

High Commission of India Ottawa

Advisory for Indian Students travelling to Canada through third country locations

The Government of Canada has imposed a unilateral ban on direct commercial passenger flights from India to Canada. This ban has been repeatedly extended and presently remains in effect till September 21, 2021. Government of Canada also put in a requirement for travellers from India to obtain a negative COVID-19 molecular test from a third country, i.e., other than India, before the traveller is allowed to enter into Canada.

- 2. This has caused great inconvenience to travellers from India to Canada, especially Indian students.
- 3. Some Indian students have used an indirect route, through a third country, by obtaining negative COVID-19 molecular test in a place outside India to travel to Canada. However, there have been a number of reports about Indian students travelling through such routes facing difficulties and being stranded in various locations.
- 4. In view of the above, Indian students travelling to Canada via third country destinations are advised to;
 - (i) Obtain and familiarize themselves with the latest travel requirements, including all health security requirements, enforced by the Canadian authorities by visiting official Government of Canada websites.
 - (ii) Familiarize themselves with the requirements of all airlines involved.
 - (iii) Ensure that they have all the required travel documents and travel approvals from Canadian government authorities before embarking on the journey.

Travellers must ensure that their visa approvals, travel approvals and medical clearances are up to date and uploaded on the Canadian government portal before embarking on such journeys.

- (iv) Not undertake the journey if they do not have confirmed flight tickets for onward travel to Canada from third country destination.
- (v) Be prepared for quarantine regimes in third countries. Travellers who test positive for COVID-19 at third country destinations may not be able to travel further and may be subject to local health protocols.
- 5. All travellers are advised to exercise prudence, ensure that all their documents are complete in all respect, including on the Canadian government portal, and have confirmed tickets for the entire journey.
- 6. The High Commission of India in Ottawa continues to liaise with Canadian authorities to ensure transparent travel requirements for Indians travelling to Canada.

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