



Questions Regarding New Regulations for International Students

1. When will the new measures take effect?

A number of new land and air travel measures have been introduced, with the following effective dates:

- First implemented January 7, 2021: Unless exempt, all travellers five years of age and over (unless exempted), including international students, entering Canada by air are required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken within 72 hours prior to boarding the aircraft's initially scheduled departure time. Individuals who have recently recovered from COVID-19 can provide proof of a positive COVID-19 molecular test conducted between 14 and 90 days prior to their departure in lieu of a negative test result.
- Effective February 15, 2021: Unless exempt, all travellers five years of age and over, including international students, entering at Canada's land ports of entry, are required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours before their arrival at the border, OR proof of a positive COVID-19 molecular test result, for individuals recently recovered from COVID-19, conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival in lieu of a negative test result. This is similar to the existing requirement for pre-departure testing for air travellers.
- Effective February 22, 2021, all travellers arriving by air (unless exempt), including international students will also be required to:
 - submit their travel, contact, and suitable quarantine plan information, as well as a COVID-19 symptom self-assessment, electronically using ArriveCAN before boarding their flight;
 - provide confirmation that they have pre-booked and pre-paid for their required 3-night stay at a government-authorized accommodation (GAA);
 - take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival;
 - Go to a GAA until they receive confirmation of a negative result from the test conducted on arrival in Canada; and
 - take a COVID-19 molecular test later during their 14-day mandatory quarantine period, as instructed.
 - Any traveller who refuses to take a COVID-19 test on arrival may be subject to a \$3000 fine.

- To note: It has been mandatory for air travellers to provide contact information and a suitable quarantine plan using ArriveCAN for travellers arriving by air since November 2020.
- As of February 18, 2021, hotel booking information is online [COVID-19 mandatory hotel stopover](#).
- There are a number of hotels to choose from, located near each of the four international airports in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Hotels that are approved by the federal government for the purposes of air travellers' mandatory quarantine of up to three nights while they await the results of their first post-arrival COVID-19 test, are privately-owned hotels that have agreed to meet public health guidelines and selection criteria for the purposes of accommodating travellers. Costs of these hotel stays may vary at each location. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security and transportation.
- For travellers arriving to Canada by land
 - As of February 15, 2021, all travellers, with some exceptions, arriving to Canada by land, 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 proof of a positive test result within 14 and 90 days prior to arrival. This is consistent with the requirements already in place for air travellers. Essential workers such as truckers and emergency service providers, as well as cross border communities, will be exempt from this requirement. Further information on exemptions will be available in the coming days.
 - In addition, as of February 22, 2021, travellers 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 Government of Canada will run 16 testing sites at point of entry across Canada. Five ports of entry will initially be available (see below) with 11 additional as of March 4 (see below).
 - As of February 22, onsite supervised testing sites will be available at five land ports-of-entry: Peace Arch-Douglas, BC; Coutts, AB; Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, ON; St. Stephens, NB.
 - By March 4, [land border testing](#) will take place at an additional 11 land ports-of-entry: Ambassador Bridge, ON; Fort Erie (Peace Bridge), ON; Windsor-Detroit Tunnel, ON; Sarnia (Blue Water Bridge), ON; Rainbow Bridge, ON; Lansdowne (Thousand Islands Bridge), ON; Pacific Highway, BC; Niagara Falls, BC; St-Armand/Philipsburg, QC; Huntingdon, QC; Stanstead, QC.
- The Government of Canada is also working to supply all other ports of entry with test kits for travellers to take to meet these requirements.

2. Are international students flying to Canada for the first time required to be tested for COVID at one of the four airports, even if they are enrolled in an approved DLI?

- Yes: as of February 22, 2021, all air travellers arriving in Canada (unless exempted), including international students, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test prior to exiting the airport, and another one toward the end of their mandatory 14-day quarantine period in either a designated quarantine facility or at a suitable place of quarantine. Before leaving the airport, travellers will be provided with a COVID-19 test kit with instructions for taking their test later during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
- Travellers who receive a positive test result from their test on arrival in Canada, or whose quarantine plan is deemed not suitable by the PHAC officer on arrival in Canada, will be directed to a designated quarantine facility to complete their 14-day quarantine. In some cases, travellers may need to remain in quarantine beyond 14 days if they do not receive the result of the second COVID-19 molecular test within the 14-day quarantine period.
- These new measures are in addition to existing mandatory pre-departure testing requirements. The pre-departure test providing proof of negative results for COVID-19 must include the person's name and date of birth; the name and civic address of the laboratory that administered the test; the date the specimen was collected; the test method used; and, the test results.

3. After students are tested at the point of entry, do they have to wait up to three days at a government-approved hotel at the point of entry?

- Yes: as of February 22, 2021, all air travellers (unless exempted), including international students (with the exception of unaccompanied minors and dependent children), will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival prior to exiting the airport. These travellers will also be required to reserve and stay in a government-authorized accommodation for up to three nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of the COVID-19 molecular test they took on arrival.
- Travellers who receive a negative test result from the COVID-19 test conducted on arrival in Canada, and have a suitable quarantine plan, may then proceed to complete their 14-day quarantine period at their planned quarantine location. Before leaving the airport, travellers will be provided with a COVID-19 test kit with instructions for taking their test later during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
- Travellers who need to use public transportation or have an onward domestic flight to reach their final destination and planned quarantine location, can do so after they receive a negative result from the test they took when they arrived to Canada.

- Travellers who receive a positive test result from their test on arrival in Canada, or whose quarantine plan is deemed not suitable by the PHAC officer on arrival in Canada, will be directed to a designated quarantine facility to complete their 14-day quarantine. In some cases, travellers may need to remain in quarantine beyond 14 days if they do not receive the result of the second COVID-19 molecular test within the 14-day quarantine period. Q&A 3, BULLET 2.
- For travellers arriving to Canada by land
 - As of February 15, 2021, all travellers, with some exceptions, arriving to Canada by land, 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 proof of a positive test result within 14 and 90 days prior to arrival. This is consistent with the requirements already in place for air travellers. Essential workers such as truckers and emergency service providers, as well as cross border communities, will be exempt from this requirement. Further information on exemptions will be available in the coming days. [PAGE 2]
 - In addition, as of February 22, 2021, travellers 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 Government of Canada will run 16 testing sites at point of entry across Canada. Five ports of entry will initially be available with 11 additional as of March 4. The Government of Canada is also working to supply all other ports of entry with test kits for travellers to take to meet these requirements. [PAGE 2]

4. Will students be allowed to fly from POE to their destination before hearing the test result and wait for their result while quarantining at their destination? Or will they be allowed to fly to their destination only after they receive a negative result?

- As of February 22, 2021, all air travellers (unless exempted), including international students (with the exception of unaccompanied minors), will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival prior to exiting the airport. These travellers will also be required to reserve and stay in a government-authorized accommodation for up to three nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of the COVID-19 molecular test they took on arrival. [Q&A 4, BULLET 1].
- Travellers who receive a negative test result from their first post arrival test, and have a suitable quarantine plan at their final destination, will be able to proceed to complete their 14-day quarantine at their planned quarantine location. Before leaving the airport, travellers will be provided with a COVID-19 test kit and instructions for taking their test later during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period. [Q&A 4, BULLET 2]
- Travellers who need to use public transportation or have an onward domestic flight to reach their final destination and planned quarantine location, can do so after they

receive a negative result from the test they took when they arrived to Canada. [Q&A 4, BULLET 3]

- Travellers with a positive test result from the COVID-19 molecular test conducted on arrival in Canada, or whose quarantine plan is deemed not suitable by a PHAC officer, will be directed to a designated quarantine facility to complete their 14-day quarantine. In some cases, travellers may need to remain in quarantine beyond 14 days if they do not receive the result of their second COVID-19 molecular test within the 14-day quarantine period. [Q&A 4, BULLET 4]

5. If a student tests positive, what are the details around their extended quarantine? What will the cost be? Will they need to remain in the government-approved hotel, or will they have an opportunity to transfer to another facility?

- All travellers who receive a positive result from the COVID-19 molecular test conducted on arrival will be transferred to a federal designated quarantine facility or other suitable location as determined by a Quarantine Officer for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. The student is not responsible for the costs for time spent in a federal Designate Quarantine Facility.

6. If students are required to complete a 14-day quarantine period in one of the four point-of-entry cities, would they then again have to complete another 14-day quarantine period upon arriving at their final destination? Essentially, would students be looking at a 3+14 quarantine period, a 14+14 quarantine period, or a 14+0 quarantine period?

- The requirement for all travellers, unless exempt, to quarantine for 14 days has not changed. The Government of Canada has enacted more stringent measures on the requirements to fulfill the 14-day quarantine period to respond to variants of concern.
- Should the traveller develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19, be exposed to another person with COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19, the 14-day period begins again.
- Provinces and territories may have additional requirements for travellers entering their jurisdictions.

7. Do the quarantine locations upon arrival into Canada need to be pre-booked and, if so, where can travellers access this information? How can these accommodations be booked (e.g., by credit card)?

- Hotel booking information is online: [COVID-19 mandatory hotel stopover](#)
- There are a number of hotels to choose from, located near each of the four international airports in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Hotels that are

approved by the federal government for the purposes of air travellers' mandatory quarantine of up to three nights while they await the results of their first post-arrival COVID-19 test, are privately-owned hotels that have agreed to meet public health guidelines and selection criteria for the purposes of accommodating travellers. Costs of these hotel stays may vary at each location. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security and transportation. [Q&A #1]

- Travellers will be able to book accommodations on-line. The form of payment will be determined between the hotel booking site and the traveller.

8. The federal government has indicated that all together, the costs of the test and the stay at a designated government quarantine facility will be up to \$2,000. Who is responsible for the cost associated with this quarantine? Can a breakdown of these estimated costs be provided? Are there different price options available? If so, is there a way for a student to choose a cheaper option before boarding or at point of entry?

- Travellers to Canada are responsible to cover the cost of the 3-day stay in government-authorized accommodation. There are a number of hotels to choose from, located near each of the four international airports in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Hotels that are approved by the federal government for the purposes of air travellers' mandatory quarantine of up to three nights while they await the results of their first post-arrival COVID-19 test, are privately-owned hotels that have agreed to meet public health guidelines and selection criteria for the purposes of accommodating travellers. Costs of these hotel stays may vary at each location. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, security and transportation. [Q&A #8]

9. What kind of transportation is required from the airport to the 3-day quarantine location in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, or Vancouver? How is this booked?

- The government-authorized accommodation (hotels) will be responsible for travel between the airport and the designated hotel. Any additional transportation needs of the traveller will need to be privately negotiated between the traveller and the government-authorized accommodation. The transportation provided by these approved hotels will follow strict security, cleaning, and infection prevention protocols.

10. Based on the backgrounders and media release, it is not clear if the new travel restrictions and pandemic measures will impact international students, given their travel is considered "essential". There are postsecondary institutions that are expecting international students in the coming weeks and they are asking if their students will be impacted, or need to adjust their travel plans. All DLIs have developed stringent

quarantine plans for their international students, and this additional layer could create financial and logistical challenges.

- We recognize that Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) have collaborated with PTs to ensure international students are settled in a safe and healthy environment by establishing COVID-19 Readiness Plans. The new enhanced quarantine requirements for all travellers, including international students are not intended to take away from institutions' efforts, but are measures taken to quickly identify and isolate any positive cases on arrival. These new measures will help prevent variants of concern from reaccelerating the pandemic and making it more difficult to contain.

11. From a provincial Response to Public Health requirements perspective, will these new restrictions impact any DLI requirements or key supports needed for students (e.g., the duration of quarantine at the final destination)?

- PHAC defers to IRCC on questions related to DLI program.
- As the public health guidelines differ across PTs, international students will be required to also follow the requirements set by the PT of their final destination.

12. Are there going to be any changes to the current quarantine reporting structure to the P/Ts in response to these new restrictions?

- There will be no change in the information provided to the PTs about travellers entering Canada and required to quarantine.

13. Some provinces have a follow-up test on the 7th day of quarantine. If a student is quarantining in one of the four POE cities, how can the province-specific follow-up test be done? Will transportation be used?

- Travellers who have received negative results for the COVID-19 test on arrival will be permitted to travel to their final place of quarantine. They will complete the second COVID test at their place of quarantine. Instructions will be provided to the students on arrival.
- If a province or territory has no additional requirements, travellers will only be subject to the federal requirements. If a province has additional requirements for a traveller to leave quarantine to take a COVID-19 test on day 7, the traveller may do so, but is required to return directly to their place of quarantine for the remainder of the 14-day mandatory quarantine. A negative test result from a provincial test does not end the federal 14-day mandatory quarantine.

14. Will students still be allowed to wait and quarantine in one of the quarantine hotels at the destination or in a recommended quarantine accommodation (i.e., homestay arranged by Canada Homestay Network and safe arrival package by Language Canada)?

- As of February 22, 2021, all air travellers, unless exempt, including international students, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival prior to exiting the airport. These travellers will also be required to reserve and stay in a government-authorized accommodation (hotel) for up to three nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of the COVID-19 molecular test they took on arrival. [Q&A #4]
- Travellers who receive a negative test result from their first post arrival test, and have a suitable quarantine plan for their final destination, will then be able to proceed to complete their 14-day quarantine at their planned quarantine location. Before leaving the airport, travellers will be provided with a COVID-19 test kit and instructions for taking their test later during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period. [Q&A #4]

15. Is there any coordination with the airlines due to delayed flight connections within Canada?

- Through Transport Canada, the Government of Canada engages in regular discussions with air industry partners on new air travel requirements. Air carriers are aware of these new requirements.

16. Does the government have plans to further restrict entry of temporary residents in the coming weeks/months?

- The Government of Canada continuously monitors and evaluates the situation and may extend travel and border measures to continue to protect Canadians.

17. How long are these new travel restrictions expected to last? If this goes on into September and we assume students need to arrive in Canada to be PGWP-eligible, is there potential for government-approved hotels to be at capacity and for students to have difficulty arriving in a timely manner to begin studies for the program start date?

- The Government of Canada continues to take unprecedented action to protect the health and safety of Canadians by introducing new measures to help prevent further introduction and transmission of COVID-19 and new variants of the virus into Canada.
- While the Orders in Council have expiry dates that does not necessarily mean these restrictions and measures will end at that point. The Government of Canada continuously monitors and evaluates the situation and may extend travel and border measures to continue to protect Canadians.

- The Government of Canada will continue to communicate with PTs on its border posture. This is primarily conducted through the Special Advisory Committee, which serves as a forum to mobilize coordinated action and response efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee includes participation from the Chief Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Officers, among others.
- With respect the PGWP, the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [recently announced](#) changes to the Program, which include extending and expanding the measures related to distance learning put in place earlier in the pandemic.

18. The media release states: “As soon as possible in the coming weeks, all air travellers arriving in Canada, with very limited exceptions, must reserve a room in a Government of Canada-approved hotel for three nights at their own cost, and take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival at their own cost.”

- a) Will international students be exempt from the new measures announced on January 29?
 - No: international students will be required to follow all new measures, unless otherwise exempt.
- b) If a student provides proof of a negative pre-departure test within the required 72-hour timeframe, are they still required to quarantine for 3 days at a Health Canada-approved hotel upon arrival?
 - See answer above.
- c) If a student provides proof of a negative pre-departure test within the required 72-hour timeframe, will they be able to proceed directly to their ultimate destination to carry out their quarantine as arranged by their DLI?
 - See answer above.

19. To confirm, the best practice testing schedule for students coming to Manitoba would include:

- **Negative COVID test 72-hours prior to departure (required to board flight)**
- **COVID test upon arrival at POE in either Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary or Montreal (required).**

Responded to in earlier questions.

- For travellers arriving to Canada by land
 - As of February 15, 2021, all travellers, with some exceptions, arriving to Canada by land, 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 proof of a positive test result within 14 and 90 days prior to arrival. This is consistent with the requirements already in place for air travellers. Essential workers such as truckers and emergency service providers, as well as cross border communities,

will be exempt from this requirement. Further information on exemptions will be available in the coming days. [Q#1 end]

- In addition, as of February 22, 2021, travellers 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 Government of Canada will run 16 testing sites at point of entry across Canada. Five ports of entry will initially be available with 11 additional as of March 4. The Government of Canada is also working to supply all other ports of entry with test kits for travellers to take to meet these requirements. [Q#1 end]
- For travellers arriving to Canada by air
 - As of February 22, 2021, all air travellers, 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. With limited exceptions, air travellers, will also be required to reserve prior to departure to Canada, a 3-night stay in a government-authorized hotel. Travellers will be required to stay at their reserved hotel for up to 3 nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of their arrival test. [Q# 4]
 - Hotel booking information are available online as of February 18, 2021. Travellers will need to book a hotel in the city in which they first arrive in Canada. If they receive a negative result on their arrival test, they will be able to take a connecting flight to their final destination. There will be a number of hotels to choose from near each of the four international airports accepting international flights, in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Costs of these hotel stays may vary slightly at each location. It is up to the traveller to choose where they wish to stay and book in advance of departure. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, and security as well as transportation.

20. Why do air travellers have to stay in a government-authorized accommodation (hotel), but travellers by land are not required to do so?

- Arrivals by air are frequently associated with onward travel by public transport (i.e., connecting domestic flight), whereas arrivals by land are substantially associated with onward travel by private transport (i.e., private cars). The public health risk associated with public transport warrant the additional measures for travellers arriving by air.

21. What is the earliest a traveller could reasonably receive negative results of their on-arrival PCR test and be notified that they can depart the hotel? Said differently, what is the earliest an institution's self-isolation facility should be prepared to receive a student at the end of their "3-day" hotel stay — Day 1, Day 2 or Day 3?

- We are not able to comment on likelihood of a student receiving their result on any particular day in the three-day window.

22. We understood that no self-administered PCR test has been approved in BC. What do we know about the reason self-test kits will be handed out at the airport for use on Day 10 of self-isolation if they must be administered by medical personnel?

- Travellers arriving at the four airports will take a molecular COVID-19 test (PCR test) using a nasal swab at the airport. It will be administered/supervised by a health professional. The swab will be processed in an accredited laboratory.
- Travellers will also be provided with a “take home test kit” for their day 10 test. This is not a test that will provide results at home. If asymptomatic, travellers will take the self-collected sample at their place of quarantine under the virtual/remote supervision of a health professional. Travellers then follow instructions to courier the sample to a laboratory for processing.

23. What is the process for students in quarantine to submit their Day 10 sample for testing?

- Please refer to response provided in Q24.

24. Will students who are exempt from the 3-day hotel quarantine be permitted to fly immediately to their final domestic destination, after arriving at one of the four permitted entry points in Canada?

- Unaccompanied minors will not be required to quarantine for 3 nights in a government-authorized accommodation (hotel). They will be permitted to travel directly to their final place of quarantine. Q&A #2

The below question/comment from a ministry of education is currently being assessed. The federal government will return with a response as soon as possible.