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Ref: HQCAA/1089/501/ATNR

December 06, 2021

REVISE COVID-19 GUIDELINES CONCERNING INBOUND TRAVEL TO PAKISTAN

Reference is made to our letter of even number dated November 04, 08 and 27, 2021 providing Categories of Countries List and Revised Guidelines/testing protocols concerning inbound travel to Pakistan.

2. In view of the prevalent COVID-19 situation across the globe, the policy for categorization of air travel and Cat C list (**Annex-A**) has been revised by the Competent Authority for inbound travel to Pakistan. Accordingly, following guidelines for inbound travel to Pakistan will be applicable with effect from **mid night 08 December, 2021 (0001 PST)**:

General Health/Testing Protocols for inbound travel to Pakistan:

- Only fully 100% vaccinated passengers coming from Cat A, B & C countries will be allowed to travel inbound Pakistan.
- All passengers of 06 years and above (local/foreigners) coming from any country would be required to possess a valid negative PCR report conducted within 48 hours prior to commencement of travel to Pakistan. However, Deportees would be exempted from PCR test/report requirement.
- Passengers transiting through **KSA, UAE and Qatar** will randomly be subjected to Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on arrival to Pakistan to ensure prevention from Omicron variant through indirect flights.

Health/Testing Protocols Specific to Cat C Countries:

- There will be a complete ban on inbound travel from Cat C countries.
- Passengers from Cat C countries would only be allowed to travel inbound Pakistan upon obtaining **exemption certificate** from exemption committee as per procedure in vogue.
- All passengers of 06 years and above, travelling via direct/indirect flights from Cat C countries would be subjected to Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) on arrival to Pakistan.
- Passengers with negative RAT result will be allowed to proceed. However, Passengers with negative RAT result arriving from **Omicron variant**

Countries (highlighted in Cat C Annex-A) will be required to undergo **3 days mandatory quarantine** followed by PCR test to be conducted on **3rd day** by Civil Administration.

- e) Passengers with positive RAT result will be quarantined for **10 days** and RT PCR test will be conducted on **08th day of quarantine**. In case of negative result, passengers will be allowed to proceed home. However, in case of positive result, the passenger will either undergo **additional quarantine** or **will be shifted to hospital as per advice of health authorities**.

Health/Testing Protocols Specific to Cat B Countries:

- a) Passengers arriving from Cat B will be subjected to RAT test on random basis.
- b) Passengers with negative RAT result will be allowed to proceed.
- c) Passengers with positive RAT result will be quarantined for **10 days** and RT PCR test will be conducted on **08th day of quarantine**. In case of negative result, passengers will be allowed to proceed home. However, in case of positive result, the passenger will either undergo **additional quarantine** or **will be shifted to hospital as per advice of health authorities**.

Exemption/Waiver

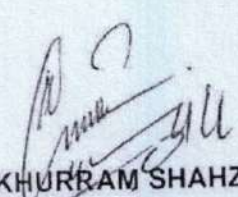
In order to **facilitate stranded Pakistanis**, following relaxation has been approved by the Competent Authority:

- a) Pakistanis would be allowed to travel from the Cat C countries without the requirement of exemption certificate from the exemption committee till **15th December, 2021**. However, all applicable provisions as mentioned above with regards to travel from Cat C countries would remain effective.
- b) Pakistanis already travelled/travelling to Cat C countries on short term visa as well as deportees would also be permitted to travel back to Pakistan without the acquisition of exemption certificate.
- c) Pakistanis travelling from any country, who are unable to get vaccinated abroad due to any of the following reasons would be exempted from mandatory vaccination after producing valid proof to airline/immigration authorities before boarding:
 - i. Expired Visa/Emirates ID or illegal immigrants/deportees
 - ii. Pending court cases
 - iii. Medical conditions/issues
 - iv. Pregnancy
 - v. Partial vaccination from Pakistan.

3. Notwithstanding anything mentioned above, all inbound passengers to Pakistan from Cat C countries may be subjected to additional health protocols as determined by

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the relevant Authorities upon arrival in Pakistan. COVID-19 SOP for international Passenger, Chartered and Private Aircraft Flights currently in vogue stand amended to the extent of this directive only with effect from 08th December, (0001 PST). Furthermore, Air Travel Vaccination Regime implemented vide our letter of even number dated September 30, 2021 along with any and all COVID 19 SOPs/Guidelines/Directives will also continue to take effect.


(KHURRAM SHAHZAD)

Deputy Director AT

For Director AT & ER

All Scheduled and Chartered Air Carriers
All Private Aircraft Operators
All Ground Handling Agents

Copy to:-

- Additional/Deputy DGCAA (Reg), HQCAA, Karachi
- Director Airport Services, HQCAA, Karachi
- Director Security, HQCAA, Karachi
- Sr. Additional Director AT (NR), HQCAA, Karachi
- Deputy Secretary CAA, Aviation Division, Islamabad
- Additional Director PR, HQCAA, Karachi (with a request to disseminate the instructions contained in this directive through appropriate means).
- PSO to DG CAA, HQCAA, Karachi
- All Chief Operating Officers / Airport Managers
- Director Operations, Airports Security Force, ASF HQ, Karachi

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ANNEX-A

CATEGORIZED COUNTRIES LIST CONCERNING INBOUND TRAVEL TO EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 08, 2021 (0001 PST)

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS FROM ANY COUNTRY ARE REQUIRED TO POSSESS VALID NEGATIVE PCR TEST CERTIFICATION CONDUCTED WITHIN THE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF TRAVEL TO PAKISTAN AND FULL VACCINATION CERTIFICATE.

CATEGORY B

Sr.	Country
1	Afghanistan
2	Austria
3	Azerbaijan
4	France
5	Germany
6	Mexico
7	Russia
8	Sri Lanka
9	Thailand
10	Trinidad and Tobago
11	Turkey
12	UK
13	USA

CATEGORY C

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO PAKISTAN FROM CATEGORY C COUNTRIES MENTIONED BELOW IS BANNED AND ONLY ALLOWED SUBJECT TO EXEMPTION BY COMMITTEE AS PER PROCEDURE IN VOGUE

(ADDITIONAL INBOUND TRAVEL/TESTING/QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS APPLY TO ANY OF THE HIGHLIGHTED COUNTRIES ENLISTED BELOW)

Sr.	Country
1	Botswana
2	Croatia
3	Eswatini
4	Hungary
5	Ireland
6	Lesotho
7	Mozambique
8	Namibia
9	Netherlands
10	Poland
11	Slovenia
12	South Africa
13	Ukraine
14	Vietnam
15	Zimbabwe



1 of 5
Government of Pakistan
National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC)
ISLAMABAD
Fax 051-9224720



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Subject: **Revision of Inbound Air Passengers Travel Categories**

Our Letters No 803/A/Ops-III/NCOC-03 dated 27 November 2021 and No 803/A/Ops-III/NCOC-03 dated 03 November 2021 referred.

1. Prevalent COVID situation across the globe has been reviewed at NCOC in order to revise the policy for categorization of air travel and Cat C list. **Revised categories** basing on disease profile and **health / testing protocols** applicable to travelers from these countries are given in ensuing paragraphs:-

2. **Cat 'C' List**

a. Fresh List of Cat 'C' countries is as under: -

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Croatia. | (9) South Africa. |
| (2) Hungary. | (10) Mozambique. |
| (3) Netherlands. | (11) Lesotho. |
| (4) Ukraine. | (12) Eswatini. |
| (5) Ireland. | (13) Botswana. |
| (6) Slovenia. | (14) Zimbabwe. |
| (7) Vietnam. | (15) Namibia. |
| (8) Poland. | |

b. **Health / Testing Protocols for Inbound Air Travel from Cat C countries are as under: -**

- (1) Complete **ban on Inbound travel** from Cat C countries.
- (2) **Essential travel** from above mentioned countries would necessitate obtaining **exemption certificate** from exemption committee with following health protocols: -
 - (a) 100% vaccination for all inbound pax. Manifestation as per obligatory vaccination regime vide our letter no 801/A/Ops-III/NCOC-01 dated 30 September 2021.
 - (b) All pax of 06 years age and above (locals / foreigners) are required to be in possession of negative PCR test report (max 48 hours old) before boarding. Deportees are exempted from PCR test / report requirement.
 - (c) RAT on arrival at airport for all inbound pax (6 years and above) travelling via direct / indirect flights from Cat 'C' countries.

- (d) RAT negative cases will be **allowed** to proceed. However, RAT negative cases from **Omicron variant countries** mentioned at para 2 a (9) to (15) (South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia) will have to undergo **3 days mandatory quarantine** followed by **PCR test** to be conducted on **3rd day** by **civil administration**.
- (e) RAT positive cases will be **quarantined for 10 x days**. RT PCR test of all RAT positive quarantined passengers will be undertaken on 8th day of quarantine. In case of negative result, pax will be allowed to proceed. However, in case of positive result, pax will either undergo **additional quarantine** or **will be shifted to hospital** as per advice of health authorities.

3. Cat 'B' List

a. Countries placed in Cat 'B' are listed below: -

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Germany. | (8) UK. |
| (2) Trinidad and Tobago. | (9) Thailand. |
| (3) Azerbaijan. | (10) France. |
| (4) Mexico. | (11) Austria. |
| (5) Sri Lanka. | (12) Afghanistan. |
| (6) Russia. | (13) Turkey. |
| (7) USA. | |

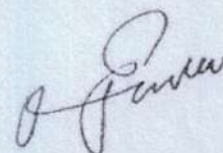
b. **Health / Testing Protocols for Inbound Air Travel** from Cat 'B' countries are as under: -

- (1) 100% vaccination for all inbound pax. Manifestation as per obligatory vaccination regime vide our letter no 801/A/Ops-III/NCOC-01 dated 30 September 2021.
- (2) All pax of 06 years age and above (locals / foreigners) are required to be in possession of negative PCR test report (max 48 hours old) before boarding. Deportees are exempted from PCR test / report requirement.
- (3) RAT of random flights will be conducted at airport on arrival from Cat 'B' countries.
- (4) RAT negative cases will be allowed to proceed. RAT positive cases will be **quarantined for 10 x days**. RT PCR test of all RAT positive quarantined passengers will be undertaken on 8th day of quarantine. In case of negative result, pax will be allowed to proceed home. However, in case of positive result, pax will either undergo **additional quarantine period** or **will be shifted to hospital** as per advice of health authorities.

4. **Cat 'A' Countries.** All other countries not included in Cat 'C' and 'B' will fall in Cat 'A' with following **health / testing protocols** applicable to inbound travelers: -
 - a. 100% vaccination for all inbound pax. Manifestation as per obligatory vaccination regime vide our letter no 801/A/Ops-III/NCOC-01 dated 30 September 2021.
 - b. All pax of 06 years age and above (locals / foreigners) are required to be in possession of negative PCR test report (max 48 hours old) before boarding. Deportees are exempted from PCR test / report requirement.
5. **Screening of Transit flights.** 100% RAT on arrival for transit flights arriving via **KSA, UAE and Qatar** will be ensured to guard against entry of Omicron variant through indirect flights.
6. **Exemption / Waiver.** To facilitate stranded Pakistanis, NCOC has approved following relaxations: -
 - a. All Pakistanis can travel from Cat C countries **without exemption** till **15 December 21** but above-mentioned **health / testing protocols on arrival** will remain applicable.
 - b. **Pakistanis** already travelled / travelling to Category C countries on **short term visa and deportees** are permitted to travel back without exemption process.
 - c. Pakistanis unable to get themselves vaccinated abroad (all categories) due to following reasons are **Exempted from mandatory vaccination after producing valid proof** to airline / immigration authorities before boarding: -
 - (1) Expired Visa / Emirates ID or illegal immigrants / deportees.
 - (2) Pending court cases.
 - (3) Medical conditions / issues.
 - (4) Pregnant women.
 - (5) Partially vaccinated from Pakistan.
7. **Aviation Division / Airport Management / ASF only.** Please ensure **screening of passengers** traveling from Cat C countries through **direct / indirect flights** in coordination with health staff deputed at airports.
8. **CHE Only.** Please ensure following: -
 - a. **Ensure all inbound passengers arriving via direct / indirect flights from Cat 'C' countries, KSA, UAE and Qatar are tested through RAT** at all designated airports in coordination with provincial health / airport authorities.
 - b. **Ensure availability of requisite health staff round the clock at all major airports** in coordination with provincial health authorities.
 - c. **Maintain sufficient stock of RAT kits and allied equipment at designated airports.**
9. **MoNHSR&C Only.** Ensure availability of additional health care staff at designated airports.

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10. **Provincial / ICT Administration Only.** Please ensure to arrange following: -
- Quarantine facility** (Government / Self-paid) for RAT positive and RAT negative passengers from Omicron Variant countries.
 - Earmark **separate facilities** for quarantine of **RAT negative cases from Omicron Variant Countries and deportees.**
 - Transportation** of RAT positive passengers and RAT negative passengers from omicron variant countries from airports to designated quarantine facilities.
 - Arrange / manage **adequate quarantine facilities (Government / Self-paid)** within proximity of major airports.
 - Beef up CHE staff with provincial health staff** at respective Airports (on requirement basis) in the province.
 - AJK and GB** are requested to assist federating units especially **Rawalpindi and ICT administration** for smooth management of AJK / GB related inbound travelers landing at IIAP.
11. **MoFA Only.** Please disseminate information to all Pakistan High Commissions and Embassies and assign priority for information of Pakistani diaspora.
12. **NDMA only.** Please ensure availability of sufficient RAT kits in coordination with NCOC.
13. **MoIT / NITB.** Please ensure uninterrupted / continuous availability of Passtrack App.
14. **Revised air travel plan will be effective from mid night 8 December 2021 (0001 PST).**
- Review of Inbound Travel Policy will be carried out at NCOC on 28 December 2021.**
15. Forwarded for necessary action / priority dissemination to all concerned, please.



Deputy Director (Operations)
(Abdul Qadeer Awan)

To

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
Headquarters Airport Security Force
Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Aviation Division Islamabad
Directorate of Central Health Establishments (CHE)

CC

Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C)
General Headquarters, Military Operations Directorate (MO Dte)
Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)
Chief Secretary Punjab
Chief Secretary Sindh
Chief Secretary Balochistan
Chief Secretary KP

Chief Secretary AJK
Chief Secretary GB
Commissioner ICT

ID:

NCOC Ops and Plans Branch

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Letter No 801/A/Ops III /NCOC-01 dated 05 December 2021