

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Guidelines for International Arrivals
(in supersession of all guidelines issued on the subject on and after 20 January 2022)

Introduction

The global and Indian growth trajectory of COVID-19 pandemic continues with regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of virus and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) thus, must still remain in focus. The extant guidelines for international arrivals in India continue being formulated taking a risk-based approach. While monitoring the nature and spread of infection in the country and across the globe, cognizance is also given to the fact that economic activities need to be taken up in an unhindered manner.

Scope

This document provides protocols to be complied by international travellers as well as those to be followed by airlines and all points of entry (airports, seaports and land border).

This Standard Operating Procedure shall be valid **w.e.f. 14th February 2022 (00.01 Hrs IST)** till further orders. Based on the risk assessment, this document shall be reviewed from time to time.

A.1. Planning for Travel

- i. All travellers should
 - a. Submit complete and factual information in self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal (<https://www.newdelhiairport.in/airsuvidha/apfo-registration>) before the scheduled travel, including last 14 days travel details.
 - b. Upload a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR report* (The test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey)

or

Certificate of completing full primary vaccination schedule of COVID-19 vaccination**.
 - c. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise.
- ii. They should also give an undertaking on the portal or otherwise to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, through concerned airlines before they are allowed to undertake the journey that they would abide by the decision of the appropriate government authority any post arrival requirement to undergo home/institutional quarantine/ self-health monitoring, as warranted.

A.2. Before Boarding

- iii. Do's and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travellers by the airlines/agencies concerned.
- iv. Airlines to allow boarding by only those passengers who have filled in all the information in the Self Declaration Form on the Air Suvidha portal and uploaded the negative RT-PCR test report or Covid -19 vaccination certificate of having completed the primary vaccination schedule**.

- v. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- vi. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.

A.3. During Travel

- vii. In-flight announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports and in flights and during transit.
- viii. During in-flight crew shall ensure that COVID appropriate behaviour is followed at all times.
- ix. If any passenger reports symptoms of COVID-19 during flight, he/she shall be isolated as per protocol.
- x. Proper in-flight announcements should be made by the airlines regarding the testing requirements and people who need to undergo such testing to avoid any congestion at the arrival airports.

A.4. On arrival

- xi. De-boarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- xii. Thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the health officials present at the airport. The self-declaration form filled online shall be shown to the airport health staff.
- xiii. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified and managed as per laid down protocol[#].
- xiv. The following protocol post arrival shall also be followed
 - a. A sub-section (2% of the total passengers in the flight) shall undergo random post-arrival testing at the airport on arrival.
 - b. Such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries). They will submit the samples and shall be allowed to leave the airport.
 - c. If such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be further sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory network.
 - d. They shall be treated/isolated as per laid down standard protocol.
- xv. All travellers will self-monitor their health for next 14 days of arrival.
- xvi. If travellers under self-health monitoring, develop signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, they will immediately self-isolate and report to their nearest health facility or call National helpline number (1075)/ State Helpline Number.

International travellers arriving at seaports/land ports

- xvii. International travellers arriving through seaports/land ports will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, except that facility for online registration is not available for such passengers currently.
- xviii. Such travellers shall submit the self-declaration form to the concerned authorities of Government of India at seaports/land ports on arrival.

* Children under 5 years of age are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during the period of self-monitoring period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol.

** There are Countries which have agreement with India on mutual recognition of vaccination certificates of Nationally recognised or WHO recognised vaccines. Similarly, there are Countries which presently do not have such an agreement with India, but they exempt Indian citizens fully vaccinated with Nationally recognised or WHO recognised vaccines. On the basis of reciprocity, the travellers from only such Countries which provide quarantine-free entry to Indians will be allowed for relaxation under Certificate of completing full primary vaccination schedule of COVID-19 vaccination. The listing of such Countries is available on website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (mohfw.gov.in) and the link of the same will be available at website of Ministry of External Affairs and Air Suvidha Portal. This is also a dynamic list and will be updated from time to time. The travellers from such countries only are considered for allowing entry based on vaccination certificate & shall upload their fully vaccinate certificate on the Air Suvidha portal.

Contacts of the suspect case are the co-passengers seated in the same row, 3 rows in front and 3 rows behind along with identified Cabin Crew.

List of Countries/Regions in respect of which primary vaccination schedule completion certificate is allowed to be uploaded

As on 10th February 2022

1	Albania
2	Andorra
3	Angola
4	Antigua & Barbuda
5	Australia
6	Austria
7	Azerbaijan
8	Bangladesh
9	Bahrain
10	Belarus
11	Botswana
12	Bulgaria
13	Canada
14	Cambodia
15	Chile
16	Columbia
17	Commonwealth of Dominica
18	Costa Rica
19	Croatia
20	Cuba
21	Cyprus
22	Denmark
23	Estonia
24	Finland
25	Georgia
26	Grenada
27	Guatemala
28	Guyana
29	Hong Kong
30	Hungary
31	Iceland
32	Iran

33	Ireland
34	Israel
35	Kazakhstan
36	Kyrgyzstan
37	Latvia
38	Lebanon
39	Liechtenstein
40	Malaysia
41	Maldives
42	Mali
43	Mauritius
44	Mexico
45	Moldova
46	Mongolia
47	Myanmar
48	Namibia
49	Nepal
50	New Zealand
51	Netherlands
52	Nicaragua
53	North Macedonia
54	Oman
55	Paraguay
56	Panama
57	Portugal
58	Philippines
59	Qatar
60	Romania
61	St. Kitts and Nevis
62	San Marino
63	Saudi Arabia
64	Serbia
65	Sierra Leone
66	Singapore
67	Slovak Republic

68	Slovenia
69	Spain
70	Sri Lanka
71	State of Palestine
72	Sweden
73	Switzerland
74	Thailand
75	The United Kingdom
76	Trinidad & Tobago
77	Turkey
78	Ukraine
79	United States of America
80	Venezuela
81	Vietnam
82	Zimbabwe

AV-29017/14/2020-DT
Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation

B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
New Delhi, Dated 21.03.2022

ORDER

Subject: Review of COVID-19 guidelines for International flight operations.

In view of the declining Covid-19 cases, high level of vaccinations and prevailing Covid situation, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had allowed full domestic operations w.e.f 18.10.2021 and now has decided to recommence of International Scheduled Air Operations with effect from 27th March 2022.

In order to facilitate International & domestic air operations in view of the safety of passengers and smooth conduct of air operations, the Air Transport Facilitation Committee (ATFC) reviewed the extant guidelines on International & Domestic Operations in its meeting held on 10.03.2022. Based on the recommendations of ATFC, MoCA has now decided to amend the existing provision of the guidelines to that extent as follows:


S. No.	Extant Guideline/ Instruction	Revised Position
1.	Keeping 3 seats vacant on International flights	<p>The restriction of keeping 3 seats vacant on International flights for handling medical emergencies related to Covid-19, stands removed.</p> <p>Passengers to however, continue to upload Vaccination Completion Certificate and RT-PCR negative report before boarding the flights as per the extant protocol / guideline of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).</p> <p>Required precautions followed by crew as per extant regulations, in case of medical emergency, shall continue. Airlines may carry a few additional PPE protective gears, sanitizers and N-95 masks, to handle any respiratory infections related cases on air, for passengers as well as the crew.</p>
2.	Requirement of PPE kits and other protective gear	<p>The requirement of complete PPE Kit for crew members, stands removed. However, use of face mask and maintenance of hand hygiene / sanitizers continued to be mandatory.</p>



3.	MoHFW, Guidelines for domestic travel, dated 25.08.2021	The MoHFW Guidelines issued for the movement of domestic passengers dated 25.08.2021, stands extended to the International passengers, as well. The wearing of masks at Airports and in Aircraft is reiterated to be continued. Airlines/Airport operators to keep spare masks to make available to such passengers who are found without masks while enforcing wearing of mask at the Airport /in the Aircraft. Airport operators and Airlines should make sanitizers easily accessible for hand hygiene of passengers/crew at Airports and in Aircraft respectively.
4.	Reintroduction of pat-down screening	The pat-down search by the Security personnel at Airports is reintroduced, wherever needed, as per BCAS's directions. During the process, the Security personnel to wear N-95 mask and sanitize hands after each pat-down search, besides following regular Covid-19 protocols.

2. The above decisions would come into effect from the date of issuance of this order. Further, these provisions would be reviewed on regular basis and necessary modification(s) whenever required, would be carried out on the basis of inputs from experts.

3. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.


 (Usha Padhee) 21/3/22
 Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

To,

- A. Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- B. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- C. Directorate General of Civil Aviation [Kind Attn: Shri Arun Kumar, DG] –with a request to bring the contents of the Order to the notice of all concerned.
- D. Director General, BCAS
- E. Shri S.K. Mishra, Joint Secretary, Agreement Section – for necessary action.
- F. PS to HMCA
- G. PS to HMoSCA
- H. All domestic scheduled airlines for necessary action.