



## **GUIDANCE – OCTOBER 1 CHANGES TO BORDER AND TRAVEL MANDATES**

### **Summary of Changes to Border and Travel Mandates**

#### **COVID-19 International Border, Travel and Entry Requirements**

Effective October 1, 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Order in Council governing international border measures will expire, thereby removing all public health measures under federal jurisdiction made pursuant to the *Quarantine Act*.

As of October 1, 2022, all travellers, regardless of citizenship, will no longer have to:

- provide proof of vaccination;
- undergo pre- or on-arrival testing;
- carry out COVID-19-related quarantine or isolation; or
- submit public health information through the ArriveCAN mobile or web application.

Upon arriving to Canada, travellers will also no longer be required to monitor and report if they develop signs or symptoms. However, they should follow any provincial or territorial COVID-19 requirements as applicable.

For additional clarity, as of October 1, 2022, foreign nationals may enter Canada, regardless of their vaccination status, provided they meet the entry requirements under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and provide appropriate travel and immigration documentation as necessary.

**Until 23:59:59 EDT on September 30, 2022, all existing measures, including vaccination requirements remain in place.**

#### **Transportation Sector COVID-19 Mandates and Requirements**

To align with the changes to COVID-19 border measures, Transport Canada is also removing all existing requirements as of October 1, 2022 EDT:

- International flights to Canada: airlines will no longer need to confirm that a traveller has submitted the required information in ArriveCAN, ensure compliance with pre-entry testing requirements, or review the vaccination status of a foreign national.
- Air operators will no longer be required to conduct health checks during the boarding process.
- Air travellers and crew will be **strongly encouraged to wear a mask throughout their journey**, but it will no longer be mandatory.
- While there is no longer a federal requirement to wear a mask, airports may choose to optionally implement their own mask policy.

While measures will be lifted, Transport Canada will continue to work with PHAC and industry to make strong, science-based recommendations to help operators and travellers reduce COVID risks.

**Until 23:59:59 EDT on September 30, 2022, all existing measures, including masking remain in place.**

#### **Masking**

The latest advice from the PHAC **recommends** that individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Wearing a mask continues to be a basic, visible, and low-cost measure for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and has proven to be highly effective during all sections of the traveller's journey, particularly when physical distancing is not possible.

While masking is no longer mandatory for passengers and crew on federally regulated planes and at certain points within the traveller journey (e.g., during boarding, at certain locations in the terminal, etc.), **travellers and crew are recommended and strongly encouraged to continue to wear a mask or respirator.**

This includes while on the aircraft, during boarding or disembarkation, while going through security, in the terminal, or at other junctures in which social distancing is not possible or it is a crowded space.

Some people may continue to wear masks, and others may not. It is important that crew and travellers who elect to continue to wear a mask based on their respective risk calculations feel respected and supported.

It is recommended that crew and travellers continue to have access to masks within terminals and onboard the conveyance should they elect to wear one, and do not have one in their possession.

**Reporting Requirements:** As of October 1, 2022, air operators no longer will be obligated to report instances of non-compliance related to wearing of masks or to report on suspected cases of falsified or misleading COVID-19 test results. However, records created during the time the requirements were in place must be kept for 12 months from the date they were created. Please refer to [SUPPLEMENTARY BULLETIN – INTERIM ORDER RESPECTING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVIL AVIATION DUE TO COVID-19 \(IO\)](#) for further details.

### **ArriveCAN – Submission of Canadian Customs and Immigration Declaration in Advance**

While travellers no longer have to submit their quarantine and vaccination information through ArriveCAN, they are **strongly encouraged to continue to use the optional Advance CBSA Declaration feature in ArriveCAN to save time at the airport** by submitting their customs and immigration declaration in advance of arrival.

**This feature is currently available to travellers arriving at Toronto Pearson, Vancouver, and Montréal-Trudeau international airports** and will be expanded to the Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Billy Bishop Toronto City, Ottawa, Québec City, and Halifax international airports in the coming months.

### **Communications Tools for Air Carriers:**

#### **1) Key Messages for Air Carriers to share with travellers:**

- If you are sick, especially with a fever and/or cough, please considering adjusting your travel plans; this will help limit the spread of viruses.
- Masks remain strongly recommended throughout the travel journey.
- Please be respectful of the choices that others make about public health measures.
- Stay up to date on your local health measures; requirements can change and/or be re-instated quickly if required. Please consult [COVID-19: Provincial and territorial resources - Canada.ca](#) for more specific regional information withing Canada.
- Vaccination is proven to be very effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. If you are not vaccinated please consider getting vaccinated before travelling. For more information, please visit: [Vaccines for COVID-19 - Canada.ca](#)

#### **2) Sample Pre-Board Notification**

COVID-19 continues to spread at different levels in our communities and internally, and outbreaks will still occur.

All travellers, even if fully vaccinated, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers their mouth, nose, and chin to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout their journey.

As a reminder, no person should travel if they have symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or are in quarantine or isolation.

*[For travellers on international flights to Canada]* Save time at the airport on arrival by submitting your customs and immigration declaration in advance, using ArriveCAN, to save time upon arrival in Canada.

Stay safe and be informed about COVID-19 measures from Canadian national, provincial and territorial health authorities, and foreign jurisdictions, that apply in the region where you are heading.

### 3) **International travel to Canada – In-flight Announcement**

COVID-19 continues to spread at different levels in our communities and internally, and outbreaks will still occur.

All travellers, even if fully vaccinated, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers their mouth, nose, and chin to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout their journey.

*[For travellers on international flights to Canada]* All travellers are encouraged to submit their customs and immigration declaration in advance, using ArriveCAN, to save time upon arrival in Canada.

Stay safe and be informed about COVID-19 measures from Canadian national, provincial and territorial health authorities, and foreign jurisdictions, that apply in the region where you are heading.

### 4) **Mask Poster** – Transport Canada has created a poster recommending the use of masks. This will be made available on SSCIMS.

