

**Ann**

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**From:** ASTA Notice <govtaffairs@asta.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** ann@silverstartravel.com  
**Subject:** CDC to Require Negative COVID Test from All Inbound Passengers

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## ASTA Notice

### CDC to Require Negative COVID Test from All Inbound Passengers

January 13, 2021

ASTA Members:

As you have likely heard, last night the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an [order](#) requiring proof of a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 for all air passengers, including U.S. citizens, arriving from a foreign country. The order, which becomes effective on Tuesday, January 26, builds on an [existing one](#) put in place in December for inbound passengers from the United Kingdom.

This move has been telegraphed for several weeks, but there are a number of unanswered questions about what effect the order will have on your clients traveling abroad. Here is what we know:

- All inbound passengers, regardless of citizenship status, must get tested no more than 3 days before their flight to the U.S. departs. The test must be a [viral test](#) (NAAT or antigen test).
- If the passenger has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months, she does not have get tested again but can travel instead with documentation of her positive viral test results and a letter from her healthcare provider or a public health official that states she has been cleared for travel.

or documentation of recovery for all passengers before boarding, and to deny boarding if such is not presented. Passengers must also fill out a CDC [attestation form](#).

- The test result must be in the form of written documentation (paper or electronic copy) of a laboratory test, and must include information that identifies the person, a specimen collection date and the type of test administered, as well as verification information, such as the name and contact information for the laboratory that performed the test.
- Upon arrival in the U.S. CDC recommends, but doesn't require, that travelers get retested 3-5 days after travel AND stay home or otherwise self-quarantine for 7 days after travel. Note that your state may have more stringent requirements for returning travelers.
- Importantly, the order allows CDC to grant waivers based on CDC's determination that a foreign country lacks available COVID-19 testing capacity. In our view, it is critical that CDC determine the countries for which waivers will be granted as soon as possible so you can take appropriate action to prepare your clients.

Obviously, this order creates a number of challenges for our members, ranging from making sure clients can get test results in-destination without disrupting their return trip to the implications of a positive test (or a false positive) while abroad to a general chilling effect on future bookings.

In terms of next steps, we first recommend you reach out to clients traveling currently, or soon to travel, to make them aware of the new requirements. Second, we recommend reaching out to the destination, hotel, resort or other suppliers for the trip(s) in question. Again, this has been telegraphed for weeks and all stakeholders have a strong interest in getting this right. (We note, as an example, that the [Hotel Association of Cancun](#) is working to provide travelers with testing options for their return trips home.)

We will continue to share updates related to these rules, including information pertaining to the specific countries for which waivers will be granted, as well as the steps destinations and suppliers are taking to mitigate the impact of the testing requirement.

Thank you, as always, for your support for ASTA during these difficult times. If you have any questions, contact us at [AskASTA@asta.org](mailto:AskASTA@asta.org).

#### Additional Information

- [CDC Order](#)
- [CDC Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [CDC Passenger Attestation Form](#)
- [ASTA Statement in Response to CDC Requirements](#)

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Questions: Contact [govtaffairs@asta.org](mailto:govtaffairs@asta.org)

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