



# COVID-19 Air Travel & Vaccination Requirements

## 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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## **Mask Requirements**

### **Q1. Do I still need to wear a 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 mask throughout their entire travel journey except for brief periods while eating, drinking, 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. Who is exempt from wearing a mask?**

**A2.** 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 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 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.

### **Q3. Is there an obligation to report travellers who refuse to wear their mask despite repeated instructions from the flight attendant?**

**A3.** 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 travellers to wear masks. In instances where a traveller does not comply with crew member direction to wear a mask and the traveller 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.

#### **Q4. Can travellers take off their mask during a flight to eat or drink?**

**A4.** When travelling by air, travellers are required to wear their mask throughout their whole travel journey. Travellers may, however, 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>

#### **Q5. Will flight crew, airport workers and pilots be required to wear a mask?**

**A5.** The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends that all individuals wear a mask when in a shared space (either indoor or outdoor) with people from outside their immediate household. This includes wearing a 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 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 mask on the flight deck since it could interfere with safe operations.

### **COVID-19 Molecular Testing Requirements**

#### **Q6. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure?**

**A6.** 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 exempt. **Antigen test results will not be accepted.** 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.  
**Note:** 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 10 full days and no more than 180 days** from the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada.  
**Note:** Counting starts the day following the day of testing. Example: if a traveller was tested on February 1, they will be eligible to travel on February 11. 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.

**Important:** All tests must be taken outside of Canada. Travellers cannot take a test in Canada and use that test result to then return to Canada, even if it is within the 72 hour window.

**Important:** Negative pre-departure tests will not be accepted from countries where, there is an outbreak of a variant of COVID-19 or there is reasonable grounds to believe that there is an outbreak of that variant. The list of countries is determined by the Minister of Health.

### **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.

### **Q7. Who is required to take an arrival test upon arrival to Canada?**

**A7.** Upon arrival in Canada, travellers will be subject to an increased on-arrival testing program. If selected, fully vaccinated travellers will undergo an on-arrival test the day they enter Canada. All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers are required to undergo a molecular COVID-19 test on the day they enter Canada and day-8 following their arrival.

Travellers who are “residually positive” (i.e., who have a positive test result that was administered at least 10 full days and no more than 180 days from the scheduled departure time to Canada) will need to present their positive test result upon arrival to be exempt from arrival testing.

### **Q8. Which types of COVID-19 tests are considered molecular tests?**

**A8.** 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. For a complete 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>.

### **Q9. What information should the COVID-19 molecular test result contain?**

**A9.** All COVID-19 molecular test results 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 (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 10 full days and no more than 180 days before the traveller's schedule flight (**Note:** Counting starts the day following the day of testing. Example: if a traveller was tested on February 1, they will be eligible to travel on February 11);
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

**Q10. 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?**

**A10.** A negative COVID-19 molecular test result from a country where, there is an outbreak of a variant of COVID-19 or there is reasonable grounds to believe that there is an outbreak of that variant, will not be accepted to board an aircraft for a flight to Canada. The list of countries is determined by the Minister of Health. In addition, travellers entering Canada must present a valid negative test result from a test conducted outside of Canada. Negative test results from tests taken in Canada prior to departure will not be accepted.

A positive COVID-19 molecular test result administered at least 10 full days and no more than 180 days before the traveller's departure to Canada from a country where there is an outbreak of a variant of COVID-19 or there is reasonable grounds to believe that there is an outbreak of that variant, will be accepted to board an aircraft for a flight to Canada (as long as the traveller has recovered and is no longer exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms). The list of countries is determined by the Minister of Health.

**Q11. Where no COVID-19 molecular test is available, would a rapid antigen test or a Diffractive Phase Interferometry (DPI) test be acceptable?**

**A11.** 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 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-sureteairienne.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.aviationsecurity-sureteairienne.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)

**Q12. Do the test results need to be in English or French? What if the traveller can only get their results in another language?**

**A12.** 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 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 languages may cause delays at the border port of entry.

**Q13. Will a test result that indicates “not detected” be accepted as evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result?**

**A13.** Yes, “not detected” can be accepted as equivalent to “negative” when providing evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result.

**Q14. Will age be accepted on COVID-19 molecular test results where the date of birth is not available?**

**A14.** 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.

**Q15. What if the COVID-19 molecular test results do not indicate the exact time the test (swab) was taken?**

**A15.** If the COVID-19 molecular 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 or later**

**Q16. Does the 72 hours relate to the scheduled departure time or the scheduled time arriving in Canada?**

**A16.** A COVID-19 molecular test must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure of a flight to Canada.

**Q17. 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?**

**A17.** Where a flight is **delayed** due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather, mechanical delays, diversions), the air carrier is permitted to use the originally scheduled departure time of the flight as the benchmark for the 72 hours. Up to an additional 24 hours can be provided for these types of situations only. Therefore, a total of 96 (72 + 24) hours can be used. In instances where the flight was **cancelled**, the traveller **will be required to obtain another test**.

**Q18. Should air carriers use the time when the COVID-19 molecular test was conducted or when the test results were provided?**

**A18.** 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.

**Q19. 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?**

**A19.** As per the Transport Canada's Interim Order, a COVID-19 molecular test must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure of the direct flight to Canada from a last point of departure.

**Q20. What happens if a traveller cannot get a COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours prior to their return to Canada?**

**A20.** 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.

**Q21. Where should air carriers refer travellers if they do not have a COVID-19 molecular test result? Can an individual apply for an exemption to the Canadian pre-departure testing requirements?**

**A21.** 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 result, 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.

**Q22. 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?**

**A22.** 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.

**Q23. What type of COVID-19 test will I receive upon arrival to Canada?**

**A23.** Upon arrival in Canada, all travellers, if required to undergo an arrival test under the Public Health Agency of Canada's [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations\)](#), will be subjected to a molecular COVID-19 test.

**Q24. Will the Government of Canada reimburse travellers for costs associated to obtaining a COVID-19 molecular test abroad?**

**A24.** Since the Government of Canada has advised Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice, any costs incurred 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>.

**Q25. Would proof of vaccination replace a COVID-19 test?**

**A25.** No, 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.

**Q26. Will there be any costs for the traveller associated to the arrival testing requirement?**

**A26.** No, there is no cost associated to the arrival testing requirements.

**Q27. Is there a requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test verification?**

**A27.** 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.

**Q28. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?**

**A28.** 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 date 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.).

**Q29. 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?**

**A29.** 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.

**Q30. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?**

**A30.** 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.

**Q31. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?**

**A31.** The requirements to verify that a traveller has a COVID-19 molecular test result 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.

**Q32. 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?**

**A32.** 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 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**

**Q33. Will Transport Canada be providing a template letter for crew members?**

**A33.** 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>

**Q34. 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?**

**A34.** 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.

**Q35. Are persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing?**

**A35.** 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.

**Q36. 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)?**

**A36.** 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 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 10 full days and no more than 180 days before 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.

**Q37. Are unaccompanied minors exempt from COVID-19 testing?**

**A37.** 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 and enter Canada;
- Follow further instructions given by a government representative regarding arrival testing; and
- Quarantine for 14 days upon arrival at a suitable location.

**Q38. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure?**

**A38.** 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 travellers 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

**Q39. 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?**

**A39.** 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 testing and quarantine requirements. They will be referred to Public Health Officials for further direction.

**Q40. Will I need to quarantine following my COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at the airport?**

**A40.** Once an arrival test has been administered, those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated will be required to remain in quarantine at a suitable location for a period of 14 days (that began on the day on which the person entered Canada), while fully vaccinated travellers are required to remain in quarantine at a suitable location until the expiry of the 14-day period that began on the day on which the person entered Canada or until receipt of a negative test result from the day-1 test (whichever comes first).

Should an arrival test come back positive, or the traveller develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14 days after entry to Canada, travellers are required to immediately isolate themselves for a period of 10 days that begins on either the date they took their test (if validated by the test provider) or the date on the test result or on the day the person developed signs or symptoms.

**Note:** Fully vaccinated travellers who have only travelled to the U.S. in the previous 14 days will not be required to quarantine; if selected for an on-arrival test, they do not need to quarantine while awaiting their test result.

**Q41. 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?**

**A41.** No. If the traveller is remaining within the sterile transit area of a Canadian airport and will not be entering through a border entry point, they will not require a COVID-19 molecular test prior to departure or upon arrival. These travellers also will not be required to submit contact and quarantine plan information through the ArriveCAN app or website.

**Q42. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?**

**A42.** 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. Wear a mask when they are in public settings, including when entering Canada; and,
- b. 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.

## **Domestic and Outbound Travel Restrictions & Requirements**

**Q43. Regarding domestic and outbound travel, who is required to be vaccinated in the air transportation sector?**

**A43.** All air travellers who are 12 years and 4 months of age or older flying on a domestic, transborder or international flight departing from a specified Canadian airport are required to be fully vaccinated, unless travellers are eligible for one of the limited exceptions.

In addition, all non-passengers are also required to be fully vaccinated, unless they meet an exception. This includes:

- All non-passengers who enter restricted areas of airports (e.g., concession and hospitality workers); and
- employees of airports and other organizations who work in the Air Terminal Building, and outside the restricted area if their work activities are related to aviation.

The mandatory vaccination requirement does not apply to the non-travelling public, and employees working outside of the Air Terminal Building/Restricted Area that do not support the aviation sector such as convenience stores or entertainment facilities.

Operators of aerodromes can implement stricter requirements. Individuals who require access to an aerodrome should therefore review the aerodrome policy regarding mandatory vaccination.

The mandatory vaccination policy does not apply to international to international connecting travellers staying within the restricted area.

Personnel from military flights, aerial work (CAR subpart 702), private operators (CAR subpart 604) are excluded from the policy, unless they are required to access the restricted area of one of the specified airports.

Patients and escorts on a MEDEVAC flight are exempt from the policy as well as any emergency response personnel who require access to aerodrome property while responding to an emergency.

**Q44. Why is private aviation (CAR subpart 604) or general aviation excluded from the requirement to be vaccinated?**

**A44.** The federal vaccination mandate initiative for the air sector is focused on both commercial passenger flights and those working in the airport environment. Private aviation and general aviation do not involve commercial passengers. However, should a private operator require access to the aerodrome property of a specified airport listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order*, they must be fully vaccinated, with very limited exceptions.

**Q45. What is the definition of a “restricted area of an airport”?**

**A45.** The restricted area of an airport is based on aviation security requirements. Each airport has slightly different restricted areas but, in general, it includes the sterile area of the air terminal building, the apron next to the terminal, the movement areas on the airside, etc. Certain companies will need to confirm with the airports where it operates if its operations are part of the restricted area.

**Q46. How does the vaccination mandate apply to flight schools that operate out of airports?**

**A46.** Flight schools are covered under CAR subpart 406, which is excluded under the policy; however, if the students or others associated with the flight school (e.g., employees, trainers, etc.) are operating on the aerodrome property of a specified airport, they would be covered under the policy for non-passengers and would be required to be vaccinated. In addition, since aerodromes may have more stringent vaccinations policies in place, these individuals are encouraged to review the aerodrome’s policy regarding mandatory vaccination.

**Q47. Will the vaccine mandate apply to charter flights?**

**A47.** Yes. Charter flights are included in the vaccine mandate, including their passengers and employees, if the flights are operated under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CAR) subparts 700 series (excluding subparts 702) and are departing from one of the specified airports.

**Q48. Why can’t domestic travellers use ArriveCAN to record their vaccination status just as international travellers?**

**A48.** ArriveCAN is used only for travellers entering Canada from another country. All travellers, with limited exceptions, must use ArriveCAN (available as a mobile app and online) to provide mandatory travel information before and after entering Canada, including providing information to the Government of Canada about quarantine plans and contact information for post-border follow up. ArriveCAN is therefore not currently suited to use in the context of domestic or international outbound travel.

**Q49. Will the mandatory vaccination requirement apply to all airports in Canada?**

**A49.** The mandatory vaccination requirement applies to passenger flights departing from specified Canadian airports as identified Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19*.

**Q50. Who will be enforcing the federal vaccination requirements?**

**A50.** Transport Canada will conduct compliance activities using inspections and enforcement tools. Should regulated entities not meet the regulatory requirements it could lead to enforcement action such as Administrative Monetary Penalties.

In addition, the regulated entities will be required to ensure adherence to the requirements within their own organizations.

**Q51. Do the vaccination requirements apply to prisoners that are being transported via air?**

**A51.** Transport Canada is aware of the challenges while transporting prisoners and as such has developed a national exemption to address this situation.

**Q52. What is the definition of a fully vaccinated person for domestic or outbound travel?**

**A52.** To qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller within or from Canada, you must:

- have received at least 2 doses of a vaccine accepted for travel, a mix of 2 accepted vaccines
  - or at least 1 dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine
- have received your last dose at least 14 full days before you enter Canada
  - Example: if your second dose was anytime on Thursday July 1, then Friday July 16 would be the first day that you meet the 14 day condition
- Have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Follow pre-entry testing and entry requirements
  - Upload proof of vaccination in ArriveCAN
  - Complete your ArriveCAN submission and have ArriveCAN receipt with letter I, V, or A beside your name
  - Complete arrival test and quarantine if selected
  - Monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for the 14 days after entry into Canada
  - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, seek advice from local public health

Vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada for the purpose of travel to and within Canada include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222)
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson
- Sinopharm BIBP (BBIBP-CorV)
- Sinovac (CoronaVac, PiCoVacc)

- Bharat Biotech (Covaxin, BBV152 A, B, C)

Government of Canada measures continue to apply, so travellers should have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and be prepared to wear a mask during their travel.

With respect to provincial or territorial requirements, travellers may be subject to further measures taken by provinces or territories to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is the traveller's responsibility to be familiar with potential restrictions regarding your final destination point. Links to provincial and territorial COVID-19 information can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms/provincial-territorial-resources-covid-19.html>.

**Q53. How will travellers provide confirmation of vaccination?**

**A53.** Travellers are strongly encouraged to use the [Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination](#) when travelling; however, travellers can also use a proof of vaccination credential issued by their province or territory, or from their country of vaccination so long as it is a Government of Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine and contains all the mandatory data elements identified in the *Interim Order*. All proof of vaccinations must be provided in English or French (or a certified translation).

For more information, see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/vaccines/life-after-vaccination/vaccine-proof.html>.

**Q54. What if a proof of vaccination issued by a Province or Territory does not contain all the required data elements as per the *Interim Order*?**

**A54.** An exemption is in place to allow air carriers to board travellers if they show proof of vaccination from their respective Province or Territory (or designated entity who issued the proof of vaccination), even if their proof of vaccination does not contain all the necessary data elements as required by the *Interim Order* (i.e., name, issuing body, type of vaccine, and date the final dose of the regimen was administered).

However, in these cases, air carriers are going to be required to report on the number of instances where a traveller showed their proof of vaccination and it did not meet the requirements set out in the *Interim Order*, what data elements were missing and the contact information for the traveller.

**Q55. Who will be responsible for verifying that travellers are vaccinated?**

**A55.** Commercial air carriers (for scheduled or charter flights) will be responsible for the verification of the vaccination status of travellers. For airports with CATSA security screening, CATSA may also be supporting the verification process.

All travellers will be responsible for demonstrating their proof of vaccination prior to boarding their flight in Canada, unless otherwise excepted. In cases where a traveller qualifies for an exception (such as a medical inability to be vaccinated, sincere religious beliefs or essential medical travel, or has obtained a domestic national interest exemption letter from Transport Canada), the traveller

will need to provide their proof of exemption approved by the air carrier, as well as a valid COVID-19 molecular test result. If the traveller meets another exception per the *Interim Order* (i.e., foreign national with onward domestic travel within 24 hours, a departing foreign national, resettled refugee, accredited diplomats etc.), the traveller must demonstrate the necessary evidence as identified in the *Interim Order* and provide a valid COVID-19 molecular result.

**Q56. What will the consequences be for travellers who falsify information regarding proof of vaccination?**

**A56.** There will be serious consequences for travellers who falsify information. Travellers could be fined up to \$5,000 per violation under the *Aeronautics Act*.

**Q57. What happens if a flight departs from an airport that is not on Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* but is diverted to an airport that is listed on Schedule 1?**

**A57.** Travellers who are diverted from an airport that is not on Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* to an airport that is on Schedule 1 due to a safety-related reason such as adverse weather or an equipment malfunction will not be required to be fully vaccinated or to have a COVID-19 molecular test, as long as they board an aircraft for a flight not more than 24 hours after the arrival time of the diverted flight.

**Q58. When will Canadians receive a Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination certification for travel?**

**A58.** The Government of Canada has collaborated with the provinces and territories to develop a standardized proof of vaccination to facilitate cross-border travel. All provinces and territories have begun issuing these credentials. Air carriers should strongly encourage travellers to download a copy of their proof of vaccination prior to travelling.

Any specific questions should be directed to the province or territory in question.

For more information, see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/vaccines/life-after-vaccination/vaccine-proof.html>.

**Q59. Will paper copies be accepted as proof of vaccination for domestic travel? What if the traveller is not using the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination? Will provincial proof be accepted?**

**A59.** Travellers can use a proof of vaccination credential issued by their province or territory, the local health facility where their vaccinations have been recorded, or from their country of vaccination, as long as it is a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Government of Canada for the purpose of travel and contains all the mandatory data elements identified in the *Interim Order*. Both digital and paper copies will be accepted.

Where available, Canadians are strongly encouraged to use the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination.

**Q60. What happens if a traveller's name on their proof of identification does not match the name on the proof of vaccination?**

**A60.** There may be circumstances in which the name on the proof of identification does not match the name on the provincial or territorial proof of vaccination. For example, in the Province of Quebec a female's name at birth may appear on the proof of vaccination, while their married name may appear on a federal identification document such as a passport. Other examples include those from remote or Indigenous communities where formal identification can be more challenging.

In these cases, the air carrier has flexibility to accept a proof of vaccination that does not perfectly match a traveller's identification documents so long as the traveller is able to establish their vaccination credential through other means (e.g., driver's license, marriage certificate, letter from indigenous community leader etc.). Travellers are not to be denied boarding should this proof be provided.

**Q61. Are international to international travellers (those transiting through Canada) required to be fully vaccinated or to provide a valid COVID-19 molecular result?**

**A61.** International to international (ITI) travellers can proceed to another country without the requirement to be fully vaccinated or to have a COVID-19 molecular test as long as they remain within the sterile transit area of a Canadian airport and do not enter through a border entry point.

**Q62. Is everyone on board a MEDVAC flight exempt from the vaccination requirement (i.e., patients, escorts and crew)?**

**A62.** The exemption from being fully vaccinated applies specifically to the MEDEVAC flight itself and only to the patient and approved escorts. It does not cover employees or operations pre or post flight.

Requirements for passenger vaccination or COVID-19 molecular testing applies only to commercial air services operating within or out of Canada under Subpart 1, 3, 4 or 5 of Part VII of the Canadian Aviation Regulations. Any persons working for a MEDEVAC company would be required to comply with passenger requirements if travelling on a commercial flight pre or post MEDEVAC flight (such as an airline maintenance engineer travelling as a passenger to get to their job site in Canada or departing from Canada).

MEDEVAC employees may also be required to comply with the airport policy on mandatory vaccination at any specified airport listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order*. Per the *Interim Order*, aerodrome operators must establish and implement a comprehensive policy respecting mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for all relevant employees whose duties include accessing the restricted area of an airport listed in Schedule 1. Any employee of a MEDEVAC company (i.e., non-passengers) who require access to the restricted area of a specified airport must be fully vaccinated.

**Q63. What if a traveller has two doses of non-Government of Canada accepted vaccine (e.g., Sputnik) and 1 mRNA shot? Would they be able to enter Canada and/or travel by air?**

**A63.** No. To qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller to Canada, you must have received the full series of a vaccine – or a combination of vaccines – accepted by the Government of Canada at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Currently, those vaccines are manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2), Moderna (mRNA-1273), AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222), Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S), Sinopharm (Covilo, BBIBP-CorV), Sinovac (CoronaVac), and Bharat Biotech (COVAXIN, BBV152).

## **Traveller Exceptions to Being Fully Vaccinated for Domestic and Outbound Travel**

**Q64. What are the alternatives for travellers who are unable to be vaccinated?**

**A64.** Very limited exemptions will be in place for travellers who are unable to be vaccinated.

Exemptions will be given to:

- Those who are medically unable to be vaccinated, which refers to specific medical conditions listed in the latest recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization
- Those travelling for essential medical services and treatment, which refer to booked appointments to get medical services that are important to saving lives and improving health outcomes
- Those who hold sincere religious beliefs, in recognition of the rights of Canadians under the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#)
- Emergency and urgent travel, including for urgent medical reasons, which are situations that need urgent evacuation such as forest fires, floods, and medical emergencies
- Other travel in the national interest, such emergency service providers or specialized essential workers under Canada's critical infrastructure sectors when no other vaccinated options exist.

For domestic and outbound travel, air carriers will administer the process for considering a traveller's medical inability to be vaccinated, sincere religious belief, travelling to access essential medical services and treatment, and emergency/urgent travel (including for urgent medical reasons).

Transport Canada will administer exemptions for other domestic and outbound travel in the national interest. In almost all cases where a traveller is granted an exemption, the traveller will need to have a valid COVID-19 molecular test, taken no more than 72 hours before boarding their flight.

**Q65. What are the accepted reasons for an exception due to medical inability to be vaccinated?**

**A65.** Based on the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, a traveller may qualify for a temporary exception due to medical inability to be vaccinated in order to travel within or depart Canada if they have:

- Certified medical contraindications to full vaccination against COVID-19 with an mRNA vaccine:
  - A history of anaphylaxis after previous administration of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (and noting that most people who experienced a severe immediate allergic reaction after a first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can safely receive future doses of the same or another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after consulting with an allergist or another appropriate physician); and/or
  - A confirmed allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG), which is found in the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (note that if a person is allergic to tromethamine which is found in Moderna, they can receive the Pfizer-BioNTech product).
- Medical reasons for delay of full vaccination against COVID-19:
  - A history of myocarditis/pericarditis following the first dose of an mRNA vaccine; and/or
  - An immunocompromising condition or medication that requires waiting to vaccinate when immune response can be maximized (i.e., waiting to vaccinate when immunocompromised state or medication is lower).
- A medical condition precluding full vaccination against COVID-19 (not covered above), as briefly described by the medical physician or nurse practitioner.

**Q66. How can a traveller apply for an exception from the vaccination requirement due to medical inability to be vaccinated?**

**A66.** Travellers must submit to the air carrier a temporary exception form, signed by a licensed Canadian medical doctor or nurse practitioner. Forms will be available from the air carrier and must be completed 21 days before their initial scheduled departure and in accordance with the air carrier's exception approval process.

The approval provided by the air carrier will be valid only for the single journey, including return trip, provided a traveller is travelling with the same air carrier throughout. A separate request is required for new trips or for boarding travel with other air carriers.

Approval for temporary exceptions for a medical inability to be vaccinated is air carrier-specific. In other words, approval by one airline does not automatically allow the traveller to connect with a different airline, or to transfer to another federally regulated transportation mode.

Travellers are required to carry the confirmation of exception and proof of the air carrier's approval with them during their travel journey. Travellers with temporary exemptions due to a medical inability to be vaccinated will require a valid COVID-19 test result before boarding.

Air carriers may verify proof of the confirmation of exception and COVID-19 test results at any time during travel (e.g., check-in, boarding, during travel, etc.). Air carriers will be responsible for denying boarding to travellers who are unvaccinated and without proof.

Where travellers board at unmanned boarding/departure points, verification may occur while en route.

False claims are an offence under the Criminal Code and false declaration could be subject to Transport Canada fines.

Air carriers must report to Transport Canada all such exceptions granted.

**Q67. Will traveller's still need to apply if their province or territory issued a certificate indicating they are medically unable to be vaccinated?**

**A67.** Yes, travellers still need to apply to their air carrier. However, a medical certificate issued by a Canadian province or territory may also be accepted in lieu of the medical doctor or nurse practitioner's signature on the exception form.

**Q68. What if the traveller is a foreign national and needs to apply for an exception due to medical inability to be vaccinated?**

**A68.** If a foreign national, currently in Canada, requires an exception for medical inability to be vaccinated, the process will be the same as for Canadian citizens and permanent residents. A medical note or letter issued by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner in a country other than Canada will not be accepted for domestic, inbounds, or outbound travel.

Until February 28, 2022, a foreign national who entered Canada without being fully vaccinated will be allowed to board a flight to depart Canada provided they have a valid COVID-19 test within 72 hours. No exception form is needed in the case of this type of itinerary to exit Canada.

**Q69. What is considered essential medical services and treatment?**

**A69.** For the mandatory vaccination requirement, essential medical services and treatment refers to booked appointments to receive medical services that are important to saving lives and improving health outcomes. Examples could include travel to receive cancer treatment or to attend a specialist appointment.

**Q70. How can a traveller apply for an exception for essential medical services and treatment?**

**A70.** Travellers must submit a completed exception form, including having it signed by a Canadian licensed medical doctor or nurse practitioner, to the air carrier to receive confirmation of a temporary exception from the mandatory vaccination requirement.

This form must be completed 14 days before the initial scheduled departure and in accordance with the air carrier's exception approval process.

The approval provided by the air carrier will be valid only for the single journey, including return trip, provided a traveller is travelling with the same air carrier throughout. A separate request is required for new trips or for boarding travel with other air carriers.

Approval for temporary exceptions for essential medical care is air carrier specific. In other words, approval by one airline does not automatically allow the traveller to connect with a different airline, or to transfer to another federally regulated transportation mode.

Travellers are required to carry the confirmation of exception and proof of the air carrier's approval with them during their travel journey. Travellers with temporary exceptions due to essential medical services and treatment will require a valid COVID-19 test result before boarding.

Air carriers may verify proof of the confirmation of exception and COVID-19 test results at any time during travel (e.g., check-in, boarding, during travel, etc.). Air carriers will be responsible for denying boarding to travellers who are unvaccinated and without proof.

Where travellers board at unmanned boarding/departure points, verification may occur while en route.

False claims are an offence under the *Criminal Code* and false declaration could be subject to Transport Canada fines.

Air carriers must report to Transport Canada on all such exceptions granted.

**Q71. Who is considered a medical doctor or nurse practitioner for the purposes of the mandatory vaccination requirement?**

**A71.** The following are considered a licensed medical doctor or nurse practitioner:

- Family doctor
- Nurse practitioner
- Allergist
- Immunologist
- Cardiologist
- Rheumatologist
- Oncologist

The following are not considered a licensed medical doctor or nurse practitioner:

- Paramedical or alternative health providers (e.g., chiropractor, podiatrist, optometrist, naturopath)
- Registered nurse (RN), registered practical nurse (RPN), licensed practical nurse (LPN)
- Physician's assistant (PA)
- Dentist or dental hygienist
- Psychologist

**Q72. What will happen if an unvaccinated traveller must travel for urgent medical care for which the timing does not permit the advance submission of an exemption request form and/or obtaining a COVID-19 medical test?**

**A72.** There is currently a Transport Canada exemption (C2021-165) in place to exempt those travelling due to an urgent medical reason from the mandatory vaccination requirement and the requirement for a valid COVID-19 molecular test.

**Q73. What will happen if an unvaccinated traveller must travel during an emergency (e.g., natural disaster)?**

**A73.** If an unvaccinated traveller must travel due to an emergency situation such as an evacuation due to fire or flood, airlines will have the authority to exempt them from the mandatory vaccination requirement and/or the requirement for a valid COVID-19 molecular test. Air carriers will only be authorized to apply this authority, however, when there is an immediate threat to the safety of the traveller.

Air carriers must also report to Transport Canada on use of this exemption.

**Q74. What are accepted reasons for an unvaccinated traveller to request a temporary exception due to sincerely held religious beliefs to travel within or out of Canada?**

**A74.** For the purpose of domestic or outbound travel, air carriers may consider religious exceptions to mandatory vaccination based on sincerely held religious beliefs. These types of exemptions are anticipated to be granted very rarely.

Leaders and members of many religions and religious denominations have released public statements indicating their support for the COVID-19 vaccine, specifically in the interest of public health. In addition, a number of provincial human rights commissions, including the Ontario Human Rights Commission, believe that objection to vaccination for personal reasons is not a protected ground under their respective code and does not need accommodation.

Furthermore, there are false empirical beliefs about the development, the contents, effects, or purpose of the vaccines. These are not grounds on which a religious exception can be granted. If the sincere belief is not based on religious beliefs, but rather a personal preference or choice based on misinformation or misunderstandings of scientific information, there will be no exception granted.

Canadian provinces and territories do not issue exceptions based on sincere religious beliefs.

**Q75. How can a traveller apply for an exception due to a sincerely held religious belief?**

**A75.** Requests to travel with an exception due to a sincerely held religious belief will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by air carriers for domestic trips. An approved exception is valid for one return trip. Subsequent trips will require a new application.

False claims are an offence under the *Criminal Code* and false declaration could be subject to Transport Canada fines.

Air carriers must report to Transport Canada all such exceptions granted.

**Q76. Can exception requests be refused? If so, how will the traveller be informed and will they be reimbursed for their travel?**

**A76.** The air carrier will notify the applicant if an exception request is approved or refused in advance of check-in/boarding.

Travellers without confirmation of an approved exception request will not be issued a boarding pass and will not be permitted to board. Travellers may re-apply for exception requests within the time period required by the air carrier in advance of the planned date of departure only if they are providing additional information on their medical condition.

Travellers should refer to the air carrier's policy regarding refunds in case of a refusal.

**Q77. What if the traveller needs to travel using different air carriers (e.g., two airlines)? Can the confirmation of exception provided by one air carrier be used to travel with another air carrier? How long does an exception last?**

**A77.** Confirmation of exception is tied to each air carrier. Unless there is a code-share agreement in place between air carriers, the traveller is required to seek confirmation from any implicated air carrier individually. Travellers should also note that a confirmation of exception from a particular air carrier is only valid for one trip (including return).

**Q78. What if a traveller was granted an exception, but their flight was cancelled at the last minute and the traveller was re-scheduled on a flight with a different air carrier? Will the exception still be accepted with the new air carrier?**

**A78.** Since the approval for temporary exception is air carrier-specific, air carriers should make every attempt to re-schedule the traveller on a flight with the air carrier who granted the exception. Should this not be an option, the traveller would need to re-apply for the exception to obtain the approval of the air carrier of the re-scheduled flight.

**Q79. Is there an exception to permit unvaccinated Canadians to travel within the country for compassionate reasons (e.g., attend a funeral or take care of a family member)?**

**A79.** No, travellers will have to be fully vaccinated to travel within Canada for compassionate reasons.

## Inbound Travel Restrictions & Requirements

**Q80. Regarding inbound travel, who is required to be vaccinated in the air transportation sector?**

**A80.** All foreign nationals travelling to Canada are required to be fully vaccinated, unless the traveller meets one of the limited exceptions outlined in the Public Health Agency of Canada's Orders in Council ([\*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada\)\*](#)). As of January 15, 2022, this includes foreign flight crew.

**Q81. Can a traveller use an exception form to vaccination for a sincerely held religious belief to enter Canada?**

**A81.** No. There is no exception on being fully vaccinated based on religious beliefs for foreign nationals to enter Canada. Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or those registered under the [\*Indian Act\*](#), who are not fully vaccinated, may return to Canada with a valid COVID-19 test, but must submit to testing on arrival and applicable quarantine requirements.

**Q82. 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?**

**A82.** 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. 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. If travellers are using the ArriveCAN app, they must make sure they have the most up-to-date version.

Travellers who experience difficulty submitting their information through ArriveCAN can access additional information at [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 should print a copy 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.

**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.**

**Q83. Why aren't fully vaccinated travellers also exempt from all of the testing requirements?**

**A83.** 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 upon arrival to Canada.

Testing on-arrival in Canada will 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.

**Q84. Will I need to show my proof of vaccination every time I enter Canada?**

**A84.** Yes, for the majority of travellers this will be the case.

**Q85. Will travellers entering Canada who prove they are fully vaccinated be exempt from public health measures while travelling in Canada?**

**A85.** No. At this time, all fully vaccinated travellers will be subject to the increased on-arrival testing program and will be required to remain in quarantine at a suitable location until the expiry of the 14-day period that began on the day on which the person entered Canada or until receipt of a negative test result from the day-1 test (whichever comes first). In addition, upon release from quarantine, 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.

**Note:** Fully vaccinated travellers who have only travelled to the U.S. in the previous 14 days will not be required to quarantine.

**Q86. What if individuals attempt to enter Canada with fraudulent vaccination documents?**

**A86.** 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.

**Q87. In the future, will the Government of Canada recognize different vaccines used in other countries? What about mixed dosing?**

**A87.** 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 full days prior to entering 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.

**Q88. 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?**

**A88.** 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 full days prior to entering 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.

**Q89. What about individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical conditions?**

**A89.** 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.

**Q90. Why does vaccination documentation have to be in English or French, or a certified translation?**

**A90.** 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.

**Q91. What counts as a “certified translation”?**

**A91.** 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.

**Q92. 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?**

**A92.** 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*.

**Q93. Since fully vaccinated travellers are now required to quarantine until they receive their arrival test results (if they have been in a country other than the U.S. or Canada in the past 14 days), can they take onward travel to their place of quarantine (i.e. domestic flight, bus, taxi, etc.)?**

**A93.** Yes. A fully vaccinated traveller can travel onwards to their place of quarantine while they await their arrival test results. This means they can take domestic flights and other means of public transportation as long as they follow all public health measures such as wearing a mask. However, provinces and territories may have their own provincial border measures as well as public health guidelines within their jurisdictions and so 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.

**Q94. Will the changes surrounding fully vaccinated travellers impact temporary foreign workers?**

**A94.** 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 will also be subject to an increased on-arrival testing program and will be required to remain in quarantine at a suitable location until the expiry of the 14-day period that began on the day on which the person entered Canada or until receipt of a negative test result from the day-1 test (whichever comes first). 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.

**Q95. Does the changes surrounding fully vaccinated travellers impact International Students?**

**A95.** 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 will also be subject to an increased on-arrival testing program and will be required to remain in quarantine at a suitable location until the expiry of the 14-day period that began on the day on which the person entered Canada or until receipt of a negative test result from the day-1 test (whichever comes first). 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.

**Q96. What happens if a foreign national who is not eligible to travel to Canada tries to board a flight?**

**A96.** 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.

## Vaccination Requirements After Entry to Canada

**Q97. What exceptions will be in place for unvaccinated foreign nationals departing Canada?**

**A97.** Until February 28, 2022, foreign nationals will be able to take a flight for the purpose of departing Canada if they show proof of a valid COVID-19 molecular test at the time of travel.

**Q98. Will a foreign national who was permitted to enter Canada be exempt from domestic vaccine requirements?**

**A98.** Foreign nationals permitted to enter Canada under the Public Health Agency of Canada's Orders in Council will be allowed onward domestic travel to complete their journey and connect as required to reach their destination, as long as it is within 24 hours of arrival in Canada.

Newly resettled refugees and new permanent residents will be permitted 90 days to complete the journey to their final destination, if required.

Domestic travel after arrival beyond that 24-hour threshold is not permitted for any unvaccinated traveller, regardless of whether they were exempt for entry to Canada. Should domestic travel be required, a national interest exemption must be sought by the traveller.

All foreign nationals permitted to enter the country will be able to take a flight for the purpose of departing Canada until February 28, 2022, if they show proof of a valid COVID-19 molecular test at the time of travel and their foreign passport.

## Vaccination Requirements Related to Remote Communities

### **Q99. How will the accommodations work at remote airports?**

**A99.** The vaccination requirement for travellers protects the health of all Canadians, including those who live in remote communities.

Residents of remote communities have a unique requirement to access air travel for essential services, including medical care, social and education services. In recognition of their unique needs, the following accommodations will remain in effect:

- Anyone completing quarantine under Public Health Authority requirements to travel (e.g., as required by Nunavut) will be exempt from the vaccination and testing requirements.
- Travellers flying out of remote communities will not be subject to the vaccination and testing requirements, until testing capacity can be developed locally.
- To facilitate onward travel and return travel, testing capacity will be enhanced at "gateway" airports.
- A traveller to or from a remote community who boards a flight at an airport that is listed in Schedule 1 of the [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) and who does not have a proof of vaccination or a valid molecular test, will be offered a Lucira Check It self-test, free of charge. They will be allowed to board upon a negative result of that test.

In the meantime, Transport Canada, with Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, will continue engaging with Indigenous Peoples, provinces and territories, and local authorities in remote communities on adjustments to these accommodations to further strengthen the health benefits for travellers to and from these communities.

## Vaccination Requirements Related to Non-Passengers

### **Q100. What are the alternatives for non-passengers who require access to aerodrome property who are unable to be vaccinated?**

**A100.** Similar to the federal public service, there will be limited exceptions for employees in the federally regulated Canadian air transportation sector. These limited exceptions apply to those employees working in Canada who are medically unable to be vaccinated or those unable to be vaccinated due to religious reasons.

Should an employer agree to accommodate an employee, non-passenger should complete one of the following forms:

- Religious Exemption Request Form
- Medical Exemption Request Form

**Q101. How will employees provide confirmation of vaccination?**

**A101.** Employers will determine what type of confirmation of vaccination is acceptable. This may be in the form of an employee attestation with the right to see further documents, or a proof of vaccination credential issued by the province or territory.

**Q102. Who will be responsible for verifying an employee's proof of vaccination prior to entering the restricted area or boarding a flight?**

**A102.** Federally regulated air carriers will be required to validate vaccination status of employees in their workplaces. In addition, airport authorities and the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) will have added responsibilities for verifying that workers going into the restricted area of the airports have been fully vaccinated.

Employers also play a role to ensure that their employees are vaccinated in accordance with their internal vaccination policies.

**Q103. Does the vaccination requirement apply to foreign crew members?**

**A103.** Yes. As of January 15, 2022, all foreign flight crew are required to be vaccinated with the full dose of a vaccine accepted by the Government of Canada to travel to Canada.

**Q104. What will the consequences be for employees who falsify information?**

**A104.** Transport Canada will conduct compliance activities such as inspections and enforcement. Regulated entities who do not meet the regulatory requirement could be subject to Administrative Monetary Penalties.

There will be serious consequences for employees who falsify information. For example, in the air sector, employees could be fined up to \$5,000 per violation under the *Aeronautics Act*, and operators could be fined up to \$25,000 per violation.

**Q105. How does the vaccination mandate apply to contractors working at airports?**

**A105.** All contractors working on aerodrome property, unless providing critical or emergency services or otherwise excepted, will need to be vaccinated in accordance with the vaccination mandate. In addition, since aerodromes may have more stringent vaccinations policies in place, these individuals are encouraged to review the aerodrome's policy regarding mandatory vaccination.

**Q106. What if a non-passenger has not completed their second dose prior to January 28, 2022?**

**A106.** As of January 28, 2022, all non-passengers are required to be fully vaccinated to access aerodrome property (unless they meet a limited exception). Companies will be suspending aerodrome access privileges of all non-passengers who remain unvaccinated and who are not exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated.

**Please note that an exemption is until February 8, 2022 to allow individuals who may have received their second dose by January 25, but who still need to wait the 14-day period to be considered fully vaccinated. During this timeframe, partially vaccinated exemption request forms can be accepted by CATSA and the aerodrome operators.**

## **Unvaccinated Travellers**

**Q107. Do unvaccinated individuals transported out by MEDEVAC and released from the hospital need to be vaccinated to return home?**

**A107.** MEDEVAC patients returning home by air can seek an exemption to enable travel. Transport Canada's domestic National Interest Exemption Program will review all applications on a case-by-case basis.

More information, including the application process, is available via <https://vaccine-exemption.tc.ca>.

**Q108. Can an individual who is participating in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial and is not considered fully vaccinated travel?**

**A108.** Yes, the traveller can seek an exemption to enable travel. Transport Canada's domestic National Interest Exemption Program will review applications for individuals participating in a G7 COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial on a case-by-case basis. Participation in a COVID-19 clinical trial is considered in the national interest.

More information, including the application process, is available via <https://vaccine-exemption.tc.ca>.

**Q109. Can unvaccinated returning Canadians and permanent residents or persons registered under the *Indian Act* be issued a boarding pass for onward travel?**

**A109.** No. Unvaccinated Canadians and permanent residents are permitted entry to Canada but are not permitted onward domestic travel on planes or trains until they are fully vaccinated. They will not be issued a boarding pass to complete their onward travel. As such, they will not be permitted to take a connecting flight or train to a final destination and should look into alternate arrangements upon their arrival in Canada.

**Q110. What about children under 18 who are unvaccinated and permitted entry into Canada. Are they able to travel domestically upon their arrival?**

**A110.** Unvaccinated foreign national children under 18 are permitted to enter Canada and permitted onward domestic travel to complete their journey and connect as required to reach their destination as long as it is within 24 hours of arrival in Canada. Children 12 years and 4 months of age will be required to be vaccinated for any travel within Canada following their arrival. Children under 12 years and 4 months are not required to be vaccinated or provide a valid COVID-19 test result for travel within Canada.

Unvaccinated children who are Canadian Citizens, permanent residents or registered under the *Indian Act* would be eligible to enter Canada but would not be permitted onward domestic travel.

The Government of Canada advises all individuals travelling to Canada to get vaccinated to ensure they are able to travel within Canada after their arrival.

**Q111. 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?**

**A111.** Unvaccinated children under 12 years of age who are travelling with a fully vaccinated parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor, must follow strict public health measures when they return to or enter Canada. These children can move around with their parents, but must avoid group settings such as camps, school, daycare, and large or crowded areas during the first 14 days after their arrival. They must also complete pre-departure and on-arrival tests on day-1 and day-8 (unless you have evidence that the child had a positive COVID-19 test administered at least 10 full days and no more than 180 days prior to their scheduled flight to Canada or the child is under 5 years of age).

Unvaccinated youth aged 12 to 17 are subject to the 14-day quarantine, as well as pre-departure and on-arrival tests on day-1 and day-8 regardless of whether they are accompanied by travellers who qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller.

Unvaccinated adult dependents 18 years of age or older who are unvaccinated because of mental or physical limitation may enter Canada but must follow **all testing and quarantine requirements**, even when they are accompanied by parents or guardians who qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller.

For further information, please visit <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada#randomized>.

**Q112. With regard to unvaccinated children what is considered a group setting? Why are these off limits during the 14-day modified quarantine period?**

**A112.** 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.

**Q113. 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?**

**A113.** Unvaccinated children under 12 years of age who are travelling with a fully vaccinated parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor, must follow strict public health measures when they return to or enter Canada. These children can move around with their parents, but must avoid group settings such as camps, school, daycare, and large or crowded areas during the first 14 days after their arrival. They must also complete pre-departure and on-arrival tests on day-1 and day-8 (unless you

have evidence that the child had a positive COVID-19 test administered at least 10 full days and no more than 180 days prior to their scheduled flight to Canada or the child is under 5 years of age).

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Unvaccinated adult dependents 18 years of age or older who are unvaccinated because of mental or physical limitation may enter Canada but must follow **all testing and quarantine requirements**, even when they are accompanied by parents or guardians who qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller.

For further information, please visit <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada#randomized>.

**Q114. Can an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated traveller take public transportation (i.e., city bus, subway, taxi etc.) to their place of quarantine?**

**A114.** No. All travellers must take private transportation to their place of quarantine.

## Other Questions

**Q115. How far in advance of a traveller's arrival to Canada must they input the required information into the ArriveCAN app or website?**

**A115.** 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.

**Q116. 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?**

**A116.** 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.

**Q117. Are crew members required to enter their 14-day travel history in ArriveCAN?**

**A117.** Yes, crew members must provide their 14-day travel history in ArriveCAN along with their travel and contact information and their vaccination information. Provided their contact and vaccination information doesn't change, crew members can use the saved traveller feature to re-use their ArriveCAN receipt for future trips. This way the crew member is not required to re-enter this information each time they use ArriveCAN.

**Q118. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services?**

**A118.** 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.

**Q119. Who can air operators contact for support?**

**A119.** 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-sureteeaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.aviationsecurity-sureteeaerienne.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.

**Q120. How is a “crew member” defined?**

**A120.** 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.

**Q121. 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?**

**A121.** “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.

**Q122. Does “crew member” under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* include pilots operating personal or private aircraft for “recreational” purposes?**

**A122.** No. 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.

**Q123. 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?**

**A123.** 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 at least 10 **full** days and no more than 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 adjusting recommendations on public health measures as appropriate.

**Q124. What if the province/territory a traveller is going to has different requirements for people entering their jurisdiction? Which rules does the traveller follow?**

**A124.** 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.](#)

**Q125. Do air carriers have to keep the attestations from passengers or track verifications?**

**A125.** No. There is currently no requirement for the air carriers to keep passenger attestations. The requirement on the air carrier is to ensure that the passenger has made the attestation.

## NOTAM Requirements

**Q126. When returning from outside of Canada, can I land at an airport outside of those that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)?**

**A126.** 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 into Canada. Aircraft subject to the restriction must, for the purpose of disembarking passengers, land at one of the following airports:

- a) Abbotsford International Airport
- b) Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport
- c) Calgary International Airport
- d) Edmonton International Airport
- e) Halifax Stanfield International Airport
- f) John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport
- g) Kelowna International Airport
- h) Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport
- i) Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport
- j) Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport
- k) Kitchener-Waterloo International Airport
- l) Regina International Airport
- m) Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport
- n) St. John's International Airport
- o) Toronto Lester B. Pearson International Airport
- p) Victoria International Airport
- q) Vancouver International Airport
- r) Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson 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.

**Q127. Does the NOTAM restriction apply to private general aviation aircraft?**

**A127.** 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.

**Q128. How can I receive a Special Authorization for an exemption from NOTAM requirements?**

**A128.** Operators facing exigent circumstances may seek special authorization from Transport Canada to land at Airport of Entry (AOE) alternate to those listed in the restriction.

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

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

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

The request for special authorization may be sent to:

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

**Q129. Can medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) land at an airport outside of those that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)?**

**A129.** 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
  - 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.