

NSW Health guidelines for recent fully vaccinated arrivals

NSW has introduced changes to quarantine arrangements for international arrivals:

- All fully vaccinated passengers who arrive in Australia must self-isolate until they have a negative COVID-19 test result from a test taken within 24 hours of arrival into NSW. They must also comply with these guidelines.
- International flight crew members who arrive in Australia and are fully vaccinated must self-isolate until they have a negative COVID-19 test result, or until they depart on a flight leaving Australia. They must comply with the [NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines](#) until they receive a negative test result, after which, they must comply with these guidelines.

These guidelines are supplementary to the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine\) Order \(No 4\) 2021 \(the Order\)](#) and should be read in conjunction with the Order.

These guidelines apply to “fully vaccinated arrivals” which means:

- fully vaccinated international passengers and children under 18 who accompany them
- fully vaccinated international flight crew members.
- international passengers arriving in NSW who have evidence of a medical contraindication to COVID-19, and any child under 18 who accompanies them.
- children under 18 years of age who are not fully vaccinated and arrive unaccompanied.

Fully vaccinated international passengers must comply with these guidelines:

- for 7 days if they received a negative COVID-19 test result taken 6 or more days after arriving in NSW, or for 14 days since arrival in NSW.

All arrivals should practice social distancing, wear a mask when in indoor public spaces, and [practice good hand hygiene](#), especially in the first 14 days after arrival.

All arrivals must immediately get a PCR (nose and throat swab) test for COVID-19 if they are experiencing any symptoms, and self-isolate until they receive a negative test result.

Part 1: Fully vaccinated passengers

A fully vaccinated passenger is a person who:

- before arriving in New South Wales, has received the number of doses required for a complete course of a COVID-19 vaccine (and unvaccinated children under 18 years who accompany them), or
- a person who has sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they have a medical contraindication to all COVID-19 vaccines reasonably available, and unvaccinated children under 18 years who accompany them Please see the current [Australian clinical guidance](#) for further information.
- children (under 18 years) who are not fully vaccinated and who arrive unaccompanied.

For further information on vaccination requirements please visit the [Australian Government website](#).

What happens after arrival into NSW?

Passengers who meet the requirements of pre-departure testing and are fully vaccinated as defined above, must:

- Travel directly from the airport to their home or accommodation.
- Self-isolate until they receive a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR (nose and throat swab) test taken within the first 24 hours of arrival (they may leave self-isolation to get a COVID-19 test.)
- Comply with the testing requirements as described below.
- Not enter high risk settings as described below.

Passengers who arrive in Australia in another state or territory and then travel to NSW within the first 14 days, must comply with the requirements in this guideline. They must have a COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test immediately and self-isolate until they receive a negative result if they have not already had a test in the jurisdiction, they arrived in.

Passengers who wish to travel to [another state or territory](#) from NSW should check the requirements of the receiving jurisdiction to ensure they are permitted to enter. Passengers may transit directly to another state or territory following arrival in NSW.

Further information on travelling to their accommodation and self-isolation can be found in [Part 3: Other matters](#).

Testing requirements

After arriving in NSW, passengers must have a **COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test**:

- within 24 hours of arriving in NSW
- on or after day 6 after arriving in NSW.

A test on day 12 after arriving in NSW is strongly recommended.

If passengers develop any symptoms of COVID-19, they must have a COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test and isolate until a negative result is received, or their 72-hour self-isolation period is completed, whichever is the later.

Rapid antigen tests are not suitable and do not meet requirements for testing under these guidelines. To find the nearest COVID-19 testing clinic please visit the [NSW Government website](#).

Restrictions on entry to certain premises

Passengers must not go to any high-risk settings (aged care, disability care, healthcare, and correctional facilities) until at least 7 days after arrival into NSW have passed, and they have received a negative result from their day 6 test. Passengers **who have not had their day 6 test** must not enter any high-risk settings until at least 14 days have passed since arrival into Australia.

This does not include international passengers who require personal medical care, aged care or disability care services for themselves.

Children who are under 12 years of age and who are not fully vaccinated must not attend school or childcare until at least 7 days have passed and they have a negative result from their day 6 test.

Compassionate reasons

If there are extenuating compassionate reasons (e.g. end of life) for visiting a high risk facility, passengers may be able to visit prior to the 7 days, if they:

- Have received a negative PCR result from a test taken within 24 hours of arrival.
- Disclose to the facility that they have been overseas and gain permission / approval from the facility to visit.
- Have a negative PCR result from a test taken within the 24-hour period prior to their visit prior to visiting or a negative rapid antigen test result from a test taken on the same day, prior to entering these settings.
- Wear a surgical mask at all times while in the facility and follow any additional personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements of the facility.
- Only remain in the facility for the shortest reasonable time for their visit (under two-hours is recommended).

- Visits should take place in a private room or space. Avoid communal areas, including eating areas/cafeterias.
- Practice physical distancing, cough etiquette, respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene.
- The patient, resident, client, or person in custody should not have any other visitors while the passenger attends the facility. More than one visitor may be considered depending on circumstances and as per facility recommendations.
- The passenger must not enter the facility if they have any symptoms of COVID-19. They must immediately declare any symptoms to facility staff if these occur during their visit.
- The passenger must follow reasonable directions from facility staff

Evidence of the negative test result should be provided to the facility prior to entry.

Part 2: International flight crew arriving in NSW who are fully vaccinated

What happens before arrival into NSW?

Flight crew should have a negative COVID-19 test within the 72 hours prior to the flight departure time. This test can be a PCR or rapid antigen test.

Any flight crew member who has a positive rapid antigen test result **must immediately get a PCR test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.**

What happens after arrival into NSW?

Fully vaccinated international flight crew must:

- Travel directly from the airport to their home (if they are a NSW resident) or accommodation.
- Self-isolate and comply with the [NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines](#) until they receive a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within the first 24 hours of arrival. They may leave self-isolation to get a COVID-19 test or to leave Australia on an international flight.
- Comply with the testing requirements as described below.
- Not enter high risk settings as described below.

Any fully vaccinated flight crew member who is still in NSW after receiving their negative result must comply with these guidelines, including the testing requirements and restrictions for entering high risk settings as described below. Further information on travelling to their accommodation and self-isolation can be found in the [NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines](#).

Flight crew members who arrive in Australia in another state or territory and then travel to NSW within the first 14 days, must comply with the requirements in this guideline.

Testing requirements

After arriving in NSW, a fully vaccinated flight crew member must have:

- a COVID-19 test, which could be a nose and throat PCR test or a rapid antigen test, within 24 hours of arriving in NSW, and
- a COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test if they are in NSW 6 days after arrival.

A test on day 12 after arriving in NSW is strongly recommended. This is because it can take up to 14 days from the time a person comes into contact with someone with COVID-19 for them to develop symptoms. Around a quarter of contacts who are infected will become positive in the second 7 days after being exposed.

Any flight crew member who has a positive rapid antigen test result must immediately get a PCR test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.

A flight crew member who has a layover period in Australia of less than 48 hours does not need to have a COVID-19 test, however, this is strongly recommended. They must self-isolate until they leave Australia.

Restrictions on entry to certain premises

Fully vaccinated flight crew must not go to any high-risk settings (aged care, disability care, healthcare, and correctional facilities) until at least 7 days after arrival have passed, and they have received a negative result from their day 6 test.

This does not include flight crew members who require personal medical care, aged care or disability care services for themselves.

Flight crew who have not had their day 6 test must not enter any high-risk settings until at least 14 days after arrival into NSW.

Fully vaccinated flight crew may enter high-risk settings within the first 7 days if there are extenuating compassionate reasons (e.g. end of life visit). In this case, they must:

- Have a negative PCR result from a test taken within 24 hours prior to each visit, or a negative rapid antigen test result from a test taken on the same day, prior to entering these settings
- Disclose to the facility that they have been overseas and gain permission / approval from the facility to visit
- Wear a surgical mask at all times while in the facility and follow any additional PPE requirements of the facility
- Only remain in the facility for the shortest reasonable time for their visit (under two-hours is recommended)
- Visits should take place in a private room or space. Avoid communal areas, including eating areas/cafeterias.
- Practice physical distancing, cough etiquette, respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene

Part 3: Other matters

Before booking an international flight to Sydney, passengers should:

- check the [Australian Government Smartraveller website](#) for the latest information on COVID-19 entry requirements. This includes [pre-departure testing](#), [declaration forms](#) and [vaccination evidence](#)
- check what they need to do if they are [leaving NSW to travel interstate](#) with the state or territory they wish to travel to
- pack their own masks and hand sanitiser for the flight, within the [hand luggage restrictions for liquids](#)

Passengers must not travel if they:

- have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#), even if their symptoms are mild
- have been in contact with a COVID-19 case in the previous 14 days or if they have been directed to [self-isolate](#) by a Health Authority or other Government Official.

Movement through airport arrivals terminal

Face masks must be worn at all NSW airports and on flights into or out of NSW. Passengers must follow the [face mask rules](#) while at the airport and in the community.

While moving around the airport, passengers must make sure to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others. When entering businesses (cafes or lounges), they should use the [COVID Safe Check in](#) feature in the [Service NSW App](#) or check in by opening your camera and pointing it at the QR code to check in your details. In shops at the airport, where possible, pay by contactless card.

If friends or family are picking the passenger up, they should be encouraged to wait outside the terminal.

Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Passengers should follow the advice for [hand washing](#), and cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Travelling home or to accommodation

When travelling home or to their accommodation to self-isolate, the traveller must:

- travel directly to their home or accommodation
- wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times
- remain at least 1.5 metres away from other people as much as possible.

A person travelling to reach an appropriate location for self-isolation must comply with the following precautions. They:

- must travel directly to the destination
- should not stop in busy areas or rural and remote towns
- rest breaks or emergency stops should be taken within the car, or in an outdoor location where physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres can be maintained at all times
- must [practice good hygiene](#) including using alcohol-based hand sanitiser to wash their hands before and after touching surfaces
- if leaving the vehicle:
 - wear a disposable surgical mask that covers their nose and mouth, and [practice good hygiene](#) including using alcohol-based hand sanitiser to wash their hands before and after touching surfaces
 - wipe down any surfaces such as petrol bowsers, toilet doors and locks with disinfectant wipes before and after use
- if required to stop for fuel, use contactless payment methods where available (e.g. using contactless-enabled credit or debit card instead of cash)
- maintain a record or log of all locations attended, including
 - date, time and duration of time spent at each location
 - description of travel, including starting point, destination, and any rest stops

These records must be provided to NSW Health within 4 hours of requesting the information.

When entering a taxi or ride-share vehicle, the driver and passengers must wear a mask that fits securely around the face and is worn over the nose and mouth. The passenger must sit in the backseat wherever possible and maximise the flow of fresh air by opening windows or setting the air conditioning intake to outside air. Masks must be worn on all forms of public transport, including taxi and ride-shares.

Self-isolating at your home or accommodation

Self-isolation means staying in a home or accommodation (such as a hotel or motel) and remaining separated from others, even if a person is fully vaccinated or feels well.

Self-isolation means a person cannot:

- go to work or school
- go to any public places (e.g. shops, parks, beaches)
- use public transport
- have any visitors, unless they are providing healthcare, emergency maintenance or emergency services.

A person in self-isolation is only allowed to leave their home or accommodation to get a COVID-19 test, for urgent medical care or in an emergency, including to avoid injury or escape the risk of harm from domestic violence.

If a person in self-isolation needs to leave for any of these reasons, they should travel by private vehicle, ride or walk. They must wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth, stay 1.5 metres away from anyone else, travel directly to and from where they need to go, and return to their self-isolation accommodation as soon as possible.

If a person in self-isolation can't access a private vehicle, or they are staying in temporary accommodation that ends before they will complete their self-isolation period, they should call the NSW Health Isolation Support Line on 1800 943 553 for advice and assistance.

For further information – please refer to the [NSW Health Self-Isolation Guidelines](#).

To organise testing

The locations and opening hours of the nearest COVID-19 testing clinics can be found at [COVID-19 testing clinics](#).

If a passenger needs to see a doctor, and has symptoms of COVID-19, they should call ahead and make sure the doctor is aware of their symptoms and that the passenger has recently returned from overseas.

COVID-19 rules in NSW

While in NSW, everyone must follow the [face mask rules](#) and use the [COVID Safe Check in](#) feature in the [Service NSW App](#) for any businesses they visit.

Seek help if symptoms develop

Passengers should get tested immediately and self-isolate until they receive a negative result if they experience any of the following symptoms (however mild) at any time:

- fever (37.5°C or higher), night sweats or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- runny nose
- sore throat
- loss of smell or loss of taste.

Other reported symptoms include fatigue, headache, acute blocked nose (congestion), muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting and loss of appetite.

What happens if a passenger does not comply with these guidelines?

Not following these guidelines puts family, friends and community at risk. Not following these rules is also a criminal offence and attracts heavy penalties. For individuals, the maximum penalty is \$11,000, 6 months in prison, or both with a further \$5,500 fine for each day the offence continues. On-the-spot fines may be issued. Compliance checks on self-isolation and on testing requirements will be undertaken.

More information

- [NSW Government – COVID-19 rules](#)
- [NSW Health – COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
- [NSW Health – COVID-19 Guidelines and Fact Sheets](#)
- [Australian Government - Smart Traveller – COVID-19](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Home Affairs – Coming to Australia](#)