

# Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2021



## Thailand

New, more lenient quarantine rules

### Executive summary

Fully vaccinated travelers may now quarantine for seven days on arrival in Thailand, irrespective of whether they enter by air, land or sea. Unvaccinated travelers and those who are not fully vaccinated must now quarantine for 10 days if entering by air or sea, or 14 days if entering by land. Previously, all travelers were required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival, irrespective of their vaccination status.

### Key issues

Effective 1 October 2021, all fully vaccinated travelers (including Thai and non-Thai nationals) may now quarantine for seven days upon arrival to Thailand, down from 14 days previously, irrespective of whether they arrive by air, land or sea. The Thai Government recognizes the COVID-19 vaccines that are approved by its Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization, i.e., Moderna, CoronaVac (Sinovac), AstraZeneca (Covishield), Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty), Sinopharm (COVIL0) and Sputnik V. Travelers must receive the second dose of the vaccine (or the first dose, in the case of the Janssen vaccine) at least 14 days prior to travel to Thailand, and present a vaccination certificate in Thai or English, to be considered fully vaccinated. Travelers with vaccination certificates issued in a language other than Thai or English must carry an English translation of the certificate. Fully vaccinated travelers are still required to quarantine at government-accredited hotels known as alternative quarantine (AQ) locations.

### Fully vaccinated non-Thai nationals

Fully vaccinated non-Thai nationals are still required to take a reverse transmission polymerase chain reaction (RT PCR) COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to their trip, and test negative, to be admitted. They must take a second RT PCR test on their first day of quarantine (i.e., their arrival date). They must now take a third RT PCR test on their sixth or seventh day in quarantine (instead of their 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> day in quarantine) and test negative for the third COVID-19 test before being released from quarantine.

Fully vaccinated non-Thai nationals must now submit a copy of their vaccination certificate when applying to obtain a Certificate of Entry (COE), and present their vaccination certificate to border officers upon arrival. A COE is a letter issued by the Thai Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over the traveler's place of residence. COE are required of all travelers who are seeking to enter Thailand. Failure to obtain a COE will result in travelers being denied admission.

### Fully vaccinated Thai nationals

Fully vaccinated Thai nationals are not required to get tested for COVID-19 prior to travel to Thailand. However, they are required to get tested for COVID-19 on arrival and on their sixth or seventh day in the country, and test negative for the second COVID-19 test before being released from quarantine. Thai nationals require a COE and must submit a copy of their vaccination certificate to obtain their COE.

### Travelers who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated

Travelers who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated and arrive by air or sea may now quarantine for 10 days at an AQ upon arrival, down from 14 days previously. Non-Thai nationals who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated are still required to test negative for COVID-19 prior to travel and take a RT PCR COVID-19 test on arrival in Thailand. These travelers are now required to take another RT PCR COVID-19 test on their 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> day in quarantine (instead of their 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> day in quarantine). They must test negative for COVID-19 before being released from quarantine.

Thai nationals who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated and arrive by air or sea are not required to get tested for COVID-19 prior to travel. However, they are subject to the same COVID-19 test requirements in Thailand as unvaccinated non-Thai nationals.

Travelers who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated and arrive by land are still required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. They must test negative for COVID-19 prior to travel (unless they are Thai nationals), and take COVID-19 tests on arrival and on their 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> day in quarantine (and test negative to be released from quarantine).

### Travelers under the age of 18

Travelers aged 17 and younger who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated and traveling to Thailand with their parents are required to quarantine for the same period, and at the same AQ, as their parents.

### Sandbox Programme

Travelers entering Thailand for tourism via the Sandbox Programme (e.g., Phuket Sandbox, Samui Plus) are not required to quarantine on arrival. However, they are only permitted to travel to Sandbox Programme locations (i.e., they are prohibited from traveling to other locations in Thailand) in the first seven days after arriving in Thailand (down from 14 days previously). The new policy is part of a series of measures being undertaken by Thailand to revive its tourism industry and stimulate the local economy.

### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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