

Mobility: immigration alert

January 2021

Canada

New negative COVID-19 Test requirement prior to air travel

Executive summary

The Canadian government has announced the implementation of a new mandatory requirement in which all travelers flying into Canada from abroad must have a negative result for a COVID-19 test prior to their scheduled departure to Canada. The negative COVID test must have been performed no more than 72 hours before boarding an aircraft to Canada and must be a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

Background

This new requirement is now in effect. This requirement is applicable to Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents and foreign nationals flying to Canada with a few exceptions. Those who fail to provide a negative test may be refused to board their flight.

Exemptions

The following classes of people are exempt from this new requirement:

- ▶ Children under the age of 5
- ▶ Flight crew and emergency personnel
- ▶ Passengers travelling from Haiti - this exemption is only applicable until 21 January 2021
- ▶ Passengers travelling from Saint Pierre and Miquelon - this exemption is only applicable until 13 January 2021
- ▶ Until 14 January 2021, passengers travelling from countries listed in Schedule 2 of the Interim Order may provide a negative COVID test performed no more than 96 hours before their scheduled departure time

- For a list of Schedule 2 countries please visit: [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 18 \(canada.ca\)](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html)

What this means

Employers with employees, or prospective employees, abroad looking to enter Canada via air travel should arrange to get tested at a minimum of 72 hours prior to their scheduled departure time to Canada unless exempt as listed above. The COVID test will need to be a valid PCR test and the employees will need to carry their negative test results in order to board their flights.

Importantly, this new requirement does not change the mandatory self-isolation requirement and travelers will still need to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, unless otherwise exempted from the quarantine. Rather, the new negative test requirement is an added measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a reminder, all travelers to Canada are required to use the ArriveCAN app prior to their travel to Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>.

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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EYG no. 000281-21Gbl

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