



COVID-19 Requirements for Air Travel

Frequently Asked Questions

Important Caveat: Nothing in this document supersedes any requirement or obligation outlined in Transport Canada's Interim Orders or the Public Health Agency of Canada's Order in Council. It is meant to complement these legal documents and provide guidance on how to understand the requirements.

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Mask Requirements

Q1. Who is required to wear a mask?

A1. With respect to air travel, as outlined in [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), all persons (even those fully vaccinated) must wear a mask at the screening checkpoint, during the boarding process, in flight, while deplaning, and in the customs and border processing area. Exceptions are in place for those who:

- (a) are less than two years of age;
- (b) are at least two years of age but less than six years of age who are unable to tolerate wearing a mask;
- (c) provide a medical certificate certifying that they are unable to wear a mask for a medical reason;
- (d) are unconscious; and
- (e) are unable to remove their mask without assistance.

All crew members are also required to wear a mask at the screening checkpoint, during the boarding process, in flight, while deplaning and in the customs and border processing area. The only exception is if the crew member is on the flight deck or if wearing a mask interferes with operational requirements or the safety of the flight or endangers the crew member.

Gate agents are also required to wear a mask at the screening checkpoint and during the boarding process (unless the gate agent is separated from any other person by a physical barrier that allows the gate agent and the other person to interact).

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 a Healthcare Provider who is either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Dentists are also authorized to sign medical certificates in the case of masks. The medical certificate does not require the sharing of any diagnosis or other information that is confidential in nature.

Q2. Is there an obligation to wear a mask at an airport located in a province/territory where this requirement has been lifted provincially/territorially?

A2. Although the epidemiological situation is improving domestically, the Government of Canada continues to recommend the wearing of a mask, especially in situations where physical distancing is hard to maintain such as seated on an aircraft, in customs hall or during a physical screening process. As Transport Canada continues to evaluate its COVID-19 guidance and requirements for the aviation industry based on advice from public health authorities, **masks continue to be required at the screening checkpoint, during the boarding process, in flight, while deplaning, and in the customs and border processing area.**

Whether or not the traveller is required to wear a mask within the public area of the airport will be based on provincial/territorial or local health regulations and at the discretion of the airport authority.

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](#), air carriers must report any instance where a traveller does not comply with crew member direction to wear a mask, unless they meet an exception. The air carrier 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.

COVID-19 Testing Requirements

Q4. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure?

A4. No. Fully vaccinated travellers, children under the age of 5, and any unvaccinated children between 5-12 who accompany their fully vaccinated parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor are not required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to boarding international flights bound for Canada.

All unvaccinated travellers 5 years of age or older will be required to provide a pre-departure test. To board a flight, all unvaccinated travellers must present one of the following test results:

- COVID-19 Molecular Test Result
 - a **negative** COVID-19 molecular test result performed by an accredited laboratory or testing provider within 72 hours of the flight's initial scheduled departure time; or
 - a **previous positive** test result taken at least 10 calendar days and no more than 180 calendar days before the flight's initial scheduled departure time. Counting starts the day following the day of testing.
- COVID-19 Antigen Test Result
 - A **negative** antigen test result performed by an accredited laboratory or testing provider no more than one calendar day before the flight's initial scheduled departure time.

- Self-administered tests
 - Self-administered molecular and antigen test results are also accepted provided they are observed by an authorized entity, the results are verified, and the requirements noted above are followed. Positive antigen test results are **not** accepted regardless of whether they are performed or observed by authorized entity.

Note: For connecting flights, the timeframe is calculated from the initial scheduled departure time of the **last** flight to Canada (i.e., the final leg of the trip).

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.

Additional Exceptions

Additional exceptions to the requirement for presenting a COVID-19 pre-departure test include:

- 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.

Q5. Who is required to take an arrival test upon arrival to Canada?

A5. All unvaccinated travellers are required to undergo a COVID-19 test on-arrival as well as on day-8 and must quarantine for 14 days.

Mandatory random testing will resume as of July 19, 2022, for travellers who qualify as fully vaccinated, arriving in Canada by air to the four major Canadian airports, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto. An email will be sent to travellers within 15 minutes of completion of the customs declaration form, should they be selected for on-arrival testing.

All testing for air travellers, for both those who qualify as fully vaccinated and partially or unvaccinated people, will be completed outside of airports, either via an in-person appointment at select testing provider locations and pharmacies, or a virtual appointment for a self-swab test.

Q6. What information should the COVID-19 test result contain?

A6. All COVID-19 test results (molecular and antigen) must include the following information:

- person’s name and date of birth;
- name and civic address of the accredited laboratory or testing provider that performed or observed the test and verified the test result;
- date the specimen was collected and the test method used; and
- test result.

Q7. Does the traveller require another test if the flight is delayed and their test is no longer within the allocated timeframe?

A7. 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. Up to an additional 24 hours can be provided for these types of situations only. In instances where the flight was **cancelled**, the traveller **will be required to obtain another test**. This applies to both molecular and antigen test results.

Q8. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 test result? Will there be penalties or fines?

A8. 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 test result, they are required to notify the Transport Canada Situation Centre immediately, with as much information as possible, so that an investigation can be conducted. Key information to provide should include: the data and flight number; the traveller's name and contact information (including date of birth, home address, telephone number and email address), and details on the circumstances related to the situation (what made the air carrier suspicious that the information was not accurate, any names of witnesses etc.).

Q9. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check unvaccinated Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 test result? Will there be penalties or fines?

A9. 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.

Q10. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?

A10. The requirements to verify that an unvaccinated traveller has a valid COVID-19 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 testing does not apply to domestic flights.

COVID-19 Testing Exemptions

Q11. Are unvaccinated persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing?

A11. No, those escorting human organs or tissues who are unvaccinated are not exempt from COVID-19 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.

Q12. Are international inbound travellers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have since recovered exempt from arrival testing?

A12. As outlined in the [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order](#), travellers will be exempt from arrival testing so long as they can provide proof of a positive molecular test result conducted at least 10 full days and no more than 180 days before the scheduled flight to Canada.

Travellers that present a positive COVID-19 molecular 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. Their test result must include all required data elements as outlined on <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying-canada-checklist/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

Transiting & Quarantine Requirements

Q13. Will I need to quarantine upon arrival in Canada?

A13. Fully vaccinated travellers, children under the age of 5, and unvaccinated children between 5-12 who accompany a fully vaccinated parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor are not required to quarantine. All unvaccinated travellers must quarantine for a period of 14 days (beginning on the day the person enters Canada).

Q14. Will unvaccinated transiting travellers need a pre-departure test if they are staying within the sterile area of a Canadian airport and not entering Canada through the border entry point?

A14. No. If the traveller remains within the sterile area of the airport and does not enter through a border entry point, they will not require a pre-departure test.

Domestic and Outbound Travel Restrictions & Requirements

Q15. Who is required to be vaccinated for domestic and outbound travel in the air transportation sector?

A15. As of June 20, 2022, at 00:01 EDT, employers in the federally regulated air sector are no longer required to have mandatory vaccination policies in place for their employees. This includes aerodrome operators, air carriers, NAV Canada.

This also means that all air passengers boarding a plane for domestic or outbound travel and all individuals who need to access the aerodrome property or restricted area of a specified Canadian airport no longer need to be fully vaccinated, or have an exemption (i.e., medical or religious) to do so.

It should be noted, however, that all foreign nationals, unless exempt, continue to be required to be vaccinated to enter Canada.

Q16. Will employees who have been laid off or out of work be allowed to return to work once this requirement is dropped?

A16. As of June 20, 2022, federally regulated transportation sector employers will no longer be required to have a vaccine policy in place; therefore, employers are free to bring workers back to the workplace should they choose.

Q17. If I test positive for COVID-19, how long do I have to wait until I can board a plane in Canada?

A17. Individuals who have or suspect they have COVID-19 must wait 10 days before boarding a plane in Canada. They can, however, board a plane before the end of the 10-day waiting period if they have completed their mandatory quarantine/isolation AND if they have a valid COVID-19 test result or a medical certificate attesting that their symptoms are not related to COVID-19.

Q18. Will travellers require a pre-departure test to board a plane in Canada?

A18. The Government of Canada will not require travellers boarding a plane in Canada to be in possession of a valid COVID-19 test result as a condition of boarding.

Q19. Do foreign nationals still have to be vaccinated before August 31, 2022, to take a flight to leave Canada?

A19. Since the vaccination requirement for domestic and outbound travel is being suspended as of June 20, 2022, travellers, including foreign nationals, no longer need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to board a flight to depart Canada. All other mitigation measures, such as wearing a mask throughout the traveller's journey, still apply and will be enforced.

Inbound Travel Restrictions & Requirements

Q20. Regarding inbound travel, who is required to be vaccinated in the air transportation sector?

A20. 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 Order in Council ([Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order](#)). **This includes foreign flight crew and foreign aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs).**

All individuals will be required to show proof of vaccination when entering Canada.

Q21. Can a traveller use an exception form to vaccination for a sincerely held religious belief to enter Canada?

A21. 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 result, but must submit to testing on arrival and applicable quarantine requirements.

Q22. Will I need to show my proof of vaccination every time I enter Canada?

A22. Yes, for most travellers this will be the case.

Q23. 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?

A23. 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. For a list of vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada for the purpose of travel to and within Canada, please visit: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>.

Q24. What if individuals attempt to enter Canada with fraudulent vaccination documents?

A24. 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.

Q25. What about individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical conditions?

A25. 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.

Q26. Why does vaccination documentation have to be in English or French, or a certified translation?

A26. To be eligible for eased quarantine and testing requirements, travellers must provide all the relevant information in either English or French to be processed upon entry by Government of Canada officials at the border. 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.

Unvaccinated Travellers

Q27. Can unvaccinated travellers permitted to enter Canada be issued a boarding pass for onward travel?

A27. Yes, all unvaccinated travellers are 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. Under exceptional circumstances, should major processing delays occur upon arrival in Canada, an extension to the 24-hour window may be granted. If travel is beyond the 24-hour limit, travellers will require a new pre-departure test.

In addition, all travellers will also be subject to arrival testing on day 1 and day 8 and will be required to quarantine upon arrival at their destination for a period of 14 days.

Q28. Can an unvaccinated traveller take public transportation (i.e., city bus, subway, taxi etc.) to their place of quarantine?

A28. Yes. All travellers can take non-federally regulated public transportation to their place of quarantine (with the exception of those who are symptomatic of COVID-19 or COVID-19 positive).

Q29. Are unvaccinated Aircraft Maintenance Engineers with a right of entry (i.e., Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents or those registered under the *Indian Act*) able to work outside of Canada?

A29. All airline maintenance engineers (AME's) with a right of entry (i.e., Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents or those registered under the *Indian Act*) who leave Canada to conduct their work and then return to Canada must be vaccinated in order to qualify for eased entry requirements as set out under the Public Health Agency's [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order](#). Should an AME be unvaccinated, they are able to leave Canada to perform their duties, but upon return to Canada, will be subject to all entry requirements for unvaccinated travellers (i.e., pre-departure testing, testing on arrival in Canada and quarantine requirements).

Other Questions

Q30. Who is required to fill out ArriveCAN?

A30. All travellers entering Canada by air, with limited exceptions, must use ArriveCAN unless they're exempt from this requirement due to an accessibility need. Travellers will need to submit their information within 72 hours before their arrival to Canada.

If a traveller does not submit their information through ArriveCAN, they may be denied boarding.

Canadian citizens, permanent residents, persons registered under the *Indian Act* and foreign nationals eligible to enter Canada under another entry exemption (e.g., foreign work, study, compassionate grounds) will not be denied boarding or entry, but they:

- will not be eligible for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption, and may be required to quarantine and complete an arrival and Day-8 test
- may face additional delays at the border for public health questioning
- may be subject to fines or enforcement action

Q31. Will records be kept of those who do not fill out ArriveCAN?

A31. In certain instances, specific flights will be chosen to check for compliance with ArriveCAN. **For these flights only**, at the request of the Minister, a private operator or air carrier must verify, before a person boards the aircraft, whether the person has provided evidence that they have completed their ArriveCAN submission either in the application or via the website. The evidence will either be a receipt from ArriveCAN with a six-character code OR a QR code. If the traveller cannot provide evidence as noted above, they should be deemed as not having appropriate evidence and the air carrier will need to maintain a record of the following elements:

- Date of flight
- Flight number
- Traveller’s name
- Traveller’s date of birth
- Travel document used (e.g. passport)
- Travel document number

The records must be provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada within 1 hour after the flight has departed.

Q32. Are crew members required to enter their 14-day travel history in ArriveCAN?

A32. 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.

Q33. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services?

A33. 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.

Q34. Who can air operators contact for support?

A34. Air operators are encouraged to first consult their airline operations centre with any questions. Should additional support be required, the airline operations centre can contact Transport Canada at the following email address: TC.aviationsecurity-sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca. 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.

Q35. Do air carriers have to keep the attestations from passengers or track verifications?

A35. 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.