



December 29, 2022

Dominic Mancini
Deputy Director
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC

Subject: Request for Emergency Review and Clearance

Dear Mr. Mancini:

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR Part 1320, *Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public*, I request that the proposed information collection project, *Requirements for Negative Pre-Departure Covid-19 Test Result or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 for all Airline or Other Aircraft Passengers Traveling to the United States from the People's Republic of China* be processed in accordance with section 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

I have determined that this information must be collected prior to the expiration of time periods established under Part 1320, and that this information is essential to the implementation of a requirement for a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of recovery for air passengers boarding flights to the United States originating from the People's Republic of China (PRC) or at *Designated Airports* if they have been in PRC in the past 10 days.

Variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continue to emerge in countries around the world. However, reduced testing and case reporting in the PRC and minimal sharing of viral genomic sequence data could delay the identification of new variants of concern if they arise. Pre-departure testing and the requirement to show a negative test result has been shown to decrease the number of infected passengers boarding airplanes, and it will help to slow the spread of the virus as we work to identify and understand any potential new variants that may emerge.

Considering the potential danger to public health posed by emerging new variants in the People's Republic of China, CDC has determined that proactive, preventative measures must be implemented now to protect the U.S. population from potential importation, transmission and spread of new COVID-19 variants into the United States. Pre-departure testing and the requirement to show a negative test result decrease the number of infected passengers boarding airplanes and is a proactive, risk-based approach that will help to slow the spread of COVID-19 as we work to identify and understand any potential new variants that may emerge.

Based on the lack of viral genomic sequence data in the People's Republic of China, this action is needed to allow U.S. public health officials the critical time needed to monitor the unprecedented surge of COVID-19 in the People's Republic of China effectively and to identify any potential variants of concern. CDC will continue to monitor the situation and be prepared to quickly adjust its approach as necessary to protect the public's health. CDC in coordination with other federal agencies will continue to monitor travel pattern and adjust its approach as needed.



CDC cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance given the fact that this is a mandated/required program, normal clearance processing time will prevent the program from being in compliance with the statute. Therefore, the ICR needs to go forward as an emergency to prevent a lapse in collection activities.

Please provide an approval/disapproval determination of this request to collect information under an emergency clearance by close of business 12/29/2022.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel B. Jernigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Daniel B. Jernigan, MD MPH
Acting Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, and
Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention