



Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

CAAS Circular 2021/55

5 September 2021

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 the pre-flight measures on passengers as required under paragraph 5(ba) in the CAAS Directive No. 9/2020 and No. 10/2020 (“the Directives”) as amended by Amendment No. 13 and No. 11 respectively.

2 With reference to the Ministry of Health (MOH)’s press release dated 5 September 2021 (see **Annex A**), from **9 September 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time)**, all passengers (including Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) entering Singapore, or transiting/transferring through Singapore who have been in any country or region, except the countries or regions stated in paragraph 5(b) below, in the last 21 consecutive days¹ before departure for Singapore, are required to take a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (“PCR”) test within 48 hours of their flight to Singapore.

3 Air operators must require the passengers mentioned in paragraph 2 to provide proof that they have taken the PCR test within the required time period prior to departure for Singapore and ensure that the proof meets the requirements of paragraph 5AA(c) of the relevant Directive. Air operators must not allow passengers to board their flight to Singapore if they fail to produce the proof that they have taken the PCR test or if the result of that PCR test is positive.

4 Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Directives, the Director-General of Civil Aviation has specified that a passenger who has been issued with a letter by a relevant Singapore government agency² exempting him or her from the requirements of a PCR test is not a “relevant passenger”. Paragraph 5(d) of the relevant Directive will not apply to that passenger. This means that airlines may allow such a passenger to board without presenting a pre-departure PCR test result.

5 Please note that the following passengers do not need to present a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test:

- (a) children below 3 years of age³;
- (b) passengers who have only had travel history to Hong Kong, Macao, Mainland China and Taiwan within the last 21 days¹ before departure for Singapore; and

¹ To illustrate, if the scheduled day of departure of the flight is D (e.g. 30 September 2021), the last 21 consecutive days refer to D-21 to D (i.e. 9 to 30 September 2021).

² CAAS will keep airlines informed of the sample exemption letters issued by relevant Singapore government agencies.

³ To illustrate, the age is calculated based on calendar year. If a passenger is entering or transiting/transferring through Singapore in year of 2021, those born in or after 2019, are not required to take COVID-19 PCR test prior to departure for Singapore.

- (c) passengers who have been issued with a letter by a relevant Singapore government agency exempting them from the requirements for a pre-departure PCR test.

6 Please see below for details on how 48-hour period is to be determined:

- (a) For passengers on **non-stop flights** to Singapore, the period of 48 hours will commence from the scheduled departure day of the flight to Singapore. For example, if the flight is scheduled to depart on 10 September 2021, the COVID-19 PCR test must be taken no earlier than 8 September 2021.
- (b) For passengers who are taking **connecting flight(s)** to Singapore:
 - (i) if the total scheduled transit duration does not exceed 24 hours, the period of 48 hours will commence from the scheduled departure day of the **first flight** of his journey to Singapore. For example, if the passenger's flight itinerary is LAX-NRT-SIN and his transit duration at NRT is within 24 hours, the COVID-19 PCR test must be taken within 48 hours of the scheduled departure day of his flight from LAX.
 - (ii) if the total scheduled transit duration exceeds 24 hours, the period of 48 hours will commence from the scheduled departure day of his last flight of his journey to Singapore (i.e. the flight to Singapore). For example, if the passenger's flight itinerary is LAX-NRT-HKG-SIN and his total scheduled transit duration at NRT and HKG adds up to more than 24 hours, the COVID-19 PCR test must be taken within 48 hours of the scheduled departure day of his flight from HKG.

7 Pursuant to paragraph 18(a) of the respective Directive, every air operator should:

- (a) maintain, for a minimum of four weeks, a record of each passenger's
 - (i) name, as stated in the passport;
 - (ii) pre-departure COVID-19 PCR test result, which must be in English; and
 - (iii) date of COVID-19 PCR test; and
- (b) furnish the necessary information and evidence of such records upon request by CAAS.

8 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.

9 Please note that the requirement to take a COVID-19 PCR test within 48 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>.

10 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.

11 Information on the additional requirement for all inbound and transit and transfer passengers will be updated in the IATA Timatic service.

12 This Circular takes effect **from 9 September 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time) and supersedes** CAAS Circular 2021/52 dated 19 August 2021 (*“Pre-flight Measures – Pre-Departure COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test Requirement for Passengers on Flights to Singapore”*).

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[no signature required]

Annex A

Please refer to:

<https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/updates-on-border-measures-for-travellers>