



Travel to Canada – 21 February 2021

In order to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Canada is clarifying air carrier responsibilities and obligations as it relates to the boarding of travellers destined to Canada, pursuant to subsection 6.41(1)g of the *Aeronautics Act*, Annex *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 18*.

All air travellers aged five or older who board an aircraft travelling to Canada must have proof of:

- a) a negative COVID-19 molecular test including a polymerase chain reaction [PCR] or reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification [RT-LAMP]) performed on a specimen collected no more than 72 hours before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time to Canada.

This applies to all commercial, charter, cargo and private air operators flying into Canada, unless the travellers are [exempt from the pre-arrival testing requirement](#) (see exemptions listed below), submit a negative test result on a specimen taken not earlier than another period under any other provision of the *Aeronautics Act* (i.e.96 hours); **or**

- b) proof of a prior COVID positive test conducted between 14 - 90 days before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time to Canada. **[For clarity, travellers cannot travel before the 15th day after their test.]**

This applies to all foreign nationals, Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada and persons registered as Indian under the Indian Act.

Note: Foreign National (FN) travellers must always satisfy documentary requirements for travel to Canada, e.g., temporary resident visas, eTAs, etc. Please continue to refer to the Interactive Advance Passenger Information (IAPI) system messaging relating to the traveller.

Note: The above obligations do not apply to a limited number of classes of persons outlined in the Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations (QIOO) OIC as well as those who have been granted a legal exemption under the *Aeronautics Act*.

Travellers who are exempt under the Aeronautics Act from having to provide evidence of a negative molecular test before boarding their flight or, alternatively, proof of a prior COVID positive test, are required to undergo a COVID-19 molecular test in Canada.

Proof of a prior COVID positive test conducted between 14 - 90 days before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time to Canada. **[For clarity, travellers cannot travel before the 15th day after their test.]**

Available science demonstrates that, as is the case with many other viruses, a person may continue to obtain a positive molecular test result up to 90 days after their infection, even though they are no longer considered infectious. Positive test results of previously infected individuals should not be considered a new infection posing risk, but rather as a person who has recovered from a prior COVID-19 infection. Since a positive test result may inadvertently prevent a recovered patient from boarding a flight, acceptable proof of prior infection has been introduced as an alternative to the requirement to provide a negative molecular test result. Requiring the prior positive test results to be no sooner than 14 days before departure allows for the time needed to become non-infectious and thus prevents those persons who may be infectious from travelling. Proof of a positive result from a test performed 14 to 90 days before a flight's initial scheduled departure time will therefore be acceptable, in lieu of proof of a negative result from a test conducted 72 hours before a flight's initial scheduled departure time.

Acceptable COVID-19 Molecular tests

The following test methods are considered acceptable molecular tests:

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- Real time PCR (RT-PCR)
- Quantitative PCR (qPCR)
- Ct (cycle threshold)
- Droplet digital PCR or digital droplet PCR (ddPCR)
- Isothermal amplification
- Reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP)
- CRISPR
- Next generational sequencing (NGS) or whole genome sequencing (WGS)
- Sequencing, Sanger Sequencing
- RNA (Ribonucleic acid)
- Nucleic acid technology or test (NAT)
- Nucleic acid amplification
- Multiplex
- Assignment CID 2
- Gene
- Corman assay
- N gene
- Orf1a/b
- S gene

- E gene

All other entry and public health requirements must also be met.

Exemptions to the testing requirement:

The following travellers are exempt from the requirement to provide a negative COVID-19 molecular test

Denied entry into a foreign country

- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, temporary resident, protected person or person registered as an Indian under the Indian Act who resides in Canada, who has been denied entry in a foreign country and who must board a flight destined to Canada (paragraph 1.2(2)(o)).

Aeronautics Act

- a person who enters Canada by aircraft and who is not required under the Aeronautics Act (paragraph 1.2(2)(i)).

Crew Members

- a crew member as defined in subsection 101.01(1) of the Canadian Aviation Regulations or a person who enters Canada only to become such a crew member (paragraph 1.2(2)(a)).
- a member of a crew as defined in subsection 3(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations or a person who enters Canada only to become such a member of a crew (paragraph 1.2(2)(b)).
- a member of a crew as defined in subsection 3(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations or crew member as defined in subsection 101.01(1) of the Canadian Aviation Regulations who is re-entering Canada after having left to participate in mandatory training in relation to the operation of a conveyance and who is required by their employer to return to work as a member of a crew on a conveyance within the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they return to Canada (paragraph 1.2(2)(b.1)).
- a member of an air crew of a visiting force, as defined in section 2 of the Visiting Forces Act, who enters Canada for the purpose of performing mission-essential duties as a member of that force (paragraph 1.2(2)(i)).

Emergency Service Providers

- a person who is permitted to work in Canada as a provider of emergency services under paragraph 186(t) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations and who enters Canada for the purpose of providing those services (paragraph 1.2(2)(d)).
- an emergency service provider, including a firefighter, peace officer or paramedic, who returns to Canada after providing emergency services in a foreign country and who is required to provide their services within the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada (paragraph 1.2(2)(e)).

Government Officials

- an official of the Government of Canada or a foreign government, including a border services officer, immigration enforcement officer, law enforcement officer or correctional officer, who is escorting individuals entering or leaving Canada pursuant to a legal process such as an international transfer of an offender or deportation or extradition of a person (paragraph 1.2(2)(f)).
- an official of the Government of Canada, the government of a province or a foreign government, including a border services officer, immigration enforcement officer, law enforcement officer or correctional officer, who enters Canada for the purposes of border, immigration or law enforcement, or national security activities, that support active investigations, ensure the continuity of enforcement operations or activities, or enable the transfer of information or evidence pursuant to or in support of a legal process, and who is required to provide their services within the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada (paragraph 1.2(2)(g)).
- a member of the Canadian Forces, who enters Canada for the purpose of performing their duties as a member of those forces (paragraph 1.2(2)(k)).

Essential Service Providers

- a person or a member of a class of persons who, as determined by the Chief Public Health Officer, will provide an essential service, if the person complies with any conditions imposed on them by the Chief Public Health Officer to minimize the risk of introduction or spread of COVID-19 (paragraph 1.2(2)(c)).
 - An asymptomatic Canadian Citizen, permanent resident, or person with status under the Indian Act accompanying an individual seeking medical care pursuant to section 6(1)(i.1), if the individual is either:
 - An asymptomatic or symptomatic minor child or dependent child; or
 - An asymptomatic person requiring assistance in accessing the essential medical services or treatments.
 - If the urgency of the medical situation does not permit a COVID-19 molecular test to be administered before boarding the aircraft for the flight to Canada, an asymptomatic person accompanying an individual entering by a medical evacuation flight for medical purposes pursuant to section 1.2(2)(j), when the individual is either:
 - An asymptomatic or symptomatic minor child or dependent child; or
 - An asymptomatic person requiring assistance in accessing the essential medical services or treatments.

Pre-Adjudicated Cases

- a person or any member of a class of persons whose presence in Canada, as determined by the Minister of Health, is in the national interest, if the person complies with any conditions imposed on them by the Minister to minimize the risk of introduction or spread of COVID-19 (paragraph 1.2(2)(h)).
- a person who returns to Canada after suffering exigent hardship in a foreign country, as determined by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Minister of Health, if the person complies with any

conditions imposed on them by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to minimize the risk of introduction or spread of COVID-19 (paragraph 1.2(2)(m)).

- a person who will, as determined by the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Minister of Health, respond to, investigate, or prevent significant disruptions to the effective continued operation of the national transportation system, transportation undertakings or infrastructure (paragraph 1.2(2)(p)).
- a person who, as determined by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in consultation with the Minister of Health, will respond to, investigate, or prevent events related to national security (paragraph 1.2(2)(q)).

MedEvac Flight

- any person who boarded a medical evacuation flight for medical purposes, if the urgency of the medical situation does not permit a COVID-19 molecular test to be administered to the person before boarding the aircraft for the flight to Canada (paragraph 1.2(2)(j)).

Claims for Refugee Protection

- a person referred to in subsection 5(1) or (2) of the Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States) who made a claim for refugee protection when entering Canada from the United States (paragraph 1.2(2)(r)).

Essential medical services or treatments

- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, temporary resident, protected person, or person registered as an Indian under the Indian Act who resides in Canada and who received essential medical services or treatments in a foreign country, if the person has the following:
 - written evidence from a licensed health care practitioner in Canada who indicated that the medical services or treatments outside Canada are essential, and
 - written evidence from a licensed health care practitioner in the foreign country who indicated that the services or treatments were provided in that country (paragraph 1.2(2)(n)).

Transit Through Canada to Another Foreign Destination

The pre-arrival testing requirement does not apply to a person who plans to arrive at a Canadian airport aboard an aircraft in order to transit to a country other than Canada and to remain in a sterile transit area while at the Canadian airport. This includes “airside” inter-terminal transit at Toronto YYZ.

Travellers, referred to in subsection 1.2(4), who do not remain in the sterile transit area are not exempt from the requirement, and must present a negative COVID-19 molecular test, or be referred to PHAC officials.

Canadian citizens and persons who are registered as Indian under the Indian Act, who are denied boarding are to be referred by the carrier to the local Canadian mission for further assistance, as necessary. Permanent residents should be referred for consular services based on their country of citizenship.

Resources for Travellers with a Right of Entry

- Check Flying to and within Canada page: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying>
- Nearest Canadian Consulate, Embassy or High Commission (<https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/country-pays/index.aspx?lang=eng> ; www.travel.gc.ca).
- After hours or for urgent requests:
 - Contact the Global Affairs Canada 24/7 Operations Centre at +1 613-996-8885 or by email at sos@international.gc.ca

In addition to these boarding requirements, existing travel restrictions continue to apply and air carriers continue to have the responsibility to apply them.

Air carriers should contact the Aviation Security team at Transport Canada (TC.aviationsecurity-sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca) for any enquiries related to testing and/or the application of the Interim Order.

The below scenarios were drafted to assist in determining whether a Foreign National's travel is prohibited (i.e., optional or discretionary travel) or whether boarding and/or travel is allowable under current Canadian requirements.

Note: This list is not exhaustive and is intended as a guide for carriers and their subcontracted document screeners. Guest's travelling to Canada are subject to federal, provincial or territorial measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Foreign nationals are prohibited from entering Canada for optional or discretionary travel under the Emergency Orders made under the *Quarantine Act* and may be liable for a monetary penalty if they provide false or misleading information in response to the health check and additional questions.

Non-essential travel includes, but is not limited to: tourism, recreation, shopping for non-essential goods, and/or sight-seeing.

Foreign National (FN) travellers must also always satisfy documentary requirements for travel to Canada, e.g., temporary resident visas, eTAs, etc.

General Scenarios	Proof of Negative Test (Yes/No)	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement	Eligible to Board?
Travelling from a country that has sufficient testing capacity / Passenger has a negative COVID-19 molecular test.	Yes.	No.	Yes. Traveller is eligible to board.
Traveller who meets one of the quarantine exemptions but does not have a negative test and is not exempt from pre-arrival testing requirement.	No.	No.	No. Traveller should be denied boarding.
Evidence of a Positive Test	Proof of Positive Test (Yes/No)	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement	Eligible to Board?
Travellers who are able to provide evidence/documentation demonstrating proof of a prior COVID positive test conducted between 14 - 90 days before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time to Canada.	Yes.	No.	Yes. Traveller is eligible to board.
Travellers who provide evidence/documentation demonstrating proof of a COVID positive test conducted less than 14 days before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time to Canada	Yes.	No.	No. Traveller should be denied boarding.
Traveller Exempt from pre-arrival testing requirement pursuant to 1.1(2), of the QIOO OIC	Proof of Negative Test (Yes/No)	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement	Eligible to Board?
Traveller meets one of the exemptions from the pre-arrival testing requirement outlined in 1.1(2) of the Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations OIC.	No.	Yes.	Yes. Traveller is eligible to board.
Transiting Travellers	Proof of Negative Test (Yes/No)	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement	Eligible to Board?
Traveller transiting through Canada to another foreign destination who remains in the sterile area.	No.	Yes. (1.1(5) of the QIOO OIC)	Yes. Traveller is eligible to board.

Traveller Status / Scenario		Considerations	Should the agent contact the CBSA ACSC or Liaison Officer (LO)?
Foreign National: Work Permit	Passenger has valid Work Permit.	The person is previously established in Canada, residing and working there.	No – unless there are other concerns.
	Passenger has a letter from the Government of Canada stating their application for a work permit has been approved.	The person has a confirmed employment offer and has arranged to relocate to Canada for work.	No – unless there are other concerns.
		The person does not have an employment offer and states they are going to Canada to look for work.	No – the client is not authorized to travel unless they are eligible for another exemption, in which case, contact the LO
	Passenger is a family member of a work permit holder and has a written authorization issued by the Government of Canada stating they are exempt from the Covid-19 travel measures.	The person may be travelling with the work permit holder or travelling to reunite with the work permit holder.	No – unless there are other concerns
	Passenger is entering from the US, has a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or is LMIA exempt and is eligible to apply for a work permit at the port of entry	The person has a confirmed offer of employment and has arranged to relocate to Canada for work.	No – unless there are other concerns.
Foreign National: Study Permit	Passenger has a valid Study Permit OR has a letter from the Government of Canada	The person is destined to a listed institution , i.e., a designated learning institution, deemed by a Canadian Province or Territory to	No – unless there are other concerns.

	stating that their application for Study Permit was approved.	have appropriate public health measures in place to accommodate students, and appearing on the website of listed institutions published by the Government of Canada / Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).	
		The person is destined to an educational institution which is NOT a listed institution , i.e., it is not a designated learning institution, deemed by a Canadian Province or Territory to have appropriate public health measures in place to accommodate students, and does not appear on, or no longer appears on (has been removed from) the website of listed institutions published by the Government of Canada / Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).	No – Client is not authorized to travel unless they meet another exemption, in which case contact the LO.
	Passenger is the immediate family member of a person on a Study permit	The passenger must be travelling to establish themselves with a person who is eligible to enter Canada with a Study permit	Yes – the CBSA duty Liaison Officer will be able to assist in determining whether the passenger’s travel to Canada is discretionary.
Foreign National: Immediate Family Member	Passenger has a Canadian citizen or permanent resident immediate family member *.	The person is an immediate family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, and is seeking to be with/stay with their Canadian citizen or permanent resident immediate family member for a visit of 15 days or more.	No – unless there are other concerns.
	<i>*immediate family member = spouse, common-law partner, dependent child (including step-child), parent (including step-parent and in-law), guardian.</i>	The person is an immediate family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, but the planned travel is for 14 days or less OR the person is not destined to be with/stay with their immediate family member in Canada.	Yes – the CBSA Duty Liaison Officer will be able to assist in determining whether the passenger’s travel to Canada is discretionary.
Foreign National: Extended Family Member	Passenger has a Canadian citizen or permanent resident extended family member*.	The person is an extended family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident AND has in their possession the requisite statutory declaration attesting to the relationship with the Canadian citizen or permanent resident, signed by the Canadian citizen or permanent resident, AND has in their possession a letter or email of authorization from the Government of Canada / Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).	No – unless there are other concerns.
	<i>*extended family member = non-dependent child (including step-child), grandchild (including step-grandchild), sibling (including step- and half-sibling), individual who is at least 18 years old and in a romantic relationship of greater than 1 year duration with an individual who is also at least 18 years old</i>	The person is an extended family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident but does NOT have in their possession EITHER the requisite statutory declaration attesting to the relationship with the Canadian citizen or permanent resident, signed by the Canadian citizen or permanent resident, OR a letter or email of authorization from the Government of Canada/ Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).	No – unless client is eligible for other exemption. *Please note if traveler does not have IRCC authorization letter and statutory declaration letter, do not board. The client should be referred to IRCC Information for request related to extended family.

		The person is an extended family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, but the planned travel is for 14 days or less OR the person is not destined to be with/stay with their extended family member in Canada.	No – Client is not authorized to travel unless they meet another exemption, in which case contact the LO.
Foreign National: Compassionate Grounds	Passenger seeks to go to Canada to attend to the death of, or provide support to, a critically ill (as deemed by a licensed health care professional) Canadian citizen, permanent resident, temporary resident, protected person, or a person registered under the <i>Indian Act</i> .	The person has in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No – unless there are other concerns.
		The person does NOT have in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No – Unless client is eligible for other exemption. *Please note if passenger does not have authorization from Canadian Minister of Health, do not board. The client should be referred to PHAC Application for travel on compassionate grounds.
	Passenger seeks to go to Canada to provide care for a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, temporary resident, protected person, or a person registered under the <i>Indian Act</i> , for whom a licensed health care professional has deemed there is a medical reason for which they require support.	The person has in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No – unless there are other concerns.
		The person does NOT have in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No- Unless client is eligible for other exemption *Please note if passenger does not have authorization from Canadian Minister of Health, do not board. The client should be referred to PHAC Application for travel on compassionate grounds.
	Passenger seeks to go to Canada to attend a funeral or end of life ceremony.	The person has in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No – unless there are other concerns.
		The person does NOT have in their possession authorization from the Canadian Minister of Health.	No – Unless client is eligible for other exemption. *Please note if passenger does not have authorization from Canadian Minister of Health, do not board. The client should be referred to PHAC Application for travel on compassionate grounds.

Foreign National: Immigrant Visas and Confirmation of Permanent Residence Letters (COPR)	Passenger has a valid Immigrant Visa (IM-1) in their passport where the date of issue is before 18 March 2020.	The person states that they are immigrating or moving to Canada.	No – unless there are other concerns.
	Passenger has a Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) document issued before 18 March 2020.	The person states that they are immigrating or moving to Canada.	No – unless there are other concerns.
	Passenger has an Immigrant Visa (IM-1) or COPR issued after 18 March 2020.	The person states that they are immigrating or moving to Canada.	Yes – if person is eligible for another exemption
Foreign National: Sporting Event	Passenger seeks to go to Canada to participate in an international single sporting event	The person states they have and presents an authorization letter from the Deputy Minister of Heritage Canada (PCH)	No – unless there are other concerns.
Foreign National: Transit Through Canada by Air	<p>The traveller is seeking to transit through Canada (international to international)</p> <p>International-to-international (ITI) transit through Canada is permitted at this time, under the circumstances outlined to the right.</p>	<p>The traveller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Arrives and departs from the same Canadian airport within 24 hours;* -Remains in a sterile area of the airport (airside); -Does not require processing by the CBSA to formally enter Canada in order to collect their baggage (baggage must be checked all the way to final destination) and/or check-in for their outbound flight; -Is not required to transfer between airport terminals, unless they do so without formally seeking entry to Canada;** -Does not require a domestic connection <p>*ITI connections must occur on the same operating day at all Canadian airports with the exception of Toronto (YYZ). Overnight connections are not possible at Montreal (YUL), Calgary (YYC) or Vancouver (YVR).</p> <p>**Only possible at Toronto (YYZ)</p> <p>Air carriers must not ticket or carry foreign national transit passengers if their intended routing does not satisfy all of the above parameters.</p>	No – unless there are other concerns.

**Should you require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the
CBSA ACSC or Liaison Officer responsible for your airport.**

Obligations upon entering Canada – For information only

All air travellers, unless exempt, are required to provide evidence of prepaid accommodation that enables the person to remain in quarantine at a government-authorized accommodation (GAA) for a three-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada. Evidence of prepaid accommodation includes evidence that accommodation for that person has been paid for, **before or when that person** enters Canada. This obligation

does not impact boarding. Travellers are obligated to provide evidence of their booking at a GAA to a border services officer or Public Health Agency of Canada quarantine officer upon arrival in Canada.

Travellers should not be denied boarding if they have not yet booked their GAA.

Exemptions from staying at a Government Approved Accommodation

Quarantine Exempt Travellers

- Any person who is exempt from the requirement to quarantine including active aircrew, etc. (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).

Prior Positive COVID-19 Molecular Test

- a person who provides to the screening officer or quarantine officer evidence containing the following elements that they received a positive result for a COVID-19 molecular test that was performed on a specimen collected at least 14 days and no more than 90 days before their entry into Canada or before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).

MedEvac Flight

- any person who boarded a medical evacuation flight for medical purposes, if the urgency of the medical situation does not permit a COVID-19 molecular test on entry into Canada (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).

Pre-Adjudicated Cases

- a person or any member of a class of persons whose presence in Canada, as determined by the Minister of Health, is in the national interest, if the person complies with any conditions imposed on them by the Minister to minimize the risk of introduction or spread of COVID-19 (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).
- a person who will, as determined by the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Minister of Health, respond to, investigate, or prevent significant disruptions to the effective continued operation of the national transportation system, transportation undertakings or infrastructure (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).
- a person who, as determined by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in consultation with the Minister of Health, will respond to, investigate, or prevent events related to national security (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).
- a person who, in exigent circumstances, is released by a quarantine officer from the requirement to quarantine themselves in a government-authorized accommodation in accordance with paragraph (1.01)(a), in which case the person must follow instructions specified by the quarantine officer (*paragraph 3(1.2)(d)*).

Accredited Foreign Representatives

- an accredited person and a person holding a D-1, O-1, or C-1 visa entering Canada to take up a post and become an accredited person (*paragraph 3(1.2)(b)*).
- A diplomatic or consular courier (*paragraph 3(1.2)(c)*).

Minors

- an unaccompanied dependent child or an unaccompanied minor (*paragraph 3(1.2)(a)*).

Limited Release from Quarantine

- A person that has explicit approval from the Minister of Health to be temporarily released from quarantine for the following purposes:
 - to be present during the final moments of life for a loved one or provide support to a loved one who has a critical illness or
 - to provide care for a person who has a medical reason for needing support or
 - to attend a funeral and you have applied for a limited release from mandatory quarantine before arriving in Canada

TFWs

A foreign national who holds a valid work permit as defined in section 2 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* that authorizes the foreign national to perform work under an international agreement between Canada and one or more countries concerning seasonal agricultural workers or to a foreign national whose application for such a work permit was authorized under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and who has received written notice of the approval but who has not yet been issued the permit, provided that the foreign national enters Canada by aircraft before 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on March 14, 2021 (*paragraph 31(4)*).