



COVID-19 Requirements for Air Travel

Frequently Asked Questions

Important Caveat: Nothing in this document supersedes any requirement or obligation outlined in Transport Canada's Interim Order or the Public Health Agency of Canada's Emergency Orders. It is meant to complement these legal documents and provide guidance on how to understand the requirements.

Table of Contents

Face Mask Requirements	8
Q1. Do I still need to wear a face mask on-board an aircraft if I am fully vaccinated?	8
Q2. What type of face masks are allowed for air travel?	8
Q3. Who is exempt from wearing a face mask?	8
Q4. Is there an obligation to report travellers who refuse to wear their face mask despite repeated instructions from the flight attendant?	9
Q5. Can travellers take off their mask during a flight to eat or drink?	9
Q6. Will flight crew, airport workers and pilots be required to wear a face mask?	9
Temperature Screening Requirements	9
Q1. Will temperature checks of travellers still be required given the new testing requirement?	9
Q2. Who conducts the temperature screening in Canada?	10
Q3. Are air carriers required to maintain records associated with temperature screening?	11
Q4. What happens in terms of a refund when a person is denied boarding due to having a high temperature?	11
Q5. If a passenger flies from a Canadian airport that has no temperature screening and transfers to a Canadian airport that does have temperature screening, will the traveller have their temperature taken at the second airport?	11
Q6. Will employees also be required to undergo temperature screening measures?	11
Q7. I've heard of people using fake medical exemption cards to avoid wearing non-medical masks or temperature checks. What will happen if someone tries that to avoid public safety measures by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority?	12
Q8. I have an underlying medical condition which may mean my internal body temperature will be elevated. What information should be included on my medical certificate? Who should sign it?	12
COVID-19 Molecular Testing Requirements	12
Q1. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure and upon arrival?	12
Q2. Which types of COVID-19 tests are considered molecular tests?	14
Q3. Which COVID-19 tests are valid or acceptable? Is there a list of laboratories or testing facilities available? What elements should the proof presented by the traveller contain?	14
Q4. Can the COVID-19 molecular test result be from any country as long as it is performed at an accredited laboratory and within 72 hours of departure to Canada?	14
Q5. Will a positive COVID-19 molecular test result obtained within 14-90 days of the traveller's departure to Canada be accepted from a country or territory listed in Schedule 1 of the Interim Order?	15
Q6. Where no COVID-19 molecular test is available, would a rapid antigen test or a Diffractive Phase Interferometry (DPI) test be acceptable?	15
Q7. Do the test results need to be in English or French? What if the traveller can only get their results in another language?	15



Q8. Will a test result that indicates “not detected” be accepted as evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result?.....	16
Q9. Will age be accepted on COVID-19 molecular test results where the date of birth is not available?	16
Q10. Will test results from the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) be accepted given their results do not indicate the type of test?	16
Q11. What if the COVID-19 molecular test results do not indicate the exact time the test (swab) was taken?	16
Q12. Does the 72 hours relate to the scheduled departure time or the scheduled time arriving in Canada?	16
Q13. What happens if a traveller’s flight is delayed, and their test is no longer within 72 hours of the departure to Canada? Do they need to take another test?	17
Q14. Should air carriers use the time when the COVID-19 molecular test was conducted or when the test results were provided?.....	17
Q15. What happens if someone is coming to Canada through an indirect route? Will they need to show proof of testing at the start of their trip? If the 72 hours applies from the departure time of the flight to Canada, won’t it be hard for some travellers to obtain their negative test in time?	17
Q16. Does a traveller departing from a country that also requires COVID-19 molecular testing prior to entry need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements?	17
Q17. Does a traveller who is departing and returning to Canada within 72 hours need to provide two separate test results?	18
Q18. What happens if a traveller cannot get a COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours prior to their return to Canada?	18
Q19. Where should air carriers refer travellers if they do not have a negative COVID-19 molecular test (such as a PCR or RT-LAMP test)? Can an individual apply for an exemption to the Canadian pre-departure testing requirements?	18
Q20. Can travellers still board a flight for Canada if they cannot obtain a COVID-19 molecular test in the country they are in? Is there another option in Canada when they land if they are not able to get a COVID-19 test abroad?.....	19
Q21. What type of COVID-19 test will I receive upon arrival to Canada?	19
Q22. Will the Government of Canada reimburse travellers for costs associated to obtaining a COVID-19 molecular test abroad?	20
Q23. Would proof of vaccination replace a COVID-19 test?	20
Q24. Will there be any costs for the traveller associated to the arrival testing requirement?	20
Q25. Is there a requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test verification?.....	20
Q26. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?	20
Q27. What is the process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results to Transport Canada, as well as the expected functions for the Operations Coordination Team?	20
Q28. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g. PCR or RT-LAMP)? Will there be penalties or fines?	21
Q29. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?.....	21

Q30. What is the requirement related to traveller/baggage reconciliation if travellers present themselves at boarding without the appropriate negative test result? Are there any exemptions for airports (e.g., FRA, LHR, HKG) where a bag could travel without the traveller (e.g. in low risk situations)? Could carriers use their discretion for these locations when required due to operational reasons? 21

COVID-19 Testing Exemptions21

- Q1. Will Transport Canada be providing a template letter for crew members? 21
- Q2. Has the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pre-clearance Officers (those officers that are stationed to work at the eight Canadian pre-clearance airports) been included on the list of exceptions for the requirement to present confirmation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result to the air carrier in order to board their flight to Canada? Will they also be exempt from arrival testing? . 21
- Q3. Are persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing? 22
- Q4. Are travellers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have since recovered exempt from the testing requirements (both pre-departure and arrival)? 22
- Q5. Are unaccompanied minors exempt from COVID-19 testing?..... 22
- Q6. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure or the requirement to quarantine in a government-approved hotel for three days at their expense? 23
- Q7. Are asymptomatic Aircraft Maintenance Engineers exempted from all required health measures? 23

Transiting & Quarantine Requirements24

- Q1. If a traveller leaves a country listed in Schedule 1 of the Interim Order and transits through another country to arrive in Canada, where can they obtain their pre-departure test?..... 24
- Q2. What if the transiting time is extended due to delays and a traveller who was expected to stay within the sterile area now requires an overnight transit?..... 24
- Q3. Does a negative COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) reduce or eliminate the requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Canada? 24
- Q4. Will I need to quarantine following my COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at the airport? 24
- Q5. Do transiting travellers need pre-departure and arrival COVID-19 molecular tests if they are staying within the sterile area of a Canadian airport and not entering Canada through the border entry point? 25
- Q6. Is there a requirement for the air carrier to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked a 3-night stay at a government approved accommodation (GAA) prior to boarding?..... 25
- Q7. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?..... 25

Vaccinated Traveller Exemptions25

- Q1. What is the definition of fully vaccinated? 25
- Q2. Does this mean anyone who is fully vaccinated can now enter Canada? 26
- Q3. How do I prove that I am fully vaccinated? What types of personal information will be required from me in order to meet the requirements for exemptions for fully vaccinated travellers? 26
- Q4. What counts as a “certified translation”?..... 26
- Q5. Why do travellers have to use ArriveCAN to enter proof of vaccination? What about people who don’t have smart phones or aren’t web savvy – can’t they just show their paper documentation? What will happen if I can’t use ArriveCAN to submit my information? 27



Q6. Why aren't fully vaccinated travellers also exempt from all of the testing protocols?	28
Q7. Why do travellers have to declare vaccination status when entering Canada? Is proof of vaccination required to enter Canada or is it expected to be a requirement in future?.....	28
Q8. Will I need to show my proof of vaccination every time I enter Canada?	28
Q9. Will travellers entering Canada who prove they are fully vaccinated be exempt from public health measures while travelling in Canada?	28
Q10. What if individuals attempt to enter Canada with fraudulent vaccination documents?	29
Q11. In the future, will there be different entry requirements for different vaccines? What about mixed dosing, which NACI has endorsed?.....	29
Q12. Quebec's definition of fully vaccinated traveller means only one dose if the individual has previously had COVID-19. Will people who have been vaccinated using this criteria still be eligible for the border easing exemptions?.....	29
Q13. Why does vaccination documentation have to be in English or French, or a notarized translation?	29
Q14. If I share my proof of vaccination, will it be kept private? What privacy safeguards are in place for my personal information? Where will my information be stored? Who will my information be shared with? How long will my information be retained?	30
Q15. Do we know now that fully vaccinated individuals are not able to transmit the virus?	30
Q16. What about individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical conditions or other reasons? Can they be exempt from the mandatory government-authorized hotel stay and leave quarantine once they get a negative test result?.....	31
Q17. If a family who travelled with a child under the age of 12 is exempt from quarantine, does the child under 12 have to wait the full 14 days and take a day-8 test? Or do the parents or people who travelled with the child need to quarantine for the full 14 days as well, even if the parents/accompanying travellers are fully vaccinated?.....	31
Q18. The Order in Council states that the Minister of Health may remove the on-arrival (day-1) test requirement for fully vaccinated travellers. When will this happen?	31
Q19. How does this affect children under the age of 12 who are currently not eligible for vaccination? Will they also be exempt from the mandatory government-authorized hotel stay or will they and their family/accompanying travellers have to stay at a hotel?	31
Q20. Are there any other criteria in addition to being fully vaccinated required to be exempt from the three-night hotel stay?	32
Q21. Since fully vaccinated travellers who meet all criteria are no longer required to quarantine or stay in a government-authorized accommodation, can they take onward travel to their final destination (i.e. domestic flight, bus, taxi, etc.)?.....	32
Q22. I already booked my Government Approved Accommodation stay but am fully vaccinated. Will I be refunded?	33
Q23. The Expert Panel's report said the government should end Government Approved Accommodations. Why are you still not following their recommendation by only discontinuing them for vaccinated people?.....	33
Q24. If fully vaccinated travellers don't have to quarantine, but still have to take an on-arrival test, what happens while they wait for their test result? Can they leave their homes, go to work, etc.?.....	33
Q25. How long will it take to get on-arrival test results?	33

Q26. Do fully vaccinated travellers who get a negative on-arrival test result have to notify someone of their result? 34

Q27. What happens if a fully vaccinated traveller gets a positive result from their on-arrival test?..... 34

Q28. What happens if a fully vaccinated traveller’s on-arrival test result is negative, but a person travelling in their group receives a positive test result? 34

Q29. Why do fully vaccinated travellers still have to provide a suitable quarantine plan if they don’t have to quarantine?..... 34

Q30. Will this change impact temporary foreign workers?..... 34

Q31. Does this change apply to International Students? 35

Q32. What has changed in recent weeks to ease these requirements for fully vaccinated travellers? ... 35

Q33. Why is there a delayed coming into force for the vaccination exemptions until July 5? Why aren’t they in effect as of June 21? 35

Other Questions35

Q1. Will the Government of Canada be incorporating the requirement for a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) into the ArriveCAN app? 35

Q2. How far in advance of a traveller’s arrival to Canada must they input the required information into the ArriveCAN app or website?..... 36

Q3. Is there an obligation for travellers to identify their 14 day travel history prior to arriving in Canada? Is it the air carrier’s responsibility to notify travellers of this requirement?..... 36

Q4. When will crew members be required to enter their 14 day travel history in ArriveCAN? 36

Q5. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services? 36

Q6. Who can air operators contact for support? 36

Q7. How is a “crew member” defined?..... 37

Q8. Who does “crew member” apply to in the context of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, as referenced in the Order in Council (OIC) Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations) exemption? 37

Q9. Does “crew member” under the Canadian Aviation Regulations include pilots operating personal or private aircraft for “recreational” purposes? 37

Q10. The Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel recommended that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers be able to take a pre-departure rapid antigen test up to 24 hours before travel as an alternative to the required COVID-19 molecular test up to 72 hours before travel. Why isn’t this part of the border adjustments?..... 37

Q11. It is mentioned that the changes regarding vaccinated travellers is the first phase in a phased approach of easing restrictions. What are the other phases? What requirements will be eased in future phases, and when? 38

Q12. Do the changes regarding fully vaccinated travellers mean the Canada-U.S. border will be opening soon? In which phase would this be included? 38

Q13. What is the Government of Canada doing to provide Canadians with a “vaccination passport” or form of proof for travelling to other countries?..... 38

Q14. What if the province/territory a traveller is going to has different requirements for people entering their jurisdiction? Which rules does the traveller follow? 39

NOTAM Requirements.....39

Q1. Are international flights from all countries permitted to land in Canada? 39

Q2. When returning from outside of Canada, can I land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?..... 40

Q3. Does the NOTAM restriction apply to private general aviation aircraft? 40

Q4. How can I receive a Special Authorization for an exemption from NOTAM requirements? 40

Q5. Can medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)? 41

Face Mask Requirements

Q1. Do I still need to wear a face mask on-board an aircraft if I am fully vaccinated?

A1. Yes. All travellers, even those who are fully vaccinated, are still required to wear a face mask throughout their entire travel journey except for brief periods while eating, drinking or taking oral medication, or unless otherwise exempt (see also Q3 and Q4). Failure to comply with [the *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19*](#), could result in a fine of up to \$5,000.

Q2. What type of face masks are allowed for air travel?

A2. For the purposes of air travel in Canada, a face mask is “any mask, including a non-medical mask that is made of multiple layers of tightly woven material such as cotton or linen, completely covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin without gaping, and can be secured to a person’s head with ties or ear loops”. This could include cloth masks (with or without a transparent window) or disposable masks.

Masks **not allowed** for air travel include face shields only (with no mask underneath), scarves/bandanas, mesh/lace masks, neck gaiters or masks with exhalation valves.

Please see Transport Canada’s [Accepted/Not Accepted Face Masks](#) poster for further details.

Q3. Who is exempt from wearing a face mask?

A3. With respect to air travel, as outlined in [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), all persons must wear a face mask throughout their entire travel journey, unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- (a) a child who is less than two years of age;
- (b) a child who is at least two years of age but less than six years of age who is unable to tolerate wearing a face mask;
- (c) a person who provides a medical certificate certifying that they are unable to wear a face mask for a medical reason;
- (d) a person who is unconscious;
- (e) a person who is unable to remove their face mask without assistance;
- (f) a crew member;
- (g) a gate agent.

Transport Canada has prepared a sample medical certificate for those who are unable to wear a face mask for a medical or physical condition. Please see [Medical Certificate for Persons with Physical or Medical Conditions That Prevent the Use of a Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering for Civil Aviation](#) for the sample. The form must be signed and dated by the Healthcare Provider who is either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Dentists are also authorized to sign medical certificates in the case of face coverings. The medical certificate does not require the sharing of any diagnosis or other information that is confidential in nature.



Q4. Is there an obligation to report travellers who refuse to wear their face mask despite repeated instructions from the flight attendant?

A4. Yes, according to Transport Canada's [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), airlines are expected to enforce the requirement for passengers to wear face masks. In instances where a passenger does not comply with crew member direction to wear a face mask and the passenger does not fall into one of the exception categories, the obligation is on the airline to report the incident to Transport Canada for investigation. The airline must keep a record of the following information for a period of 12 months, and inform the Minister, as soon as feasible (generally expected within 24-48 hours after the incident occurs), of this record:

- the date and flight number;
- the traveller's name and contact information, including the person's date of birth, home address, telephone number and email address;
- the traveller's seat number on the flight; and
- the circumstances related to the refusal to comply.

Transport Canada will investigate all incidents to determine if the incident may be subject to penalties such as a letter of non-compliance or a fine.

Q5. Can travellers take off their mask during a flight to eat or drink?

A5. When travelling by air, travellers are required to wear their face mask throughout their whole travel journey. That being said, passengers may remove their mask for *brief periods* when they are eating, drinking or taking oral medication. For more information:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-information-travellers>

Q6. Will flight crew, airport workers and pilots be required to wear a face mask?

A6. The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends that all individuals wear a non-medical mask when in a shared space (either indoor or outdoor) with people from outside their immediate household. This includes wearing a non-medical mask in workplaces. Transport Canada's [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) also requires that all non-passengers wear a face mask at all passenger and non-passenger screening checkpoints, during the screening process, while boarding a flight, while on board a flight, and while deplaning.

Pilots will not be required to wear a face mask on the flight deck since it could interfere with safe operations.

Temperature Screening Requirements

Q1. Will temperature checks of travellers still be required given the new testing requirement?

A1. As of July 5, 2021, temperature screening will only be conducted by CATSA for flights departing Canada, and for non-passengers entering the restricted area of an airport designated for this type of screening. Temperature screening for international and transborder inbound flights to Canada is no



longer being conducted at the point of departure given the new requirements surrounding testing and vaccination.

All other existing measures including health check questions and the wearing of face masks on board flights remain in place.

Q2. Who conducts the temperature screening in Canada?

A2. For departures from Canada, the temperature screening is conducted by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority.

Should any passenger have a fever of **38° C or greater**, they must be denied boarding and notified that they cannot fly to Canada for 14 days unless they provide a medical certificate that indicates that the fever is not linked to COVID-19 (see [Conditions Causing Elevated Body Temperatures](#) for an example certificate). Similarly, should a non-passenger have a fever of **38° C or greater**, they must be denied entry into the restricted area of the airport.

Q4. What happens in terms of a refund when an outbound (domestic, transborder or international) traveller is denied boarding due to having a high temperature?

A4. The Government of Canada recognizes that it is essential that Canadians be treated fairly in circumstances where they are unable to travel due to COVID-19. If a person is denied boarding due to having an elevated temperature, air carriers will be asked to rebook passengers free of charge after 14 days, or once medically cleared to fly.

Q5. If a passenger flies from a Canadian airport that has no temperature screening and transfers to a Canadian airport that does have temperature screening, will the traveller have their temperature taken at the second airport?

A5. Temperature verification is part of a series of health risk mitigation measures already in place in the aviation sector, which includes mandatory health checks and the mandatory use of non-medical masks or face coverings. Requiring transiting passengers from airports that do not have a temperature screening in place to leave the restricted area and undergo both the temperature screening and security screening would pose operational challenges and could potentially result in passengers missing their connecting flights. For this reason, they will not be asked to go through screening at the second airport should they not leave the restricted area of the airport.

In the case where a passenger leaves the restricted area at the second airport (e.g. to stay at a hotel for a layover), they will then be required to undergo both the security screening and temperature screening upon re-entry of the restricted area.

Q6. Will employees also be required to undergo temperature screening measures?

A6. In order to maintain the integrity of the air travel corridor, all employees/personnel that enter or work in the restricted area of the air terminal building at an aerodrome as well as employees/personnel undergoing a screening at a non-passenger Canadian Air Transport Security Authority checkpoint outside the air terminal building are subject to temperature screening procedures by Canadian Air Transport Security Authority personnel or those approved by Transport Canada.

If an employee has an elevated temperature and is unable to present a medical certificate that indicates that the elevated temperature is not related to COVID-19 or another infectious illness, they will be sent to a dedicated location that respects physical distancing guidelines for a ten-minute rest period, followed by a second temperature reading. Should the second reading confirm an elevated temperature, the employee will be denied entry into the restricted area and referred to the air carrier or airport authority for follow up. This may also involve having their local restricted area access suspended for a period of 14 days.

Where an employee can verify with their employer that their elevated temperature is not related to COVID-19 through medical documentation, their employer can signal to the airport pass control office that the employee's access controls can be reinstated and the employee can return to work. Reinstatement of access controls is not usually expected to take more than 1 business day (24 hours). In this situation, the employee must ensure that they carry their medical documentation on them going forward when accessing the restricted area.

Q7. I've heard of people using fake medical exemption cards to avoid wearing non-medical masks or temperature checks. What will happen if someone tries that to avoid public safety measures by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority?

A7. Medical certificates can only be signed by a Healthcare Provider who is a physician, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. Dentists are also authorized to sign medical certificates in the case of face coverings. Passengers should be advised that providing false information under the *Aeronautics Act* with respect to any of the Interim Order provisions, including falsely answering health check questions, or providing false documentation, could lead to a fine of \$5,000.

Q8. I have an underlying medical condition which may mean my internal body temperature will be elevated. What information should be included on my medical certificate? Who should sign it?

A8. Transport Canada has prepared a sample medical certificate for those with physical or medical conditions causing an elevated body temperature. Please see [Conditions Causing Elevated Body Temperatures](#) for the sample. The form must be signed and dated by the Healthcare Provider who is either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. The medical certificate does not require the sharing of any diagnosis or other information that is confidential in nature.

Airport employees or flight crew with a medical or physical condition for which they may display an elevated temperature should be prepared to carry their medical certificate on them whenever they need to go into the restricted area through a Canadian Air Transport Security Authority screening checkpoint.

It is important to note that Transport Canada will accept that if a passenger has a medical certificate indicating their elevated temperature is not related to COVID 19, they will not be denied boarding based on the temperature reading, however other countries may have different policies. Travellers are advised to plan ahead if they are planning to travel overseas.

COVID-19 Molecular Testing Requirements

Q1. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure and upon arrival?

A1. All air travellers 5 years of age or older are required to provide proof of a COVID-19 molecular test result prior to boarding international flights bound for Canada, unless exempted. Tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Reverse Transcription Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) test. Other types of tests, such as antigen tests, will not be accepted. Travellers can refer to <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying> for more details including a list of types of accepted molecular tests.

In order to board a flight, the traveller must present one of the following test results:

- a test result that is **negative**, that was administered within 72 hours of the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada (must be 72 hours from the scheduled direct flight to Canada; which means from the final leg of the trip in the case of connecting flights); or
- a test result that is **positive**, that was administered **at least 14 days but no more than 90 days** from the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada (i.e. the traveller will be

eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered). This accounts for those that had contracted COVID-19, have recovered, but may still be testing positive due to lingering amounts of the virus in their system.

Upon arrival in Canada, travellers will also be subject to an additional arrival test and, if not fully vaccinated, will be subject to quarantine in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their test results. Note that travellers who are “residually positive” (i.e. who have a positive test result that was administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days from the scheduled departure time to Canada) will need to present their positive test result upon arrival in order to be exempt from arrival testing and the stay in the government approved accommodation.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the requirement for presenting a COVID-19 molecular test include, but are not limited to:

- Children who are four years of age or younger (i.e., children who are five on the day of their travel must have proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test);
- Air crew members or a person who seeks to enter Canada only to become such a crew member;
- Transiting travellers (not entering Canada through a border entry point);
- Emergency, law enforcement or border personnel; and
- Specific individuals or groups identified by Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer or the Minister of Health.

Q2. Which types of COVID-19 tests are considered molecular tests?

A2. A COVID-19 molecular test is defined within Transport Canada’s *Interim Order* as “a COVID-19 screening or diagnostic test carried out by an accredited laboratory, including a test carried out by the method of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP)”. For a list of tests that are considered molecular tests, please consult the “Accepted Types of Tests” section that can be found on the following webpage:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

Q3. Which COVID-19 tests are valid or acceptable? Is there a list of laboratories or testing facilities available? What elements should the proof presented by the traveller contain?

A3. Tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) test. The test result must also include the following information:

- Traveller’s name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted (For negative tests – the test must have been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of the flight. For positive tests (travellers that previously had COVID-19 but have since recovered and are still testing positive) - the test must have been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days (i.e. the traveller will only be eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered);
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

More information about laboratories will be available on Canada.ca/coronavirus as it becomes available. In the meantime, information is available on travel.gc.ca about local COVID-19 testing facilities for certain destinations. Travellers must ensure that the COVID test results include all the above-noted information.

At this time, travellers are encouraged to make best efforts to have their test performed at a reputable laboratory or testing facility (i.e. one recognized by the local government or accredited by a third party, such as a professional organization or international standards organization).

Q4. Can the COVID-19 molecular test result be from any country as long as it is performed at an accredited laboratory and within 72 hours of departure to Canada?

A4. As of 23:30 EDT on April 22, 2021, travellers who obtained a COVID-19 molecular test result from a country or territory listed in Schedule 1 of Transport Canada’s [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) will not be permitted to board an aircraft for a flight to Canada.

Q5. Will a positive COVID-19 molecular test result obtained within 14-90 days of the traveller's departure to Canada be accepted from a country or territory listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order*?

A5. No, as of 23:30 EDT on April 22, 2021, travellers who obtained a COVID-19 molecular test result from a country or territory listed in Schedule 1 of Transport Canada's [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) will not be permitted to board an aircraft for a flight to Canada. This includes all test results, including positive results that were obtained 14-90 days prior to departure to Canada.

Q6. Where no COVID-19 molecular test is available, would a rapid antigen test or a Diffractive Phase Interferometry (DPI) test be acceptable?

A6. The Canadian pre-departure testing requirements are for a molecular test method only (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP). Rapid Antigen tests or DPI tests are not molecular test methods. Air operators are advised to alert Transport Canada as soon as possible if they become aware of situations in which:

- A COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) is not available in a certain country or last point of departure;
- Obtaining a test result within 72 hours is not feasible on a recurring basis (i.e. not individual case by case, but rather for certain last points of departures on an ongoing basis); or
- Where state, local or regional law prevents travellers from leaving a particular site to obtain a COVID-19 molecular test.

If such a situation occurs, air carriers are asked to contact the COVID-19 Testing Response Operational Team (C-TROT):

FOR AIR CARRIERS ONLY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY (0800 TO 1800 ET)

Contact Transport Canada (TC) by email at TC.aviationsecurity-sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca

AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEK ENDS

Contact the Transport Canada Situation Centre (SITCEN) at Tel. 613.995.9737 or toll -free

1.888.857.4003 or TC.SitcenHQ-CentredinterventionAC.TC@tc.gc.ca

Q7. Do the test results need to be in English or French? What if the traveller can only get their results in another language?

A7. The Government of Canada is asking that travellers make best efforts to obtain their valid test results at a facility where these can be provided in English or French where possible. Although a molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT- LAMP test) that has all of the data elements will be accepted by the air carrier for boarding a flight to Canada, it is important for the traveller to understand that not having their test results in one of Canada's two official language may cause delays at the border port of entry.

Q8. Will a test result that indicates “not detected” be accepted as evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result?

A8. Yes, “not detected” can be accepted as equivalent to “negative” when providing evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result.

Q9. Will age be accepted on COVID-19 molecular test results where the date of birth is not available?

A9. Yes, an age that is displayed instead of a date of birth is deemed acceptable, as long as the age corresponds with the age on the passenger’s ID.

Q10. Will test results from the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) be accepted given their results do not indicate the type of test?

A10. COVID-19 testing for the purposes of international travel is not available on the NHS. Pre-travel COVID-19 tests are available for a fee in the private sector via tour operators or through major high street pharmacies. Please see the following website for more information:

<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice/disease-prevention-advice/covid-19-health-considerations-for-travel/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

Q11. What if the COVID-19 molecular test results do not indicate the exact time the test (swab) was taken?

A11. If the COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) results do not show the specific time when the test (swab) was taken, air carriers are to assess the test result using 3 days as the benchmark. Air carriers can use the date of the scheduled flight to Canada as day 1, and count backwards by 3 days, to determine the testing window.

Example: A traveller has a flight scheduled to Canada on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 10 a.m. They arrive at the airport with a valid molecular COVID-19 test result that is negative. The date stamp on the test result indicates March 2, 2021 for when the test was administered. The air carrier can use March 5th less 3 days, which brings us to March 2, as their basis to determine whether or not to board the traveller as indicated below in the following sample calculation:

Calculation:

March 5 → March 4 (-1 day from departure)

March 4 → March 3 (- 2 days from departure)

March 3 → March 2 (- 3 days from departure) ****limit****

= test is valid if on **March 2nd or later**

Q12. Does the 72 hours relate to the scheduled departure time or the scheduled time arriving in Canada?

A12. A COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) test) must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure of a flight to Canada.

Where a flight is delayed or diverted due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances outside the air carrier's control, the air operator is permitted to use the originally scheduled departure time of the flight as the benchmark for the 72 hours.

Q13. What happens if a traveller's flight is delayed, and their test is no longer within 72 hours of the departure to Canada? Do they need to take another test?

A13. Where a flight is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather, mechanical delays), the air carrier is permitted to use the originally scheduled departure time of the flight as the benchmark for the 72 hours.

Q14. Should air carriers use the time when the COVID-19 molecular test was conducted or when the test results were provided?

A14. Air carriers are to use the time of when the specimen was collected. Therefore, the test should be administered within 72 hours prior to the scheduled flight departure, with the expectation that the results will come in the intervening period.

Q15. What happens if someone is coming to Canada through an indirect route? Will they need to show proof of testing at the start of their trip? If the 72 hours applies from the departure time of the flight to Canada, won't it be hard for some travellers to obtain their negative test in time?

A15. As per the Transport Canada's Interim Order, a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP)) must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure of the direct flight to Canada from a last point of departure.

Q16. Does a traveller departing from a country that also requires COVID-19 molecular testing prior to entry need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements?

A16. As long as the test was conducted within 72 hours of the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada and was an acceptable molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) which contained all the required information, the traveller will not need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements. If the test does not meet all of this criteria (noted below), the traveller must be re-tested.

Required test information:

- Traveller's name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted (For negative tests – the test must have been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time. For positive tests (travellers that previously had COVID-19 but have since recovered and are still testing positive) - the test must have been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days (i.e. the traveller will only be eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered);
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and

- The test result.

Upon arrival to Canada, the traveller will still be subject to Canada's arrival testing requirements.

Travellers are encouraged to make best efforts to have their test performed at a reputable laboratory or testing facility (i.e. one recognized by the local government or accredited by a third party, such as a professional organization or international standards organization). Travellers can find additional information about testing facilities at travel.gc.ca and Canadian citizens or permanent residents can contact their Canadian consular services at <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/consular>.

Q17. Does a traveller who is departing and returning to Canada within 72 hours need to provide two separate test results?

A17. While a negative COVID molecular test conducted in any country within the 72-hour timeframe is acceptable under the current the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Order in Council and Transport Canada's *Interim Order* for the purposes of boarding a Canadian-bound flight, air operators may wish to advise their passengers that such an itinerary could lead to additional questions from Canadian federal officials (Canada Border Services Agency or PHAC) about the nature of their trip upon their arrival at the port of entry. The Government of Canada continues to recommend avoiding all non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice. In addition, all travellers arriving in Canada - even those with a negative pre-departure test COVID-19 molecular test – will still be subject to arrival testing and those who are un-vaccinated or partially vaccinated must still quarantine for 14 days on arrival no matter how short a period outside of Canada. This would include staying in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights **at the traveller's expense** while they await their test results.

Q18. What happens if a traveller cannot get a COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours prior to their return to Canada?

A18. If a traveller is unable to obtain a test within 72 hours before their direct flight to Canada, it is recommended that they reschedule their flight so that they meet the 72 hour requirement.

Q19. Where should air carriers refer travellers if they do not have a negative COVID-19 molecular test (such as a PCR or RT-LAMP test)? Can an individual apply for an exemption to the Canadian pre-departure testing requirements?

A19. Transport Canada recognizes that there is potential for delays or challenges for obtaining tests in some countries as we transition to this new requirement. Canadians abroad can find additional information at travel.gc.ca or by contacting Canadian consular services (<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/consular>). They can also contact their travel service provider.

There are only a limited number of exceptions where an individual is not required to show proof of a COVID-19 molecular test, which include but are not limited to:

- Children who are four years of age or younger (i.e., children who are five on the day of their travel must have proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test);
- Air crew members or a person who seeks to enter Canada only to become such a crew member;
- Transiting travellers (not entering Canada through a border entry point);
- Emergency, law enforcement or border personnel; and
- Specific individuals or groups identified by Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer or the Minister of Health.

Q20. Can travellers still board a flight for Canada if they cannot obtain a COVID-19 molecular test in the country they are in? Is there another option in Canada when they land if they are not able to get a COVID-19 test abroad?

A20. All international travellers must present a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) before boarding. The test result must either be: (1) negative, having been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled flight to Canada, or (2) positive, having been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days from the scheduled flight to Canada (this accounts for those that had contracted COVID-19, have recovered, but may still be testing positive due to lingering amounts of the virus in their system). There are very limited exemptions to this testing requirement. The small number of travellers arriving in Canada without a negative COVID-19 molecular test will be subject to additional measures from federal Quarantine Officers.

Air operators should notify Transport Canada as soon as possible in the event they are planning flights from a Last Point of Departure at where COVID-19 molecular testing is unavailable or unfeasible within the 72-hour time frame. Transport Canada will work with air operators to allow for an additional 24 hours (i.e. total of 96 hours) in those cases.

Q21. What type of COVID-19 test will I receive upon arrival to Canada?

A21. All travellers are required to undergo a molecular COVID-19 test upon arrival (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test). For a list of tests that are considered molecular tests, please consult the “Accepted Types of Tests” section that can be found on the following webpage: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

Once the test has been administered, un-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers are required to remain at a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their test results. The cost associated to any accommodations will be at the **traveller’s expense**. Fully vaccinated travellers are not required to stay at a government approved accommodation. It is important to note that travellers who are subjected to the mandatory stay in the government approved accommodation and who arrive in Canada without a pre-paid hotel booking can face fines up to \$3,000.

Q22. Will the Government of Canada reimburse travellers for costs associated to obtaining a COVID-19 molecular test abroad?

A22. Since the Government of Canada has advised Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice, any costs incurred in order to obtain a COVID-19 molecular test abroad will not be reimbursed. For more information about the Government of Canada's current travel advisories please consult <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>.

Q23. Would proof of vaccination replace a COVID-19 test?

A23. At this time, proof of vaccination will not replace a COVID-19 test result. While vaccination protects an individual from illness, further evidence is required to understand if a vaccinated person can still spread the virus and infect others around them.

Q24. Will there be any costs for the traveller associated to the arrival testing requirement?

A24. Yes. All un-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers arriving into Canada, unless exempt, must go to a government approved accommodation where they will be required to wait for up to three nights for their COVID-19 test results. The costs associated to the stay will be at the **traveller's expense** and will be significantly higher than a normal hotel room as they account for the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security, and transportation.

Q25. Is there a requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test verification?

A25. There is currently no requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test; however, air operators are required to report to Transport Canada those travellers who they have suspected have provided false or misleading test information.

Q26. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?

A26. Under Transport Canada's *Interim Order*, a person found to have made a false declaration may be subject to a fine of \$5,000. If an air operator suspects that a traveller has provided false or misleading information related to their COVID-19 molecular test results, they are required to notify Transport Canada immediately, with as much information as possible, so that an investigation can be conducted. Key information to provide should include: the data and flight number; the traveller's name and contact information (including date of birth, home address, telephone number and email address), and details on the circumstances related to the situation (what made the air carrier suspicious that the information was not accurate, any names of witnesses etc.).

Q27. What is the process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results to Transport Canada, as well as the expected functions for the Operations Coordination Team?

A27. The process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results is the same as the process for reporting passengers not wearing face masks or unruly passengers, which is

to report incidents to the Transport Canada Situation Centre. Information that will need to be provided include name of individual, flight number, etc.

Q28. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g. PCR or RT-LAMP)? Will there be penalties or fines?

A28. Air carriers failing to comply with the requirements of the *Interim Order* or other regulatory requirements under the *Aeronautics Act* could be subject to a fine of up to \$25,000 per infraction.

Q29. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?

A29. The requirements to verify that a traveller has a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) applies to all commercial, charter, all-cargo and private air operators flying into Canada, unless the traveller is otherwise exempt (e.g., part of the flight crew). The requirement for pre-departure COVID-19 molecular testing does not apply to domestic flights.

Q30. What is the requirement related to traveller/baggage reconciliation if travellers present themselves at boarding without the appropriate negative test result? Are there any exemptions for airports (e.g., FRA, LHR, HKG) where a bag could travel without the traveller (e.g. in low risk situations)? Could carriers use their discretion for these locations when required due to operational reasons?

A30. In order to ensure the smoothest travel journey for travellers and as little operational disruption as possible for air carriers, it is strongly recommended, where operationally possible, that upon arrival at the airport, travellers present themselves to the check-in counter to provide their COVID-19 molecular test result. This way, the agent at check-in can verify the result against the required criteria and then either: 1) allow the traveller to continue on their journey; or 2) stop them before they continue onwards and check their bags. This will avoid having to reconcile baggage should a traveller check their bag and then get denied boarding at the gate.

COVID-19 Testing Exemptions

Q1. Will Transport Canada be providing a template letter for crew members?

A1. Yes. Transport Canada has provided a template letter to air operators to use for crew members in the COVID-19 Air Operator Guidance Material that can be found at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada#toc2-1>

Q2. Has the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pre-clearance Officers (those officers that are stationed to work at the eight Canadian pre-clearance airports) been included on the list of exceptions for the requirement to present confirmation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result to the air carrier in order to board their flight to Canada? Will they also be exempt from arrival testing?

A2. CBP pre-clearance officers returning to, or deploying to, Canadian pre-clearance locations would be considered exempt from both pre-departure testing requirements and arrival testing

requirements, provided they are entering Canada for the purposes of border activities to support the continuity of enforcement operations/activities AND that they are required to provide their services within the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada.

Q3. Are persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing?

A3. No, those escorting human organs or tissues are not exempt from COVID-19 molecular testing unless they are licensed to practice as emergency responders in Canada. Should a special exemption need to be sought, the Public Health Agency of Canada should be contacted for further information.

Q4. Are international inbound travellers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have since recovered exempt from the testing requirements (both pre-departure and arrival)?

Q4. As outlined in the [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)](#), travellers who present a positive COVID-19 test, after having contracted COVID-19 but have recovered and are no longer deemed to be contagious, are now permitted to board a flight to Canada.

Travellers are permitted to board a plane so long as they can provide proof of a positive test result conducted between 15 days and 90 days from the scheduled flight to Canada. Travellers must also be symptom-free as is the case with all other travellers.

Travellers that present a positive COVID-19 test result within the accepted testing window mentioned above, do not need any other supporting documentation at this time. Evidence of their positive test within the accepted time frame (e.g., the window of time between 15 days and 90 days from when the test was administered) is sufficient.

Please note that the test result must include all the same data elements that are required for a negative molecular COVID-19 test, which includes:

- Traveller's name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted;
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

While travellers (who have previously tested positive for COVID-19) will need a pre-departure molecular test result to board the aircraft, they will not be subject to arrival testing or the requirement to stay in a government approved accommodation to await test results (given they are exempt from arrival testing). They will however, still be required to quarantine upon arrival.

Q5. Are unaccompanied minors exempt from COVID-19 testing?

A5. As outlined in the Public Health Agency of Canada's [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)](#), unaccompanied minors or young persons and dependents travelling to Canada must:

- Provide results of a pre-departure test result in order to board their flight & enter Canada;

- Follow further instructions given by a government representative regarding arrival testing; and; and
- Quarantine for 14 days upon arrival at a suitable location.

Currently, unaccompanied minors and young persons are exempt from the need to stay in a government approved accommodation.

Q6. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure or the requirement to quarantine in a government-approved hotel for three days at their expense?

A6. Government-authorized accommodation requirements and other measures in the Order in Council (OIC) [*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)*](#) apply equally to all travelers entering Canada, regardless of the mode of aviation entry (i.e. public and private conveyance included).

Q7. Are asymptomatic Aircraft Maintenance Engineers exempted from all required health measures?

A7. No. In accordance with the Canadian Public Health Officer essential services list for mandatory exemption from quarantine: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/mandate/about-agency/acts-regulations/list-acts-regulations.html#6e>. Aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs) are covered under the following:

Technicians or specialists specified by a government, manufacturer, or company, who enter Canada as required for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, installing or inspecting equipment necessary to support critical infrastructure (Energy and Utilities, Information and Communication Technologies, Finance, Health, Food, Water, Transportation, Safety, Government and Manufacturing) and are required to provide their services within 14 days of their entry to Canada and have a reasonable rationale for the immediacy of the work and the inability to plan for a 14 day quarantine.

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers must comply or are exempt from the following Order in Council health measures:

Cohort	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement – LAND MODE	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement – AIR MODE	Exempt from Post-Arrival PCR Test	Exempt from staying in a Government approved facility (Air mode)	Exempt from Quarantine
Aircraft Maintenance Engineers	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Some conditions apply

Transiting & Quarantine Requirements

Q1. If a traveller leaves a country listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* and transits through another country to arrive in Canada, where can they obtain their pre-departure test?

A1. Since pre-departure tests are not accepted from countries or territories listed on Schedule 1 of Transport Canada's [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), the traveller will be required to have their pre-departure COVID-19 test administered in a country through which they are transiting within 72 hours of their departure time to Canada.

Q2. What if the transiting time is extended due to delays and a traveller who was expected to stay within the sterile area now requires an overnight transit?

A2. In the case where a traveller has to unexpectedly enter Canada due to unforeseen delays or cancellations of their connecting flight they may be exempt from arrival testing and the requirement to quarantine. They will be referred to Public Health Officials for further direction.

Q3. Does a negative COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) reduce or eliminate the requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Canada?

A3. No. Travellers to Canada must use the ArriveCAN app or website to provide accurate contact information as well as their mandatory 14-day quarantine plan on or before entry. All non-exempt travellers entering Canada must quarantine for the mandatory 14 day quarantine period, unless the traveller is fully vaccinated. In the case of a fully vaccinated traveller, there is no requirement to quarantine.

Q4. Will I need to quarantine following my COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at the airport?

A4. For un-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers, there is still a requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival into Canada. Upon arrival into Canada, the un-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers must go to a government approved accommodation where they will be required to wait for up to three nights for their COVID-19 test results. The costs associated to the stay will be at the **traveller's expense** and will be significantly higher than a normal hotel room as they account for the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security, and transportation. Should the test result be negative, travellers will be able to leave but must quarantine at their final destination (under significantly increased surveillance and enforcement). If the test result is positive, travellers will be required to immediately isolate in a federally designated quarantine facility that will be monitored by Public Health Officials.

For fully vaccinated travellers, there is no requirement to await their test results in a government approved accommodation nor quarantine; however, if their arrival test result comes back positive, the traveller must begin a 14 day isolation period starting from either the date they took their test (if validated by the test provider) or the date on the test result.

Q5. Do transiting travellers need pre-departure and arrival COVID-19 molecular tests if they are staying within the sterile area of a Canadian airport and not entering Canada through the border entry point?

A5. All travellers entering Canada through a border entry point will require a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test) both prior to departure as well as upon arrival, regardless of whether or not they are staying in Canada. In addition, since these travellers are entering a border entry point, they must quarantine upon arrival in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their arrival testing results.

The only travellers who do not require a COVID-19 molecular test prior to departure or upon arrival are those who remain in the sterile transit area of a Canadian airport and will not be entering through a border entry point. These travellers also will not be required to submit contact and quarantine plan information through the ArriveCAN app or website.

Q6. Is there a requirement for the air carrier to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked a 3-night stay at a government approved accommodation (GAA) prior to boarding?

A6. No, air carriers do not need to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked their 3-night stay in a GAA. While the air carrier has a responsibility to provide education and awareness by notifying the traveller of the requirement as well as the associated \$3,000 fine that may be imposed for not complying to the requirement, should a traveller not have a GAA booking prior to departure, the air carrier will not deny boarding.

Q7. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?

A7. Yes, under the [*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)*](#) Emergency Order those not subject to quarantine must, during the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada:

- a. Provide to the Minister of Health their contact information for the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada;
- b. Wear a mask when they are in public settings, including when entering Canada; and,
- c. Maintain a list of the names and contact information of each person with whom the person came into close contact and the locations visited during that period.

Vaccinated Traveller Exemptions

Q1. What is the definition of fully vaccinated?

A1. To be considered fully vaccinated, a traveller must have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine — or combination of vaccines — accepted by the Government of Canada, at least 14 days prior to entering Canada.

Currently, those vaccines are manufactured by Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). The list of accepted vaccines may expand in the future as evidence becomes available.

Vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada do not have to have be administered in Canada to be accepted.

Travellers must provide proof of vaccination. Only documents in English or French (or a certified translation) will be accepted.

Q2. Does this mean anyone who is fully vaccinated can now enter Canada?

A2. No. The initial Phase of re-opening is about easing quarantine and some testing requirements for fully vaccinated travellers who are currently already eligible to enter Canada including Canadian citizens, permanent residents and persons registered under the *Indian Act*, as well as some foreign nationals who are not prohibited from entering Canada under the Orders in Council (*Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States; Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States*) and some foreign nationals who are currently eligible to enter such as those entering for compassionate reasons. Effective June 21, 2021, this will also include any foreign national who holds a valid Confirmation of Permanent Residence to travel to Canada as of June 21, 2021.

All other entry requirements and travel restrictions remain in effect. For a full list of exemptions visit <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/wizard-start>.

Q3. How do I prove that I am fully vaccinated? What types of personal information will be required from me in order to meet the requirements for exemptions for fully vaccinated travellers?

A3. Travellers must enter their vaccination status and upload proof of vaccination in English or French (or a certified translation) into the ArriveCAN app or by signing-in online at Canada.ca/ArriveCAN before arriving to Canada.

They will be required to provide information such as the type of vaccine they received and when they received each dose, as applicable. More details about the information required and how to enter it into ArriveCAN will be available online by July 5, 2021.

Travellers must retain a copy (paper or electronic) of their vaccination documentation and the originals of any certified translations for verification at the border and for 14 days following their entry to Canada.

Final determination is made by a government representative at the border based on the information presented at the time of entry into Canada.

Q4. What counts as a “certified translation”?

A4. The Government of Canada will accept translations that were produced by a certified translator whose certification can be confirmed by a stamp or membership number with a professional translation association.

Q5. Why do travellers have to use ArriveCAN to enter proof of vaccination? What about people who don't have smart phones or aren't web savvy – can't they just show their paper documentation? What will happen if I can't use ArriveCAN to submit my information?

A5. Fully vaccinated travellers who wish to be considered for the eased quarantine and testing requirements must meet all criteria, including the electronic submission of their vaccination documentation into ArriveCAN prior to arrival in Canada. If you're using the ArriveCAN app, make sure you have the most up-to-date version that was released on July 5 in the Google Play Store and the App Store for iPhone.

All travellers entering Canada must submit their information into ArriveCAN within 72 hours before arrival to Canada, including:

- travel and contact information;
- 14-day travel history;
- quarantine plan;
- vaccination information;
- reference code for a confirmed three-night reservation at a government-authorized accommodation (for air travellers only, unless fully vaccinated or exempt); and
- COVID-19 symptom self-assessment.

Travellers who experience difficulty submitting their information through ArriveCAN can access additional information at [Canada.ca/ArriveCAN](https://www.canada.ca/ArriveCAN).

For general inquiries, basic troubleshooting and navigational support, travellers can call (from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET on statutory holidays):

- From Canada or the U.S. at 1-833-283-7403 (toll-free)
- From abroad at 613-954-8485
- Using teletypewriter (TTY) at 1-800-465-7735 (Canada and the U.S. only)

For technical and registration issues, travellers can contact PHAC via the contact form at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan/contact-us.html>.

Travellers without a smartphone or without mobile data can submit their information by signing in online through a computing device. Travellers are able to submit their information electronically within 72 hours before their arrival in Canada and are encouraged to submit in advance of their arrival at the border. Travellers should print or take a screenshot of their ArriveCAN receipt and bring it with them when they travel.

In addition, the ArriveCAN website is fully accessible for persons with visual disabilities.

Travellers can also ask another person for assistance, such as a friend or relative, to submit their information if they are unable to use ArriveCAN. The individual can submit the traveller's information by signing in online. They do not need to be travelling together. Once they have submitted the travellers' information, they should print the receipt page or take a screenshot and provide it to the traveller to show to the border services officer.

If individuals do not provide this information before arriving at a port of entry, they will be deemed non-compliant and they will be required to quarantine and provide a day 1 and day 8 test.

Q6. Why aren't fully vaccinated travellers also exempt from all of the testing protocols?

A6. Border testing is a critical part of Canada's COVID-19 surveillance strategy, which will help detect variants of concern and vaccine-escape variants. Even if fully vaccinated, although rare, individuals could still become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. For this reason, it is important to continue taking precautions and testing fully vaccinated travellers both prior to entry and on-arrival in Canada.

Testing on arrival in Canada also provides the opportunity to conduct genetic sequencing of the virus and its variants, which will help to monitor when individuals test positive and if they are carrying variants of concern.

Each positive case identified reduces the risk of onward community transmission in Canada.

The Government of Canada is monitoring the situation and will consider further targeted border measures within the dynamic context of the pandemic. Right now, the evidence supports a cautious approach. Measures will evolve based on the data, science and Canadian and global epidemiological situations.

Q7. Why do travellers have to declare vaccination status when entering Canada? Is proof of vaccination required to enter Canada or is it expected to be a requirement in future?

A7. Effective July 5, 2021, all travellers to Canada will be required to disclose COVID-19 vaccination information, including whether they received a COVID-19 vaccine, the brand name or any other information that identifies the vaccine that was administered, the dates on which the vaccine was administered, and the doses received.

Fully vaccinated travellers who want to be considered for the exemption from quarantine and reduced testing requirements will be required to provide evidence of their vaccination status by uploading supporting English or French documentation (or a certified translation), into the ArriveCAN app or by signing-in online at Canada.ca/ArriveCAN before arriving in Canada.

Collecting this information can help to identify vaccine-escape variants (that is, variants that make vaccines less effective) if a vaccinated traveller's arrival test yields a positive result.

Further, on-arrival test results will be used to help shape appropriate public health measures across the country.

Q8. Will I need to show my proof of vaccination every time I enter Canada?

A8. Yes, for the majority of travellers this will be the case. This may change in the future.

Q9. Will travellers entering Canada who prove they are fully vaccinated be exempt from public health measures while travelling in Canada?

A9. No. Providing documentation to support being fully vaccinated when entering Canada will only support exemptions from mandatory quarantine, the government-authorized hotel stay (for air

travellers) and day-8 testing. As with all other exempt travellers, fully vaccinated travellers will be required to follow local public health guidance, wear a mask when in public, keep a copy of their test results, and a list of close contacts for the remainder of the 14-day period.

Provinces and territories may have their own provincial border measures as well as public health guidelines within their jurisdictions, it is important that travellers check for the most up to date information for requirements for travel into Canada but also requirements imposed by their intended province or territory of destination. They may also apply public health measures for vaccinated Canadians differently. In cases where the requirements differ, follow the most stringent measures.

Q10. What if individuals attempt to enter Canada with fraudulent vaccination documents?

A10. While Canada works to secure a digital solution for vaccine credentials, random checks will be performed on vaccine credentials submitted by travellers. A person who submits false information on vaccination status could be liable to a fine of up to \$750,000 or 6 months imprisonment or both, under the Quarantine Act, or prosecution under the Criminal Code for forgery.

Q11. In the future, will there be different entry requirements for different vaccines? What about mixed dosing, which NACI has endorsed?

A11. To meet the definition of fully vaccinated in the context of being eligible for the eased quarantine and testing requirements, a traveller must have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine — or combination of vaccines — accepted by the Government of Canada, with the last dose administered at least 14 days prior to arrival in Canada. These vaccines do not need to be administered in Canada to qualify. A list of vaccines and regimens that meet the criteria for fully vaccinated will be published on the Government of Canada website in the coming weeks. Decisions on which vaccines will be eligible for future inclusion on the list will be based on science.

Q12. Quebec's definition of fully vaccinated traveller means only one dose if the individual has previously had COVID-19. Will people who have been vaccinated using this criteria still be eligible for the border easing exemptions?

A12. At this time a traveller must have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine — or combination of vaccines — accepted by the Government of Canada, with the last dose administered at least 14 days prior to arrival in Canada. These vaccines do not need to be administered in Canada to qualify. A list of vaccines and regimens that meet the criteria for fully vaccinated will be published on the Government of Canada website in the coming weeks. Decisions on which vaccines will be eligible for future inclusion on the list will be based on science. There will also be continued discussions with the provinces and territories.

Q13. Why does vaccination documentation have to be in English or French, or a notarized translation?

A13. In order to be eligible for eased quarantine and testing requirements, travellers must provide all the relevant information in order to be processed upon entry by Government of Canada agents at the border. Proper processing can only be done with the full understanding of the relevant documents, in Canada's official languages.

Q14. If I share my proof of vaccination, will it be kept private? What privacy safeguards are in place for my personal information? Where will my information be stored? Who will my information be shared with? How long will my information be retained?

A14. Personal information is required to administer and enforce the [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)](#). Personal information may be used and shared for the following main purposes: to verify and/or enforce compliance with the Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations Order, and for public health follow-up by the provinces and territories.

Personal information collected by Canada Border Services Agency on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), via ArriveCAN or alternative methods, such as verbally by a border services officer, is used by PHAC to verify travellers' compliance with the *Quarantine Act* and Emergency Orders made under it.

Personal information is shared with provinces and territories to facilitate their public health follow-up with travellers. It is also shared with law enforcement to verify and enforce compliance with the Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations Order.

ArriveCAN does not monitor or track traveller movements.

Personal information under the control of any federal government institution is subject to the requirements of the *Privacy Act*.

Provinces, territories and local law enforcement, with whom this information is shared, have their own privacy legislation and retention periods.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has actively engaged the Office of the Privacy Commissioner on any collection of personal information required to enforce *Quarantine Act*.

Q15. Do we know now that fully vaccinated individuals are not able to transmit the virus?

A15. Although our current vaccines appear to be able to prevent transmission, the science on whether vaccination reduces transmission is still evolving. It is clear, however, that fully vaccinated individuals pose less of a risk. Current vaccines that are authorized in Canada appear to be able to lower the risk of transmission by decreasing infection. Even those who become infected despite vaccination appear to be less likely to transmit infection than those who are infected but unvaccinated.

As the Public Health Agency of Canada monitors developments in the area of transmissibility, to mitigate possible risk, we will continue to require fully vaccinated travellers to test on-arrival to Canada and to quarantine until a negative test result is received. Additionally any positive test results will continue to be sequenced for potential variants of concern.

Introducing these changes for vaccinated travellers is a cautious first step on the path to easing border measures for vaccinated travellers.

As a reminder, one of the public health criteria that underpins the phased approach is that vaccines continue to remain effective against variants of concern (VOCs), and we are committed to maintaining vigilance in our tracking, tracing and sequencing of VOCs.

Q16. What about individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical conditions or other reasons? Can they be exempt from the mandatory government-authorized hotel stay and leave quarantine once they get a negative test result?

A16. Exemption from the requirements to quarantine and stay at a government-authorized hotel are only currently available to those who meet the definition of fully vaccinated as well as all other entry requirements. At this time, Phase 1 is a cautious, evidence-based approach to minimize the introduction and spread of COVID-19 and its variants in Canada. The easing of measures for persons who are fully vaccinated is based on the evolving science around the disease, and may be extended to others over the coming months as more Canadians get vaccinated.

Q17. If a family who travelled with a child under the age of 12 is exempt from quarantine, does the child under 12 have to wait the full 14 days and take a day-8 test? Or do the parents or people who travelled with the child need to quarantine for the full 14 days as well, even if the parents/accompanying travellers are fully vaccinated?

A17. Individuals who are unable to receive the vaccine, due to eligibility or other medical reasons, can still be infected by COVID-19 and, therefore, still pose a risk of transmitting the virus and its variants to others. As a result, those who are currently unable to be fully vaccinated will be required to complete the day-8 test (if they are over 5 years of age) and full 14-day quarantine.

The decision as to whether the vaccinated parents will be required to quarantine alongside their unvaccinated children will be resolved upon arrival where public health officials will review the quarantine plan in order to determine whether it is suitable. This means that there may be scenarios where vaccinated parents will be required to quarantine alongside their unvaccinated children, if necessary, in order to ensure that the quarantine plan is suitable.

Q18. The Order in Council states that the Minister of Health may remove the on-arrival (day-1) test requirement for fully vaccinated travellers. When will this happen?

A18. The Minister of Health may, on the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, remove the on-arrival test requirement for fully vaccinated travellers. The Minister of Health can also impose random on-arrival testing for individual fully vaccinated travellers or groups of fully vaccinated travellers. This provision could be imposed based on factors such as traveller test positivity rates, detection of variants of concern and traveller volume. At this time, the measures for fully vaccinated travellers that comes into effect on July 5, 2021, will still include the requirement to take an on-arrival test.

Q19. How does this affect children under the age of 12 who are currently not eligible for vaccination? Will they also be exempt from the mandatory government-authorized hotel stay or will they and their family/accompanying travellers have to stay at a hotel?

A19. Children under 18, as well as dependent adults with unique physical or mental health support needs, are already exempt from the requirement to stay in a government-authorized hotel if they are not accompanied by an adult.

Since fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to the requirement to stay at a government-authorized hotel, unvaccinated children under 18 or dependent adults travelling with them will also be exempt from the hotel stay. However, it should be noted that children would still need to quarantine for 14 days.

Q20. Are there any other criteria in addition to being fully vaccinated required to be exempt from the three-night hotel stay?

A20. To meet the criteria for exemption from the three-night hotel stay, travellers must meet all of the following conditions:

- Be asymptomatic;
- Enter all information, including proof of vaccination in ArriveCAN;
- Have a quarantine plan;
- Show evidence of a COVID-19 molecular test indicating that they received either a negative result for a test that was performed no more than 72 hours before the flight's initial scheduled departure time, or a positive result for the test that was performed on a specimen collected at least 14 days and no more than 90 days before the flight's initial scheduled departure time;
- Be considered a fully vaccinated traveller and meet all relevant criteria and requirements; and
- Comply with any other applicable requirements imposed under the relevant *Quarantine Act* Emergency Orders.

More information about the criteria for fully vaccinated and the requirements for providing proof of vaccination certification will be published on Canada.ca/coronavirus in the coming weeks.

It must be noted that based on a traveller's exposure history, quarantine plan, and symptomatic status they may still be required to go to a designated quarantine facility.

Q21. Since fully vaccinated travellers who meet all criteria are no longer required to quarantine or stay in a government-authorized accommodation, can they take onward travel to their final destination (i.e. domestic flight, bus, taxi, etc.)?

A21. Yes, fully vaccinated travellers who meet all criteria for the exemption are able to travel onwards to their final destination.

They can take domestic flights and other means of public transportation but they must follow all public health measures through onward travel, such as wearing a mask.

Provinces and territories may have their own provincial border measures as well as public health guidelines within their jurisdictions; it is important that travellers check for the most up to date information for requirements for travel into Canada but also requirements imposed by their intended province or territory of destination.

Q22. I already booked my Government Approved Accommodation stay but am fully vaccinated. Will I be refunded?

A22. Border measures can change frequently and at short notice; therefore, it is recommended that travellers do not book their hotel stay too far in advance of the date they plan to travel to Canada. If you have already booked, it is recommended that you contact the hotel where you have booked to discuss a refund with them directly.

Q23. The Expert Panel’s report said the government should end Government Approved Accommodations. Why are you still not following their recommendation by only discontinuing them for vaccinated people?

A23. The Government of Canada is continually evaluating the public health, economic and social impacts of border measures, in collaboration with provincial and territorial partners, and industry stakeholders, based on the most recent evidence and the current epidemiological situation. As more evidence becomes available, and as the epidemiological situation improves, public health authorities will make appropriate and cautious adjustments to recommendations regarding public health measures.

Q24. If fully vaccinated travellers don’t have to quarantine, but still have to take an on-arrival test, what happens while they wait for their test result? Can they leave their homes, go to work, etc.?

A24. Yes, since they are not in-quarantine, they are not required to remain at home. As with all other exempt travellers, they will be required to follow public health measures in place, such as wearing a mask when in public. As a precaution, they should also monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep a list of close contacts for 14 days after entry to Canada.

Q25. How long will it take to get on-arrival test results?

A25. The time it takes for travellers to receive their test result can depend on a number of factors. These include where they take their test (at an airport or land point of entry versus at place of quarantine and couriering their test kit, versus testing at an approved pharmacy/clinic) and where they live (urban or rural) when sending in their test kit. It will also depend on if the results of a traveller’s on-arrival test are inconclusive, indeterminate or damaged, which would result in a re-test.

In addition, with border measures easing for fully vaccinated travellers, there will likely be an increase in the number of travellers requiring testing, which may result in test results taking longer to be finalized. In anticipation of an increase in traveller volume, the Government of Canada is diversifying its testing providers for travellers arriving in Canada; however, delays could still be expected.

If travellers enter Canada at a land border crossing where there is on-site testing available, we highly recommend that they perform their swab on-site or immediately proceed to a test site. This will expedite the shipping process as all specimens are shipped directly to labs on a daily basis.

Q26. Do fully vaccinated travellers who get a negative on-arrival test result have to notify someone of their result?

A26. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will be notified automatically once the traveller has received their test result.

Fully vaccinated travellers are required to retain their test results and a paper or digital copy of their vaccination documentation for the full 14-day period after arrival in Canada, and be prepared to present them to a government official on demand. A traveller may also continue to receive calls or emails from PHAC which should be ignored. This should only occur until mid-July when a subsequent version of ArriveCAN is available.

Q27. What happens if a fully vaccinated traveller gets a positive result from their on-arrival test?

A27. At any time after entry to Canada, if a fully vaccinated traveller tests positive or are exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must follow all local public health requirements, including quarantine or isolation.

Q28. What happens if a fully vaccinated traveller's on-arrival test result is negative, but a person travelling in their group receives a positive test result?

A28. At any time after entry to Canada, if a fully vaccinated traveller tests positive or are exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must follow all local public health requirements, including quarantine or isolation.

Q29. Why do fully vaccinated travellers still have to provide a suitable quarantine plan if they don't have to quarantine?

A29. While travellers must submit their vaccination information into ArriveCAN before arriving to Canada, final determination regarding whether a traveller is fully vaccinated and meets pre-arrival testing criteria — and is therefore exempt from quarantine — is made by a government representative at the border. This decision is based on the information presented at the time of entry into Canada (e.g. through ArriveCAN). Travellers must have a suitable quarantine plan, and be prepared to quarantine, in case it is determined at the border that they do not meet the necessary requirements. They should also be prepared in case they learn that someone they travelled with, or was exposed to, receives a positive result from the on-arrival test.

Q30. Will this change impact temporary foreign workers?

A30. Yes, temporary foreign workers who meet the definition of a fully vaccinated traveller under the [*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)*](#) and who electronically submit their proof of vaccination in ArriveCAN are exempt from quarantine, the requirement to stay at a government-authorized accommodation and day 8 testing.

However, they must still meet all other entry requirements, such as pre- and on-arrival testing. The existing entry requirements in the Orders in Council (*Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States; Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States*) continue to apply for temporary foreign workers seeking entry to Canada.

Q31. Does this change apply to International Students?

A31. Yes, international students who meet the definition of a fully vaccinated traveller under the [*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)*](#) and who electronically submit their proof of vaccination in ArriveCAN are exempt from quarantine, the requirement to stay at a government-authorized accommodation and day 8 testing.

However, they must still meet all other entry requirements, such as pre- and on-arrival testing. The existing entry requirements in the Orders in Council (*Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States; Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States*) continue to apply for international students seeking entry to Canada.

Q32. What has changed in recent weeks to ease these requirements for fully vaccinated travellers?

A32. Canada is reaching high levels of vaccination coverage in the Canadian population, and COVID-19 disease activity trends are continuing to decline.

Cases of COVID-19-related to close contact with travellers account for less than one percent of cases in Canada. Approximately 99 percent of travellers comply with or are exempt from pre-arrival testing requirements, and positivity rates for those arriving by air and land remain stable.

Current projections show that by the end of June, 75 percent of those eligible for vaccination in Canada, 12 years of age and up, are expected to have been offered their first dose of the vaccine and 20 percent to have been offered their second dose. It is becoming clear that fully vaccinated individuals pose less of a risk. Current vaccines appear to be able to lower the risk of transmission by decreasing infection.

Q33. Why is there a delayed coming into force for the vaccination exemptions until July 5? Why aren't they in effect as of June 21?

A33. A delayed coming into force allows the Government of Canada an opportunity to increase the number of Canadians fully vaccinated. It also provides additional time for border operations to be adjusted accordingly, and for travellers to plan their travel accordingly.

Decisions on when to ease border measures are based on public health criteria such as key vaccination thresholds in Canada, levels of disease activity in the country, and the global epidemiological situation. Current projections show that by the end of June, 75 percent of those eligible for vaccination in Canada, 12 years of age and up, are expected to have their first dose of the vaccine and 20 percent to have their second dose.

Other Questions

Q1. Will the Government of Canada be incorporating the requirement for a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) into the ArriveCAN app?

A1. Yes. Before arriving in Canada, travellers must use the ArriveCAN app or website to provide their travel and contact information, positive or negative COVID-19 test information (if applicable), quarantine plan (unless exempt), proof of a pre-paid booking at a government approved

accommodation, COVID-19 symptom self-assessment, and travel history of countries visited within the 14-day period.

Q2. How far in advance of a traveller's arrival to Canada must they input the required information into the ArriveCAN app or website?

A2. Within 72 hours of arriving in Canada, travellers must use the ArriveCAN app or website to provide their travel and contact information, positive or negative COVID-19 test information (if applicable), quarantine plan (unless exempt), proof of a pre-paid booking at a government approved accommodation, COVID-19 symptom self-assessment, and travel history of countries visited within the 14-day period.

Q3. Is there an obligation for travellers to identify their 14 day travel history prior to arriving in Canada? Is it the air carrier's responsibility to notify travellers of this requirement?

A3. Yes, before their arrival in Canada, travellers are required to provide their 14 day travel history in ArriveCAN, along with their travel and contact information, positive or negative COVID-19 test information (if applicable), quarantine plan (unless exempt), proof of a pre-paid booking at a government approved accommodation. There is no obligation upon the air carriers to notify the passengers of this requirement given notification will be made within the ArriveCAN app.

Q4. When will crew members be required to enter their 14 day travel history in ArriveCAN?

A4. As of now, only travellers are required to provide their 14 day travel history in ArriveCAN, along with their travel and contact information, positive or negative COVID-19 test information (if applicable), quarantine plan (unless exempt), proof of a pre-paid booking at a government approved accommodation. At this time, there is no firm date on when crew members can expect to have to provide their 14 day travel history in ArriveCAN; however, once the decision has been made, air carriers will be notified and Transport Canada's COVID-19 Air Operator Guidance Material will be updated accordingly.

Q5. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services?

A5. The Government of Canada provides consular service to Canadians abroad. Information about Canada's consular services is available on travel.gc.ca: [About Consular Services](#). Canadian government offices abroad do not provide medical attention (including administering COVID-19 testing) or cover medical expenses for Canadian citizens abroad.

Air operators should also encourage Canadians travelling abroad to register with the [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#) if they have not done so already. This service enables Canadians to receive important safety updates from the Government of Canada.

Q6. Who can air operators contact for support?

A6. Air operators are encouraged to first consult their airline operations centre with any questions. Should additional support be required, the airline operations centre can contact Transport Canada at the following email address: TC.aviationsecurity-sureteairienne.TC@tc.gc.ca. If the question is of an

urgent or time sensitive nature, air operators should contact the Transport Canada Situation Centre (Monday to Friday 0800 to 1800 ET).

Transport Canada will not address individual traveller cases as they are deemed to be consular issues. If air operators request resolution of individual traveller cases, Transport Canada will redirect them to contact Global Affairs Canada.

Q7. How is a “crew member” defined?

A7. According to the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs), a crew member means a person who is assigned to duty in an aircraft during flight time, or assigned to duty related to the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft during system flight time.

Q8. Who does “crew member” apply to in the context of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, as referenced in the Order in Council (OIC) *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)* exemption?

A8. “crew member” under Subpart 101 of the CARs includes all crew members (pilots; flight engineer, flight attendant) involved in commercial and business aviation operations within the meaning of subparts 604 and Part VII (701, 702, 703, 704, 705). This also includes any person coming into Canada only to become such a crew (i.e. repositioning crew) and crew members conducting ferry flights, flight tests etc.

Foreign crews entering Canada are subject to a 72 hour return to work restriction in order to be exempt from the various health measures. The intent is to ensure that time spent in Canada is for the purpose of providing an essential service as a *crew member*. If not for the purpose of an essential service then the same restrictions imposed on non-essential travellers apply.

Q9. Does “crew member” under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* include pilots operating personal or private aircraft for “recreational” purposes?

A9. No. In order to be considered a crew member under the CARs, the purpose of the flight must be tied to commercial or business operations. Commercial or business operations generally involves the transportation of passengers and/or goods as well as aerial work such as aerial advertising, aerial construction, aerial photography, aerial spraying, firefighting etc, where crew members are “hired” by an air carrier or private operator and therefore “on duty” when operating the aircraft.

Q10. The Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel recommended that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers be able to take a pre-departure rapid antigen test up to 24 hours before travel as an alternative to the required COVID-19 molecular test up to 72 hours before travel. Why isn’t this part of the border adjustments?

A10. Currently, unless exempt, all travellers five years of age or older entering Canada by air need to show proof of a:

- negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken within 72 hours before their scheduled flight; or
- positive COVID-19 molecular test taken between 14 and 90 days before their scheduled flight.

Rapid antigen tests have lower sensitivity than molecular tests, which is why the Government of Canada does not currently accept them as a valid test pre-departure and upon entry.

The Government of Canada will review the evidence and recommendations presented by the Panel, in combination with the evolving epidemiological situation, to help inform future border and travel measures, including making adjustments to recommendations on public health measures as appropriate.

Q11. It is mentioned that the changes regarding vaccinated travellers is the first phase in a phased approach of easing restrictions. What are the other phases? What requirements will be eased in future phases, and when?

A11. As Canada reaches high levels of vaccination coverage in the Canadian population, and COVID-19 disease activity and severity trends continue to decline, the risks associated with international travel will decrease. A phased approach allows the Government of Canada to ease border measures in step with decreasing risk.

The phased approach considers vaccination thresholds and modelling forecasts, as well as public health criteria such as case counts and hospitalizations as a basis to determine timing and adjustments of border measures. The Canadian and global epidemiological situation will also be considered in these decisions. In addition, the results of data collected in this first phase, such as test results of vaccinated travellers and escape variants, will help to determine the timing and content of future phases.

Q12. Do the changes regarding fully vaccinated travellers mean the Canada-U.S. border will be opening soon? In which phase would this be included?

A12. Government officials are in regular contact with provinces, territories, Indigenous partners and American counterparts on our shared border, including sharing information and coordinating travel between our two countries.

As evidence changes and the situation evolves, the Government of Canada will continue to consider easing border measures to keep Canadians safe and the economy running.

Q13. What is the Government of Canada doing to provide Canadians with a “vaccination passport” or form of proof for travelling to other countries?

A13. Canada continues to participate in the international dialogue on this issue, specifically via the G7, the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

G7 ministers of Health are considering the issuance of proof of vaccination credentials and have discussed potential impacts on international travel. Equitable introduction of these credentials is of the utmost importance, to ensure that vaccination status is not a basis for leaving anyone behind. The Government of Canada will continue to coordinate efforts to explore proof of vaccination credentials with G7 countries and other international partners.

The Government of Canada also continues to actively explore with Canada’s international partners, provinces and territories, as well as Indigenous communities, ways in which to help Canadians to

travel internationally when it is safe to do so. Canada's proof of vaccination credentials would be aligned with international standards to facilitate international travel for Canadians. In exploring options, accessibility, security and privacy would be key components of any proof of vaccination solution.

Q14. What if the province/territory a traveller is going to has different requirements for people entering their jurisdiction? Which rules does the traveller follow?

A14. For all travellers eligible to enter Canada, planning in advance to ensure all mandatory requirements are met is crucial. In addition to requirements imposed by the federal government for entering Canada, some provinces and territories have their own entry restrictions in place for travellers coming to Canada from another country. Some province and territories also have their own entry restrictions in place when moving between or within jurisdictions.

Check and follow **both** the federal and any [provincial or territorial restrictions and requirements before travelling](#).

NOTAM Requirements

Q1. Are international flights from all countries permitted to land in Canada?

A1. On January 29, 2021, Transport Canada announced that it would be expanding existing international flight restrictions, which funnel international passenger flights into four Canadian airports: Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

This NOTAM came into effect on February 4, 2021, prohibiting all international passenger flights from landing in Canada outside of the four named Canadian airports. NOTAM restrictions apply to all aircraft operating under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs), including subpart 604 (i.e. Business Aviation), which amounts to most of the traffic coming into Canada. NOTAM restrictions do not currently apply to General Aviation (recreational aircraft).

Effective April 22, 2021 at 23:30 EDT, commercial and private passenger flights from any country listed on Schedule 1 of the Interim Order (as of June 21, 2021 this includes India) will not be permitted to land in Canada. Due to the epidemiology situation in certain countries, Transport Canada has elected to issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to suspend entry of flights from any country listed on Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order*. This situation is under constant review and changes will be made once the situation improves, based on advice from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In addition, as outlined in the [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), air operators are not to accept COVID-19 molecular tests administered from a country listed on Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* (at present, this includes India).

All other international flights will be permitted to land at the four named Canadian airports as long as passengers are not prohibited to enter Canada under the Public Health Agency of Canada's Orders in Council ([Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States\)](#) and [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States\)](#)).

Q2. When returning from outside of Canada, can I land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?

A2. With the intent to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Canada, expanded restrictions have been adopted via the issuance of a NOTAM by Transport Canada under the authority of Section 5.1 of the *Aeronautics Act*. The NOTAM directs where certain aircraft must land when they are transporting passengers in to Canada. Beginning on 04 February 2021, aircraft subject to the restriction must, for the purpose of disembarking passengers, land at one of the following airports:

- a) Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau Intl QC (CYUL)
- b) Toronto/Lester B. Pearson Intl ON (CYYZ)
- c) Calgary/Yyc Calgary Intl AB (CYYC)
- d) Vancouver Intl BC (CYVR)

The following scenarios are **exemptions to the restriction**, regardless of the operator or aircraft type:

- a) Direct flights to Canada from Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon;
- b) Medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) – see Appendix B;
- c) Military and approved state flights, including those chartered aboard civilian aircraft;
- d) Ferry (e.g. delivery, maintenance) and positioning flights;
- e) Crew repatriation flights, including the return to Canada following mandatory training in relation to the operation of a conveyance, when a return to duty is required within 14 days;
- f) Cargo-only flights, including those transporting aircrew or other airline employees;
- g) Technical (fuel) stops where passengers do not disembark or otherwise enter Canada;
- h) Diversion to a Canadian aerodrome in response to weather, mechanical issues, or where an emergency is declared by the pilot in command; and
- i) In the case where special authorization has been granted by Transport Canada.

Q3. Does the NOTAM restriction apply to private general aviation aircraft?

A3. General aviation (privately owned recreational aircraft that are not used for conducting business) are currently not restricted by the NOTAM. The pilot and passengers of recreational aircraft must land at an authorized Airport of Entry (AOE) that is open for Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) immigration and customs processing, and comply with all federal and provincial public health measures that may apply. Restrictions related to General Aviation continue to evolve.

Q4. How can I receive a Special Authorization for an exemption from NOTAM requirements?

A4. Operators facing exigent circumstances may seek special authorization from Transport Canada to land at Airport of Entry (AOE) alternate to those listed in the restriction.

Exemptions to this restriction may be considered, in consultation with other Federal agencies, when there is a demonstrated need for direct transportation related to matters of safety, security, or the protection of the public.

A request for special authorization must be submitted within 5 business days prior notice of the proposed flight or flights, and contain the following information:

- a) Name of operator or person responsible for flight;
- b) Type of aircraft and registration marks;

- c) Date and time of arrival at, and departure from, the airport concerned;
- d) Place or places of embarkation or disembarkation of passengers abroad;
- e) Purpose of flight;
- f) Number of passengers and their nationality;
- g) Name, address, telephone number of the charterer, if applicable;
- h) Reason for special authorization;
- i) Steps to be taken to mitigate risk to Canadian public health on arrival; and
- j) Any other document Transport Canada deems necessary to ensure that the intended operation will be conducted safely and in the interest of public health.

The request for special authorization may be sent to:

- Aviation Operations Centre Transport Canada – Emergency Management / Government of Canada
- E-mail: operations.aviation@tc.gc.ca Tel.: 1-613-992-6853 Toll-free: 1-877-992-6853

Q5. Can medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?

A5. All MEDEVAC flights entering Canada are exempt from the restrictions in the NOTAM. MEDEVAC flights may land at an airport other than the four airports identified in the NOTAM. All MEDEVAC flights entering Canada are required to make arrangements for Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) clearance, per standard procedures.

Restrictions imposed under the [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) issued by the Minister of Transport remain in effect for MEDEVAC operators. As a result, Transport Canada Civil Aviation issued an exemption for Canadian MEDEVAC operators (exemption NCR-132-2020) on December 23, 2020. Subject to stated conditions, this exemption allows Canadian air carriers operating international MEDEVAC flights to board passengers without having to meet the requirements in the *Interim Order*.

An exemption to the *Interim Order* can be acquired by contacting:

- Transport Canada Situation Centre (SITCEN) Transport Canada – Emergency Management / Government of Canada
 - E-mail: TC.SitcenHQ-CentredinterventionAC.TC@tc.gc.ca
 - Tel.: 1-613-995-9737
 - Toll-free: 1-888-857-4003

For a complete list of COVID related documents (e.g., exemptions and IO) issued by Transport Canada Civil Aviation please visit: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada>.

The *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs) define medical evacuation flight (MEDEVAC) as a flight that is carried out for the purpose of facilitating medical assistance and on which one or more of the following persons or things is transported:

- a) Medical personnel;
- b) Ill or injured persons;

- c) Human blood products or organs;
- d) Medical supplies.