

Singapore suspends new ticket sales for quarantine-free arrivals

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Dhaka: Singapore will be suspending the sale of tickets for arriving flights under its quarantine-free travel programme for four weeks from December 23, the civil aviation authority of the country CAAS said in a press release on December 22, citing the risk from the fast-spreading new coronavirus variant Omicron.

Under the vaccinated travel lane (VTL) programme, Singapore allows quarantine-free entry for fully vaccinated travellers arriving from certain countries on designated flights. The travellers have to undergo regular testing.

About two dozen countries are listed in the programme including Australia, India, Malaysia, Britain and the United States.

But no new tickets would be issued for people arriving from any of those countries from December 23, 2021 to January 20, 2022, CAAS added.

The authority said it would also reduce the VTL quotas and ticket sales for travel after January 20. For flights, the total number of VTL tickets would be capped at 50 per cent of the previously allocated quota.

Travellers already holding tickets on VTL flights and who meet all other requirements can still travel under the programme.

Furthermore, the government urged people arriving in Singapore to minimise their social interactions, avoid large gatherings and eating out for seven-days even if their tests, which they have to take every day for the week, are negative.