

COVID-19 measures in place for 2021 World Triathlon Long Distance Championships Almere-Amsterdam

(last update: August 21, 2021)

COVID-coordinator: shared effort across disciplines; operational management of measures as designed, warehouse coordination for stock and the medical team for equipment

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Summary

- Athletes and support crew are allowed to enter the Netherlands, when meeting the demands from sections 1 and 3 below. A travel exemption can be requested through the LOC, as detailed in section 2 below.
- Athletes and support crew are exempted from quarantine, when complying with the quarantine exemption procedure in section 4 below.
- The main venue (Esplanade and Theatre) including the transition area and start and finish is restricted area and can not be accessed by spectators.
- Access protocols are in place for athletes and support crew (only support crew like coaches, representatives and team managers) registered through the World Triathlon accreditation system are allowed entry into the main venue. Upon arrival at the entry point of the restricted area they are requested to show a proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or a latest 24hour old negative antigen test result, as detailed in section 6 below.
- Additionally, inside the restricted area a face mask should be worn at all times, indoor and outdoor, athletes are only allowed to remove this right before the start when they are instructed to do so and will receive a new face mask right after their finish.
- Elite athletes, Paratriathletes, handlers + guides, accredited coaches, team medical, support NF personnel, TDs /ITOs/NTOs/ Competition Jury, IF Federation Delegations and paratriathlon swim exit handlers will need to undergo an additional COVID-19 antigen test at the event, as detailed in section 8 below.
- Additional and full protocols applied are detailed below. All visitors to the event are requested to be aware of this.

Details

1. Travel restrictions entering the Netherlands

Depending on the risk level of a country of origin there are possible restrictions in place. The latest can be found on the site of the Dutch government.

If you are travelling by air you must fill in a health declaration (only when aged 13 or above) and carry it with you. Some airlines allow you to complete a health declaration digitally when you check in:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/documents/publications/2020/07/07/information-for-passengers-flying-to-and-from-the-netherlands>

Source:

2. Entry ban and exemptions

At the current time (see update date above), no entry ban is applicable to persons with passports from countries in the EU or part of the Schengen-treaty. Also persons from safe countries/regions are allowed to enter.

In other cases (for instance but not limited to UK) entry into the Netherlands is allowed under strict regulations, one of the exemptions that is applicable is in place for athletes participating in top-level events and their support staff (see #6 for relevant approvals).

Staff (officials, media, or volunteers) to the event is allowed to use the entry ban exemption under the same top-level sports regulation as they are deemed vital for the execution of the event.

All athletes and support staff attending the event that need a travel exemption need to be registered latest 96 hours before the departure of the athletes and staff to the Dutch Olympic Committee (NOC*NSF) to be checked. NOC creates an invitation letter that needs to be shown to Dutch customs upon arrival. This process is managed by the LOC Athlete Support who will provide all the required information of the athletes and support staff:

- Name (as indicated in the passport)
- Role (athlete or type of support staff)
- Passport number (passport should be valid for at least the period of stay in The Netherlands)
- Date of birth
- Arrival date and place of departure
- Departure date and destination

Source:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/exemptions-to-the-entry-ban/elite-athletes-and-their-support-staff>

3. Testing regulations entering the Netherlands

It is required to show a negative test result (NAAT PCR, latest 72 hours old) before travelling to the Netherlands in case a person can not show a proof of recovery or proof of vaccination.

Source:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/mandatory-negative-test-results-and-declaration>

Specific World Triathlon COVID-19 criteria and processes are highlighted in section 8.

4. Quarantine regulations entering the Netherlands

It is strongly advised to take a home quarantine of 10 days upon arrival in the Netherlands.

There is a possibility to shorten this time of 5 days by taking a PCR test on the 5th day, if this is negative the quarantine may end. Athletes are allowed to include the shuttle service (not public transport) to/from the event and competing in the event in the quarantine time.

An allowed exemption for quarantine is travel for top-level sport, which in this case this would be applicable. Accredited people to the event (athlete or coach or support staff) do not need to quarantine.

An exemption procedure is listed:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine/exceptions-mandatory-quarantine>

One of the reasons to allow exemption of self-quarantine is "Participation in top-level sport by athletes who are active at the highest international level", for which all categories (Elite/Para/AG) in the World Championships are applicable.

Please note that the athlete should bring the NOC invitation letter (as specified in section 2) with him/her **and** next to that have filled out this form

<https://quarantinedeclaration.government.nl/en> to be exempted from the quarantine regulations in the Netherlands. Border control officers might request both these letters as proof.

Source:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/self-quarantine>

5. Exit regulations the Netherlands

For returning travels to countries the applicable quarantine and testing regulations are in place. Once the attendance list and returning countries are known the exact regulations can be listed and procedures be put in place for athletes and staff to meet these requirements. From the Dutch government no specific exit regulations are detailed.

Exit PCR tests are not provided by the LOC, in case a PCR test is needed for return flight, this can for instance be planned at <https://coronalab.eu/en/pcr-test-almere/>

6. Event permit / access obligations

Events are allowed to take place in the Netherlands. Until September 19th there is a limitation in place for multi-day events where persons have an overnight stay on the event terrain itself (aimed for music festivals) and this is not applicable to the World Championships.

At events the national government and healthcare organizations apply the following procedures to events and in general:

- Wash hands,
- social distance (stay 1.5m apart) to avoid close contact,
- get tested when having symptoms,
- ensure a good flow of air in closed areas

There is no mask mandate in The Netherlands unless the social distancing can not be maintained for a longer period of time in indoor situations (for instance in public transport).

For events, the event industry together with the government institutions have introduced 'Testen voor Toegang': Access testing to events. Athletes/participants and VIPs (support crew/coaches/invited persons) attending the event must show proof (through the privacy-safe CoronaCheck app) of one of these three things:

- proof of vaccination (14 days after fully administered vaccination) - European CoronalD QR-code created in your local app is valid.
- proof of recovery (vaccination within 180 days after having COVID symptoms)
- a maximum 24 hour old antigen test negative test result

In case a 24 hour old antigen test negative test result is needed, this can be planned at an official testing center through <https://afspraak.testenvoortoegang.org/evenement/type>

When applying the 'Testen voor Toegang' principles events are allowed to release the restriction of social distancing and mask mandates but events need to limit the total attendance to 66% of the available occupancy for VIPs (support crew/coaches/invited persons) to a maximum of 750. This does mean that the main venue is fenced off and an access control is enforced by security guards maintaining the access protocols and no spectators are allowed. Only support crew requested through the World Triathlon accreditation process is allowed on the main venue (Esplanade and Theatre).

For the area outside the main venue, along the courses, the areas are indicated as 'flowing' (doorstream), comparable to zoos for instance. This does imply that spectators need to maintain the social distancing along the course.

Volunteers are requested to report to the volunteer tent where a health check takes place. In first place the LOC will ask the volunteer if he/she's willing to show the QR-code from the CoronaCheck app. Privacy regulations state that the LOC is not allowed to enforce this, so the volunteer can decline this request. In this case the volunteer is asked general health questions, according to the COVID Triage (<https://covidtriage.nl/#/check>):

- 1) Are you currently having symptoms such as coughing and sneezing?
- 2) Is one of your household members currently experiencing coughing and sneezing?
- 3) Were you diagnosed with COVID in the past 7 days?
- 4) Are you currently in quarantine?

When the result is green, a volunteer can register and access the venue, in other cases the volunteer is asked to go home and quarantine.

Source:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-certificate/covid-certificate-for-travel-or-events>

7. Schedule changes

Even though the 'Testen voor Toegang' principles will be applied for the event and restrictions inside the venue can be lifted. Some changes to the schedule have been made, in order to limit the amount of athletes in the same place at the same time:

- The physical opening ceremony will be cancelled
- The bike and run course familiarization will be cancelled
- The race briefing takes place online
- The Carbo Loading Party will be changed in format: pick-up of food over a longer period of time

- The registration and bike check-in times will be planned and scheduled per federation
- The starts take place according to a rolling start procedure instead of a wave start

8. World Triathlon Specific Measures (Additional Health screening and testing)

- All individuals (except for the LOC, its volunteers and contractors) applying for an accreditation to World Triathlon and Continental Triathlon events must respect the following conditions:
 - Fill in the online pre-event questionnaire through the link that is provided by the LOC
 - Perform an Antigenic or PCR swap pre- travel test within 72 hours before the athletes' travel to the event or no later than 6 days before the event for local athletes/team support and NTOs. Tests that must currently be taken to gain entry to a country are valid as pre-travel tests. **This is to be done even though it might not be requested to access the country.**
- Additionally to this, all Elite/U23, Junior, Youth, Para triathletes and guides must submit a pre-travel medical certificate according to the requirements above.

Categories	Pre-event questionnaire	COVID-19 test before traveling	Medical certificate	COVID-19 test at event	Daily health screening
Elite athletes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
U23 athletes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Junior athletes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Youth athletes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Para triathlon athletes/ personal handlers/ guides	yes	yes	yes for athletes/guides	yes	yes
AG athletes	yes	yes	follow public health request	follow public health request	yes
Coaches/team medical/ support NF personnel	yes	yes	follow public health request	yes	yes
TDs /ITOs/NTOs/ Competition Jury	yes	yes	follow public health request	yes for the ones in close contact with the athletes; the others follow public health request	yes
IF/Continental Federation Delegations	yes	yes	follow public health request	follow public health request	yes
LOC/ Contractors	follow public health request	follow public health request	follow public health request	follow public health request	yes
Para triathlon swim exit assistants	yes	follow public health request	follow public health request	yes	yes

Elite athletes, Paratriathletes, handlers + guides, accredited coaches, team medical, support NF personnel, TDs /ITOs/NTOs/ Competition Jury, IF Federation Delegations and paratriathlon swim exit handlers will need to undergo an additional COVID-19 antigen test at the event. They will be directed to the 'Grote Zaal' in the theatre where this testing is performed. This takes place on Saturday, September 11th between 8:00 and 11:00 (detailed blocks for testing will be provided per federation). Based on the access order they will be positioned on the seats with 3 empty seats between them that will be crossed off. One by one, they are asked to enter the main stage and undergo the shielded antigen test. A waiting area that can seat 25 persons is created to await the result of the antigen test, which should be available in minutes. In case of a positive antigen test, the tested subject is taken to a second testing station where a PCR test is performed to exclude a false-positive. As this test will be sent to a laboratory (before 11:30am) and the result can take up to 9:00pm to be available, the positive tested person is isolated from the other persons and returned to his/her own accommodation to stay there and quarantine themselves while the test outcome is not known. Once the result of the PCR test is negative the person is allowed to exit the accommodation. In these exceptional circumstances it involves a false-positive athlete, he/she will then be able to complete package pick-up, uniform check and bike check-in on the morning of the race, between 5:00am and 6:00am.

In case a person also has a positive result from the PCR test, the person (or its national federation) ensures the quarantine is served in the accommodation as the Netherlands does not have specific quarantine centers or locations. The LOC will manage with the accommodation to extend the stay and testing to ensure the quarantine can be ended after the infection is over. Any additional costs for this are in first place claimed toward the health care insurance of this person or the person pays the costs themselves.

All other entry requirements required for the Daily Health screening to the event are managed in the 'Testen voor Toegang' access system.

9. PPE and protection

Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves and/or face shield) is not mandatory according to the Dutch public health authorities.

However these will be enforced in the places where there is an extensive contact expected between staff/volunteers and athletes:

- Medical: usage of gloves, medical face masks and if required face shield
- Registration/package pick-up: usage of face masks (FFP2)
- Aid stations: usage of gloves + constant disinfection of hands, and face masks for the volunteers handing out
- Pick-up cars: usage of face masks (FFP2)
- Finish area: usage of face masks (FFP2) + face shield
- Recovery area: usage of face masks (FFP2)

Mask is a World Triathlon mandate for **ALL** athletes, coaches, support staff, World Triathlon family including TOs, all volunteers in close contact with athletes. Face mask must be worn by all accredited persons at all time on the venue.

Athletes are required to wear masks/mouth-nose face covering during any non-competition activity (e.g.registration, race package distribution/race package pick up). On race day, athletes should wear a disposable mask until the last minute. A garbage bin will be placed near the starting line so athletes can throw away their masks. New face masks are distributed after the finish line.

Face masks and gloves are replaced every two hours latest.

All rooms, including the toilet locations, tents on the venues and aid and coach stations will have hand sanitizer dispensers present.

Additional cleaning services are making sure that surfaces are kept clean, toilets and showers are sanitized very often (at least once per hour).

10. Catering & F&B

Volunteers / officials / staff:

During rigging/de-rigging:

Will receive packed lunches.

During event:

Will receive packed lunches.

For dinner: on the course they will receive packed dinners, for the main event site, they will be invited in shifts where they are seated and served.

Athletes:

Before the event (Saturday, September 11th):

The 'Carbo Loading Party' is a pickup of buffet in the entry hall of the Theatre. Athletes can choose to eat their dinner outside on the Esplanade square, seated on the terraces provided or take-away to their own accommodation. If the weather predicted in the week before the event predicts

During the event:

Athletes receive nutrition from volunteers at the aid stations. Volunteers filling nutrition are not the same group as the ones handing out or picking up garbage. Food is only served in closed wrappers.

After the event:

Athletes grab their own pre-packaged food and drinks and are, after a quick recovery, urged to leave the After-race area.

11. Athlete services

With all the services taking place inside the 'Testen voor Toegang' protocol no social distancing needs to be enforced on the main venue outside.

Registration: A one-way flow is set-up to prevent crossings + marking on the ground to respect distance

Changing tent: Regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Massage: No massage services are provided.

Showers: Showers are available but with maximum amounts of athletes per dressing room.

Finish area: Athletes are not handed their medal and finisher shirt, but must pick these themselves, aided from a distance by volunteers with PPE. Athletes receive a new face mask.

Medal ceremony: will follow the Event Guidelines COVID protocols