) between week 1 and 20 were uploaded to TESSy on May 29, 2021 in excel CSV format.
- Due to the increase in variant strains in the world and the frequent updating of VOC and VOI lists, isolation and quarantine periods have been updated. Accordingly:
 - The quarantine period for contacts has been set to 14 days and a negative PCR test result on day 10 is required for the early termination of quarantine. Quarantine period is at least 14 days and early termination is not possible with PCR test in contacts of people detected with VOC via sequencing.
 - Isolation is terminated automatically without performing a test at the end of the isolation period. However, the set criteria must be met for the early termination of isolation.
 - For symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, the isolation period is 14 days and early isolation is possible upon a negative PCR test performed starting from day 10 on those who are symptom-free for 3 successive days.
 - For cases requiring intensive care, the isolation period is 20 days and early termination of isolation is possible upon two negative PCR tests performed with 24 days in between on individuals who are symptom-free for 3 successive days after day 10.
 - For immunosuppressed cases, the isolation period is 28 days and early termination of isolation is possible upon a negative PCR test performed starting from day 20 on individuals who are symptom-free for 3 successive days.
 - For cases with a severe primary immunodeficiency such as B-cell deficiency, isolation is not terminated without a negative PCR test performed starting from day 20.
 - The quarantine period is at least 14 days and early termination is not possible with PCR test for people detected with VOC via sequencing.
 - Individuals infected with the variant strains listed in the VOC list of WHO and the Ministry of Health are isolated for 20 days and early termination of isolation is possible upon a negative PCR test result performed starting from day 14. The contacts of these cases are quarantined for 14 days and early isolation is not possible.



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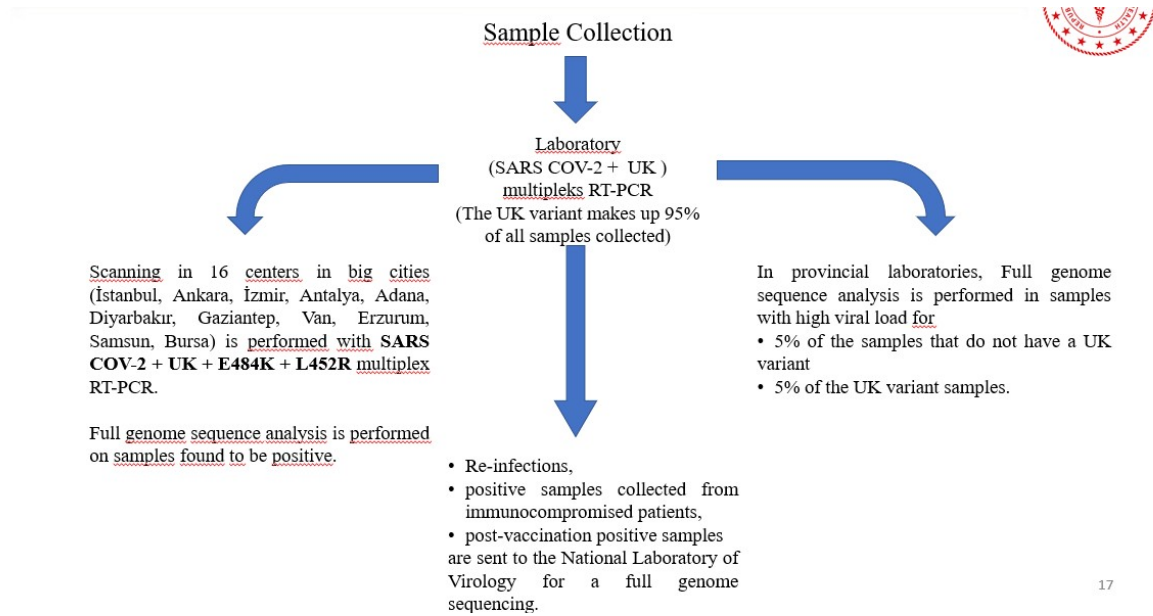
- In Turkey, PCR testing is available for symptomatic individuals and their contacts. In addition, free screening tests are available for the following groups.

Screening tests are performed

- For personnel working at penal institutions before their shift
- For those to be conscripted during the call-up period
- Workers employed at factories, upon demand
- For those travelling abroad according to country policy
- Upon the request of healthcare workers regardless of symptoms
- In addition to all these groups, testing is also available for asymptomatic persons upon demand.

Information on Variants

Genetic sequencing of COVID-19 samples is carried out regularly in our laboratories. The most common variant in Turkey at the moment is the B.1.1.7 variant which is known as the UK variant. The remaining 5% consists of the old common one (Wuhan – 1) with a very small number of South African and Brazilian variants. In our routine laboratory algorithm, we perform variant screening using RT-qPCR-based technology that tests and distinguishes SARS-CoV-2, B.1.1.7 (UK Variant), E484K and L452R in a single multiplex reaction.



5% of the positive samples with a high viral load, re-infections, positive samples collected from immunocompromised patients, and post-vaccination positive samples are sent to the National Laboratory of Virology for a full genome sequencing. The UK variant makes up 95% of all samples collected. Samples with a high viral load selected from the remaining 5% are sent to the National Laboratory of Virology for sequencing. In addition, samples are also tested against the “SARS COV-2 + UK + E484K+ L452R” mutation using the multiplex RT-PCR kit at 16 centers (6 in Istanbul and 10 in other provinces).



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Please find below the related chart.

