



Letter No.23001/RH.II/2020-2, Dated:03.09.2020.

From  
Thiru. K. Shanmugam, I.A.S.,  
Chief Secretary to Government.  
Email:cs@tn.gov.in  
Phone No: 044 - 25671555

To  
Thiru Raja Chinthapalli, I.F.S.,  
Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Tamil Nadu - Covid -19 - Change of Testing and Quarantine protocol for International passengers.

Ref: G.O.Ms.No.319, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, dated 31.08.2020.

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With regard to changes to Covid-19, Government of Tamil Nadu has made changes to the testing and quarantine protocol with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2020. A copy of the order in the reference cited is enclosed. The following are the highlights:

Mandatory Testing:

- All international passengers entering Tamil Nadu without RT-PCR test (test taken within 96 hours prior to the arrival) will be mandatorily tested at their cost.
- It is mandatory for incoming International passengers to have RT - PCR negative test certificate (tested within 96 hours prior to their arrival in Tamil Nadu). Accordingly, airlines including Vande Bharat flights, Chartered flights and 'Air Bubble' flights are mandated to allow only the passengers who have RT - PCR negative certificates (taken within 96 hours prior to their arrival. All the passengers be mandated to get auto generated TN ePass (<https://tnepass//tneqa.org>) before boarding flights.
- All asymptomatic individuals will be sent to 14 days of home quarantine.
- All passengers have to undergo 14 days of home quarantine (during the period if the individuals develop fever, cough and breathlessness, they shall immediately visit the health facility). Guidelines on home-quarantine is available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesforhomequarantine.pdf>.

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- The passengers should submit RT - PCR test results to the District Collectors, Chengalpet / Tiruchirapalli / Madurai / Coimbatore on arrival.

Transition Arrangements for Vande Bharat Mission:

- As a transition arrangement, the passengers coming through Vande Bharat Mission alone will be provided with RT-PCR test facility at their own cost, in the airport on arrival for a week's time. All asymptomatic individuals will be sent for 14 days home quarantine. If the test result is positive, individuals will be asked to report to a medical facility for treatment. After this period, all passengers shall also adhere to the general guidelines of RT-PCR negative result status to come to Tamil Nadu.
- Passengers shall download Aarogya Setu on mobile (available at <https://www.mygov.in/aarogya-Setu-app/>) and it should remain active at all times (through Bluetooth and Wi-fi)

2. In view of the above guidelines, I request you to make it mandatory for Air India and other airlines operating for Vande Bharat Mission to ensure RT-PCR negative status for all the travellers (tests taken within 96 hours prior to the arrival).

- The airlines operating under 'Air Bubble' scheme may also be directed to adhere to the above guidelines without deviation.
- Instructions in this regard may be sent to all Missions abroad and copy marked to this office for reference.

Yours faithfully,

*A. J. Shanmugam*  
3.9.2020

for Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:  
Smt Usha Padhee, I.A.S.,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Civil Aviation,

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.newdelhiairport.in](http://www.newdelhiairport.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.newdelhiairport.in](http://www.newdelhiairport.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.**