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## AMENDMENT OF COVID-19 TRAVEL AND RETURN POLICY TO QATAR

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Doha has reported that the State of Qatar's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Advisory recently amended its travel and return policy, easing the process of travel effective 06 October 2021. The said amendments are as follows:

- Countries are now classified into Green (expanded to 188 countries) and Red (15 countries), in addition to a secondary list of Exceptional Red Countries (Philippines, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, and Sudan ) based on international and local health risk indicators and the epidemiology of COVID-19 in different countries.
- Pre-travel PCR test is no longer mandatory for fully vaccinated Qatari citizens and residents travelling from Green List countries, however, they will be required to undergo a PCR test within 36 hours of arrival.
- Travelers are required to sign and undertaking and acknowledgment form before arrival to Qatar which is available on the MoPH website, online registration platform (Ehteraz website) and via airlines' ticketing process.
- Visitors from the Exceptional Red List countries will be subject to hotel quarantine for two days. Travelers from these countries are further categorized into two groups, who will face two different sets of quarantine conditions upon arrival in Qatar.
  - a) Group A: Citizens, GCC citizens, and residents of Qatar
    - o Fully-Vaccinated: 2 day quarantine applies to fully-vaccinated travelers aged 12 and up, as well as children aged up to 11 and accompanied by at least a fully vaccinated family member. Visitors are required to have a negative PCR test result taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Upon arrival, they will be PCR-tested at the quarantine hotel. For those vaccinated outside Qatar with one of the vaccines approved by the Ministry, a serology antibody test will be carried out at quarantine hotel. A positive Serology Antibody test pre-travel is mandatory for individuals with 2 doses of a conditionally approved vaccine, with the validity of the test being 30 days.
    - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travelers from ECR should undergo
       7-day hotel quarantine and produce a negative PCR test result taken 72
       hours before arrival. Upon arrival, a PCR test is required on the 6th day of quarantine and will be released on the 7th day if the result is negative.

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## b) Group B: Visitors

- o Fully-Vaccinated: 2-day quarantine applies to travelers aged 12 and up as well as children aged up to 11 and accompanied by at least a family member who is fully vaccinated. Visitors are required a negative PCR test result taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Upon arrival, they will be PCR-tested at the quarantine hotel. For those vaccinated outside Qatar with one of the vaccines approved by the Ministry, a serology antibody test will be carried out at quarantine hotel.
- o Unvaccinated: Entry not allowed in Qatar for this category of travelers.
- The conditionally approved vaccine list of the Ministry has included Sinovac and Sputnik (V) COVID-19 vaccines in addition to Sinopharm vaccine. For pre-travel, a serology antibody test is mandatory for people with 2 doses of a conditionally approved vaccines and 14 days after second dose, in which case only the traveler will be considered fully immune. People who received 2 doses of a conditionally approved vaccine followed by one dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and after 14 days from the last dose, will be considered fully immune.
- Visitors can now activate the Ehteraz mobile application using an international SIM card. Non-residents of Qatar must register via online registration platform (www.ehteraz.gov.qa) at least 3 days before arrival.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

BERNARD P. OLALIA Administrator

19 October 2021

Source: POLO Qatar Memorandum dated 05 October 2021

