

Proof of vaccination for Indigenous Peoples and Northerners in remote communities



Key message

Being fully vaccinated prior to travelling helps protect you, your fellow travellers and your community. Vaccination means you are less likely to become infected during your journey or to bring COVID-19 back to your community, where you might unintentionally spread the virus to someone else (even if you don't become ill).

As of October 30, 2021, if you're travelling in Canada by plane or train, you will need proof of full vaccination.

There will be a short transition period until November 29 where you will be able to travel if you show a valid COVID-19 molecular test that was taken as an alternative to providing proof of full vaccination. Starting November 30, all travellers who are 12 years of age plus four months, and older will need to be vaccinated unless they meet one of the limited exceptions.



Temporary accommodations

Temporary accommodations will be in place to support travel to and from remote communities. Travellers departing from identified Northern, remote or isolated communities will be exempt from the requirement to provide proof of vaccination or a valid molecular COVID-19 test.



Quick facts

- Accommodations for remote communities currently exist, but they are limited.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, you'll be provided with a free rapid COVID-19 molecular test kit at gateway airports if you are travelling to or from a remote community.



Guidelines and information may change as the situation evolves. Please visit canada.ca/proof-vaccination-remote-communities to stay up to date.



The Government of Canada recognizes the unique needs of travellers from remote communities and wants to ensure that travellers who are not fully vaccinated will still be able to travel for their medical, health or social well-being, and return safely to their homes.



Accommodations for those from remote communities who are travelling by air:

- Unvaccinated travellers flying from remote communities will not be required to provide a valid molecular test before they depart, until local testing capacity is in place.
- For unvaccinated travellers flying to a remote community and who are at least 12 years of age plus four months:
 - At gateway airports, airline operators will provide free rapid COVID molecular test kits, with clear Health Canada-approved instructions, unless you have a valid COVID-19 molecular test result prior to checking in.

The accommodation to allow unvaccinated passengers travelling from a remote community to board a flight without a valid COVID-19 test only applies to the flight to a gateway airport. Travelling beyond a gateway airport requires testing.

- A valid test result will allow unvaccinated travellers to continue their travel without the need for another test result for 72 hours (e.g., the test result could allow the traveller to board multiple flights).
- If you don't qualify as fully vaccinated, you must:
 - Provide proof of a COVID-19 negative molecular test result taken within 72 hours of your scheduled departure time OR
 - Proof of a previous positive molecular test result taken between 14 and 180 days before your trip
 - Travellers who test positive for COVID-19 cannot travel. Local public health authorities will be informed and will provide further guidance. If you are travelling for Non-Insured Health Benefits Program-eligible medical reasons, the program will cover expenses related to self-isolation, such as food and accommodation, if needed.
- Travellers who completed quarantine under public health authority requirements prior to travel (e.g., as required by Nunavut) will be exempted from the testing requirements (i.e., the quarantine will be accepted as equivalent to the valid test requirement).
- Air ambulance and medevac flights are excluded from the requirements to be fully vaccinated.



Accommodations for those from remote communities who are travelling by rail:

- Until local testing capacity is in place, travellers departing or returning from a remote community serviced by VIA Rail between The Pas and Churchill, Manitoba, or a community serviced by Keewatin Railway Company, are exempt from the requirement to demonstrate proof of vaccination or to present the results of a valid COVID-19 test.
- If you are departing from a remote community for which VIA Rail may be the only means of transportation, for some portions of your travel you may also be exempt from these requirements. Please contact VIA Rail for more details.
- This temporary accommodation does not apply to onward rail journeys on the remainder of VIA Rail's network. You may be required to take a self-administered COVID-19 test before you continue onwards to other destinations.
- Proof of vaccination or a valid COVID-19 molecular test result will be required to board connecting trains at other stations and to board for return travel to remote communities.

The Government of Canada is committed to work with local health officials, communities, and aviation partners to maximize flexibility, exercise discretion, and minimize disruption, when implementing this new requirement on October 30. It will work with provincial and territorial governments and other partners to refine this approach based on early experiences, and to develop the next phases of accommodation for remote communities as the national vaccine requirement for travellers evolves.



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