



Inbound Travel to the U.S. Update

December 2021

Key Travel Requirements During the Pandemic

- Foreign nationals traveling to the United States are required to present the following to travel:
 - Passport
 - Visa or [ESTA](#)
 - [Proof of full vaccination for COVID-19](#)
 - or, proof of [exception to the requirement](#)
 - Negative COVID-19 test [taken within 1 day of travel](#)

Consular Processing Update

- **Current Status:** Visa processing is likely to remain severely limited for the foreseeable future, and scheduling visa appointments remains a challenge. In November, the [U.S. State Department rescinded its prioritization](#) of consular services, opening up availability for those applying for visa classes including the (B1/B2). While this is a positive step in the right direction, we expect the backlog to continue. Several consular posts remain limited, while others have backlogs that extend into 2023.
- **Reminder:** We encourage individuals requiring a visa to travel to the U.S. to apply as soon as possible. If an applicant receives an appointment date that is after their intended date of travel, they should follow the instructions to apply for an expedited/emergency appointment.
- Contact the USOPC Government Relations Office visainquiry@usopc.org if there are challenges related to scheduling visa appointments.

Requirement of Vaccination for Travel to the U.S.

- All foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. are required to present proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.
 - Limited exceptions to this rule include anyone under the age of 18 and those with medical contraindications.
- [All FDA and WHO-approved vaccines](#) are accepted for travel to the U.S.
 - The Sputnik vaccine (widely distributed in Russia, eastern Europe, and some South American countries) is **not** accepted for entry to the U.S.
- There is no National Interest Exception (NIE) available as there were in previous Presidential Proclamations. The USOPC does not have a travel waiver for athletes and staff who do not meet these requirements.

Additional Considerations

- At this time, foreign nationals who have been physically present in or transited through the following countries within 14 days of entry to the US are not eligible to travel to the U.S.:
 - South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, and Malawi