



COVID-19

Requirement for Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination for Air Passengers

Required for non-U.S. citizen, nonimmigrant passengers arriving from a foreign country to the United States by air

Updated Nov. 5, 2021

What You Need to Know

- If you are a non-U.S. citizen who is a nonimmigrant (not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, or traveling to the United States on an immigrant visa), you will need to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before you travel by air to the United States from a foreign country.
- Some categories of noncitizen, nonimmigrants are excepted from this requirement. If you meet the criteria for one of these categories, you will need to fulfill additional requirements to travel by air to the United States.
- At this time, all air passengers ages 2 or older, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, must show a negative result of a COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board a flight to the United States. For more information about these testing requirements, visit [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19](#).

On October 25, 2021, the President issued a [Proclamation](#) to suspend and limit entry into the United States for non-U.S. citizens who are nonimmigrants seeking to enter the United States by air travel and are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. On the same day, CDC issued an [Order](#) to implement the President's direction. The Proclamation and CDC's Order do not apply to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. lawful permanent residents, and immigrants. The Proclamation and Order also do not apply to air crew members under certain circumstances. For more information, including exceptions, see [Presidential Proclamation](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.

Are you Fully Vaccinated for Air Travel to the United States?

You are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks (14 days) after your dose of an accepted single-dose vaccine
- 2 weeks (14 days) after your second dose of an accepted 2-dose series
- 2 weeks (14 days) after you received the full series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine (not placebo) in a clinical trial
- 2 weeks (14 days) after you received the full series of a Novavax (or Covavax) COVID-19 vaccine (not placebo) in a phase 3 clinical trial
- 2 weeks (14 days) after you received 2 doses of any "mix-and-match" combination of [accepted COVID-19 vaccines](#) administered at least 17 days apart*

If you don't meet these requirements, you are NOT considered fully vaccinated.

*CDC has not recommended the use of mix-and-match COVID-19 vaccine primary series. However, such strategies are increasingly common in many countries outside of the United States. Therefore, for the purpose of interpreting vaccination records for travel to the United States, CDC will accept combinations of [accepted COVID-19 vaccines](#).

U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, and U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents

The Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order do **not** apply to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or U.S. lawful permanent residents.

For additional information on actions to take before, during, and after international travel, visit [International Travel: Information for U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants](#).

Immigrants

The Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order do **not** apply to immigrants. People applying to enter the United States as immigrants (with exceptions) are required to have a [medical examination](#) that includes a COVID-19 vaccination requirement before they are issued an immigrant visa.

For additional information on before, during, and after international travel, visit [International Travel: Information for U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants](#).

Air Crew Members

The Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order [do not apply to crew members](#) of airlines or other aircraft operators if such crewmembers and operators adhere to all industry standard protocols for the prevention of COVID-19 as set forth in relevant guidance for crewmember health issued by the CDC or by the Federal Aviation Administration in coordination with the CDC. Please see the Technical Instructions for more information.

Noncitizen, Nonimmigrants

Noncitizens who are nonimmigrants and seeking to enter the United States by air are **required to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19** before boarding a flight to the United States from a foreign country.

If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you will NOT be allowed to board a flight to the United States, unless you meet the criteria for an exception under the Proclamation and CDC's Order.

Categories of noncitizen nonimmigrants that meet the criteria for an exception under the Proclamation and CDC's Order include:

- Persons on diplomatic or official foreign government travel
- Children under 18 years of age
- Persons with documented medical contraindications to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
- [Participants in certain COVID-19 vaccine trials](#)
- Persons issued a humanitarian or emergency exception
- Persons with valid visas [excluding B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visas] who are citizens of a foreign [country with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability](#)
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or their spouses or children (under 18 years of age)
- Sea crew members traveling with to a C-1 and D nonimmigrant visa
- Persons whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, Secretary of Transportation, or Secretary of Homeland Security (or their designees)

If you travel by air to the United States under one of these exceptions, you will be required to attest that you are excepted from the requirement to present Proof of Being Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19 based on one of the exceptions listed above. Based on the category of the exception, you may further be required to attest that:

1. You will be tested with a COVID-19 [viral test](#) 3–5 days after arrival in the United States, unless you have documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days;
2. You will [self-quarantine](#) for a full 7 days, even if the test result to the post-arrival viral test is negative, unless you have documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days; and
3. You will [self-isolate](#) if the result of the post-arrival test is positive or if you develop COVID-19 symptoms.


Based on the category of the exception, if you intend to stay in the United States for longer than 60 days you may additionally be required to attest that

- You agree to be vaccinated against COVID-19; and
- You have arranged to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 60 days of arriving in the United States, or as soon thereafter as is medically appropriate, unless (for children) you are too young to be vaccinated.

A parent or other authorized person should attest on behalf of a passenger under 18 years old. An authorized person may attest on behalf of any passenger who is unable sign their own attestation (e.g., because they are too young, or because of physical or mental impairment).

If you are a **noncitizen nonimmigrant and are fully vaccinated**, make sure your [vaccine](#) and [proof of vaccination](#) are acceptable to board a flight to the United States.

For additional information on recommendations and requirements before and during travel to the United States and after arriving in the United States, visit [Non-U.S. citizen Non-U.S. immigrants: Air Travel to the United States](#)



[Find out what is required before traveling to the United States by air.](#)

Accepted COVID-19 Vaccines

	Vaccines Approved or Authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	Vaccines Listed for Emergency Use (EUL) by the World Health Organization
Single dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janssen/J&J 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janssen/J&J
2-dose series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pfizer-BioNTech • Moderna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pfizer-BioNTech • Moderna • AstraZeneca • Covaxin • Covishield • BIBP/Sinopharm • Sinovac

Acceptable Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination

Documentation Type	Examples
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Documentation Type	Examples
Verifiable records (digital or paper)	Vaccination certificate with QR code ¹ , digital pass via Smartphone application with QR code ¹ (e.g., United Kingdom National Health Service COVID Pass, European Union Digital COVID Certificate)
Non-verifiable paper records	Printout of COVID-19 vaccination record or a COVID-19 vaccination certificate issued at national or subnational level or by an authorized vaccine provider (e.g., the CDC vaccination card)
Non-verifiable digital records	Digital photos of vaccination card or record, downloaded vaccine record or vaccination certificate from official source (e.g., public health agency, government agency, or other authorized vaccine provider), or a mobile phone application without QR code ¹

1. The QR code in a verifiable vaccination record links to information confirming the credential was generated from an immunization record in an official database and is protected from tampering.

All forms of proof of COVID-19 vaccination must have


- Personal identifiers (full name plus at least one other identifier such as date of birth or passport number) that match the personal identifiers on the passenger's passport or other travel documents
- Name of official source issuing the record (e.g., public health agency, government agency, or other authorized vaccine provider)
- Vaccine manufacturer and date(s) of vaccination

How the 14 days are calculated:


- Your last dose must have been given a full 14 days before the day you board your flight to the United States.
- You are considered fully vaccinated on the 14th day after the vaccination series was completed. For example, if your last dose was any time on October 1st, then October 15th would be the first day that you meet the 14-day requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Do the Presidential Proclamation and CDC Order apply to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, or immigrants? 

No, the Presidential Proclamation and CDC Order do not apply to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. lawful permanent residents, or immigrants.


Are noncitizens, nonimmigrants allowed to board a flight to the United States if they can show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19? 

If you are a noncitizen who is a nonimmigrant and can show [acceptable proof of vaccination](#) with an [accepted COVID-19 vaccine](#), and meet the definition of fully vaccinated, you meet the requirements under the Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order.




I am not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; however, my child is a U.S. citizen. Will I be able to board a flight to the United States based on my child's citizenship status?

No, if you are not a U.S. citizen and are not an immigrant, you are required to show proof of being [fully vaccinated with an accepted COVID-19 vaccine](#) to board a flight to the United States. If you do not meet the requirements to be considered [fully vaccinated](#), you will not be able to board your flight to the United States, unless you meet criteria for one of the [exceptions](#).

Do the requirements of this order apply to land border crossings or to persons arriving at seaports? 

No, the requirements of the Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order only apply to air travel into the United States.


What if I have tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies? Do I still need proof of vaccination? 

Yes, at this time all noncitizen nonimmigrant air passengers traveling to the United States, regardless of antibody status, are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Does my proof of vaccination need to be in English? 

Airlines and other aircraft operators must be able to confirm proof of vaccination and review other required information and should determine when translation is necessary for these purposes. If your documents are in a language other than English, you should check with your airline or aircraft operator before travel.

Exceptions

Do I qualify for an exception or can I apply for an exception to the vaccine requirement? 

Categories of noncitizen, nonimmigrants that meet the criteria for an exception under the proclamation and CDC's order include:

- Persons on diplomatic or official foreign government travel
- Children under 18 years of age
- Persons with documented medical contraindications to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
- Participants in certain COVID-19 vaccine trials
- Persons issued a humanitarian or emergency exception
- Persons with valid visas [excluding B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visas] who are citizens of a foreign country with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or their spouses or children (under 18 years of age)
- Sea crew members traveling pursuant to a C-1 and D nonimmigrant visa
- Persons whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, Secretary of Transportation, or Secretary of Homeland Security (or their designees)

If you are a noncitizen, nonimmigrant who does not fall under any of these exceptions, you must show proof of being fully vaccinated before boarding a flight to the United States.

Can I qualify for an exception to the proof of vaccination requirement under the Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order for religious reasons or other moral convictions?

No, there are no exceptions under the Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order for religious reasons or other moral convictions.

What do I need to show if I am on diplomatic or official foreign government travel?

Certain categories of persons traveling to the United States for reasons related to official foreign government travel or because they have been invited by the United Nations are eligible for an exception under the Proclamation and CDC's Order. These categories are

- Any noncitizen seeking entry into or transiting the United States under one of the following nonimmigrant visa classifications: A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), E-1 (as an employee of TECRO or TECO or the employee's immediate family members), G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 (or seeking to enter as a nonimmigrant in one of those NATO classifications)
- Any noncitizen whose travel falls within the scope of Section 11 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement or other travel pursuant to U.S. legal obligation (as evidenced by a letter of invitation from the United Nations or other documentation showing the purpose of such travel).

You will need to show that you are traveling under one of the visas categories (listed above) and travel with an official letter, such as letter from the U.S. government or foreign government. If you have been invited by the United Nations, you will need a letter of invitation from the United Nations or other documentation showing the purpose of such travel.

What do I need to show if I have a medical contraindication to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

You must show a letter from a licensed physician documenting the medical contraindication to the airline or aircraft operator before boarding a flight to the United States.

The letter

- Must be signed and dated on official letterhead that contains contact information (name, address, and phone number) of a licensed healthcare provider.
- Must clearly state that you have a medical contraindication to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. The name of the COVID-19 vaccine product and the medical condition must both be listed.
 - [Medical contraindications](#) to COVID-19 vaccination include immediate or severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or component of a COVID-19 vaccine or known allergy to a component of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Must have sufficient personally identifiable information (at a minimum full name and date of birth) to confirm that the letter matches with your passport or other travel information.


If your letter is in a language other than English, check with your airlines or aircraft operator to find out if translation of the letter is necessary for their review.


How do I know if the vaccine trial I participated in is on the approved list for an exception? What documentation do I need to show?

CDC has provided a list of qualifying COVID-19 vaccine candidates that meet CDC's criteria for this exception. Check the list to see if the vaccine(s) used in the trial you participated in included.

You will need to show official documentation (e.g., clinical trial letter, participant card, or modified vaccination card) of clinical trial participation that includes the following information:

- Documentation you participated in a phase 3 trial of with a qualifying COVID-19 vaccine candidate
- Documentation you received the full series of an active (non-placebo) qualifying COVID-19 vaccine candidate or [an EUL vaccine](#), with the name of the vaccine product and the date(s) received (showing it has been at least 2 weeks since you completed the series)
- Personal identifiers in the clinical trial documentation (at a minimum name and date of birth) that match with your passport or other travel documentation.

How do I apply for a humanitarian or emergency exception to the requirement for noncitizen nonimmigrants to show a pre-departure proof of COVID-19 vaccination? 

CDC may grant a humanitarian or emergency exception in limited circumstances only when an individual must travel to the United States to preserve health and safety (e.g., emergency medical evacuations) and is unable to become fully vaccinated before travel. Individuals who fit the exception criteria described in the [Presidential Proclamation](#)  and CDC's [Order](#) may contact the U.S. embassy or consulate in or nearest the country from which they are departing for the United States. The embassy will then transmit this information to the CDC for consideration.


Please review the procedures for applying for a humanitarian or emergency exception as listed on the webpage of the embassy or consulate where you will apply. This link will lead you to the relevant embassy or consulate:

<https://www.usembassy.gov/> 

To facilitate the review of a humanitarian or emergency exception request, the following information should be provided to the embassy or consulate for transmission to the CDC:


- Name (family name/surname, given name)
- Passport #
- Nationality
- Cell phone number (including country code) of passenger or head of household if family unit
- Email address of passenger or head of household if family unit
- US destination address
 - Is US destination home address?
- Flight itinerary, including any connecting flights
 - Airline
 - Flight #
 - Departure airport and date of departure
 - Arrival airport and date of arrival
- Vaccination Status
 - [Fully Vaccinated](#)
 - Name of vaccine product (or products if a combination)
 - Date of first dose
 - Date of second dose (if a two-dose series)
 - PDF or photograph of vaccination record
 - NOT Fully Vaccinated
- Purpose of travel to the US and a brief explanation of why urgent travel is needed
- Justification for humanitarian or emergency exception to providing **proof of being fully vaccinated** (e.g., vaccine availability, passenger ineligible for vaccine at location, insufficient time to become fully vaccinated)
- Documentation to support justification (e.g., medical records, orders for emergency evacuation)

- Information regarding any other solutions that were sought prior to application (e.g., flight changes, testing en route, assistance in obtaining testing/vaccination, etc.)

Where can I find the list of countries with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability and how often is it updated? 


You can find the list of countries with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability here: [List of Foreign Countries with Limited COVID-19 Vaccine Availability](#)

This list will be updated every three months.


What documentation do I need to show that I am from a country with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability? 

You will need to show


- A passport or other proof of citizenship from a country on the list provided by CDC; AND
- A valid nonimmigrant visa that is not a B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visa.

What if I live in a country with low vaccination availability but my passport is from a country with high vaccination availability? Do I still qualify for an exception? 

No, to qualify for this exception, you must show a passport or other proof of citizenship of a country determined to have limited COVID-19 vaccine availability.

What documentation do I need if I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a spouse or child (under 18 years of age) of someone who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces? 

You will need to show a U.S. military identification document, such as a military ID or Common Access Card (CAC) or a DEERS ID Card, or other proof of status as a member or spouse or child (under 18 years of age) of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What documentation do I need if I am a sea crew member traveling with to a C-1 and D nonimmigrant visa? 

You will need to show

- Your C-1 and D visa; AND
- An official letter from your employer (paper or digital) indicating your entry to the United States is required for the purpose of operating a vessel that will depart from a U.S. seaport.

How should sea crew members fulfill the requirements of the attestation? 

The requirements for testing and quarantine post-arrival by air conveyance apply to mariners entering the United States as covered individuals who are:

not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and

not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and

- without documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

Cruise ship crew members must follow the requirements of the [Conditional Sailing Order](#) during and after embarking the cruise ship. If crew will not be immediately embarking the cruise ship, then they must follow the requirements of the attestation prior to embarking the ship.

Non-cruise ship crew:

Self-quarantine Requirements


- Mariners who are embarking the ship the same day they arrive in the United States, must either:
 - Self-quarantine in a single-occupancy cabin with a private bathroom for at least 7 days after arriving in the U.S., or
 - Maintain a “working” quarantine on board the ship for at least 7 days after arriving in the U.S.
 - Please see [CDC’s Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected or Confirmed Cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) for additional information regarding “working” quarantines.
 - Mariners who are *not* embarking the ship the day they arrive in the United States must self-quarantine for 7 days in shoreside accommodations (i.e., a hotel room).
 - Mariners who *will board the ship before the 7-day self-quarantine period* is completed must quarantine in their hotel until boarding the ship. Once onboard, these mariners must follow the one of the quarantine options outlined above for the remainder of their quarantine period.

Testing Requirements

- Mariners must get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after arrival in the U.S. Non-cruise ship operators and mariners have several options to fulfill this requirement:
 - Crew can visit a shoreside testing facility (e.g., testing at a pharmacy or healthcare facility)
 - Operators can contract a 3rd party to preform testing onboard
 - Operators can provide crew with COVID-19 self-tests (sometimes referred to as home tests or at-home tests) or ask that crew embark the vessel with their own self-test.
 - CDC recommends that if self-tests are used, they should be conducted under supervision of tele-medicine personnel.


Self-isolation Requirements

All mariners whose post-arrival test is positive for COVID-19 or who develop COVID-19 symptoms must self-isolate until criteria are met for discontinuation of isolation according to the most current CDC guidance. Those who recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days should consult with a healthcare provider for testing recommendations.

What documentation is needed to show my entry to the United States is in the U.S. national interest? 

You will need to show an official U.S. Government letter (paper or digital) documenting approval of the exception.

Attestations

What is an attestation? 

An attestation is a statement, writing, entry, or other representation subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 that confirms that the information provided is true. Willfully providing false or misleading information may lead to criminal fines and imprisonment.

