



# Travel arrangements for passengers and crew arriving on flights from 22 January 2021 (AEDT)

**15 January 2021**

Following the decision by National Cabinet (8 January 2021) and [announcement from the Prime Minister](#), returning Australians and other passengers to Australia that are arriving on flights departing on or after 22 January 2021 (local time at departure point) must provide **evidence of a negative** Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result for COVID-19 test 72 hours or less prior to check-in/boarding flights at the departure point.

- This applies to all passengers five years of age or older.
- Passengers must have taken the test 72 hours or less prior to the scheduled departure time and present a negative result\* (\*negative or COVID-19 not detected).
- Passengers transiting Australia with onward international flights to another country are also required to be tested and provide a negative result.
- If a member of a travelling party tests positive to COVID-19, all members of the party should not be allowed to travel to Australia.

### **Masks and Personal Protective Equipment**

All passengers, excluding children 12 and under or those with particular exemptions, and air crew must wear masks on for the duration of the flight and while in Australian airports, and should wear masks in airports in other countries.

Airlines will continue to be required to have appropriate infection prevention and control measures on board aircraft, including crew wearing personal protective equipment where appropriate.

### **Transit Passengers**

Transit passengers present the same risk as other passengers on the flight and are required to have a pre-departure test before arriving in Australia.

### **Flight crew**

Air crew must take a COVID-19 test every seven days or on arrival in Australia, continue to quarantine in dedicated quarantine facilities between international flights or for 14 days, and not reposition for an outgoing international flight unless they do so on a crew-only flight.

### **Mandatory Quarantine**

Travellers are still required to undertake 14 days mandatory quarantine on arrival in Australia, irrespective of a negative test result.

### **Australia Travel Declaration (ATD)**

The [Australia Travel Declaration](#) is required to be completed by all travellers entering Australia.

### **New Zealand Safe Travel Zone**

Passengers on safe travel zone flights from New Zealand **are not required** to have a pre-departure test. Travellers **are required** to wear a mask during the flight and on-arrival at the airport.

For further information please refer to the [Australia New Zealand Safe Travel Zone Fact Sheet](#).



### Health Process Pre-Departure to Australia testing

Passengers travelling to Australia on flights departing on or after 22 January 2021 (local time at departure point) will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result at check-in.

At the time of boarding, passengers will need to provide proof of a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result that has been provided by a laboratory. PCR tests require the collection of a respiratory sample, are very sensitive and detect the smallest genetic fragments of the virus.

This test must be conducted 72 hours or less prior to the scheduled departure time of the passenger's flight (or first flight if the passenger has one or more connecting flights booked for their travel to Australia).

The following information should be included in English on the test result record:

- Traveller name and date of birth
- Name and address of the laboratory / clinic / facility that administered the test
- Accreditation body that the laboratory is affiliated with, if known
- The date the specimen was collected
- The date the test result was authorised and the name of the authorising officer
- The method of test conducted e.g. PCR test
- The test result (such as 'negative' or 'not detected')

It is critical that the test result includes the passenger name, test result, method and date of test. If the provided test results do not contain this information the traveller may be prevented from boarding the aircraft.

A paper-based record is preferred, however electronic records (such as a document embedded in an email or text message) that contains the required information can be accepted.

Passengers should retain the evidence of the negative test result in case it is required for future stages of their travel itinerary.

### Positive COVID result and a positive test within a travelling group

If a traveller tests positive to COVID-19 they are to be refused check-in / boarding of their departing flight.

If the person who has tested positive is in a travelling group, the **entire travelling group** are considered close contacts of the positive case, and will need to isolate immediately upon receiving the result.

**In these cases please contact the Australian Border Force - Border Operations Centre on +61 1300 368 126.**

### Attachment A – Pre-border COVID-19 testing process map



## Australian BORDER FORCE

Additional information for international travel is available at:

### **Department of Health**

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC):

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on safe air travel – enhancing end-to-end mitigations – international | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for international travellers:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) advice for international travellers | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

For general information concerning COVID-19 please refer to the Department of Health website

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

### **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

[Homepage](#) | [SmartTraveller](#)

### **Department of Home Affairs**

[Coming to Australia | COVID-19 and the border \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

New Zealand safe travel zone

[New Zealand safe travel zone | COVID-19 and the border \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

These arrangements are under constant review as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and will be revised based on updated health advice.

The Australian Border Force appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.