



## Turks and Caicos Islands Entry Requirements

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

The TCI Assured Program is a Pre-Travel Authorization Program

The Turks and Caicos introduced new measures to manage the risks associated with the COVID 19 pandemic. From July 22nd 2020, all travelers to the Turks and Caicos Islands will be required to visit the TCI Assured Travel Authorization Portal in order to obtain a travel authorization for arrival in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

**As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, all visitors who are 16 years and over will require proof of being vaccinated to be granted entry to destination.**

The TCI Assured Travel Authorization Portal is available by clicking [here](#)

1. The portal has a link for visitors/tourists as well as residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The travel authorization form should be presented at the time of check-in to the appropriate airline.
2. Persons without an authorization slip either physical or e copy will not be able to travel to the islands.
3. Once a passenger registers at the Authorization Portal and completes the registration process as outlined, a travel authorization notification will be given to the email address registered with. Airlines will not be able to board passengers without this authorization.

We look forward to welcoming you to our 'Beautiful by Nature' Turks and Caicos Islands.

#### Pre-Arrival

#### **1. What requirements are needed prior to arrival in Turks and Caicos Islands and to obtain the pre-authorization certification?**

**The below requirements to obtain pre-authorization certification will only be in effect until the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in addition to all of the below requirements, all visitors who are 16 years and over will require proof of being vaccinated to be granted entry to destination.**

- a) A negative COVID-19 test result from an accredited laboratory, taken no more than 3 days before your schedule date of arrival to the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- b) Medical/Travel insurance that covers COVID-19 medical costs, full hospitalization, doctors' visits, prescriptions and air ambulance/medevac and quarantine. If tested positive for COVID-19 all quarantine and COVID-19 medical related costs will be at your own expense.
- c) Completed a health screening questionnaire and Travel Authorization Form.
- d) All persons should certify that they have read the privacy policy document.

Proof of all of the aforementioned should be uploaded to the TCI Assured portal which is available on <https://travelauthorisation.turksandcaicostourism.com/public/>.

## 2. Do I have to be fully vaccinated to enter the Turks and Caicos Islands?

Yes, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, all visitors over the age of 16 will need to provide proof of being fully vaccinated to be granted entry to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## 3. What does fully vaccinated mean?

By definition fully vaccinated means persons who have received received the complete series or a combination of accepted mRNA or Adenovirus vector vaccines as outlined below **AND**;

- have received your last dose at least 14 days prior to the day you enter TCI (In the case of Johnson & Johnson vaccine one dose if considered the full dose).

For **example**: If the final dose of the vaccine was taken 10-13 days prior to arrival to the destination you will not be considered fully vaccinated and will not be granted entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands.

- If arriving on 1<sup>st</sup> September the final dose of the vaccine should be taken on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

## 4. What type of vaccine is accepted in the Turks and Caicos Islands?

The below chart lists all the types of vaccines and the required doses that the Turks and Caicos Ministry of Health has approved to be granted entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Vaccine Developers	Vaccine Aliases	Doses
Pfizer/Biotech	Cormintary; BNT162b2	2
Astrazeneca	Astrazeneca, Vaxzevria, Covishield , AZ; AZD1222 (ChAdOx1)	2
Moderna	Moderna; Spikevax	2
Janssen	Janssen/Johnson and Johnson; JnJ, Ad26.COVS.S	1

- ❖ All vaccinated visitors must upload proof of their vaccination and proof of a COVID-19 negative test taken no more than 3 days of arrival to the destination on the TCI Assured Portal.

## 5. What types of 'proof of vaccination' does the Turks and Caicos accept?

Proof of vaccination accepted are in the form of:

- e-certificate/digital certificates e.g. CVS, Walgreens, NHS
- certification by Doctor or Government Entity
- vaccination cards/certificates accepted by national authorities: e.g. EU, US, UK (i.e. CDC, NHS)

- a vaccination letter signed by a medical professional (physician or registered nurse) on official letterhead with contact details -doctors registration or licensed # should be included with details of the first and second dose (date, country and vaccine you received)
- Authorized Government Entity or printed record from an electronic vaccination database

#### **6. Who is exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated?**

- Visitors under the age 16 will be exempt from providing proof of being vaccinated. The visitors in the 10-15 age group won't be exempt from providing a negative Covid-19 test.
- Visitors who are not able to take the Covid-19 vaccine due to medical reasons will be exempt from providing proof of being vaccinated. However, written and signed proof from a medical professional clearly stating that they are medically exempted from taking the vaccine must be submitted to the portal. The reason must be clearly stated and will be reviewed by the Turks and Caicos Ministry of Health. Note that these persons will not be exempt from providing a negative COVID-19 test.
- A crew member of a cargo or commercial aircraft arriving in the Islands for the purposes of his work who is expected to be on the Islands for less than twenty-four hours;
- A crew member of a cargo ship arriving in the Islands for the purposes of his work who is expected to be on the Islands for less than twenty-four hours;
- An aircraft operating for the purpose of giving medical attention, delivering medical supplies to the Islands, or airlifting a patient to or from the Islands, which crew shall be taken to include any medical personnel on the flight;
- A person offering to provide emergency aid in times of crisis;
- A person who has written permission of the Chief Medical Officer to enter the islands
- A person who disembarks from an aircraft at an airport, in-transit to or for purposes of connecting
  - All persons that are exempt must still provide proof of insurance which covers COVID19 medical cost, full cost of hospitalization, prescriptions, doctors' visits, medical evacuation and **quarantine**.

#### **7. How far in advance am I required to upload the documents?**

On the TCI Assured Portal a traveler may begin the application process 3 days prior to arrival in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Each applicant will be provided with a username and password to access the application so that it can be completed in multiple sessions. Once all of the required documents are uploaded, the application can be submitted for review. The information is then verified and a TCI Assured Travel Authorization sticker will be issued to the traveler.

#### **8. What type of COVID-19 test is required prior to arrival in the Turks and Caicos Islands?**

The accepted test types are as follows:

- A Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (RT-PCR)
- A Nucleic Acid Amplification test (NAA)
- An RNA or molecular test

- An Antigen test completed via nasopharyngeal swab

The official documentation of the laboratory that conducted the COVID-19 test should state:

- Name of individual tested (must be same on application and lab test result)
- Date of birth of individual tested (must be same on application and lab test result)
- Name and contact details of testing laboratory
- Indication of laboratory credentials (CLIA, ISO 15189)
- Date and time of sample collection
- Type of test
- Type of sample
- Test result

**Note:**

Only results from oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal samples will be accepted for PCR tests

Only results from nasopharyngeal samples will be accepted for Antigen tests

- ❖ **Antibody** tests will **NOT** be accepted
- ❖ Results from **home-based test kits will NOT** be accepted

**9. How long is the COVID-19 test valid?**

The date of the sample collection must be within 3 days (72 hours) of the travel date, after the 3 day period the test will no longer be valid.

**10. Can I board without the pre-travel authorization?**

No, you must have a valid authorization to board.

**11. Do all travelers need pre-travel authorization?**

Yes. Every passenger regardless of age, must have a valid TCI Assured Travel Authorization to board a flight to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

**12. Who is exempt from the requirement to have a negative COVID-19 pretest?**

The following persons are exempt:

- (a) a crew member of a cargo or commercial aircraft arriving in the Islands for the purposes of his work who is expected to be on the Islands for less than twenty-four hours;
- (b) a crew member of a cargo ship arriving in the Islands for the purposes of his work who is expected to be on the Islands for less than twenty-four hours;
- (c) children under the age of ten years;

(d) an aircraft operating for the purpose of giving medical attention, delivering medical supplies to the Islands, or airlifting a patient to or from the Islands, which crew shall be taken to include any medical personnel on the flight;

(e) a person offering to provide emergency aid in times of crisis;

(f) a person who has written permission of the Chief Medical Officer to enter the islands; and

(g) a person who disembarks from an aircraft at an airport, in-transit to or for purposes of connecting

- All persons that are exempt must still provide proof of insurance which covers COVID19 medical cost, full cost of hospitalization, prescriptions, doctors' visits, medical evacuation and **quarantine**.

Effective May 1st 2021 Returning Residents who are fully vaccinated, will not be required to upload a COVID 19 PCR negative test result to the TCI Assured Portal.

To benefit from this waiver of the protocol, returning residents will need to have:

1. Taken the COVID 19 vaccination in the Turks and Caicos Islands
2. Taken both shots of the vaccine (Fully vaccinated)
3. Have taken the vaccine over two weeks prior to travel
4. Have had their name on the TCI register of persons who were vaccinated in the TCI.

### **13. Does the TCI Government recommend a specific travel/medical insurance company?**

We recommend purchasing, or inquiring about the addition of with your existing insurance company, coverage to include COVID-19 medical costs, full hospitalization, doctors' visits, prescriptions and air ambulance/medevac.

If tested positive for COVID-19 all **quarantine** and COVID-19 medical related costs will be at your **own expense**.

### On-Arrival

#### **14. Will I be screened upon arrival at the airport?**

All travelers may be subject to screening and temperature checks upon arrival which may result in further clinical examination.

Travelers will be required to answer questions about his health or other relevant circumstances (including travel history and information about other individuals with whom he may have had contact)

Produce copies of any documents that may assist a health officer or nurse in assessing his health.

Allow a health officer or nurse to take a biological sample including a sample of his respiratory secretions or blood, by appropriate means including by swabbing his nasopharyngeal cavity or phlebotomy to provide such sample.

Provide sufficient information to enable the person to be contacted immediately by a health officer or nurse as specified in order to reduce or remove the risk of a person infecting or contaminating others.

Present hard copies of Insurance, proof of vaccination and COVID-19 negative test results.

#### **15. What is the procedure upon arrival?**

Upon arrival at the airport, visitors can expect to present their valid passport, a copy of their proof of vaccination, a copy of their TCI Assured Travel Authorization (printed or electronic) and the original copy of the negative PCR COVID-19 test result to a health officer and an immigration officer at the port of entry. Travelers will also be required to complete and submit to a health officer at the port of entry, a health screening questionnaire for COVID-19. All government personnel will be wearing personal protective equipment. All visitors must wear masks/face coverings on arrival and observe the protocol of the particular airlines.

Where a child and is accompanied by a responsible adult, the responsible adult will ensure that the child answers questions. If the child is unable to do so reliably the adult shall produce any documents that are required on behalf of the child and allow a health officer or nurse to take a biological sample of the child if necessary. This includes a sample of the child's respiratory secretions or blood by any appropriate means such as swabbing the child's nasopharyngeal cavity or phlebotomy to provide the required sample.

#### **16. What protocols are expected at the airport?**

Physical distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained while in the airport and all travelers, except for children under the age of two years, must wear masks/face coverings. Departure Lounge seating is to be occupied, only as designated. All persons entering the Security Screening Area and airport restaurants must have their hands sanitized at the entrance.

Reference: Guidelines for Reopening of TCI International Ports of Entry

#### **17. What essential items should I pack for my trip?**

In addition to sunscreen and flip flops, be sure to pack hand sanitizer and masks/face coverings which are required in public spaces.

#### **18. What general guidelines should be followed during my visit?**

- a) Wearing of mask or face covering in public.

- b) Hand sanitizing.
- c) Physical distancing of at least 6 feet, unless part of a group or family, travelling together.
- d) Take only public transportation that displays the TCI Assured symbol, including car rental companies.
- e) Stay only at paid accommodations, including hotels, villas, guesthouses etc. that display the TCI Assured symbol.

Dine-in only at restaurants, cafes etc. that display the TCI Assured symbol.

**19. In the event of a health emergency, what medical facilities are available in the Turks and Caicos Islands?**

The Turks and Caicos Islands has two hospitals – The Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales and the Cockburn Town Medical Centre in Grand Turk. For more information, please visit [www.tcihospital.tc/](http://www.tcihospital.tc/).

**20. Who should I contact if I experience COVID-19 symptoms while on island?**

Please contact your accommodation health provider in the first instance. The Ministry of Health COVID-19 hotline at 649-232-9444 or 649-333-0911 can be used for further information.

**21. Am I required to wear a mask or face covering at the beach?**

When enjoying our beautiful beaches, we encourage you to wear a mask/face covering and practice physical distancing, unless travelling with family or a group of close acquaintances.

**22. What protocols are required while dining at a restaurant?**

- a) You should only dine at restaurants that display the TCI Assured Certification seal which symbolizes compliance with all COVID-19 Health Protocols.
- b) You may remove your mask/face covering once you are seated.
- c) Large groups (6 and above) must make reservations in advance.
- d) Observe place markers on the floor to maintain 6ft physical distancing
- e) Sanitize or wash your hands upon entrance to the restaurant

Reference: Protocols for Management of Restaurant and Bars during COVID-19

**23. Am I allowed to travel to the Sister Islands?**

Yes. As of July 20, 2020, travel to all Sister Islands will be unrestricted, and islands can be accessed via ferry or airplane for day trips or dual vacation.

**24. Are there travel restrictions from any countries?**

The Turks and Caicos Islands does not have any countries barred from entry.

**25. What happens if I become COVID-19 positive and have to be quarantined?**

- Any vaccinated visitor testing positive would be required to isolate at their own expense for a period of 10 days and undergo a COVID 19 mandatory test on day 7 prior to release.
- They will be required to do so with accompanying persons unless approved for medical repatriation and shall be monitored by a health officer for COVID-19 during such period.
- Where a parent or responsible adult having charge of a child under the age of ten years is required to be placed under quarantine the child shall also be required to be placed under quarantine together with the parent or responsible adult.

**26. Who is responsible for cost of treatment related to COVID-19 once a case has been confirmed as positive?**

A visitor or resident who is made subject to quarantine or hospitalization shall bear the costs of all treatment received and the costs for accommodation and board.

Departure

**27. I need a negative COVID-19 test to return to my home country, where can I get tested in Turks and Caicos?**

Please visit the following link to view the list of centers that are open and approved to provide travel-related testing and are now accepting appointments:

<https://turksandcaicostourism.com/turks-and-caicos-covid-19-testing/>.

Returning Residents

**28. Do residents need a TCI Assured travel authorization prior to their return to Turks and Caicos Islands?**

Yes, residents will be required to obtain the TCI Assured travel authorization through the portal which is available at the following link –

<https://travelauthorisation.turksandcaicostourism.com/public/>.

Residents will be required to submit the following:

1. Completed a health screening questionnaire and Travel Authorization Form
2. All persons should certify that they have read the privacy policy document.
3. All unvaccinated residents must accept and agree to a mandatory quarantine order
4. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination taken within the Turks and Caicos Islands (both shots of the vaccine must have been taken over two weeks prior to travel. You may submit the e-certificate or the NHS vaccination cards issued by the Ministry of Health in the Turks and Caicos Islands as proof of vaccination.
5. Residents who are unvaccinated must upload a negative COVID-19 test result from an accredited laboratory taken no more than 3 days before your schedule date of arrival to the Turks and Caicos Islands. All unvaccinated residents returning to TCI will be required to



quarantine for a period of 7 days and undergo a mandatory test (required to be negative) on day five (5) prior to being released. **Note that the quarantine period will be at your own expense.**

### **29. Are vaccinated returning residents required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test?**

Effective May 1st 2021 Returning Residents who are fully vaccinated, will not be required to upload a COVID 19 PCR negative test result to the TCI Assured Portal.

To benefit from this waiver of the protocol, returning residents will need to have:

- Taken the COVID 19 vaccination in the Turks and Caicos Islands
- Taken both shots of the vaccine (Fully vaccinated)
- Have taken the vaccine over two weeks prior to travel
- Have had their name on the TCI register of persons who were vaccinated in the TCI.

**You do not qualify for a waiver if you were vaccinated outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands or if you have been partially vaccinated (received one dose). All partially vaccinated residents will have to submit a negative pre-arrival COVID-19 test and quarantine for a period of 7 days on arrival to the destination at their own expense- including household.**

At this stage you will not need to upload a negative COVID-19 PCR test result. You will however have to upload vaccination e-certificate or the NHS vaccination cards issued by the Ministry of Health in the Turks and Caicos Islands as proof of vaccination .

All persons are required to apply to the TCI Assured Portal for approval to enter the Turks and Caicos Islands. **You CANNOT enter the Turks and Caicos Islands without a TCI Assured Certificate.**

**All other protocols remain and continue to be observed.**

### **30. Can unvaccinated returning residents be granted TCI Assured travel authorization?**

As of 1st September 2021, unvaccinated returning residents **must** accept and agree to a mandatory quarantine order to be granted TCI Assured travel authorization. They will have to submit a negative pre-arrival COVID-19 test and quarantine for a period of 7 days on arrival to the destination at their own expense. Persons will be allowed to quarantine on their home island but will be monitored by the team from the Ministry of Health.

They will also have to undergo a mandatory COVID-19 test (required to be negative) on day five of quarantine prior to being released – this is inclusive of the household.

Note that if quarantining at home the entire household will be under quarantine however you can choose to quarantine elsewhere by yourself at own expense.

### **31. What is the procedure upon my return to TCI?**

Upon arrival at the airport, residents can expect to present their valid passport, a copy of their TCI Assured Travel Authorization (printed or electronic) and the original copy of the negative PCR COVID-19 test result to a health officer and an immigration officer at the port of entry. Residents will

also be required to complete and submit to a health officer at the port of entry, a health screening questionnaire for COVID-19. All government personnel will be wearing personal protective equipment. All residents must wear masks/face coverings on arrival and observe the protocol of the particular airlines.

**32. Are residents required to have a health insurance policy to return to TCI?**

Every resident who is not a beneficiary under the National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP) who intends to travel to the Islands shall be required, at the time he is submitting the Travel Authorization Form, to also provide evidence of the person's health insurance policy that includes insurance coverage for COVID-19 medical costs; and full hospitalization, doctors' visits, prescriptions, air ambulance and quarantine.

**33. Under what circumstances will I be subject to quarantine upon arrival?**

1. All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated returning residents will be required to quarantine for a period of 7 days on arrival to the destination at their own expense. Persons will be allowed to quarantine on their home island but will be monitored by the team from the Ministry of Health.
2. A person suspected of having been exposed to, or having symptoms of, or tested positive for COVID-19 shall be placed under **quarantine** in a specified place at their **own expense** for a period of fourteen days or such longer period until that person is found to have a negative PCR COVID-19 result or unless approved for medical repatriation, and shall be monitored by a health officer for COVID-19 during such period.
3. Where a parent or responsible adult having charge of a child under the age of ten years is required to be placed under quarantine, the child shall also be required to be placed under quarantine together with the parent or responsible adult.

**A resident or visitor who is made subject to quarantine or hospitalization shall bear the costs of all treatment received and the costs for accommodation and board.**

Reference: Public and Environmental Health (COVID-19)(Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) Regulations 2020