

CORRESPONDENT'S ADVICE

INDIA

09 MAR 2022

COVID-19 - Crew Changes

The following information was received from our correspondent on 09 March 2022:

QUOTE

Please find following notifications/circulars:

1. India will resume scheduled International flights from March 27 - two years after they were suspended.

"Keeping in view the decline in Covid cases, increased vaccination coverage across the globe and consultation with stakeholders, the Government of India has decided to resume scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India from March 27, 2022, i.e. start of summer schedule 2022," Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said.

Scheduled international flight services have remained suspended in India since 23 March, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Crew changes - Circular issued by GOI, PHO - Chennai.

UNQUOTE

Correspondent's contact details

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DISCLAIMER

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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No. PHO-C/COVID-19/2022/401

-C I R C U L A R-

DATED: -14.02.2022

In continuation to the latest guidelines circulated by MoH&FW, dated 10.02.2022 <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesforInternationalarrivalsupdatedon10thFebruary2022.pdf> considering the decrease in the spread of COVID-19 infection worldwide, in India & mild nature of the illness, a risk based approach is taken to allow unhindered movement of people by strictly following the guidelines, COVID Appropriate Behaviour till further notice or revision.

The Indian Nationals have to submit their primary 2 doses of Vaccination completing 14 days from last dose and Booster dose if already taken can be added in declaration, Self-Declaration Form (SDF), Pre-Boarding Form (PBF). They will be screened and then cleared for ship visits, if healthy. They must follow the SOP for ship visits as already given.

For Foreign nationals from the list of countries alone will be exempted from COVID-19 RT PCR and quarantine on submission of Primary 2 doses of vaccines, SDF & PBF for ship visits with PPE use and complying the Travel, Hotel Stay and Ship SOP as already in practice.

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ListofCountriesRegionsinrespectofwhichprimaryvaccinationschedulecompletioncertificateisallowedtobeuploadedincontextofguidelinesforinternationalarrivalsupdatedon10thFebruary2022.pdf> (this is a dynamic one and as updated those nationals will be added in the exemption)

Sign On: - Crew Changes will follow the same SOP of Safe Travel, Hotel Quarantine, CCR, Crew Changes SOP for 2 weeks on ship for safety of the existing crew. COVID-19 RT PCR will be exempted if the Indians, Foreign Nationals (*from listed countries as per dynamic link*) have the Primary 2 doses COVID-19 Vaccination completing 14 days from last dose. They will be screened and if healthy will be cleared for sign on. If the Shipping Company wishes to do COVID-19 RT PCR tests as additional safety protocol they will be allowed on request and must follow the health protocol based on the reports.

Sign Off: - All Indians and Foreign Nationals (*from listed countries as per dynamic link*) with Primary 2 doses of vaccination completing 14 days from last dose will be cleared after arrival screening with no requirement of 7 days of completion from last Port of call and COVID-19 RT PCR tests. They will go to designated Hotel quarantine till they depart from Chennai, self-monitor their health for 14 days, practice COVID Appropriate Behaviour, inform Local Health Authority if they develop COVID-19 symptoms. If tested COVID-19 positive to update immediately to us through the shipping agent. If the Foreign nationals require to have COVID-19 RT PCR tests as per their country requirement, a request must be given for all such crew and they will be cleared only after their negative COVID-19 RT PCR reports.

All crew and visitors without Primary Vaccination or with COVID-19 symptoms irrespective of vaccination status, will require to follow the existing guidelines of screening, testing and clearance based on their negative RT PCR reports.

Keep in touch for any assistance.



Yours faithfully,

(Dr.S. Senthilnathan)
Port Health Officer,
Chennai.

All the SOPs for safe port operations, PPE/Disinfection/Screening/Safe disposal has already been shared in last circular.

CC To: - The Commissioner of Customs, Chennai for instructions to all Seaports till Nagapattinam. Tuticorin will be followed by PHO, Tuticorin.

The FRRO, AFFRO, Immigration Officer, Chennai, Kattupalli, Karaikal seaports.

The Chairman of CPT, The CMD, KPL, The GM, AKKPL, CEO, Karaikal Port,

The Principal Officer of MMD, The President CHENSAA, The President, CHA & Stevedores Association Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli, Karaikal.

Dated the 10th February 2022

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 20 January 2022)

Introduction

The global and Indian growth trajectory of COVID-19 pandemic continues with regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of virus and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) thus, must still remain in focus. The extant guidelines for international arrivals in India continue being formulated taking a risk-based approach. While monitoring the nature and spread of infection in the country and across the globe, cognizance is also given to the fact that economic activities need to be taken up in an unhindered manner.

Scope

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

This Standard Operating Procedure shall be valid **w.e.f. 14th February 2022 (00.01 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 complete and factual information in self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal (<https://www.newdelhairport.in/airsuvidha/apho-registration>) before the scheduled travel, including last 14 days travel details.
 - b. Upload a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR report* (The test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey)

or

Certificate of completing full primary vaccination schedule of COVID-19 vaccination**.
 - 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 any post arrival requirement to undergo home/institutional quarantine/ self-health monitoring, as warranted.

A.2. Before Boarding

- iii. Do's and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travellers by the airlines/agencies concerned.
- iv. Airlines to allow boarding by only those passengers who have filled in all the information in the Self Declaration Form on the Air Suvidha portal and uploaded the negative RT-PCR test report or Covid -19 vaccination certificate of having completed the primary vaccination schedule**.

- v. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- vi. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.

A.3. During Travel

- vii. In-flight announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports and in flights and during transit.
- viii. During in-flight crew shall ensure that COVID appropriate behaviour is followed at all times.
- ix. If any passenger reports symptoms of COVID-19 during flight, he/she shall be isolated as per protocol.
- x. Proper in-flight announcements should be made by the airlines regarding the testing requirements and people who need to undergo such testing to avoid any congestion at the arrival airports.

A.4. On arrival

- xi. De-boarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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[#].
- xiv. The following protocol post arrival shall also be followed
 - a. A sub-section (2% of the total passengers in the flight) shall undergo random post-arrival testing at the airport on arrival.
 - b. Such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries). They will submit the samples and shall be allowed to leave the airport.
 - c. If such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be further sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory network.
 - d. They shall be treated/isolated as per laid down standard protocol.
- xv. All travellers will self-monitor their health for next 14 days of arrival.
- xvi. If travellers under self-health monitoring, develop signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, 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

- xvii. 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.
- xviii. 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 the period of self-monitoring period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol.

** 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 only such Countries which provide quarantine-free entry to Indians will be allowed for relaxation under Certificate of completing full primary vaccination schedule of COVID-19 vaccination. The listing of such Countries is available on website 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 such countries only are considered for allowing entry based on vaccination certificate & shall upload their fully vaccinate certificate on the Air Suvidha portal.

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.