

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.

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

For more information, please visit ey.com/ca.

Follow us on Twitter @EYCanada.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

About EY Law LLP

EY Law LLP is a Canadian law firm, affiliated with Ernst & Young LLP in Canada. Both EY Law LLP and Ernst & Young LLP are Ontario limited liability partnerships. EY Law LLP has no association or relationship with Ernst & Young LLP in the US, or any of its members. Ernst & Young LLP in the US does not practice law, nor does it provide immigration or legal services. For more information, please visit EYLaw.ca.

© 2021 EY Law LLP.
All Rights Reserved.
A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

EYG no. 001328-21Gbl

This publication contains information in summary form, current as of the date of publication, and is intended for general guidance only. It should not be regarded as comprehensive or a substitute for professional advice. Before taking any particular course of action, contact EY or another professional advisor to discuss these matters in the context of your particular circumstances. We accept no responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by your reliance on information contained in this publication.

ey.com/en_ca

George Reis, Managing Partner
+1 416 943 2535
george.reis@ca.ey.com

Batia Stein, Partner
+1 416 943 3593
batia.j.stein@ca.ey.com

Roxanne Israel, Partner
+1 403 206 5086
roxanne.n.israel@ca.ey.com

Authored by:
Deveen Harris, Associate Manager/Lawyer
+1 416 943 2321
Deveen.harris@ca.ey.com

Alex Israel, Partner
+1 416 943 2698
alex.d.israel@ca.ey.com

Christopher Gordon, Partner
+1 416 943 2544
christopher.d.gordon@ca.ey.com

Jonathan Leebosh, Partner
+1 604 899 3560
jonathan.e.leebosh@ca.ey.com