



## COVID-19 Key Messages - New border measures

### Key Messages:

- With a mandatory 14-day quarantine period for travellers, Canada has some of the strictest travel and border measures in the world.
- COVID-19 variants of concern, however, continue to be detected daily. That's why the Government of Canada is putting additional measures in place.
- These new measures will apply to Canada's air and land ports of entry, with some exceptions.
- Effective February 14, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, travellers five years of age and over entering at Canada's land ports of entry, unless exempted, will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours before their arrival at the border, or proof of a positive COVID-19 test conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival. This is similar to the existing requirement for pre-departure testing for air travellers.
- As of February 21, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, all travellers, with limited exceptions, whether arriving by air or land, will also be required to
  - submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan, electronically via ArriveCAN before boarding their flight or crossing the border;
  - take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival; and
  - take a COVID-19 molecular test later during their quarantine.
- As of February 21, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, travellers arriving by air will be required to reserve and stay in a government-authorized accommodation (hotel) for up to three nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of the COVID-19 molecular test they took on arrival, before completing the rest of their mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
- To limit possible exposure of COVID-19 to others, the Government of Canada is also introducing more stringent criteria for suitable quarantine plans to reduce risk of household transmission, particularly to those who work with at-risk subpopulations.
- These new measures, in combination with those already implemented, aim to reduce the risk of the importation and transmission of COVID-19 and new variants of the virus related to international travel.
- Now is not the time to travel. Canadians are strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel plans, including vacations, outside Canada for the foreseeable future. Foreign nationals should likewise postpone or cancel travel to Canada.



## **Travellers arriving by air**

- As of February 21, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, air travellers, unless exempted, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test:
  - on arrival in Canada, while at the airport; and
  - later during their mandatory quarantine period in either a designated quarantine facility or at a suitable place of quarantine.
- Before leaving the airport, travellers will be provided with a COVID-19 test kit or instructions for taking their test later during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
- All air travellers, unless exempt, will also be required to stay in a government-authorized accommodation for up to three nights while they await the results of the COVID-19 molecular test they took on arrival.
- Travellers must reserve their accommodation prior to departure to Canada and pay for the cost of their 3-night mandatory stay.
- Travellers must present proof of having reserved and pre-paid for their accommodation through ArriveCAN. Travellers will also be required to submit a more stringent quarantine plan electronically via ArriveCAN prior to boarding a flight to Canada.
- After taking the arrival test at the airport, travellers will proceed to their government-authorized accommodation for their 3-night stay. Following the 3-night mandatory stay travellers will still have to complete the remainder of the mandatory 14-day quarantine at a suitable place of quarantine.
- Any traveller who refuses to take a COVID-19 test on arrival at the airport may be subject to a fine of up to \$3,000.
- These travellers would also be required to go to a federal designated quarantine facility to take a COVID-19 test and receive a negative test result, to continue their onward travel to complete the rest of their 14-day quarantine.
- Any travellers who present with symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival will be directed to a federal designated quarantine facility or other suitable quarantine location.
- Travellers who provide proof of a previous positive test result taken between 14 and 90 days before departure to Canada in lieu of a negative test will continue to be exempt from testing on arrival and during quarantine. This exemption addresses the potential for residual positive tests given that individuals can continue to test positive up to three months after they have recovered and are no longer infectious. These travellers will also be exempt from the mandatory 3-night stay at a government-authorized accommodation, but must still quarantine for 14 days at a suitable place of quarantine.



- These new measures are in addition to existing mandatory pre-boarding and health requirements for air travellers which include:
  - pre-departure testing;
  - refusing boarding for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 unless they have a medical certificate stating that their symptoms are not COVID-19 related;
  - temperature screening and health check questions; and,
  - wearing masks on board flights to Canada.

### ***On the mandatory 3-night stay at a government-authorized accommodation***

- As of February 21, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, all air travellers, with limited exceptions, will also be required to reserve and stay in a government-authorized accommodation for up to three nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of their COVID-19 molecular test.
- Canada's hotel community is supporting public health efforts to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our country by providing accommodation for the mandatory 3-night requirement for air travellers to Canada.
- Hotel booking information will be online as of February 18, 2021. There will be a number of hotels to choose from, located near each of the four international airports in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.
- Hotels listed for booking by arriving travellers for mandatory 3-night stays will be privately-owned hotels that have agreed to meet public health guidelines and selection criteria for the purposes of accommodating travellers while they await their COVID-19 test results.
- Costs of these hotel stays may vary slightly at each location. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security and transportation.
- Travellers who have their own car at the airport can drive themselves to their government-authorized accommodation. Those who do not have their own vehicle will take transportation provided by the hotel.
- Travellers who receive a negative result from the test they took on arrival can leave the government-authorized accommodation to complete the remainder of the mandatory 14-day quarantine period at:
  - their final place of quarantine; or,
  - a federal designated quarantine facility if they do not have a suitable quarantine plan.



- Travellers who receive a positive result from the test they took on arrival will move to a federal designated quarantine facility or other suitable location to isolate for the remainder of the 14-day quarantine period.

### Land ports of entry

- Effective February 14, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET, it will be mandatory for all travellers arriving at Canada's land ports of entry, unless exempted, to:
  - present proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours before entry into Canada; or
  - proof of a positive COVID-19 test conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival.
- Providing proof of a positive test result addresses the potential for residual positive tests given that individuals can continue to test positive up to three months after they have recovered and are no longer infectious.
- Essential workers such as truckers, railway employees and emergency service providers will be exempt from the 72-hour pre-arrival testing. Further information on exemptions will be available in the coming days.
- Canadians and permanent residents who arrive at the border without a negative COVID-19 molecular test result may be subject to a fine of up to \$3,000, or criminal prosecution. These travellers may also be required to go to a designated quarantine facility if they are symptomatic on arrival at the border, or do not have a suitable quarantine plan.
- Foreign nationals who arrive without a negative COVID-19 molecular test result will be denied entry to Canada, unless they are exempted from the test requirement.
- Any travellers who present with symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival will be directed to a federal designated quarantine facility or other suitable location to quarantine.
- Effective **February 21, 2021**, at 11:59 p.m. ET, travellers, other than essential workers, arriving at all land ports of entry will be required to
  - submit their contact information and suitable quarantine plans electronically through ArriveCAN before they cross the border;
  - take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival in Canada (in addition to the 72-hour pre-arrival test); and
  - take another test later in their mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada will supply ports of entry with test kits for travellers to take to meet these requirements.



- These five high-volume ports of entry will offer on-site testing as of February 21, 2021, at 11:59:59 p.m. ET:
  - St. Bernard de Lacolle (Highway 15), QC
  - Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, ON
  - Douglas, BC
  - Coutts, AB
  - St Stephen 3rd Bridge, NB
- An additional 11 high-volume ports of entry will offer on-site testing beginning March 4, 2021:
  - Ambassador Bridge, ON
  - Fort Erie (Peace Bridge), ON
  - Windsor-Detroit Tunnel, ON
  - Sarnia (Blue Water Bridge), ON
  - Pacific Highway, BC
  - Niagara Falls Rainbow Bridge, ON
  - Lansdowne (Thousand Islands Bridge), ON
  - St-Armand/Philipsburg, QC
  - Huntingdon, BC
  - Emerson, MB
  - Stanstead, QC
- In some cases, travellers may need to remain in quarantine beyond 14 days if they do not receive the result of the second COVID-19 molecular test they take in Canada within their 14-day quarantine period.
- The Government of Canada is closely engaging the Biden Administration in the United States on our respective border measures, and will continue to keep the lines of communication open.
- The Government of Canada is conferring with the private sector, including cross-border businesses, about the management of these and further measures.

## **Testing**

### ***On 72-hour pre-boarding (air) and pre-arrival (land) testing***

- Only written or electronic proof of a negative test result from a COVID-19 molecular test performed by a laboratory no more than 72 hours (3 days) before:
  - the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time, unless another period is provided for under the Aeronautics Act; or
  - a traveller arrives at a land port of entry will be accepted.



- In instances where a traveller has previously tested positive for COVID-19, only written or electronic proof of a positive COVID-19 test conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival will be accepted.
- COVID-19 tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) test. Antigen tests are not accepted.
- Proof of a test must include:
  - the person's name and date of birth;
  - the name and civic address of the laboratory that administered the test;
  - the date the specimen was collected
  - the test method used; and
  - the test results.
- Travellers must retain evidence of test results for the 14-day period that begins on the day they enter Canada, or that begins again if, during the 14-day period, the person develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19, is exposed to another person who exhibits signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 under any type of COVID-19 test.

### **Quarantine requirements**

- The Government of Canada is also introducing more stringent criteria for suitable quarantine plans to reduce risk of household transmission, particularly to those who work with at-risk subpopulations.
- Effective **February 14, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.** ET, travellers arriving to Canada must have a suitable place to quarantine where they can:
  - stay for 14 days or possibly longer;
  - have access to the necessities of life, including water, food, medication and heat without leaving quarantine; and
  - stay separate from others in the home who did not travel.
- Travellers cannot quarantine in a place with people who:
  - are 65 years of age or older;
  - have underlying medical conditions;
  - have compromised immune systems; or
  - work with at-risk populations such as those in long-term care facilities.
- Travellers are reminded that ongoing vigilance is still required. In addition to completing their full quarantine period, returning travellers must monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and report daily on their health status by using the ArriveCAN app or the ArriveCAN webpage, or by telephone (1-833-641-0343).



- If travellers develop symptoms, even if they are mild, or test positive for COVID-19 under any type of COVID-19 test, it is essential that they also contact their local public health authority and report their travel history for testing purposes.

## On designated quarantine facilities

- Under the [Quarantine Act](#), Canada's Chief Public Health Officer can designate quarantine facilities (DQF), such as hotels, to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.
- Since March 2020, federal DQF have been used as a last resort to safely quarantine or isolate travellers, without other means, for 14 days upon entry into Canada as required by emergency orders under the Quarantine Act.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) currently operates 11 DQF in 9 cities across Canada, with access to 2 additional sites managed by the provinces and territories (Whitehorse, Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton, Halifax and St. John's). Facilities have been designated and undesignated (designations cancelled) as required to protect Canadians and to respond to evolving needs throughout the pandemic.
- To protect the privacy and safety of travellers, traveller information and locations/names of DQF are not disclosed to the public. However, any traveller who is directed to a DQF or is currently staying in one could share information, including the location of the facility, with their families or loved ones.
- All rooms at the DQF are equipped with phones for out-bound calls, which travellers can use without restriction. Travellers who have cellular or other devices available are also welcome to use those to connect with family or friends if they wish.
- Transportation to the quarantine site, lodging, meals/incidentals, as well as security and cleaning personnel are standard services for all DQF and are contracted to organizations that offer the required expertise.
- Every traveller staying at a designated quarantine facility has access to 24-hour support and ongoing medical monitoring.
- An onsite nurse completes daily health assessments with each traveller.
- Between check-ins and assessments, travellers are asked to monitor their health.
- Nurses can arrange for non-emergency medical appointments and additional medical attention at a nearby hospital if necessary.



## Supplementary messages

### *On ArriveCAN*

- ArriveCAN is a secure and user-friendly tool to help travellers comply with Canada's enhanced border measures.
- ArriveCAN is available as a free mobile app available for download from Google Play or the App Store or by signing in online via [Canada.ca/ArriveCAN](https://Canada.ca/ArriveCAN).
- As of **February 21, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET**, it will become mandatory for all travellers entering Canada's land ports of entry to provide their quarantine plan and contact information electronically through ArriveCAN before they cross the border.
- Travellers must use ArriveCAN to provide:
  - Travel and contact information;
  - Quarantine plan (unless exempt under conditions set out in the Mandatory Isolation Order);
  - COVID-19 symptom self-assessment; and,
  - For those arriving by air, confirmation of their booking at a government-authorized accommodation

Travellers must be ready to show their ArriveCAN receipt when seeking entry into Canada; a border services officer will verify that they have submitted their information electronically. Travellers can show the ArriveCAN receipt as an email, a screenshot or a printout.

- All travellers must use ArriveCAN or call the 1-833-641-0343 toll-free line to:
  - Confirm they have arrived at their place of quarantine or isolation the day after they have entered Canada; and,
  - Complete daily COVID-19 symptom self-assessments during their quarantine period.
- Travellers exempted from the requirement to quarantine under the Mandatory Isolation Emergency Order, or those who are directed to a designated quarantine facility, do not need to provide this information after they have entered Canada.

### *On authorities under the Quarantine Act*

- Individuals who contravene the mandatory isolation or mandatory quarantine requirements, including the instructions of a Quarantine Officer, may be subject to a range of enforcement measures under the [Quarantine Act](#). Maximum penalties include a fine of up to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months.





- Further, a person who causes a risk of imminent death or serious bodily harm to another person while willfully or recklessly contravening this Act or the regulations, including submitting false information related to an individual's quarantine plan, could be liable for a fine of up to \$1,000,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or to both.
- Travellers are reminded that ongoing vigilance is required. In addition to completing their full quarantine period, returning travellers must monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If travellers develop symptoms, even if they are mild, it is essential that they contact their local public health authority and report their travel history for testing purposes.