



## **Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria**

No Av-01-152

03<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

**To**  
**Mr Michael Kevin O'Leary**  
**CEO of Ryanair**

**Ref:** Bulgarian citizens and residents including family members are not required by the Bulgarian authorities to present any proofs related to COVID-19 vaccination or negative tests when entering Bulgaria

**Dear Mr O'Leary,**

Please allow me, while acting on repeated queries by Bulgarian citizens who are planning their travel from the UK to Bulgaria and on some reports of alleged misinterpretations by Ryanair ground personnel of the provisions of Order RD-01-374/27.05.2021, issued by the Bulgarian Ministry of Health, to make the following clarifications:

Bulgarian citizens and citizens of other nationalities permanently residing in Bulgaria and their family members, when travelling to Bulgaria, **have never been and still are not** required by the Bulgarian authorities to present any proof related to Covid-19 such as:

- a document for completed vaccination scheme against COVID-19;
- a document showing a positive result from a PCR test, or a rapid antigen test for COVID-19 (for persons suffering from COVID-19 for the period from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 180<sup>th</sup> day from the date of study);
- a negative result PCR test performed up to 72 hours before entry or a negative result from a rapid antigen test conducted up to 48 hours before entry into Bulgaria.

The travellers of this category, however, who do not provide such tests, are required to self-isolate for ten days in Bulgaria. These persons may be waived from the requirement to self-isolate if within 24 hours after their arrival they do a PCR or Antigen test with negative result.

The lack of a Vaccination Certificate/Negative PCR test/Negative Antigen rapid test for Bulgarian citizens and residents and their family members should not be used as an excuse to deny boarding a plane to Bulgaria. Therefore, as far as the travel regulations issued by the Bulgarian Ministry of Health are concerned, there are no reasons for Ryanair to refuse boarding to such passengers on the grounds of the above-mentioned Ministerial order.

Having the full understanding of each individual carrier's right to apply their own autonomous measures to restrict the Covid-19 pandemic, we believe that any such decision by the company should be made available to the public so that they can make informed decisions while planning their trip.

I avail myself of this opportunity to commend you for the great services you are offering to passengers during these difficult times!

**Yours sincerely,**



**Ambassador Marin RAYKOV**