

Q49. Entry and Quarantine Measures for COVID-19 Prevention FAQs concerning COVID-19 PCR Test Reports within Two Days prior to Flight Schedule Time

JULY 14, 2022

Q1 : Who need to present a COVID-19 PCR test reports within two days prior to flight schedule time?

A1 :

According to the regulations of the government of the Republic of China , effective from July 14, 2022, people with a valid Alien Resident Certificate, and transit passengers will be exempt from presenting a result from a COVID-19 PCR test taken within the 2 days before flight schedule time. Foreign nationals (including Chinese nationals and residents of Hong Kong and Macao) coming to Taiwan must present a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR test taken within the 2 days before flight schedule time. Those who fail to comply with applicable regulations will be fined between NT\$10,000 and 150,000.

※ If you have a concern about 「 a valid Alien Resident Certificate 」 , please contact the Ministry of the Interior National Immigration Agency Republic of China (Taiwan).

Q2 : Where can I obtain a COVID-19 PCR test report within two days prior to the flight schedule time? Do I need to pay for

it myself, or does the government cover my testing expenses?

A2 :

A COVID-19 PCR test report must be issued by a legally-established hospital or clinic (including medical testing laboratories) at the place of departure, and testing expenses shall be paid by travelers themselves. If travelers have a concern about the list of local medical institutions capable of providing a COVID-19 PCR test, please contact the health authority of the place of departure, the airline, or the R.O.C. missions abroad.

Q2-1 : If a traveler has a COVID-19 PCR test report issued by an EU member state (such as France), can the traveler board a flight to Taiwan in another country (such as Germany or the Netherlands)?

A2-1 :

If a traveler enters another country (such as going from an EU member state to another member state) or area (such as going from mainland China to Hong Kong or Macao) by car, train, boat, or other means of transportation other than by air, before taking a flight to Taiwan, as long as the format and information of test report fully comply with requirements, and the test was taken within two days prior to the flight schedule time, the traveler may board their flight to Taiwan; such a traveler must also abide by border quarantine

measures imposed by the local government of the place of departure and comply with terms and conditions and policies concerning providing services to passengers issued by each airline.

Q2-2 : If a COVID-19 PCR test report provided by a traveler is issued by the local pharmacy or community medical testing station, does the test report meet the requirements?

A2-2 :

COVID-19 testing services vary from country to country. If local and legally-established pharmacies or community medical testing stations provide COVID-19 RT-PCR testing services, and the content of test reports issued by these institutions meets the requirements set forth by Taiwan for a COVID-19 PCR test report within two days prior to the flight schedule time, then such test reports are deemed to meet the requirements.

Q2-3 : If a COVID-19 PCR test report issued in mainland China does not include the traveler's date of birth or passport number (for example, the test report does not include the item), what should the traveler do?

A2-3 :

1. A COVID-19 PCR test report must contain items, including the name on the passport of the traveler, date

of birth (or passport number), specimen collection date and test report date, the virus name, testing method, and interpretation of test result, in accordance with the requirements. If the traveler's date of birth or passport number is missing, the traveler can ask the hospital to add the traveler's date of birth or passport number and can provide signature on the report; the annotation and signature must be clearly identifiable, or the airline must confirm that the signature belongs to the traveler, before the traveler may be allowed to board.

2. When mainland Chinese use a Taiwan Travel Permit for Mainland Residents (Mainland Resident Travel Permit) to visit Taiwan, their test report must include their passport number or Mainland Resident Travel Permit number.

Q3 : What is the format of a COVID-19 PCR test report within two days prior to the flight schedule time? How is the two-day period calculated with respect to the test report? Is the day of the flight included?

A3 :

1. Travelers must present a COVID-19 PCR test report issued by a legally-established hospitals and clinics at the place of departure within two calendar days prior to the flight schedule time. As a rule, the test report must be written in English, Chinese, or both Chinese and English (bilingual version); its format and the signature should be made in accordance with the requirements of

the local health authority. The content of the result must include the name on the passport of the traveler, the date of birth or passport number, specimen collection date and test report date, the virus name, testing method, and interpretation of results, etc. The two-day period prior to the flight schedule time of such a test report shall be calculated based on the specimen collection date and calendar days.

Examples :

If a traveler takes a flight scheduled to depart at 12:10 a.m. on January 10, 2022, counting backward two days from the date (weekend days and national holidays are counted), this traveler must present a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR test taken on January 8 or 9 (not counting from the time of boarding, for example, 11:40 p.m. on January 9).

2. If a COVID-19 PCR test report presented by a traveler contains only the "test report date" without the "specimen collection date," the report is not in compliance with the requirements, and the traveler will be penalized upon entry.
- ※ The "flight schedule time" refers to the flight schedule time announced by the airline company; travelers shall arrange a COVID-19 test and obtain the test report in time based on the flight schedule time.

Q3-1 : What should people do if their name on their COVID-19 PCR test report is written in a different order from that on their passport (or if their middle name is missing, etc.)?

A3-1 :

If a traveler's name on his or her COVID-19 PCR test report is written in a different order from that on his or her passport, for example, when the name on a traveler's PCR test report is shown as HUANG XIAO MING, while the name on that traveler's passport is XIAO MING HUANG; or when the name on a traveler's PCR test report is shown as GEORGE BUSH, while the name on his or her passport is GEORGE WALKER BUSH, if the airline determines that both names refer to the same person based on the date of birth (or passport number), that traveler may be allowed to board the flight.

Q3-2 : If a COVID-19 PCR test within two days prior to the flight schedule time provided by travelers is not in English but another language, such as Chinese, French, or Spanish, how should it be handled? Is a photocopy or an electronic file of a test report acceptable?

A3-2 :

1. In principle, a COVID-19 PCR test report within two days prior to the flight schedule time presented by travelers shall be in English, Chinese, or both Chinese and English (bilingual version).

2. In cases where the traveler provides a French- or Spanish-language COVID-19 test report, other than Chinese or English, if the test report is in the official language of the place of departure, and the airline is capable of assisting in the inspection of the content, such as the traveler's name and passport number, the specimen collection date and test report date, the test requested, testing method, and results, the test report may be accepted and the traveler may be allowed to board.
3. The test report, whether it is the original copy, a photocopy or in electronic form, can be accepted as long as its content and all required fields, such as specimen collection date, test report date, personal information sufficient to identify the traveler, testing method, and test results, are clear and identifiable and must be deemed complete after review. In addition, if the test report provided by the traveler is untruthful, the traveler will be penalized in accordance with laws.

Q4 : If a traveler transfers to Taiwan through a third place, which voyage is the two-day period of a COVID-19 PCR test report be based on?

A4 :

1. In principle, the two-day period would be counted from the flight schedule time of the first flight. However, if the traveler transfers through and stays at the third place for

more than two days (including transfers on both domestic and international flights), the two-day period would refer to two days prior to the flight schedule time of the following connecting flight to Taiwan.

2. Furthermore, in accordance with the guidelines and handbooks for flight operations issued by international organizations (such as IATA and WHO), in order to ensure the safety of passengers and crew members on the same flight, airlines may request that travelers must present relevant health certificates before boarding. Accordingly, if the related regulations are not applicable to the traveler's transfer flight to Taiwan (especially when the traveler takes a flight run by non-R.O.C. carriers), it is recommended that the traveler first consult the airline to ensure a smooth journey.

Case:

4-1. A traveler takes a domestic flight from Atlanta, USA (place of departure) to Los Angeles (third place) to transfer, and then takes an international flight to Taiwan from Los Angeles. If the traveler does not stay in Los Angeles for more than two days, the traveler only has to present a certificate of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within two days prior to the flight schedule time at the place of departure (Atlanta); the traveler does not need to undergo testing again at the third place.

4-2. A traveler takes an international flight from Kenya (place of departure) to a city in the Middle East ("a third place" or "City D"),

and then takes a connecting flight to Taiwan. If the traveler does not stay in City D for more than two days, then that traveler only has to present a certificate of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within two days prior to the flight schedule time at the place of departure, and the traveler does not need to undergo testing again at the third place. However, if the airline company of the connecting flight the traveler takes in City D has special regulations, for instance, requiring that travelers must have a COVID-19 test report before they may board the flight, the traveler must comply with those regulations.

4-3. A traveler takes an international flight from Nigeria (place of departure) to mainland China (third place), and takes a connecting flight to Taiwan in mainland China. If the traveler does not stay in mainland China for more than two days, then that traveler only has to present a certificate of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within two days prior to the flight schedule time at the place of departure, and the traveler does not need to undergo testing again at the third place. However, if mainland China has special regulations (such as requiring that passengers travel between Taiwan and mainland China must present a COVID-19 test report before boarding), the traveler must comply with those regulations.

Q5 : What items are required for a COVID-19 PCR test within two days prior to the flight schedule time?

A5 :

1. A test report must be for a nucleic acid test, a molecular biology technique for testing (regardless of whether it is rapid testing), and must contain the following: the name on the passport of the traveler, the date of birth (or passport number) of the traveler, the virus name (COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2), specimen collection date, the test method (PCR, real-time PCR, (Rapid) RT-PCR, RT-qPCR (Quantitative Reverse Transcription PCR), NAA (nucleic acid amplification), (Rapid) NAAT (nucleic acid amplification test), NAT (nucleic acid test), LAMP (Loop/Mediated isothermal Amplification) , RT-LAMP, COVID-19 RNA test, SARS-CoV-2 RNA test, or molecular diagnostics), and the interpretation result of "negative" or "undetectable."
- ※ If a COVID-19 PCR test report presented by a traveler contains only the "test report date" without the "specimen collection date" the report is not in compliance with the requirements. The traveler is advised to contact the medical institution that conducted the test for revision to avoid being fined.
2. Immunoserologic testing, which detects the presence of any antigens (Ag) or antibodies (Ab; IgG or IgM), is not molecular biology nucleic acid testing and thus, does not comply with the requirements for an English-language COVID-19 PCR test report within two days prior to the flight schedule time.

Q6 : If my COVID-19 PCR test report exceeds two days due to flight delays, do I need to take another test?

A6 :

If a traveler presents a COVID-19 PCR test report which calculated based on the original flight schedule time, is not overdue for more than two days, the traveler is allowed to board his or her flight without taking another test; however if the test report is overdue for two days or more, the traveler should take another test.

Q7 : If a person arrives at a port in Taiwan by ship, is he or she provide a COVID-19 PCR test report?

A7 :

1. All inbound ships entering international ports in Taiwan from other countries (boundaries) shall submit entry quarantine applications to Taiwan Centers for Disease Control within 4 to 72 hours before arrival; the shipmaster is also required to truthfully report the health status of crewmembers upon entry, and Taiwan CDC will conduct a variety of quarantine and preventive measures, such as health assessments and referral for specimen collection, for inbound crewmembers.
2. In consideration of characteristics of ships on international voyages (i.e. long voyage distances and people on board are often not permitted to leave the ship to undergo testing at the ports of other countries)

and the difficulty in obtaining a COVID-19 PCR test report for people on board ships on international voyages, they are exempted from providing a COVID-19 PCR test report.

Q8 : If a traveler arriving in Taiwan provides an untruthful test report or he/she refuses, evades or obstructs related measures, will the traveler be subject to penalties?

A8 :

1. If a traveler arriving in Taiwan provides an untruthful test report or he/she refuses, evades or obstructs related quarantine measures, such traveler may be fined from NT\$10,000 to NT\$150,000.
2. If a traveler arriving in Taiwan provides a forged or altered COVID-19 PCR test report, such traveler will be fined NT\$150,000 and transferred to law enforcement; if the traveler fails to cooperate with the self-paid testing measure upon arrival, he or she will be fined NT\$50,000; if the traveler voluntarily informs quarantine officers that he or she does not have a test report and returns to Taiwan, the traveler will be fined NT\$10,000. All travelers are required to follow the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program.