

POLO Advisory

In view of recent events where hundreds of transiting Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs) mostly from Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as UAE-based OFWs and ROFs, were offloaded and stranded due to the ongoing restrictions/quotas imposed by the IATF among incoming international carriers, all traveling Filipinos with flights back to the Philippines are strongly urged to closely coordinate with their respective airlines, for any development regarding their flight confirmation and quarantine facility in transiting country, if needed.

Contrary to the proviso from travel agencies and/or airlines requiring hotel booking and Overseas Employment Certificates prior to flight for OFWs, please be advised that the Philippine government, thru the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), will still cover the facility-based quarantine and swab-testing of all OFWs. On the other hand, OEC is required only at the point of exit of returning OFWs to the jobsite, and not at the point of exit going back to the Philippines. It serves as an exit clearance/pass and exempts them from travel tax and airport terminal fee.

Upon arrival in the Philippines, OFWs shall need to present any of the following as proof of their status: employment contract, OEC, payslip, OWWA membership and valid company ID. Moreover, as facility-based quarantines are in full capacity, OWWA requests for all arriving Filipinos' understanding as they can expect a waiting period before they can be assigned to a quarantine hotel.

The following testing and quarantine protocols shall be observed for arriving Filipino passengers to the Philippines per IATF Resolution No. 154-C, Series of 2021, dated 14 December 2021:

| FROM GREEN LIST COUNTRIES* | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| | Fully-Vaccinated Travelers | Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or whose vaccination status cannot be independently validated |
| Negative RT-PCR Test result taken within 72 hours from departure | ✓ | ✓ |
| Facility-based quarantine until release of negative test results | ✓ | ✓ |
| Day of Swab-Testing | 3 rd day | 7 th day |
| Upon receipt of negative result, undergo mandatory home quarantine, with date of arrival being the first day | Until the 10 th day | Until the 14 th day |

| FROM YELLOW LIST COUNTRIES* | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Fully-Vaccinated Travelers | Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or whose vaccination status cannot be independently validated |
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|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Negative RT-PCR Test result taken within 72 hours from departure | ✓ | ✓ |
| Facility-based quarantine until release of negative test results | ✓ | ✓ |
| Day of Swab-Testing | 5 th day | 7 th day |
| Upon receipt of negative result, undergo mandatory home quarantine, with date of arrival being the first day | Until the 14 th day | Until the 14 th day |

* Minors shall follow the testing and quarantine protocols of their parent/guardian traveling with them, regardless of their vaccination status and country of origin.

| VALIDATION OF VACCINATION STATUS | |
|--|---|
| For OFWs and their spouse, parent/s and/or children travelling with them vaccinated abroad | In lieu of POLO certification, present national digital certificate of the foreign government where they were vaccinated, without need of reciprocity agreement. |
| Non-OFWs vaccinated in the Philippines or abroad | Present any <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VaxCertPH digital vaccination certificate; • Bureau of Quarantine/World Health Organization-issued International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICV); • National digital certificate of the foreign government where they were vaccinated, which has accepted VaxCertPH under a reciprocal arrangement <p>Effective 14 October 2021, all POLOs shall no longer validate vaccination status of individuals.</p> |

For guidance.

20 December 2021

POLO Dubai

