

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NEGATIVE PCR COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

<Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, JUL. 25th, 2022.>

1. Can the test result be in languages other than Korean or English?

- The test method (test type) must be written in Korean or English.
- ※ NOTE: If the inspection method is issued in Korean or English, It is considered appropriate even if other standards are written in other language
- If the test method is written in a language that is NOT Korean or English, a certified translation of the test result must be provided in Korean or English, along with a certificate of translation.*
- * NOTE: Translations by individual translators must be certified by a notary office or Korean embassy. Translations by the certified translation office or a certified translator does not need to be notarized or certified by embassy.

2. Which test types are valid for the requirement?

- PCR tests based on the nucleic acid amplification methods (e.g. NAATs, RT-PCR, LAMP, TMA, SDA, NEAR) or supervised Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are valid;
- All types of COVID-19 tests taken without medical supervision are not accepted.

3. What is the requirement for the time of "Negative PCR COVID-19 test" and issuance of results thereof?

- Submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test result performed (the sample collected) and issued within 48 hours of the departure date, or supervised negative professional RAT result taken and issued within 24 hours of the departure date
- * (Example) If you are departing from a country to Korea on May 23 at 10:00, 2022, you must submit your negative PCR test result taken after 00:00 on May 21, 2022 or supervised negative RAT result taken after 00:00 on May 22, 2022.
- ※ In the case of port, submit a negative PCR test result issued (not the sample collected) within 72 hours of the departure date (a supervised negative RAT taken and issued within 24 hours of the departure is also accepted.)

4. What information needs to be on the test result?

- The test result document needs to include your name (identical to name on passport; middle name may be omitted), date of birth (passport number or ID number is acceptable), test method (e.g. NAAT, PCR, LAMP, TMA, SDA, RAT, Antigen), test date, test result, date of issuance, and name of testing center.

5. Is a PCR test based on saliva sample rather than a nasal swab accepted?

- Saliva PCT tests are accepted if the sample was analyzed using reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or supervised rapid antigen tests (RATs) are also acceptable.
- Other requirements such as testing center, date of issuance, etc. (refer to Q4) still need to be met.
- * NOTE: Any form of self-administered tests without supervision of medical personnel, regardless of the test type, are not accepted.

6. What if the date of issuance and sampling collected is not indicated on the test result?

- If data that enable the confirmation of date of test and issuance indirectly including hospital email or certificate of confirmation of hospital screening, it can be acknowledged as being valid (the passenger has the responsibility to provide such evidence).

7. How should I submit a negative test result that I have received online or by email, and will it be considered valid?

- The image file of your test result must be uploaded at the Q-code system or its hard copy must be submitted at Korea's entry screening to verify the test result.
- Note: this hard copy is able to be submitted after entering Korea, but you may wait for a while at the airport(accommodation and meals are not provided at the airport).

8. Is a negative test result issued by designated testing centers including overseas diplomatic missions only considered valid?

- Since March 14, all negative PCR results have been considered valid regardless of testing centers.
- However, the standards of a negative PCR test result must be complied, including what kind of test you had (a PCR test, etc) and when you took the test and received the result.

9. What if I transit through another country and enter Korea through an airport?

- When you enter Korea from country A transiting through country B,
 - (If you enter country B) a negative PCR test result issued in country B (transit country) within 48 hours (or negative RAT result taken within 24 hours) prior to the departure date (00:00) to Korea must be submitted (within 72 hours of the departure date in case of ports)
 - (If you do not enter country B) a negative PCR test result issued in country A (the first departure country) within 48 hours (or negative RAT result taken within 24 hours) prior to the departure date (00:00) to Korea must be submitted (within 72 hours of the departure date in case of ports)
- ※ A negative PCR test result issued in the departure or transit country is able to be considered valid if the test result meets the above standards (test results issued in Korea or a third country are also considered valid)
- (Example) departing from country A on May 23 → arriving in country B on May 23 and leaving the country on May 24 → entering Korea on May 24

Category	Departure	Notes
If you enter (stay in) country B,	Must be issued within 48 hours (or within 24 hours for a RAT) prior to May 24 from 00:00 (departure date from country B)	※ It does not matter which country you have received your PCR test result in.
If you do not enter country B,	Must be issued within 48 hours (or within 24 hours for a RAT) prior to May. 23 from 00:00 (departure date from country A)	A PCR test result issued in another country other than country A or B is acceptable.

10. Are arrivals holding a A-visa or vaccinated required to submit a negative test result?

- All arrivals holding a A-visa (A-1: Diplomat, A-2: Government official, A-3: Agreement) or vaccinated are required to submit a negative PCR-RAT test result when entering Korea.

11. Are passengers who transit through Korea on the way to a third country required to submit a negative test result?

- If they transit through Korea without entering (transit passengers), they do not need to submit a negative PCR test result.

12. Are infants or young children required to submit a negative test result?

- Infants or children aged under 6(as of the arrival date) are not required to submit a negative PCR test result if all individuals accompanying them submit a valid negative PCR test result.
- However, there is no exception to the requirement to take a PCR test [within 1day](#) of arriving in Korea.

13. Who are exempted from submission of a negative PCR COVID-19 test result?

- Children under 6 as of the date of arrival
 - Individuals with quarantine exemption certificates for humanitarian (attending funerals) or official business reasons*.
 - Flight crew(who arriving for air operation)
 - Individuals who departed from Korea for another country but were denied entry or otherwise did not go through with the entry procedure at another country before returning to Korea. This applies to both Korean nationals and foreign nationals, and the burden of proof is on the traveling individual.
 - Korean sailors departing from Singapore, who hold "Seafarer's Book of Republic of Korea" (effective until May 22, 2022)
 - Korean nationals entering Korea within 10 to 40 days of the date [when they are tested positive* or started isolation for COVID-19](#)
- * A DNA amplification-based test such as a PCR test or supervised RAT is accepted
- ※ [Proof documents verifying the exact date of a positive test\(PCR-RAT\) or starting isolation is required for exemption\(e.g. Confirmation of release from isolation, Test result report, Notice of isolation, Medical clearance, etc\)](#)
 - Foreign nationals on a long-term sta
 - Long-term foreign residents in Korea (must possess more than one of the following: residence card, overseas Korean resident card, permanent resident card, ID card of a diplomatic mission in Korea or USFK Common Access) who are infected with COVID-19 in Korea within 10 to 40 days of the departure date
 - ※ Even if those are exempt from presenting a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, if they develop symptoms of COVID-19, they are not permitted to board a flight without a negative PCR test result.

14. What are the measures to be taken for those who do not have a negative test result or have the documents that do not meet their standards?

- People including Korean nationals who do not have a negative PCR test result or have documents that do not meet their standards are not permitted to board a flight from July 5, 2021.
 - However, people eligible for quarantine exemption, including children aged under 6 (as of the arrival date) and those who are attending a funeral are permitted to board a flight without a negative PCR test result (refer to Q.13)
- In the case that those submitted negative PCR test results are found to be substandard after arrival, Korean nationals and long-term foreign residents (must possess more than one of the following documents: residence card, overseas Korean resident card, permanent resident card, or ID card of a diplomatic mission in Korea, USFK Common Access Card: refer to Q.19) must receive a PCR test at the public health center and wait for the test results at home(or dorm)
 - Other foreign residents including those staying short-term are not allowed to enter Korea
- People who refuse or evade the requirement of submission of a negative PCR test result, or obstruct its process or submit a false COVID-19 test result are able to be accused in accordance with the Korean Quarantine Act.
 - ※ In such case, quarantine exemption certificates issued by diplomatic missions will no longer be valid.

15. What if a negative PCR test result becomes invalid because it has expired due to delayed departure of flights or ships (issued within 48 hours for a PCR test and 24 hours for a RAT prior to departure)?

- If the delay due to unexpected weather conditions or flaws in aircraft or ships is able to be verified by captains (heads) of aircraft or ships, the test result is able to be considered valid. The travelers hold the burden of proof.

16. Among recovered patients from COVID-19, who can board a flight to Korea without a negative PCR test result (who can be eligible for the exemption from submission of a negative PCR test)?

- Korean nationals who are infected with COVID-19 within 10 to 40 days of the departure date
 - * DNA amplification-based test methods such as a PCR test and supervised Rapid Antigen Tests(RATs) are valid
- Long-term foreign residents in Korea (must possess more than one of the following: residence card, overseas Korean resident card, permanent resident card, ID card of a diplomatic mission in Korea or USFK Common Access Card) who are infected with COVID-19 in Korea within 10 to 40 days of the departure date

17. Are recovered patients from COVID-19 who are subject to the exemption of submitting a negative PCR test also exempt from taking a PCR test within 1 days of their arrival in Korea?

- To identify and verify reinfection of new virus or variants, a PCR test within 1 days of arrival must be taken without any exception.

18. What are the documents that prove recovered Korean nationals from COVID-19 are exempt from submitting a negative PCR test result when entering Korea?

- (Proof documents) Recovered Koreans should bring with them a proof document issued by a medical/testing institution or the health authorities confirming when they tested positive or the isolation started.
 - * If documents(including Confirmation of release from isolation, Test result report, Notice of isolation, Medical clearance or etc.) verify the exact date of a positive PCR or RAT test, they are able to be considered valid.
 - (Date of a positive PCR test) People who are infected with COVID-19 within 10 to 40 days of the departure date are eligible for this exemption (DNA amplification-based test methods such as a PCR test are valid only, and a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) conducted by Korean medical professionals is also acceptable).

Category	Date of Positive PCR test	Departure date
Example case (1): Entry permitted	Apr. 13, 2022 (-40 days from the departure date)	May. 23 (Entry permitted)
Example case (2): Entry permitted	May. 13, 2022 (-10 days from the departure date)	May. 23 (Entry permitted)
Example case (1): NO Entry permitted	April. 12, 2022 (-41 days from the departure date)	May. 23 (NO Entry permitted)
Example case (2): NO Entry permitted	May. 14, 2022 (-9 days from the departure date)	May. 23 (NO Entry permitted)

- (Language of issuance) The test method and the date of a positive PCR test in the documents must be written in Korean or English. If they are written in a language other than Korean or English, the translation must be notarized (refer to Q.1).

19. What are the documents that prove long-term foreign residents who were infected with COVID-19 in Korea and have recovered from the virus are allowed to board a flight to Korea without a negative PCR test result?

- (Proof documents) (a) Notice of Isolation/Quarantine (or Confirmation of Release from Isolation)* issued in Korea and (b) Residence Card (or Overseas Korean Resident Card, Permanent Resident Card, and ID card of a diplomatic mission in Korea)
 - (Date of a positive PCR test) Long-term foreign residents who are infected with COVID-19 in Korea within 10 to 40 days of the departure date are eligible for this exemption.
 - (Document formats incl. Residence Card) Please see the following examples.

RESIDENCE CARD	OVERSEAS KOREAN RESIDENT CARD
PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD	DEPLOMATIC IDENTIFICATION CARD(D)
CONSULAR IDENTIFICATION CARD(C)	IDENTIFICATION CARD(I)

IDENTIFICATION CARD(A)	IDENTIFICATION CARD(B)
USFK Common Access Card (USFK ID)	A3 Visa Stamp in passport