



# Immigration News Highlights

Issue 01 – 3 January 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below.



## Americas

### Canada

#### [Canada extends medical exam exemption for some immigrants](#)

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has extended the medical exam exemption for already-existing immigration candidates in Canada from 28 December 2021 to 31 March 2022. The exemption allows an exemption to these candidates if they have applied for a permanent residency and not completed a medical exam, have completed a medical exam within last five years, or have not left Canada within past six months to live in a country which requires a medical exam. [Read more](#)

### US

#### [About the EB- Visa Classification](#)

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is reevaluating the decision to hold, or not act on, any pending petition or application that is dependent on the expired statutory authority under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Regional Center Program. [Read more](#)

### US

#### [USCIS Extends Flexibility for Responding to Agency Requests](#)

The USCIS has extended its flexibilities to respond applicants, petitioners, and requestors relating to certain documents. The flexibilities were initially put in place on 30 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. USCIS have stated that it will respond to any request relating to such documents within 60 days of receiving such request. [Read more](#)

### US

#### [Biden administration asks Supreme Court to let it end Trump-era 'Remain in Mexico' immigration policy](#)

The Biden administration asked for Supreme Court's permission to end the "remain in Mexico" program which requires non-Mexican migrants to stay in Mexico until receiving the US immigration court dates. [Read more](#)



## Asia Pacific

### Hong Kong

#### [The "e-Visa" Arrangement](#)

The Hong Kong Immigration Department has implemented a new "e-Visa" arrangement which is open to foreign domestic workers, non-local graduates, and individuals enrolling under "Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents". The new system aims to ease the application process which allows visas to be issued in a PDF format. [Read more](#)

### Philippines

#### [Visa Update: Expansion of Interview Waiver Eligibility for Certain Non-Immigrant Visa \(NIV\) Applicants](#)

The Department of State extended the expiration period requirement for interview waiver for B1/B2 and F,M, and J nonimmigrant visas to 48 months which may result in waiver of visa interview by the US Embassy in Philippines. The interview may be waived for a nonimmigrant visa application for renewal of visa which was previously issued within 48 months of the visa's expiration. [Read more](#)

#### Russia

#### [Russia orders health and drug checks for foreigners](#)

A new law came into force in Russia which requires foreigners and long-term visitors to be fingerprinted and have regular mandatory medical check-ups every three months. Further, the law requires testing for STD's, tuberculosis, and drug use for any foreign national staying over 90 days. [Read more](#)

#### Russia

#### [Russia needs more people, Bill passed to ease citizenship rules](#)

The Russian president has submitted a bill which simplifies the immigration process for children, Great Patriotic War Veterans, former USSR citizens, and close relatives of Russian citizens. The Bill aims at increasing the working population of the country. [Read more](#)

#### Saudi Arabia

#### [Saudi Arabia launches e-visa service for cruise tourists](#)

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an e-visa service for people arriving in Saudi Arabia via cruises. A proof of cruise ticket is required to apply for a visa which will be processed through Embassy's digital program. [Read more](#)

#### Singapore

#### [Singapore to bring in much-needed migrant workers from India, China, Bangladesh: PM Lee](#)

Singapore plans to bring labor, skilled manpower and professionals from Bangladesh, China, India, and Philippines to support the country's post pandemic recovery. [Read more](#)

#### Taiwan

#### [Entry restrictions for foreigners to Taiwan in response to COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Effective 4 January 2022, a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report done at most 2 days before departure to Taiwan is needed by inbound travelers. The measure is put in place considering the rising number of COVID-19 cases. [Read more](#)

#### Taiwan

#### [Taiwan opens borders to Thai workers, eyes Philippines, Vietnam next](#)

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) allowed the entry of Migrant workers from Thailand from 30 December 2021. Foreign workers from the Philippines and Vietnam are also expected to be approved for entry in Taiwan after negotiations between the countries. [Read more](#)



## Europe and Africa

#### Cyprus

#### [Cyprus Makes Negative PCR Test Result Mandatory for All Arrivals](#)

All passengers above the age of 12 are required to provide a COVID-19 PCR test not older than 48 hours upon their arrival in Cyprus. The measure will be in place from 4 January to 15 January 2021 considering the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. [Read more.](#)

#### Czech Republic

#### [Czechia Announces Mandatory Testing Requirements for Italy, Sweden, Malta, Austria & 3 Others](#)

Czech Republic has imposed strict entry rules starting from 4 January 2021 on travelers coming from Italy, Sweden, Malta, Austria, Latvia, Hungary, and the Azores. These countries have been placed in red or dark red zones. All travelers from these countries will need to present a negative COVID-19 test. [Read more.](#)

#### European Union

#### [EU to Introduce New Entry Requirement This Year for Britons & Other Third-Country Citizens Under Visa-Free Regime](#)

The European Commission plans to introduce a new entry requirement for all third-country nationals who can travel to the EU Member states under the visa-free regime. The Commission plans to make the travel process within the bloc much easier and more secure for all business and travel purposes for up to 90 days. [Read more.](#)

## France

### [France Imposes Mandatory Quarantine Requirement for Unvaccinated US Travelers](#)

A ten-day quarantine will be required for unvaccinated US travelers coming to France as the US is among the COVID-19 red list of countries. [Read more.](#)

## Germany

### [Germany to Remove UK & the Southern African Countries from Virus Variant Areas List on January 4](#)

As of 1 January 2022, Germany has recognized Canada, Italy, Malta, and San Marino as high-risk areas requiring unvaccinated travelers from these countries to fill a digital form pre-entry along and observe a ten-day quarantine period. [Read more.](#)

## Germany

### [Germany categorizes Canada, Italy, Malta & San Marino as High-Risk Areas](#)

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## Iceland

### [Iceland Shortens Quarantine Period to 7 Days](#)

Iceland has shortened the quarantine period for infected travelers to 7 days. The quarantine period may be extended by the authorities in specific cases. [Read more.](#)

## Ireland

### [Scorecard approach being introduced for Citizenship Applications from January 2022](#)

From 1 January 2022, citizenship will be moving to a scorecard approach where applicants will be required to score 150 points in each of the years proof of residency is required. The applicants must submit specific proofs with predetermined points value to reach 150 points. An engagement with the Department of Immigration will be entered into in case of a failure to reach 150 points. [Read more](#)

## Montenegro

### [Montenegro Extends 'Golden Passport' Program Despite EU Criticism](#)

Montenegro's government extended the economic citizenship program until December 2022 adding stricter conditions to gain an economic citizenship. All investors that have requested citizenship must submit a bank guarantee equal to 50 per cent of the investments prescribed by the program to the Government. Further, the new applicants are required to 100,000 euros to the state budget and another 100,000 for regional development. [Read more](#)

## Netherlands

### [Netherlands Imposes Mandatory Quarantine Requirement for US Travelers](#)

Effective 30 December 2021, all US travelers to Netherlands must follow new quarantine rules due to increased infection rates in the US. The rule is applicable to both vaccinated and non-vaccinated travelers. [Read more.](#)

## Spain

### [Spain Prolongs Health Control Measures for Travelers from High-Risk Countries](#)

The Spanish Government has extended the health control measures that have been imposed against the majority of third countries. Thus, the travelers from third world countries unable to present a vaccine certificate will not be allowed in the country. [Read more.](#)



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