

Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2021



China

New, stricter requirements for obtaining health codes in 55 jurisdictions

Executive summary

The Chinese authorities recently implemented new, stricter requirements for issuing health codes to China-bound travelers departing from 55 jurisdictions, including locations in Canada and the United States.

New health code application requirements in 55 locations

Chinese Embassies in 55 jurisdictions recently announced new, stricter requirements for obtaining a health code, which is required by foreign travelers prior to entering China. In general, the changes include heightened COVID-19 testing and self-isolation requirements, and stricter eligibility criteria for non-Chinese nationals who recovered from COVID-19 or present symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of applying for a health code. Travelers are advised to confirm their specific requirements for entry into China with the Chinese Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over the location where their China-bound travel will originate.

For additional information regarding the new requirements for obtaining health codes in the following 55 locations, click on the name of the location. Locations with an asterisk include only a Chinese version of the new information (i.e., no English version is available as of the time of this writing): [Austria*](#), [Bahrain](#), [Belarus*](#), [Belgium*](#), [Bulgaria*](#), [Cambodia*](#), [Canada*](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [the Czech Republic*](#), [Denmark*](#), [Egypt*](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France*](#), [Germany*](#), [Hungary*](#), [Indonesia](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy*](#), [Jordan*](#), [Kuwait](#), [Latvia](#), [Lebanon](#), [Luxembourg*](#), [Malaysia*](#), [Malta*](#), [Mauritius*](#), [Mexico*](#), [Myanmar*](#), [the Netherlands](#), [New Zealand](#), [Nigeria](#), [Norway](#), [the Philippines*](#), [Poland*](#), [Portugal*](#), [Qatar](#), [Romania*](#),

[Russia*](#), [Serbia*](#), [Singapore*](#), [Slovenia](#), [Slovakia*](#), [South Korea*](#), [Spain*](#), [Switzerland*](#), [Thailand](#), [the Ukraine*](#), [the United Arab Emirates*](#), [the United Kingdom*](#), [the United States](#), [Uzbekistan*](#), [Vietnam](#), [Zimbabwe*](#).

Travel from New York

China-bound travelers departing from New York are now subject to new entry requirements. These travelers are divided into two groups: those who never contracted COVID-19 and those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have since made a full recovery.

Travelers who never contracted COVID-19 are now required to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to taking nucleic acid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and immunoglobulin M (IgM) COVID-19 tests. Previously, this rule was not in place.

Travelers who recovered from COVID-19 are now required to comply with the following measures prior to travel:

- ▶ Undergo a lung X-ray or CT exam in a hospital in New York, and obtain documentation proving that they do not have pneumonia
- ▶ Take two nucleic acid COVID-19 tests (at least one day apart from each other) and test negative for both
- ▶ [Email](#) the negative results of the CT/X-ray and nucleic acid tests to the Chinese Consulate in New York within three days of completing the tests, and request the Consulate's written confirmation that the traveler is deemed to have recovered from COVID-19. The subject

line of the email should read as follows: *Full Name - Passport Number - Confirmation of Recovery Application*

- ▶ Receive an approval email from the New York Consulate confirming that the traveler qualifies as a recovered person for purposes of entry to China
- ▶ Self-isolate at home and monitor their health for 14 days. Complete a [form](#) at the end of the 14-day period confirming that they have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms

Travel from Dallas

China-bound travelers departing from Dallas are also subject to stricter entry rules, which vary based on whether they previously contracted COVID-19. Travelers who never contracted COVID-19 are now required to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to taking their pre-travel PCR and IgM COVID-19 tests.

Travelers departing from Dallas who recovered from COVID-19 must take: (1) a first PCR COVID-19 test and test negative, (2) undergo a lung X-ray or CT exam in a Dallas hospital and obtain documentation proving that they do not have pneumonia, and (3) take a second PCR test and test negative. The three tests must be completed in the order listed above, and the second PCR test must occur at least 24 hours after the first one. Once the three tests are completed, travelers must self-isolate at home and monitor their health for 14 days. Travelers who do not experience COVID-19 symptoms during the 14-day self-isolation period must take a third PCR test and an IgM test at [one](#) of [two](#) approved laboratories no more than 48 hours prior to travel to China, and test negative for both. The first two PCR tests may be conducted at a laboratory or medical facility of the traveler's choosing. Travelers who recovered from COVID-19 and travel to China from Dallas do not require an email from a Chinese Consulate or Embassy confirming that they are deemed to be recovered persons for purposes of entry to China.

Travel from Los Angeles

China-bound travelers departing from Los Angeles are divided into the same two groups as those who depart from New York and Dallas. Travelers departing from Los Angeles who never contracted COVID-19 are now required to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to taking their pre-travel PCR and IgM COVID-19 tests.

Travelers departing from Los Angeles who recovered from COVID-19 must now comply with the following measures prior to travel:

- ▶ Undergo a lung X-ray or CT exam in a Los Angeles hospital, and obtain documents proving that they do not have pneumonia
- ▶ Take two nucleic acid PCR COVID-19 tests (at least one day apart from each other) and test negative for both
- ▶ [Email](#) the negative results of the CT/X-ray and nucleic acid tests to the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles within three days of completing the tests, and request the Consulate's written confirmation that they qualify as recovered persons for purposes of entry to China. The subject line of the email should read as follows: *Full Name - Passport Number - Confirmation of Recovery Application*
- ▶ Receive an approval email from the Los Angeles Consulate confirming that the traveler qualifies as a recovered person for purposes of entry to China
- ▶ Self-isolate at home and monitor their health for 14 days

Travelers who do not experience COVID-19 symptoms during the 14-day self-isolation period must take a third PCR test and an IgM test at an [approved laboratory](#) no more than 48 hours prior to travel to China, and test negative for both. The first two PCR tests may be conducted at a laboratory or medical facility of the travelers' choosing. Travelers who test positive for COVID-19 in the 48 hours leading up to their travel are advised to postpone their trip by at least six months and review the applicable rules for entry to China at that time.

Travel from Canada

China-bound travelers departing from Canada who never contracted COVID-19 are now required to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to taking PCR and IgM COVID-19 tests.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, please contact any of our immigration professionals.

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