

The Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program of the Central Epidemic Command Center for Severe Special Infectious Pneumonia

Entry quarantine application procedures for travelers who cannot present COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports prior to boarding

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I.Explanation

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages internationally, we expect the number of travelers entering Taiwan to increase from the end of 2020 into the first part of 2021. To ensure that this influx of travelers does not increase risk of infection, to prevent transmission of the virus through air travel, and to maintain Taiwan's safety, the Central Epidemic Command Center for Severe Special Infectious Pneumonia ("CECC") has announced that starting on December 1 of this year, travelers arriving at an airport in Taiwan, or changing flights at an airport in Taiwan, regardless of their nationality (R.O.C.(Taiwan) nationals or foreign nationals) or purpose of their visit to Taiwan (work, study, etc.), must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test result issued within 3 days of the scheduled boarding time" ("RT-PCR test report") when checking in at a foreign airport.

These procedures have been drafted specifically to address cases in which travelers have difficulty obtaining a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report in their country of departure due to emergency circumstances, and are therefore, unable to obtain a RT-PCR test report, but must enter Taiwan's territory.

II. Persons to whom such procedures apply and the conditions

A. Persons

R.O.C. nationals, foreign nationals holding an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC), and persons from Hong Kong, Macao, and mainland China who hold an ARC.

* Note: These procedures are not applicable to travelers transferring between flights in Taiwan.

B. Conditions (one of the following conditions must be met)

1. Emergency situations:

- (1) The traveler must return home for the funeral for a relative within the second degree of kinship.
 - (2) The traveler must visit a relative within the second degree of kinship who is gravely ill.
 - (3) The special emergency medical care program is applicable to the traveler.
2. The traveler is traveling to Taiwan from a place of departure which has been announced by the CECC as a country/region where COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports cannot be obtained.
3. The traveler has applied for a special agency program and received the approval of

CECC: the traveler must apply such program for necessary and short-term official business or business affairs, and must take preventive measures while overseas.

4. Other persons announced by the CECC:

- (1) Travelers who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days.
- (2) Infants and children aged 0-6 years old (under 7 years old).
- (3) Travelers who provide an overdue RT-PCR test report due to a flight cancellation.
- (4) Persons who accompany travelers in emergency situations.

III. Application procedures

A. Required documents

1. The traveler must personally sign an "Entry quarantine affidavit for a traveler who is unable to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report prior to boarding" ("Affidavit," Attachment 1).
2. Emergency situations: the traveler must attach document verifying the death of a relative within the second degree of kinship, notice of critical illness, or certificate of diagnosis, etc.
3. Persons approved under an agency program: the traveler must attach a verifying information such as a letter of approval.
4. Other persons announced by the CECC:
 - (1) Travelers who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days must attach verifying information, such as the exit record/date on the inside page of the passport or the ticket stub of an exit ticket from Taiwan (those who use e-Gates services without having an exit record on their passport).
 - (2) Infants and children aged 0-6 years old (under 7 years old): the passport of an infant or child under 7 years old or other documents verifying the date of birth must be provided.
 - (3) Travelers who provide an overdue RT-PCR test report due to a flight cancellation must attach the original flight ticket information and the original test report.
 - (4) Persons who accompany travelers in emergency situations must attach the Affidavit of those in emergency situations and other verifying information.

B. Application and entry quarantine procedures (Attachment 2)

Prior to boarding

1. The traveler must contact the airline he or she plans to fly with at least 3 days prior to boarding to explain that he or she will be unable to present a RT-PCR test report for some legitimate reason, and obtain the airline's consent.
2. The traveler must arrive at the airport on time to check in in accordance with the scheduled flight arranged by the airline.

Check in/boarding

1. The traveler must proactively present the original Affidavit and verifying information when checking in with the airline at the place of departure.

2. When using a cell phone to complete the online application via the Quarantine System for Entry, "No" must be checked in the "In possession of a COVID-19 test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding?" field on the system.

In flight

1. The traveler must sit in the seat arranged by the airline (may not change the seat without authorization); the seat must be separate from that of other passengers as much as possible. The traveler must use the toilet designated by the airline.

2. The traveler must wear a face mask throughout the flight; must maintain social distancing; may not chat with others; and must comply with aircraft disease prevention regulations.

After arrival in Taiwan

1. The traveler must proactively go to the quarantine station of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) at the port/airport of arrival, Ministry of Health and Welfare, present his or her health declaration receipt on his or her cell phone, and submit the original Affidavit and verifying information.

2. After assessment by quarantine officers, if the traveler is suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms, he or she must comply with Taiwan's entry quarantine measures; if a traveler is not suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms, except persons who have received approval under an agency program who must comply with the requirements of that agency program, the traveler must undergo testing at his or her own expense as directed by quarantine officers.

3. When a traveler has arrived in Taiwan and undergoes entry inspection, quarantine officers or immigration officers will, when necessary, check whether the traveler has a RT-PCR test report, and the quarantine officers shall take appropriate action if the traveler is found to have violated requirements.

IV. Other instructions

A. The list of "Countries where COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports cannot be obtained" shall be regularly announced and updated by the CECC; the list may be viewed on Taiwan CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov.tw/>). Travelers may contact the R.O.C. representative office in the country where they are located for further information concerning visa application and entry control measures, or may browse the information on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website (<https://www.mofa.gov.tw/>).

B. Travelers must truthfully fill out and submit the forms required by these application procedures; if any information is untruthful, or a traveler refuses, or evades or obstructs to abide by the requirements, such persons may be fined from NT\$10,000 to NT\$150,000 in accordance with Articles 58 and 69 of the Communicable Disease Control Act; if a case involves criminal liability, the case shall be turned over for criminal investigation.

C. Travelers who fail to present a RT-PCR test report when required to do so, or when the

content of their report is false, altered, or not in compliance with regulations (including untruthful information), or if travelers fail to complete the application procedures in the regulations when meeting the conditions for RT-PCR test report not required, such travelers shall be fined from NT\$10,000 to NT\$150,000 upon arrival in Taiwan in accordance with Subparagraph 2, Paragraph 1, Article 58; Paragraph 3, Article 58; and Subparagraph 1, Paragraph 1, Article 69 of the Communicable Disease Control Act. Such travelers must also undergo testing at their own expense as directed by quarantine officers. In addition, in accordance with the proviso to Subparagraph 1, Paragraph 1, Article 2 of the Regulations Governing the Compensation for Periods of Isolation and Quarantine for Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens, such travelers may not receive disease prevention compensation. Furthermore, those who are confirmed to have COVID-19 and are suspected of having infected other persons must bear relevant criminal liability.

D. Travelers who do not meet the aforementioned conditions and take flights back to Taiwan can enter Taiwan after submitting an Entry Quarantine Affidavit to state a specific reason for not providing a test report; such travelers are required to take a self-paid COVID-19 test at the airport and to follow the subsequent and related quarantine measures. If the reason stated by such travelers, after assessments, does not meet the requirements for related exceptions, which is suspected of violating Subparagraph 2, Paragraph 1, Article 58 of the Communicable Disease Control Act, penalties may be imposed in accordance with the Act. Those who have COVID-19 and are suspected of having infected other persons must bear relevant criminal liability.