

Travel & Quarantine Requirements

Latest update: October 7, 2021

Following ongoing changes to travel restrictions, quarantine duration/locations and testing requirements, the below attempts to summarize the current situation. The situation is dynamic and people should always refer to the relevant authorities for the most up to date advice.

Please note the following:

- Tawakkalna is the main app used in Kingdom for COVID-19 status and should be used as a point of reference of an individual's COVID-19 status whilst in Kingdom
- Only four vaccine brands are approved and accepted in Saudi Arabia:
 - Pfizer
 - AstraZeneca
 - Moderna
 - Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)

Any other vaccine is not currently recognized in Kingdom and therefore anyone vaccinated with a non-approved vaccine will be counted as not having immunity.

- Any individual who has been fully vaccinated with one of the vaccines approved by WHO (e.g. received two doses of Sinopharm or Sinovac) can be deemed immune after receiving a single dose of one of the four Kingdom approved vaccine.
- To be **considered immune in Saudi Arabia as a citizen**, the Tawakkalna app status must appear as "Immune" (fully, by one dose, by recovery or exempt). **Residents and visitors are considered immune for travel purposes** only as a result of one of the following:
 - Fully vaccinated with a Kingdom-approved vaccine
 - Fully vaccinated with one of the vaccines approved by WHO and received a booster dose of one of the vaccines approved in the Kingdom. Proof of vaccination must be submitted to MOH
- Please note that current requirement in KAUST for everyone aged 12 years and over to be fully vaccinated – either two doses of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna or a single dose of J&J.

September 23 - Current travel restrictions

Saudi citizens are suspended from **travelling to** the following countries:

Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Belarus, India, Vietnam, Republic of Indonesia

Exception applies to Saudi citizens for travel to join their non-Saudi spouses.

Saudi Arabia also has a banned travel list for **entry into** the Kingdom:

Indonesia, Pakistan, Brazil, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, India, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Vietnam

Those traveling from (or transiting through) any of these countries will have to spend 14 days in a different, non-restricted country before traveling back to the Kingdom.

Exceptions allowing direct entry from the restricted countries are:

- Saudi citizens including families and domestic helpers
- Residents who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the Kingdom before leaving the Kingdom to the restricted countries

For a current list of restricted countries please click [here](#)

Travel quarantine requirements

Conditions for travel quarantine:

- Institutional quarantine – 5 days at a government-designated facility with PCR tests on day 1 and day 5, exit on the negative result from the second test. PCR test is for those aged 8 and older. If at KAUST facility, the second PCR test is on day 4
- Home quarantine – 48 hours at a home residence with a PCR test within this time frame, exit on the negative result. PCR test is for those aged 8 and older.

[Saudi Citizens including families and domestic helpers](#)

If traveling directly from Ethiopia, Vietnam or Afghanistan, institutional quarantine applies. For all other cases:

Immune

- No procedures applied
- You must be able to prove your immune status on the Tawakkalna app

Not immune

- Home quarantine

Residents

Direct return travel from restricted countries is currently prohibited. A minimum of 14 days must be spent in a different location before returning to the Kingdom. Those who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the Kingdom before leaving the Kingdom to the restricted countries are allowed direct entry.

If traveling directly from Ethiopia, Vietnam or Afghanistan, institutional quarantine applies.

Immune

- Returning from any country (except the restricted countries), no quarantine or PCR test is required
- Unvaccinated dependents of vaccinated residents who are under the age of 18 are required to home quarantine, according to the Kingdom requirement
- You must be able to prove your immune status on the Tawakkalna app
- Residents must register their vaccine status on the Weqaya website <https://muqem.sa/#/vaccine-registration/home>

Not immune

- Returning from any country (except the restricted countries) will require institutional quarantine
- Unvaccinated residents under the age of 18 require institutional quarantine unless they are accompanied by vaccinated parents/guardians in which case they are required to home quarantine, according to the Kingdom requirement
- Residents must register their status on the Weqaya website <https://muqem.sa/#/vaccine-registration/home>

Visitors

Direct travel from the restricted countries to Saudi Arabia is currently prohibited. A minimum of 14 days must be spent in a different location before traveling to the Kingdom.

Immune

- Traveling from any country (except the restricted countries), no quarantine or PCR test is required

- Visitors must register their vaccine status on the Weqaya website <https://muqem.sa/#/vaccine-registration/home>

Not immune or incomplete vaccination

- Visitors from any country (except the restricted countries), will require institutional quarantine
- If accompanied by vaccinated parents/guardians, unvaccinated visitors under the age of 18 are required to home quarantine
- Visitors must register their status on the Weqaya website <https://muqem.sa/#/vaccine-registration/home>

Recommended travel documents

With international travel opening up, airlines and/or destinations will likely require travelers to produce evidence of their vaccine status before flying and/or upon arrival. We recommend printing a paper copy and taking screenshots of the following documents, as available, for each person travelling:

1. **Pre-departure PCR test** – many airlines and countries require a PCR test within 48-72 hours of departure. It is advised to have a hard copy of the PCR results with you as this may be checked prior to travel.
2. **Sehhaty app vaccine certificate** – If you received your vaccine in Kingdom, you have access via the Sehhaty app to a medical report, which you can download for travel as proof of vaccination. The report includes the vaccine batch number, brand and dates of both 1st and 2nd doses as applicable.
3. **Tawakkalna app** - Tawakkalna is the main app used in Kingdom to show evidence of an individual's COVID-19 vaccine status. Before you board your plane, airlines may ask to see your status on Tawakkalna. The app is now accessible in 75 countries outside the Kingdom.
4. Please also remember to keep a printed copy of your National ID/Iqama with you as well.

Important to know:

- If you have received both doses of a Kingdom approved two dose vaccine or one dose the Janssen vaccine outside the Kingdom, you can update this information in the MOH system. You can do this via <https://eservices.moh.gov.sa/CoronaVaccineRegistration>. Please follow the instructions on the link and upload the relevant information. Once this information has been received and authenticated by MOH and updated in their systems, your Tawakkalna app will be updated to the green status as 'immune'.

The situation is dynamic, so you should always check with your airline and relevant government authorities before and during travel for the latest travel and quarantine information.

Before arriving back in KSA – for vaccinated/unvaccinated residents and visitors

To speed up immigration procedures after arrival at airports/entry ports in the Kingdom, **you are required to fill in a registration form 72 hours before your departure to the Kingdom.** The form can be found here: <https://muqem.sa/#/vaccine-registration/home>

Registration for vaccinated residents:

1. Your vaccination status in Tawakkalna should be one of the following:
 - Immune – Completed COVID-19 vaccine doses
2. Fill out the registration form by no later than 72 hours before your departure to the Kingdom
3. Acknowledgment of the accuracy of the information will be verified upon issuance of your boarding pass and at entry points. Failure to comply with these

requirements might result in preventing entry to the Kingdom and legal consequences

4. Residents under the age of 18 should be registered as a dependent for the requester
5. Residents with domestic professions are not required to register if they are entering the Kingdom with their employer

How to update your status in Tawakkalna:

- If you have received both doses of a Kingdom approved two dose vaccine or one dose the Janssen vaccine outside the Kingdom, you can update this information in the MOH system. You can do this via <https://eservices.moh.gov.sa/CoronaVaccineRegistration>. Please follow the instructions on the link and upload the relevant information. Once this information has been received and authenticated by MOH and updated in their systems, your Tawakkalna app will be updated to the green status as 'immune'.

There may be some delay in Tawakkalna updating its status or you may be rejected in the first instance. Please continue trying to following the above processes.

Overall quarantine requirements

Positive cases

- Quarantine for 10 days from date of positive swab
- No PCR test required on exit from quarantine
- Medical team to call and advise of exit on day 10 - after reviewing symptoms
- Exit quarantine at 12 am on the day after the last date in quarantine

Contact tracing

Household contacts:

- *Fully immunized* household contacts do not need to quarantine but will require a swab test

- *Non immunized* household contacts would need to quarantine for 7 days from the last date of contact with the positive case and will require a swab test

Non household contacts:

- *Fully immunized* non-household contacts are not considered as close contacts and hence do not require to quarantine or have a swab done.
- *Non immunized* non-household contacts would need to quarantine for 7 days from the last date of contact with the positive case and will require a swab test

Additional Details:

- All direct contacts with symptoms, irrespective of the immunization status, would need to be assessed by a DR in ER and managed accordingly. Typical COVID symptoms are fever or history of fever, new cough, shortness of breath or loss of taste or smell.
- **Define fully immunized:** Individuals who have had 2 doses of their COVID vaccine, the last dose being more than 2 weeks ago.
- Those who have had no vaccine, one dose of the vaccine or 2 doses but last one being within the last 14 days are considered non immunized.
- All those requiring a swab test will be contacted by the KH Medical team.
- Another swab and extension of quarantine may be required if anyone develops COVID-like symptoms during quarantine
- No PCR test on exit KH medical team will advise you by email about your last date IN quarantine
- Exit quarantine at 12 am on the day after the last date in quarantine

Travel return - self managed, details below

- Fully vaccinated with KSA approved vaccines-no PCR/Quarantine required
- For those unvaccinated children (who are accompanied by parents who are fully vaccinated with KSA approved vaccines):
 - **Over 8 years old:** Quarantine for 48 hours and have a PCR test* within this time frame
 - **Under 8 years old:** Quarantine for 48 hours-no PCR test necessary

Notes for travel return:

- Day 1 is considered your day of arrival-regardless of arrival time into the Kingdom
- Quarantine will end (for those over 8) after a negative PCR test result is received
- *To book your PCR test please use this link: https://kaustforms.formstack.com/forms/pcr_for_travel

- Results do not need to be shared, once negative you are automatically out of quarantine. If you have a positive result please contact KH on 808-4444 or email QS on quarantinesupport@kaust.edu.sa

What is Quarantine? Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from KAUST Health and Governmental bodies.

KAUST has successfully observed quarantine restrictions since February 2020 and it has formed a key component of the COVID-19 mitigation measures that have been implemented.

Anyone in quarantine as a result of being positive or contact tracing will be advised the duration of their quarantine and when it is okay for them to exit. Anyone in quarantine having returned from international travel should follow the appropriate duration as advertised by authorities.

Whilst in quarantine, individuals must observe all Keeping KAUST Safe quarantine rules:

- Those who are positive with COVID-19, been contact traced or returned from international travel and are home quarantining will need to observe all quarantine guidelines
 - if only one individual in a household has been told to quarantine, then only that individual will need to be in quarantine and not the whole household, unless that individual is positive with COVID-19 or advised otherwise by the medical team
- The quarantined individual must remain at home until the quarantine period ends (no exceptions will be given except for medical care), this includes travelling out of KAUST
- Any household with a quarantined individual must not host any guests for the duration of that quarantine period
- There is currently no exit swab to leave quarantine. Once your quarantine days are completed you may exit the property

- However, if you or a quarantined individual have COVID-19 symptoms on your final day of quarantine, please contact KAUST Health for advice by calling 012 808 4444

Failure to adhere to the above may result in an investigation and potential sanctions.

Travel Restrictions & Quarantine

I just heard about the new travel restrictions and was due to return to Kingdom but I now need to go to another country for 14 days before returning to the Kingdom. What do I do?

- Be aware that if you are required to spend 14 days in another country before returning to KSA you will be required to have a negative PCR test result after the 14 days have been completed before you board a plane/cross a border to return.
- Please reach out to your manager and advise them of the impact of the new Saudi national travel restrictions, then begin to consider your options. If you are currently out of the Kingdom or due to travel, please do stay informed of your local and the Saudi government's announcements. It is also recommended to liaise directly with your airline company and try to make alternative travel arrangements when possible.

Other contacts:

- Human Resources – 012 (808) 2055 or email HRHelpdesk@kaust.edu.sa
- Health, Safety & Environment – visit the [website](#)
- Graduate Affairs – 012 (808) 3412 or Student Center Helpdesk: schelpdesk@kaust.edu.sa
- KAUST Health – 012 (808) 0940 or quarantinesupport@kaust.edu.sa
- Government Affairs – ga@kaust.edu.sa

What does it mean to be in quarantine?

When does day 1 of my quarantine start?

I had personal visitors arrive from out of kingdom who are completing quarantine. Does the rest of the household need to quarantine?

I am returning and need to quarantine, do I need to let anyone at KAUST know?

I have questions about my current and future travel. What should I do?

I was due to travel internationally but my flight is cancelled. What should I do about my exit re-entry visa?

PCR Testing

How do I book a PCR test?

- Book your PCR appointment at a convenient time using this [KAUST Health online form](#).
- **Please be advised that cost of your test will be 140 SAR** (inclusive of VAT) per person. Expedited tests are also available for 400 SAR. This service is provided by NoorDx to the KAUST Community
- Alternatively you can book a free test at one of the Ministry of Health COVID-19 testing centers in Jeddah via the Sehhaty App ([Android](#) / [iOS](#)).

Are all ages tested?

Tests are only required for those aged 8 and over.

What is the cost of the PCR test?

- **The cost for the test in KAUST Health is 140 SAR** (inclusive of VAT). Expedited tests are also available for 400 SAR. This service is provided by NoorDx to the KAUST Community
- The PCR fee is waived for all business travelers and new staff (and their dependents)
- Alternatively, the Kingdom offers free testing for return travelers at their various testing sites, with the MOH testing facility in Jeddah being the closest to us. To access the **MOH testing facility in Jeddah**, individuals can schedule their PCR test without charge using the Sehhaty app ([Android](#) / [iOS](#))

How do I book a PCR test in Jeddah?

What if I don't have an Iqama number to enter on the Sehhaty app?

Where is the testing location in Jeddah?

How do I find out my test results?

What if I obtain a positive result?

My flight has been cancelled. Can I get a refund for the PCR test I took at KAUST Health?

With the new announcements of the suspension of flights; all pre-departure PCR swabs that have been paid for will not be refunded from NoorDx

Due to Travel

I plan to take leave and travel within Saudi Arabia. Am I impacted by these new national travel restrictions?

Travel within the Kingdom is currently allowed and should follow the Ministry of Health travel guidelines. The COVID environment both internationally and domestically continues to evolve and if you are traveling, it is a good practice to know where to check official government sources for the most current information.

What should I do regarding business or personal travel?

Do I need to have paperwork with me when I travel?

It is advised to have a paper copy of your vaccination status with you as this might be requested before you board your plane.

SUPPORT WHILST IN QUARANTINE

- If you require support whilst in quarantine the first point of contact is the Quarantine Support Team via quarantinesupport@kaust.edu.sa. They are available between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Sunday through Thursday
- For working or studying questions please speak with either your line manager/supervisor or with HR/Graduate Affairs