

# 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.

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## 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. 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. Why is Transport Canada still requiring the wearing of masks in airports and on board flights to, from and within Canada, while some provinces are removing this requirement?

**A2.** Although the epidemiological situation is improving domestically, in general, public health authorities continue to recommend the wearing of a non-medical mask to protect others around us from the spread of COVID-19, especially in situations where physical distancing is hard to maintain (such as seated on an aircraft, customs hall or during a physical screening process). Transport Canada continues to evaluate its COVID-19 guidance and requirements for the aviation industry based on advice from public health authorities.

### 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 face 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. What changes are being made to the requirements for temperature screening of travellers and airport workers?**

**A1.** Effective July 6, 2021, Transport Canada eliminated the requirement for airlines to perform pre-departure temperature screening of international air passengers coming to Canada. This was done given the other strong public health measures for inbound travellers (e.g., valid pre-departure COVID-19 molecular test and wearing of masks).

Due to the improving epidemiology situation within Canada, effective August 9, 2021, Transport Canada also removed the requirement for the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) to perform pre-board temperature screening of passengers on all domestic flights and international departures, as well as airport workers.



These changes will make the travel process more efficient, ensuring that passengers spend less time in airports, while still maintaining necessary public health measures (e.g., wearing of masks at airports and on board all flights to, from and within Canada).

## 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 180 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, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers will also be subject to a day-1 and day-8 arrival test. Those who are fully vaccinated will be subject to mandatory random testing, meaning only those selected will be subject to a day-1 test. 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 180 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.

### **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the requirement for presenting a COVID-19 molecular pre-departure 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 180 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](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus) as it becomes available. In the meantime, information is available on [travel.gc.ca](https://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 14-180 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 14-180 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 180 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](https://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 unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers arriving in Canada - even those with a negative pre-departure test COVID-19 molecular test – will still be subject to arrival testing and must still quarantine for 14 days on arrival no matter how short a period outside of Canada.

**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](https://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 180 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.** Upon arrival in Canada, all **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated** travellers are required to undergo a molecular COVID-19 test (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test) on day-1 and day-8 following their arrival. 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>. Those who are **fully vaccinated** will be subject to mandatory random arrival testing, meaning only those travellers who were randomly selected will be subject to an arrival test on day-1.

Once the test has been administered, all travellers are free to leave the airport but unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers are required to quarantine for 14 days. Fully vaccinated travellers are not required to quarantine.

**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.** No, there is no cost associated to the arrival testing requirements.

**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 at least 14 days but no more than 180 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 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.

**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
- Quarantine for 14 days upon arrival at a suitable location.



**Q6. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure?**

**A6.** 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). Therefore, a pre-departure COVID-19 molecular test is still required for General Aviation flights.

## 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 their travel and contact information, 14 day travel history, quarantine plan, vaccination information, and COVID-19 symptom self-assessment. This must be completed before boarding their flight to Canada. 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 unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers, there is still a requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival into Canada. In addition, should the arrival test result be positive, the quarantine period is replaced by a new 10 day isolation period that begins on either the date they took their test (if validated by the test provider) or the date on the test result.

For fully vaccinated travellers, there is no requirement to quarantine. However, should the traveller be required to undergo an arrival test under the mandatory random testing program and the arrival test result comes back positive, the traveller must begin a 10 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. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?**

**A6.** 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 are the border and travel requirements for fully vaccinated travellers?**

**A1.** Before travelling, travellers should get informed and understand their obligations by ensuring they are eligible to enter Canada ([Find out if you can enter Canada - Travel restrictions in Canada](#)) and following the online checklist.

To be considered fully vaccinated, a traveller must:

- have received the full vaccination series of a vaccine accepted by the Government of Canada at least 14 days prior to entering Canada;
- be asymptomatic;
- have provided COVID-19 related information electronically through ArriveCAN prior to arrival in Canada;
- have a paper or digital copy of their vaccination documentation in English or French (or a certified translation).

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 been administered in Canada to be accepted.

At time of entry to Canada, travellers must present their ArriveCAN receipt, pre-departure test results, and paper or digital proof of vaccination documents. Final determination is made by a government representative at the border, based on the information presented at the time of entry into Canada.

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

**A2.** Yes, provided those travelling to Canada for discretionary (non-essential) purposes submit their travel information and vaccination status digitally by using the ArriveCAN app or website **before** boarding their flight.

It should be noted that discretionary (non-essential) travellers who are unable to show their ArriveCAN receipt – either on their mobile device or a printed copy - will not be allowed to board their flight to Canada, as they are ineligible to enter Canada. In addition to their ArriveCAN receipt, travellers should carry their actual vaccine certificate with them to show officials at the border entry point.

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](https://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.

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.

At time of entry to Canada, travellers must present their ArriveCAN receipt, pre-departure test results, and paper or digital proof of vaccination documents. Final determination as to whether or not a traveller is considered fully vaccinated 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.

All travellers entering Canada must submit their information into ArriveCAN within 72 hours before arrival to Canada, including their travel and contact information, 14 day travel history, quarantine plan, vaccination information, and COVID-19 symptom self-assessment.

Travellers who experience difficulty submitting their information through ArriveCAN can access additional information at [Canada.ca/ArriveCAN](https://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 those who are travelling for essential purposes do not provide this information before arriving at a port of entry, they will be deemed non-compliant and will be required to quarantine and provide a day 1 and day 8 test.

**Those who do not provide this information and who are coming for discretionary/non-essential travel will be denied boarding and unable to travel to Canada.**

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

**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. Although cases are rare, even fully vaccinated individuals can 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 through the new border testing surveillance program (mandatory random testing).

A border testing surveillance program in Canada will continue to provide 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. 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 are 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.

A foreign national must be fully vaccinated to be allowed entry into Canada for discretionary purposes.

Fully vaccinated travellers are not required to quarantine if they 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](https://Canada.ca/ArriveCAN) **before arriving in Canada**. Please note that fully vaccinated travellers must also meet all other criteria.

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.

It should be noted that all fully vaccinated foreign nationals travelling to Canada for discretionary/non-essential purposes must input their information into ArriveCAN **prior** to boarding their flight. Should this not be done travellers will be denied boarding.

**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. Fully vaccinated travellers will be required to follow local public health guidance, wear a mask when in public, and keep a copy of their test results, and a list of close contacts and locations visited during the 14-day period from entry.

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

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

**A10.** 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 the Government of Canada recognize different vaccines used in other countries? What about mixed dosing?**

**A11.** To meet the definition of fully vaccinated in the context of border and travel 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.

The list of vaccines accepted in Canada is evergreen and may expand in the future as evidence becomes available. We are aware that the current list may pose challenges for Canadians living and vaccinated abroad, as well as foreign nationals eligible to travel to Canada. Decisions on which vaccines will be eligible for future inclusion on the list is ongoing will be based on science. There will also be continued discussions with the provinces and territories.

**Q12. For individuals who have recovered from COVID-19, some countries define fully vaccinated as only receiving one dose of a vaccine and these individuals are unable to get a second dose. Will these individuals still be eligible for the border easing exemptions?**

**A12.** At this time, a fully vaccinated traveller arriving in Canada 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.

Currently, those vaccines are manufactured by Pfizer- BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). Travellers must provide proof of vaccination in English or French (or a certified translation, along with the original).



The list of vaccines accepted in Canada is evergreen and may expand in the future as evidence becomes available. We are aware that the current list may pose challenges for Canadians living and vaccinated abroad, as well as foreign nationals eligible to travel to Canada. Decisions on which vaccines will be eligible for future inclusion on the list is ongoing will be based on science. There will also be continued discussions with the provinces and territories.

**Q13. What about individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical conditions or other reasons?**

**A13.** Individuals who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a health condition for which vaccination is contraindicated according to the vaccine's label may also qualify for the eased quarantine and testing requirements currently available to fully vaccinated travellers, but must follow a modified quarantine. In these cases, the traveller must have in their possession written evidence from a physician who is licensed to practice medicine confirming the fact.

In addition, unvaccinated children **under 12 years of age who are accompanying a fully vaccinated parent/guardian** do not have to complete a 14 day quarantine, but must follow strict public health measures. This includes those travelling for discretionary purposes. This means they can move around with their parents, but must avoid group setting, such as camps or daycares, during the first 14 days after their arrival. Unvaccinated children who meet testing requirements remain subject to the Day 1 and Day 8 testing requirements. Provinces and territories may have more stringent rules around people who have recently returned from travel.

**Q14. Why does vaccination documentation have to be in English or French, or a certified translation?**

**A14.** 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 officials at the border. Proper processing can only be done with the full understanding of the relevant documents, in Canada's official languages.

**Q15. 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?**

**A15.** 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*.

**Q16. Do we know now that fully vaccinated individuals are not able to transmit the virus?**

**A16.** 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.

**Q17. Since fully vaccinated travellers who meet all criteria are not required to quarantine, can they take onward travel to their final destination (i.e. domestic flight, bus, taxi, etc.)?**

**A17.** 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.

**Q18. Why do fully vaccinated travellers still have to provide a suitable quarantine plan if they don't have to quarantine?**

**A18.** While travellers must submit their vaccination information into ArriveCAN before arriving to Canada, final determination regarding whether a traveller is fully vaccinated and meets all other mandatory criteria — and is therefore exempt from quarantine — is made by a government

representative at the border based on the information presented at the time of entry into Canada. 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.

**Q19. Will the changes surrounding fully vaccinated travellers impact temporary foreign workers?**

**A19.** 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. They will also be subject to mandatory random testing, meaning if they are randomly selected, they will be subject to an arrival test. They also must meet all other entry requirements, including the need for a pre-departure test. 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.

**Q20. Does the changes surrounding fully vaccinated travellers apply to International Students?**

**A20.** 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. They will also be subject to mandatory random testing, meaning if they are randomly selected, they will be subject to an arrival test. They also must meet all other entry requirements, including the need for a pre-departure test. 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.

## Unvaccinated Travellers

**Q1. Can an unvaccinated child under the age of 12 enter Canada now if they are accompanying a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident?**

**A1.** 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*) already permits entry for optional or discretionary purposes to foreign national immediate family members (including dependent children) of persons with a right of entry into Canada (Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person registered under the Indian Act) if they are entering to be with that person.

In addition, **unvaccinated children under 12 years of age** who are travelling with their fully vaccinated foreign national parent, step-parent or guardian are now allowed to enter Canada for discretionary purposes as well. These children will not be required to complete a 14 day quarantine, but will be required to follow strict public health measures and undergo post arrival tests.

**Unvaccinated children aged 12 to 17 and unvaccinated dependent adults** requiring support due to physical or mental limitations of fully vaccinated foreign national travellers are also allowed to enter Canada for discretionary purposes; however, they will remain subject to quarantine.

## **Q2. Have rules changed for partially or unvaccinated travellers?**

**A2.** No. All travellers, including fully vaccinated travellers, must have a quarantine plan, and be prepared to quarantine, in case it is determined at the border that they do not meet the necessary requirements.

In addition, all unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers who are eligible to travel to Canada must continue to adhere to the current testing and federal quarantine requirements, which have been effective in reducing importation and transmission of COVID-19 and variants in Canada, and provide COVID-19-related information electronically through ArriveCAN before arriving in Canada.

## **Q3. What about unvaccinated children or dependents who are travelling with fully vaccinated adults who are eligible to enter Canada? Are they still required to quarantine? If so, for how long?**

**A3.** Unvaccinated children under 12 years of age who are travelling with a fully vaccinated parent/guardian no longer have to complete a 14 day quarantine, but must follow strict public health measures. This includes those travelling for discretionary purposes. This means they can move around with their parents, but must avoid group settings - such as camps or daycares - during the first 14 days after their arrival. Unvaccinated children remain subject to the Day 1 and Day 8 testing requirements.

Unvaccinated children aged 12 to 17 and unvaccinated dependent adults requiring support due to physical or mental limitations of fully vaccinated travellers who are travelling with a fully vaccinated parent/guardian are also allowed to enter Canada; however, they will remain subject to quarantine.

Provinces and territories may have more stringent rules around people who have recently returned from travel.

## **Q4. With regard to unvaccinated children what is considered a group setting? Why are these off limits during the 14 day modified quarantine period?**

**A4.** Group settings include places other than private residences. This includes settings such as summer camps, schools, stores and restaurants. Communal locations such as these provide for a greater likelihood of spread or exposure, and must be avoided. This protects not only the unvaccinated traveller from infection via community spread, but also protects local residents from exposure to a possibly asymptomatic traveller.

## **Q5. Our family is Canadian but living abroad. My partner and I are fully vaccinated, but our children are not yet eligible. Under the new quarantine requirements for unvaccinated children and dependents, can we stay with extended family/friends during the first 14 days?**

**A5.** Unvaccinated children under 12 years of age of fully vaccinated travellers no longer have to complete a 14 day quarantine, but must follow strict public health measures. This includes those travelling for discretionary purposes. This means they can move around with their parents, but must avoid group settings, such as camps or daycares, during the first 14 days after their arrival. Unvaccinated children remain subject to the Day 1 and Day 8 testing requirements.

Unvaccinated children aged 12 to 17 and unvaccinated dependent adults requiring support due to physical or mental limitations of fully vaccinated travellers who are travelling with a fully vaccinated parent/guardian are also allowed to enter Canada; however, they will remain subject to quarantine.

Provinces and territories may have more stringent rules around people who have recently returned from travel.

**Q6. Can an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated traveller take public transportation to their place of quarantine?**

**A6.** Yes. All travellers can now take public transportation to their place of quarantine, with the exception of those who are symptomatic of COVID-19 or COVID-19 positive.

## Vaccination of Employees

**Q1. Which employees must be vaccinated?**

**A1.** The Government of Canada will be requiring that all employees in the federally regulated air sector be vaccinated. The only exceptions are to those who are medically unable to receive the vaccine. Please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-to-require-vaccination-of-federal-workforce-and-federally-regulated-transportation-sector.html> for the recent announcement.

The Government will engage shortly with federal departments and other key stakeholders to determine how this requirement will be implemented, through confirmation of COVID-19 vaccination and other means of protection when necessary.

## Other Questions

**Q1. Has the Government of Canada incorporated 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), 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), 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), and quarantine plan (unless exempt). 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), and quarantine plan (unless exempt). 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-sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.aviationsecurity-sureteaerienne.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 180 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. What is the Government of Canada doing to provide Canadians with a “vaccination passport” or form of proof for travelling to other countries?**

**A11.** 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 upmost 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.

**Q12. What if the province/territory a traveller is going to has different requirements for people entering their jurisdiction? Which rules does the traveller follow?**

**A12.** 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](#).

**Q13. The WHO has announced that they advise against a proof of vaccination requirement for international travel. Will Canada revise its position requiring proof of full vaccination to be exempt from mandatory quarantine?**

**A13.** The Government of Canada is aware of the World Health Organization’s Emergency Committee’s stance that proof of COVID-19 vaccination should not be required for international travel. Border measures are based on available data, scientific evidence and monitoring of the epidemiological situation both in Canada and internationally.

**Q14. What happens if a foreign national who is not eligible to travel to Canada for discretionary purposes tries to board a flight?**

**A14.** Air carriers will be verifying that the travellers coming to Canada have submitted their information digitally by using the ArriveCAN app or website before they board their flight. **Discretionary travellers who are unable to show their ArriveCAN receipt – either on their mobile device or a printed copy - will not be allowed to board their flight to Canada, as they are ineligible to enter Canada.** In addition to their ArriveCAN receipt, travellers should carry their actual vaccine certificate with them to show officials at the border entry point.





Travellers with a right to entry, (e.g., Canadian citizens and permanent residents), or travellers who qualify for entry under another exemption (e.g., immediate or extended family member) or who are coming to Canada for essential reasons (such as temporary foreign workers, or international students) will not be denied boarding, but will be required to submit information relating to their vaccination status via the ArriveCAN app or website.

**Q15. How far in advance is an international student able to come to Canada under their study permit?**

**A15.** Entering Canada for the purpose of studying at a designated learning institution is considered a non-discretionary purpose of travel so long as studying is the primary purpose for seeking entry to Canada. As you know, this means that if the time between a student's entry to Canada and the start date of their studies exceeds what would be considered a reasonable amount of time for that student to complete their 14-day quarantine (if applicable) and prepare themselves for beginning their studies (for example, move in to a residence), the primary purpose of travel may no longer be considered for study purposes and would therefore be deemed discretionary in nature. The CBSA has applied a 4-week timeframe to this interpretation.

That being said, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has been made aware that there have been a number of instances of students encountering significant challenges in making travel arrangements that meet this guideline due to the limited availability of flights. The CBSA would like to advise all air carriers that, effective immediately, students who are seeking to travel to Canada to study at a designated learning institution for the fall 2021 semester, and who are unable to book travel within the 4-week window, will be permitted to enter Canada, so long as they meet all other requirements.

## NOTAM Requirements

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

**A1.** Effective April 22, 2021 at 23:30 EDT, commercial and private passenger flights from any country listed on Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* 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*.

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 those that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)?**

**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 February 4, 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) Toronto/Billy Bishop ON (CYTZ)
- d) Calgary/Yyc Calgary Intl AB (CYYC)
- e) Vancouver Intl BC (CYVR)
- f) Halifax Stanfield International Airport;
- g) Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport;
- h) Ottawa/Macdonald–Cartier International Airport;
- i) Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport; and
- j) Edmonton International Airport

Consideration will be given to adding additional airports in the future as conditions dictate; that is: based on demand, operational capacity, the epidemiological situation in Canada and recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

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);
- 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](mailto: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 those that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)?**

**A5.** All MEDEVAC flights entering Canada are exempt from the restrictions in the NOTAM. MEDEVAC flights may land at an airport other than those 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](mailto: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.