

Mobility: immigration alert

February 2021

Canada

Canada confirms hotel quarantine measures and airport and land border testing

Executive summary

New testing and quarantine upon arrival requirements were announced by Prime Minister Trudeau on 12 February 2021. There are somewhat different rules in place, depending on whether the international traveler is arriving in Canada via a land border, or whether he or she is arriving at one of the four designated airports accepting international passenger traffic during the pandemic (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal). In addition to the below information, there continues to be a 14-day quarantine requirement for all new international arrivals to Canada, unless a person is otherwise specifically exempted.

Background and impact

As of 15 February 2021, all travelers who arrive by land, with some exceptions for essential workers, will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours of pre-arrival, or a positive test taken 14 to 90 days prior to arrival.

In addition, as of 22 February 2021, travelers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine. The cost of testing will be the responsibility of the traveler. Use of the ArriveCAN app will now be mandatory for everyone arriving by land as well. This app can be accessed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

Dependent children under the age of 18 will be able to apply for study permits or visitor status to accompany their parents in Canada.

As of 22 February 2021, with limited exceptions, international air travelers will also be required to reserve, prior to departure to Canada, a 3-night quarantine stay in a government-authorized hotel immediately upon arrival in Canada. Travelers will be able to book their government-authorized stay starting 18 February 2021. Travelers will be responsible for the cost of the hotel (which will include meals) and COVID-19 testing. Additionally, all travelers, with some exceptions, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test when they arrive in Canada before exiting the airport, and another toward the end of their 14-day quarantine period. This is in addition to the already existing requirement that travelers present a negative test result from the previous 72 hours in order to board an aircraft to Canada.

Use of the ArriveCAN app continues to be mandatory for everyone arriving by land as well. This app can be accessed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

Returning Canadian citizens and permanent residents who fail to comply with these new requirements face a possible fine of \$3000, while foreign nationals seeking to enter Canada without complying with these new requirements face refusal of admission.

Travelers who may need to book connecting flights within Canada should be advised that they should ensure that they will be required to quarantine for up to 3 days at a hotel in the city where they first arrive in Canada before being permitted to continue with their onward connection.

Recommendations

It is advisable that employers review these changes for applicability to employees and ensure those travelling are aware of the new requirements to enter Canada.

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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