



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

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

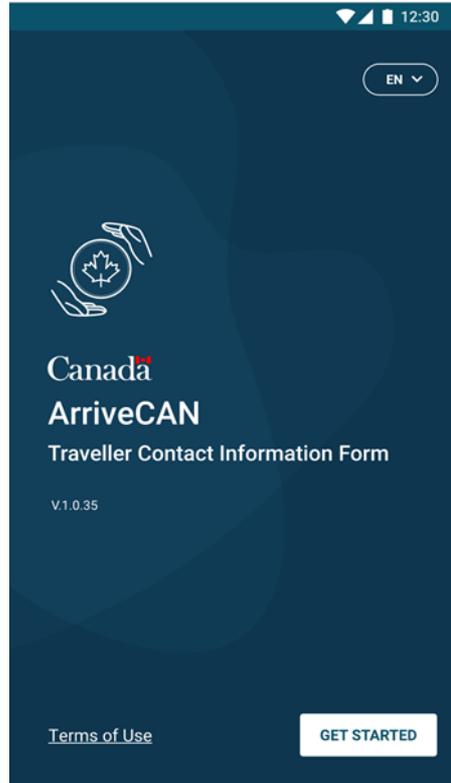
March 4

- 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