

#### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center

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## SARTTAC—COVID-19 Guidelines for In-Person Training (Revised November 2022)

The guidelines below are designed to facilitate safe and timely arrival, attendance, and departure at SARTTAC in-person training courses, with all involved expected to observe, including course participants, trainers, and administrative staff. Questions about the guidelines should be raised with the designated course administrator for the specific training course.

# 1. Arrival in India (non-Indian nationals only)

All participants should travel directly from their home country to New Delhi and return (i.e., no layovers in India will be arranged by SARTTAC). Each individual traveler will be required to follow the Government of India (GOI) Guidelines for International Arrivals (see <u>https://www.mohfw.gov.in</u>) and complete the Air Suvidha Self-Declaration Form (ASSF) and receive acknowledgement of receipt from the GOI prior to commencing travel to New Delhi (see

https://www.newdelhiairport.in/airsuvidha/apho-registration). Under current guidelines, fully vaccinated participants originating overseas travel from most countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, can enter India without a COVID-19 test prior to departure.

Travelers are expected to familiarize themselves with all entry requirements and carry printed copies of their ASSF submission (including proof of full vaccination status) and acknowledgment of receipt from the GOI. Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations will also be required by SARTTAC (see below). All airport COVID-19 protocols on arrival and departure should be strictly observed. Airport pick up and return in New Delhi will be arranged by SARTTAC (as noted in the course administrative guidelines).

### 2. Hotel in India

All participants should observe COVID-19 protocols at the course hotel, including guidelines for masking, distancing, and gathering. During lunch breaks (at the hotel), SARTTAC will ensure participants have a dedicated seating area. Any hotel protocols will be provided at check-in.

# 3. Training in SARTTAC

All participants and trainers are expected to follow COVID-19 advisories issued by the GOI and local authorities (see latest guidelines of the Delhi National Capital Region at <a href="http://health.delhigovt.nic.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit">http://health.delhigovt.nic.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit</a> health/Health/Home/Covid19/Covid+19+Relat <a href="http://health.delhigovt.nic.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit">http://health/Health/Home/Covid19/Covid+19+Relat</a> ed+HFW+Order+2022).

**Temperature checks**. Daily checks will be done on all participants, trainers, and administrative staff upon initial arrival in SARTTAC.



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**Vaccinations.** All participants and trainers will need to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to SARTTAC as part of the course registration procedure. Each traveler from abroad will also need to upload a valid vaccination certificate into the ASSF. Unfortunately, medical exemptions from vaccination will not be made by SARTTAC (all staff and trainers will be vaccinated).

## **Testing**:

- **Prior to the start of the course**, SARTTAC will not reimburse cost of COVID-19 tests, including any required by overseas travelers entering India.
- **Start of and during the course:** All course participants (foreign and Indian) and trainers, and all staff coming into the office will be subject to a rapid antigen test administered by SARTTAC at the start of the course and at the beginning of any week thereafter for multi-week training. For participants, tests will typically be administered at the course hotel before coming into SARTTAC; for trainers and staff, testing will be administered in the office before the participants' arrival. During the course, anyone who believes they have been exposed to the virus or who becomes symptomatic should inform the SARTTAC course administrator immediately. They may be subject to additional tests administered by SARTTAC and to self-isolation (see below).
- **End of the course:** At the end of the course, SARTTAC, on request, can arrange COVID-19 tests for all of those needing for international travel (as noted above, the cost will be covered by the individual traveler).

### • Positive COVID-19 test results

- Retesting and isolation: During the training period (as defined by the stipulated arrival and departure dates at the course hotel), all participants, trainers, and administrative staff will be expected to monitor their health. In the event a participant has a positive rapid antigen test result or develops signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 during the training period, they will be asked to take an RT-PCR test, which SARTTAC will arrange, and immediately self-isolate until the additional test results are known. In the event of a positive result, the testing vendor may report the result to relevant local authorities. For those participants coming from the Delhi region, home isolation should be sought; for those coming from outside the Delhi region, hotel isolation should be sought.
- Isolation costs: SARTTAC will cover selected non-medical costs arising from selfisolation, including additional nights' stay at hotel (as required), air ticket change charges, and re-testing. If a participant is required to isolate during the training



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period, SARTTAC will arrange for them to continue the course from remote, including use of a SARTTAC laptop.

- Hospitalization, medical costs, and health insurance: In the event a participant needs to be hospitalized for COVID-19 or other health reasons, SARTTAC will assist in finding suitable treatment facilities. However, SARTTAC will not be able to cover costs associated with medical treatment or hospitalization associated with COVID-19 or for other health reasons. Each participant should ensure that they have appropriate coverage through their individual health insurance provider or home agency.
- **Other mitigation measures**: SARTTAC will run air purifiers throughout training areas during the course. Touchless entry will be facilitated as best as possible. Masks, wipes, and hand sanitizer stations will also be made available.

**4. Outside activities/travel**: SARTTAC will hold no outside activities (field trips, official receptions, etc.) unless otherwise announced in the course administration guidelines. Travel into central New Delhi can be made on the Airport Metro Line (from the Aerocity Station). Participants and trainers are recommended to wear a mask and observe all health and safety protocols when using any form of transportation in New Delhi.