

Covid-19 tests for pupils returning home to Hong Kong

Many members are being asked by parents and guardians for help with Covid-19 testing for pupils returning to Hong Kong for the Christmas holidays. Please note that the NHS test report does **not** meet the Hong Kong entry requirements and will not be accepted.

The laboratory or healthcare institution providing the Covid-19 test needs to be accredited by UKAS <https://www.ukas.com/news/first-accreditations-for-covid-19-testing/> or ISO 15189 <https://www.hongkongairport.com/en/COVID19.page>

A certificate or a letter from the laboratory to say that they are a UKAS accredited provider or that the test is ISO15189 compliant must be carried by the pupil even if the test report contains an ISO accreditation reference. The test report must give the name of the pupil in identical format to that of the passport, state that the pupil undertook a nucleic acid test (also known as PCR, RT-PCR, NAAT, CBNAAT, LAMP) for Covid-19 within 72 hours of flight departure and that the result was negative. Please note that Antigen tests and Antibody tests will **not** be accepted.

Home tests are acceptable as long as they are sent off to an approved laboratory, as defined above. So tests could be carried out by your school nurses and then sent to such an approved laboratory. The test involves taking two swabs from the nose and the throat within 72 hours before the scheduled aircraft departure time. If there is a schedule change or cancellation, passengers are responsible for ensuring that their COVID-19 test meets the 72-hour requirement based on the new flight departure time. It is advisable for pupils not to book a flight for a Monday or a Tuesday, due to laboratory turnaround times.

We advise that pupils book a direct flight from the UK to Hong Kong to avoid any possible differences in test regimes in the transit country.

Pupils will also need confirmation in English or Chinese of a Hong Kong hotel room booking for not less than 14 days, starting on the day of their arrival in Hong Kong. There are further specific rules around hotel rooms, but parents will be familiar with these.

When the test report is received from the laboratory (24 - 48 hours before departure), the pupil should download the report onto their phone, fill in the Health and Quarantine Information Declaration and download the QR code <https://www.chp.gov.hk/hdf/> The QR code is valid for 48 hours.

The test report, certificate or letter, QR code and hotel reservation confirmation will need to be shown during check-in.

When pupils arrive in Hong Kong, they will have to undergo another medical test for COVID-19 at the Department of Health Temporary Specimen Collection Centre, prior to clearing immigration and baggage collection, and then wait for their test results.

Whilst we are unable to recommend individual test providers, there are companies offering help listed on the BSA Covid Supplier list on our website <https://www.boarding.org.uk/500/safeguarding/-covid-19/covid-supplier-list>

We urge members to get parents or guardians to check requirements with specific airline companies before booking flights and also to keep updated by checking on

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/hong-kong/entry-requirements> and
<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html>