

Remote Air Traveller Update

Effective October 30, travellers twelve years of age and over departing from specified Canadian airports are required to be fully vaccinated in order to travel. Until November 30, there is a transition period where unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers are still permitted to travel if they show a valid COVID-19 molecular test obtained within 72 hours of travel as an alternative to providing proof of full vaccination.

The Government of Canada recognizes the unique needs of travellers from remote communities and wants to ensure that remote travellers who are not fully vaccinated are still able to travel for their medical, health or social well-being, and return safely to their homes. In order to ensure maximum flexibility for these travellers, the Government of Canada is providing, as an interim measure, rapid molecular tests which can be made available to remote travellers who do not have a proof of vaccination or a valid COVID-19 molecular test. These tests have been provided to gateway airports, which have been identified as transit points between remote communities and specified airports under Interim Order No. 43. By November 12, tests will be delivered to 53 of the 54 gateway airports. More details on the list of gateway airports and the delivery schedule is available in the attached chart. Air carriers operating out of gateway airports should contact the airport authority to obtain the tests.

A form must be provided to travellers who show a negative self-test result, and can be used as a valid COVID-19 test for 72 hours, as per Interim Order requirements.

Travellers who test positive for COVID-19 cannot board a flight or enter the restricted area. Local public health authorities will be informed and will provide further guidance.

Transport Canada fully supports the application of flexibility during the initial implementation phase and commends carriers for their efforts to facilitate travel. During this early implementation, the focus should be on finding ways to assist remote travellers in reaching their destination unless they present a positive COVID-19 test result. With this in mind, remote travellers can currently be permitted to fly if they fall under one of the following categories:

1. Fully vaccinated with a Government of Canada-authorized vaccine.
2. Have completed quarantine following public health authority requirements prior to travel (e.g., as required by Nunavut).
3. Present a valid COVID-19 molecular test result prior to checking in, or proof of having tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14-180 days.
4. Test negative using a Government of Canada supplied rapid molecular test at the airport.

In addition, during this initial period, air carriers are encouraged to exercise maximum flexibility with respect to both traveller and operational needs. Products have been developed in order to support contingencies as the program is established (for example, an exemption for when tests are not available). This may include such considerations as adopting a risk-based approach to an invalid test, or adopting an approach to defining remote travel which recognizes the role that territorial capitals play as travel hubs for remote communities.

The Government of Canada is committed to work with local health officials, communities, and industry partners to maximize flexibility, exercise discretion, and minimize disruption when implementing this new requirement. It will work with provincial and territorial governments and other partners to refine

this approach based on early experiences, and to develop the next phases of accommodation for remote communities as the national vaccine requirement for travellers evolves.

The ability to submit a valid molecular COVID-19 test, including the Government of Canada-provided rapid molecular test, will continue beyond November 30 while the Government of Canada continues to engage industry and remote communities on the best manner to ensure the health benefits of the vaccine policy while accommodating the unique needs of remote communities

Guidance Material for industry

Guidance material has been created. This material is intended to provide recommendations and guidance for the implementation of Transport Canada's Interim Order. There is guidance for gateway aerodromes, air carriers operating in remote locations, and 24/7 support options. The guidance includes detailed information from Health Canada on test usage.

Guidance Material for Travellers

Additionally, the guidance includes infographics for travellers required to make use of the COVID-19 test kits. These infographics are now available in the following languages:

- Cree
- Denesuline
- Eastern Ojibwe
- Innu-Aimun
- Inuinnaqtun
- Inuktitut
- Michif
- Mi'kmaq
- Oji-Cree
- Western Ojibwe

Reporting and Way Forward

Please note that under s.17.12 and s.17.16 of the Interim Order, air carriers are required to submit information regarding false/misleading confirmation or evidence, as well as instances of denials of boarding.

As a reminder, TC is expecting weekly reports from air operators, sent to TC.AviationSecurity-Sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca, on the following matters:

1-No Test Available Exemption

Under Exemption C2021-131 s.3.f, operators must provide weekly a record of the total number of passengers on board *every flight where a no-test form was issued* who are:

-fully vaccinated;

- have a valid COVID-19 molecular test from a laboratory;
- allowed to board a flight with a “Passenger Self-Test – No Test Available” form.

Example:

Week of November 7		Air Example		
Date	Flight	Fully Vax Pax	Valid Test	No Test Form
07-Nov	Flight 2315	13	4	2

Please note TC **does not** require you to keep a copy or transmit the individual “no test” forms. Only the data above is required.

2-Self-test kits used

As per the Guidance Regarding Self-Test Kits for Remote Passengers, operators are asked to provide a record of the total number of passengers on board **every flight where self-test kits were used** who are:

- presenting a negative result
- presenting an invalid result

If available, the number of passengers who show a positive result should also be captured, but they are encouraged to contact public health directly and the carrier may not be made aware of their test result.

Example:

**Week of
November
7** **Air
Example**

Date	Flight	Pax with Negative Test	Pax with Invalid Test	Pax with Positive Test
07-Nov	Flight 2315	37	2	0

This information is absolutely crucial in helping the Government of Canada continue to develop and refine its remote vaccination policy moving forward. Additionally, Transport Canada is finalizing a survey to be sent to stakeholders in the coming weeks in order to gather initial takeaways from early implementation efforts and understand constraints posed by operational realities.