

COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON U.S VISAS AND ENTRY: THE NATIONAL INTEREST EXCEPTION (NIE)



The Biden administration announced that in November 2021, it will lift the COVID-19 travel restriction for specific countries and instead require all foreign travelers to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination before boarding a flight to the United States.

Non-essential travel from certain countries to the U.S. is currently not permitted due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Regional COVID-19 public health bans restrict travel for foreign nationals who have been physically present in a designated country within 14 days of seeking entry to the United States. Transit through an airport in a designated country counts as presence in that country.

Certain individuals are exempt from the bans, including:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (green card holders) and their immediate family members.
- An individual traveling at the invitation of the U.S. government or pursuant to a UN agreement
- Individuals traveling on A, C, D, certain E-1, G, or NATO visas.
- A member of the U.S. Armed Forces and his or her spouse or child.

Individuals may also be eligible for an exception to the travel ban if their travel is found to be in the national interest or would further U.S. law enforcement objectives.



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What Countries Are Affected by the Travel Ban?

The regional COVID-19 travel ban countries include Ireland, the UK, the Schengen Area (the Schengen Area consists of 26 countries and covers nearly all of mainland Europe including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), Brazil, China, Iran, South Africa, and India.

For more information on how to apply for an NIE or information about traveling to the United States, we encourage you to contact our office at contact@worldwidemigrationpartners.com

We will be monitoring the progress on the ban being lifted in the coming weeks, so keep checking back to our FB Page or to our Website for any new developments.