

# Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2021



## China

New, stricter immigration policies for travelers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Malaysia

### Executive summary

The Chinese authorities recently implemented new, stricter requirements for issuing health codes to China-bound travelers departing from the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Malaysia.

### Travel from San Francisco and Seattle

As of 2 September 2021, China-bound travelers departing from San Francisco and Seattle are 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 and immunoglobulin M (IgM) COVID-19 tests. Previously, these travelers were not required to be fully vaccinated in advance of travel.

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 the San Francisco or Seattle areas, 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 San Francisco to request their 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 San Francisco Consulate confirming that they qualify as recovered persons for purposes of entry to China
- ▶ Self-isolate at home and monitor their health for a period of three months. Complete a [form](#) at the end of the three-month period confirming that they have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms

China-bound travelers departing from San Francisco or Seattle who hold valid Chinese residence permits (for work, personal affairs or family reunion) no longer require advance email approval from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco prior to applying for a health code, unless they tested positive for COVID-19 previously and have since recovered. This latter group must comply with the measures listed above. Previously, residence permit holders were required to request advance approval from the Consulate and submit extensive documentation in support of the request.

### Travel from Detroit

As of 14 September 2021, China-bound travelers departing from Detroit are subject to new entry rules. These travelers are divided into three groups: (1) those who never contracted COVID-19, (2) those who recovered from COVID-19, and (3) those who came into close contact with someone who tested positive for, or presented symptoms of, COVID-19.

Travelers who never contracted COVID-19 are now required to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to taking the nucleic acid and IgM (antibody) COVID-19 tests.

Travelers who have fully 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 the Detroit area, and obtain documentation proving that they do not have pneumonia and that there are no abnormalities detected
- ▶ Undergo two nucleic acid COVID-19 tests (at least one day apart from each other) and test negative for both
- ▶ [Email](#) the results of the CT/X-ray and nucleic acid tests to the Chinese Consulate in Chicago (which has jurisdiction over Detroit) to request their 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 Chicago Consulate confirming that they qualify as recovered persons for purposes of entry to China
- ▶ Self-isolate at home, monitor their health for 14 days and complete the [Personal Health Monitoring Form](#). Recovered travelers who experience symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14-day isolation period must take another nucleic acid test at an [approved laboratory](#). Individuals who test negative for the additional nucleic acid test must isolate and monitor their health for a second 14-day period, whereas those who test positive are advised to seek medical treatment at a hospital

Travelers who came into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or presented symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate at home for 14 days, take three nucleic acid tests (i.e., on the first, fourth and seventh day of isolation) at an [approved laboratory](#), and complete the [Personal Health Monitoring Form](#). Provided that they test negative for all three nucleic acid tests and do not present symptoms of COVID-19 during the isolation period, the traveler should then [email](#) the form to the Chicago Consulate to request permission to proceed with applying for a health code. Provided that the Chicago Consulate grants such permission, the traveler must then take another nucleic acid test, as well as an IgM antibody test, no more than 48 hours prior to their travel, and test negative for both, before [applying](#) for a health code.

#### **Travel from the United Kingdom and Spain**

Effective 2 September 2021 and 7 September 2021, China-bound travelers departing from the United Kingdom and Spain, respectively, are required to:

- ▶ Take a nucleic acid test seven days prior to their departure. Previously, this additional test was not required. If the test is negative, the test result should be included when applying for a health code to enter China. If the test is positive, the traveler must wait until they have fully recovered from COVID-19 before getting tested again and re-applying to obtain a health code
- ▶ Monitor their health during the seven-day period preceding their request for a health code and complete the [UK Personal Health Monitoring Form](#) or the [Spanish version](#) of the form, depending on their departure country. The signed form must be included in the request for a health code
- ▶ Take an additional nucleic acid test, as well as an IgM test, no more than 48 hours prior to departure, and test negative. These tests must be completed at a different medical institution than the institution where the traveler took the nucleic acid test seven days prior to travel

#### **Travel from France**

Effective 2 September 2021, China-bound travelers departing from France who hold valid Chinese residence permits (for work, personal affairs or family reunion) no longer require a visa to enter China, in addition to their residence permit. The requirement to obtain a visa was implemented in November 2020. These travelers are still required to take nucleic acid and IgM tests, test negative for both and obtain a health code prior to departure from France.

#### **Travel from Malaysia**

Effective 7 September 2021, China-bound travelers departing from Malaysia are required to:

- ▶ Self-isolate at home, monitor their health for at least 21 days prior to travel and sign a Letter of Commitment for Health Protection ("Letter"). These travelers must fill out the Health Status Monitoring form ("Form") and track the status of their health on a daily basis over the course of the seven days immediately preceding their travel. For more information, click [here](#). Previously, the 21-day self-isolation period, as well as the Letter and Form, were not required.
- ▶ Take two sets of nucleic acid and IgM COVID-19 tests and test negative for all tests. The first set of nucleic acid and IgM tests must be completed seven days prior to travel, whereas the second set must be completed no more than 48 hours prior to travel. The two sets of tests must be completed at different [approved institutions](#) (see Appendix 7), and all negative test results must be submitted to the [Chinese Embassy](#) (see Appendix 8) prior to obtaining a health code. Travelers are required to download the WeChat mobile phone application to upload their test results. Previously, travelers departing from Malaysia were only required to take nucleic acid and IgM tests once (no more than 48 hours prior to travel) and obtain a health code.

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