COVID-19 Tests Required for Air Travelers to the U.S. Beginning January 26

On January 12, 2021, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) issued an order [1] requiring all air passengers arriving in the US from a foreign country to be tested no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to provide proof of the negative result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. This order will go into effect on January 26, 2021, and the CDC has posted an FAQ page [2] which explains the new requirement.

This new requirement is in addition to the existing physical presence bans [3] limiting travel from certain countries. Students from Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, and Ireland can still enter the United States with proof of a negative COVID-19 test if they are F-1 students or J-1 students who have obtained a national interest exception (NIE).

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