

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Australia

COVID-19 screening reintroduced for travelers from China

Executive summary

Travelers to Australia from China, including Hong Kong and Macau, are again required to show evidence of a negative COVID-19 test undertaken within 48 hours before the scheduled departure date. The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care has set out the [specific requirements](#) explained below.

Employers and travelers will need to take this requirement into account when making plans to travel to Australia.

Who needs a COVID-19 test?

A test is required for all travelers 12 years of age and over, including Australian citizens and permanent residents, entering Australia from China, including Hong Kong and Macau via:

- ▶ a direct flight
- ▶ a flight with a stopover in third country of less than 24 hours
- ▶ a flight with a stopover in Australia for more than 24 hours

Who is exempt?

- ▶ children under 12
- ▶ travelers to Australia from a third country who transit through China including Hong Kong and Macau for less than 24 hours
- ▶ travelers transiting directly through Australia
- ▶ airline crew
- ▶ travelers on emergency medical evacuation flights
- ▶ travelers entering by sea

- ▶ travelers with evidence from a medical practitioner in the last 30 days that they have a medical condition that prevents them from undertaking a test
- ▶ travelers who have had and recovered from COVID-19 in the last 30 days with evidence from a medical practitioner that includes:
 - ▶ the date of the medical assessment
 - ▶ the date of the first positive COVID-19 test and a statement this date is at least 7 days before the medical assessment
 - ▶ a statement that the traveler had COVID-19 but is now considered recovered and not infectious
 - ▶ a statement that the traveler has not had a fever or respiratory symptoms in the last 72 hours

Which tests are accepted?

Either:

- ▶ a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) administered or supervised by a medical practitioner

OR

- ▶ a Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAA) test, including:
 - ▶ polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
 - ▶ loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP)
 - ▶ transcription mediated amplification (TMA)

Serology or antibody tests will not be accepted.

When must the test be taken?

The test must be taken in the 48 hours before the scheduled departure date.

If a flight is delayed, a new test is not required.

If a flight is rescheduled or cancelled, a new test *may* be required as the test must be taken no more than 48 hours before the new scheduled departure date.

How do travelers show evidence of their test?

If a NAA test is used, a result from the testing provider is accepted.

If a RAT test is used, a certificate from the medical practitioner administering, or supervising, the RAT will be required. This certificate must include:

- ▶ date and time of the test
- ▶ name of the individual tested
- ▶ type of test conducted
- ▶ brand and make of the test
- ▶ certification that the specimen for the test was collected, and the test was carried out, by or under the supervision of a medical practitioner
- ▶ result of the test
- ▶ signature of the medical practitioner providing the certificate.

There is no requirement for evidence to be in English.

When must the test result be shown?

Evidence of a negative test result must be shown to the airline when checking in for a flight to Australia. It may also be required on arrival in Australia.

Next steps

EY will continue to keep you informed. Keep up with global developments by using EY's [Global Immigration Tracker](#).

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