



As a result of its sustained efforts and focus on fivefold strategy of test-track-treat-vaccination and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour, India has been able to effectively restrict the spread of COVID-19 transmission in the country so far.

2. Globally the number of new cases of COVID-19 continue to remain alarmingly high, with around 5.9 lakh daily new cases reported on average during the week ending on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. This spike in trajectory of COVID-19 is particularly concerning with respect to Japan, United States of America, South Korea, Brazil, France and China where cases are increasing in a sustained manner.

3. While Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is maintaining a close watch over the dynamic situation, in order to minimize the risk of ingress of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus in the country, it has been decided that Ministry of Civil Aviation in coordination with airport operators and AirPort Health Offices (APHOs) shall ensure the following:

- a) A sub-section of 2% of the total passengers in the flight shall undergo random post-arrival testing at the airport on arrival.
- b) Such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries).
- c) Such travellers will submit the samples and shall be allowed to leave the airport.
- d) A copy of the positive report shall be shared with Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme at [shoc.idsp@ncdc.gov.in](mailto:shoc.idsp@ncdc.gov.in) by the concerned Testing Laboratory ( besides sharing with the APHOs) to be in turn shared with concerned State/UT for further follow up action.
- e) In case, any such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be sent for genomic testing at the designated INSACOG laboratory network.

This arrangement shall come into practice **with effect from 10:00 AM on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.**


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4. While the testing may be coordinated by Ministry of Civil Aviation, cost of testing shall be reimbursed by this Ministry on submission of duly certified bills to respective AirPort Health Offices (APHOs). Ministry of Civil Aviation is requested that this testing may be done at a subsidized and uniform rates across all international airports.

5. While thanking the Ministry of Civil Aviation, we look forward to your continued support in this collective fight against the pandemic.


Yours sincerely

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

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2. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
3. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
4. Secretary, Department of Biotechnology
5. DGHS & Director, NCDC

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)