

COVID-19 PREVENTION & CONTROL MEASURES

NEW

Inbound travelers



BEFORE

7 days of central quarantine
+ **3** days of home quarantine

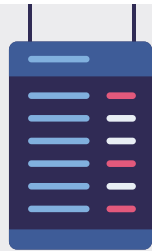
AFTER

5 days of central quarantine
+ **3** days of home quarantine

Overseas flights

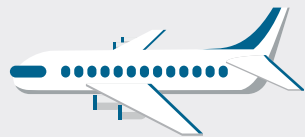
BEFORE

Flights are suspended after bringing certain number of COVID-19 infections into the country, under a regime called “circuit break.”



AFTER

No such suspension



Travelers boarding flights to China



BEFORE

2 negative PCR test reports in 48 hours

AFTER

1 negative PCR test report in 48 hours

Risk areas

BEFORE

3 types: high, medium and low

If no cases are found in a high-risk area for **7** consecutive days, the area will be considered low-risk

AFTER

2 types: high and low

If no cases are found in a high-risk area for **5** consecutive days, the area will be considered low-risk



Mechanics inspect a passenger aircraft at Beijing Capital International Airport. — IC

Quarantine period slashed for inbound travelers to China

Yang Jian

China has slashed the quarantine period for inbound travelers as part of a series of optimized COVID-19 prevention and control measures released last Friday.

Overseas travelers to China now only need to undergo five days in central quarantine, followed by three days of home quarantine, according to the joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council, or the nation's Cabinet.

The old rules require 10 days of quarantine for inbound travelers in total — a week in a central quarantine facility and three days at home.

The quarantine period for close contacts of COVID-19 infections has also been cut to five days at a central quarantine facility plus three days at home, from seven and three days previously, the National

Health Commission said on its official WeChat account.

“The new measures aim to enhance the precision of COVID-19 prevention and control, while reducing the influence on economic and social development to the largest extent,” the commission said.

According to the new rules, overseas flights to the Chinese mainland will no longer be suspended for bringing COVID-19 infections into the country.

The suspension mechanism was launched by the Civil Aviation Administration of China in June 2020 for international passenger flights to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, travelers boarding an airplane to the Chinese mainland are required to take only one polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test in 48 hours, instead of two as

previously stipulated.

The commission says close contacts will still be traced more precisely, but secondary close contacts, or the close contacts to the COVID-19 contacts, will no longer be identified.

COVID medium-risk areas are scrapped and the number of people to be put under lockdown are largely reduced. If no cases are found in a high-risk area for five consecutive days, the area will be considered as low risk.

Mass PCR screenings are also restricted. Only the risky groups will be included in the screening, which cannot be expanded randomly.

A mass screening of a whole district will be carried out only when the origin of infection or the transmission chain remain unclear, along with long-term community transmission, the commission said.