

COVID-19 FAQ's for Travelers

Last Updated: August 31st, 2022



General Questions

1) Do I have to wear a mask?

As of May 3rd, 2022, CDC recommends that everyone aged 2 years or older including passengers and workers properly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator over the nose and mouth in indoor areas of public transportation (such as airplanes, trains, buses, ferries) and transportation hubs (such as airports, stations, and seaports). When people properly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator, they protect themselves and those around them, and help keep travel and public transportation corridors safer for everyone. It is especially important to mask up when:

- Public transportation or transportation hubs are crowded
- In areas that are poorly ventilated. Examples
- During international travel and in transportation hubs that serve international travelers
- During long distance domestic travel
- When the COVID-19 Community Level you are located in is high within the U.S.
- If you or someone you have contact with is at high risk
- If you came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are not recommended to quarantine

2) Why are masks still recommended in travel and public transportation but not in other community settings?

- Using public transportation and transportation hubs can involve spending long periods of time in areas that may be crowded and poorly ventilated.
- In using public transportation, you may not have the option to avoid being around people who are not wearing masks by relocating to another area such as during a flight or during a ride that is in motion.
- People from other countries or other U.S. communities with different levels of COVID-19 or circulating COVID-19 variants mix in travel and public transportation settings.

3) What are some other ways to reduce risk during travel?

- Consider traveling at off-peak times when public transportation is less likely to be crowded.
- Open windows to improve ventilation if this is an option.
- Visit our website frequently for recommendations and tips on traveling.

4) How can I locate the nearest COVID-19 testing site?

Information for locating testing sites can be found at <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>.

5) How can I locate the nearest COVID-19 vaccination site?

Information for locating vaccination sites can be found at <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>.

6) What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headache, a new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

7) What should I do to protect myself while I wait for my COVID-19 test results?

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms.
- Avoid close contact with other people, practice physical distancing from those living in your home.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day. High-touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and remote controls.

8) What should I do if I get sick after travel?

- Regardless of your vaccination status, if you get sick with fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19, or test positive, you should isolate if you are sick.
- If you live in close quarters with others, take precautions to protect them.
- Do not travel when you are sick.
- Although most people can recover at home without medical care, seek medical care if needed. If you have an emergency warning sign, such as trouble breathing, seek emergency medical care immediately.
- If you need medical care and don't have a healthcare provider in New Jersey, free COVID-19 testing and treatment is available at Community Health Centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), to all people whether you have health insurance or not and

regardless of your immigration status. You can find an FQHC near you through [211 online](#), or by directly calling 2-1-1, support is available in English and Spanish.

9) My test results were positive for COVID-19. What should I do?

- If you tested positive, you must stay at home and self-isolate. This means stay in a different bedroom from others in your home, and if possible, use a separate bathroom. If you have symptoms, isolate at least 5 days from the time symptoms started AND at least 1 full day (24 hours) have passed since you had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND other symptoms are improved. Continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days.
- If you had no symptoms and tested COVID-19 positive, you should stay home for at least 5 days after you were tested (beginning the day the test specimen was collected). Continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days.
- If you live with other people and they were not tested, they should keep their distance from you. This includes not eating meals together and not sitting around the house together. Practice social distancing as much as is possible (stay at least 6 feet from each other). Those who live in the house should consider getting tested for COVID-19.

10) I am up to date on my COVID-19 vaccines and tested positive. Do I need to isolate?

- Yes, if you tested positive you still need to isolate for at least 5 days then wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days. This may be because no vaccine is 100% effective, and you could have been exposed to a variant strain. Being vaccinated means that you may not become severely ill or need to be hospitalized. But if you are positive, you may still pass the virus to others. Wear a mask and socially distance from others, especially those who are not vaccinated.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, contact your healthcare provider.

11) I recovered from a recent COVID-19 infection; do I need to get tested?

If you recovered from a documented COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days, see these [specific testing recommendations](#) of which test to use and when.

12) What requirements must be met to be considered fully vaccinated?

You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the 2nd dose in a 2-dose series or 2 weeks after a single-dose from an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization. If you have a condition or are taking medication that weakens your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking precautions.

13) What is considered being up to date on my COVID-19 vaccines?

Being up to date entails receiving your primary series of a COVID-19 vaccines, and boosters when eligible. [Click here](#) to see to see the criteria of being up to date.

Domestic Travel

1) What do I do after domestic travel?

After travel you should monitor yourself for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, begin to isolate immediately and get tested.

International Travel

1) What should I do before I leave the country?

It is not recommended to travel until you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. It is also recommended to get tested with a viral test no more than 3 days before departure.

2) What should I do after returning from international travel?

All travelers, regardless of vaccination status, should get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel and monitor for symptoms.

Cruise Travel

1) Should I still go on a cruise?

The CDC and New Jersey Department of Health recommend avoiding cruise travel until you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines.

2) What should I do once I return from my cruise?

All travelers should get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel and monitor for symptoms.

3) I am not feeling well, should I still go on my cruise?

No, you should not travel if you are not feeling well. You should stay home and avoid contact with others.

4) How do I check the travel recommendations for my various cruise destinations?

Click [here](#) to check the current travel recommendations for any destination.