

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**Guidelines for International Arrivals**

(in supersession of guidelines issued on the subject dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020)

**Before Planning for Travel**

- i. All travellers should submit self-declaration form on the online portal ([www.newdelhairport.in](http://www.newdelhairport.in)) at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel or physically after arrival at the respective health counters.
- ii. They should also give an undertaking on the portal or otherwise to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. 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 to undergo facility / home quarantine/ self-monitoring of their health for 14 days, or as warranted.
- iii. Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days.
- iv. If they wish to seek such exemption under para (iii) above, they shall apply to the online portal ([www.newdelhairport.in](http://www.newdelhairport.in)) at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government as communicated on the online portal will be final.
- v. Travelers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report. This test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey. The test report should be uploaded on the portal for consideration. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise. The test report could also be produced upon arrival at the point of entry airport in India.
- vi. International passengers arriving without an RT-PCR negative certificate and wishing to seek exemption from institutional quarantine may also avail the facility available at the airports to undergo RT-PCR testing (where such provisions exist)
- vii. All such passengers opting for exemption from institutional quarantine as in para (v) & (vi) shall undertake self-monitoring of their health and will be exempted from quarantine.
- viii. International passengers arriving without RT-PCR negative certificate and not opting for RT PCR test at airport (if facility is available) /arriving at an airport where testing facility is not available will have to undergo mandatory 7 days' institutional quarantine and 7 days' home quarantine.

### **Before Boarding**

- ix. Dos and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travellers by the airlines/agencies concerned.
- x. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- xi. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- xii. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports.
- xiii. During boarding all possible measures to ensure physical distancing are to be ensured.

### **During Travel**

- xiv. Travellers who had not filled in self-declaration form on the portal shall fill the same in duplicate in the flight and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport.
- xv. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports and in flights and during transit.
- xvi. While on board the flight, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline staff, crew and all passengers.

### **On arrival**

- xvii. Deboarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- xviii. 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 (or a copy of physical self-declaration form to be submitted) to the airport health staff.
- xix. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
- xx. Post thermal screening, the passengers who have been exempted from institutional quarantine [**para (iii) and (iv) above**] (decision as indicated on the online portal in advance) will show the same to the respective State Counters on their cell phones/other mode before being allowed home quarantine for 14 days.
- xxi. **Post thermal screening, the passengers who have RT-PCR negative certificates already with them [(para (v) and (vi))] shall be exempt from quarantine and shall be allowed to leave and undertake self-monitoring of their health for 14 days.**
- xxii. All such passengers will also be provided the list of the national and state level surveillance officers and the respective call centre numbers, so as to inform state/national Call Centre in case they develop symptoms at any time during the quarantine or self-monitoring of their health.

- xxiii. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments to undergo mandatory 7 days' institutional quarantine and 7 days' home quarantine.
- xxiv. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days.
  - a. They shall be tested as per ICMR protocol.
  - b. If they are assessed as asymptomatic / pre-symptomatic/ very mild cases, they will be allowed home isolation or isolated in the Covid Care Centre (both public & private facilities) as appropriate.
  - c. Those having mild/ moderate/ severe symptoms will be admitted to dedicated Covid Health facilities and managed accordingly.
  - d. If found negative, they shall be advised to self-monitor their health for additional 7 days.

**International passengers arriving at seaports/land ports**

- xxv. International Passengers 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.
- xxvi. Such passengers shall submit the self-declaration form to the concerned authorities of Government of India at seaports/land ports on arrival.

**NOTE: States can have any additional restrictions imposed with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their field assessment post arrival of passengers in the state concerned.**

B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,  
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi  
Dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**


**Subject: RT-PCR Testing at the entry airport for the arriving international transfer passengers- reg.**

As per Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) guidelines dated 02.08.2020, international arriving passengers having RT-PCR negative report would be exempted from institutional quarantine. Accordingly, Ministry of Civil Aviation vide OM of even Number dated 07.08.2020 has allowed for onward air journey of international arriving passengers, when exemption from institutional quarantine is granted by the State authorities (of the entry airport) on the basis of a negative RT-PCR test report, for which test was conducted within 96 hours prior to undertaking the journey.

2. However, as per the extant guidelines, there is no provision for RT-PCR testing at the entry airport itself, if the passenger could not get the same done within 96 hours prior to undertaking the journey from abroad.

3. To facilitate such **transfer passengers**, it has now been decided to allow for RT-PCR testing at the entry airport also, on a pilot basis. Detailed guidelines in this regard are enclosed at Annexure-I.

4. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Usha Padhee) 2/9/20

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To:

Airports Authority of India (Kind Attn: **Shri Arvind Singh, Chairman**), Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi- with the request to bring the contents of this OM to the knowledge of all concerned.

Copy to:

- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (ii) PS to Hon. MOS (I/C), Civil Aviation
- (iii) DG, DGCA
- (iv) DG, BCAS
- (v) Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- (vi) Secretaries of Other Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- (vii) Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories
- (viii) Other concerned officials and stakeholders (as per standard circulation)

**RT-PCR TESTING AT THE ENTRY AIRPORT FOR THE ARRIVING  
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER PASSENGERS**

1. Guidelines below apply for international passengers, who arrive at an entry airport in India without RT-PCR Negative certificate and need to take a connecting flight to domestic destinations in India.
2. Passengers will have an option of getting an RT-PCR (including GeneXpert) testing done at the entry airport and if the RT-PCR test results into a RT-PCR negative report, the passenger will be permitted to take connecting flight to other domestic destinations in India without needing to be quarantined at the city of entry airport.
3. Airport Operator will create Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge ("Waiting Lounge") – a facility for RT-PCR testing and sample collection at the airport along with a Waiting Lounge. Facility for testing and sample collection should be in strict compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL in this regard. One representative of State authorities (of entry airport) will also be present in the Waiting lounge.
4. Airports shall provide options to the passengers to do online booking of the RT-PCR test through respective websites or other appropriate online platforms. Once passengers arrive at the entry airport, Airport Operator should lay down a well-defined flow for such passengers at their respective Arrival Terminals leading to the Waiting Lounges and to the exit from the terminal. Proper escort to be ensured for the passenger from a Helpdesk set up by the Airport Operator after the Customs inspection area to the Waiting Lounge.
5. Process of sample collection and testing should be in strict compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL in this regard. Passport of the passenger will be retained by the State authority at the Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge till the Test results are available. Once the test result is available, Waiting Lounge will intimate the passenger of the same.
6. If the result is negative, the passenger will be stamped 'RT-PCR negative' and 'State Quarantined till [applicable date]' on the hand by the State Authority available at the Waiting lounge, will be handed over his/her passport, and will be permitted to exit the Waiting Lounge and proceed to the Departures to catch the connecting flight.
7. If the result is positive, the passenger will be processed in line with applicable ICMR protocols by the State authorities.
8. Waiting Lounge for the passengers should follow all sanitization and social distancing related guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time. The Waiting Lounge should be located away from the Operational area but should be sterile with no access to any unauthorized personnel. It should provide necessary amenities to the passengers like Wifi, F&B options, washrooms etc.



9. The test results will take anywhere between 1.5-2.5 hours for RT-PCR by GeneXpert and 6 -7 hours for RT-PCR by other methods. Hence at the Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge, Airport Operator shall provide to the passengers option to either stay at the Waiting Lounge awaiting the test results or to proceed to designated Hotel(s) in order to isolate themselves till the Test results are available. The Lounge will provide to the passengers cashless options for making payments with regard to testing and various amenities etc.
10. No passenger should be able to make an unauthorized exit.
11. This will be done on pilot basis. Once the guidelines are tested, such facilities can be extended to other passengers who are interested to obtain RT-PCR testing facilities at the first port of landing to get exemption from institutional quarantine, etc. These guidelines will be reviewed periodically for improvements.

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