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**Page** : 13  
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## Centre: Let fully-vaxxed enter states sans RT-PCR

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### RLS to start Phase 1 trial of vax soon

**Pune:** The Union health ministry has finally come out with a revised set of guidelines on domestic travel, advising states to exempt fully-vaccinated travellers from the mandatory requirement of furnishing a negative RT-PCR test or RAT report on entry.

This comes even as some states are demanding negative Covid test reports on entry from travellers, irrespective of their vaccination status.

The ministry in its guidelines said the Union government had not recommended any restrictions on inter-state travel in the context of Covid-19. It said states had earlier been allowed to develop their own protocols regarding quarantine and isolation as per their assessment. "It has, however, come to notice that certain states have made negative RT-PCR test reports as a criterion for entry," the ministry observed.

The ministry said India was witnessing a declining trajectory of Covid cases after a peak during mid-May. "To facilitate inter-state travel, while observing required precautions, the guidelines for domestic travel (flight/train/ship/bus inter-state travel) have been revised so as to have a uniform protocol for domestic travel across the country," it said.

In its advisory to states and Union territories (UTs), the ministry said fully-vaccinated asymptomatic people, having the final inoculation certificate and with 15

Reliance Life Sciences (RLS), part of India's largest conglomerate, is expected to start Phase I clinical studies of its indigenous Covid-19 vaccine soon, reports **Rupali Mukherjee**. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC), which advises the drug regulator on vaccines and new drugs, reviewed the company's application and is learnt to have recommended it for approval on Thursday. A formal nod to conduct trials of the two-dose jab is expected over the next few days, sources told **TOI**.

The vaccine under development is a recombinant protein-based Covid-19 vaccine, and is expected to be launched by the first quarter 2022. The company started the development process last year, with the vaccine entering the pre-clinical stage in October.

days having lapsed since the second shot, could be exempted from the mandatory requirement of negative RT-PCR or RAT reports on entry into a state.

A health & family welfare ministry official told **TOI**, "The new travel guidelines are meant to guide the states about the uniform travel protocol but are not binding on them. They can adopt a stricter protocol if they want to."