

# COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR TRAVELLERS GOING TO CANADA

All travellers 5 years of age and older flying to Canada from another country are required to provide proof of a pre-departure COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test) within 72 hours of their scheduled time of departure to Canada\*. Upon arrival in Canada, travellers will also be required to undergo a second COVID-19 test. **This also applies to fully vaccinated travellers.**

\* In the case that the traveller has a connecting flight to Canada, the pre-departure test must be conducted within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of the last direct flight to Canada.

## Types of Tests Accepted

Tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test. Examples of common COVID-19 molecular tests include: PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests, nucleic acid tests (NAT), nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) and reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) tests. **Other types of tests, such as antigen tests, will not be accepted.**

For a complete list of accepted tests, please visit <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

## Pre-Departure Testing Requirements

Travellers will be denied boarding if they are unable to provide printed or electronic proof of a:

- negative COVID-19 molecular test taken within 72 hours of their scheduled departure time
- positive COVID-19 molecular test taken between 15 and 180 days prior to departure

The test result must 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
- The method of test conducted (e.g. PCR or LAMP)
- The test result (such as "negative" or "not detected")

**Note:** Pre-departure tests will not be accepted from countries listed on Schedule 1 of the [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) or countries identified on <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/mandate/about-agency/acts-regulations/list-acts-regulations.html> under "List of specified countries".

**Presenting a questionable or fraudulent document could result in the traveller being denied boarding, and subject to fines of up to \$5,000 under the *Aeronautics Act*. This could also result in additional actions being levied against the traveller by a Public Health Quarantine officer upon arrival in Canada.**

## Short trips less than 72 hours

Fully vaccinated Canadian citizens, permanent residents or individuals registered under the *Indian Act*, who depart and re-enter Canada within 72 hours of leaving the country\* do not need to provide a [pre-entry COVID-19 molecular test result](#). This exemption is only for trips originating in Canada.

The exemption will also apply to:

- People with medical contraindications as defined in the Public Health Agency of Canada's Orders in Council; and
- Unvaccinated children under 12 who are accompanying their parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor. The accompanying adult must be fully vaccinated (or have a contraindication) and have right of entry into Canada.

## Arrival Testing Requirements

### Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated Travellers

All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers, unless exempt, are required to undergo a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival to Canada and on Day 8 following their arrival, as well as quarantine for at least 14 days.

Should the arrival test results be negative, travellers must continue to quarantine at a suitable location for the remainder of their 14-day quarantine (which began on the day they arrived in Canada). If the arrival test results are positive, travellers must immediately isolate at a suitable location for 10 days beginning on the day the test was administered.

### Fully Vaccinated Travellers

All fully vaccinated travellers who are permitted to enter Canada will be subject to mandatory random testing upon arrival, meaning they will only be subject to an arrival test if they are randomly selected. Fully vaccinated travellers are not required to quarantine but do need to have a suitable quarantine plan should the need to quarantine arise.

## Exceptions to Testing

There are only a limited number of exceptions where an individual is exempt from pre-departure and arrival testing. These include, but are not limited to:

- Children who are four years of age or younger;
- 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 port);
- Emergency, law enforcement or border personnel; and
- Specific individuals or groups identified by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer or the Minister of Health.

\* The 72-hour period runs from the initially scheduled departure time for the flight leaving Canada to the scheduled departure time for the return flight to Canada. Travellers will be responsible for maintaining proof of the 72-hour period to show airline companies and border officials as required (e.g., boarding pass, travel itinerary).



All travellers to Canada, even those who are fully vaccinated, 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.

**Important:** Anyone who receives a COVID-19 molecular test result and is authorized to enter Canada must still complete the full, mandatory 14-day quarantine, unless fully vaccinated or exempted under the *Quarantine Act*.

**Attention:** All travellers who have been in the Southern Africa region within the previous 14 days will be subjected to arrival testing, regardless of their vaccination status or if they had previously met an exception. Please see <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid> for the list of countries.

All non-exempt travellers will have their quarantine plans reviewed by a government official and, if the plan is not suitable, the traveller will be required to quarantine in a federally designated quarantine facility.

For more information on COVID-19 molecular testing, please consult: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>

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