Current Travel Guidance and Restrictions

Revocation of Regional Travel Bans & Institution of Proof of Vaccination and Negative COVID-19 Test Result

Proof of Vaccination

Pursuant to a presidential proclamation issued October 25, 2021, Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the Covid-19 Pandemic [1], the four geographic travel ban restrictions that have been effective until November 8, 2021 have all been revoked. Instead, now all noncitizens who are nonimmigrants traveling to the United States by air are required to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident and are fully vaccinated [2] and proof of vaccination [3] are acceptable to board a flight to the United States.

If you are not fully vaccinated, you might be eligible for limited exceptions [4] if you have a valid visa [excluding B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visas] and are citizen of a foreign country with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability. If you travel by air to the United States under an exception, you will be required to meet additional conditions and restrictions including vaccination within 60 days of arrival, testing and quarantine. You can learn more about the requirements for travelers who will be admitted to the U.S. based on an exception here [5].

Starting November 8, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has also announced [6] that non-citizen travelers who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and have appropriate documentation will be allowed to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals. Non-citizen travelers should be prepared to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and verbally attest to their reason for travel and COVID-19 vaccination status during a border inspection. You can find more information about entering the U.S. through a land border or ferry terminal in this FAQ published by DHS [7].

Negative COVID-19 Test Result

Pursuant to an order [8] issued October 25, 2021, all individuals 2 years or older traveling by air to the U.S. from another country are required to show to the airline proof of a negative COVID-19 test or present documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days before boarding their flight.

- If you are fully vaccinated [9]: You must show proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 3 days before travel.
- If you are NOT fully vaccinated: You must show a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel.

Limited Visa Appointment Availability & Visa Interview Waivers

Unless you are a Canadian citizen, you must have a valid visa to enter the U.S. Some U.S. Embassy and Consulates have not still resumed normal operations, causing delays in visa processing in certain parts of the world. The Department of State announced that U.S. embassy or consulates can waive the visa interview requirement [10] for those who are applying for a nonimmigrant visa in the same classification and whose visa has expired within 48 months. This policy is in effect until 12/31/2021.

Additional Travel Issues

Chinese Institutions and Funding

Presidential Proclamation 10043 [11] effects “entry into the United States as a nonimmigrant of any national of the
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PRC seeking to enter the United States pursuant to an F or J visa…” who “…receives funding from or who currently is employed by, studies at, or conducts research at or on behalf of… an entity in the PRC that implements or supports the PRC’s ‘military-civil fusion strategy” or in the past “has been employed by, studied at, or conducted research at or on behalf of… an entity in the PRC that implements or supports the PRC’s ‘military-civil fusion strategy” There is a lot that is unknown about this policy. Please contact your OISS adviser [12] if you have questions.

U.S. Embassy in Russia

On May 12th the U.S. embassy in Moscow issued a statement that many visa services will be temporarily cut or very limited [13]. Please review their website for any updates.

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[12] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss