


OPERATIONS ADVISORY NOTICE (OAN)		 Transport Malta  Civil Aviation Directorate Flight Operations Inspectorate Transport Malta Centre Triq Pantar Lija LJA 2021 Malta
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<b>Subject: Operations into Hong Kong</b>		

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This OAN provides information to risks posed by operations into Hong Kong (HKIA). This is applicable to all operators performing scheduled and ad-hoc operations (cargo and passengers).

## 2.0 RISKS POISED TO CREW

TM-CAD has been monitoring operations performed by operators under its oversight and has recently been informed of further restrictions imposed by authorities that may impose other risks. Nevertheless, operators shall be prepared for the eventuality of any crew members that may potentially result as Covid positive on arrival.

This will not only result in strict quarantine requirements in public health facilities, but also quarantine requirements for other crew members considered as close contacts (i.e., crew members operating on same flight).

The local authorities have published exemption conditions and protocols that require extensive arrangements.

## 3.0 REQUIRED ACTION(s)

Operators are required to put in place alternate operational plans and ensure that protocols to facilitate such re-patriation are in place. These may require contact(s) with other government agencies and/or embassies that would not be normally be used.

Attached documents are provided for information only, and these may not be the latest documents in circulation. Operators shall ensure that they are in possession of the latest protocols and procedures.

**Flight Operations Inspectorate**

**Exemption conditions applicable to crew members of aircraft who need to commute to and from Mainland, Macao and Taiwan / foreign places for performance of necessary duties arriving from Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA)**  
(with effect from 2 December 2021)

Each air crew member must comply with the following conditions –

**Requirements during layover**

1. For **all crew** who have stayed<sup>i ii</sup> in any places outside Hong Kong during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong, whilst **laying over in outports**:
  - (a) they must self-isolate at the hotel room arranged by their airlines for the duration of their stay, and
  - (b) point-to-point transportation must be arranged by their airlines between airports and the places of accommodation. Crew members should wear masks during the entire journey to and from the airports.

**SARS-CoV-2 Nucleic Testing requirements**

*Pre-departure Test<sup>iii</sup>*

2. (a) All **non-local based crew must possess a negative result of polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test** done at an ISO15189-accredited laboratory/healthcare institution; or a laboratory/healthcare institution recognised or approved by the relevant authority of the Government of the place in which the laboratory/healthcare institution is located with the specimen collected **within 48 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the flight to Hong Kong for duty**. The airline should declare on a letter of certification that the crew member concerned has been tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid with the specimen collected within 48 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the flight to Hong Kong for duty. The crew member is required to present the test report and the letter of certification issued by the airline to staff of the Department of Health (DH) when he/she enters Hong Kong.
- (b) For **non-local based cargo crew who are not able to observe the pre-departure test requirement set out in Clause 2(a) above**, they must (i) **possess a negative result of polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test** done at an ISO15189-accredited laboratory/healthcare institution; or a laboratory/healthcare institution recognised or approved by the relevant authority of the Government of the place in which the laboratory/healthcare institution is located with the specimen collected **within 48 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the crew member's flight departing from his/her port of origin AND (ii) conduct a self-administered rapid antigen test with specimen collected within 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the flight to Hong Kong**. The airline should declare on a letter of certification (i) that the crew member concerned has conducted both tests as required and (ii) the scheduled departure date and time of the flight from the crew member's port of origin. The crew member is required to present the test report and the letter of certification issued by the airline to DH's staff when he/she enters Hong Kong. The negative rapid antigen test result should be produced for checking by DH's staff upon request.

- (c) All **local based crew (except those who have only operated flights to/from the Mainland or Macao)** must conduct a **self-administered rapid antigen test with specimen collected within 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the flight to Hong Kong.**

#### *Arrival Test*

3. All **air crew arriving in Hong Kong** (including those turnaround crew who have not stayed in the port(s) concerned as defined at **Footnote i**) must take a **SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test** at the DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre ("TSCC") upon arrival at HKIA and **wait for the results there** or any other location as designated by DH<sup>iv</sup> ("**test and hold**").

#### *Post-arrival Test*

##### *All crew who are on onward duty flights and NOT entering local community*

4. For **all crew** who have stayed in **Group A places specified in the "List of Specified Places For Enhanced Quarantine & Surveillance Measures on Omicron Variant"** published on the Government's COVID-19 thematic website<sup>xi</sup> during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong, they must be **subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 every day** during their self-isolation at the airport hotel room arranged by the airline until departure from Hong Kong on their next duty flight and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested.

##### *Local-based crew who are entering local community before the next duty flight*

5. **All air crew entering the local community upon arrival in Hong Kong (including those crew who have not stayed in the port(s) concerned as defined at Footnote i)** must be subject to the respective regular post-arrival testing requirements as set out in Clauses 6-9 below following their arrival in Hong Kong (or until departure from Hong Kong on their next duty flight, whichever is earlier). They must report to their airlines after submitting the specimen on respective days.
6. For those who have stayed in **high risk places specified in Group A<sup>v</sup> under Cap. 599H** during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong:
- (a) All air crew who are subject to self-isolation at the **Government's designated quarantine facility (Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre)** must be **subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 every day** and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested. Their health conditions will be monitored by healthcare professionals.
  - (b) All air crew who are subject to **self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room**, they must be subject to the prevailing **SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test arrangement applicable to persons staying at a designated quarantine hotel room**. After leaving the designated quarantine hotel, **they must also be subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19** on the 16<sup>th</sup> (where applicable), 19<sup>th</sup> (where applicable) and 26<sup>th</sup> day following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested.

- (c) **For those who are not subject to self-isolation**, they must be subject to (i) polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 on the **3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested; AND (ii) **self-administered rapid antigen tests daily** (even for the days on which polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 are conducted) **until the 7<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong.
7. For those who have stayed in **medium risk places specified in Group B or Taiwan, China** (and have not stayed in any Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong) **under Cap. 599H** during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong:
- (a) All air crew who are subject to **self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room**, they must be subject to the prevailing **SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test arrangement applicable to persons staying at a designated quarantine hotel room**. After leaving the designated quarantine hotel, **they must also be subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19** on the 9<sup>th</sup>(where applicable), 12<sup>th</sup>(where applicable), 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> day following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested.
- (b) **For those who are not subject to self-isolation**, they must be subject to (i) polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 on the **3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested; AND (ii) **self-administered rapid antigen tests daily** (even for the days on which polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 are conducted) **until the 7<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong.
8. For those who have stayed in **low risk places specified in Group C** (and have not stayed in any Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong; or Group B specified places or Taiwan, China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong) **under Cap. 599H** during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong:
- (a) All air crew who are subject to **self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room**, they must be subject to the prevailing **SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test arrangement applicable to persons staying at a designated quarantine hotel room**. After leaving the designated quarantine hotel, **they must also be subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> day following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested.
- (b) **For those who are not subject to self-isolation**, they must be subject to (i) polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 on the **3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested; AND (ii) **self-administered rapid antigen tests daily** (even for the days on which polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 are conducted) **until the 7<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong.
9. For those who have stayed in **Mainland or Macau** (and have not stayed in Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong; or Group B or Group C specified places

or Taiwan, China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong) during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong, they must be subject to (i) polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 on the **3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested; AND (ii) **self-administered rapid antigen tests daily** (even for the days on which polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 are conducted) **until the 7<sup>th</sup> day** following their arrival in Hong Kong.

**Point-to-point transportation requirement in Hong Kong**

10. During the specified period<sup>vii</sup>, **point-to-point transportation** in adherence to relevant infection control guidelines must be arranged by airlines between the HKIA and their holding location as designated by DH, hotels or places of accommodation. Use of public transport including MTR, airport shuttle train and taxi for crew transfer is prohibited. Air crew must only use the **designated channel for air crew** within the HKIA to arrive at the designated pick-up point. Crew members should wear masks during the entire journey to and from the HKIA.

**Self-isolation requirement<sup>iii</sup> in Hong Kong**

*All crew who are on onward duty flights and **NOT** entering local community*

11. For **all crew** who have stayed in **high risk places specified in Group A<sup>v</sup> under Cap. 599H** during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong:
- (a) For those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course<sup>ix</sup>, they must be subject to self-isolation at the airport hotel<sup>x</sup> room arranged by the airline until departure from Hong Kong on their next duty flight.
  - (b) For those who have **NOT** completed a COVID-19 vaccination course, they must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 21 days upon arrival.
12. For **all crew** who have **NOT** stayed in **high risk places specified in Group A<sup>v</sup> under Cap. 599H** during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong, they must be subject to self-isolation at an airport hotel<sup>x</sup> room arranged by the airline until departure from Hong Kong on their next duty flight.

*Local-based crew who are entering local community before the next duty flight*

13. For crew who have stayed in **high risk places specified in Group A<sup>v</sup> under Cap. 599H** during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong:
- (a) ALL those who have stayed in Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (which have been specified on the “List of Specified Places For Enhanced Quarantine & Surveillance Measures on Omicron Variant” published on the Government’s COVID-19 thematic website<sup>xi</sup> as at 30 November 2021) must be subject to self-isolation at the Penny’s Bay Quarantine Centre for 7 days upon arrival, followed by self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for the remaining period as stipulated in Clauses 13(b) or (c).
  - (b) Subject to Clause 13(a), those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course<sup>ix</sup> must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 14 days upon arrival<sup>xii</sup>.

- (c) Subject to Clause 13(a), those who have **NOT** completed a COVID-19 vaccination course must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 21 days upon arrival<sup>xii</sup>.
14. For crew who have stayed in **medium risk places specified in Group B or Taiwan, China** (and have not stayed in Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong) **under Cap. 599H** during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong :
- (a) Passenger crew:
- (i) those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course<sup>ix</sup> must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 7 days upon arrival.
- (ii) those who have **NOT** completed a COVID-19 vaccination course must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 14 days upon arrival.
- (b) Cargo crew<sup>xii xiii</sup>:
- (i) those who have **NOT** completed a COVID-19 vaccination course must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 14 days upon arrival.
15. For crew who have stayed in **low risk places specified in Group C** (and have not stayed in Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong; or Group B specified places or Taiwan, China during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong) **under Cap. 599H** during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong and who have **NOT** completed a COVID-19 vaccination course, they must be subject to self-isolation at a designated quarantine hotel<sup>vi</sup> room for 7 days upon arrival<sup>xii</sup>.
16. Airlines must notify relevant hotels of the arrangement and seek the latter's agreement and cooperation at least 24 hours prior to departure of the flight to Hong Kong. Airlines should work with relevant hotels on the arrangement of self-isolation for air crews and monitoring of the latter's compliance<sup>xiv</sup>. If an air crew member who is subject to self-isolation in a designated quarantine hotel room or airport hotel room are found to have breached the self-isolation requirement, the concerned air crew member's exemption status will be removed immediately and be sent to the Government's Quarantine Centre for compulsory quarantine.

**Medical surveillance requirement<sup>xv</sup>**

17. During the medical surveillance period, they must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact whilst in Hong Kong.
18. For local-based air crew members who are entering the local community and are not subject to the self-isolation requirement under Clauses 13-16, until there is a negative result of the polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 taken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following their arrival in Hong Kong, they must stay at their places of accommodation during the medical surveillance period, unless for necessary activities, for instance undergoing polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 as set out in Clauses 5-9 and attending medical appointments, and operating their next duty flights.
19. Throughout the first 14 days of the medical surveillance period, local-based air crew members who are entering the local community shall avoid mask-off activities in public places saved for eating/drinking and outdoor exercise and shall refrain from going to crowded places. Throughout the 14 days, they shall keep a log of their activities for record purposes.

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- <sup>i</sup> The word “stayed” in this document has the meaning given by section 3 of Cap. 599C/Cap. 599E. In accordance with section 3(8) of Cap. 599C and section 3(7) of Cap. 599E, air crew who have served on a turnaround all-cargo flight/turnaround passenger flight and have NOT left the aircraft during stopover at any port(s) outside Hong Kong throughout a duty flight will not be deemed to have stayed in the port(s) concerned.

In addition, in this document, air crew who have (i) temporarily left the aircraft for necessary technical and operational tasks (e.g. flight crew’s walk-around inspection) and (ii) remained at the airside of the airport concerned with no direct physical contact with local ground staff during stopover at any port(s) outside Hong Kong are also not deemed to have stayed in the port(s) concerned.

- <sup>ii</sup> The crew as defined at **Footnote i** above will not be subject to the self-isolation requirement upon arrival in Hong Kong before entering the local community. **Nevertheless, turnaround passenger flights between Hong Kong and any outport(s) outside Hong Kong may be performed ONLY on the condition that there will be no inbound passengers, in order for the air crew concerned to be deemed as turnaround crew not subject to the self-isolation requirement upon arrival in Hong Kong.** The airline should declare on a letter of certification that the crew members concerned have NOT left the aircraft; or have only (i) temporarily left the aircraft for necessary technical and operational tasks and (ii) remained at the airside of the airport concerned as set out at **Footnote i** above during stopover at any outport(s) **outside Hong Kong** throughout a duty flight and the flight the crew operated was an all-cargo flight or a passenger flight with no inbound passengers. The air crew concerned will be subject to the “Test and Hold” arrangement under Clause 3, enhanced regular testing under Clauses 5-9, point-to-point transportation requirement under Clause 10 and medical surveillance under Clauses 17-19 upon arrival in Hong Kong.
- <sup>iii</sup> For those who do not possess a pre-departure negative result, they will be considered as failing to comply with the exemption condition and will be subject to compulsory quarantine under Cap. 599C or Cap. 599E upon arrival.
- <sup>iv</sup> For those air crew who have **NOT operated flights to/from high risk places specified in Group A<sup>v</sup> under Cap. 599H during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong and medium risk places specified in Group B during the 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong AND** who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as defined in **Footnote ix** below, they are allowed to wait for the results at the Headland Hotel or the Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel.
- <sup>v</sup> For fully-vaccinated<sup>ix</sup> local-based air crew who have only stayed in **Bangladesh, Cambodia, France, Greece, Iran, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and/or any places upgraded to Group A (except Australia) on or after 27 November 2021 but NOT (i) other high risk places specified in Group A; and/or (ii) Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe** (which have been specified on the “List of Specified Places For Enhanced Quarantine & Surveillance Measures on Omicron Variant” as at 30 November 2021)<sup>xi</sup> under Cap. 599H, **before 1 January 2022**, they are counted as having only stayed in Group B specified places but are **NOT** counted as having stayed in Group A specified places.

For fully-vaccinated<sup>ix</sup> local-based air crew who have only stayed in **Australia, but NOT other high risk places specified in Group A and any medium risk places specified in Group B** under Cap. 599H, **before 1 January 2022**, they are counted as having only stayed in Group C specified

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places but are **NOT** counted as having stayed in Group A and Group B specified places<sup>xi</sup>.

The airline should declare on a letter of certification whether the crew members concerned have stayed in the places covered by this Footnote, with reference to the definition of “stayed” mentioned in Footnote i and Footnote ii above. In addition to the post-arrival testing requirement set out in Clause 7 above, these fully-vaccinated local-based air crew entering the local community must also be subject to polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 on the 6<sup>th</sup> day following their arrival in Hong Kong and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs which must not be taken by the persons tested. These fully-vaccinated local-based air crew shall also be subject to audit checks conducted by their airlines to monitor the fully-vaccinated local-based air crew’s compliance with the self-isolation, point-to-point transportation and mask-wearing requirements as specified in Clause 1 during their layover in places covered by this Footnote where they operate. Airlines concerned are required to submit audit reports with visual documentation to the Government on dates specified by the Government.

Notwithstanding Footnote iv above, these fully-vaccinated local based air crew (whether or not they are entering the local community) are required to wait for their arrival test results at TSCC, i.e. not allowed to wait for the results at the Headland Hotel or the Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel.

- vi Means any Designated Quarantine Hotels as published on the Government’s thematic webpage on Designated Hotels for Quarantine ([www.designatedhotel.gov.hk](http://www.designatedhotel.gov.hk)).
- vii The specified period for exempted persons to arrange point-to-point transportation are detailed below:
- (a) Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places: **21 Days**
  - (b) Group B specified places or Taiwan, China :
    - (i) Completed vaccination (Footnote ix) : **14 Days**
    - (ii) Have **NOT** completed vaccination: **21 Days**
  - (c) Group C specified places or Mainland or Macau:
    - (i) Completed vaccination (Footnote ix) : **7 Days**
    - (ii) Have **NOT** completed vaccination: **14 Days**
- viii Air crew members are not allowed to operate during the self-isolation period at the Designated Quarantine Hotel. Unless with the permission of an authorised officer or with reasonable excuse, air crew members must not pass any luggage or item they brought with them during immigration to any other person during self-isolation at airport hotels/designated quarantine hotels.
- ix A person is deemed to have “completed a COVID-19 vaccination course” if he/she arrives at Hong Kong on or after the 14<sup>th</sup> day after completing vaccination in manners stipulated as follows –
- (i) For both the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac vaccine) and Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine), completing the vaccination course involves receiving two doses in general, except for persons previously infected with COVID-19, who are to receive one dose of vaccine. For persons aged between 12 and 17 on the scheduled day of arrival at Hong Kong, they may be deemed to have completed the COVID-19 vaccination course on receiving one dose of the Comirnaty vaccine.
  - (ii) For individuals who received COVID-19 vaccines in places outside of Hong Kong and have received the recommended doses as stipulated in relevant guidelines, they will also be regarded to have completed the vaccination course of the relevant COVID-19 vaccine subject to the vaccine used being included on the list of vaccines recognised for this purpose as published on the Government’s COVID-19 thematic website.



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The 14<sup>th</sup> day after a person has completed a COVID-19 vaccination course is counted by taking the next day after the person received all of the recommended dose(s) of COVID-19 vaccine as the 1<sup>st</sup> day. For example, for a person who has not been infected with COVID-19 previously and received the last recommended dose of COVID-19 vaccine on 16 May 2021, the “1<sup>st</sup> day” would be 17 May 2021 and the “14<sup>th</sup> day” would be 30 May 2021.

For those who arrive at Hong Kong after they have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course, they must provide the documentary proof of vaccination in accordance with the relevant criteria as published on the Government’s COVID-19 thematic website, showing the relevant person has received COVID-19 vaccine and the date on which the last dose was administered.

For those who arrive at Hong Kong who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course, the airline should check the vaccination record of the crew members and declare on a letter of certification that the crew members concerned have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course 14 days before their duty flight and that the COVID-19 vaccine used must be included on the list of vaccines recognised for this purpose as published on the Government’s COVID-19 thematic website.

- <sup>x</sup> Means either the Headland Hotel or the Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel.
- <sup>xi</sup> For the “List of Specified Places For Enhanced Quarantine & Surveillance Measures on Omicron Variant” (i.e. “the List”), please refer to: [https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List\\_of\\_specified\\_places\\_for\\_enhanced\\_measures\\_Omicron.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_specified_places_for_enhanced_measures_Omicron.pdf)).

For fully-vaccinated<sup>ix</sup> local-based air crew with a travel history to South Africa which is **on the List and was originally on Group A right before it was specified on the List**, they will **NOT** be counted as having stayed in a place specified on the List and will **NOT** be subject to Clause 6(a) and Clause 13(a), **so long as they have NOT stayed in (i) South Africa after the effective date on which South Africa was specified on the List and (ii) any other places specified in this Footnote.**

For fully-vaccinated<sup>ix</sup> local-based air crew with a travel history to Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe which are **on the List and were originally on Group B right before they were specified on the List**, they will be treated as having stayed in a Group B specified place, will **NOT** be counted as having stayed in a place specified on the List nor a Group A specified place and will **NOT** be subject to Clause 6(a) and Clause 13(a), **so long as they have NOT stayed in (i) Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe after the effective date on which they were specified on the List, (ii) any other places specified in this Footnote and (iii) any other Group A<sup>v</sup> specified places.**

- <sup>xii</sup> Cargo crew<sup>xiii</sup> who have served on an all-cargo flight and have laid over in Anchorage, Alaska of the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and/or Thailand are not subject to the self-isolation requirement upon arrival in Hong Kong before entering the local community on an exceptional basis for ensuring the essential air cargo and airline operations in and out of Hong Kong. Airlines have to ensure the air crew concerned will be segregated from the local community of the port(s) concerned in strict adherence to the requirements specified in Clause 1. The airline should declare on a letter of certification that the crew member concerned has been segregated from the local community of the port(s) concerned

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during stopover throughout and has not stayed in any place other than the port(s) concerned during the 14 days before arrival. The air crew concerned are subject to the “Test and Hold” arrangement under Clause 3, post-arrival testing under Clauses 5-9, point-to-point transportation requirement under Clause 10 and medical surveillance under Clauses 17-19 upon arrival in Hong Kong.

- xiii Including crew serving on passenger aircraft for carrying cargo only.
- xiv For example, hotels may consider providing air crew with one-time access to their rooms which is similar to the arrangement by some hotels for guests who are under quarantine.
- xv The medical surveillance period for air crew members (including those crew who have not stayed in the port(s) concerned as defined at Footnote i) having stayed in respective specified places under Cap. 599A of China during the 21 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong are detailed below:
  - (a) Group A specified places: **21 Days**
  - (b) Group B specified places or Taiwan, China: **21 days**
  - (c) Group C specified places:
    - (i) Completed vaccination (Footnote ix) : **14 Days**
    - (ii) Have **NOT** completed vaccination: **21 Days**
  - (d) Mainland or Macau: **14 days**

## **Air Crew COVID-19 Repatriation and Medical Evacuation Protocol**

### **Applicable to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

(as at August 2021)

This document outlines the protocols in place in the event an air carrier chooses the repatriation or evacuation of its crew members affected by COVID-19 from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to their home country. It is the responsibility of the air carrier and the relevant Consulate General to work closely with the HKSAR Government and fully observe the applicable laws and regulations of the HKSAR for the repatriation/evacuation to be successfully carried out.

#### **Applicable HKSAR Laws and Regulations**

1. Overseas air crew members are exempted from mandatory quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) so long as they comply with the following conditions as set out in **Annex**.
2. In the event a crew member tests positive for COVID-19, he/she will be notified by the Department of Health and be isolated and treated at a public hospital in Hong Kong.
3. In the event a crew member is identified as close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 patient, he/she will be notified by Department of Health and be quarantined at a designated quarantine centre for 14 days. If the crew member develops symptoms within the quarantine period, he/she will be isolated and treated at a public hospital in Hong Kong.

#### **Procedures for Repatriating Asymptomatic Close Contacts**

4. If an air carrier elects to repatriate close contact crew members to their home country, the following procedures will be relevant:
  - (a) Close contact crew members are not allowed to operate or position on passenger flights. Air carrier will either charter a private aircraft, or position on an outbound non-passenger flight (cargo, or a canceled passenger flight) to repatriate close contact crew members. Air carrier will choose the method of crew member repatriation that will ensure social distancing and hygiene measures being employed upon any aircraft used during crew member repatriation. Air carrier will obtain clearance from HKSAR Government of the repatriation arrangements via the relevant Consulate General.
  - (b) Upon notification of their close contact designation, crew members will continue to undergo strict quarantine in their designated quarantined facilities while awaiting their repatriation flight, and will comply with local laws.
  - (c) Prior to transport, close contact crew members should be screened for fever (temperature  $\geq 100.4$  F ( $\geq 38.0$  C) and other symptoms of COVID-19. Symptomatic close contacts should be assumed to be potentially infectious and transported by medical evacuation as describe below.

- (d) Departure arrangement will be contactless, and crewmembers will not have any contact with personnel without appropriate PPE. To minimize contact with other personnel, the HKSAR Government will work closely with the relevant Consulate General to grant close contact crew members pre-approved customs, immigration and health clearance to facilitate their departure.
- (e) Air carrier will arrange for a private vehicle to transfer close contact crew members to the airport. The vehicle driver will be physically separated from the close contact crew members by a plastic divider or other appropriate barrier and will wear the necessary and appropriate PPE. The vehicle will only transport the close contact crew members and their luggage. The vehicle along with the barrier should be properly cleaned and disinfected afterwards. Close contact crew members will wear surgical masks. To the extent possible, close contact crew members should remain socially distanced from one another during transport.
- (f) At the airport, immigration and customs procedures will be conducted for close contact crew members. Immigration clearance will be conducted in accordance with the Immigration Ordinance and facilitated with reference to the health protocols advised by the Department of Health, and facilitation at the Hong Kong International Airport will also be given with reference to this protocol.
- (g) While aboard the repatriation flight, close contact crew members will not have contact with the operating crew aboard the flight unless necessary for aircraft safety procedures, and will wear surgical masks during the flight. Crew members operating the aircraft will be informed of the potential risk of exposure and have access to sufficient PPE in the event that close proximity to a close contact crew member is needed. To the extent possible, close contact crew members should remain socially distanced from one another during the flight. The close contact crew members should be reminded to put on surgical mask at all time during flight except during meal, be provided pocket size 70-80% alcohol-based hand rub and practice hand hygiene frequently. Stagger meal time if needed. Offer catering and drink in single-serve packages or boxes.
- (h) If any close contact crew member tests positive for COVID-19 after arrival at home country, the air carrier will notify the HKSAR Government.

#### Medical Evacuation of Crewmembers

5. If a crew member tests positive for COVID-19, or a close contact crew member becomes symptomatic, and elects medical evacuation to the home country, subject to medical assessment by the attending physician at the public hospital where the crew member is treated, the air carrier could arrange for a medical evacuation service provider, in coordination with the HKSAR Government and the relevant Consulate General, to evacuate the crew member to his/her home country.
  - (a) Air carriers may contract International SOS, AirMed, MedAire, or another medical evacuation service provider accredited by organizations and accepted by the relevant governments, that have already successfully conducted evacuations of COVID-19 patients.

- (b) Subject to medical assessment by the attending physician of the hospital where the crew member is treated, crew member with COVID-19 will be transported from the hospital by a private ambulance to be arranged by the carrier with precautions to protect the driver in place as described in 4(e) above. The crew member must strictly observe hand hygiene and put on a surgical mask during the journey. All escorting staff, if any, must wear appropriate PPE. The vehicle should be properly cleaned and disinfected afterwards.
- (c) The medical evacuation service provider will take charge of the crew member once he/she is on board the medical evacuation aircraft.

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