What you need to know: Airport COVID-19 testing February 11, 2021

COVID-19 testing is seen as a way to safely open up both international and domestic travel, particularly as more destinations make the presentation of a negative result a condition of arrival. Such a result may reduce or even eliminate quarantine in some destinations. As testing develops, it is being made available both pre-departure and on-arrival, as airports cater for each destination's differing regulations and entry conditions.

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Africa

Gabon

Passengers may only board an international flight to Gabon after presenting a negative PCR result from a test taken within 120 hours of departure. On *arrival*, they must take a COVID-19 test at the screening center in the arrival hall of Libreville Airport. The test costs 20,000 Central African Francs (\$37). Passengers must self-isolate for the 48 hours it takes to return their results. Following a negative result, passengers receive a test certificate valid for 14 days, which may be renewed, but only after taking another test.

Ghana

Anyone traveling to Ghana by air must complete an online health declaration form before departure.³ On *arrival* at Accra's Kotoka International airport, they must provide evidence of a negative result from a PCR test taken not more than 72 hours before departure and have their temperature checked.⁴ Passengers must also take a mandatory COVID-19 antigen test at the airport at a cost of \$150. Depending on the result, which should be available within 30 minutes, a period in guarantine may be required.

Asia

China

When traveling to China from some countries where infection rates are high, passengers must within 48 hours of boarding a flight take a nucleic acid and IgM antibody test. 5 They should present/email negative

⁵ Embassy of China, Belgium



¹ Aeroport de Libreville, COVID-19 safety measures

² Gov.UK, FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

³ Gov.UK, FCO, Nov 12, 2020

⁴ Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, August 2020

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test results to the local Chinese embassy for a green health code with the "HS" mark or a certified health declaration form. Chinese travelers can upload images of their results to the WeChat Health Code app.

Passengers *arriving* in China at gateway airports are subject to health checks, which may include nucleic acid or swab tests. These tests are *not* carried out at the airport. Travelers must instead proceed to government appointed locations, where they will need to pay for a test. Also at their own cost, all travelers (including Chinese citizens) must stay at a designated hotel while waiting for their test results. Chinese citizens may then quarantine at home, although the policy may be different for each gateway city. Some cities require only a 7-day quarantine, which may have to be spent at a hotel or at home (depending on the city). In others, quarantine may be 14 days. Overseas travelers must quarantine at a designated hotel for 14 days.⁶

Departing passengers face no restrictions, as long as no time was spent in the preceding 14 days in a high or middle risk area in China. Nucleic acid or swab tests are normally *not* available at the departure airport, so passengers must arrange and pay locally for any tests required by their destination.

Hong Kong (HKG)

Before boarding a flight to Hong Kong, most travelers must present their airline with a negative COVID -19 result from a test taken not more than 72 hours before departure. The name on the result must be identical to that on the traveler's travel document. On arrival at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) all passengers are tested again at the airport's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC). They must remain in the TSCC and wait for their RT-PCR test results, which are usually available on the same day, before proceeding to immigration and baggage reclaim. 8

During November 2020, HKIA conducted a trial of rapid a Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) COVID-19 test. Testing was voluntary and arriving passengers still had to wait for their results from the mandatory RT-PCR test. The LAMP test should return results in around 30 minutes, compared with 3-6 hours for the RT-PCR test currently in use. Both tests require a throat and nose swab to be taken.

If LAMP tests are found to be effective, they may be rolled out so that outbound travelers can save time and money by testing at the airport before boarding their flight. Pre-flight testing may also be a condition of the travel corridors Hong Kong is trying to agree with other countries. Currently, all passengers traveling to Beijing must present proof of a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result not older than seven days.

India

Bangalore (BLR)

During December 2020, Bangalore International Airport and Auriga Research Pvt Ltd opened a round-the-clock COVID-19 testing facility. Located near the Arrivals Area, the center features a sample collection kiosk, a waiting lounge and a dedicated laboratory outside the terminal. The center offers tests for *arriving international* passengers unable to get a test prior to boarding their flight. The service is also available to *departing* passengers needing a negative RT-PCR result at their destination.

¹⁰ Kempegowda International Airport Bengalaru, Dec. 22, 2020



⁶ UK. Gov, FCO, China

⁷ HKIA, Arriving Passengers to present negative COVID-19 result

⁸ HKIA, Compulsory Quarantine and COVID-19 Testing

⁹ Hong Kong Free Press, Oct. 28, 2020

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Costs range between Rs 800 (US\$11) for a regular RT-PCR test and Rs 4,500 (\$64) for the Abbott ID NOW™ rapid PCR test. A Rs 400 collection charge may also apply. Results for the standard PerkinElmer High Throughput test are available in 6-24 hours, while the Abbott test delivers a result within 30 minutes.¹¹

Delhi (DEL)

Passengers arriving at Delhi Airport can be tested for COVID-19 at a center operated by Genestrings Diagnostic Center. Since late October 2020, testing has been extended to passengers *boarding international* flights, as more destination countries require a negative result before allowing entry. The tests may also be used by passengers making domestic connections, with a negative result allowing them to avoid quarantine at their final destination in India.

Genestrings offers RT-PCR tests, providing results within four to six hours.¹² This means departing passengers would typically need to arrive at the airport 7-8 hours before flight departure. Arriving passengers must remain in the testing center's lounge until receiving a negative result. The test is available at Rs5,000 (\$71).¹³ The fee includes test and lounge charges.

Mumbai (BOM)

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj airport offers a RT-PCR testing facility for all *domestic arriving* and *departing* passengers, located at Level 10 in the Departures Area. ¹⁴ Test results take 24-48 hours for arriving passengers and 8-10 hours for departing passengers. The test costs Rs 850 (US\$12). Anyone testing positive faces institutional quarantine in Mumbai.

The airport also offers testing for all *international arrivals*, with RT-PCR testing available in the T2 Arrivals Lounge Area. Results take 8-10 hours and are sent out by email. The test costs Rs 850.

After arriving in India, all international passengers must pay for 7 days of institutional quarantine, followed by a further 7 days isolation at home. Submission of a negative result from a RT-PCR test taken within 96 hours of departure for India enables travelers arriving from some countries to spend all 14 days of quarantine at home. ¹⁵

In mid-December 2020, Mumbai Airport started offering testing 24 hours per day, and introduced an express service, with results available within 13 minutes. ¹⁶ Arriving international passengers must pay Rs 4,500 (US\$64) for the Abbott ID NOW™ rapid molecular COVID-19 test.

Japan

Tokyo Narita (NRT)

A COVID-19 testing center opens at Tokyo Narita Airport in November 2020, enabling *departing* passengers to obtain a negative test result certificate within 2 hours. 17 Set up by Nippon Medical School Foundation, the facilities in terminals 1 and 2 make Narita the first airport in Japan with an on-the-spot testing center.

¹⁷ <u>Japan Times</u>, Oct. 22, 2020



¹¹ Auriga Research, COVID-19 testing at Kempegowda

¹² Airport Technology, Oct. 26, 2020

¹³ Delhi Airport, COVID-19 testing centre

¹⁴ Mumbai International Airport, FAQs

¹⁵ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Aug. 2, 2020

¹⁶ Financial Express, Dec. 30, 2020

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The RT-PCR test costs ¥39,800 (\$380) for passengers with an appointment or ¥46,500 without one. Certificates are issued in English and Japanese.

The center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but it will charge extra fees for testing and issuing certificates at night and early in the morning.

There is no restriction on who can get tested, although the service is primarily aimed at departing passengers.

Tokyo Haneda (HND)

Tokyo's Haneda airport offers testing for *departing* passengers traveling internationally. ¹⁸ Operated by Toho University, the testing center is located in Terminal 3 and is open daily from 09:00 to 11:30 and from 13:00 to 17:30. The saliva-based PCR test costs ¥38,500 (US\$370), with an extra ¥500 charged for travelers to Hawaii, who need their certificate to be in a specific format. All test certificates are normally issued between 2 and 4 hours after testing. Travelers may need to allow an extra 2 hours to account for the 2% of tests where results are inconclusive and require a retest.

Travelers only receive a certificate for a negative COVID-19 test and must still see a doctor separately if needing a Fit to Fly Certificate.

Osaka Kansai (KIX)

A clinic operated by the Kinki University offers a PCR testing service for *business travelers only*. The test costs ¥44,000 (US\$420) and must be booked in advance. The clinic can handle only 10 people per day and passengers may need to wait until the following day for a negative result certificate.

Nagoya Chubu Centrair International Airport (NGO)

Fujita Medical University operates an RT-PCR testing center at Nagoya's Chubu Centrair International Airport.¹⁹ The clinic is located on the north side of the 2nd floor of Terminal 1.

Using high-speed nasopharyngeal PCR testing, the entire process from sample collection to certificate issue can be completed within 3 hours. The test is targeted at *departing passengers* making international trips. Including taxes and one certificate, the test costs \$38,500 (US\$366), with extra certificates costing \$5,500 (US\$52).

Singapore

Short-term visitors may only enter Singapore under one of two programs: 20

- Air Travel Pass arriving from approved countries
- Safe Travel Pass government or company sponsored officials and business travelers arriving from approved countries

On *arrival*, Air Travel Pass holders must take a PCR nasal swab test at Changi Airport. They must book and pay \$\$300 (including GST) for the test online before arrival in Singapore. It is not possible to take the test at any other location after arrival. Results are available within 48 hours, during which time a passenger must self-isolate in a declared place of accommodation.

²⁰ Changi Airport



¹⁸ Toho University, Information about Saliva PCR test

¹⁹ Fujita Medical University, Nov. 30, 2020

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A negative result allows a passenger to avoid the mandatory 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). However, they must still download the government's TraceTogether app, keep it activated during their stay, and retain it for 14 days after leaving Singapore. Anyone testing positive will be sent to a medical facility for treatment and monitoring, at their own expense.

Passengers arriving under the Safe Travel Pass scheme must present a negative PCR test result and undergo a post-arrival test at Changi Airport. Thereafter, they are subject to the same procedure and conditions as Air Travel Pass holders.

Travelers *leaving* Singapore may also apply for a pre-departure PCR test. Approval is only granted for people traveling under Singapore's Green/Fast Lane travel corridor arrangements with other countries, or those traveling to destinations with a mandatory requirement for a pre-entry negative result.²¹ Applications can take up to 5 days to process. Testing must be conducted at least 48 hours before the flight to ensure travelers receive their results in time. Tests must be conducted at an approved clinic, which includes Raffles Medical's clinic at Changi Airport.

South Korea

All international *arrivals* – regardless of nationality or length of stay – must test for COVID-19 and undergo a 14-day quarantine.²² Korean nationals, and long-term foreign visitors with an Alien Registration Card and Korean residence, may self-quarantine at home. Arrivals from the U.S. and Europe must test within three days; arrivals from elsewhere must test within 14 days.

Arrivals from the U.S. and Europe will typically be tested on arrival – although it is not clear if this is at the airport - before being transferred to a government-designated quarantine facility, at a daily cost of 100,000 KRW (US\$90).

Passengers *arriving* at Seoul's Incheon International Airport have their temperatures checked and must complete a Health Declaration and Quarantine Agreement, detailing contact information in South Korea and any visits to high-risk areas.²³ They must also install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection mobile app, which will be used to ensure self-quarantine rules are being followed. Symptomatic travelers are quarantined in a waiting room before being tested for COVID-19.

In response to a new requirement for China-bound passengers transiting through South Korea to be tested at the transit airport, Incheon airport suspended transit travel to China. This suggests the airport does not have the facilities to test *departing* passengers for COVID-19.²⁴

Latin America back to top

Belize

Belize City's Philip SW Goldson International airport features a new Health Facility complete with its own waiting room, testing stations, laboratory, restroom and isolation room. ²⁵ Returning citizens and residents

²⁵ Belize Airport, COVID-19 safety & health measures



²¹ SafeTravel, Pre-Departure Test Application

²² UK.Gov, FCO, South Korea

²³ Incheon Airport, Safer travel with Incheon Airport

²⁴ Korean Air, Entry restrictions by country

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must take a COVID-19 test on arrival at their own expense. Other passengers arriving without proof of a negative result must also test at the airport.²⁶ Testing costs US\$50 per passenger.²⁷

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Austria

Since December 19, 2020, a 10-day self-quarantine has been mandatory for travelers arriving from most countries.²⁸ On arrival, travelers must present a Declaration of Quarantine form. After five days of quarantine, a negative result from a paid-for PCR or antigen test allows travelers to end self-isolation.

Business travelers *entering* Austria may avoid quarantine by presenting a medical certificate confirming a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR test result not more than 72 hours old.

Located in Office Park 3, the Health Center at Vienna Airport offers both a PCR test and a rapid antigen test (Roche SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test). To both *arriving* and *departing* passengers.²⁹ Anyone testing positive is reported to the health authorities and must self-quarantine. The center is open between 07:00 and 20:00 and travelers must register in person (by 19:00). The PCR test costs €120 with results typically available within a few hours, and no later than the following day. The rapid antigen test costs €35 with results within 30 minutes.

For a fee of €144.90, Vienna Airport offers the Covid Care Premium Service for passengers looking for a stress-free experience.³⁰ Available to both arriving and departing passengers, the service includes a PCR test for one person and a Covid Care Package containing a mask, disposable gloves and disinfectant. A staff member is also on hand to guide passengers through the arrival/departure process and assist with any questions or concerns. The service is also available for €29.90 without a PCR test.

Belgium

A COVID-19 test center was set up at Brussels Zaventem airport in mid-September 2020 to support passengers whose country of destination requires a negative result from a test carried out within the 72 hours before departure. A standard PCR test costs €67, with results typically available within 24 hours.³¹ A rapid test, giving a result in 3-11 hours (depending on when the test is taken), is also available for €135.

Passengers *arriving* from a red zone country can also be tested upon arrival, with test results available within 24 hours.³² Anyone receiving a corona test prescription code by text from the Belgian government is obliged to take this test. The text is part of the contact tracing procedure and will be in response to information provided in the passenger's Passenger Locator Form. Passengers with this code and who are covered by a Belgian health insurance company will not pay for the test. Passengers without Belgian health insurance must pay €46.81.

³² The Brussels Times, Sept. 14, 2020



²⁶ American Airlines, Dec. 14, 2020

²⁷ Belize Tourism Board, Dec. 3, 2020

²⁸ <u>Austria.Info</u>, Entry Regulations for Austria

²⁹ Vienna Airport, COVID-19 Tests

³⁰ Vienna Airport, Covid Care Premium Service

³¹ Brussels Airport, COVID-19 Test Centre

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Travelers are recommended to register online for voluntary testing, generating a QR code for presentation at the testing center. The test center is operated by Ecolog, and it is located outside the airport terminal.

Croatia

Zagreb (ZAG)

To meet the entry requirements of the Netherlands Government for a rapid antigen test taken within four hours of departure, this test is now available for passengers flying to Amsterdam from Zagreb's Franjo Tudman Airport.³³ Located on the 2nd floor of the passenger terminal, the testing center is open from 05:00 until boarding closes for the Amsterdam flight. Passengers must pay 250 Kuna (US\$40) for the test, which is carried out by Poliklinika LabPlus.³⁴

Finland

Travelers *arriving* from a country subject to entry restrictions (or having spent time in one during the preceding two weeks) should voluntarily enter a 10-day quarantine period.³⁵ It is possible to take a COVID-19 test at Helsinki Airport to reduce the length of quarantine:

- Finnish nationals or residents: test for COVID-19 at the airport immediately on arrival, taking a second test (in their home town) at least 72 hours later. Two negative test results allows quarantine to end early.
- Other travelers on trips exceeding 72 hours: on arrival, present a negative result from a COVID-19 test not more than 72 hours old, or take a test at Helsinki Airport. Then quarantine for 72 hours, before taking a second test. If this result is also negative, quarantine may be ended.

People arriving from countries without entry restrictions need not quarantine. Those arriving from a restricted country, but who intend to spend less than 72 hours in Finland, need not quarantine either, but must present a negative COVID-19 test result.

Anyone arriving in Helsinki Airport, who may have COVID-19 symptoms or may have been exposed, can also take the free test. But they must then self-isolate, at least until a negative result is received.

Testing at Helsinki Airport is carried out by the City of Vantaa health authority and is free of charge. The service, located after baggage reclaim, is open only when there are arriving flights.

On weekdays, Helsinki Airport also deploys specially trained dogs to "test" all passengers arriving on international flights for COVID-19. Anyone failing the scent detection test is referred to the City of Vantaa health information point for a formal COVID-19 test.

Passengers arriving in Finland through airports other than Helsinki must contact the local health authorities to arrange a COVID-19 test.

Helsinki Airport COVID-19 testing is not available for *departing* passengers.³⁶ As it does not provide a certificate confirming a negative result, it's of no use to passengers needing proof they are COVID-19-free.

France

Passengers, who *arrive* from countries where COVID-19 is regarded to be very actively circulating, must present a negative PCR test result, carried out less than 72 hours prior to departure from France.

³⁶ Finavia, Oct. 1, 2020



³³ Zagreb Airport, Passenger information for the Netherlands

³⁴ The Dubrovnik Times, Jan. 26, 2021

³⁵ Finavia, Air travel during COVID-19

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Passengers without a test result are tested on arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, with results emailed within 36 hours.³⁷

By the end of October 2020, France plans to offer COVID-19 antigen tests at its airports for passengers *departing* to the U.S. and Italy and for those arriving from countries classified as "red" by the EU's new coding system.³⁸ The nasal swab tests should also be available for passengers traveling to and from France's overseas territories. Tests will be required by both arriving and departing passengers, with results available within 10-15 minutes, offering a faster alternative to PCR tests.

The antigen tests will initially be available at Paris Charles de Gaulle and Nice airports, before being rolled out to other airports.³⁹

Germany

Anyone *arriving* in Germany having spent some time in a risk area during the previous 14 days must enter a 14-day quarantine period. Travelers may also need to provide a negative test result or submit to a test. Even if not required to do so, travelers can still be tested free of charge within ten days of their return to Germany.⁴⁰

Berlin Brandenburg (BER)

Healthcare company CENTOGENE operates a testing center offering a throat swab-based RT-PCR test. 41 The center is located in Terminal 1 on Arrival level 0 and is open daily between 07:00 and 19:00. Passengers are encouraged to register online for the test to reduce the waiting time at the test center. Results are typically available within 12 to 24 hours.

CENTOGENE has also opened a new test center in the center of Berlin at ewerk Berlin, where it offers the Premium-24 RT-PCR test for €69 including taxes, with results provided within 24 hours. For an extra €9, personal identification details, such as passport number, can be added to the medical report verifying that the test results belong to the individual.

Düsseldorf (DUS)

CENTOGENE operates a testing center at Düsseldorf Airport, located on the arrivals level in area A.⁴² The center is open daily from 07:00 to 19:00. CENTOGENE offers the Premium-24 RT-PCR test at a cost of €69 including taxes. Results are available within 24 hours. At peak times, travelers may face waiting times of up to two hours between registration and testing.

Frankfurt (FRA)

Two test centers are available for passengers arriving at Frankfurt Airport.

CENTOGENE also offers a paid-for test for passengers *departing* from Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Hamburg airports.⁴³ But this is not an on-departure test; it is a pre-departure test. CENTOGENE's RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) throat swab test detects if a person is infected with COVID-19.

⁴³ CENTOGENE, Improved Travel with Coronavirus Testing



³⁷ Paris Aeroport, Coronavirus Information

³⁸ BTN Europe, Oct. 16, 2020

³⁹ The Local France, Oct. 20, 2020

⁴⁰ Federal Ministry of Health, Sept. 30, 2020

⁴¹ CENTOGENE, Berlin Airport

⁴² **CENTOGENE**, Düsseldorf Airport

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Passengers are advised to register online to reduce their waiting time at the airport. It's not possible to book an appointment. CENTOGENE will only test people without symptoms. Waiting times can be up to 2 hours. The Standard Process, with results within 12 hours, costs €59. Tests taken after 2pm receive results the next day. The Express Process costs €139, with results available within 6 hours. Travelers are advised to time their test to ensure the result is received one hour before check-in begins, when some airlines require confirmation of a negative result.

If receiving a positive test result, travelers are encouraged to scan a QR code in the Corona-Warn-App, the German government app distributed by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), so that all possible contacts are notified of the risk.

Munich (MUC)

All travelers *arriving* in Munich from risk areas must either have tested negative in the previous 48 hours or must complete a COVID-19 test on arrival.⁴⁴ The airport has two test centers; one each in Terminals 1 and 2. Passengers can register online before arriving at the test center, although this is not necessary. The test is free of charge. All affected travelers must quarantine for up to 14 days or until the laboratory sends them a negative result.

Passengers arriving from non-risk areas can request a free COVID-19 throat swab test in the airport's Corona Test Center. Test results are provided in a few days, depending on test volumes.

Departing passengers can also get tested the "Test & Fly" Center in the airport's Terminal 2 and its medical center in Terminal 1. The PCR test is performed in the Test & Fly Center by MVZ Martinsried for a €128 fee. Medicaire operates an out-of-hours service in Terminal 1.

Greece

Athens (ATH)

The Athens Medical Center, located on the arrivals level at Athens International Airport, performs RT-PCR diagnostic testing for COVID-19.⁴⁵ The center is open daily between 07:00 and 23:00. Tests cost €60 and results are delivered by email within 24 hours. Both *arriving and departing* passengers can be tested.

Thessaloniki (SKG)

Thessaloniki Airport Makedonia has opened a center offering RT-PCR testing to both *arriving and departing* passengers. ⁴⁶ Operated by the Athens Medical Group, the Interbalkan Medical Center of Thessaloniki charges €60 per test, with results available as early as 6 hours after sample collection, but usually on the same day. ⁴⁷ The center is open daily from 10:00 to 18:00.

Ireland

Dublin Airport offers *departing* passengers and the general public the option of a drive-through or a walkin COVID-19 test. 48 Healthcare companies Randox (walk-through) and RocDoc Health Check (drive-

⁴⁸ Future Travel Experience, Nov. 2020



⁴⁴ Munich Airport, Corona tests at the airport

⁴⁵ Athens International Airport, COVID-19 useful information

⁴⁶ Fraport Greece, Aug. 8, 2020

⁴⁷ Athens Medical Group, Frequent asked questions

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through) run the centers, which opened in November 2020, offering both PCR and LAMP testing. RocDoc offers the following tests:⁴⁹

- PCR test €129 with results in 24-48 hours
- LAMP test €149 with results in 12 hours
- LAMP test express €199 with results in 5 hours

PCR tests from Randox cost €99 with results available the next day. Testing capacity across the two centers will ramp up to 15,000 per day. All customers must pre-book their test online.

Italy

Rome Fiumicino (FCO) and Milan Linate (LIN)

Flights between Rome and Milan may only carry passengers who receive a negative test result at the airport prior to departure or present a medical certificate showing a negative molecular (RT PCR) or antigenic test result carried out in the 72 hours before boarding. ⁵⁰ *Departing* passengers can take a rapid antigen swab test at Rome Fiumicino airport at one of two locations:

- A drive-through facility in the long stay car par; passengers must arrive 72 to 2 hours before departure
- Arrivals area of Terminal 5; arrival required 1.5 hours before departure

Passengers departing from Milan Linate must take their test in the Health Center on the Departures Floor, 1.5 hours before their flight.

To be able to take the free test, passengers must provide a ticket for a flight requiring COVID-19 testing, ID/passport and a home isolation and health surveillance self-certification form. Test results are available within 30 minutes, and passengers cannot leave the testing area until this is received. Passengers may only proceed to check-in/boarding with a negative test result. Passengers receiving a positive result will need to take a second, molecular test and remain in isolation until receiving he result.

Passengers making a return trip between Rome and Milan need take only one test, as long as the return flight is within 72 hours. Otherwise, a second test will be needed.

Latvia

Riga Airport has introduced a mobile, contactless COVID-19 testing point. ⁵¹ Operated by E.Gulbis Laboratory, it's located at the exit of arrivals hall E. It can be used by travelers and employees with access to Latvian-recognized authentication tools, such as Swedbank, SEB, Luminor or Citadele Bank internet bank, e-parakstsID or e-paraksts mobile or Smart-ID. The airport is working with E,Gulbis to find an authentication solution for foreign travelers.

Authentication enables customers to register, confirm their identity and pay for the test. They then receive a PIN code and email instructions to provide a sample of saliva.

Riga Airport has also set up a temporary testing point operated by MFD Laboratory to test arrivals from the UK for free. The airport is working with E.Gulbis to make this a permanent feature.

⁵¹ Future Travel Experience, Jan. 2021



⁴⁹ Dublin Airport, COVID-19 Testing

⁵⁰ Alitalia, COVID-tested flights

Sweden

While there is no general quarantine obligation for travelers entering Sweden, it has banned entry to non-EU and non-EEA citizens arriving from outside the EU until at least December 22, 2020. 52 Swedes traveling overseas may need to provide a negative PCR test result to travel to certain destinations. Tests for travel certificates tend to be carried out at a clinic approved by Sweden's Public Health Agency. 53 There is nothing to suggest on-airport testing is currently available in Sweden.

Switzerland

People arriving in Switzerland from certain countries are required to go into quarantine. The latest list of countries is compiled by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. ⁵⁴ There is currently no mandatory requirement for passengers to take a COVID-19 test on arrival. A negative test result does not eliminate or reduce the quarantine period.

Zurich (ZRH)

Zurich Airport does offer testing at the Airport Medical Center to any *arriving* or *departing* passenger. It recognizes that some airlines or destinations may require a negative result, before allowing a passenger to board a flight. Passengers must pre-book the test and can expect to wait up to 72 hours for a result.

The Airport Medical Center offers the PCR test (CHF 200-240) and the antibody IgG test (CHF 140-180), with a combined test offered for CHF 260-300. It does not perform antibody tests for IgM, nor does it offer rapid tests.⁵⁵

UK

The UK government is planning to launch a "test to release" program on December 15, 2020, after the country exits its second lockdown. Its aim would be to reduce the period of self-isolation from 14 days to a minimum of 5 days. Passengers would take a COVID-19 test *on arrival*, provided by private companies and at the passenger's cost.⁵⁶

Separately, Heathrow Airport is running a pre-departure testing study combining data from American Airlines, British Airways, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic as a first step towards setting up a universal *pre-departure* passenger testing model.⁵⁷

London Heathrow (LHR)

From October 20, 2020, London Heathrow became the UK's first major airport to offer *pre-departure* COVID-19 tests, initially on a four-week trial basis.⁵⁸ Run by travel services company Collinson and ground handler Swissport, the service offers LAMP COVID-19 tests for passengers traveling to destinations, such as Hong Kong and Italy, that require pre-departure tests.

The test costs £80 and must be pre-booked online. As passengers typically receive their results in 60 minutes, they'll need to arrive earlier at the airport, to ensure a result before departure.

⁵⁸ BTN Europe, Oct. 20, 2020



⁵² Gov.UK, FCO

⁵³ Public Health Agency of Sweden, Tests for travel certificates

⁵⁴ Federal Office of Public Health, Coronavirus: Mandatory quarantine

⁵⁵ Airport Medical Center, Corona Tests

⁵⁶ BTN Europe, Nov. 9, 2020

⁵⁷ BTN Europe, Dec. 1, 2020

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Collinson and Swissport also set up a *test-on-arrival* facility at Heathrow in August 2020, but it has yet to be approved for use by the UK government. It's hoped on-arrival testing could replace or reduce the existing 14-day quarantine mandated for arrivals from high-risk destinations.

London Gatwick (LGW)

A COVID-19 screening center operated by ExpressTest is due to start operations at Gatwick Airport from November 27, 2020.⁵⁹ Located within the South Terminal's long-stay car park, the drive-through facility offers a rapid, lab-analyzed PCR swab test. Air passengers and any Gatwick-based employee can book a test for a reduced rate of £60. The test is also available for the general public, priced at £99. Groups of four or more people can also claim a 30% discount if booking the full-priced test.

After booking a test online and selecting a date and time, a QR code is provided, which must be presented at the appointment. Results are typically delivered via text or email by the end of the next day, along with a Fit to Fly certificate. Passengers planning to use the certificate for travel should ensure it meets the specific requirements of their destination.

The ExpressTest center is mainly targeting *departing* airline passengers needing a negative COVID-19 test certificate for destinations requiring one from up to 96 hours before travel. Passengers should schedule a test 48-96 hours before departure.

While initially used for departing passengers, the center could be adapted to handle arriving passengers, should the UK implement a "test to release" post arrival scheme.

Edinburgh (EDI)

ExpressTest, a division of Cignpost Diagnostics, runs a testing center at Edinburgh Airport launched in February 2021. 60 It offers lateral flow tests for £50 and PCR tests for £99 (reduced to £80 for airline passengers and £60 for airport staff).

The lateral flow test is a walk-in service with no booking required. Test results are available in 20 minutes, with a negative result needed for a Fit to Fly certificate.

PCR tests must be booked on the ExpressTest website. Results should be delivered by 22:00 the day after the test, although it could take as long as 48 hours.

Manchester (MAN)

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) has launched COVID-19 testing facilities at all three of its airports: Manchester, London Stansted and East Midlands (Derby). ⁶¹ Travel medical provider, Collinson, will deliver RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, rapid antigen and antibody tests for departing passengers. Prices start at £40 for antibody tests, £50 for antigen tests, £79 for LAMP tests and £99 for a PCR test. ⁶² Passengers may book 5% discounted pre-flight tests at selected Boost UK stores, with results returned within 48 hours. Passengers may select a test based on the requirements of their destination.

Passengers may also book tests at the airports on their return to the UK in order to shorten the quarantine period from 14 to a minimum of 5 days.

⁶² BTN Europe, Dec. 3, 2020



⁵⁹ Gatwick Airport, COVID-19 Travel Information

⁶⁰ Breaking Travel News, Feb. 4, 2021

⁶¹ Breaking Travel News, Dec. 3, 2020

Newcastle (NCL)

Newcastle Airport is working in collaboration with NPH Group and MDNA Life Sciences to provide COVID-19 tests required by certain *departing* passengers.⁶³ The service and price for the test includes free parking in the airport's Premium Meet and Greet facility.

The PCR (Primer Design Genesig COVID-19 Real Time PCR Assay) throat and nose swab test costs £99 and results and a certificate are provided within 36-48 hours. Certificates will state whether a passengers is Fit To Fly or Not Fit To Fly. Such certificates are not available from NHS or mass testing schemes carried out in the UK. Tests must be booked online with NPH Works and passengers should bring their booking confirmation and passport with them at time of testing.

Ukraine

Ukraine reopened its borders to international travelers for a second time on September 28, 2020. Anyone arriving from a red zone country should install the Dii Vdoma track and trace app and must undergo 14 days of self-isolation or take a PCR test. ⁶⁴ All foreign nationals must also have a Health Insurance Certificate. The list of red zone countries is updated every 24 hours. As at November 9, 2020, Ukraine's Ministry of Health had identified 34 red zone countries: ⁶⁵

- Europe Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K.
- Americas Argentina, USA
- Middle East Jordan, Lebanon

Every passenger using Kiev's main Boryspil (Borispol) International airport has the opportunity to take a PCR test. 66 The testing center is located in the airport's Terminal D. While primarily aimed at *arriving* passengers, *departing* passengers may also take a test at the airport, but they must arrive well in advance and book an appointment. Test certificates are issued in Ukrainian and English. While testing is conducted at the airport, processing occurs at one of six different laboratories, each charging a different price for the service, and each returning results within different timeframes (between 6 and 24 hours).

At Kiev's secondary Sikorsky Airport (IEV), testing is conducted in the arrival hall of Terminal A. The test costs 1700 UAH (US\$60), and results are delivered by email within 24-48 hours, during which time the traveler must remain in isolation.

Middle East back to top

Lebanon

All passengers *arriving* in Lebanon as their final destination may only board their flight if they have a negative result from a PCR test taken not more than 96 hours before arrival.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Middle East Airlines, Sept. 23, 2020



⁶³ Newcastle International Airport, COVID-19 Testing

⁶⁴ Kiev Sikorsky Airport, COVID-19 safety regulations

⁶⁵ Visit Ukraine, Nov. 9, 2020

⁶⁶ Boryspil Airport, COVID19 testing

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Passengers arriving from Egypt, Turkey and all African countries must perform a second PCR test upon arrival at Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport. They must then enter quarantine for 48 hours until receiving the test result.

Lebanese and foreign passengers arriving from Iraq must quarantine for 72 hours after arrival at an approved hotel, during which time they must take a second PCR test at the airport at their own expense.

All other passengers must take a second PCR test at their own expense within 72 hours of arrival or quarantine at home or in a hotel for 10 days.

United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi (AUH)

On *arrival* in Abu Dhabi, medical authorities will conduct a PCR test at the airport. Travelers must then register under the quarantine system and wear an electronic wristband during a two-week quarantine. Quarantine may be at home, in a hotel or in accommodation provided by the authorities. A second PCR test must be taken 12 days after arrival.

It is mandatory for all *departing* passengers to have a PCR test before they fly. Dependent on the destination, this must be carried out 48, 72 or 96 hours before flight departure. Tests must be taken at government accredited medical facilities.

North America back to top

Canada

Calgary (YYC)

From November 2, 2020, some international passengers *arriving* at Calgary International Airport in Alberta will be able to reduce or avoid quarantine by taking a "rapid" COVID-19 test. Travelers must still self-isolate between arrival and receiving a negative test result, which could be returned within two days. A negative result will exempt travelers from the 14-day quarantine, but they must also commit to taking a second test at a community pharmacy within six or seven days of arrival.

Testing-on arrival will initially be available on a trial basis over a 26 week period. Participants (Alberta residents and international passengers arriving on non-stop flights) will also be required to be monitored daily for symptoms and follow enhanced preventive health measures, such as wearing masks in public places and avoiding contact with high-risk groups.

US

Anchorage (ANC)

Non-residents who arrive in Anchorage without evidence of a negative result from a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of travel must test on arrival and self-quarantine until receiving a negative result.⁶⁸ The test costs \$250 and must be purchased online in the COVID-19 Testing Portal. Alaska residents may take a free test or self-quarantine for 14 days.

⁶⁸ Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, ANC COVID-19 update



Boston (BOS)

COVID-19 testing is available at Boston Logan International airport in Terminal C (Departures level, presecurity) and Terminal E (Arrivals level, pre-security). The facility, operated by XpresCheck is open Thursday to Monday between 08:00 and 16:00 in Terminal C and Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 18:00 in Terminal $E.^{69}$

The centers offer PCR and blood antibody tests for \$75 and Abbott Rapid ID Now tests for \$200.

Chicago O'Hare (ORD)

A partnership between Doctors Test Centers and Simple Laboratories offers rapid antigen and PCR testing at two locations at Chicago O'Hare Airport: in the Bus Shuttle Center and a drive-up site in remote parking Lot $\rm H.^{70}$ While walk-ins are welcome, appointments can be booked online.

The Rapid Antigen Test costs \$120, with results available within 20 minutes. The RT-PCR test costs \$145, with results available between 24 and 72 hours. Travelers need to show a proof of flying (within 72 hours before their flight or five days after) or proof of airport employment. Testing is limited to passengers (departing, connecting, or arriving) and O'Hare employees.

Chicago Midway (MDW)

Doctors Test Centers and Simple Laboratories together offer rapid antigen and PCR testing at a single location at Chicago Midway Airport. The testing site is a walk-up, pre-security facility in the Terminal Parking Garage, level 3. Appointments can be booked online, although walk-ups are also welcome, subject to availability.

Testing is available daily between 06:00 and 14:00. The Rapid Antigen Test costs \$120, with results available in 20 minutes. The PCR test costs \$145, and patients can expect to receive results in 24-72 hours. Testing is restricted to airline passengers (*departing*, *connecting*, *or arriving*) and airport employees.

Fort Lauderdale (FLL)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport opened an on-site testing service in December 2020. Tests are available to all *departing* airline passengers. The airport has partnered with Spirit Airlines and Nomi Health of Utah, which have set up a testing center located pre-security in Terminal 3. Initially, the center operates daily from 07:00 to 21:00.

To be tested, proof of travel is required. A Rapid Antigen test with results in 30 minutes costs \$69, while a PCR test with results within 48 hours costs \$99.

Hartford (BDL)

Hartford Bradley International Airport has partnered with Connecticut-based laboratory Genesys Diagnostics to open a COVID-19 testing site. Testing is available to *departing and arriving* passengers, with the latter group required to present a negative result on arrival from all US states except New York, New Jersey or Rhode Island. Passengers must show a copy of their boarding pass to qualify for a test.

⁷³ Bradley International, BDL cares



⁶⁹ XpresCheck, Boston fact sheet

⁷⁰ Chicago Department of Aviation, COVID-19 test at O'Hare Airport

⁷¹ Chicago Department of Aviation, COVID-19 Tests at Midway Airport

⁷² BusinessWire, Dec. 10, 2020

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The testing site is located in the baggage claim area and is open daily between 11:30 and 00:30, or as needed by airline schedules. Passengers are strongly encouraged to pre-register for a test.

The PCR test costs \$125 if not covered by a traveler's health insurance, with results typically available within 72 hours. But when demand is high, results could take 7 to 10 days.

Los Angeles (LAX)

Los Angeles International Airport offers testing for *departing and arriving* passengers at three locations – a Primary Lab located across the street from Terminal 6, a satellite testing site in Terminal 2 and one in the Tom Bradley International Terminal. 74 These all offer PCR tests, while a separate site in Terminal 6 offers antigen tests only.

Tests are conducted by Clarity Labs and cost \$125 for a nasal-swab PCR test, with results available in less than 24 hours, and \$80 for a rapid antigen test, with results available in 1 hour or less. Customers are responsible for knowing which test their destination requires.

Test results are delivered electronically. If covered by their healthcare provider, some passengers can claim for reimbursement from their insurance. The Clarity Labs facility is certified as a trusted testing partner by the State of Hawaii.

Minneapolis-St Paul (MSP)

The airport operates a drive-up clinic located on Level 2 of the Blue Ramp at Terminal 1.75 The clinic is open daily from 07:00 until 19:00 and can be used by anyone, including people not traveling. Thanks to a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, testing is free for Minnesotans and costs \$94 for out-of-state residents. Testing is carried out by Vault Medical Services and results should be received within a few days by email. 76

New York (JFK)

The airport has teamed up with Adams Medical to offer an RT-PCR test, which detects whether an acute infection of COVID-19 is present.⁷⁷ The service is located on the Departures Level of Terminal 1. As well as a test certificate, Adams offers "safe to fly" certificates for an extra fee. The test costs \$179.

Tests may be booked online or using the Further Network Traveller App, which helps travelers manage their digital Fit to Fly Certificate. Before booking a test, *departing* passengers should check with their airline or destination to determine how soon before departure the test must be taken and processed. The results of the nasal swab test are ready by 7pm for tests completed before 12pm. For tests completed after 12pm, results will be ready the next day by 9pm.

XpresCheck is also running a pilot program in the airport's Terminal 4.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has also partnered with the NYC Test & Trace Corps and JetBlue Airways to open a COVID-19 testing site for travelers and airport and airline workers.⁷⁸ The center

⁷⁸ Business Travel News, Nov. 19, 2020



⁷⁴ Los Angeles International Airport, On-site rapid COVID testing

⁷⁵ AFAR.

⁷⁶ MSP Airport, COVID-19 Testing Site

⁷⁷ Adams Health Services, COVID-free flight is achievable

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opened in November 2020 in New York JFK airport's Terminal 5. It can process up to 600 free, walk-in test per day, with results typically returned within 48 hours.

Newark (EWR)

Using testing services provided by GABISA Medical, XpresCheck offers passengers three types of test at Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal B:⁷⁹

- PCR test a nasal swab test to confirm the presence of the virus \$75
- Rapid molecular test a nasal swab test to see if the active COVID-19 virus is present \$200
- Blood antibody test a blood sample is tested for antibody markers which show exposure to the virus \$75

The testing center operates from Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:00 and at weekends from 12:00 until 20:00.80

Oakland (OAK)

Oakland Airport has teamed up with CityHealth to provide testing for passengers *departing* for Hawaii. For departures within 72 hours, CityHealth offers the Expedited Molecular PCR Test, which is free for insured travelers or US citizens, plus a \$120 lab fee. Otherwise, a regular Molecular PCR Test is recommended for passengers with flights departing in three or more days. It may also be available for free, although a \$20 administration fee applies. The testing center is open daily between 09:00 and 17:00.81

Phoenix (PHX)

XpresCheck operates a testing center at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. ⁸² It is located presecurity on Level 3 of Terminal 4. The center is open Thursdays to Mondays between 09:00 and 17:00. Tests are offered to travelers, airport employees and members of the general public. XpresCheck offers a PCR test (\$75 with results in 2-3 days), Blood Antibody test (\$75) and the Rapid Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 test (\$200 with results in 15 minutes). ⁸³ The company will invoice health insurance for the cost of the

Salt Lake City (SLC)

With services provided by US CAREWAYS-SLC, XpresCheck operates a testing facility at Salt Lake City airport, which is open between 08:00 and 17:00 from Thursday to Monday. A The clinic is located in post-security, Concourse A, First Level, and may be used by *ticketed passengers* and employees only.

XpresCheck offers rapid molecular COVID-19 tests and PCR tests.

San Diego (SAN)

Departing passengers may take a COVID-19 test before they fly out of San Diego airport.⁸⁵ The tests, offered by Carbon Health, are currently configured to meet the state requirements of Alaska and Hawaii,

⁸⁵ Carbon Health, COVID-19 travel clearance



⁷⁹ XpresCheck, COVID-19 testing ion America's front line

⁸⁰ XpresCheck, Our locations

⁸¹ CityHealth UrgentCare, COVID-19 Testing

⁸² Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, XpresCheck COVID-19 Testing

⁸³ XpresCheck, Price sheet

⁸⁴ XpresCheck, Our locations

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and so may not meet international requirements. Appointments are available seven days a week, with results provided by 2pm the day after the test. The test costs \$170.

San Francisco (SFO)

Color has set up a drive-through testing facility in parking Lot D at the airport, while Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care testing is available in International Terminal Courtyard A. 86 Testing, using an FDA-authorized nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), is only available to *departing* passengers beginning their journey at San Francisco Airport, and it is not available for passengers making a connection at the airport. Testing is by appointment only and is available only to United Airlines' passengers taking a flight to Hawaii.

The GoHealth test costs \$250 and provides results in approximately 15 minutes. Passengers should test 2-3 hours before departure, although results from tests completed within 72 hours of flight arrival time are accepted in Hawaii.

The Color test costs \$105 and should be taken 48-72 hours before travel. Passengers need to pre-register to reserve a testing timeslot.

Tampa (TPA)

BayCare Health System operates a testing center at Tampa International Airport.⁸⁷ The site is located in the airport's Main Terminal and offers both rapid antigen (\$60) and PCR (\$150) tests. Testing is available on weekdays from 07:30 to 13:30 and between 08:00 and 12:00 on Sundays.

The service may be used by both *departing and arriving* passengers. Anyone requiring a PCR test is advised to attend the center three days before departure and can expect results within 48 hours.

Southwest Pacific back to top

Australia

Adelaide (ADL)

The Government of South Australia has set up a drive-through COVID-19 testing site at Adelaide Airport. 88 Testing is conducted by Australian Clinical Labs. At this stage the airport site appears to be part of the state's wider testing program, and not a facility specifically targeting airline passengers.

New Zealand

Auckland (AKL)

On-site testing is not yet available at Auckland Airport. However, travelers can be tested at the Airport Doctors primary healthcare service, which is located in the Airport Shopping Center, a short drive from Auckland International Airport.⁸⁹

⁸⁹ Health Point, Airport Doctors



⁸⁶ Flysfo, COVID-19 Other Resources

⁸⁷ Tampa International Airport, Dec. 31, 2020

⁸⁸ South Australia Health, Adelaide Airport

COVID-19 test types90

Antigen test

This rapid diagnostic test (RDT) may return a result as quickly as 30 minutes. Using a sample from a person's respiratory tract, it detects the presence of viral proteins (antigens). Such tests detect the antigens only with actual infection when the virus is replicating, i.e. the tests will identify acute or early infection. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

This molecular test detects the presence of RNA (nucleic acid) in a respiratory tract specimen. The viral load determines what counts as a positive result, which is interpreted as diagnostic of active infection with COVID-19. A negative result may be interpreted as an absence of active infection, but it may also be a "false negative" if an insufficient sample has been collected, or if the sample was collected early in the incubation period. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

Antibody test

This measures the presence of immunological proteins produced by the body specifically towards viral antigens. IgM antibodies measure "immediate" response over days. IgG antibodies measure a longer-term response over weeks to possibly months. It's not certain whether such antibodies are actually protective, or for how long.

Antibody tests are designed to be highly specific, i.e. with a low false positive rate, for other types of viral infections. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

LAMP test

Developed by Oxford University, the loop-mediated isothermal amplification (or LAMP) test can be processed quickly and without being sent to a laboratory.

It measures nucleic acid (RNA) during the acute phase of infection. It is similar to PCR testing in its application.

⁹⁰ World Health Organization. Advice on the use of point-of-care immunodiagnostic tests for COVID-19



Note

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and the situation is changing on almost an hourly basis. The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at February 11, 2021. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report? Please email mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.

