

NSW Health guidelines for recent fully vaccinated arrivals

In response to the emergence of the Omicron variant of concern, NSW has introduced changes to quarantine arrangements for international arrivals:

- All passengers who arrived in NSW on or after 28 November 2021 and who have been to a country of concern in the previous 14 days must go to a quarantine facility regardless of vaccination status
- All passengers who arrived in NSW before 28 November 2021 and who have been to a country of concern in the previous 14 days must self-isolate for 14 days after the day they arrived, regardless of vaccination status
- All fully vaccinated passengers who arrive in NSW after 28 November 2021 must self-isolate for 3 days and until they have a negative test result and comply with these guidelines.
- All International flight crew members, regardless of vaccination status, who arrived before or after 28 November 2021 must comply with the NSW Health Air Transportation 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 international passengers (including a child under 12 who accompanies an adult who is fully vaccinated)
- international passengers arriving in NSW with a medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccination certificate and any child under 12 who accompanies them.
- children and young people under 18 years of age who are not fully vaccinated who arrive unaccompanied, and young people aged over 12 and under 18 who are not fully vaccinated and arrive with a fully vaccinated parent or guardian, or a parent or guardian who has a medical contraindication.

All travellers should practice social distancing, wear a mask when in indoor public spaces, and [practice good hand hygiene](#), especially in the first 7 days after arrival.

All travellers must continue to be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19 and must immediately have a PCR test for COVID-19 and isolate until they receive a negative result should they develop symptoms at any time.

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, or a person aged under 12 years who, before arriving in New South Wales, has not received the number of doses required for a complete course of a COVID-19 vaccine, but only if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated person who is aged 18 years or more. For further information on vaccination requirements please visit the [Australian Government website](#).

What happens after arrival into NSW?

If a passenger meets the requirements of vaccination and pre-departure testing and has not been to a country of concern in the last 14 days, they must self-isolate at their residence or accommodation for **3 days**.

They must travel directly from the airport to their home or accommodation. Once there, they must not leave self-isolation (except for seeking a COVID-19 PCR test) until 3 days have passed and they have a negative result from a test taken within the first 24 hours of arrival,

They must comply with the testing requirements and must not enter high risk settings.

Further information on travelling to their accommodation and self-isolation can be found in [Part 4: Other matters](#).

Testing requirements

After arriving in NSW, fully vaccinated 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 for children who are not fully vaccinated.

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 until the self-isolation 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

After completing the 3-day isolation period, fully vaccinated 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.

While fully vaccinated persons of any age may enter these high-risk settings after 7 days if they have a negative result from a test taken on day 6, there are additional rules for children under 12 years of age who are not fully vaccinated. These children:

- must not attend school or childcare until at least 7 days have passed and they have a negative result from their day 6 test
- must not enter any high-risk settings (aged care, disability care, health care and correctional facilities) for 14 days after arriving in NSW.

This does not include accessing personal medical care, aged or disability care services.

Part 2: People arriving in NSW with a medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccination

In accordance with an exemption made to the Order, international passengers arriving in NSW with a medical contraindication (exemption) to COVID-19 vaccination are permitted to leave the airport after clearing border control. They must have a valid medical certificate stating that they cannot be vaccinated for COVID-19 due to a medical condition. They must comply with the conditions of the exemption after arriving in NSW.

They must travel directly from the airport to their home or accommodation .

They must self-isolate at their residence or accommodation for 3 days. They must not leave self-isolation until at least **3 days** have passed and they have a negative result from a test taken within the first 24 hours of arrival.

After this time, they must comply with the testing requirements and must not enter high risk settings.

Further information on travelling to their accommodation and self-isolation can be found in [Part 4: Other matters](#)

For more information about medical contraindications to vaccination, please visit the [Australian Government website](#).

Testing requirements

After arriving in NSW, people with a medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccination must have a **COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test**:

- within 24 hours of arriving in NSW

- on day 5 or 6 after arriving in NSW

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

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](#).

If they 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 until the self-isolation is completed, whichever is the later.

Restrictions on entry to certain premises

After completing their 3-day isolation period, people with a medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccination must not go to any high-risk settings (aged care, disability care, healthcare, and correctional facilities) for at least 14 days after arriving in NSW. They must also not attend childcare, schools or other education settings during this time.

This does not include accessing personal medical care, aged or disability care services.

Part 3: Children and young people (aged under 18 years) who are not fully vaccinated and arrive unaccompanied, and young people aged over 12 and under 18 years who are not fully vaccinated

In accordance with an exemption made under the Order, children (under 18 years) who are not fully vaccinated and who arrive unaccompanied, as well as young people aged over 12 and under 18 years who arrive with a parent or guardian who is a fully vaccinated arrival or who arrive with a parent or guardian who has a medical contraindication do not have to enter a quarantine facility. However, the child or young person must:

- travel directly from the airport to their home with their parent or guardian via private vehicle, taxi or ride-share. They must not travel by public transport (bus, train or plane.) All people over 12 years of age in the vehicle must wear a mask. Children under 12 are encouraged to wear a mask under direct supervision. Babies and toddlers under 2 years of age should not wear a mask as this can be a choking hazard.
- self-isolate for 7 days after arriving in NSW, and until the child or young person receives a negative COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test for COVID-19 on a test taken on day 5 or 6 after arriving in NSW. This means that they must not leave their residence or accommodation for any reason, other than to seek medical care (including COVID-19 testing) or in an emergency. No other person is allowed to enter their residence unless they also live at the residence, or in an emergency. They can only attend school or childcare after 7 days have passed, and they have a negative result from a test taken on day 5 or 6.

Under the exemption, after arriving in NSW, the child or young person must have a **COVID-19 nose and throat PCR test**:

- within 24 hours of arriving in NSW
- on day 5 or 6 after arriving in NSW.

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

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](#).

If they 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 until the self-isolation is completed, whichever is the later.

Restrictions on entry to certain premises

For a further 7 days after leaving self-isolation, the child or young person must not go to any high-risk settings (aged care, disability care, healthcare, or correctional facilities).

This does not include accessing personal medical care, aged or disability care services.

Part 4: 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 last 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 traveller must 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. The transportation provider 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.

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](#)