



Government of Canada lightens border measures as part of transition of the pandemic response

On February 15, 2022 the Government of Canada will announce a series of changes adapting its approach on border measures to transition towards a more sustainable framework to long-term management of COVID-19.

Effective February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST:

- We will be easing the on-arrival testing for fully-vaccinated travellers that was in place prior to December 15, 2021. This means that travellers arriving to Canada from any country, who qualify as [fully vaccinated](#), will not need to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival, unless randomly selected. Travellers selected for mandatory random testing (MRT) will also no longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.
 - Not fully vaccinated children under 12 years old, travelling with their parents (and other eligible adults) who qualify as fully vaccinated or have a medical contraindication to vaccination, will continue to be exempt from quarantine, but are no longer subject to any prescribed conditions limiting their activities. This means, for example, they no longer need to wait 14 days before attending school, camp or daycare.
 - Travellers who do not qualify as fully vaccinated will continue to be required to test on arrival, on Day 8 and quarantine for 14 days. Foreign nationals who do not qualify as fully vaccinated are not permitted to enter Canada unless they meet one of the few exemptions.
- Travellers presenting a **negative** COVID-19 test result will now have the option of using an antigen test result (taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) or a molecular test result (taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) to meet pre-entry requirements. To be valid, the COVID-19 antigen test must be authorized by the country in which it was purchased and must be administered by a laboratory, healthcare entity or telehealth service. To prove a previous COVID-19 infection, the Government of Canada will continue to only accept molecular test results, taken at least 10 calendar days and no more than 180 calendar days before entering Canada.
- The Government of Canada will adjust its Travel Health Notice from a Level 3 to a Level 2. This means that the Government will no longer recommend that Canadians avoid travel for non-essential purposes.

Key Messages:

- Like every other element of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 response, border measures are informed by available data, operational considerations, scientific evidence and monitoring of the epidemiological situation both in Canada and internationally.
- Recent data indicates that the latest wave of COVID-19, driven by the Omicron variant, has passed its peak in Canada and that now is the time to re-evaluate and adapt the Government of Canada's approach on border measures.
- On February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST, a series of changes will be made to Canada's border measures to help Canada transition towards a more sustainable framework to long-term management of COVID-19.



- The adjustments to Canada's border measures are made possible by a number of factors, including Canada's high vaccination rate, the increasing availability and use of rapid tests to detect infection, decreasing hospitalizations and growing domestic availability of treatments for COVID-19.
- As vaccination levels, case counts and hospitalization rates improve, the Government of Canada will continue to consider further easing of measures at the borders—and when to lift or adjust them—to keep Canadians safe.

Pre-entry testing

Effective February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST, travellers required to present a **negative** COVID-19 test result will now have the option of using an antigen test result (taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) or a molecular test result (taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry).

- Unless otherwise exempt, all travellers 5 years of age or older must provide proof of an accepted type of pre-entry COVID-19 test result:
 - a valid **negative** antigen test result taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry;
 - a valid **negative** [molecular test](#) result taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry; or
 - a previous **positive molecular** test result taken at least 10 calendar days and no more than 180 calendar days before entering Canada.
- To be valid, the COVID-19 antigen tests must be authorized by the country in which it was purchased and must be administered by a laboratory, healthcare entity or telehealth service.
- Whether using molecular or antigen tests, travellers must continue to attest in ArriveCAN that they have proof of a valid test result in their possession and must present a copy to air carriers and to border services officers upon request.
- A negative COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) or positive COVID-19 molecular test must be verified by airlines to board a plane to Canada. Travellers who fail to provide proof will be denied boarding, regardless of their nationality.
- Foreign nationals who arrive at the border without the valid information may be denied entry. Travellers with right of entry would be allowed to enter Canada but may face a fine.

Mandatory randomized testing for fully vaccinated arrivals from all countries

- Effective February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST, fully vaccinated travellers arriving to Canada from any country will not need to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival, unless selected for mandatory randomized testing.
- If selected for mandatory randomized testing, travellers will not be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.



Mandatory arrival and post-arrival testing for travellers who are not fully vaccinated

- Unless otherwise exempt, all travellers eligible to enter Canada who do not qualify as fully vaccinated will continue to be tested with COVID-19 molecular tests on arrival and on Day 8, while they quarantine for 14 days.

Modified quarantine for children under 12 who aren't fully vaccinated and are travelling with vaccinated adults

- Children under 12 years old who are not fully vaccinated, travelling with parents and other eligible adults who qualify as fully vaccinated or have a medical contraindication to vaccination will continue to be exempt from quarantine, without any prescribed conditions limiting their activities.
- Effective February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST, these children will no longer be subject to additional conditions. This means, for example, they no longer need to wait 14 days before attending school, camp or daycare. They will also no longer be subject to testing and other specific requirements, regardless of their vaccination status.
- These children may be selected for mandatory random testing upon arrival; however, they will not be required to quarantine while awaiting the Day 1 test result.
- Parents should also check with local public health authority, school or daycare on additional post-travel requirements. Many jurisdictions across Canada have recently reduced their isolation and quarantine periods. If there is a discrepancy between federal requirements and those outlined by your province, territory or community, you are required to follow to the more stringent requirement.

Global travel advisory

- Effective February 28, 2022 at 12:01 AM EST, the Government of Canada will ease its Travel Health Notice from level 3 to 2. This change means that the Government will no longer recommend that Canadians avoid non-essential travel to all destinations. However, travellers should understand the risks that are still associated with international travel, and take necessary precautions.
- Anyone who has not completed a COVID-19 vaccine series should continue to avoid non-essential travel to all destinations. If you must travel, consider delaying your plans until you're fully vaccinated.
- All eligible travellers should complete a COVID-19 vaccine series along with any additional recommended doses in Canada, at least 14 days before travelling.
 - Evidence shows that vaccines are very effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. While vaccination provides better protection against serious illness, you may still be at risk of infection from the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Anyone who has not completed a vaccine series is at increased risk of being infected with and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 when travelling internationally and is at greater risk for severe disease.



- In considering whether to travel, travellers should consider the availability of medical services abroad, and plan for the potential high costs associated with medical treatment and extending their trip, if they test positive for COVID-19 while abroad.
- Travellers should also understand that there is also the risk that border and travel measures in other countries, and in Canada, may change while travellers are abroad. Travellers should regularly review the entry requirements and exemptions for their travel situation.