

What you need to know: Airport COVID-19 testing

November 23, 2020

COVID-19 testing is increasingly being seen as a way to safely open up international travel, particularly as more destinations make the presentation of a negative result a condition of entry. Such a result may reduce or even eliminate quarantine in some destinations. As testing develops, it is being made available both pre-departure and on-arrival, as airports cater for each destination's differing regulations and entry conditions.

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Africa

Ghana

Anyone traveling to Ghana by air must complete an online health declaration form before departure.¹ On *arrival* at Accra's Kotoka International airport, they must provide evidence of a negative result from a PCR test taken not more than 72 hours before departure and have their temperature checked.² Passengers must also take a mandatory COVID-19 antigen test at the airport at a cost of \$150. Depending on the result, which should be available within 30 minutes, a period in quarantine may be required.

Asia

China

When traveling to China from some countries where infection rates are high, passengers must within 48 hours of boarding a flight take a nucleic acid and IgM antibody test.³ They should present/email negative test results to the local Chinese embassy for a green health code with the "HS" mark or a certified health declaration form. Chinese travelers can upload images of their results to the WeChat Health Code app.

Passengers *arriving* in China at gateway airports are subject to health checks, which may include nucleic acid or swab tests. These tests are not carried out at the airport. Travelers must instead proceed to government appointed locations, where they will need to pay for a test. Also at their own cost, all travelers (including Chinese citizens) must stay at a designated hotel while waiting for their test results. Chinese citizens may then quarantine at home, although the policy may be different for each gateway city. Some cities require only a 7-day quarantine, which may have to be spent at a hotel or at home (depending

¹ [UK GOV](#), FCO, Nov 12, 2020

² [Ministry of Health](#), Ghana Health Service, August 2020

³ [Embassy of China](#), Belgium

on the city). In others, quarantine may be 14 days. Overseas travelers must quarantine at a designated hotel for 14 days.⁴

Departing passengers face no restrictions, as long as no time was spent in the preceding 14 days in a high or middle risk area in China. Nucleic acid or swab tests are normally not available at the departure airport, so passengers must arrange and pay locally for any tests required by their destination.

Hong Kong

Before boarding a flight to Hong Kong, most travelers must present their airline with a negative COVID -19 result from a test taken not more than 72 hours before departure.⁵ The name on the result must be identical to that on the traveler's travel document. On arrival at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) all passengers are tested again at the airport's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC). They must remain in the TSCC and wait for their RT-PCR test results, which are usually available on the same day, before proceeding to immigration and baggage reclaim.⁶

During November 2020, HKIA is conducting a two-week trial of rapid a Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) COVID-19 test.⁷ Testing is voluntary and arriving passengers must still wait for their results from the mandatory RT-PCR test. The LAMP test should return results in around 30 minutes, compared with 3-6 hours for the RT-PCR test currently in use. Both tests require a throat and nose swab to be taken.

If LAMP tests are found to be effective, they may be rolled out so that outbound travelers can save time and money by testing at the airport before boarding their flight. Pre-flight testing may also be a condition of the travel corridors Hong Kong is trying to agree with other countries. Currently, all passengers traveling to Beijing must present proof of a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result not older than seven days.

India

Passengers arriving at Delhi Airport can be tested for COVID-19 at a center operated by Genestrings Diagnostic Center. Since October 26, 2020, testing has been extended to passengers boarding international flights as a growing number of destination countries now require a negative result before allowing entry.

Genestrings offers RT-PCR tests, providing results within four to six hours.⁸ This means departing passengers would typically need to arrive at the airport 7-8 hours before flight departure. Arriving passengers must remain in the testing center's lounge until receiving a negative result. The test is available at Rs5,000 (\$65).⁹

To fly to India, international passengers must present a negative result from an RT PCR test taken within 96 hours of departure. Passengers currently arriving without a test result are subject to seven days of institutional quarantine, at their own cost, and a further seven days of home quarantine. Alternatively, they can pay to be tested at the airport.

⁴ [UK. Gov](#), FCO, China

⁵ [HKIA](#), Arriving Passengersto present negative COVID-19 result

⁶ [HKIA](#), Compulsory Quarantine and COVID-19 Testing

⁷ [Hong Kong Free Press](#), Oct. 28, 2020

⁸ [Airport Technology](#), Oct. 26, 2020

⁹ [Delhi Airport](#), COVID-19 testing centre

Japan

Tokyo Narita

A COVID-19 testing center opens at Tokyo Narita Airport in November 2020, enabling *departing* passengers to obtain a negative test result certificate within 2 hours.¹⁰ Set up by Nippon Medical School Foundation, the facilities in terminals 1 and 2 make Narita the first airport in Japan with an on-the-spot testing center.¹¹

The RT-PCR test costs ¥39,800 (\$380) for passengers with an appointment or ¥46,500 without one. Certificates are issued in English and Japanese.

The center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but it will charge extra fees for testing and issuing certificates at night and early in the morning.

There is no restriction on who can get tested, although the service is primarily aimed at departing passengers.

Singapore

Short-term visitors may only enter Singapore under one of two programs:¹²

- Air Travel Pass – arriving from approved countries
- Safe Travel Pass – government or company sponsored officials and business travelers arriving from approved countries

On *arrival*, Air Travel Pass holders must take a PCR nasal swab test at Changi Airport. They must book and pay S\$300 (including GST) for the test online before arrival in Singapore. It is not possible to take the test at any other location after arrival. Results are available within 48 hours, during which time a passenger must self-isolate in a declared place of accommodation.

A negative result allows a passenger to avoid the mandatory 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). However, they must still download the government's TraceTogether app, keep it activated during their stay, and retain it for 14 days after leaving Singapore. Anyone testing positive will be sent to a medical facility for treatment and monitoring, at their own expense.

Passengers arriving under the Safe Travel Pass scheme must present a negative PCR test result and undergo a post-arrival test at Changi Airport. Thereafter, they are subject to the same procedure and conditions as Air Travel Pass holders.

Travelers *leaving* Singapore may also apply for a pre-departure PCR test. Approval is only granted for people traveling under Singapore's Green/Fast Lane travel corridor arrangements with other countries, or those traveling to destinations with a mandatory requirement for a pre-entry negative result.¹³

Applications can take up to 5 days to process. Testing must be conducted at least 48 hours before the flight to ensure travelers receive their results in time. Tests must be conducted at an approved clinic, which includes Raffles Medical's clinic at Changi Airport.

¹⁰ [Japan Times](#), Oct. 22, 2020

¹¹ [Narita Airport](#)

¹² [Changi Airport](#)

¹³ [SafeTravel](#), Pre-Departure Test Application

South Korea

All international *arrivals* – regardless of nationality or length of stay – must test for COVID-19 and undergo a 14-day quarantine.¹⁴ Korean nationals, and long-term foreign visitors with an Alien Registration Card and Korean residence, may self-quarantine at home. Arrivals from the U.S. and Europe must test within three days; arrivals from elsewhere must test within 14 days.

Arrivals from the U.S. and Europe will typically be tested on arrival – although it is not clear if this is at the airport - before being transferred to a government-designated quarantine facility, at a daily cost of 100,000 KRW (US\$90).

Passengers *arriving* at Seoul's Incheon International Airport have their temperatures checked and must complete a Health Declaration and Quarantine Agreement, detailing contact information in South Korea and any visits to high-risk areas.¹⁵ They must also install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection mobile app, which will be used to ensure self-quarantine rules are being followed. Symptomatic travelers are quarantined in a waiting room before being tested for COVID-19.

In response to a new requirement for China-bound passengers transiting through South Korea to be tested at the transit airport, Incheon airport suspended transit travel to China. This suggests the airport does not have the facilities to test *departing* passengers for COVID-19.¹⁶

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Austria

Passengers *entering* Austria must present a health certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result not more than four days old. Otherwise, they must immediately enter a 14-day quarantine. Anyone without a test result may have a PCR test performed on arrival at Vienna Airport.¹⁷ The test costs €120 and results are available within a few hours, but passengers may sometimes need to wait until the following day. The test may be used by both *arriving* and *departing* passengers.

Austrian Airlines has started trialing voluntary, free-of-charge COVID-19 tests at Vienna airport, providing passengers with results within 10-15 minutes. These do not replace PCR tests required in a number of destination countries. At this stage, Austrian is trying to demonstrate the feasibility of rapid testing.

Passengers taking part of the three-week trial during November 2020 will only have their boarding passes activated on receipt of a negative result.

Belgium

A COVID-19 test center was set up at Brussels Zaventem airport in mid-September 2020 to support passengers whose country of destination requires a negative result from a test carried out within the 72 hours before departure. A standard PCR test costs €67, with results typically available within 24 hours.¹⁸ A rapid test, giving a result in 3-11 hours (depending on when the test is taken), is also available for €135.

¹⁴ [UK.Gov](#), FCO, South Korea

¹⁵ [Incheon Airport](#), Safer travel with Incheon Airport

¹⁶ [Korean Air](#), Entry restrictions by country

¹⁷ [Vienna Airport](#), PCR test

¹⁸ [Brussels Airport](#), COVID-19 Test Centre

Passengers *arriving* from a red zone country can also be tested upon arrival, with test results available within 24 hours.¹⁹ Anyone receiving a corona test prescription code by text from the Belgian government is obliged to take this test. The text is part of the contact tracing procedure and will be in response to information provided in the passenger's Passenger Locator Form. Passengers with this code and who are covered by a Belgian health insurance company will not pay for the test. Passengers without Belgian health insurance must pay €46.81.

Travelers are recommended to register online for voluntary testing, generating a QR code for presentation at the testing center.

The test center is operated by Ecolog, and it is located outside the airport terminal.

Finland

Travelers *arriving* from a country subject to entry restrictions (or having spent time in one during the preceding two weeks) should voluntarily enter a 10-day quarantine period.²⁰ It is possible to take a COVID-19 test at Helsinki Airport to reduce the length of quarantine:

- Finnish nationals or residents: test for COVID-19 at the airport immediately on arrival, taking a second test (in their home town) at least 72 hours later. Two negative test results allows quarantine to end early.
- Other travelers on trips exceeding 72 hours: on arrival, present a negative result from a COVID-19 test not more than 72 hours old, or take a test at Helsinki Airport. Then quarantine for 72 hours, before taking a second test. If this result is also negative, quarantine may be ended.

People arriving from countries without entry restrictions need not quarantine. Those arriving from a restricted country, but who intend to spend less than 72 hours in Finland, need not quarantine either, but must present a negative COVID-19 test result.

Any traveler arriving in Helsinki Airport, who thinks they may have COVID-19 symptoms or may have been exposed, can also take the free test. But they must then self-isolate, at least until a negative result is received.

Testing at Helsinki Airport is carried out by the City of Vantaa health authority and is free of charge. The service, located after baggage reclaim, is open only when there are arriving flights.

On weekdays, Helsinki Airport also deploys specially trained dogs to "test" all passengers arriving on international flights for COVID-19. Anyone failing the scent detection test is referred to the City of Vantaa health information point for a formal COVID-19 test.

Passengers arriving in Finland through airports other than Helsinki must contact the local health authorities to arrange a COVID-19 test.

Helsinki Airport COVID-19 testing is not available for *departing* passengers.²¹ As it does not provide a certificate confirming a negative result, it is of no use to passengers requiring proof that they are COVID-19-free.

¹⁹ [The Brussels Times](#), Sept. 14, 2020

²⁰ [Finavia](#), Air travel during COVID-19

²¹ [Finavia](#), Oct. 1, 2020

France

Passengers, who *arrive* from countries where COVID-19 is regarded to be very actively circulating, must present a negative PCR test result, carried out less than 72 hours prior to departure from France.

Passengers without a test result are tested on arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, with results emailed within 36 hours.²²

By the end of October 2020, France plans to offer COVID-19 antigen tests at its airports for passengers *departing* to the U.S. and Italy and for those arriving from countries classified as “red” by the EU’s new coding system.²³ The nasal swab tests should also be available for passengers traveling to and from France’s overseas territories. Tests will be required by both arriving and departing passengers, with results available within 10-15 minutes, offering a faster alternative to PCR tests.

The antigen tests will initially be available at Paris Charles de Gaulle and Nice airports, before being rolled out to other airports.²⁴

Germany

Anyone *arriving* in Germany having spent some time in a risk area during the previous 14 days must enter a 14-day quarantine period. Travelers may also need to provide a negative test result or submit to a test. Even if not required to do so, travelers can still be tested free of charge within ten days of their return to Germany.²⁵

Frankfurt

Two test centers are available for passengers *arriving* at Frankfurt Airport.

Healthcare company CENTOGENE also offers a paid-for test for passengers *departing* from Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Hamburg airports.²⁶ But this is not an on-departure test; it is a pre-departure test.

CENTOGENE’s RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) throat swab test detects if a person is infected with COVID-19. Passengers are advised to register online to reduce their waiting time at the airport. It’s not possible to book an appointment. CENTOGENE will only test people without symptoms. Waiting times can be up to 2 hours. The Standard Process, with results within 12 hours, costs €59. Tests taken after 2pm receive results the next day. The Express Process costs €139, with results available within 6 hours. Travelers are advised to time their test to ensure the result is received one hour before check-in begins, when some airlines require confirmation of a negative result.

If receiving a positive test result, travelers are encouraged to scan a QR code in the Corona-Warn-App, the German government app distributed by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), so that all possible contacts are notified of the risk.

Munich

All travelers *arriving* in Munich from risk areas must either have tested negative in the previous 48 hours or must complete a COVID-19 test on arrival.²⁷ The airport has two test centers; one each in Terminals 1

²² [Paris Aeroport](#), Coronavirus Information

²³ [BTN Europe](#), Oct. 16, 2020

²⁴ [The Local France](#), Oct. 20, 2020

²⁵ [Federal Ministry of Health](#), Sept. 30, 2020

²⁶ [Centogene](#), Improved Travel with Coronavirus Testing

²⁷ [Munich Airport](#), Corona tests at the airport

and 2. Passengers can register online before arriving at the test center, although this is not necessary. The test is free of charge. All affected travelers must quarantine for up to 14 days or until the laboratory sends them a negative result.

Passengers arriving from non-risk areas can request a free COVID-19 throat swab test in the airport's Corona Test Center. Test results are provided in a few days, depending on test volumes.

Departing passengers can also get tested the "Test & Fly" Center in the airport's Terminal 2 and its medical center in Terminal 1. The PCR test is performed in the Test & Fly Center by MVZ Martinsried for a €128 fee. Medicaire operates an out-of-hours service in Terminal 1.

Italy

Rome Fiumicino and Milan Linate

Flights between Rome and Milan may only carry passengers who receive a negative test result at the airport prior to departure or present a medical certificate showing a negative molecular (RT PCR) or antigenic test result carried out in the 72 hours before boarding.²⁸ *Departing* passengers can take a rapid antigen swab test at Rome Fiumicino airport at one of two locations:

- A drive-through facility in the long stay car park; passengers must arrive 72 to 2 hours before departure
- Arrivals area of Terminal 5; arrival required 1.5 hours before departure

Passengers departing from Milan Linate must take their test in the Health Center on the Departures Floor, 1.5 hours before their flight.

To be able to take the free test, passengers must provide a ticket for a flight requiring COVID-19 testing, ID/passport and a home isolation and health surveillance self-certification form. Test results are available within 30 minutes, and passengers cannot leave the testing area until this is received. Passengers may only proceed to check-in/boarding with a negative test result. Passengers receiving a positive result will need to take a second, molecular test and remain in isolation until receiving the result.

Passengers making a return trip between Rome and Milan need take only one test, as long as the return flight is within 72 hours. Otherwise, a second test will be needed.

Sweden

While there is no general quarantine obligation for travelers entering Sweden, it has banned entry to non-EU and non-EEA citizens arriving from outside the EU until at least December 22, 2020.²⁹ Swedes traveling overseas may need to provide a negative PCR test result to travel to certain destinations. Tests for travel certificates tend to be carried out at a clinic approved by Sweden's Public Health Agency.³⁰ There is nothing to suggest on-airport testing is currently available in Sweden.

Switzerland

People arriving in Switzerland from certain countries are required to go into quarantine. The latest list of countries is compiled by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health.³¹ There is currently no mandatory

²⁸ [Alitalia](#), COVID-tested flights

²⁹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

³⁰ [Public Health Agency of Sweden](#), Tests for travel certificates

³¹ [Federal Office of Public Health](#), Coronavirus: Mandatory quarantine

requirement for passengers to take a COVID-19 test on arrival. A negative test result does not eliminate or reduce the quarantine period.

Zurich Airport does offer testing at the Airport Medical Center to any *arriving* or *departing* passenger. It recognizes that some airlines or destinations may require a negative result, before allowing a passenger to board a flight. Passengers must pre-book the test and can expect to wait up to 72 hours for a result.

The Airport Medical Center offers the PCR test (CHF 200-240) and the antibody IgG test (CHF 140-180), with a combined test offered for CHF 260-300. It does not perform antibody tests for IgM, nor does it offer rapid tests.³²

U.K.

The U.K. government is planning to launch a “test to release” program once the country exits its second lockdown. Its aim would be to reduce the period of self-isolation. Passengers would take a COVID-19 test on arrival, provided by private companies and at the passenger’s cost.³³

London Heathrow

From October 20, 2020, London Heathrow became the U.K.’s first major airport to offer *pre-departure* COVID-19 tests, initially on a four-week trial basis.³⁴ Run by travel services company Collinson and ground handler Swissport, the service offers LAMP COVID-19 tests for passengers traveling to destinations, such as Hong Kong and Italy, that require pre-departure tests.

The test costs £80 and must be pre-booked online. As passengers typically receive their results in 60 minutes, they’ll need to arrive earlier at the airport, to ensure a result before departure.

Collinson and Swissport also set up a *test-on-arrival* facility at Heathrow in August 2020, but it has yet to be approved for use by the U.K. government. It’s hoped on-arrival testing could replace or reduce the existing 14-day quarantine mandated for arrivals from high-risk destinations.

London Gatwick

A COVID-19 screening center operated by ExpressTest is due to start operations at Gatwick Airport from November 27, 2020.³⁵ Located within the South Terminal’s long-stay car park, the drive-through facility offers a rapid, lab-analyzed PCR swab test. Air passengers and any Gatwick-based employee can book a test for a reduced rate of £60. The test is also available for the general public, priced at £99. Groups of four or more people can also claim a 30% discount if booking the full-priced test.

After booking a test online and selecting a date and time, a QR code is provided, which must be presented at the appointment. Results are typically delivered via text or email by the end of the next day, along with a Fit to Fly certificate. Passengers planning to use the certificate for travel should ensure it meets the specific requirements of their destination.

The ExpressTest center is mainly targeting *departing* airline passengers needing a negative COVID-19 test certificate for destinations requiring one from up to 96 hours before travel. Passengers should schedule a test 48-96 hours before departure.

³² [Airport Medical Center](#), Corona Tests

³³ [BTN Europe](#), Nov. 9, 2020

³⁴ [BTN Europe](#), Oct. 20, 2020

³⁵ [Gatwick Airport](#), COVID-19 Travel Information

While initially used for departing passengers, the center could be adapted to handle arriving passengers, should the U.K. implement a “test to release” post arrival scheme.

Ukraine

Ukraine reopened its borders to international travelers for a second time on September 28, 2020. Anyone arriving from a red zone country should install the Dii Vdoma track and trace app and must undergo 14 days of self-isolation or take a PCR test.³⁶ All foreign nationals must also have a Health Insurance Certificate. The list of red zone countries is updated every 24 hours. As at November 9, 2020, Ukraine’s Ministry of Health had identified 34 red zone countries:³⁷

- Europe – Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K.
- Americas – Argentina, USA
- Middle East – Jordan, Lebanon

Every passenger using Kiev’s main Boryspil (Borispol) International airport has the opportunity to take a PCR test.³⁸ The testing center is located in the airport’s Terminal D. While primarily aimed at *arriving* passengers, *departing* passengers may also take a test at the airport, but they must arrive well in advance and book an appointment. Test certificates are issued in Ukrainian and English. While testing is conducted at the airport, processing occurs at one of six different laboratories, each charging a different price for the service, and each returning results within different timeframes (between 6 and 24 hours).

At Kiev’s secondary Sikorsky Airport (IEV), testing is conducted in the arrival hall of Terminal A. The test costs 1700 UAH (US\$60), and results are delivered by email within 24-48 hours, during which time the traveler must remain in isolation.

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Lebanon

All passengers arriving in Lebanon as their final destination may only board their flight if they have a negative result from a PCR test taken not more than 96 hours before arrival.³⁹

Passengers arriving from Egypt, Turkey and all African countries must perform a second PCR test upon arrival at Beirut’s Rafik Hariri International Airport. They must then enter quarantine for 48 hours until receiving the test result.

Lebanese and foreign passengers arriving from Iraq must quarantine for 72 hours after arrival at an approved hotel, during which time they must take a second PCR test at the airport at their own expense.

All other passengers must take a second PCR test at their own expense within 72 hours of arrival or quarantine at home or in a hotel for 10 days.

³⁶ Kiev Sikorsky Airport, COVID-19 safety regulations

³⁷ [Visit Ukraine](#), Nov. 9, 2020

³⁸ [Boryspil Airport](#), COVID19 testing

³⁹ [Middle East Airlines](#), Sept. 23, 2020

United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi

On *arrival* in Abu Dhabi, medical authorities will conduct a PCR test at the airport. Travelers must then register under the quarantine system and wear an electronic wristband during a two-week quarantine. Quarantine may be at home, in a hotel or in accommodation provided by the authorities. A second PCR test must be taken 12 days after arrival.

It is mandatory for all *departing* passengers to have a PCR test before they fly. Dependent on the destination, this must be carried out 48, 72 or 96 hours before flight departure. Tests must be taken at government accredited medical facilities.

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Canada

Calgary (YYC)

From November 2, 2020, some international passengers *arriving* at Calgary International Airport in Alberta will be able to reduce or avoid quarantine by taking a “rapid” COVID-19 test. Travelers must still self-isolate between arrival and receiving a negative test result, which could be returned within two days. A negative result will exempt travelers from the 14-day quarantine, but they must also commit to taking a second test at a community pharmacy within six or seven days of arrival.

Testing-on arrival will initially be available on a trial basis over a 26 week period. Participants (Alberta residents and international passengers arriving on non-stop flights) will also be required to be monitored daily for symptoms and follow enhanced preventive health measures, such as wearing masks in public places and avoiding contact with high-risk groups.

U.S.

Chicago (ORD)

XpresCheck, which already offers COVID-19 tests developed by Abbott Laboratories at New York JFK and Newark Liberty airports, has held talks with the City of Chicago about offering the tests at Chicago O’Hare airport as well.⁴⁰ The Abbott ID NOW tests can deliver results within 13 minutes. At O’Hare, the tests would be offered to travelers, airport and airline employees on a voluntary basis. XpresCheck charges \$200 for the Abbott test.

Los Angeles (LAX)

Passengers will soon be able to take a rapid COVID-19 test before boarding a flight at Los Angeles International Airport.⁴¹ A temporary testing center was due to be constructed by the beginning of November, with Clarity Labs signed up to staff the facility. Once available, molecular nasal swab tests will deliver results to *departing* passengers within two hours. The tests will show if a traveler has an active infection.

⁴⁰ [Chicago Tribune](#), Oct. 6, 2020

⁴¹ [Dot.LA](#), Sept. 25, 2020

New York (JFK)

The airport has teamed up with Adams Medical to offer an RT-PCR test, which detects whether an acute infection of COVID-19 is present.⁴² The service is located on the Departures Level of Terminal 1. As well as a test certificate, Adams offers “safe to fly” certificates for an extra fee. The test costs \$179.

Tests may be booked online or using the Further Network Traveller App, which helps travelers manage their digital Fit to Fly Certificate. Before booking a test, *departing* passengers should check with their airline or destination to determine how soon before departure the test must be taken and processed. The results of the nasal swab test are ready by 7pm for tests completed before 12pm. For tests completed after 12pm, results will be ready the next day by 9pm.

XpresCheck is also running a pilot program in the airport’s Terminal 4.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has also partnered with the NYC Test & Trace Corps and JetBlue Airways to open a COVID-19 testing site for travelers and airport and airline workers.⁴³ The center opened in November 2020 in New York JFK airport’s Terminal 5. It can process up to 600 free, walk-in test per day, with results typically returned within 48 hours.

Newark (EWR)

Using testing services provided by GABISA Medical, XpresCheck offers passengers three types of test at Newark Liberty International Airport’s Terminal B:⁴⁴

- PCR test – a nasal swab test to confirm the presence of the virus
- Rapid molecular test - a nasal swab test to see if the active COVID-19 virus is present
- Blood antibody test – a blood sample is tested for antibody markers showing exposure to the virus

San Francisco (SFO)

Color has set up a drive-through testing facility in parking Lot D at the airport, while Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care testing is available in International Terminal Courtyard A.⁴⁵ Testing, using an FDA-authorized nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), is only available to *departing* passengers beginning their journey at San Francisco Airport, and it is not available for passengers making a connection at the airport. Testing is by appointment only and is available only to United Airlines’ passengers taking a flight to Hawaii.

The GoHealth test costs \$250 and provides results in approximately 15 minutes. Passengers should test 2-3 hours before departure, although results from tests completed within 72 hours of flight arrival time are accepted in Hawaii.

The Color test costs \$105 and should be taken 48-72 hours before travel. Passengers need to pre-register to reserve a testing timeslot.

⁴² [Adams Health Services](#), COVID-free flight is achievable

⁴³ [Business Travel News](#), Nov. 19, 2020

⁴⁴ [XpresCheck](#), COVID-19 testing on America’s front line

⁴⁵ [Flysfo](#), COVID-19 Other Resources

COVID-19 test types⁴⁶

Antigen test

This rapid diagnostic test (RDT) may return a result as quickly as 30 minutes. Using a sample from a person's respiratory tract, it detects the presence of viral proteins (antigens). Such tests detect the antigens only with actual infection when the virus is replicating, i.e. the tests will identify acute or early infection. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

This molecular test detects the presence of RNA (nucleic acid) in a respiratory tract specimen. The viral load determines what counts as a positive result, which is interpreted as diagnostic of active infection with COVID-19. A negative result may be interpreted as an absence of active infection, but it may also be a "false negative" if an insufficient sample has been collected, or if the sample was collected early in the incubation period. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

Antibody test

This measures the presence of immunological proteins produced by the body specifically towards viral antigens. IgM antibodies measure "immediate" response over days. IgG antibodies measure a longer-term response over weeks to possibly months. It's not certain whether such antibodies are actually protective, or for how long.

Antibody tests are designed to be highly specific, i.e. with a low false positive rate, for other types of viral infections. Positive and negative predictive values for use as a screening test in the general population have yet to be determined.

LAMP test

Developed by Oxford University, the loop-mediated isothermal amplification (or LAMP) test can be processed quickly and without being sent to a laboratory.

It measures nucleic acid (RNA) during the acute phase of infection. It is similar to PCR testing in its application.

⁴⁶ [World Health Organization](#), Advice on the use of point-of-care immunodiagnostic tests for COVID-19

Note

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and the situation is changing on almost an hourly basis. The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at November 23, 2020. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

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