

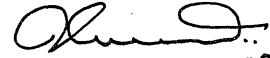
B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi
Dated the 29th September, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: RT-PCR Testing at the entry airport for the arriving international passengers- reg.

Reference is invited to this Ministry's OM of even number dated 02.09.2020 allowing for RT-PCR testing at the entry airport for arriving international transfer passengers, on pilot basis.

2. The matter has been reviewed and it has now been decided to allow all the arriving international passengers, if they so desire, to avail the facility of RT-PCR testing at the entry airport, wherever available.
3. Detailed updated guidelines in this regard are enclosed at Annexure-I.
4. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Usha Padhee) 29/9/20

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To:

- (i) Airports Authority of India (Kind Attn: **Shri Arvind Singh, Chairman**), Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi- with the request to bring the contents of this OM to the knowledge of all concerned.
- (ii) JS(RA), MoCA
- (iii) CEO, DIAL/MIAL/BIAL/CIAL/GHIAL

Copy to:

- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (ii) PS to Hon. MOS (I/C), Civil Aviation
- (iii) DG, DGCA
- (iv) DG, BCAS
- (v) Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- (vi) Secretaries of Other Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- (vii) Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories
- (viii) Other concerned officials and stakeholders (as per standard circulation)

RT-PCR TESTING AT THE AIRPORT FOR THE ARRIVING INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

1. Guidelines below apply for all arriving international passengers, who arrive at an entry airport in India without RT-PCR Negative certificate and wish to avail exemption from institutional quarantine or need to take a connecting flight to domestic destinations in India.
2. Arriving international passengers will have an option of getting an RT-PCR/ TrueNat/CBNAAT(including GeneXpert) testing done at the entry airport, wherever available. If the test results into a negative report, the passenger will be permitted to take connecting flight to other domestic destinations in India without needing to be quarantined at the city of entry airport. Other international arriving passengers tested negative and exiting from the city of entry airport would be exempted from the institutional quarantine, permitting them to proceed for home quarantine, as per the guidelines of State Government concerned.
3. Airport Operator will create Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge ("Waiting Lounge") – a facility for above testing and sample collection at the airport along with a Waiting Lounge. Facility for testing and sample collection should be in strict compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL in this regard. One representative of State authorities (of entry airport) will also be present in the Waiting lounge.
4. Airports shall provide options to the passengers to do online booking of the above test through respective websites or other appropriate online platforms. Once passengers arrive at the entry airport, Airport Operator will lay down a well-defined flow for such passengers at their respective Arrival Terminals leading to the Waiting Lounges and to the exit from the terminal. Proper escort to be ensured for the passenger from a Helpdesk set up by the Airport Operator after the Customs inspection area to the Waiting Lounge.
5. Process of sample collection and testing should be in strict compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL in this regard. Passport of the passenger will be retained by the State authority at the Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge till the Test results are available. Once the test result is available, Waiting Lounge will intimate the passenger of the same.
6. If the result is negative, the arriving international passenger having connecting flight to domestic destinations in India will be stamped 'RT-PCR negative' and 'State Quarantined till [applicable date]' on the hand by the State Authority available at the Waiting lounge, will be handed over his/her passport, and will be permitted to exit the Waiting Lounge and proceed to the Departures to catch the connecting flight. For other passengers if the result is negative, the passenger will be stamped 'RT-PCR negative' and 'State Quarantined till [applicable date]' on the hand by the State Authority available at the Waiting lounge, will be handed over his/her passport, and will be permitted to exit the Waiting Lounge and the Terminal building.
7. If the result is positive, the passenger will be processed in line with applicable ICMR protocols by the State authorities.

Usha Padhe

8. Waiting Lounge for the passengers should follow all sanitization and social distancing related guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time. The Waiting Lounge should be located away from the Operational area but should be sterile with no access to any unauthorized personnel. It should provide necessary amenities to the passengers like Wifi, F&B options, washrooms etc.
9. Considering the time required in getting the test results at the Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge, Airport Operator shall provide to the passengers option to either stay at the Waiting Lounge awaiting the test results or to proceed to designated Hotel(s) in order to isolate themselves till the Test results are available. The Lounge will provide to the passengers cashless options for making payments with regard to testing and various amenities etc.
10. No passenger should be able to make an unauthorized exit.
11. This will be done on pilot basis and these guidelines will be reviewed periodically for improvements.

Usha Padhee
