



# Fast Facts

BULLETIN 41 | FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021

## COVID-19: Recent Update

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### Public Health Measures Remain in Place

As Ontario remains in Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen, the public health requirements for workplaces have not changed. **Organizations must comply with the current public health requirements, which include the use of face coverings indoors; physical distancing; daily active screening of workers before they enter the workplace and self-isolation.**

Workplaces must continue to observe these measures, including the wearing of face coverings indoors, regardless of their employee's vaccination status.

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### COVID-19 Travel Restrictions: At a Glance

The Federal Government has recently made some big announcements regarding the easing of travel restrictions.

#### Quick Updates:

- As of July 5th, fully vaccinated individuals have been able to travel with less restrictions.

- As of August 9th, the Government have revealed that U.S Citizens and Permanent Residents who are fully vaccinated will be able to enter Canada for discretionary (aka non-essential) reasons.
- As of September 7th, travel will be open to any national who has been fully vaccinated for non-essential reasons.
- An individual's vaccination status will impact the steps they must take to enter Canada and this will likely be the case for some time.

## What Exactly Are the Restrictions?

Over the course of the COVID-19 period, the Federal Government has put in place **five main travel restrictions**. These are:

**Pre-entry COVID-19 tests** - All travelers **5 years of age or older**, regardless of citizenship, must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result. You don't require a test to fly within Canada. **If you're driving to a land border crossing**, you must take a test in the United States within 72 hours of your planned entry into Canada. The cost of a test will be borne by the traveler.

**Arrival COVID-19 tests** - When you enter Canada, you'll be instructed to either take an arrival test at the border, or receive a home test kit. This test is free to the traveler.

**Mandatory Hotel Stopover** - The requirement to stay in a "Government Hotel" for at least the first 3 nights of an individual's mandatory quarantine period. If an individual receives a negative arrival test, they can check out the hotel and complete the remainder of their quarantine period at their approved quarantine location.

**Mandatory Quarantine** - mandatory requirement to quarantine for a period of 14 days starting from the date an individual arrives in Canada.

**A "Day 8" COVID-19 test** - The need to complete a COVID-19 test using the home test kit given to an individual at the border by a border agent.

**\*\*\*The Federal Government requires travelers to make use of their ARRIVECAN App for the purposes of uploading quarantine plans and vaccination proof.**

## How Do the Restrictions Get Applied and To Who Do They Apply to?

The number of restrictions that apply to an individual depends on their circumstance. See the below:

**Unvaccinated Travelers:** **all of the above restrictions are enforced.** However, as of August 9, the mandatory hotel stopover will no longer be in force for any traveler, regardless of vaccination status. On this same date, unvaccinated children below age 12 will no longer need to quarantine for 14 days which they currently must do (although not in a hotel).

**Vaccinated Travelers:** Exempt from mandatory quarantine, including the hotel stopover, as well as the "Day 8" test. Pre-arrival and arrival testing are still required. **However, as of August 9, arrival testing will not be required unless an individual is randomly selected at the border.** Despite the quarantine requirement being lifted, travelers must still prepare a "quarantine plan" in the event they do need to quarantine as determined by a Borders Agent. This means proving a commitment to remaining in Canada for at least 15 days. Proof of vaccination will be required and individuals can upload their proof on the ARRIVECAN App.

**Frequent Cross Border Workers:** Persons who must cross the border regularly (daily, weekly, or rotational schedule) to **go to or return from**

their normal place of employment (i.e., same company, same work site), provided they do not directly care for persons 65 years of age or older within the first 14 days after their entry to Canada **do not have to face any of the restrictions above.** \*\*\*Please note that occasional travel to attend meetings or other work-related activities does not meet this exemption.

**Entering Canada for Compassionate Reasons:** If a person is granted compassionate entry, to be present during the final moments of a loved one's life, provide care or support to someone or attend a funeral or end-of-life ceremony, **all of the above restrictions will still apply.** However, such persons can apply for a limited (temporary) release from quarantine to attend such events.

The Federal Government has provided the following helpful checklist that can be used by individuals to ensure they have everything they will need to gain access to Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/entering-canada-checklist>.

As can be seen, there are a lot of moving parts when it comes to international travel at the present moment. For anyone looking to travel, it will be important to keep up to date with the latest available information from the Federal Government before making any travel arrangements.

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## New Federal Statutory Holiday Announced

The Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make **September 30<sup>th</sup>** a federal statutory holiday called the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. The Bill was passed unanimously in the Senate after the remains of more than 1,100 Indigenous children in unmarked graves were discovered at the sites of former residential schools across Canada.

Canada Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault said the intention is for Canadians to use the day to reflect and learn about the history of residential schools in Canada, and to commemorate the survivors, their families and their communities.

This is a statutory holiday for employees who work in the federal government and federally regulated workplaces.

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## Government Extends COVID-19 Benefits

The Government of Canada has announced a four-week extension of COVID-19 support measures.

The Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit,

and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit have all been extended until October 23, 2021. The eligibility period for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy has also been extended until October 23, 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.

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-  [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#)
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