



Immigration News Highlights

Issue 06 – 8 February 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's Travel Restrictions Have Been Eased for Passengers from India & Morocco

The Canadian Federal government eased entry restrictions for Indian and Moroccan nationals. Effective 28 February 2022, these travelers need not take a pre-departure COVID test from a third country. [Read more](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

Australia to End Entry Restrictions for Fully Vaccinated Visitors on Feb. 21

Australia will allow entry of to all fully vaccinated travelers, allowing business travelers and tourists into the country from 21 February 2022. Non-fully vaccinated travelers will still need a valid reason to travel and must observe quarantine rules. [Read more](#)

Australia

Australia entices British backpackers to visit by dropping visa fee in new campaign

Australia will waive the cost of a working holiday visa for British tourists waving GBP 260 if they enter Australia before 19 April 2022. The working holiday visa holders will be allowed to work for same employer or organization for more than six months until 31 December 2022. [Read more](#)

Bahrain

Bahrain introduces 'golden' permanent residency visas to lure talent

Bahrain introduced a new permanent residency visa to attract talent and investment. The visa offers right to work in Bahrain, unlimited entry and exit, and residency for close family members. To qualify for visa, a person must have been a resident of Bahrain for five years earning at least BHD 2,000 per month. The visa is also open to real-estate owners whose holdings exceed a certain value, retirees, and highly qualified individuals. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

Covid: New Zealand unveils phased border reopening plan

New Zealand plans to phase out travel restrictions and reopen its borders. The reopening will be done in the following steps:

- Step 1 from 27 February 2022 where vaccinated New Zealanders from Australia from Australia.
- Step 2 from 13 March 2022 allowing fully vaccinated travelers including critical and skilled foreign workers to enter the country.
- Step 3 from 12 April 2022 allowing up to 5,000 international students to enter the country.

- Step 4 from 1 July 2022 allowing visa-free travel in the country.
- Step 5 from 1 October 2022 allowing visitors and students who normally require a visa to enter the country. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

Covid 19 Omicron outbreak: Immigration medicals for one-off residency can be sent later, says INZ

Immigration New Zealand stated that people can file their one-off residency visa applications from 1 March 2022 without a medical certificate. The measure was taken due to shortage of clinical facilities and doctors available for immigration health checks. [Read more](#)

Philippines

PH allows entry of fully vaxxed foreigners for biz, tourism

From 10 February 2022, vaccinated foreign travelers from a certain group of countries can enter Philippines without a visa for a period of up to 30 days. These travelers must provide a negative RT-PCT test taken within 48 hours of entry in Philippines. [Read more](#)

South Korea

'Hallyu visa' has international hopefuls looking to register

The Ministry of Justice of South Korea plans to introduce a "Hallyu visa" for international students allowing them to receive a short-term visa of one to two years by registering at a local private institute such as a dance or drama academy. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

Taiwan opens borders to Filipino, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai workers

Taiwan will launch its next phase of allowing migrant workers from the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand to enter Taiwan from 15 February 2022. Prior to entry, these migrant workers must upload their proof of vaccination on Ministry of Labor's website. Further, a 14-day quarantine is to be observed epidemic prevention hotels post which a 7 day period of self-health monitoring is required. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Bulgaria

Bulgaria to Put an End to Its Golden Visa Scheme

Bulgaria plans to abolish its Golden Visa Program due to shortcomings of the Program to attract real investments in the country and create employment opportunities. A bill has been presented for the same which is yet to be approved by the government. [Read more](#)

Bulgaria

Bulgaria Introduces Dark Red Category, Adds 23 Countries to It

Bulgaria introduced a new dark red country for countries which are profoundly affected by the COVID-19 virus. Further, Bulgaria added 23 countries to this list requiring travelers to present a PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival along with either a proof of recovery or proof of vaccination. Travelers who have received a booster shot are exempted from pre-entry testing requirement. [Read more](#)

Czech Republic

All EU/Schengen Area Countries Continue to Be Part of Czechia's Dark Red List

Czech Republic announced that all European Union and Schengen Area countries, except for the Vatican City State, will continue to remain part of the dark red list due to the rate of COVID-19 infections. All vaccinated travelers must provide a pre-entry test while the unvaccinated need to take another test after fifth day of arrival. Both types of travelers must fill an Arrival form. [Read more](#)

Estonia

Vatican City State Continues to Be the Only European Country Included in Estonia's Green List

Estonia will continue to allow citizens of the Vatican City State without being subject to additional entry requirements. Currently, the Vatican City State is the only country in Estonia's green list. Unvaccinated travelers from a green country are still required to present a negative COVID-19 test before entry into the state. [Read more](#)

European Union

EU Digital COVID Certificate for Travel to Be Extended for Another Year, Until June 30, 2023

The European Union proposed an extension of EU Digital COVID Certificate until 30 June 2023 considering the prevalence of COVID-19 infections in the member states. The Certificate will continue to be used for entry into countries with restricted entry requirements. [Read more](#)

France**[France Now Has a 9-Month Validity Period for Vaccination Certificates](#)**

The French authorities have shortened the validity of vaccination certificates to nine months following the recommendation of the European Commission. From 1 February 2022, only travelers who have received their second vaccine dose within nine months of entry will be considered vaccinated and will not be subject to any additional entry requirements. [Read more](#)

France**[France Moves Uruguay From Green to Orange List](#)**

France moved Uruguay from the orange list to the green list on 6 February 2022 considering the increased infection rates in Uruguay. Thus, unvaccinated travelers from Uruguay need to provide an essential reason for their trip to France and must furnish a statement assuring a quarantine of seven days following entry into France. Further, these travelers must take a COVID-19 test at the end of their quarantine. Vaccinated travelers from Uruguay can enter without stating an essential reason but need to furnish a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours of entry into France. [Read more](#).

Germany**[Germany Adds 3 Countries to High-Risk List, Removes 32](#)**

Germany has added Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Palestinian territories to its high-risk country list requiring travelers from these countries to register their proof of vaccination or recovery and carry the confirmation with them. A ten-day quarantine period is to be observed if travelers do not register such proofs. Germany has also removed 32 countries from its high-risk list. [Read more](#).

Germany**[New Rules Now Apply for Entering Germany](#)**

Germany changed the validity of vaccine certificates to 270 days following the recommendation of the European Commission. Travelers vaccinated more than 270 days ago before entering Germany will be considered unvaccinated and will be subject to additional testing and quarantine requirement. [Read more](#)

Greece**[Greece Abolishes Negative COVID Test Requirement for Travelers](#)**

Holders of a valid EU COVID Certificate will no longer need to undergo pre-arrival testing in Greece from 1 March 2022. Currently, all travelers above the age of five are required to submit a negative antigen test taken within 24 hours of entry in Greece or a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry in Greece. [Read more](#)

Ireland**[New Travel Rules Enter into Force Today in Ireland](#)**

On 1 February 2022, Ireland announced that travelers vaccinated with Novavax can enter Ireland under the same rules as those vaccinated with valid vaccines. Ireland also decreased the validity of vaccination certificates to 270 days. [Read more](#)

Norway**[Norway Abolishes Testing Requirement at Border for All Travelers](#)**

Norway abolished the mandatory testing requirement at the border and airport checkpoints from 1 February 2022 after authorities concluded that travel restrictions were not effective to control the spread of COVID-19 infections. [Read more](#).

Poland**[Poland Extends Quarantine Requirement for Unvaccinated & Unrecovered Travelers](#)**

The Polish government extended the self-isolation requirement for unvaccinated travelers coming from the European Union countries requiring them to observe a self-isolation of ten days. These travelers can undergo a COVID-19 test within 48 hours after arrival in Poland to skip the mandatory self-isolation. Vaccinated and recovered travelers need not undergo self-isolation but must fill the Passenger Locator Form. [Read more](#).

Portugal

[Portugal to Remove Testing Requirement for Vaccinated Travelers](#)

The Portuguese authorities will lift the entry requirement for a pre-arrival negative COVID-19 test for vaccinated travelers coming from the European Union and other third countries. The measure will enter into force on 10 February 2022. [Read more.](#)

Portugal

[Madeira Ends COVID-19 Testing at Airports & Ports for Incoming Travelers](#)

The authorities of Madeira exempted travelers who have recovered within 90 days before entry and vaccinated travelers from pre-entry testing. [Read more](#)

Slovakia

[Slovakia Imposes New Entry Rules for Arrivals from Other Countries](#)

Slovakia changed entry rules effectively abolishing the list of countries it uses based on the rate of infections and introducing relevant travel restrictions. Instead of the old system, those who have recovered from COVID-19 virus within 180 days of entry will be treated the same as the vaccinated. Thus, a mandatory self-isolation is not required for these travelers. Slovakia has also reduced mandatory self-isolation period from ten to five days for travelers who return from territories severely affected by the COVID-19 virus. [Read more](#)

South Africa

[South Africa | New critical skills list published](#)

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs published an updated list of critical skills that are in short supply in the country. These skills provide a criterion for the Critical Skills Work Visa in South Africa. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Extends Travel Restrictions, Requires Booster Jabs for Those Vaccinated Before May 2021](#)

The Spanish Ministry of Health has extended travel restrictions on travelers from the other European Union and Schengen Area countries for another week considering the rate of COVID-19 infections. The restrictions have been extended until 13 February 2022 requiring travelers to submit a valid vaccination certificate and a diagnostic test for active infection or a COVID-19 recovery certificate. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain to Accept Only Negative Results of COVID-19 Antigen Tests Taken Within 24h, Instead of 48h](#)

The Spanish government announced that only negative antigen COVID-19 test taken within 24 hours of arrival will be accepted, instead of 48 hours previously. The measure was taken based on the recommendation of the European Commission and entered into force on 1 February 2022. PCR tests are still valid if taken within 72 hours of entry in Spain. [Read more.](#)

Sweden

[Sweden to Lift Majority of COVID-19 Restriction on February 9](#)

Sweden will remove majority of COVID-19 restrictions including the requirement of vaccination certificates before entry. The measure was taken considering the less severity of Omicron infections. The measure will be implemented in two phases from 9 February 2022 and 1 April 2022. The requirement for vaccination certificates will be removed in the first phase. [Read more](#)

Sweden

[Sweden Shortens Vaccination Certificates' Validity to 180 Days](#)

The Swedish authorities shortened the validity of vaccination certificates to 180 days in Sweden. Thus, travelers who have received their vaccines within 180 days of entry need not follow additional entry requirements. [Read more.](#)

Switzerland

[Switzerland Plans to Drop Requirement of Swiss COVID Certificates for Tourists](#)

The Swiss authorities proposed removing the requirement of 'Swiss' COVID-19 certificates issued to tourists after a test. Certificates recognized by the European Union will continue to be issued. [Read more](#)



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