

FAQ's for International Travelers and new testing requirements.

CDC Coronavirus International Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

Where can I get a test in foreign country?

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html>

FAQ's

Why does the Order specify 3 days rather than 72 hours? What is considered 3 days?

The 3-day period is the 3 days before the date of the flight's departure. By using a 3-day window, test validity does not depend on the time of the flight or the time of day that the test was administered.

For example, if a passenger's flight is at 1pm on a Friday, the passenger could board with a negative test that was taken any time on the prior Tuesday or after.

Can a test taken before departure from the US be used to return within the 3-day timeframe? How will testing requirements be handled for short trips?

If an international trip is shorter than 3 days, a viral test taken in the United States can be used to fulfill the requirements of the Order as long as the specimen was taken no more than three days before the return flight to the US departs. If the return travel is delayed longer than 3 days after the test, the passenger will need to be retested before the return flight.

What types of SARS-CoV-2 tests are acceptable under the Order?

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an antigen test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP), and transcription mediated amplification (TMA). The test used must be authorized for use by the relevant national authority for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in the country where the test is administered.

Will CDC provide information about international testing locations/availability and what tests are approved by relevant international authorities? CDC defers to the local authorities for information about location, availability, and authorization of testing in other countries. US travelers may also obtain COVID-19 Country Specific Information provided by the U.S. Department of State about testing locations and availability for the country where they are located. Aircraft operators may provide this information to passengers if they have it available.

When will email/telephone support be available?

CDC is working to establish a support center for issues related to its Order as soon as possible. At this time, please continue to visit the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States webpage for the most update information regarding this Order. Air carriers and operators whose question cannot be answered by the online FAQs may also email their inquiries to

eocgmftcommsme@cdc.gov. Please do not share this email address with members of the general public.

Is flight departure scheduled departure time or actual departure time?

CDC understands that certain events may result in operational delays. If an individual's test becomes more than 3 days old because of a delay in departure, the individual will be required to obtain another negative Qualifying Test to meet the terms of the CDC Order.

Should passengers retain proof of a negative test or documentation of recovery?

Yes, passengers must still retain a paper or electronic copy of the necessary documentation as federal public health officials may request to see these documents at the port of entry and state, territorial, tribal and/or local health departments in the United States may request them under their own public health authorities.

Can air carriers and operators keep a list of passengers who have provided an attestation instead of copies of the individual forms?

Air carriers and operators must retain a copy of the attestation in full for each passenger, not just a list of individuals who provided them,

Does the passenger also need to have a copy of their attestation as well as the air carrier/operator retaining it?

Passengers are only required to retain a paper or electronic copy of their negative test result or documentation of recovery and present it to the air carrier or operator, or to public health officials at destination upon request. They need not retain a copy of the signed attestation.

Will there be an exemption for persons who have been vaccinated?

CDC has not yet issued guidance on management of vaccinated people during travel, and there are no established international standards for vaccines or documentation of vaccination currently. CDC will update the Order and the Requirement for Negative Pre-Departure Covid-19 Test Result or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 for all Airline or other Aircraft Passengers Arriving into the United States from any Foreign Country webpage as needed once the necessary guidance and standards are available. Until then, all air passengers traveling to the US, regardless of vaccination or antibody status, are required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery.

What if someone is stuck in a place today that doesn't have testing for them before tomorrow's implementation date?

Passengers should contact the airline regarding options for changing their departure date to allow time for a test, whether the airline has identified options for testing, or if there are options available for changing their flights to transit through a location where they can get tested before boarding their final flight to the United States.