



News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada expands restrictions to international travel by land and air

February 12, 2021

Ottawa, ON

Government of Canada

Canada has some of the strictest travel and border measures in the world, including a mandatory 14-day quarantine for everyone returning to the country. With new COVID-19 variant detections increasing in the country, the Government of Canada is announcing today further testing and quarantine requirements for international travellers arriving to Canada's air and land ports of entry. These new measures will help prevent variants of concern from reaccelerating the pandemic and making it more difficult to contain.

For travellers arriving to Canada by land, as of February 15, 2021, all travellers, with some exceptions, will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours of pre-arrival, or a positive test taken 14 to 90 days prior to arrival. In addition, **as of February 22, 2021**, travellers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine.

All travellers arriving to Canada by air, as of February 22, 2021, with some exceptions, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test when they arrive in Canada before exiting the airport, and another toward the end of their 14-day quarantine period. With limited exceptions, air travellers, will also be required to reserve, prior to departure to Canada, a 3-night stay in a government-authorized hotel. Travellers will be able to book their government-authorized stay starting February 18, 2021. These new measures are in addition to existing mandatory pre-boarding and health requirements for air travellers.

Finally, **at the same time on February 22, 2021, all travellers**, whether arriving by land or air will be required to submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan, electronically via **ArriveCAN** before crossing the border or boarding a flight.

The Government of Canada continues to strongly advise Canadians to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, including vacation plans, outside Canada. Foreign nationals should likewise postpone or cancel travel plans to Canada. Now is not the time to travel.

Quotes

"I want to thank Canadians who continue to make sacrifices to protect each other from COVID-19. We continue to detect variants of concerns, and this is why we are putting these additional measures in place. Now is not the time to travel, so please cancel any plans you might have.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu

Minister of Health

"With these additional COVID testing requirements and safety measures at the land border we are taking extra steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. As we do for air travel, we are now also requiring travellers by land to provide information using ArriveCAN to facilitate processing





and limit points of contacts between border services officers and travellers. We'll always prioritize the health and safety of Canadians as we make decisions.”

*The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness*

“We’re moving forward with these critical measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the introduction of new variants of the virus into Canada. At the same time, we recognize the importance of the continued movement of goods and the ongoing delivery of essential services in Canada. Our government’s response to this pandemic includes necessary measures to protect the health and safety of Canadians while keeping our economy going.”

*The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport*

Associated Links

- Infographic for travellers arriving by air
- Infographic for travellers arriving by land
- Backgrounder - Additional testing and more stringent quarantine requirements for travel to Canada
- [COVID-19: Travel, quarantine and borders](#)
- [COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada](#)
- [ArriveCAN](#)
- [Group Exemption from Quarantine under 6\(e\) of the Order](#)

Quick Facts

- Canadians citizens, persons registered under the *Indian Act* and permanent residents arriving by land to Canada, who do not present a valid COVID-19 molecular test, will be allowed entry, but may be subject to a fine of up to \$3,000 per day or face criminal prosecution. Travellers may also be required to go to a designated quarantine facility if they are symptomatic on arrival at the border, or do not have a suitable quarantine plan.
- Foreign nationals who have obtained an exemption to enter Canada, will be refused entry, with limited exceptions, if they do not have a valid COVID-19 molecular test result.
- Failure to provide accurate information is an offence under the *Quarantine Act*. In addition, violating any quarantine or isolation instructions provided to travellers by a screening officer or quarantine officer when entering Canada is an offence under the Quarantine Act and could lead to serious penalties, including 6 months in prison and/or \$750,000 in fines.
- Exemptions continue to be in place to ensure that economic supply chains continue between Canada and the U.S. The Government of Canada is closely engaging the Biden Administration on our respective border measures and we continue to keep the lines of communication open.

Contacts





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Government
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Canada

Additional testing and more stringent quarantine requirements for travel to Canada

Backgrounder

For travellers arriving to Canada by land

As of February 15, 2021, all travellers, with some exceptions, arriving to Canada by land, will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours of pre-arrival, OR a proof of a positive test result within 14 and 90 days prior to arrival. This is consistent with the requirements already in place for air travellers. Essential workers such as truckers and emergency service providers, as well as cross border communities, will be exempt from this requirement. Further information on exemptions will be available in the coming days.

In addition, **as of February 22, 2021**, travellers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine. The Government of Canada will run 16 testing sites at point of entry across Canada. Five ports of entry will initially be available (see below) with 11 additional as of March 4 (see below). The Government of Canada is also working to supply all other ports of entry with test kits for travellers to take to meet these requirements.

For travellers arriving to Canada by air

As of February 22, 2021, all air travellers, with some exceptions, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test when they arrive in Canada before exiting the airport, and another toward the end of their 14-day quarantine period. With limited exceptions, air travellers, will also be required to reserve prior to departure to Canada, a 3-night stay in a government-authorized hotel. Travellers will be required to stay at their reserved hotel for up to 3 nights, at their own cost, while they await the results of their arrival test.

Hotel booking information will be available online as of February 18, 2021. Travellers will need to book a hotel in the city in which they first arrive in Canada. If they receive a negative result on their arrival test, they will be able to take a connecting flight to their final destination. There will be a number of hotels to choose from near each of the four international airports accepting international flights, in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Costs of these hotel stays may vary slightly at each location. It is up to the traveller to choose where they wish to stay and book in advance of departure. The price will include costs associated with the room, food, cleaning, infection prevention and control measures, and security as well as transportation.

These new measures are in addition to existing mandatory pre-boarding and health requirements for air travellers.

Finally, **at the same time on February 22, 2021, all travellers**, whether arriving by land or air will be required to submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan, electronically via **ArriveCAN** before crossing the border or boarding a flight. All travellers arriving to Canada must also continue to submit COVID-related information electronically daily throughout the quarantine period. For a quarantine location to be deemed suitable, travellers cannot stay with at-risk subpopulations including people who work in hospitals or long-term care

facilities, adults over the age of 65, or those who are immunocompromised or at risk for more severe disease outcomes. In addition, travellers must avoid all contact with other in their household with whom they did not travel.

The Government of Canada continues to strongly advise Canadians to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, including vacation plans, outside Canada. Foreign nationals should likewise postpone or cancel travel plans to Canada. Now is not the time to travel.

Five Land Ports of Entry with onsite testing as of February 22, 2021

Douglas, British Columbia
Coutts, Alberta
Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
St. Bernard de Lacolle (Highway 15), Quebec
St Stephen 3rd Bridge, New Brunswick

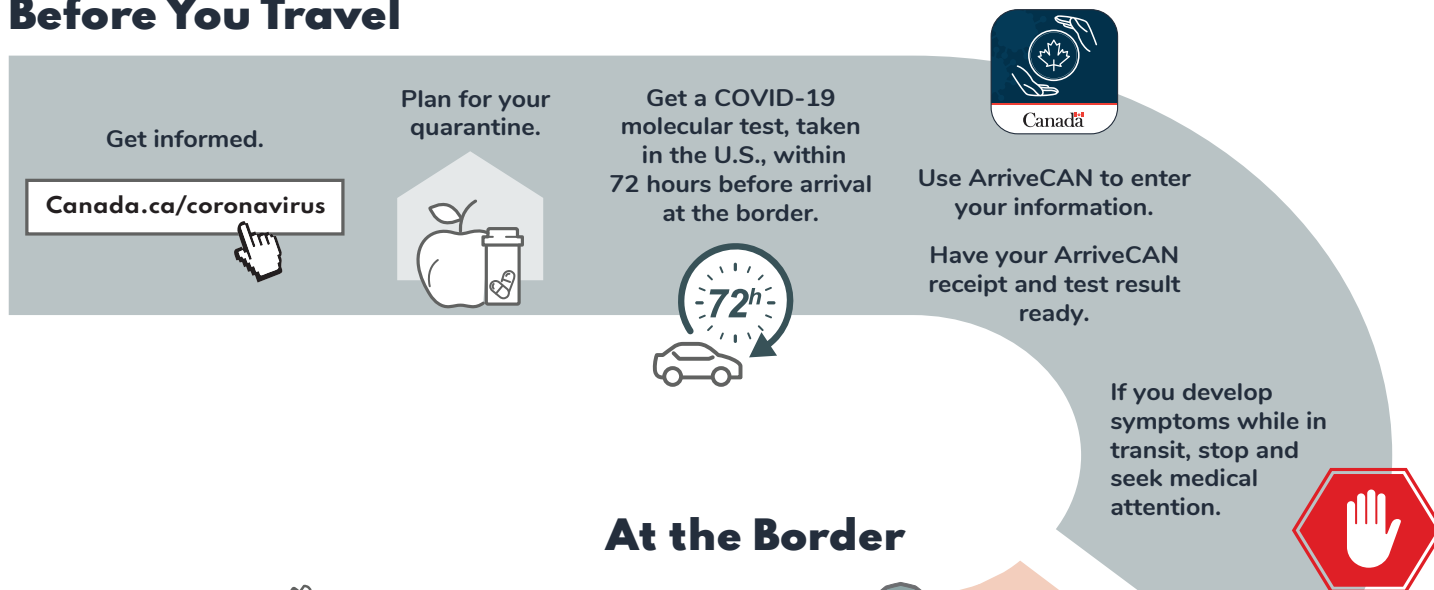
Additional 11 Land Ports of Entry with onsite testing as of March 4, 2021

Ambassador Bridge, Windsor, Ontario
Blue Water Bridge, Point Edward, Ontario
Emerson West Lynne, Manitoba
Fort Erie (Peace Bridge), Ontario
Huntingdon, British Columbia
Lansdowne (Thousand Islands Bridge), Ontario
Pacific Highway, British Columbia
Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls, Ontario
St-Armand, Quebec
Stanstead (Route 55), Quebec
Windsor-Detroit Tunnel, Ontario

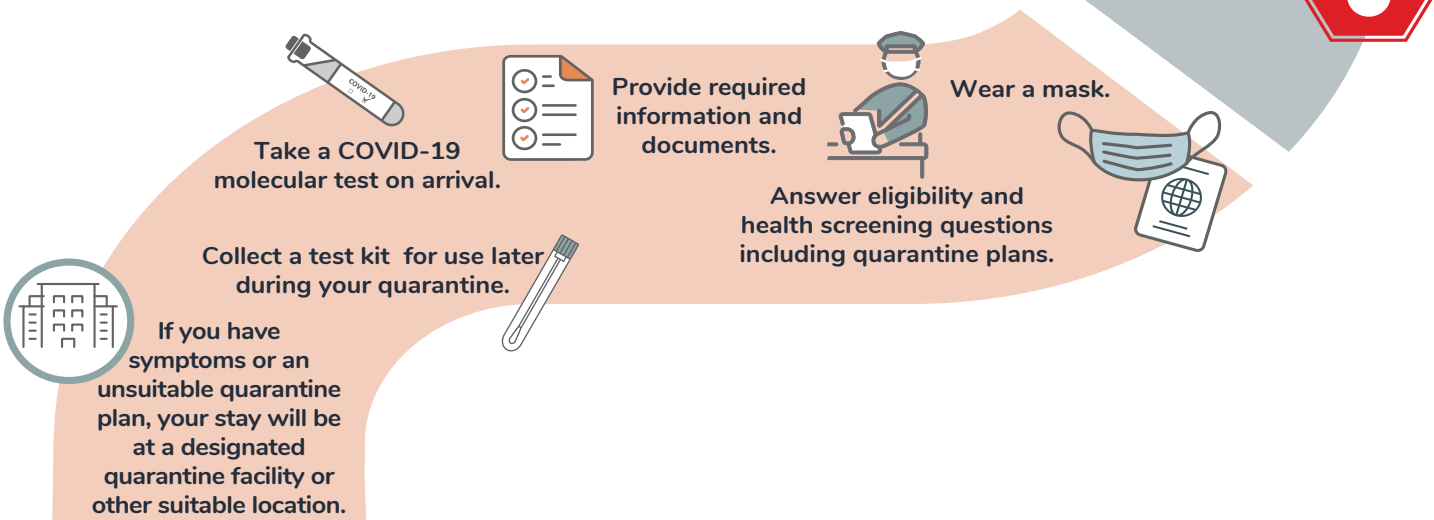
Entering Canada by LAND during COVID-19

Travellers entering Canada must follow the rules set out by the Emergency Orders under the Quarantine Act to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. Failure to comply with any requirements or providing false information may result in fines, penalties or imprisonment.

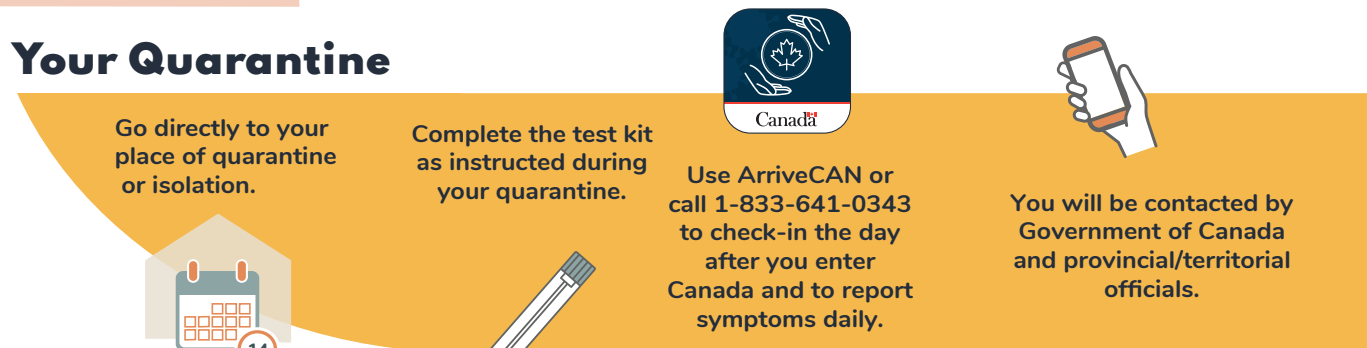
Before You Travel




At the Border



Your Quarantine



 Testing on arrival and during quarantine effective 2021-02-21 at 11:59 p.m. ET.



Entering Canada by AIR during COVID-19

Travellers entering Canada must follow the rules set out by the Emergency Orders under the Quarantine Act to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. Failure to comply with any requirements or providing false information may result in fines, penalties or imprisonment.

Before Departure and in Transit

Plan in advance:

Get informed.
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Plan for your quarantine.
Book your hotel for a 3-night stay upon arrival.

Get a COVID-19 molecular test 72 hours before your scheduled flight.

Before departure:
Use ArriveCAN to enter your information.
Have your ArriveCAN receipt and test result ready.

Upon Arrival to Canada

Take a COVID-19 molecular test.
Collect a test kit for use later during your quarantine.

Provide required information and documents.
Answer eligibility and health screening questions including quarantine plans.

Wear a mask.
If symptoms develop, tell your flight attendant immediately.

Wear a mask.

In transit:


If you have symptoms or an unsuitable quarantine plan, your stay and arrival test will be at a designated quarantine facility.

Your quarantine

Go to your pre-booked hotel to await results of your arrival test.

If negative:
Continue on to your place of quarantine. Complete your test kit as instructed.
Relocate to a designated quarantine facility or other suitable place of quarantine. Follow instructions as provided.

If positive:
Use ArriveCAN or call 1-833-641-0343 to check-in the day after you enter Canada and to report symptoms daily.
You will be contacted by Government of Canada and provincial/territorial officials.

 Testing on arrival and during quarantine effective 2021-02-21 at 11:59 p.m. ET.



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

