

Mobility: immigration alert

July 2021

Canada

Canada easing travel restrictions for U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents

Executive summary

On 19 July 2021, the government of Canada announced a significant relaxation of its COVID-19 travel restrictions which will come into place over the next several weeks. The key changes will initially benefit fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents who reside in the U.S. and are coming to Canada for discretionary purposes (tourism or business visits), and will be followed by a relaxation of travel restrictions starting in September 2021 for travelers coming from elsewhere in the world. These changes are anticipated to come into effect on 9 August 2021, and only apply to US citizens and permanent residents. The changes do not apply to foreign nationals currently in the U.S. on temporary work status (ie. L-1, H1-B etc.).

Background

As of 9 August 2021, fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are residing in the United States will no longer be restricted from entering Canada for discretionary purposes such as tourism or business visits. "Fully vaccinated" means that a person has received the full series of a vaccine that is approved by Government of Canada at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada are those that are manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). Travelers can receive their vaccine in any country, and must provide evidence supporting their vaccination in English, French or with a certified translation (along with the original).

In addition, fully vaccinated travelers must also provide COVID-19 related information electronically through the ArriveCAN (app or web portal) including proof of vaccination prior to departing for Canada (subject to limited exceptions). Fully vaccinated travelers must also meet the pre-entry testing requirements, be asymptomatic upon arrival, and have a paper or digital copy of their vaccination documentation in English or French (or certified translation, along with the original) ready to show a government official on request.

All travelers must still present a suitable quarantine plan, and be prepared to quarantine, should they not meet all of the conditions required to be exempt from quarantine. They will also be required to follow public health measures in place, such as monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, wearing a mask when in public and keeping a copy of their vaccination documentation and test results - as well as a list of close contacts and locations visited - for 14 days after entry to Canada. For air travel, passengers continue to have to wear a mask in Canadian airports and on-board flights to, from and within Canada, with few exceptions, and regardless of their vaccination status.

Starting 9 August 2021, air carriers will be verifying that the travelers coming to Canada have submitted their information digitally by using the ArriveCAN app or website before they board their flight. Discretionary travelers who are unable to show their ArriveCAN receipt - either on their mobile device or a printed copy - will not be allowed to board their flight to Canada, as they are ineligible to enter Canada. In addition to



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their ArriveCAN receipt, travelers should carry their actual vaccine certificate with them to show officials at the border entry point.

Additionally, as of 9 August 2021, the government of Canada will also:

- ▶ Remove the requirements for air carriers to perform pre-border temperature screening
- ▶ Eliminate the three-night government authorized hotel stay for all travelers who are permitted to enter Canada
- ▶ Allow unvaccinated children under 12 years of age and dependent children of fully vaccinated travelers will no longer have to complete a 14-day quarantine but must follow public health measures. This means children can move around with their parents, but must avoid group settings like playgrounds, summer camps, etc
- ▶ Remove day one and eight testing requirements for fully vaccinated travelers. Testing will be conducted on a random basis

Finally, for international travelers coming from any country other than the United States, the Government is looking to ease the travel restrictions starting on 7 September 2021. More details will follow regarding such travel and will depend on continued favorable epidemiology reports over the course of the next weeks and months.

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

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