

CAAS Circular 2021/77

30 November 2021

PRE-FLIGHT MEASURES – PRE-DEPARTURE COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENT FOR PASSENGERS ON FLIGHTS TO SINGAPORE

This Circular informs air operators of the requirements relating to pre-departure tests for COVID-19 required under paragraph 5(ba) of the CAAS Directive No. 9/2020 and No. 10/2020 (“the Directives”).

2 Pursuant to paragraph 5(ba) of each Directive, the Director-General of Civil Aviation (“DGCA”) has specified that:

- (a) every passenger who has a travel history, in the last 14 consecutive days¹ prior to departure for Singapore, to any country or region classified by the Singapore Ministry of Health as **Category I, Category II or Category III**², but not Category IV, and intends to enter or transit through Singapore, is required to provide proof of having taken a pre-departure COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test **or** a professionally administered³ Antigen Rapid Test (ART) within 2 days⁴ prior to departure for Singapore; and
- (b) every passenger who has a travel history, in the last 14 consecutive days¹ prior to departure for Singapore, to any country or region classified by the Singapore Ministry of Health as **Category IV**², and intends to enter or transit through Singapore, is required to provide proof of having taken a pre-departure COVID-19 PCR test within 2 days prior to departure for Singapore.

¹ To illustrate, if the scheduled day of departure of the flight is D (e.g. 15 December 2021), the last 14 consecutive days refer to D-14 to D (i.e. 1 December to 15 December 2021).

² Please refer to <https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/shn-and-swab-summary> for the latest classification of countries/regions.

³ ART has to be performed by trained professionals (e.g. medical professionals, Government-recognised trained professionals, etc.)

⁴ If the pre-departure test is taken on 1 December 2021, it will be valid for departures up to 3 December 2021, 2359 hours.

3 The requirement in paragraph 2(a) and 2(b) does not apply to:

- (a) children aged 2 years and below⁵; and
- (b) passengers who have been exempted by a relevant Singapore government agency from the requirements for a pre-departure test⁶.

4 The 2-day period for the pre-departure test mentioned in paragraph 2 is determined as follows:

- (a) For passengers on **non-stop flights** to Singapore, the period of 2 days will commence from the scheduled departure day of the flight to Singapore. For example, if the flight is scheduled to depart on 10 November 2021, the pre-departure test must be taken no earlier than 8 November 2021.
- (b) For passengers who are taking **connecting flight(s)** to Singapore:
 - (i) if the total scheduled transit duration on the ground does not exceed 24 hours, the period of 2 days 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 pre-departure test must be taken within 2 days of the scheduled departure day of his flight from LAX.
 - (ii) if the total scheduled transit duration on the ground exceeds 24 hours, the period of 2 days 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 pre-departure test must be taken within 2 days of the scheduled departure day of his flight from HKG.

5 Pursuant to paragraph 18(a) of the respective Directive, the DGCA has specified that every air operator must:

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

⁵ 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 a pre-departure test prior to departure for Singapore.

⁶ CAAS will keep airlines informed of the sample exemption letters issued by relevant Singapore government agencies.

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 pre-departure test 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/faq#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 takes effect **from 2 December 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time) and supersedes** CAAS Circular 2021/69 dated 8 November 2021 (*“Pre-flight Measures – Pre-Departure COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test Requirement for Passengers on Flights to Singapore”*). To avoid doubt, the requirements relating to pre-departure COVID-19 PCR tests as described in this letter are applicable to all passengers whose scheduled time of arrival in Singapore is after 2 December 2021, 2359 hours (Singapore time).

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

[no signature required]