

# Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



## South Korea

### New COVID-19-related restrictions for travelers arriving from China Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau

#### Executive summary

Effective 5 January 2023, travelers arriving from China Mainland must take a COVID-19 test prior to departure, and test negative, to be admitted to South Korea. Effective 7 January 2023, this measure was extended to travelers arriving from Macau and Hong Kong. The COVID-19 testing requirement will stay in place for these travelers until 28 February 2023.

#### Key developments

Effective 5 January 2023, travelers arriving from China Mainland (and effective 7 January 2023, those arriving from Macau and Hong Kong) must take a professionally administered rapid antigen COVID-19 test (RAT) no more than 24 hours prior to departure, or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) nucleic acid COVID-19 test taken no more than 48 hours prior to departure, and test negative. They must upload the negative test result on the [Q-code](#) portal prior to arrival, obtain a QR code and present it to the airplane crew when boarding.

Effective 2 January 2023, all entrants traveling from China Mainland, or who were present in China Mainland in the seven days prior to their entry to South Korea, must take a PCR COVID-19 test no more than one business day after their arrival in South Korea and upload the result on the Q-code website. Those who test positive must quarantine for seven days at a location subject to the discretion of the authorities. In general, short-term visa holders (including travelers who hold Korea Electronic Travel Authorization or K-ETA) are required to quarantine at a government facility, and long-term visa holders are required to quarantine at a private accommodation.

These measures are expected to remain in place until 28 February 2023 and may be extended at the discretion of the authorities.

#### Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted employees traveling from the jurisdictions above of the new requirements to avoid delays or complications relating to travel to South Korea.

#### Key steps

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

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