

26 May 2021

**GUIDANCE ON PRE-FLIGHT MEASURES –  
PRE-DEPARTURE COVID-19 POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR)  
TEST REQUIREMENT FOR PASSENGERS ON FLIGHTS TO SINGAPORE**

This circular provides guidance to air operators on the conduct of pre-flight measures as required in paragraphs 5(ba), 5(d), 5AA and 5AB of CAAS Directives 9/2020 (as amended by Amendment No. 6) and 10/2020 (as amended by Amendment No. 4), or “Directives”, which takes effect on 29 May 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time).

2 From 29 May 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time), **all travellers (including Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) entering or transiting/transferring through Singapore, are required take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of their flight to Singapore**, if they:

- (a) are not a child of 6 years of age and below<sup>1</sup>; and
- (b) have, at any time within the last 21 days prior to the flight to Singapore<sup>2</sup>, been in, or transferred or transited through, a country or region other than
  - (i) a country or region specified in the Annex to the Directives, as amended from time to time; or
  - (ii) Singapore.

Air operators must not allow a passenger to board their flight to Singapore if that passenger fails to produce the result of the required PCR test or if the result of that PCR test is positive. Please refer to the Ministry of Health’s press release dated 26 May 2021 in **Annex A**.

3 Air operators must check for a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test result in accordance with the requirements in paragraphs 5(ba), 5(d), and 5AA of the Directives, before allowing the passenger as defined in paragraph 5AB of the Directives to board the aircraft. Please note that the requirements specified in paragraph 5(a), (b) and (c) of the Directives will also apply to such passengers.

---

<sup>1</sup> To illustrate, the age is calculated based on calendar year. If a passenger is entering Singapore in year of 2021, those born in the year of 2015 to 2021, are not required to take COVID-19 PCR test prior to departure for Singapore.

<sup>2</sup> To illustrate, if the scheduled day of departure of the flight is D (e.g. 31 May 2021), the last 21 consecutive days refer to D-21 to D (i.e. 10 to 31 May 2021).

- 4 Please see below for details on how the 72-hour period is to be counted:
- (a) For passengers on **direct flights** to Singapore, the 72 hours will be counted from the scheduled departure day of the flight to Singapore. For example, if the flight is scheduled to depart on 28 May 2021, the COVID-19 PCR test must be taken no earlier than 25 May 2021.
  - (b) For passengers who are taking a **connecting flight** to Singapore, the 72 hours will be counted from the scheduled departure of his flight from his first embarkation point of his journey to Singapore. For example, if the passenger's flight itinerary is LAX-NRT-SIN, the COVID-19 PCR test must be taken within 72 hours before the scheduled departure of his flight from LAX.
- 5 Each air operator should keep a record of each passenger's pre-departure COVID-19 PCR test result, and date of the test taken, for a minimum of four weeks. Upon request by CAAS, the air operator is required to furnish CAAS with the necessary information and evidence of such records.
- 6 Each air operator should remind its passengers that should they be found to have produced false or forged COVID-19 test certificates, it will affect their ability to obtain or sponsor immigration facilities in the future.
- 7 Please note that the requirement to take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before departure is in addition to existing prevailing entry requirements and border health measures for all inbound passengers. For more information on Singapore's entry requirements, please refer to the SafeTravel website (<https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg>). The related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at <https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/health/covid19-tests/pcrtest>.
- 8 Existing Not-To-Land (NTL) policies and procedures will apply for passengers who are denied entry into Singapore if they do not meet Singapore's prevailing entry requirements.
- 9 Information on the additional requirement for all inbound and transit and transfer passengers will be updated in the IATA Timatic service.
- 10 This Circular will, **with effect from 29 May 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time)**, supersede CAAS Circular 2021/31 dated 16 May 2021 ("*Pre-departure COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test Requirement for All Inbound Passengers*"). This circular does not supersede CAAS Circular 2020/46 Rev 1 issued on 28 April 2021 ("*Guidance on Pre-flight Measures – Basic Health Assessment of Passengers*").

Margaret Tan  
Director (Airport Operation Regulation & Aviation Security)  
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

[no signature required]

## UPDATED PRE-DEPARTURE TESTING REQUIREMENTS

 **26TH MAY 2021**

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce has been closely monitoring the global COVID-19 situation, and regularly reviews Singapore's border measures. In recent weeks, the global situation has worsened, and we have observed the emergence of new and potentially more infectious variants. To manage the risk of imported cases and onward transmission within our community, we will be updating our pre-departure testing requirements.

2. Since November 2020, we have required all long-term pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore to present a valid negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken within 72 hours before their departure for Singapore. We had not made this a requirement for Singapore Citizens (SCs) and Singapore Permanent Residents (PRs) at that time, as we did not want to make it difficult for them to return home quickly, should they be caught unprepared by the rapidly deteriorating pandemic conditions abroad. Upon arrival, SCs and PRs would go through an on-arrival PCR test before we put them up at a dedicated Stay-Home Notice (SHN) facility.

3. We have put in place advisories on overseas travel for some time now, and SCs and PRs abroad would have had more time to manage the risks of COVID-19 in the countries that they are in. Therefore from **29 May 2021, 2359 hours, we will extend the pre-departure testing requirement to all Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents. All travellers entering or transiting through Singapore (including SCs and PRs)**, except for those who have stayed in lower-risk countries/regions [1] throughout the last 21 days before departure for Singapore, will need to present a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours before departure for Singapore. Only then will they be allowed to board their flight or ferry to Singapore [2]. All travellers will also be required to present their valid COVID-19 PCR test result at the air, sea and land checkpoints when they arrive in Singapore.

4. Travellers who arrive in Singapore without a valid negative test result may be denied entry into Singapore. PRs and long-term pass holders who fail to comply with the new requirement may have their permit or pass cancelled.

5. Travellers who test positive on their COVID-19 PCR test should seek appropriate medical care and ensure that they have fully recovered and are non-infectious before travelling to Singapore. Singaporeans who test positive for COVID-19 while overseas and require urgent medical care in Singapore can still return to Singapore via a medevac flight or other equivalent forms of conveyance.

6. As the global situation evolves, we will continue to adjust our border measures to manage the risk of importation and transmission to the community. Any changes to border measures will be updated on the [SafeTravel website \(https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/\)](https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/). Travellers are advised to visit the website to check for the most updated border measures before entering Singapore and be prepared to be subjected to the prevailing border measures upon entry.

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

26 MAY 2021

[1] This currently applies to travellers from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Mainland China, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Macao. Travellers from lower-risk countries/regions are either required to take a COVID-19 test upon arrival in lieu of a SHN, or required to serve a 7-day SHN at their place of residence with a COVID-19 test administered at the end of their SHN.

[2] Cargo drivers and accompanying personnel transporting goods between Singapore and Malaysia will continue to be subjected to an on-arrival Antigen Rapid Test at the Singapore Tuas and Woodlands Checkpoints, and only be allowed to enter Singapore if they receive a negative result.

Category: [Press Releases](#) [Highlights](#)

## Ministry of Health

### Public

[News Highlights \(/news-highlights\)](#)

[Schemes & Subsidies \(/cost-financing/healthcare-schemes-subsidies\)](#) ▼

[Healthcare Locator \(http://hcidirectory.sg/hcidirectory/ \)](http://hcidirectory.sg/hcidirectory/) ▼

[Disease Updates \(https://www.moh.gov.sg/diseases-updates/being-prepared-for-a-pandemic \)](https://www.moh.gov.sg/diseases-updates/being-prepared-for-a-pandemic) ▼

[Resources & Statistics \(/resources-statistics\)](#) ▼