US Will Require COVID-19 Tests For All Travelers Arriving In Or Returning To The Country

Insights

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The federal government just announced that all travelers returning to the United States soon must present a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three calendar days of departure, or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. This CDC order, announced yesterday and effective January 26, requires all airlines to confirm the negative test results or recent recovery for all passengers prior to boarding. Airlines may deny travelers that do not present the required documentation.

The Department of State advises international travelers to contact their airline for specific information about testing requirements for travelers before they are scheduled to return to the United States as airlines may adopt and modify their own specific policies to implement CDC's new rule. The CDC also currently recommends that all air travelers, including those flying within the United States, get tested one to three days before travel, and again three to five days after the trip is complete.

What does this mean for employers? Be aware of these requirements and factor them into your decision-making as you manage your global workforce. If you are requiring international travel as part of your essential business, consult with your Fisher Phillips attorney regarding best practices and any obligations that might correspond to these new requirements.

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