

# Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2021

## India

### International travel announcements

#### Executive summary

The Government of India has released significant announcements relating to international travel including: (1) The Covishield vaccine has been approved to be added to EU'S Digital Green Certificate, (2) international outbound travelers will no longer have to wait 84 days to receive their second dose of the Covishield vaccine, and (3) the tourist visa fee will be waived for tourists wishing to visit India.

#### Digital Green Certificate

In order to facilitate a smooth travel experience for Indian nationals traveling to the EU, the Indian Government has obtained approval from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for the Covishield vaccine to be included in the Digital Green Certificate. The vaccine certificate will reference the traveler's passport number, which is expected to ease the admission process at the time of arrival in the host country.

As of the time of this publication, the Covishield vaccine is accepted by the following European Union (EU) member states: Germany, Slovenia, Austria, Greece, Ireland, Estonia, Spain, and two non-member states: Iceland and Switzerland.

#### Expedited vaccine processing

According to the guidelines issued by the Government of India, the World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the Covishield vaccine to be administered with a gap of at least 84 days between the first and the second dose. This gap between doses has had a significant impact on many outbound international travelers including students,

employees and those participating in the Tokyo Olympics. To address this matter, the Indian Government has introduced an exception where eligible travelers may obtain their second dose in a shorter timeframe, reducing additional travel delays.

#### Eligibility criteria

- ▶ International outbound students, long-term assignees, and those participating in the Tokyo Olympics, can obtain their second dose of the Covishield vaccine, as soon as 28 days from the date of their first dose.
- ▶ This exemption is available only until 31 August 2021.
- ▶ The Co-Win online booking system is expected to be calibrated to where it would automatically schedule vaccine appointments for these travelers.
- ▶ The Covaxin vaccine does not classify for this exemption since the gap between the first and second dose is already a minimum of 28 days.

#### Tourist visas

During March 2020, the Indian Government suspended all valid tourist visas and prohibited the entry of all tourist visa holders until further notice. This restriction has had a direct impact on the tourism industry. In order to revive the tourism industry and attract foreign tourists, the Government of India made recent announcements confirming a tourist visa fee waiver.

Upon the resumption of the visa issuance process, the tourist visa fee will be waived for the first 500,000 travelers to enter India, or all travelers entering India until

31 March 2022, whichever comes first. It should be noted that this benefit will be available only once per tourist.

#### Next steps

EY will continue to monitor developments for outbound international travelers, as well as foreign tourists visiting India. Should you have questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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