

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2022



China

New, stricter pre-travel COVID-19 test requirements for inbound travelers

Executive summary

The Chinese authorities recently implemented new, stricter requirements for issuing health codes to China-bound travelers departing from multiple jurisdictions, including locations in Canada, Singapore and the United States.

New health code application requirements

The Chinese Embassies and Consulates in Canada, Singapore and the United States recently announced new, stricter rules for obtaining a health code, which is a requirement for foreign travelers seeking to enter China. In general, the changes include new, heightened COVID-19 testing and self-isolation requirements. Travelers are advised to confirm their specific requirements for entry into China with the Chinese Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over the location from which they will travel.

Travelers are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for purposes of entry into China if they received two doses of an approved two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or one dose of an approved one-dose COVID-19 vaccine, at least 14 days prior to applying for a health code. Approved COVID-19 vaccines include Pfizer-BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Moderna, CanSino, Sinopharm and Sinovac.

Travelers are further divided into three groups; those who are: (1) fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with an inactivated vaccine (e.g., Sinopharm, Sinovac), (2) fully vaccinated with a non-inactivated vaccine (e.g., AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, CanSino), and (3) unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19.

Travel from the United States

In general, individuals aged three or above traveling directly to China from the United States, are required to complete the following steps in the city from which they will depart, to obtain a health code: (1) take a nucleic acid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test at an approved medical facility seven days prior to boarding their flight, and test negative, (2) self-isolate and monitor their health for seven days preceding their flight, (3) take additional COVID-19 tests, and test negative, typically one to two days prior to their planned travel, (4) complete a personal health monitoring form, and (5) submit the form and all pre-travel test results with their health code application.

Travel from Dallas to Shanghai

Individuals traveling from Dallas to Shanghai must apply for health codes to the Chinese Embassy in the United States.

- ▶ Effective 13 January 2022, travelers aged three or above who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines must complete the following steps to obtain a health code: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days prior to travel, (3) complete the Embassy's [Personal Monitoring Form](#), (4) take two PCR COVID-19 tests no more than 48 hours prior to travel, and test negative for both.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines must complete steps (1) through (3) directly above, and take three COVID-19 tests (i.e., PCR, S protein IgM antibody and N protein IgM antibody tests) no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.

- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and a non-inactivated COVID-19 vaccine are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines.
- ▶ Travelers who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19 are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines.

Travel from Detroit to Shanghai

Individuals traveling from Detroit to Shanghai must apply for health codes to the Chinese Consulate in Chicago.

- ▶ Effective 13 January 2022, travelers aged three or above who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines must complete the following steps to obtain a health code: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test at one of three [approved medical facilities](#) seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days leading up to their travel, (3) complete the Chicago Consulate's [Personal Monitoring Form](#), and (4) take two PCR COVID-19 tests (using two separate samples) at an approved facility no more than 48 hours prior to travel, and test negative for both. Travelers who take the two final PCR COVID-19 tests in Chicago must take one test at GoPath Laboratories and the other at Radiance Diagnostics.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines must complete steps (1) through (3) directly above, and take three COVID-19 tests (i.e., PCR, S protein IgM antibody and N protein IgM antibody tests) at an approved medical facility no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and a non-inactivated COVID-19 vaccine are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines.
- ▶ Travelers who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19 are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines.

Travel from New York to Shanghai

Individuals traveling from New York to Shanghai must apply for health codes to the Chinese Consulate in New York.

- ▶ Effective 13 January 2022, travelers aged three or above who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines must complete the following steps to obtain a health code: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days leading up to their travel, (3) complete the New York Consulate's [Personal Monitoring Form](#), (4) take two PCR COVID-19 tests at an [approved facility](#) no more than 48 hours prior to travel, and test negative for both, and (5) complete and submit a [Letter of Commitment](#) containing information regarding the traveler's COVID-19 vaccination status (e.g., vaccine name, name of the institution that administered the vaccine).
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines must complete steps (1) through (3) directly above, and take three COVID-19 tests (i.e., PCR, S protein IgM antibody and N protein antibody tests) at an [approved medical facility](#) no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and a non-inactivated COVID-19 vaccine are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines.
- ▶ Travelers who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19 are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines.

Travel from San Francisco and Seattle to Shanghai

Individuals traveling to Shanghai from San Francisco or Seattle must obtain health codes from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco.

- ▶ Effective 13 January 2022, travelers aged three or above who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines must complete the following steps to obtain a health code: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days leading up to their travel, (3) complete the San Francisco Consulate's [Personal Monitoring Form](#), (4) take two PCR COVID-19 tests (using two separate samples) at the same [approved facility](#) in the city from which they are departing no more than 48 hours prior to travel, and test negative for both.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines must complete steps (1) through (3) directly above, and take three COVID-19 tests (i.e., PCR, S protein IgM antibody and N protein antibody tests) at an approved medical facility no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and a non-inactivated COVID-19 vaccine are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines.
- ▶ Travelers who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19 are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines.

Travel from Los Angeles to Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin and Xiamen

Individuals traveling from Los Angeles to Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin and Xiamen must obtain health codes from the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles.

- ▶ Effective 13 January 2022, travelers aged three or above who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines must complete the following steps to obtain a health code: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days leading up to their travel, (3) complete the Los Angeles Consulate's [Personal Monitoring Form](#), (4) take two PCR COVID-19 tests at the same [approved facility](#) no more than 48 hours prior to travel, and test negative for both.

- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines must complete steps (1) through (3) directly above, and take three COVID-19 tests (i.e., PCR, S protein IgM antibody and N protein antibody tests) at an approved medical facility no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.
- ▶ Travelers who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and a non-inactivated COVID-19 vaccine are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines.
- ▶ Travelers who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated against COVID-19 are subject to the same rules as travelers who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines.

Travel from Canada

Effective 14 January 2022, individuals traveling to China directly from Canada will be required to complete the following additional steps when applying to obtain a health code from the Chinese Embassy in Canada or a Chinese Consulate: (1) take a PCR COVID-19 test seven days prior to travel, and test negative, (2) monitor their health for seven days leading up to their travel, (3) complete a [Personal Monitoring Form](#), and (4) take PCR and IgM antibody COVID-19 tests at an [approved facility](#) in Canada no more than 48 hours prior to travel. These travelers must test negative for COVID-19 to obtain a health code.

Travel from Singapore

Effective 3 January 2022, individuals traveling directly from Singapore who are fully vaccinated with inactivated vaccines, and those who are fully vaccinated and received at least one dose each of an inactivated and non-inactivated vaccine, are now required to take PCR COVID-19 tests at different [approved testing agencies](#) on the third and second days before their trip, and test negative for both. These travelers are no longer required to take an IgM antibody test prior to travel. They must now undergo "closed loop management" (i.e., self-monitoring) for 7 days preceding their trip (down from 14 days previously), and submit a [Statement of Commitment on Personal Health Monitoring](#) form prior to travel.

The entry requirements for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travelers, and those who are fully vaccinated with non-inactivated vaccines, remain unchanged. Click [here](#) for more information.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, please contact any of our immigration professionals.

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