

Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program

FAQs concerning RT-PCR test result reports issued within 3 days of boarding

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Q1: What impact will the start of the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program on December 1, 2020, have on arriving travelers? What quarantine regulations must travelers follow?

A1:

1. After the start of this program, regardless of their nationality (including R.O.C. nationals and foreign nationals with an Alien Residence Certificate) or travel purpose (for study, work, diplomatic affairs, etc.), travelers who arrive at an airport in Taiwan and transit passengers at an airport in the country must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test result report issued within 3 days (working days) of the scheduled boarding time to the airline staff before they can board their flight.
 2. Apart from presenting a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report prior to boarding, travelers must also use their mobile phone to log into the Quarantine System for Entry when checking in or prior to boarding at the place of departure and fill out the health declaration form. Furthermore, they must undergo home quarantine and observe other relevant epidemic prevention measures after entry.
- ※ The "scheduled boarding time" refers to the scheduled time announced by the airline company; travelers shall arrange a COVID-19 test and obtain the test result in time

based on the scheduled time.

Q2: After the start of the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program, must Taiwan nationals, foreign nationals holding an Alien Residence Certificate (ARC) or a resident visa, and persons managed under special ministry and agency programs (foreign diplomats, migrant workers, and foreign students, etc.) present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 working days before boarding their flight?

A2:

1. After the implementation of this program, all travelers arriving at an airport in Taiwan or transit passengers at an airport in the country must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report before boarding.
2. The CECC has issued the "Entry quarantine application procedures for travelers who cannot present COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports prior to boarding". If travelers are R.O.C. nationals, foreign nationals holding an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC), or persons from Hong Kong, Macao, and mainland China who hold an ARC and travelers are also applicable persons under these application procedures, such travelers are exempted from providing such a test report; please see Q10 for the application procedures.

Q3: Why does the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program require that all travelers arriving at an airport in Taiwan or

transit passengers must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding regardless of their nationality or the purpose of their visit to Taiwan?

A3:

1. Due to the severity of the international COVID-19 pandemic, plus the approach of Christmas, winter vacation, and Chinese New Year, the number of arriving travelers is expected to rise in the last part of this year and early next year. To ensure that the movement of people does not increase the risk of disease transmission, to maintain air travel safety, and to ensure the effectiveness of Taiwan's measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic, the Central Epidemic Command Center has announced that this plan will be implemented from December 1, 2020 (local time at the place of departure) to February 28, 2021. To protect against community spread and maintain citizens' health, travelers are therefore asked to present their COVID-19 RT-PCR test report.
2. The goal of overseas testing is to ensure that travelers and airlines gain an understanding of travelers' health conditions prior to boarding, and enable airlines to take appropriate preventive measures based on travelers' infection risk for the purpose of reducing the chance that COVID-19 will be transmitted on a flight. In addition, if testing is only performed after travelers enter the country, this might keep a large number of travelers waiting at airports for testing, which would also increase the chance

of infection.

3. The requirement requesting travelers to provide RT-PCR test reports is imposed in accordance with Subparagraph 2, Paragraph 1, Article 58 of the Communicable Disease Control Act, which states that detailed and accurate communicable disease records shall be submitted in accordance with the central competent authority's regulations, and verification of health conditions or other relevant documents shall be submitted as needed; those who violate these regulations shall be fined NT\$10,000-150,000 in accordance with Article 69 of this Act.

Q4: Where can I obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight to Taiwan? Do I need to pay for it myself, or does the government cover my testing expenses? Is it difficult to obtain such a test report?

A4: (accompanying measures)

1. In principle, a COVID-19 RT-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.
2. Taiwan has been requesting foreign nationals coming to the country to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding since July 2020. According to a survey taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the medical systems of most other countries possess the COVID-19 testing capability (especially those countries/areas with direct flights to Taiwan).

3. Since the entry measure that requires foreign nationals coming to Taiwan to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report was enforced in June, the implementation has been smooth, and most travelers have been able to successfully overcome obstacles and obtain test results. If overseas nationals need to take a COVID-19 test, it is recommended they contact the health authority of the place of departure, the airline, or the R.O.C. missions abroad to inquire about the list of local medical institutions capable of providing a COVID-19 RT-PCR test.

Q4-1: If a traveler has a COVID-19 RT-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)?

A4-1: 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 means of transportation, such as by car, train, or boat, other than by air, before boarding a flight to Taiwan, as long as the test report's format and the information it contains fully comply with requirements, and the test report is issued within 3 days prior to boarding, the traveler may board their flight to Taiwan.

Q4-2: If a COVID-19 RT-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?

A4-2: Testing methods of COVID-19 tests 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 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight, then such test reports are deemed to meet the requirements .

Q5: What is the format of a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days of the scheduled boarding time? How is the three-day period calculated with respect to the test report? Is the day of boarding included?

A5: (accompanying measures)

1. Travelers must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued by a legally-established hospitals and clinics at the place of departure within 3 days prior to boarding their flight. 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 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 **3-day period** prior to boarding of such a test report shall be calculated based on the test report date and working days; therefore, national holidays in the country/region where the traveler takes the COVID-19 test (including weekends) may be excluded.
2. Taking the period of December 1-10, 2020, as an example, (December 5 (Saturday) and December 6 (Sunday) are weekend days), related calculations and explanations are as follows:
 - (1) If a traveler boards a flight on December 4 (counting

backwards 3 days from the date before the flight date, without counting the flight date), that traveler must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued on December 1 or later.

(2) If a traveler boards a flight on December 7 (counting backwards 3 days from the date before the flight date, without counting the flight date or the weekend days of December 5 and December 6), that traveler must present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued on December 2 or later.

※ The "scheduled boarding time" refers to the scheduled time announced by the airline company; travelers shall arrange a COVID-19 test and obtain the test result in time based on the scheduled time.

※ If travelers wish to apply for shortened quarantine periods in Taiwan as short-term business travelers in order to shorten the length of the home quarantine, please refer to the "Regulations concerning short-term business travelers' applications for shortened quarantine periods in Taiwan" (<https://reurl.cc/e8XAAb>) for requirements concerning negative COVID-19 test reports.

Q5-1: What should people do if their name on their COVID-19 RT-PCR test report is written in a different order from that on their passport (or if their middle name is missing, etc.)?

A5-1: If a traveler's name on his or her COVID-19 RT-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 RT-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 RT-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.

Q5-2: In the case where the name on a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report presented by a traveler with dual nationality is their foreign name on their US passport (or passport from another country) and is different from the name on the traveler's R.O.C. (Taiwan) passport presented at the time of boarding (such as by bearing one's husband's last name), will that traveler still be allowed to board the flight?

A5-2: The traveler must voluntarily present both passports for inspection. If the airline staff determines on the basis of the passport photos and date of birth (or passport number) that they belong to the same traveler, that traveler will be allowed to board the flight.

Q6: If a traveler transfers to Taiwan through a third place, which voyage is the three-day period of a COVID-19 RT-PCR test be based on?

A6: (accompanying measures)

1. In principle, the three-day period would be counted from the first boarding time. However, if the traveler transfers through and stays at the third place for more than 3 days (including transfers on both domestic and international flights), the three-day period would refer to three days prior to boarding 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:

- 6-1. 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 3 days, the traveler only has to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight at the place of departure (Atlanta); the traveler does not need to undergo testing again at the third place.

※This prevention program shall be implemented starting on December 1 (local time at the place of departure). For

example, if traveler takes a domestic flight from Atlanta, USA (place of departure) to Los Angeles (third place) on November 30, and then transfers to an international flight to Taiwan on December 1, because the specified time period is calculated from the time of the first leg of the traveler's journey (boarding on November 30), the traveler does not need to present a test report issued within 3 days before boarding the flight in Los Angeles (third place).

- 6-2. 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 3 days, then that traveler only has to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight 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.
- 6-3. 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 3 days, then that traveler only has to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight 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.

Q7: If a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding 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?

A7: (accompanying measures)

1. In principle, a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days of boarding 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. However, if a business traveler wishes to apply for a shortened home quarantine period in Taiwan, he or she must present an English- or Chinese-language COVID-19 test report in order to facilitate inspection by local health authorities in Taiwan.

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.

Q8: What items are required for a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding the flight to Taiwan?

A8: (accompanying measures)

1. A test report must be a nucleic acid test, a molecular biology technique for 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, test report date, the test method (PCR, real-time PCR, RT-PCR, RT-qPCR (Quantitative Reverse Transcription PCR) , NAA (nucleic acid amplification), NAAT (nucleic acid amplification test), NAT (nucleic acid test), LAMP (Loop/Mediated isothermal Amplification) or molecular diagnostics), and the interpretation result of "negative" or "undetectable."
2. Immunoserologic testing, which detects the presence of any antigens (Ag) or antibodies (IgG or IgM), is not molecular biology nucleic acid testing and thus, does not comply with the requirements for an English-language COVID-19 RT-PCR

test report issued within 3 days prior to boarding.

Q9: If a COVID-19 RT-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 or only requires the number of a Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents), what should the traveler do?

A9: (accompanying measures)

1. A COVID-19 RT-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. Furthermore, if the content of a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report provided by a traveler returning to Taiwan from mainland China contains the following fields: the name on the passport or Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents of the traveler, date of birth (or passport number or Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents number), specimen collection date and test report date, the virus name, testing method, and interpretation of test result, the test report complies with requirements. 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.

Q10 : If it is difficult to obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report overseas, can travelers be exempted from providing such a test report under certain circumstances? Can travelers undergo testing after they enter Taiwan?

A10: (Accompanying measures)

1. In accordance with the CECC's "Entry quarantine application procedures for travelers who cannot present COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports prior to boarding" (please see the Border Quarantine section of the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program on the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website; <https://reurl.cc/Y6NbkO>), if travelers cannot present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report, but meet the following four conditions, they shall be exempt from penalties: such four conditions are applicable to Taiwan nationals, foreign nationals holding Alien Residence Certificates, and persons from Hong Kong, Macao, and mainland China who hold an ARC; those conditions are not applicable to travelers transferring between flights in Taiwan.
- (1) Emergency situations: this includes situations where the traveler must return home for the funeral after the death of a relative within the second degree of kinship; the traveler must visit a relative within the second degree of kinship who is gravely ill; and the special emergency medical care program is applicable to the traveler. The traveler must proactively present an entry quarantine affidavit for a traveler who is unable to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test

report prior to boarding ("Affidavit") and verifying documents (attach document verifying the death of a relative, notice of critical illness, or certificate of diagnosis, etc.) when checking in with the airline at the airport. The traveler must also sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline; upon entry, the traveler must receive self-paid testing.

- (2) The traveler is traveling to Taiwan from a place of departure which has been announced as a country/region where COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports cannot be obtained by the CECC : this includes countries in the Oceania (Tuvalu, Niue, Fiji, and Tonga), and in Central America (Belize and Saint Lucia) and other countries. The traveler must proactively present an entry quarantine affidavit when checking in with the airline at the airport. The traveler must also sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline; upon entry, the traveler must receive self-paid testing.
- (3) Persons managed under agency programs that have received the CECC's approval: if the traveler comes to Taiwan for necessary and short-term official business or business affairs, and has taken preventive measures while overseas. The traveler must proactively present an entry quarantine affidavit and verifying documents when checking in with the airline at the airport. The traveler must also sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline; upon entry, the person's case is handled in accordance with epidemic prevention and quarantine measures approved under a special program.
- (4) Other persons announced by the CECC: those who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days. Such

travelers must proactively present an entry quarantine affidavit and verifying documents when checking in with the airline at the airport. They must also sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline; they must receive self-paid testing upon entry.

2. Travelers who cannot present a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report and return to Taiwan without completing the above-mentioned procedures shall sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline and shall undergo self-paid testing upon entry; such travelers may not receive disease prevention compensation, and they shall be fined from NT\$10,000 to 150,000 in accordance with Articles 58 and 69 of the Communicable Disease Control Act. Furthermore, those who are confirmed to have COVID-19 and are suspected of having infected other persons must bear relevant criminal liability.

Q10-1 : How do travelers obtain the list of "Countries where COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports cannot be obtained"?

A10-1 :

1. The list of "Countries where COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports cannot be obtained" will be regularly announced and updated by the CECC; the list are available for travelers to view on the Border Quarantine section of the Fall-Winter COVID-19 Prevention Program Taiwan CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov.tw/>).
2. 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/>).

Q10-2 : What is "other persons announced by the CECC" under the CECC's "Entry quarantine application procedures for travelers who cannot present COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports prior to boarding"?

A10-2 :

1. Other persons who are exempted from providing a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report announced by the CECC: they are persons who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days (such persons shall present an entry quarantine affidavit and verifying documents and shall receive self-paid testing upon entry). For example, if a Taiwan national depart from Taiwan on December 1 and return at 24:00 on or before December 4, the Taiwan national is not required to provide a COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports.
2. Travelers who are unable to present RT-PCT test reports for other special reasons must proactively present an entry quarantine affidavit and verifying documents when checking in with the airline at the airport; sit in a designated area on the aircraft arranged by the airline; and receive self-paid testing upon entry. If the reason a traveler stated for not providing such a test report does not meet the conditions, such traveler shall bear relevant criminal liability.

Q10-3 : What format must verifying documents required under the "Entry quarantine application procedures for travelers who cannot present COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports prior to boarding" have?

A10-3 :

1. Verifying documents, such as the death certificate of a relative within the second degree of kinship, or the notice of critical illness or certificate of diagnosis of a relative within the second degree of kinship, that are required in emergency situation cases must have been issued by a hospital, clinic, or health center approved by the R.O.C. government. Because such verifying documents must be presented to the airline at the place of departure for inspection, we recommend that the content be in English or in both Chinese and English.
2. When travelers who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days meet the CECC's requirements for travelers not required to present test reports upon arrival in Taiwan, such travelers must attach their recent entry/exit records, such as the exit record on the inside page of their passport and the ticket stub of an exit ticket from Taiwan, or attach other verifying documents to facilitate inspection by the airline.
3. Travelers must present verifying documents to explain that they will be unable to present RT-PCR test reports for other special reasons.
 - ✘ While the test reports may be on paper (original/photocopy) or in electronic form, and its content must be clearly legible to facilitate inspection by the airline and Taiwan's airport quarantine staff.

Q10-4 : When a Taiwan national applies for the entry applications procedures due to an emergency situation to attend a relative's funeral, if the funeral for the person's deceased relative has already been held, but the person wishes to assist in the handling of the inheritance and other matters connected with the deceased relative, does that person still

meet the condition for entering Taiwan for emergency situations where travelers are exempted from presenting a test report under the procedures?

A10-4 : When the person must come to Taiwan to attend the funeral of a relative within the second degree of kinship (including for the purpose of helping arrange the funeral, attending the funeral, or handling of partition of the inheritance and other matters connected with the deceased), based on humanitarian considerations, such person is not required to provide a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report when applying to come to Taiwan; however, the person wishing to come to Taiwan for funeral matters must submit an application within 100 days of the day after the day of relative's death.

Q10-5 : When travelers are not required to present test reports upon arrival in Taiwan due to meeting the CECC's requirements for those who have departed from Taiwan and returned within 3 days, is this exemption applicable to travel to any countries from Taiwan?

A10-5 : Yes, Taiwan nationals who exit from Taiwan, travel to any countries, and return to Taiwan within 3 days are exempt from presenting test reports, and shall not be subject to any penalties. However, they must attach an entry quarantine affidavit and verifying documents, such as the exit record on the inside page of the passport or the ticket stub of an exit ticket from Taiwan, and must receive self-paid testing upon entry.

Q11 : If my COVID-19 RT-PCR test report exceeds 3 days due to flight delays, do I need to take another test?

A11 : The COVID-19 RT-PCR test report is calculated based on

the "scheduled time" announced by the airline. It will not be affected by flight delays and doesn't constitute an overdue situation. The traveler may be allowed to board the flight without another test.

Q13: If a traveler arriving in Taiwan provides an untruthful test result or he/she refuses, evades or obstructs related measures, will the traveler be subject to penalties?

A13:

1. If a traveler arriving in Taiwan provides an untruthful test result or he/she refuses, evades or obstructs related quarantine measures, such traveler may be fined from NT\$10,000 to NT\$150,000 in accordance with Articles 58 and 69 of the Communicable Disease Control Act.
2. If a test report is untruthful, the criminal liability for the Offenses of Forging Instruments or Seals shall be imposed.