

# Mobility: immigration alert

February 2021

## Canada

### Canada announces new international travel measures and restrictions

#### Executive summary

On 29 January 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new restrictions impacting people returning to Canada from international destinations. These changes will impact air travellers coming to Canada. New measures have been introduced in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19 from international travel and the risk of importation of multi-variant strains of the virus.

#### Key updates

- ▶ Cancellation of flights to all “sun” destinations by Air Canada, Westjet and Sunwing airlines. The cancellation of flights to sun destinations including Mexico and the Caribbean is expected to start 31 January 2021 and is expected to last until April 2021, unless further extended.
- ▶ Restriction of international flights landing in Canada will continue to be limited to the four international airports in the following cities: Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto.
- ▶ Introduction of mandatory airport testing for COVID-19 on arrival in Canada. In the coming weeks, there will be mandatory testing at the four respective

international airports for all travelers arriving to Canada by air.

- ▶ Travelers will be tested immediately upon arrival and will be required to wait for their test results at a government quarantine location in a designated hotel for up to 3 days.
- ▶ Once the traveler receives a negative COVID-19 test, they will be allowed to depart the hotel in order to finish the 14-day mandatory quarantine at their place of residence
- ▶ Travelers will be required to pay in advance for their airport test along with three nights hotel stay and it is expected that the total cost will amount to approximately C\$2,000
- ▶ Additional testing will also be coming to land borders

#### Implications

The announcement of the airport testing requirements does not displace the current measures already in place which include the requirement to present a negative Covid-19 test result, taken within the last 72 hours of the traveler's aircraft's departure to Canada, and the 14-day mandatory self-isolation requirement upon arrival in Canada.

Further details on when the mandatory airport testing will

recommend that employers review these new requirements with their employees, as applicable, for those traveling to Canada for the first time and those who may be planning travel outside Canada. At this time, we also recommend that individuals limit all non-essential travel to the extent possible.

For further details, please reach out to your EY contact to review implications of this update and case specific assessments.

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EYG no. 000796-21Gbl

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