



# Technical Briefing Border Measures - Land and Air Arrivals

February 15, 2021

PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING CANADIANS  
TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH



# Purpose

- Provide a briefing on the new border measures and their implementation
- Provide an update on operationalization of the testing requirements

# Strong Public Health Rationale

Border measures are an **important tool to prevent introduction and onward spread** of COVID-19 and its variants within Canada.

- Recent Canadian international border testing pilots demonstrated incoming disease burden of COVID-19 of ~2% (least 2 people on every flight with 100 passengers to Canada has SARS-COV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19).
- Global and dynamic environment presented by the pandemic, including the emergence of new variants of COVID-19.
  - Canada is approaching the limits of our health system's capacity and a certain proportion of travellers will require the use of clinical resources for care.
  - Infected travellers can cause secondary transmissions to others in the community.
  - Increasing evidence of new variants of concern in Canada with parallel risk of new exponential growth of COVID-19 in Canada

**Travel remains a source of new infection (and new variants): additional border measures will further reduce travel volumes and thus drive risk of importation towards zero.**

# New Measures – Land and Air



Stage	AIR	LAND	Key Dates
<b>Pre-arrival</b> 	COVID molecular test 72h prior to <b>departure – in place</b>	COVID molecular test 72h prior to <b>arrival*</b>	<b>February 14 - land</b>
	Registration and proof of payment at government approved accommodation (requirement/ability to book hotels begins on <b>February 18</b> )	Mandatory submission of information through ArriveCAN	<b>February 21</b>
<b>Day 1 – At-Border</b> 	COVID molecular test at border (Day 1)	COVID molecular test at border for key POEs (Day 1) and additional take-home kit for Day 10.	<b>February 21:</b> At-border testing for 5 land POEs and air <b>March 4:</b> At-border testing for additional 11 POEs
		Remote/other POEs: Provide home swab test kit for Days 1 and 10	
<b>Post-arrival</b>	Day 1-3 at <b>Government-approved accommodation</b> Positive: Transfer to DQF	Days 1-14 at suitable place of quarantine. • If place of quarantine is not suitable, 14 days at DQF	<b>February 21</b>  
	Day 3-14 at <b>suitable place of quarantine</b> • If place of quarantine is not suitable, 14 days at DQF	<b>Positive</b> for Day 1 test: 14 days of isolation	
	Mandatory 48 hour check-in and daily symptom reporting		
	COVID molecular test on Day 10		
	<b>Positive:</b> additional 14 days of isolation from when results received		
<b>Additional Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced requirements for a suitable quarantine plan for non-exempt travellers entering Canada</li> <li>Enhanced screening for travellers who have been in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil.</li> <li>In Development - Creation of a national genomic sequencing network to track COVID variants.</li> <li>Increased compliance and enforcement, calls, and door knocks</li> </ul>		

## Suitable Quarantine – Amended

- Effective **February 21, 2021**, travellers arriving by air and land to Canada are required to provide information on their mandatory 14-day quarantine plan digitally through ArriveCAN upon entry to Canada, unless specifically exempted.
- Effective **February 21, 2021** travellers arriving to Canada must comply with revised definition of a suitable place to quarantine where they can:
  - > stay for 14 days or possibly longer;
  - > have access to the necessities of life, including water, food, medication and heat without leaving quarantine; and
  - > stay separate from others in the home who did not travel.
- Travellers cannot quarantine in a place with people who:
  - > are 65 years or older;
  - > have underlying medical conditions;
  - > have compromised immune systems; or
  - > **work with at-risk populations such as those in long-term care facilities.**
- *Note:* Travellers exempted from quarantine are required to wear a suitable non-medical mask **at all times if in public spaces**, continue to monitor their health, **maintain a list of names and contact** information of each person they came in close contact with and respect the public health guidance of the area where they are travelling.

## Travellers Arriving to Canada by Land – As of February 14

- All non-essential travellers five years of age and over will be required to provide:
  - > proof of a negative result for COVID-19 molecular test that was performed in the United States on a specimen collected no more than 72 hours before entering Canada **OR**
  - > proof of a positive result for COVID-19 molecular test that was performed in or outside the U.S. on a specimen collected at least 14 days and no more than 90 days before entering Canada
- Proof of a test must include:
  - > the person's name and date of birth;
  - > the name and civic address of the laboratory that administered the test;
  - > the date the specimen was collected the test method used; and
  - > the test results
- Enforcement
  - > Foreign nationals without a valid test result will be denied entry
  - > Canadians and others with right of entry would be allowed entry may be subject to fines or directed to the Designated Quarantine Facility (DQF)

## Testing on arrival at the land border – Effective Feb 21, 2021

- Travellers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival (i.e., Day 1) as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine (i.e., Day 10)
- Distribution of 2 self-swab kits at all land ports of entry (POEs)
- Testing (observed self-swab collection) to be established at 11 high volumes POEs by March 4 2021

### February 21

- Peace Arch-Douglas, BC
- Coutts, AB
- Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, ON
- Lacolle, QC
- St. Stephens, NB

### March 4

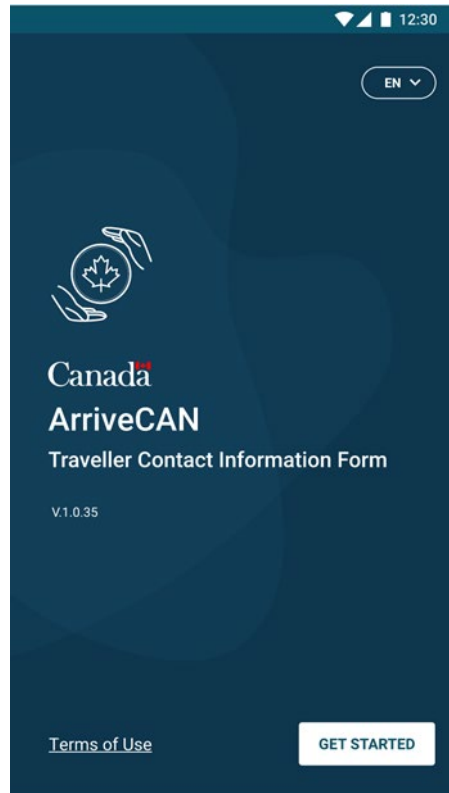
- Ambassador Bridge, ON
- Fort Erie (Peace Bridge), ON
- Windsor-Detroit Tunnel, ON
- Sarnia (Blue Water Bridge), ON
- Rainbow Bridge, ON
- Lansdowne (Thousand Islands Bridge), ON
- Pacific Highway, BC
- Niagara Falls, BC
- St-Armand/Philipsburg, QC
- Huntingdon, QC
- Stanstead, QC
- Emerson, SK

## Travellers Arriving by Air – As of February 21

- As of **February 21, 2021**, non-exempted travellers will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test:
  - > on arrival, while at the airport (Day 1 test); and later during their mandatory quarantine period (Day 10 test)
- All air travellers, unless exempted, will also be required to stay in a government-authorized hotel for up to three nights at their own expense while they await the results of their Day 1 test
- Travellers with a negative Day 1 test result can leave the hotel to complete the remainder of the mandatory 14-day quarantine period at their final place of quarantine; complete Day 10 test
- Travellers with a positive Day 1 test result will move to a federal designated quarantine facility or other suitable location to isolate



# New Updates to ArriveCAN



- New Introductory summary of additional measures
- Confirmation of evidence of a COVID-19 molecular test
- Confirmation of booking at a government-approved accommodation (Available February 18)
- New questions regarding suitable quarantine

# New Measures – Quarantine and Compliance

## Quarantine

### Stronger quarantine measures



Traveller must have separate sleeping quarters

### Traveller cannot quarantine with:

- A vulnerable person
- A person who works with a vulnerable population (ie. long term care facility)

## Compliance verification

### Monitoring / enforcement

Travellers are monitored by PHAC officers and contract resources

- 5000 live calls a day,
- 2000 robocalls, and
- 1000 “door knocks” in Montreal and Toronto
- Additional cities across the country to be rolled out next



### Fines

PHAC officers or law enforcement can issue fines

- Maximum fines of \$3,000 per different QA offences

QUESTIONS?

## Annex: Enhanced Public Health Measures and Restrictions

New Measure	Mode	Implementation Date
Testing upon arrival at the airport.	Air	February 21 @ 11:59:59 PM
Quarantine at a GAA for up to three days.	Air	February 21 @ 11:59:59 PM
Post-Arrival Test Kit	Air	February 21 @ 11:59:59 PM
Enhanced definition of suitable quarantine plan. - ArriveCAN	Air and Land	February 21 @ 11:59:59 PM
Pre-Arrival Testing in land mode.	Land	February 14 @ 11:59:59 PM
Prohibition on entry for foreign nationals who fail to provide evidence of a valid molecular test.	Land	February 14 @ 11:59:59 PM
Mandatory digital submission of information pre-arrival in land mode.	Land	February 21 @ 11:59:59 PM
Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program and some TFWs delayed requirement for GAA	Air	March 14 @ 11:59:59 PM