



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 Order or the Public Health Agency of Canada's Emergency Orders. It is meant to complement these legal documents and provide guidance on how to understand the requirements.

Table of Contents

Face Mask Requirements	6
Q1. What type of face masks are allowed for air travel?	6
Q2. Who is exempt from wearing a face mask?	6
Q3. Is there an obligation to report travellers who refuse to wear their face mask despite repeated instructions from the flight attendant?.....	6
Q4. Can travellers take off their mask during a flight to eat or drink?.....	7
Q5. Will flight crew, airport workers and pilots be required to wear a face mask?.....	7
Temperature Screening Requirements	7
Q1. Will temperature checks of travellers still be required given the new testing requirement?.....	7
Q2. Who conducts the temperature screening in Canada and abroad?.....	7
Q3. Are air carriers required to maintain records associated with temperature screening?	8
Q4. What happens in terms of a refund when a person is denied boarding due to having a high temperature?	8
Q5. If a passenger flies from a Canadian airport that has no temperature screening and transfers to a Canadian airport that does have temperature screening, will the traveller have their temperature taken at the second airport?	8
Q6. Will employees also be required to undergo temperature screening measures?	8
Q7. I've heard of people using fake medical exemption cards to avoid wearing non-medical masks or temperature checks. What will happen if someone tries that to avoid public safety measures by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority or by the air operator of an inbound flight into Canada?	9
Q8. I have an underlying medical condition which may mean my internal body temperature will be elevated. What information should be included on my medical certificate? Who should sign it?.....	9
COVID-19 Molecular Testing Requirements	10
Q1. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure and upon arrival?	10
Q2. Which types of COVID-19 tests are considered molecular tests?.....	11
Q3. Which COVID-19 tests are valid or acceptable? Is there a list of laboratories or testing facilities available? What elements should the proof presented by the traveller contain?.....	11
Q4. Can the COVID-19 molecular test result be from any country as long as it is performed at an accredited laboratory and within 72 hours of departure to Canada?.....	11
Q5. Where no COVID-19 molecular test is available, would a rapid antigen test or a Diffractive Phase Interferometry (DPI) test be acceptable?.....	12
Q6. Do the test results need to be in English or French? What if the traveller can only get their results in another language?.....	12
Q7. Will a test result that indicates “not detected” be accepted as evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result?.....	12
Q8. Will age be accepted on COVID-19 molecular test results where the date of birth is not available?	12

Q9. Will test results from the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) be accepted given their results do not indicate the type of test?	13
Q10. Will a test result without the testing facility address be accepted?.....	13
Q11. What if the COVID-19 molecular test results do not indicate the exact time the test (swab) was taken?	13
Q12. Does the 72 hours relate to the scheduled departure time or the scheduled time arriving in Canada?	13
Q13. What happens if a traveller’s flight is delayed, and their test is no longer within 72 hours of the departure to Canada? Do they need to take another test?	14
Q14. Should air carriers use the time when the COVID-19 molecular test was conducted or when the test results were provided?.....	14
Q15. What happens if someone is coming to Canada through an indirect route? Will they need to show proof of testing at the start of their trip? If the 72 hours applies from the departure time of the flight to Canada, won’t it be hard for some travellers to obtain their negative test in time?.....	14
Q16. Does a traveller departing from a country that also requires COVID-19 molecular testing prior to entry need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements?	14
Q17. Does a traveller who is departing and returning to Canada within 72 hours need to provide two separate test results?	15
Q18. What happens if a traveller cannot get a COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours prior to their return to Canada?	15
Q19. At what point during the arrival process will testing occur?	15
Q20. Where should air carriers refer travellers if they do not have a negative COVID-19 molecular test (such as a PCR or RT-LAMP test)? Can an individual apply for an exemption to the Canadian pre-departure testing requirements?	15
Q21. Can travellers still board a flight for Canada if they cannot obtain a COVID-19 molecular test in the country they are in? Is there another option in Canada when they land if they are not able to get a COVID-19 test abroad?	16
Q22. What type of COVID-19 test will I receive upon arrival at the airport?.....	16
Q23. Will the Government of Canada reimburse travellers for costs associated to obtaining a COVID-19 molecular test abroad?	16
Q24. Would proof of vaccination replace a COVID-19 test?	17
Q25. Will there be any costs for the traveller associated to the arrival testing requirement?.....	17
Q26. Is there a requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test verification?.....	17
Q27. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?	17
Q28. What is the process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results to Transport Canada, as well as the expected functions for the Operations Coordination Team?	17
Q29. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g. PCR or RT-LAMP)? Will there be penalties or fines?	17
Q30. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?	18

Q31. What is the requirement related to traveller/baggage reconciliation if travellers present themselves at boarding without the appropriate negative test result? Are there any exemptions for airports (e.g., FRA, LHR, HKG) where a bag could travel without the traveller (e.g. in low risk situations)? Could carriers use their discretion for these locations when required due to operational reasons?..... 18

COVID-19 Testing Exemptions18

- Q1. Will Transport Canada be providing a template letter for crew members?..... 18
- Q2. Has the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pre-clearance Officers (those officers that are stationed to work at the eight Canadian pre-clearance airports) been included on the list of exceptions for the requirement to present confirmation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result to the air carrier in order to board their flight to Canada? Will they also be exempt from arrival testing? . 18
- Q3. Are persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing? 19
- Q4. Are travellers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have since recovered exempt from the testing requirements (both pre-departure and arrival)? 19
- Q5. Are unaccompanied minors exempt from COVID-19 testing?..... 19
- Q6. Who is exempt from arrival testing? 20
- Q7. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure or the requirement to quarantine in a government-approved hotel for three days at their expense? 20
- Q8. Are asymptomatic Aircraft Maintenance Engineers exempted from all required health measures? 20

Transiting & Quarantine Requirements21

- Q1. If a traveller leaves a country listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* and transits through another country to arrive in Canada, where can they obtain their pre-departure test?..... 21
- Q2. What if the transiting time is extended due to delays and a traveller who was expected to stay within the sterile area now requires an overnight transit?..... 21
- Q3. Does a negative COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) reduce or eliminate the requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Canada? 21
- Q4. Will I need to quarantine following my COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at the airport? 21
- Q5. Do transiting travellers need pre-departure and arrival COVID-19 molecular tests if they are staying within the sterile area of a Canadian airport and not entering Canada through the border entry point?22
- Q6. Upon arrival in Canada, are travellers able to travel by air to their final place of quarantine after they have received their test results from the arrival test (even though they have not completed their full 14 day quarantine)? 22
- Q7. Is there a requirement for the air carrier to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked a 3-night stay at a government approved accommodation (GAA) prior to boarding? 22
- Q8. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?..... 22

Other Questions23

- Q1. Will the Government of Canada be incorporating the requirement for a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) into the ArriveCAN app? 23
- Q2. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services? 23

Q3. Who can air operators contact for support? 23

Q4. How is a “crew member” defined? 23

Q5. Who does “crew member” apply to in the context of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, as referenced in the Order in Council (OIC) *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)* exemption? 23

Q6. Does “crew member” under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* include pilots operating personal or private aircraft for “recreational” purposes? 24

NOTAM Requirements.....24

Q1. Are international flights from all countries permitted to land in Canada?..... 24

Q2. When returning from outside of Canada, can I land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?..... 25

Q3. Does the NOTAM restriction apply to private general aviation aircraft? 25

Q4. How can I receive a Special Authorization for an exemption from NOTAM requirements? 25

Q5. Can medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)? 26

Face Mask Requirements

Q1. What type of face masks are allowed for air travel?

A1. For the purposes of air travel in Canada, a face mask is “any mask, including a non-medical mask that is made of multiple layers of tightly woven material such as cotton or linen, completely covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin without gaping, and can be secured to a person’s head with ties or ear loops”. This could include cloth masks (with or without a transparent window) or disposable masks.

Masks **not allowed** for air travel include face shields only (with no mask underneath), scarves/bandanas, mesh/lace masks, neck gaiters or masks with exhalation valves.

Please see Transport Canada’s [Accepted/Not Accepted Face Masks](#) poster for further details.

Q2. Who is exempt from wearing a face mask?

A2. With respect to air travel, as outlined in [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#), all persons must wear a face mask throughout their entire travel journey, unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- (a) a child who is less than two years of age;
- (b) a child who is at least two years of age but less than six years of age who is unable to tolerate wearing a face mask;
- (c) a person who provides a medical certificate certifying that they are unable to wear a face mask for a medical reason;
- (d) a person who is unconscious;
- (e) a person who is unable to remove their face mask without assistance;
- (f) a crew member;
- (g) a gate agent.

Transport Canada has prepared a sample medical certificate for those who are unable to wear a face 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 the Healthcare Provider who is either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Dentists are also authorized to sign medical certificates in the case of face coverings. The medical certificate does not require the sharing of any diagnosis or other information that is confidential in nature.

Q3. Is there an obligation to report travellers who refuse to wear their face 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](#), airlines are expected to enforce the requirement for passengers to wear face masks. In instances where a passenger does not comply with crew member direction to wear a face mask and the passenger does not fall into one of the exception categories, the obligation is on the airline to report the incident to Transport Canada for investigation. The airline 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.

Q4. Can travellers take off their mask during a flight to eat or drink?

A4. When travelling by air, travellers are required to wear their face mask throughout their whole travel journey. That being said, passengers may remove their mask for *brief periods* when they are eating, drinking or taking oral medication. For more information:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-information-travellers>

Q5. Will flight crew, airport workers and pilots be required to wear a face mask?

A5. Transport Canada requires that all non-passengers (airport workers, flight crew, baggage handlers, concession operators, CATSA screeners, Canada Border Services Agency personnel and U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, etc.) entering the restricted area of an airport wear a face mask. They must also wear a face mask if on board a flight.

Pilots will not be required to wear a face mask on the flight deck since it could interfere with safe operations.

Temperature Screening Requirements

Q1. Will temperature checks of travellers still be required given the new testing requirement?

A1. Yes. All existing measures, including health check questions, temperature screening and the wearing of face masks on board flights to Canada remain in place.

Q2. Who conducts the temperature screening in Canada and abroad?

A2. For international and transborder inbound flights, the temperature screening is conducted at the point of departure by either the air operators or an authorized person. For departures from Canada, the temperature screening is conducted by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority.

Should any passenger have a fever of **38° C or greater**, they must be denied boarding and notified that they cannot fly to Canada for 14 days unless they provide a medical certificate that indicates that the fever is not linked to COVID-19 (see [Conditions Causing Elevated Body Temperatures](#) for an example certificate).

Q3. Are air carriers required to maintain records associated with temperature screening?

A3. Yes, all air carriers must keep a record of the following information in respect of each flight it operates and retain it for a period of 90 days after the day of the flight:

- the number of travellers who are refused boarding;
- the date and number of the flight;
- the make and model of the equipment that was used to conduct the temperature screenings;
- the date and time that such equipment was last maintained and calibrated, including the name of the person who performed the maintenance and calibration; and
- the results of the last maintenance and calibration of the equipment, including any corrective measures taken.

Q4. What happens in terms of a refund when a person is denied boarding due to having a high temperature?

A4. The Government of Canada recognizes that it is essential that Canadians be treated fairly in circumstances where they are unable to travel due to COVID-19. If a person is denied boarding due to having an elevated temperature, air carriers will be asked to rebook passengers free of charge after 14 days, or once medically cleared to fly.

Q5. If a passenger flies from a Canadian airport that has no temperature screening and transfers to a Canadian airport that does have temperature screening, will the traveller have their temperature taken at the second airport?

A5. Temperature verification is part of a series of health risk mitigation measures already in place in the aviation sector, which includes mandatory health checks and the mandatory use of non-medical masks or face coverings. Requiring transiting passengers from airports that do not have a temperature screening in place to leave the restricted area and undergo both the temperature screening and security screening would pose operational challenges and could potentially result in passengers missing their connecting flights. For this reason, they will not be asked to go through screening at the second airport should they not leave the restricted area of the airport.

In the case where a passenger leaves the restricted area at the second airport (e.g. to stay at a hotel for a layover), they will then be required to undergo both the security screening and temperature screening upon re-entry of the restricted area.

Q6. Will employees also be required to undergo temperature screening measures?

A6. In order to maintain the integrity of the air travel corridor, all employees/personnel that enter or work in the restricted area of the air terminal building at an aerodrome as well as employees/personnel undergoing a screening at a non-passenger Canadian Air Transport Security Authority checkpoint outside the air terminal building are subject to temperature screening procedures by Canadian Air Transport Security Authority personnel or those approved by Transport Canada.

If an employee has an elevated temperature and is unable to present a medical certificate that indicates that the elevated temperature is not related to COVID-19 or another infectious illness, they will be sent to a dedicated location that respects physical distancing guidelines for a ten-minute rest period, followed by a second temperature reading. Should the second reading confirm an elevated temperature, the employee will be denied entry into the restricted area and referred to the air carrier or airport authority for follow up. This may also involve having their local restricted area access suspended for a period of 14 days.

Where an employee can verify with their employer that their elevated temperature is not related to COVID-19 through medical documentation, their employer can signal to the airport pass control office that the employee's access controls can be reinstated and the employee can return to work. Reinstatement of access controls is not usually expected to take more than 1 business day (24 hours). In this situation, the employee must ensure that they carry their medical documentation on them going forward when accessing the restricted area.

Q7. I've heard of people using fake medical exemption cards to avoid wearing non-medical masks or temperature checks. What will happen if someone tries that to avoid public safety measures by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority or by the air operator of an inbound flight into Canada?

A7. Medical certificates can only be signed by a Healthcare Provider who is a physician, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. Dentists are also authorized to sign medical certificates in the case of face coverings. Passengers should be advised that providing false information under the *Aeronautics Act* with respect to any of the Interim Order provisions, including falsely answering health check questions, or providing false documentation, could lead to a fine of \$5,000.

Q8. I have an underlying medical condition which may mean my internal body temperature will be elevated. What information should be included on my medical certificate? Who should sign it?

A8. Transport Canada has prepared a sample medical certificate for those with physical or medical conditions causing an elevated body temperature. Please see [Conditions Causing Elevated Body Temperatures](#) for the sample. The form must be signed and dated by the Healthcare Provider who is either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. The medical certificate does not require the sharing of any diagnosis or other information that is confidential in nature.

Airport employees or flight crew with a medical or physical condition for which they may display an elevated temperature should be prepared to carry their medical certificate on them whenever they need to go into the restricted area through a Canadian Air Transport Security Authority screening checkpoint.

It is important to note that Transport Canada will accept that if a passenger has a medical certificate indicating their elevated temperature is not related to COVID 19, they will not be denied boarding based on the temperature reading, however other countries may have different policies. Travellers are advised to plan ahead if they are planning to travel overseas.

COVID-19 Molecular Testing Requirements

Q1. Will all air travellers flying to Canada be required to provide a COVID-19 test result prior to departure and upon arrival?

A1. Effective January 7, 2021, all air travellers 5 years of age or older are required to provide proof of a COVID-19 molecular test result prior to boarding international flights bound for Canada, unless exempted. Tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Reverse Transcription Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) test. Other types of tests, such as antigen tests, will not be accepted. Travellers can refer to <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying> for more details including a list of types of accepted molecular tests.

In order to board a flight, the traveller must present one of the following test results:

- a test result that is **negative**, that was administered within 72 hours of the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada (must be 72 hours from the scheduled direct flight to Canada; which means from the final leg of the trip in the case of connecting flights); or
- a test result that is **positive**, that was administered **at least 14 days but no more than 90 days** from the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada (i.e. the traveller will be eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered). This accounts for those that had contracted COVID-19, have recovered, but may still be testing positive due to lingering amounts of the virus in their system.

Upon arrival in Canada, travellers will also be subject to an additional arrival test and will be subject to quarantine in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their test results. Note that travellers who are “residually positive” (i.e. who have a positive test result that was administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days from the scheduled departure time to Canada) will need to present their positive test result upon arrival in order to be exempt from arrival testing and the stay in the government approved accommodation.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the requirement for presenting a COVID-19 molecular test include, but are not limited to:

- Children who are four years of age or younger (i.e., children who are five on the day of their travel must have proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test);
- 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.

Q2. Which types of COVID-19 tests are considered molecular tests?

A2. A COVID-19 molecular test is defined within Transport Canada’s *Interim Order* as “a COVID-19 screening or diagnostic test carried out by an accredited laboratory, including a test carried out by the method of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP)”. For a list of tests that are considered molecular tests, please consult the “Accepted Types of Tests” section that can be found on the following webpage:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

Q3. Which COVID-19 tests are valid or acceptable? Is there a list of laboratories or testing facilities available? What elements should the proof presented by the traveller contain?

A3. Tests must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular test, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) test. The test result must also include the following information:

- Traveller’s name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted (For negative tests – the test must have been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of the flight. For positive tests (travellers that previously had COVID-19 but have since recovered and are still testing positive) - the test must have been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days (i.e. the traveller will only be eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered);
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

More information about laboratories will be available on Canada.ca/coronavirus as it becomes available. In the meantime, information is available on travel.gc.ca about local COVID-19 testing facilities for certain destinations. Travellers must ensure that the COVID test results include all the above-noted information.

At this time, travellers are encouraged to make best efforts to have their test performed at a reputable laboratory or testing facility (i.e. one recognized by the local government or accredited by a third party, such as a professional organization or international standards organization).

Q4. Can the COVID-19 molecular test result be from any country as long as it is performed at an accredited laboratory and within 72 hours of departure to Canada?

A4. As of 23:30 EDT on April 22, 2021, travellers who obtained a COVID-19 molecular test result from a country or territory listed in Schedule 1 of Transport Canada’s *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19* will not be permitted to board an aircraft for a flight to Canada.

Q5. Where no COVID-19 molecular test is available, would a rapid antigen test or a Diffractive Phase Interferometry (DPI) test be acceptable?

A5. The Canadian pre-departure testing requirements are for a molecular test method only (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP). Rapid Antigen tests or DPI tests are not molecular test methods. Air operators are advised to alert Transport Canada as soon as possible if they become aware of situations in which:

- A COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) is not available in a certain country or last point of departure;
- Obtaining a test result within 72 hours is not feasible on a recurring basis (i.e. not individual case by case, but rather for certain last points of departures on an ongoing basis); or
- Where state, local or regional law prevents travellers from leaving a particular site to obtain a COVID-19 molecular test.

If such a situation occurs, air carriers are asked to contact the COVID-19 Testing Response Operational Team (C-TROT):

FOR AIR CARRIERS ONLY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY (0800 TO 1800 ET)

Contact Transport Canada (TC) by email at TC.aviationsecurity-sureteaerienne.TC@tc.gc.ca

AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEK ENDS

Contact the Transport Canada Situation Centre (SITCEN) at Tel. 613.995.9737 or toll -free 1.888.857.4003 or TC.SitcenHQ-CentredinterventionAC.TC@tc.gc.ca

Q6. Do the test results need to be in English or French? What if the traveller can only get their results in another language?

A6. The Government of Canada is asking that travellers make best efforts to obtain their valid test results at a facility where these can be provided in English or French where possible. Although a molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT- LAMP test) that has all of the data elements will be accepted by the air carrier for boarding a flight to Canada, it is important for the traveller to understand that not having their test results in one of Canada’s two official language may cause delays at the border port of entry.

Q7. Will a test result that indicates “not detected” be accepted as evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result?

A7. Yes, “not detected” can be accepted as equivalent to “negative” when providing evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result.

Q8. Will age be accepted on COVID-19 molecular test results where the date of birth is not available?

A8. Yes, an age that is displayed instead of a date of birth is deemed acceptable, as long as the age corresponds with the age on the passenger’s ID.

Q9. Will test results from the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS) be accepted given their results do not indicate the type of test?

A9. COVID-19 testing for the purposes of international travel is not available on the NHS. Pre-travel COVID-19 tests are available for a fee in the private sector via tour operators or through major high street pharmacies. Please see the following website for more information:

<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice/disease-prevention-advice/covid-19-health-considerations-for-travel/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

Q10. Will a test result without the testing facility address be accepted?

A10. Yes, we understand that not all facilities include their address on the test results. That being said, if the name of the laboratory looks suspicious and/or appears not to be real, Transport Canada is to be contacted for verification.

Q11. What if the COVID-19 molecular test results do not indicate the exact time the test (swab) was taken?

A11. If the COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) results do not show the specific time when the test (swab) was taken, air carriers are to assess the test result using 3 days as the benchmark. Air carriers can use the date of the scheduled flight to Canada as day 1, and count backwards by 3 days, to determine the testing window.

Example: A traveller has a flight scheduled to Canada on Friday, March 5th 2021 at 10 a.m. They arrive at the airport with a valid molecular COVID-19 test result that is negative. The date stamp on the test result indicates March 2, 2021 for when the test was administered. The air carrier can use March 5th less 3 days, which brings us to March 2, as their basis to determine whether or not to board the traveller as indicated below in the following sample calculation:

Calculation:

March 5 → March 4 (-1 day from departure)

March 4 → March 3 (- 2 days from departure)

March 3 → March 2 (- 3 days from departure) ****limit****

= test is valid if on **March 2nd or later**

Q12. Does the 72 hours relate to the scheduled departure time or the scheduled time arriving in Canada?

A12. A COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) test) must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure of a flight to Canada.

Where a flight is delayed or diverted due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances outside the air carrier's control, the air operator is permitted to use the originally scheduled departure time of the flight as the benchmark for the 72 hours.

Q13. What happens if a traveller's flight is delayed, and their test is no longer within 72 hours of the departure to Canada? Do they need to take another test?

A13. Where a flight is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather, mechanical delays), the air carrier is permitted to use the originally scheduled departure time of the flight as the benchmark for the 72 hours.

Q14. Should air carriers use the time when the COVID-19 molecular test was conducted or when the test results were provided?

A14. Air carriers are to use the time of when the specimen was collected. Therefore, the test should be administered within 72 hours prior to the scheduled flight departure, with the expectation that the results will come in the intervening period.

Q15. What happens if someone is coming to Canada through an indirect route? Will they need to show proof of testing at the start of their trip? If the 72 hours applies from the departure time of the flight to Canada, won't it be hard for some travellers to obtain their negative test in time?

A15. As per the Transport Canada's Interim Order, a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP)) must have been conducted within 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure of the direct flight to Canada from a last point of departure.

Q16. Does a traveller departing from a country that also requires COVID-19 molecular testing prior to entry need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements?

A16. As long as the test was conducted within 72 hours of the traveller's scheduled departure time to Canada and was an acceptable molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) which contained all the required information, the traveller will not need to be re-tested under the pre-departure requirements. If the test does not meet all of this criteria (noted below), the traveller must be re-tested.

Required test information:

- Traveller's name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted (For negative tests – the test must have been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time. For positive tests (travellers that previously had COVID-19 but have since recovered and are still testing positive) - the test must have been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days (i.e. the traveller will only be eligible to travel on day 15 following the date the test was administered);
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

Upon arrival to Canada, the traveller will still be subject to Canada's arrival testing requirements.

Travellers are encouraged to make best efforts to have their test performed at a reputable laboratory or testing facility (i.e. one recognized by the local government or accredited by a third party, such as a professional organization or international standards organization). Travellers can find additional information about testing facilities at travel.gc.ca and Canadian citizens or permanent residents can contact their Canadian consular services at <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/consular>.

Q17. Does a traveller who is departing and returning to Canada within 72 hours need to provide two separate test results?

A17. While a negative COVID molecular test conducted in any country within the 72-hour timeframe is acceptable under the current the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Order in Council and Transport Canada's *Interim Order* for the purposes of boarding a Canadian-bound flight, air operators may wish to advise their passengers that such an itinerary could lead to additional questions from Canadian federal officials (Canada Border Services Agency or PHAC) about the nature of their trip upon their arrival at the port of entry. The Government of Canada continues to recommend avoiding all non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice. In addition, all travellers arriving in Canada - even those with a negative pre-departure test COVID-19 molecular test – will still be subject to arrival testing and must still quarantine for 14 days on arrival no matter how short a period outside of Canada. This would include staying in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights **at the traveller's expense** while they await their test results.

Q18. What happens if a traveller cannot get a COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours prior to their return to Canada?

A18. If a traveller is unable to obtain a test within 72 hours before their direct flight to Canada, it is recommended that they reschedule their flight so that they meet the 72 hour requirement.

Q19. At what point during the arrival process will testing occur?

A19. While the exact location within the airport for arrival testing will vary from airport to airport, in all cases, the traveller will be tested at the airport **after** they have cleared customs.

Q20. Where should air carriers refer travellers if they do not have a negative COVID-19 molecular test (such as a PCR or RT-LAMP test)? Can an individual apply for an exemption to the Canadian pre-departure testing requirements?

A20. Transport Canada recognizes that there is potential for delays or challenges for obtaining tests in some countries as we transition to this new requirement. Canadians abroad can find additional information at travel.gc.ca or by contacting Canadian consular services (<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/consular>). They can also contact their travel service provider.

There are only a limited number of exceptions where an individual is not required to show proof of a COVID-19 molecular test, which include but are not limited to:

- Children who are four years of age or younger (i.e., children who are five on the day of their travel must have proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test);
- 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.

Q21. Can travellers still board a flight for Canada if they cannot obtain a COVID-19 molecular test in the country they are in? Is there another option in Canada when they land if they are not able to get a COVID-19 test abroad?

A21. All international travellers must present a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) before boarding. The test result must either be: (1) negative, having been administered within 72 hours of the scheduled flight to Canada, or (2) positive, having been administered at least 14 days but no more than 90 days from the scheduled flight to Canada (this accounts for those that had contracted COVID-19, have recovered, but may still be testing positive due to lingering amounts of the virus in their system). There are very limited exemptions to this testing requirement. The small number of travellers arriving in Canada without a negative COVID-19 molecular test will be subject to additional measures from federal Quarantine Officers.

Air operators should notify Transport Canada as soon as possible in the event they are planning flights from a Last Point of Departure at where COVID-19 molecular testing is unavailable or unfeasible within the 72-hour time frame. Transport Canada will work with air operators to allow for an additional 24 hours (i.e. total of 96 hours) in those cases.

Q22. What type of COVID-19 test will I receive upon arrival at the airport?

A22. All travellers are required to undergo a molecular COVID-19 test upon arrival (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test). For a list of tests that are considered molecular tests, please consult the “Accepted Types of Tests” section that can be found on the following webpage: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>.

Once the test has been administered, travellers are required to remain at a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their test results. The cost associated to the accommodations will be at the **traveller’s expense**. It is important to note that travellers who arrive in Canada without a pre-paid hotel booking can face fines up to \$3,000.

Q23. Will the Government of Canada reimburse travellers for costs associated to obtaining a COVID-19 molecular test abroad?

A23. Since the Government of Canada has advised Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice, any costs incurred in order to obtain a COVID-19 molecular test abroad will not be reimbursed. For more information about the Government of Canada’s current travel advisories please consult <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>.

Q24. Would proof of vaccination replace a COVID-19 test?

A24. At this time, proof of vaccination will not replace a COVID-19 test result. While vaccination protects an individual from illness, further evidence is required to understand if a vaccinated person can still spread the virus and infect others around them.

Q25. Will there be any costs for the traveller associated to the arrival testing requirement?

A25. Yes. All travellers arriving into Canada will be transported to a government approved accommodation where they will be required to wait for up to three nights for their COVID-19 test results. The costs associated to the stay will be at the **traveller's expense** and will be significantly higher than a normal hotel room as they account for the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security, and transportation.

Q26. Is there a requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test verification?

A26. There is currently no requirement for air operators to maintain records or to report on the COVID-19 molecular test; however, air operators are required to report to Transport Canada those travellers who they have suspected have provided false or misleading test information.

Q27. What will happen if a traveller falsifies a COVID-19 molecular test? Will there be penalties or fines?

A27. 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 molecular test results, they are required to notify Transport Canada 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.).

Q28. What is the process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results to Transport Canada, as well as the expected functions for the Operations Coordination Team?

A28. The process for reporting those suspected of providing falsified or misleading test results is the same as the process for reporting passengers not wearing face masks or unruly passengers, which is to report incidents to the Transport Canada Situation Centre. Information that will need to be provided include name of individual, flight number, etc.

Q29. What will happen if an air carrier fails to check Canadian-bound travellers for a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g. PCR or RT-LAMP)? Will there be penalties or fines?

A29. 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.

Q30. Do the COVID-19 test provisions apply to all-cargo operators, private operators, taxi operations and domestic flights?

A30. The requirements to verify that a traveller has a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) 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 molecular testing does not apply to domestic flights.

Q31. What is the requirement related to traveller/baggage reconciliation if travellers present themselves at boarding without the appropriate negative test result? Are there any exemptions for airports (e.g., FRA, LHR, HKG) where a bag could travel without the traveller (e.g. in low risk situations)? Could carriers use their discretion for these locations when required due to operational reasons?

A31. In order to ensure the smoothest travel journey for travellers and as little operational disruption as possible for air carriers, it is strongly recommended, where operationally possible, that upon arrival at the airport, travellers present themselves to the check-in counter to provide their COVID-19 molecular test result. This way, the agent at check-in can verify the result against the required criteria and then either: 1) allow the traveller to continue on their journey; or 2) stop them before they continue onwards and check their bags. This will avoid having to reconcile baggage should a traveller check their bag and then get denied boarding at the gate.

COVID-19 Testing Exemptions

Q1. Will Transport Canada be providing a template letter for crew members?

A1. Yes. Transport Canada has provided a template letter to air operators to use for crew members in the COVID-19 Air Operator Guidance Material that can be found at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada#toc2-1>

Q2. Has the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pre-clearance Officers (those officers that are stationed to work at the eight Canadian pre-clearance airports) been included on the list of exceptions for the requirement to present confirmation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result to the air carrier in order to board their flight to Canada? Will they also be exempt from arrival testing?

A2. CBP pre-clearance officers returning to, or deploying to, Canadian pre-clearance locations would be considered exempt from both pre-departure testing requirements and arrival testing requirements, provided they are entering Canada for the purposes of border activities to support the continuity of enforcement operations/activities AND that they are required to provide their services within the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada.

Q3. Are persons escorting human organs or tissues for life-saving transplants exempt from COVID-19 testing?

A3. No, those escorting human organs or tissues are not exempt from COVID-19 molecular 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.

Q4. Are travellers who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have since recovered exempt from the testing requirements (both pre-departure and arrival)?

Q4. As outlined in the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)*, travellers who present a positive COVID-19 test, after having contracted COVID-19 but have recovered and are no longer deemed to be contagious, are now permitted to board a flight to Canada.

Travellers are permitted to board a plane so long as they can provide proof of a positive test result conducted between 15 days and 90 days from the scheduled flight to Canada. Travellers must also be symptom-free and pass the temperature screening check at the airport, as is the case with all other travellers.

Travellers that present a positive COVID-19 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 (e.g., the window of time between 15 days and 90 days from when the test was administered) is sufficient.

Please note that the test result must include all the same data elements that are required for a negative molecular COVID-19 test, which includes:

- Traveller's name and date of birth or age;
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test;
- The date on which the test was conducted;
- The method of molecular test conducted (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP); and
- The test result.

While travellers will need a pre-departure molecular test result to board the aircraft, they will not be subject to arrival testing or the requirement to stay in a government approved accommodation to await test results (given they are exempt from arrival testing). They will however, still be required to quarantine upon arrival.

Q5. Are unaccompanied minors exempt from COVID-19 testing?

A5. As outlined in the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)*, unaccompanied minors or young persons and dependents travelling to Canada must:

- Provide results of a pre-departure test result in order to board their flight & enter Canada;
- Follow further instructions given by a government representative regarding arrival testing; and
- Quarantine for 14 days upon arrival at a suitable location.

Currently, unaccompanied minors and young persons are exempt from the need to stay in a government approved accommodation.

Q6. Who is exempt from arrival testing?

A6. Exemptions relating to testing on arrival, the mandatory stay at a government approved accommodation, and quarantine requirements fall under the purview of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

For further guidance on the matter, travellers can contact PHAC at phac.covid19.aspc@canada.ca or 1-833-784-4397.

At this time, Transport Canada continues to work with PHAC and other departments and agencies to ensure that tools such as [Canada's Travel Wizard](#) are updated to reflect the upcoming changes to help support each traveller's journey.

Q7. Are General Aviation flights exempt from the requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test before departure or the requirement to quarantine in a government-approved hotel for three days at their expense?

A7. Government-authorized accommodation requirements and other measures in the Order in Council (OIC) *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)* apply equally to all travelers entering Canada, regardless of the mode of aviation entry (i.e. public and private conveyance included).

Q8. Are asymptomatic Aircraft Maintenance Engineers exempted from all required health measures?

A8. No. In accordance with the Canadian Public Health Officer essential services list for mandatory exemption from quarantine: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/mandate/about-agency/acts-regulations/list-acts-regulations.html#6e>. Aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs) are covered under the following:

Technicians or specialists specified by a government, manufacturer, or company, who enter Canada as required for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, installing or inspecting equipment necessary to support critical infrastructure (Energy and Utilities, Information and Communication Technologies, Finance, Health, Food, Water, Transportation, Safety, Government and Manufacturing) and are required to provide their services within 14 days of their entry to Canada and have a reasonable rationale for the immediacy of the work and the inability to plan for a 14 day quarantine.

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers must comply or are exempt from the following Order in Council health measures:

Cohort	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement – LAND MODE	Exempt from Pre-Arrival Testing Requirement – AIR MODE	Exempt from Post-Arrival PCR Test	Exempt from staying in a Government approved facility (Air mode)	Exempt from Quarantine
Aircraft Maintenance Engineers	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Some conditions apply

Transiting & Quarantine Requirements

Q1. If a traveller leaves a country listed in Schedule 1 of the *Interim Order* and transits through another country to arrive in Canada, where can they obtain their pre-departure test?

A1. Since pre-departure tests are not accepted from countries or territories listed on Schedule 1 of Transport Canada’s *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19*, the traveller will be required to have their pre-departure COVID-19 test administered in the country through which they are transiting within 72 hours of their departure time to Canada.

Q2. What if the transiting time is extended due to delays and a traveller who was expected to stay within the sterile area now requires an overnight transit?

A2. In the case where a traveller has to unexpectedly enter Canada due to unforeseen delays or cancellations of their connecting flight they may be exempt from arrival testing and the requirement to quarantine. They will be referred to Public Health Officials for further direction.

Q3. Does a negative COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP) reduce or eliminate the requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Canada?

A3. No. Travellers to Canada must use the ArriveCAN app or website and provide accurate contact information as well as their mandatory 14-day quarantine plan on or before entry. All non-exempt travellers entering Canada must quarantine for the mandatory 14 day quarantine period.

Q4. Will I need to quarantine following my COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at the airport?

A4. Yes, there is still a requirement for travellers to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival into Canada. All travellers arriving into Canada will be transported to a government approved accommodation where they will be required to wait for up to three nights for their COVID-19 test results. The costs associated to the stay will be at the **traveller’s expense** and will be significantly higher than a normal hotel room as they account for the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security, and transportation. Should the test result be negative, travellers will be able to leave but must quarantine at their final destination for the remainder of their 14-day quarantine (under significantly increased surveillance and enforcement). If the test result is positive, travellers will be required to immediately quarantine for the remainder of their 14-day quarantine in a federally designated quarantine facility that will be monitored by Public Health Officials.

Q5. Do transiting travellers need pre-departure and arrival COVID-19 molecular tests if they are staying within the sterile area of a Canadian airport and not entering Canada through the border entry point?

A5. All travellers entering Canada through a border entry point will require a COVID-19 molecular test (e.g., a PCR or RT-LAMP test) both prior to departure as well as upon arrival, regardless of whether or not they are staying in Canada. In addition, since these travellers are entering a border entry point, they must quarantine upon arrival in a government approved accommodation for up to three nights while they await their arrival testing results.

The only travellers who do not require a COVID-19 molecular test prior to departure or upon arrival are those who remain in the sterile transit area of a Canadian airport and will not be entering through a border entry point. These travellers also will not be required to submit contact and quarantine plan information through the ArriveCAN app or website.

Q6. Upon arrival in Canada, are travellers able to travel by air to their final place of quarantine after they have received their test results from the arrival test (even though they have not completed their full 14 day quarantine)?

A6. Individuals that have entered Canada after having travelled internationally and have begun their quarantine at a government approved accommodation and received a negative COVID-19 test result based on their arrival test, are permitted to travel onward in Canada (by any means of public transit, including air) to their final place of quarantine, following all local health protocols while in transit (e.g., wearing a mask). The provision for the change of place of quarantine is outlined in the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations) Emergency Order*. As always, these individuals, like all travellers, need to be asymptomatic and must still pass the temperature screening and health check in order to board the aircraft.

Q7. Is there a requirement for the air carrier to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked a 3-night stay at a government approved accommodation (GAA) prior to boarding?

A7. No, air carriers do not need to verify whether or not the traveller has pre-booked their 3-night stay in a GAA. While the air carrier has a responsibility to provide education and awareness by notifying the traveller of the requirement as well as the associated \$3,000 fine that may be imposed for not complying to the requirement, should a traveller not have a GAA booking prior to departure, the air carrier will not deny boarding.

Q8. Are there any conditions imposed on individuals (including crew members) who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements?

A8. Yes, under the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations) Emergency Order* those not subject to quarantine must, during the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada:

- a. Provide to the Minister of Health their contact information for the 14-day period that begins on the day on which they enter Canada;
- b. Wear a mask when they are in public settings, including when entering Canada; and,
- c. Maintain a list of the names and contact information of each person with whom the person came into close contact and the locations visited during that period.

Other Questions

Q1. Will the Government of Canada be incorporating the requirement for a COVID-19 molecular test result (e.g., PCR or RT-LAMP test) into the ArriveCAN app?

A1. Travellers to Canada must use the ArriveCAN app or website and provide accurate contact information along with their mandatory 14-day quarantine plan on or before entry. Transport Canada is continuing to work with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, and other government departments to explore opportunities to streamline the process by using electronic or digital submission.

Q2. If a Canadian traveller is denied boarding, where should the air operator refer them to for consular services?

A2. 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.

Q3. Who can air operators contact for support?

A3. 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-sureteairienne.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.

Q4. How is a “crew member” defined?

A4. According to the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs), a crew member means a person who is assigned to duty in an aircraft during flight time, or assigned to duty related to the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft during system flight time.

Q5. Who does “crew member” apply to in the context of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, as referenced in the Order in Council (OIC) *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations)* exemption?

A5. “crew member” under Subpart 101 of the CARs includes all crew members (pilots; flight engineer, flight attendant) involved in commercial and business aviation operations within the

meaning of subparts 604 and Part VII (701, 702, 703, 704, 705). This also includes any person coming into Canada only to become such a crew (i.e. repositioning crew) and crew members conducting ferry flights, flight tests etc.

Foreign crews entering Canada are subject to a 72 hour return to work restriction in order to be exempt from the various health measures. The intent is to ensure that time spent in Canada is for the purpose of providing an essential service as a *crew member*. If not for the purpose of an essential service then the same restrictions imposed on non-essential travellers apply.

Q6. Does “crew member” under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* include pilots operating personal or private aircraft for “recreational” purposes?

A6. No. In order to be considered a crew member under the CARs, the purpose of the flight must be tied to commercial or business operations. Commercial or business operations generally involves the transportation of passengers and/or goods as well as aerial work such as aerial advertising, aerial construction, aerial photography, aerial spraying, firefighting etc, where crew members are “hired” by an air carrier or private operator and therefore “on duty” when operating the aircraft.

NOTAM Requirements

Q1. Are international flights from all countries permitted to land in Canada?

A1. On January 29, 2021, Transport Canada announced that it would be expanding existing international flight restrictions, which funnel international passenger flights into four Canadian airports: Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

This NOTAM came into effect on February 4, 2021, prohibiting all international passenger flights from landing in Canada outside of the four named Canadian airports. NOTAM restrictions apply to all aircraft operating under the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs), including subpart 604 (i.e. Business Aviation), which amounts to most of the traffic coming into Canada. NOTAM restrictions do not currently apply to General Aviation (recreational aircraft).

Effective April 22, 2021 at 23:30 EDT, commercial and private passenger flights from India and Pakistan will not be permitted to land in Canada for thirty days. Due to the high number of COVID-19 cases observed among air passengers arriving from India and Pakistan, Transport Canada has elected to issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to suspend entry of flights from these countries.

In addition, the Minister of Transport is amending the [*Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19*](#) so that direct air operators will no longer accept COVID-19 molecular tests administered in India or Pakistan as of 23:30 EDT on April 22, 2021.

All other international flights will be permitted to land at the four named Canadian airports as long as passengers are not prohibited to enter Canada under the Public Health Agency of Canada’s [*Orders in Council \(Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States\)*](#) and [*Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States\)*](#).

Q2. When returning from outside of Canada, can I land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?

A2. With the intent to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Canada, expanded restrictions have been adopted via the issuance of a NOTAM by Transport Canada under the authority of Section 5.1 of the *Aeronautics Act*. The NOTAM directs where certain aircraft must land when they are transporting passengers in to Canada. Beginning on 04 February 2021, aircraft subject to the restriction must, for the purpose of disembarking passengers, land at one of the following airports:

- a) Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau Intl QC (CYUL)
- b) Toronto/Lester B. Pearson Intl ON (CYYZ)
- c) Calgary/Yyc Calgary Intl AB (CYYC)
- d) Vancouver Intl BC (CYVR)

The following scenarios are **exemptions to the restriction**, regardless of the operator or aircraft type:

- a) Direct flights to Canada from Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon;
- b) Medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) – see Appendix B;
- c) Military and approved state flights, including those chartered aboard civilian aircraft;
- d) Ferry (e.g. delivery, maintenance) and positioning flights;
- e) Crew repatriation flights, including the return to Canada following mandatory training in relation to the operation of a conveyance, when a return to duty is required within 14 days;
- f) Cargo-only flights, including those transporting aircrew or other airline employees;
- g) Technical (fuel) stops where passengers do not disembark or otherwise enter Canada;
- h) Diversion to a Canadian aerodrome in response to weather, mechanical issues, or where an emergency is declared by the pilot in command; and
- i) In the case where special authorization has been granted by Transport Canada.

Q3. Does the NOTAM restriction apply to private general aviation aircraft?

A3. General aviation (privately owned recreational aircraft that are not used for conducting business) are currently not restricted by the NOTAM. The pilot and passengers of recreational aircraft must land at an authorized Airport of Entry (AOE) that is open for Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) immigration and customs processing, and comply with all federal and provincial public health measures that may apply. Restrictions related to General Aviation continue to evolve.

Q4. How can I receive a Special Authorization for an exemption from NOTAM requirements?

A4 Operators facing exigent circumstances may seek special authorization from Transport Canada to land at Airport of Entry (AOE) alternate to those listed in the restriction.

Exemptions to this restriction may be considered, in consultation with other Federal agencies, when there is a demonstrated need for direct transportation related to matters of safety, security, or the protection of the public.

A request for special authorization must be submitted within 5 business days prior notice of the proposed flight or flights, and contain the following information:

- a) Name of operator or person responsible for flight;
- b) Type of aircraft and registration marks;

- c) Date and time of arrival at, and departure from, the airport concerned;
- d) Place or places of embarkation or disembarkation of passengers abroad;
- e) Purpose of flight;
- f) Number of passengers and their nationality;
- g) Name, address, telephone number of the charterer, if applicable;
- h) Reason for special authorization;
- i) Steps to be taken to mitigate risk to Canadian public health on arrival; and
- j) Any other document Transport Canada deems necessary to ensure that the intended operation will be conducted safely and in the interest of public health.

The request for special authorization may be sent to:

- Aviation Operations Centre Transport Canada – Emergency Management / Government of Canada
- E-mail: operations.aviation@tc.gc.ca Tel.: 1-613-992-6853 Toll-free: 1-877-992-6853

Q5. Can medical evacuation flights (MEDEVAC) land at an airport outside of the four that are identified in the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)?

A5. All MEDEVAC flights entering Canada are exempt from the restrictions in the NOTAM. MEDEVAC flights may land at an airport other than the four airports identified in the NOTAM. All MEDEVAC flights entering Canada are required to make arrangements for Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) clearance, per standard procedures.

Restrictions imposed under the [Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19](#) issued by the Minister of Transport remain in effect for MEDEVAC operators. As a result, Transport Canada Civil Aviation issued an exemption for Canadian MEDEVAC operators (exemption NCR-132-2020) on December 23, 2020. Subject to stated conditions, this exemption allows Canadian air carriers operating international MEDEVAC flights to board passengers without having to meet the requirements in the *Interim Order*.

An exemption to the *Interim Order* can be acquired by contacting:

- Transport Canada Situation Centre (SITCEN) Transport Canada – Emergency Management / Government of Canada
 - E-mail: TC.SitcenHQ-CentredinterventionAC.TC@tc.gc.ca
 - Tel.: 1-613-995-9737
 - Toll-free: 1-888-857-4003

For a complete list of COVID related documents (e.g., exemptions and IO) issued by Transport Canada Civil Aviation please visit: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada>.

The *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs) define medical evacuation flight (MEDEVAC) as a flight that is carried out for the purpose of facilitating medical assistance and on which one or more of the following persons or things is transported:

- a) Medical personnel;
- b) Ill or injured persons;

- c) Human blood products or organs;
- d) Medical supplies.