

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023

Canada

Pre-arrival molecular COVID-19 test required to enter Canada for those travelling from China, Hong Kong or Macao

Executive summary

On 31 December 2022, the Canadian government announced that all travellers entering Canada from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong or Macao will once again need to provide proof of a negative molecular COVID-19 test or a negative antigen test. The rule takes effect on 5 January 2023. These measures apply to all air travellers regardless of nationality and vaccination status and will be in place for 30 days.

Key developments

All Canadians and foreign nationals who are two years of age or older must provide proof of a COVID-19 negative molecular test result or a negative antigen test that includes documentation to show that it has been monitored by a telehealth service or an accredited laboratory or testing provider. Tests must be taken no more than 48 hours before the traveller's departure flight from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong or Macao. For individuals who have already had COVID-19 and recovered and are symptom-free, proof of a previous positive test result taken between 10 and 90 days from the positive test date can be provided in lieu of a negative test.

What this means

If arriving in Canada by air, the COVID-19 test must be taken with 48 hours of the scheduled departure time of the flight to Canada. For those with connecting flights, the test must be taken within 48 hours of the scheduled departure time of your last direct flight to Canada. This means that for some travellers, a test may need to be scheduled in a transit city.

Key steps

While not mandatory, the Canadian Government continues to strongly recommend that all travelers wear a well-constructed and well-fitted mask during their travel on plane and in airports or other crowded settings. Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms should delay travelling.

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.



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