

MHA releases SOPs for evacuation of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to Covid-19 lockdown

1. They will travel to India by non-scheduled commercial flights to be arranged by the MoCA and naval ships to be arranged by Department of Military Affairs. Only those crew and staff who test Covid-19 negative will be allowed to operate these flights/ship
2. Priority will be given to compelling cases in distress, including migrant workers/labourers who have been laid off, short-term visa holders faced with expiry of visas, persons with medical emergency/pregnant women/elderly, those required to return to India due to death of family member and students
3. The cost of travel will be borne by the travellers
4. Before boarding, all travellers shall give an undertaking that they would undergo mandatory institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days on arrival in India
5. All travellers will also be required to give an undertaking that they are making the journey at their own risk
6. While on board the flight/ship, the health protocols will be strictly followed, including wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, etc.
7. All passengers shall be asked to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices
8. Passengers arriving through land borders will also have to undergo the same protocols
9. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately taken to a medical facility upon arrival as per health protocol
10. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective states/Union Territories. These facilities may be, as far as possible, in the district headquarters of the district to which the arriving passengers belong