



China COVID-19 Travel Update - March 15, 2021

The Chinese Embassies in America, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Philippines, Israel, and Gabon has announced new visa facilitation for applicants who have received the Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccines. The policy applies to the following applicants:

1. Visitors entering China for the purpose of work, business, visit, etc. can prepare documents and visa application mentioned before the pandemic.
2. Visitors for urgent humanitarian needs (like family reunion) can apply for China Visa.
3. Holders of APEC Business Travel Card can apply for a Chinese Business Visa (M Visa) with valid APEC Business Travel Card, invitation letter from Chinese company, and other supporting materials.

You can contact local Chinese Embassy or Chinese Visa Application Service Center for detailed application guide and procedure helps.

Updated News about the “Vaccine Passport”

1. China has issued International Travel Health Certificate to facilitate the returning to China and outbound travel of Chinese citizens on March 8, 2021. Related application needs to be submitted through an applet of WeChat.
2. The European Commission has announced a Digital Green Certificate (i.e. Vaccine Passport) on March 17, 2021 to offer safe free movement between member states. The proposal is scheduled to implement in June to promote summer travel. Besides, ASEAN and many countries also propose to start the Vaccine Passport to resume cross-border travel as soon as possible.

Previous updates continue below.

China International Restrictions:

Commercial flights are operating to and from China. International airlines may only maintain one route to China, operating one flight per week.

*Entry rules in response to coronavirus (COVID-19). *Entry and transit: You will need a valid visa to enter China. The Chinese Visa Application Centres in London and Belfast are closed until further notice. The Application centres in Manchester and Edinburgh will be closed from 27 December until further notice. The Chinese authorities have suspended all direct flights from the UK. This measure will be subject to review but no date has been announced. Restrictions on travel to China from other countries, and the necessary requirements, may be different. British nationals travelling to China from a third country should follow the directions on the website of the local Chinese Embassy or consulate for requirements from that country.

On 4 November the Chinese Embassy in the UK announced the temporary suspension of entry into China by non-Chinese nationals in the UK holding Chinese visas or residence permits. Entry by holders of diplomatic, service, courtesy or C visas would not be affected. Foreign nationals visiting China for emergencies can still apply for visas at Chinese Embassies or Consulates and entry by non-Chinese nationals in the UK with visas issued after 3 November 2020 will not be affected. If you're issued a visa to travel from the UK to China in these circumstances you will need to submit a Health Declaration Form to your nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate in the UK before you travel, who will need to certify your form and return it to you via email. The Chinese Embassy announcement of 4 November stated the Chinese Embassy and Consulates have suspended issuing Certified Health Declaration forms for non-Chinese nationals in the UK holding visas or residence permits. More details, including the process for submitting forms for those still eligible, can be found on the Chinese Embassy website.

In order to receive a Health Declaration Form from the Chinese Embassy you must provide evidence of negative nucleic acid and IgM antibody tests for COVID-19 taken no more than 48 hours before you travel.

Reports of both your nucleic acid (COVID-19) and IgM (antibody) tests must come from the same service provider. This does not mean the provider must carry out both tests, but that the provider must guarantee both test reports. You should arrange to take a private test.

A limited number of international flights from other countries are flying into Beijing. Other international passenger flights to Beijing continue to be diverted to 16 designated airports in Chengdu, Changsha, Hefei, Lanzhou, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Taiyuan, Hohhot, Jinan, Qingdao, Nanjing, Shenyang, Dalian, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and Wuhan. A small number of international flights are also operating direct between European cities and Shanghai, Guangzhou and Qingdao.

***Health checks on arrival:** All overseas passenger arrivals are subject to health checks on arrival (likely involving nucleic acid or swab tests). Those failing health checks may be sent to a designated hospital for treatment. Health regulations surrounding passengers arriving from overseas are continuously changing. You should contact the Chinese Embassy in your country before you travel if you have any questions regarding these entry requirements, quarantine rules or the requirements for individual cities.

***Quarantine requirements:** Following health checks on arrival, you will then need to enter quarantine for at least 14 days. At some points of entry children 14 and over will be required to quarantine alone irrespective of whether they test positive or negative for COVID.

You will be separated from your child if one of you tests positive for coronavirus. If this happens to you, you can call +86 (0)10 8529 6600 for 24/7 urgent consular assistance. Non-residents may be charged for their care. For further information on healthcare in China, please see the Coronavirus section.

Quarantine is usually spent at either a centralized government hotel (with costs covered by the traveler) or your home. Quarantine requirements can change at short notice and may differ from province to province.

Follow-up swab tests are likely to take place during your quarantine period. Family members of someone who tests positive, or those who have been in close contact, will need to go into a government quarantine hospital.

For all quarantine arrangements in China:

- unless directed by the authorities you're not allowed to leave your designated quarantine location for 14 days. This means you're also unable to leave China for the duration of the quarantine
- depending on the quarantine location, facilities may be basic: there may be no fridge, no air-conditioning, and limited or no internet/wifi
- during your stay you will be responsible for cleaning the room
- if meals are not available at the quarantine location, you will need to arrange food orders for delivery from outside
- larger sized families with two parents may be separated into 2 rooms.
- if you're on prescription medication make sure you bring enough with you to last for at least 3-4 weeks together with medical documents certifying that you need to take this medication. See [Health](#) for further information.

Failure to comply with the quarantine conditions or testing put in place, or any attempts to deliberately conceal health conditions can result in being sentenced to up to three years in prison. This applies to both Chinese and foreign nationals.