

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



South Korea

New COVID-19-related restrictions for travelers arriving from China Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau

Executive summary

Effective 5 January 2023, travelers arriving from China Mainland must take a COVID-19 test prior to departure, and test negative, to be admitted to South Korea. Effective 7 January 2023, this measure was extended to travelers arriving from Macau and Hong Kong. The COVID-19 testing requirement will stay in place for these travelers until 28 February 2023.

Key developments

Effective 5 January 2023, travelers arriving from China Mainland (and effective 7 January 2023, those arriving from Macau and Hong Kong) must take a professionally administered rapid antigen COVID-19 test (RAT) no more than 24 hours prior to departure, or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) nucleic acid COVID-19 test taken no more than 48 hours prior to departure, and test negative. They must upload the negative test result on the [Q-code](#) portal prior to arrival, obtain a QR code and present it to the airplane crew when boarding.

Effective 2 January 2023, all entrants traveling from China Mainland, or who were present in China Mainland in the seven days prior to their entry to South Korea, must take a PCR COVID-19 test no more than one business day after their arrival in South Korea and upload the result on the Q-code website. Those who test positive must quarantine for seven days at a location subject to the discretion of the authorities. In general, short-term visa holders (including travelers who hold Korea Electronic Travel Authorization or K-ETA) are required to quarantine at a government facility, and long-term visa holders are required to quarantine at a private accommodation.

These measures are expected to remain in place until 28 February 2023 and may be extended at the discretion of the authorities.

Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted employees traveling from the jurisdictions above of the new requirements to avoid delays or complications relating to travel to South Korea.

Key steps

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

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