QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
RE: MANDATORY VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR TRAVEL

Q1: When will vaccination become mandatory for travellers?

A1: Effective October 30, 2021, travellers departing from most Canadian airports, and travellers on VIA Rail, will be required to be fully vaccinated, with very limited exceptions.

On October 6, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister announced details of the Government of Canada's plans to require COVID-19 vaccination for federally regulated transportation sectors.

Q2: What about people in remote communities, with no other way to travel to health services?

A2: This vaccination mandate will include specific accommodation to recognize the unique needs of travellers from Northern, remote and isolated communities (some of which are not accessible by road) to ensure they will be able to travel to obtain essential services in support of their medical, health, or social well-being, and return safely to their homes.

Modified requirements, including a testing alternative to vaccination, are being considered for flights from these locations.

Q3: What proof of vaccination documents will be required?

A3: Travellers can use a proof of vaccination credential issued by their province or territory, or from their country of vaccination, so long as it is a Government of Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Travellers 12 years of age or older, must:

- have received at least 2 doses of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine or a mix of 2 accepted vaccines
    ◊ or at least 1 dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine
- have received their second dose at least 14 days prior to the day of travel
    ◊ Example: if your second dose was anytime on **Thursday July 1**, then **Friday July 16** would be the first day that you meet the 14 day condition
- have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- bring official proof of vaccination for their trip
    ◊ You can get proof of vaccination from your province or territory
    ◊ If you were vaccinated in another country, use the proof of vaccination requirements to enter Canada

For more information, see: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/vaccines/life-after-vaccination/vaccine-proof.html.

Q4: I am an NIHB client, can the NIHB Program help me obtain proof of vaccine documentation?

A4: The NIHB Program encourages clients/travellers to obtain copies of their proof of COVID- 19 vaccination as soon as possible, and to keep a digital copy (or code) on their smart phone OR keep a paper copy in their wallet/in a safe place.

If a client/traveller cannot obtain a digital copy of their proof of vaccination credential, and cannot print it themselves, it is recommended they contact the provincial/territorial public health authority to request that a copy be mailed to them *(refer to contact information at the end of this document).*

When proof of vaccination documentation is received, it is recommended that clients/travellers confirm that the **name on the proof of vaccination matches the name on the photo identification the client will use for travel purposes.** If the names do not match, clients are encouraged to contact provincial/territorial public health right away to make the correction, so the same name appears on both documents.

Q5: Will COVID testing results be accepted as an alternative for those who are not, or cannot be vaccinated? If so, what type of test results will be accepted?

A5: Effective **October 30**, travellers departing from most Canadian airports, and travellers on VIA Rail, will be required to provide either:
- proof of vaccination, OR
- a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within 72 hours of travel

Effective **November 30**, travellers departing from Canadian airports, and travellers on VIA Rail, must have either:
- proof of vaccination, OR
- proof of medical exemption for vaccination AND a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within 72 hours of travel.

The Government of Canada strongly advises any travellers planning to travel by plane or train in the coming weeks to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

For more information on accepted testing, visit the COVID-19 testing for travellers web page. Refer to Q10 below for more information on medical exemption from vaccination.

Q6: If clients are not vaccinated and need to be tested in order to travel prior to November 30, where can they get tested?

A6: Travellers departing identified Northern, remote, or isolated communities will be exempt from the requirement to have proof of vaccination or a negative molecular COVID test.

To facilitate onward travel and return travel, testing will be provided at no cost at identified regional gateway airports that serve flights from remote communities. Prior to boarding a

flight, travellers will require testing if they are unvaccinated and do not have proof of a negative molecular COVID test taken within the last 72 hours.

Remember to arrive at the airport at least an extra hour early to allow time for testing and results.

Testing will be at no cost to clients on medical travel, and test results will be available within approximately 30 minutes.

Q7: Will NIHB cover the cost of COVID testing?

A7: NIHB does not cover the cost of COVID testing. For clients on medical travel, COVID testing will be available at no cost, as in interim measure, in identified regional gateway airports that serve flights from remote communities.

Q8: What about clients who are not vaccinated and require emergency medical travel?

A8: Emergency medical travel by air ambulance or medevac is exempt from the vaccination requirement.

Policies for escorts travelling with clients via air ambulance or medevac are at the discretion of the flight operator.

However, the requirement does apply on the (non-emergency) return flight(s). As an interim measure, testing will be made available in identified regional gateway airports that serve flights from remote communities. Remember to arrive at least an extra hour early at the airport to allow time for testing and results. Testing will be at no cost to clients on medical travel, and test results will be available within approximately 30 minutes.

Q9: What if the test result is positive?

A9: If a client on medical travel receives a positive COVID-19 test result and is unable to board a flight as scheduled, local public health authorities will be informed and provide further guidance.

If the client is in their home community, they will likely be required to self-isolate at home.

If a client is transiting through a gateway airport and is unable to board their connecting flight, they will be referred to a provincial/territorial isolation or quarantine centre, where required.

If a client on medical travel receives a positive COVID-19 test result, NIHB will cover expenses related to self-isolation (food and accommodations). NIHB will reschedule the clients travel home when they have completed their isolation period.

Q10: Will medical exemptions from vaccination be accepted? What documentation is required?

A10: There will be very limited, and strictly enforced, exceptions to these vaccination requirements. The Government of Canada is engaging with operators to support the implementation of these requirements and on compliance options for those who are unable to meet the vaccination requirement.

After the transition period between October 30 and November 30, there will be minimal exceptions for very limited cases, such as for medical exemptions, or emergencies. More specific details on these exceptions will be provided, following consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

Q11: Does the mandatory vaccination requirement or testing alternative apply to children?

A11: The vaccination requirement applies to children 12 years and older. There will be a four month "grace period" to allow those turning 12 to be vaccinated.

At this time, children under 12 years of age are exempt, and do not require testing.

Q12: Are masks still required for travellers who are fully vaccinated?

A12: Yes, masks are still required for all travellers on planes, trains and in many public spaces.

The Government of Canada is committed to continuing engagement on this topic with Indigenous Peoples and organizations to ensure meaningful dialogue related to the vaccine requirement, which includes specific accommodations to recognize the unique needs of travellers from small, remote communities (some of which are not accessible by road) to ensure they will be able to travel to obtain essential services in support of their medical, health, or social well-being, and return safely to their homes.

Additional information will be shared when available.

PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACTS FOR PROOF OF VACCINATION	
PROVINCE/TERRITORY	WEBSITE / CONTACT INFORMATION
NEW BRUNSWICK	www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/nb-vaccine.html#9 myhealth.gnb.ca/faq.html#immunization-results
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR	www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/online-vaccination-records/
NOVA SCOTIA	novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/#proof-of-vaccination
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/covid-19-immunization-record
QUEBEC	www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/progress-of-the-covid-19-vaccination/covid-19-vaccination-passport#c111319 www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/progress-of-the-covid-19-vaccination/proof-covid-19-vaccination
ONTARIO	covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-booking-support#proof-of-vaccination
MANITOBA	manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/immunizationrecord/index.html manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/immunizationrecord/residents.html manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/immunizationrecord/visitors.html
SASKATCHEWAN	www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/public-health/public-health-offices
ALBERTA	www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx covidrecords.alberta.ca/home
BRITISH COLUMBIA	www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/proof-of-vaccination
NUNAVUT	www.gov.nu.ca/health/news/government-nunavut-releases-new-proof-vaccination-certificate gov.nu.ca/health/information/travel-and-isolation
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	Request Electronic Proof of Vaccination	GNWT's Response to COVID-19 (gov.nt.ca) https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/proof-vaccination
YUKON	https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/covid-19-vaccine/get-proof-your-covid-19-vaccination

More information on Provincial and Territorial COVID-19 Resources is available here.