

# Mobility: immigration alert

January 2021

## United States

### New COVID-19 test requirement prior to international air travel to the United States

#### Executive summary

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a new mandatory requirement in which all travelers flying into the U.S. from abroad must have a negative COVID-19 test procured within 72 hours prior to their departure. This will come into effect on 26 January 2021.

#### Background

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the implementation of a new mandatory requirement in which all travelers flying into the U.S. from abroad must have a negative result of a COVID-19 test prior to their scheduled departure. The order was signed by the CDC Director on 12 January 2021 and will become effective on 26 January 2021.

The negative COVID viral test must have been performed no more than 72 hours before boarding an aircraft for to the United States or the traveler must prove that he/she has had COVID-19 in the past and recovered.

This requirement is applicable to both U.S. citizens and all foreign nationals flying into the U.S. Those who fail to provide a negative test will be refused to board their flight by the carrier.

#### What this means

Individuals looking to enter the United States via air travel should be tested at a minimum of 72 hours prior to their scheduled departure time to the U.S. Travelers must provide written or electronic documentation of their negative test results or proof of having recovered from COVID-19. Airlines will confirm negative results or documentation of recovery prior to passengers boarding the aircraft. If a passenger cannot provide documentation of a negative test or recovery, the airline must deny boarding to the passenger.

Our recommendation: travelers and their employers should, before all travel, investigate whether discretionary and/or business travelers are able to obtain appropriate tests from their departure country. Remember that the new rule takes effect on 26 January 2021.

For more information on the recommendation and new requirements, please review the CDC information found here: [Testing and International Air Travel | CDC](#)

We will continue to monitor and review future developments.

For questions, or if you wish to discuss this development further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.



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