

## What you need to know: COVID-19: Airline mask policy: Europe

January 25, 2021

As part of their efforts to keep travelers and employees safe, almost all airlines around the world now require passengers to wear a face covering of some sort for the duration of a trip. However, there can be some differences between airlines. This report details what European airlines currently require.

### Major airlines

Airline	Mask policy
Air France	Under decree 2020-663, the French government has mandated wearing an EN14683 standard, single-use <b>surgical</b> mask from arrival at the airport and throughout the flight. <sup>1</sup> Passengers (aged 11 years and above) will be denied boarding if not wearing one. Air France recommends a new mask after eating/drinking or after four hours.
British Airways	All passengers must wear a mask at all times, which the airline recommends changing every 4 hours. BA does not require specific types of mask. Nor does it mention any exemptions.
Iberia	It is compulsory for passengers over the age of six to wear a surgical mask or one providing greater protection, covering the nose and mouth. During the flight, masks should be replaced in line with the manufacturer's recommendation.
KLM	Until at least August 31, all passengers must wear a face mask from the first boarding call until passing through arrivals at the destination airport. Passengers without a face mask are not allowed on board KLM flights. Passengers may buy a face mask or make their own, as long as it covers the nose, mouth and chin. Masks should be changed every four hours.  Passengers up to the age of 10 years and those who can't wear face masks for medical reasons are exempt.
Lufthansa	Wearing a face mask that fully covers the mouth and nose is mandatory for everyone on board aircraft and at the airport. <sup>2</sup> Children under the age of six years are exempt. Passengers presenting a medical certificate downloaded from the Lufthansa website and signed by a doctor are also exempt. They must also present a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR test result taken not more than 48 hours before the flight.  Visors (face shields), masks with valves or vents, scarves and handkerchiefs are not permitted as a substitute to a face mask.  From Feb.1, 2021, Lufthansa will change its mask wearing rules, allowing passengers to wear only surgical masks or those manufactured to FFP2 or KN95/N95 standards. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Business Traveller](#), Aug. 12, 2020

<sup>2</sup> [Lufthansa](#), FAQs on wearing face masks, Jan. 25, 2021

<sup>3</sup> [Lufthansa](#), Jan. 22, 2021

## Low-cost carriers

Airline	Mask policy
EasyJet	Passengers must wear a suitable protective facemask for boarding and throughout the flight. Masks should typically be replaced every four hours. Only children under the age of six or adults with a valid medical reasons supported by a letter from a doctor are exempt.
Eurowings	Face coverings are mandatory on all flights, and passengers should bring their own masks with them. Masks must not have an exhalation valve. Face shields are not allowed onboard Eurowings aircraft. From Feb. 1, 2021, passengers may wear only surgical masks or those manufactured to FFP2 or KN95/N95 standards.  Flying without a mask is only possible with a medical certificate (form downloaded from Eurowings website) and a negative COVID-19 test from not more than 48 hours before the flight
Ryanair	It is mandatory to wear a face mask/covering at all times in the airport and on board the flight.
Norwegian	Face masks are mandatory. They must cover the nose and mouth and be made for the purpose – scarves are not acceptable. Children under six do not need to wear a mask, nor do passengers with medical conditions that prevent mask wearing, which must be confirmed by a medical document.
Vueling	In accordance with Spanish Royal Decree Law 21/2020, the use of a face mask covering the nose and mouth is compulsory from boarding to disembarking the aircraft. Only surgical or higher-grade masks are acceptable. Passengers cannot fly without a mask.
Wizz Air	Face masks are compulsory and should be changed every four hours. Wizz Air may refuse to carry anyone not complying with this requirement.

## Other airlines

Airline	Mask policy
Aer Lingus	Face coverings or masks are mandatory on all flights with the exception of small children and those who are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons. Reusable cloth masks or disposable masks are both acceptable.
Air Corsica	Masks must be of the disposable, surgical type FFP1, FFP2 or FFP3 – personal respiratory protection masks, and must be worn by all passengers over the age of 11 years. Cloth masks and homemade masks are not allowed.
Alitalia	It is mandatory to wear a protective mask, replacing it every 4 hours.
Austrian Airlines	Passengers are obliged to wear a mouth-and-nose covering on board. From Jan. 25, 2021, passengers must wear an FFP2 mask without a valve or the higher specification FFP3 mask (also without a valve). <sup>4</sup> Passengers aged between 6 and 14 years and pregnant women may still use a normal mask. Anyone unable to wear a mask for medical reasons must provide a negative result from a COVID-19 test not more than 48 hours before departure and a medical certificate on an official Austrian Airlines form.

<sup>4</sup> [Austrian Airlines](#), Current information and flight disruptions

## Other airlines

Airline	Mask policy
Brussels Airlines	All passengers from the age of six years old are required to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth, which must be kept on during the entire flight.
CSA Czech Airlines	Before boarding CSA and Smartwings aircraft, all passengers must wear protective mouth and nose coverings in the form of disposable face masks, respirators, home-made cotton face masks or scarves and shawls.  The requirement does not apply to children under two years of age and people subject to exemptions.
Finnair	All passengers, excluding children up to 7 years old, must wear a mask covering the mouth and nose by the time boarding begins and during the flight. They should bring their own mask and may be denied boarding without one.  Masks may be surgical or homemade of fabric. Passengers with a medical condition preventing them from wearing a mask must advise Finnair at least 72 hours before travel.
LOT Polish Airlines	A face mask is required during the entire journey.
SAS	Until August 31, a face mask covering mouth and nose is required from boarding to disembarkation on all flights. Children under six years are exempt. Masks must be made for the purpose – scarves are not acceptable. SAS does not require masks to be medically approved nor have any specific type rating. But it will not accept homemade face masks.
Swiss	Passengers must bring their own face masks. Face shields and FFP2 masks with valves are not allowed on board. Scarves and other textiles are not accepted as substitutes for a face mask. Children under the age of 12 years are exempt.  To receive an exemption, adult passengers must provide a negative PCR test result (not older than 48 hours) in addition to a medical certificate on an official form issued by the airline.
TAP Portugal	Use of a face mask is mandatory on all TAP flights. All passengers aged over 6 years must wear one and guarantee its use for the duration of the flight.

### Note

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and the situation is changing on almost an hourly basis. The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at January 25, 2021. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report? Please email [mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk](mailto:mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.