

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Canada introduces COVID-19 test regulation for international travel

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Throughout the year, the travel industry was forced to innovate in order to survive the pandemic. Image credit: Euromonitor

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Canada is planning to implement a new regulation that requires any traveler entering the country by air to obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test within three days before planned arrival.

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Minister of intergovernmental affairs Dominic Leblanc announced these new requirements in a press conference on Wednesday. These measures mark the country's latest attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus and are expected to be effective within the next few days.

"We strongly advise against travel unless absolutely necessary," said Bill Blair, public safety minister, at the news conference. "If you must travel, understand that upon your return, you must follow guidelines and quarantine for 14 days."

"It's not just the right thing to do it's the law."

Safety precautions

Canada Border Service Agency agents will also be present at border crossings and airports to ensure travelers understand the newly tightened rules.

The test must be a PCR test and be processed in a lab, which usually takes at least a day to turn around results.



Ottawa International Airport (YOW). Image credit: Ottawa International Airport

To ensure compliance, there will be an increase in follow ups, such as phone calls or home visits and airlines should assume responsibility for ensuring travelers provide negative results before boarding planes headed for Canada, according to Mr. Blair.

The new rule will not replace the 14-day quarantine period regulation. Violation of such regulations could potentially result in jail time or up to \$750,000 in fines, according to Mr. Blair.

While plans have certainly shifted due to the pandemic, last year Canada was among the top three places travelers wished to go in the future, according to a consumer travel trends survey by Travel Leaders Group ([see story](#)).

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