

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Qatar

New COVID-19-related entry requirements for travelers arriving from China Mainland and Hong Kong

Executive summary

On 1 January 2023, Qatar's Ministry of Public Health [announced](#) that, effective 3 January 2023 and until further notice, all individuals traveling to Qatar from China Mainland and Hong Kong must get tested for COVID-19 prior to travel and test negative to be admitted, irrespective of their nationality and COVID-19 vaccination status. Travelers who transit through Qatar and exit the airport in Qatar during their transit are also required to test negative for COVID-19 prior to travel.

Key developments

Qatari nationals, residents and visitors traveling from China Mainland and Hong Kong must take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test no more than 48 hours prior to departure to Qatar, test negative and provide proof of their negative test when checking in for their flights to be admitted. Individuals transiting through Qatar en route to another destination are only required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test if they exit the airport in Qatar during their transit. Those who remain in the airport while awaiting a connecting flight are not required to test negative for COVID-19 prior to transiting through Qatar.

With the exception of the recent changes that went into effect on 3 January 2023, Qatar had lifted most COVID-19-related restrictions on inbound travelers, which included pre-travel and post-arrival COVID-19 testing requirements, isolation and

quarantine requirements, and the need to submit COVID-19-related registrations and health declarations. Notwithstanding, travelers who test positive for COVID-19 after entering Qatar must follow instructions from the local health authorities, which may include a requirement to isolate temporarily and undergo additional COVID-19 testing.

Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted employees traveling from Mainland China and Hong Kong of the new COVID-19-related requirements to avoid delays with travel to Qatar.

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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