



The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 into Canada at all international ports of entry.

The Emergency Order, [Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations](#) (updated March 19, 2021) requires all travelers, regardless of citizenship, to provide proof of a valid COVID-19 molecular test taken within 3 days of arrival to Canada or a valid positive COVID-19 molecular test taken between 14 and 90 days before arrival in Canada. If entering from the US, negative tests must have been performed in the US. Upon entry, all travelers are also required to take a test on arrival, and another toward the end of a 14-day obligatory quarantine period.

Quarantine

Essential service as it relates to business visitors, technicians and specialists may be [exempt from the requirement to quarantine](#) under the following:

- People in the trade or transportation sector who are needed for the movement of goods or people (e.g. truck drivers), and who cross the border while performing their duties or for the purpose of performing their duties¹
- People who need to cross the border regularly to go to their normal place of employment, including critical infrastructure (CI) workers²
- Technicians or specialists who enter Canada to maintain, repair, install or inspect equipment critical to Canada's infrastructure in order to keep goods and services moving. (**Note:** Technicians or specialists travelling for testing, validation or approval or equipment, for sale or export, do not meet the definition of essential service provider)

While [technicians or specialists](#) who support critical infrastructure (CI) may be considered for an exemption, it is important to note that supporting CI, in and of itself, is not an acceptable rationale. They must demonstrate to border officials:

- That the service they will be providing is essential to maintaining critical infrastructure operations and/or its assets;
- That there is a good reason as to why the service is required **within 14 days** of entering into Canada, and that there is a **risk to Canadians** if the service is not completed within the 14 days;
- That they were **unable to plan around a 14 day quarantine** because of urgent safety reasons or unanticipated shutdown of a production line, or other binding commitments. (**Note:** Being the only technician or specialist who is qualified to do the work in Canada is not, on its own, a reason to be exempted from the quarantine requirement.)

¹ The application of the trade and transportation exemption applies to commercial operators or persons carrying commercial goods.

² The frequent cross-border worker exemption is intended for travelers who must cross the border frequently (e.g., daily, weekly, or following a rotational schedule) to travel from their residence to their normal place of employment.

³ Refers to a person permitted to work in Canada under paragraph 186(t) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR) who enters for the

Testing

PRE-ENTRY: There are a limited number of exceptions where an individual is not required to show proof of a valid [COVID-19 molecular test result](#), including for essential work considered exempt under the Emergency Order, such as:

- Essential service providers (including business visitors, [technicians or specialists](#) as defined under the Quarantine exemption)
- Trade and Transportation workers
- Frequent cross-border workers
- Emergency service providers³, including firefighters, peace officers, and paramedics, who return from providing such services in another country and are required to provide their services within 14 days of their return to Canada

UPON ARRIVAL: Individuals who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements are not required to take an arrival test

Important: It is the traveler's responsibility to demonstrate that they are eligible to enter Canada, including if they qualify for an exemption from mandatory testing or quarantine measures. Government representatives at the border use the information available at the time of entry to determine what instructions will be provided to a traveler regarding their public health obligations.

Where questions arise with regards to a traveler's quarantine plan, health status, or molecular test documentation, CBSA border services officers refer the traveler to a PHAC Quarantine Officer who will make a determination on the next steps.

Further details can be found [here](#) (driving) and [here](#) (flying) under the heading "Testing and quarantine exemptions".

General Information:

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) administers and enforces Canada's quarantine provisions. For more information including possible quarantine exemptions, please visit PHAC's [COVID-19 web page](#).

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purpose of providing those services. While the IRPR speaks to incoming foreign nationals, the intent of what is considered an emergency service provider is also applicable to [returning](#) Canadian emergency service providers, who provided their service in another country, on an emergency basis (not planned maintenance or contractual work)