
Executive Action Summary:

Restrictions on Travel & US Consular Operations due to COVID-19

Since the outset of the novel coronavirus and resulting COVID-19 pandemic, several US government policies now impact international travel, documentation, and transportation options. For issues related to current University policies, please continue to consult UR's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#). ISO will continue to monitor these and other immigration topics.

On October 25, 2021, President Biden issued a [Proclamation on Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (#10294). The new proclamation is intended to expand US entry eligibility for most nonimmigrant travelers, by lifting previous restrictions and setting broad health and safety protocols. A revised summary of the new implications follows. These provisions take effect on **Monday, November 8, 2021**.

Revocation of Country-Specific Suspensions and Limitation on Entry

Previously issued proclamations that limited travel from multiple regions of the world are revoked, including those that impacted travelers from China ([9984](#)), Iran ([9992](#)), and India ([10199](#)), as well as the European Schengen Area, UK & Ireland, Brazil, and South Africa ([10143](#)). Accordingly, previous guidance related to the option to permit travel for designated noncitizens under a National Interest Exception (NIE) is no longer applicable.

Note: Other proclamations that had restricted entry based on US labor markets had already been revoked or expired in winter 2021, including those that restricted immigrant visas ([10014](#)) and H, J, and L nonimmigrants ([10052](#)).

Limited Entry for Unvaccinated Nonimmigrant Travelers

The proclamation requires that “noncitizens who are nonimmigrants” are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering the US by air travel. This restriction does not apply to US citizens or immigrants, does not affect US visa issuance and should not impact entry from a land border with Canada or Mexico.

Under limited circumstances, an unvaccinated nonimmigrant traveler may be permitted to enter the US (see below). That individual is then expected to become fully vaccinated within 60 days of arriving in the United States. Exceptions are cited for travelers who intend to depart the US after a brief stay, are too young for vaccination, or have a medical condition that conflicts with vaccine recommendations, among other specified criteria. Upon admission to the US, such travelers must also agree to follow designated health and safety measures set forth by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which may include testing protocols, masking during travel, self-quarantine or isolation, etc.

Within the scope of this proclamation, specific exceptions are available to permit US entry for unvaccinated nonimmigrant travelers under medical, humanitarian, or national interest purposes. Eligible exceptions include:

- Noncitizens for whom vaccination is not appropriate, due to age, medical condition, clinical trials, etc.
- Noncitizens who are traveling with a common diplomatic visa category, the United Nations, or US Armed Forces.
- Noncitizens from a country where COVID-19 vaccination availability is limited*, provided they are entering the US with a nonimmigrant visa other than B-1/B2 tourism (* *i.e. countries with less than 10% total vaccination rates*).

The proclamation will be implemented and enforced under the standards and procedures established by the CDC.

General Restrictions on Travel & US Consular/Visa Operations

- **Visa Processing** – Based on local conditions, US Embassies and Consulates worldwide are pursuing a phased resumption of services since July 2021. Check [visa wait times](#) or [contact](#) your Consular office.
- **Canada/Mexico Land Borders** – On November 8, 2021, travel restrictions across US land borders with [Canada](#) and [Mexico](#) will allow entry for fully vaccinated travelers. Travel to attend school or work remains permissible.
- **Testing & Quarantine Requirements** – Please check for updated guidance on [New York State’s travel advisory](#).