

Dated the 11th November 2021

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Guidelines for International Arrivals
(in supersession of all guidelines issued on the subject on and after 20th October 2021)

Introduction

The global trajectory of COVID-19 pandemic continues to decline with certain regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of virus and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) must still remain in focus. The existing guidelines (issued on 17th February 2021 with subsequent addendums) for international arrivals in India have been formulated taking a risk-based approach. In view increasing vaccination coverage across the globe and the changing nature of the pandemic, the existing guidelines for international arrivals in India have been reviewed.

Scope

This document provides protocols to be complied with international travellers as well those to be followed by airlines, points of entry (airports, seaports and land border) for risk profiling of passengers.

This Standard Operating Procedure shall be valid **w.e.f. 12th November 2021 (00.00 Hrs IST)** till further orders. Based on the risk assessment, this document shall be reviewed from time to time.

A.1. Planning for Travel

- i. All travellers should
 - a. Submit self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal (www.newdelhiaairport.in) before the scheduled travel
 - b. Upload a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR report*. This test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey.
 - c. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise
- ii. They should also give an undertaking on the portal or otherwise to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government 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 home quarantine/ self-health monitoring, as warranted.
- iii. Continuing with the earlier approach, travellers from certain specified Countries (based on epidemiological situation of COVID-19 in those Countries) are identified for additional follow up. These include need for additional measures as detailed in para (xv) below. The listing of such specified Countries is a dynamic exercise based on evolving situation of COVID-19 across the world and will be made available on the websites of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, (mohfw.gov.in) and the link of the same will be available at website of Ministry of External Affairs and Air Suvidha Portal.
- iv. There are Countries which have agreement with India on mutual recognition of vaccination certificates of Nationally recognised or WHO recognised vaccines. Similarly, there are Countries which presently do not have such an agreement with India, but they exempt Indian citizens fully vaccinated with Nationally recognised or WHO recognised vaccines. On the basis of reciprocity, the travellers from all such Countries which provide quarantine-free entry to Indians are allowed certain relaxations on arrival (**Category A Countries**). The listing of such

Countries is available on websites of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (mohfw.gov.in) and the link of the same will be available at website of Ministry of External Affairs and Air Suvidha Portal. This is also a dynamic list and will be updated from time to time. The travellers from Category A Countries shall upload their fully vaccinated** certificate on the Air Suvidha portal.

A.2. Before Boarding

- v. Do's and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travellers by the airlines/agencies concerned.
- vi. Airlines to allow boarding by only those passengers who have filled in the Self Declaration Form on the Air Suvidha portal, uploaded the negative RT-PCR test report.
- vii. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- viii. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.

A.3. During Travel

- ix. In-flight announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports and in flights and during transit.
- x. During in-flight crew shall ensure that COVID appropriate behaviour is followed at all times.
- xi. If any passenger reports symptoms of COVID-19 during flight, he/she shall be isolated as per protocol.

A.4. On arrival

- xii. Deboarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- xiii. 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 to the airport health staff.
- xiv. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified and managed as per laid down protocol#.
- xv. Travellers from specified Countries at risk [as mentioned in para (iii) above] will follow the protocol as detailed below:
 - a. If traveller is coming from a Country with which India has reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO approved COVID-19 vaccines (Category A):
 - i. **If fully vaccinated****: They shall be allowed to leave the airport and shall self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival.
 - ii. **If partially/not vaccinated**: The travellers need to undertake the following measures:
 - Submission of sample for post-arrival COVID-19 test* at the point of arrival after which they will be allowed to leave the airport,
 - Home quarantine for 7 days,
 - Re-test on the 8th day of arrival in India* and if negative, further self-monitor of their health for next 7 days.
 - b. If traveller is coming from a Country excluding those covered under Category A, they would be required to undergo the measures as mentioned in para a (ii) above, irrespective of their COVID-19 vaccination status.
- xvi. Travellers from Countries excluding those Countries at risk, will be allowed to leave the airport and shall self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival. This is applicable to travellers from

all Countries including Countries with which reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO approved COVID-19 vaccines also exist.

- xvii. Travellers under home quarantine or self-health monitoring, if develop signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 on re-testing, they will immediately self-isolate and report to their nearest health facility or call National helpline number (1075)/ State Helpline Number.

International travellers arriving at seaports/land ports

- xviii. International travellers 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.
- xix. Such travellers shall submit the self-declaration form to the concerned authorities of Government of India at seaports/land ports on arrival.

* Children under 5 years of age are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol.

** 15 days must have elapsed since completion of COVID-19 vaccination schedule

Contacts of the suspect case are the co-passengers seated in the same row, 3 rows in front and 3 rows behind along with identified Cabin Crew. Also, all the community contacts of those travellers who have tested positive (during home quarantine period) would be subjected to quarantine for 14 days and tested as per ICMR protocol.

List of Countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing (Countries at-risk)

(Updated as on 9th November 2021)

1. Countries in Europe including The United Kingdom
2. South Africa
3. Brazil
4. Bangladesh
5. Botswana
6. China
7. Mauritius
8. New Zealand
9. Zimbabwe
10. Singapore

Category A: List of countries with which Government of India has agreement for mutual recognition vaccination certificate for individuals fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognized COVID-19 vaccine and those exempting Indian citizens fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognised vaccines

(Updated as on 13th November 2021)

1	Albania	41	Hungary
2	Andorra	42	Iceland
3	Angola	43	Iran
4	Antigua & Barbuda	44	Ireland
5	Argentina	45	Israel
6	Armenia	46	Jamaica
7	Australia	47	Kazakhstan
8	Austria	48	Kuwait
9	Azerbaijan	49	Kyrgyz Republic
10	Bahrain	50	Lebanon
11	Bangladesh	51	Liechtenstein
12	Belarus	52	Malawi
13	Belgium	53	Maldives
14	Benin	54	Mali
15	Botswana	55	Mauritius
16	Brazil	56	Mexico
17	Bulgaria	57	Moldova
18	Canada	58	Mongolia
19	Chad	59	Montenegro
20	Columbia	60	Namibia
21	Commonwealth of Dominica	61	Nepal
22	Comoros	62	Netherlands
23	Costa Rica	63	Nicaragua
24	Croatia	64	Nigeria
25	Czech Republic	65	Oman
26	Dominican Republic	66	Panama
27	Egypt	67	Paraguay
28	El Salvador	68	Peru
29	Estonia	69	Philippines
30	Eswatini	70	Poland
31	Finland	71	Qatar
32	France	72	Romania
33	Georgia	73	Russia
34	Germany	74	Rwanda
35	Ghana	75	San Marino
36	Greece	76	Serbia
37	Guatemala	77	Sierra Leone
38	Guyana	78	Singapore
39	Haiti	79	Slovak Republic
40	Honduras	80	Slovenia

81 South Sudan
82 Spain
83 Sri Lanka
84 State of Palestine
85 Sudan
86 Sweden
87 Switzerland
88 Syria
89 The Bahamas
90 The United Kingdom

91 Trinidad & Tobago
92 Tunisia
93 Turkey
94 UAE
95 Uganda
96 Ukraine
97 United States of America
98 Uruguay
99 Zimbabwe

Algorithm: Guidelines for International Arrivals (Dated 11th November 2021)

International Arrivals

Mandatory filling up of Self-Declaration Form (SDF) and uploading of negative RT-PCR test report* for all International travelers

Airlines to ensure availability of negative RT-PCR report before allowing the travelers to board

Travelers coming from Countries 'at risk'[#]

Travelers belonging to 'Category A' Countries^{##}

Remaining countries^{##}

Fully vaccinated^{**}

Not/Partially vaccinated

Self-Health Monitoring for 14 days post arrival

- Post-arrival COVID-19 test*,
- Home quarantine for 7 days,
- Re-test on the 8th day* and if negative, self-health monitoring for next 7 days

Travelers coming from Countries excluding those enlisted as Countries at risk[#]

Travelers belonging to Category A Countries^{##}

Remaining countries^{##}

Self-Health monitoring for 14 days post arrival

If develop symptoms during 14-day post arrival period or test positive on repeat testing

Report to nearest health facility or contact National (1075) or State Helpline No.

* Children under 5 years of age are exempted from pre- and post- arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol.

** 15 days have elapsed since completion of COVID-19 vaccination schedule

[#] Countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing (Countries at-risk)

^{##} Countries which have agreement with India on mutual recognition of vaccination certificates of nationally or WHO recognised vaccines and also those which exempt Indian citizens fully vaccinated with nationally or WHO recognised vaccines (as available on the websites of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs and Air Suvidha Portal)