

Thailand scraps second PCR test requirement for travellers

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Thailand will be easing its entry requirements further for incoming travellers by scrapping a second polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test under its quarantine-free scheme.

With the move, the island nation will be joining regional countries in relaxing its border restrictions despite a surge in Covid-19 cases.

Currently, upon arrival, travellers have to take a PCR test and stay that night in an approved hotel while waiting for the result. This is repeated on the fifth day during which they will undergo a second PCR test and another one-night stay in an approved hotel.

However, Thailand's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) announced on February 23 that from March, visitors will need to perform only a self-administered antigen test on the fifth day.

This will apply to those who register to enter the country from March 1 under the Test and Go system, also known as the kingdom's quarantine-free entry scheme.

The move will decrease costs for travellers as they will need to pre-book and pay for only one PCR test and a single night's hotel stay.

They will be required to report the result of the day five self-administered test on the government's Covid-19 app, also known as Mor Chana, which all visitors must download upon entry into Thailand.

"Should you find yourself testing positive, you will be required to note that in the app. And should you require treatment, you should contact local hospitals nearby," said the CCSA spokesman, according to reports.

Additionally, the minimum insurance coverage required to enter Thailand will also be reduced from USD 50,000 to USD 20,000, starting from March.

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