

Health

1. Alcohol consumption, tobacco, and drugs

Since passing the law of January 10, 1991 ("loi Evin"), smoking is forbidden in public places in France (museums, monuments, cinemas) and on public transport. Restaurants are divided into smoking and non-smoking areas.

It is forbidden to drive or travel (even on foot) in a state of drunkenness on public roads.

It is forbidden to take alcoholic drinks into any establishment catering for physical and sports activities.

The use or importation of narcotics is strictly forbidden in France, including "soft" drugs (e.g. cannabis).

2. In case of an emergency

If you get sick in France or if you are victim of an accident, since the launch of the European health insurance card (replacing the former form E111), you can receive medical treatment for free or at a low cost.

Before travelling check out how to obtain an EHIC. In the UK visit www.ehic.org.uk

However, it may be useful to pay for additional travel insurance to cover additional costs such as repatriation.

3. Pharmacy and medical care

There is a large network of pharmacies in towns and cities, and although the opening hours are generally like the other shops (9 am – 7/8 pm), there is always an emergency pharmacy at night, every Sunday, and during the holidays. The address of the nearest emergency pharmacy is usually written on the door of the closed ones; otherwise ask at the police station.

To obtain certain types of medicines, a prescription provided by a doctor is needed. Other medicines are freely sold and can be then supplied to you over the counter. The pharmacist will be able to give you any further information.

4. Emergency numbers

SAMU (medical emergencies): 15

Police emergencies: 17

Fire Service emergencies: 18

European emergency line: 112

SOS Médecins (Paris – emergency doctors): +33 (0) 1 47 07 77 77 or +33 (0) 820 332 424

SOS Dentistes (Paris – emergency dentists): +33 (0) 1 43 37 51 00

(Paris) antipoison centre: +33 (0) 1 40 05 48 48