

5th July, 2021 / 7435

To,

Shri Amitbhai Shah
Hon'ble Union Home Minister
Government of India
New Delhi

Sub: Request to allow vaccination certificate as an option instead of RTPCR/ Rapid test reports for domestic air travelers

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

At the outset we appreciate the steps taken by your good self for the combatting the second wave of Covid - 19 and the record break vaccination programme undertaken by the Central Government.

Sir, we would like to draw your kind attention that still some of the airports ask for negative RTPCR not older than 48/72 hours, while some airports still require Rapid Antigen Test reports and some of the other airports have started allowing vaccination certificate instead of RTPCR for domestic air travel. Therefore, we find that there is no uniformity in travel guidelines across the airports of the country. Moreover, as RTPCR test takes 5-8 hours for the results, it creates unnecessary burden on the traveler, especially during emergency travel which causes various hardships to the air travelers.

Sir, as cases are declining in the country and majority of eligible people are getting vaccinated, we suggest that the mandatory requirement for RTPCR/ Rapid test should be removed for domestic air travelers as part of a uniform policy across the country and vaccination certificate should be permitted instead.

Sir, we firmly believe that making RTPCR/ Rapid test reports optional for air travel will encourage passengers to vaccinate themselves and will give a push to the government's ambitious target of achieving 100% vaccination. This will also reduce the expense of RTPCR testing. Further, this option will make the process faster and reduce queues at airports.

Natubhai Patel
President

Hemant N. Shah
Sr. Vice President

K. I. Patel
Vice President

Pathik S. Patwari
Hon. Secretary

V. P. Vaishnav
Hon. Secretary (R)

Sachin K. Patel
Hon. Treasurer



In addition, this will also provide a boost to the tourism industry which is already facing survival issues due to COVID-19.

In view of the above-mentioned points, we look forward to your positive decision in the matter.

With warm regards,

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