

F. No. AV.29017/5/2020-DT
Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation

B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi
Dated the 23rd December, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

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

In order to minimize the risk of ingress of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus in the country, Central Government has reviewed the situation and decided that precautionary measures need to be taken by various stakeholders. Accordingly, the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) for International Arrivals, dated 22.12.2022, are to be followed for compliance of all concerned, as **Annexed**. The Airport Operators and AirPort Health Offices (APHOs) shall ensure the following:

- i. A sub-section of 2% of the total passengers in the flight shall undergo random post-arrival testing at the airport on arrival.
 - ii. Such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries).
 - iii. Such travellers will submit the samples and shall be allowed to leave the airport.
 - iv. A copy of the positive report shall be shared with Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme by the Airport concerned at shoc.idsp@ncdc.gov.in by the concerned Testing Laboratory (besides sharing with the APHOs) to be in turn shared with concerned State / UT for further follow up action.
 - v. In case, any such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be sent for genetic testing at the designated INSACOG laboratory network.
2. This order would come into force with effect from 10:00 AM on Saturday, 24.12.2022, until further orders. The order will be reviewed, if needed, as per the prevailing situation.
- 2.1 In addition, the operating procedure for major stakeholders (Airlines and Airports Operators) is as under:
- a) Airlines are required to direct their crew members to lead and bring identified 2% international arriving passengers (any fraction to be rounded off to whole number) to the testing facility at the airport.
 - b) The airport operators would create necessary infrastructure to facilitate random testing of international arriving passengers at their respective airports.


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- c) The passenger, after the random testing shall furnish the correct contact and address details to the AirPort Health Officers (APHOs) / Airport authorities.
 - d) The Airport operator concerned shall conduct the random test sampling through the NABL/ ICMR empanelled laboratories at the subsidized and uniform rates as applicable for all international airports. The cost of testing shall be reimbursed by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on submission of duly certified bills to APHOs.
3. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

Mritunjaya Sharma
23/12/22

(Mritunjaya Sharma)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To:

Director General, DGCA - with the request to bring the contents of this OM to the knowledge of all concerned.

Copy to:

- i. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
- ii. PS to HMCA, Civil Aviation
- iii. OSD to HMoS, Civil Aviation
- iv. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- v. Secretaries of Other Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- vi. DG, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
- vii. Chairman, Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi
- viii. Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories
- ix. All Scheduled Commercial Airlines
- x. CEO of BIAL / CIAL / DIAL / HIAL / MIAL and other International Airports, to ensure compliance to this order