

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Spain

New COVID-19 testing requirements for travelers arriving from China Mainland

Executive summary

Effective 4 January 2023, all passengers arriving to Spain by air directly from China Mainland are required to get tested for COVID-19 prior to departure and upon arrival in Spain, irrespective of their nationality or COVID-19 vaccination status. These measures will remain in effect until 15 February 2023 and may be extended at the discretion of the authorities.

Key developments

Individuals traveling to Spain from China Mainland must:

- ▶ Take a nucleic acid amplification (NAAT) COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to travel, or a rapid antigen COVID-19 test no more than 24 hours prior to travel, and test negative to be admitted to Spain
- ▶ Undergo a health screening (including a temperature check) at the point of entry to Spain
- ▶ Take a COVID-19 test upon arrival in Spain

Holders of EU Digital COVID Certificates (or equivalent certificates issued outside of the EU) may use their certificates to prove that they tested negative for COVID-19 prior to travel.

Individuals who test negative on arrival are not subject to further COVID-19 restrictions in Spain. Those who test positive may be refused admission, unless they are:

- ▶ Under the age of 12

- ▶ Residents of Andorra, Monaco, the Vatican, San Marino or an EU or Schengen Member State
- ▶ Holders of long-stay visas issued by an EU or Schengen Member State and are transiting through Spain en route to the Member State that issued their visa
- ▶ Members of transportation crews who are entering or transiting through Spain in a professional capacity
- ▶ Entering on humanitarian, emergency or other grounds and requesting an exemption (these cases will be decided at the discretion of the Spanish authorities)

Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted employees traveling from China Mainland of the new requirements to avoid delays or complications relating to travel to Spain.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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