



Immigration News Highlights

2022-17, 26 April 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.



Canada

[New measures to address Canada's labor shortage](#)

Canada plans to resume the Express Entry draws for Canadian Experience Class (CEC), Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) and Federal Skilled Trades (FST) in July 2022 to combat labor shortage in the country. Further, applicants will no longer be required to stay in Canada during processing of their application. [Read more.](#)

United States

[ICE announces extension to I-9 compliance flexibility](#)

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced extension of the temporary Form I-9 flexibilities until 31 October 2022. The Flexibilities allow employers operating remotely due to COVID-19 to conduct verification of employee documents virtually through fax, email, video, etc. for the purpose of Form I-9 employment eligibility verification procedures. [Read more.](#)

United States

[DHS Extends COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Non-U.S. Travelers Entering the United States via Land Ports of Entry and Ferry Terminals](#)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended the COVID-19 vaccination requirements for all non-US travelers entering the country through land ports and ferry terminals. All non-US citizens entering via land or ferry ports from Canada or Mexico must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. [Read more.](#)



Cambodia

[Unvaccinated travelers to Cambodia to follow 7-day quarantine period](#)

Cambodia reduced quarantine period from two weeks to one week. Further, fully vaccinated travelers will no longer be needed to take a COVID-19 test. Partially or unvaccinated travelers will still need to take an Antigen test at the end of their quarantine period. [Read more](#)

Hong Kong

[Hong Kong to allow international travellers for first time since 2020](#)

From 1 May 2022, Hong Kong will allow non-residents to enter the country. Foreign travelers will be subject to same entry restrictions as native citizens. [Read more](#)

India

[Indians Flying to UK Can Transit Netherlands Without Transit Schengen Visas`](#)

Indian travelers traveling to the UK can transit through the Netherlands without obtaining a Transit Schengen Visa. Indian travelers will only need their valid UK visas for transit purpose. [Read more](#)

India**[With 'Ayush visa', India to woo visitors for traditional therapy](#)**

Indian travelers traveling to the UK can transit through the Netherlands without obtaining a Transit Schengen Visa. Indian travelers will only need their valid UK visas for transit purpose. [Read more](#)

India**[India suspends tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals: IATA](#)**

India suspended tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals. Tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals are no longer valid from 20 April 2022. [Read more](#)

Malaysia**[Malaysia is set to ease Covid restrictions very soon, according to Khairy](#)**

Malaysia plans to ease pre-entry COVID-19 restrictions. The Health Minister of Malaysia is expected to announce new measure on 27 April 2022. Malaysia is expected to follow suit of Thailand and Singapore in relaxing COVID restrictions. [Read more](#)

Malaysia**[Govt may relax rules for foreign workers on fishing vessels](#)**

The Malaysian government is considering relaxing visa regulation for foreign workers in fishing vessels. The government plans to provide special exemption for temporary work to those applicants who have applied and received a receipt confirming that their application is being processed by the immigration department. The exemption will be available until 31 October 2022. [Read more](#)

Oman**[Royal Decree ratifies mutual visa waiver with Chile](#)**

Oman issued a Royal Decree for ratification of a visa-waiver agreement between Oman and Chile. The agreement allows mutual waiver of visas for holders of diplomatic, special, and service passports. [Read more](#)

Philippines**[Entry exemptions scheme for Filipino domestic workers, teachers, university students initiated](#)**

Macau launched a trial scheme under which eligible domestic workers or prospective domestic workers from Philippines are exempt from entry restrictions through their employer or employment agency. The scheme also extends to foreign teaching or research personnel. [Read more](#)

Singapore**[Further easing of community and border measures](#)**

Singapore eased pre-entry COVID-19 restrictions considering the fall in the number of infections in the country. From 26 April 2022, all fully vaccinated travelers and those under the age of 12 can enter Singapore through air or seaports without presenting a pre-entry COVID-19 test. From 1 May 2022, fully vaccinated non-Malaysian Work Permit Holders (WHPs) need not apply for entry approval to enter Singapore. [Read more](#)

Sri Lanka**[Sri Lanka to issue long term residence Visa for foreign investors](#)**

The Sri Lankan government approved a 5-to-10-year visa for foreigners who will invest at least USD 75,000 in the country. The duration of the visa will depend upon the investment. An investment of USD 100,000 will allow investors to access 'Golden Paradis VISA Program' allowing them to stay in the country for 10 years. [Read more](#)

Taiwan**[Taiwan to allow permanent residency for Hong Kong, Macau professionals](#)**

Professionals from Hong Kong and Macau who have been working in Taiwan for at least five years and have an annual income of at least NTD 606,000, will become eligible to register as permanent residents in Taiwan. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

[CECC adjusts testing measures for individuals under home isolation/quarantine to effectively manage mild cases](#)

The Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced new testing rules for individuals who arrive in Taiwan on or after the specified time and are placed under home quarantine. Individuals under home quarantine must take rapid antigen tests on the through fifth day and on the last day of home quarantine. [Read more](#)

Thailand

[Thailand to scrap on-arrival COVID tests from May](#)

From 1 May 2022, Thailand will remove the mandatory test and quarantine requirement for vaccinated travelers. The measure intends to revive tourism industry in the country. [Read more](#)

United Arab Emirates

[UAE opens borders with new job exploration visa, five-year tourist visa, and non-sponsor business permits](#)

The UAE Cabinet approved new types of entry permits and visas that do not require a host or a sponsor. All entry visas are available for single and multiple entries and are valid for 60 days from their issuance date. The Cabinet approved a job exploration visa to attract young talent and professionals to explore job opportunities in the country without a sponsor or a host. The Cabinet also approved a business entry visa which allows entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities in the country. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Austria

[Austria Lifts COVID-19 Entry Restrictions for Slovak Cross-Border Commuters](#)

The Austrian authorities changed entry rules for cross-border commuters from Slovakia. Cross-border commuters will no longer be required to present a valid vaccination, recovery, or test certificate when crossing the border and thus, can enter Austria without any restrictions. [Read more](#)

Greece

[Greece Extends Current Coronavirus Restrictions Before Abolishing Them Entirely on May 2](#)

The pre-entry COVID-19 restrictions in Greece will continue to remain effective until 1 May 2022. Travelers coming from countries not a member of the EU Digital COVID-19 gateway are required to provide a pre-entry RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry or an antigen test taken 24 hours before entry. [Read more](#)

Ireland

[Minister announces extension of the 5-year Multi Entry Short-Stay Visa option to all visa required countries](#)

Ireland extended the 5-year multi entry short-stay visa option for all eligible applicants. Until now, Ireland offered a 5-year multi-entry visa only to Chinese passport holders. The eligibility has now been extended to all visa required countries. [Read more](#)

Malta

[Malta Eases Entry Rules for Travelers Starting May 2](#)

Malta intends to introduce new and facilitates entry rules from 2 May 2022. Under new rules. Travelers will no longer be required to present a Passenger Locator Form. However, the dark red lists will remain in force. The new measure will also change quarantine rules under which an infected person is required to isolate for seven days to a maximum of ten days depending upon the negative test taken in isolation. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal Updates Travel Rules & Requirements Before Summer Season Kicks Off](#)

Portugal reinstated requirements for presenting a vaccination, recovery, or test certificate for all arrivals in the country entering through sea and air routes. All arrivals must present a RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry or a rapid antigen test taken within 42 hours of entry. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal Now Applies Same Border Rules to UK Travelers as to EU Citizens to Reduce Airport Queues](#)

Portugal has started to treat travelers from the UK same as those coming from the Schengen Area. Portuguese authorities announced that UK travelers will no longer be treated as third-country nationals and will be able to use the e-gate channel at airports. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain: UK Nationals Still Subject to Entry Rules Despite Domestic Measures Being Dropped](#)

Travelers coming from the UK to Spain are still subject to COVID-19 entry rules. UK travelers can enter Spain only if they hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate. [Read more](#)

Switzerland

[Switzerland to Lift COVID-19 Entry Restrictions for All Travelers on May 2](#)

Switzerland will ease COVID-19 entry restrictions from 2 May 2022. All travelers will be allowed a restriction-free entry regardless of their vaccination or recovery status. [Read more](#)

Turkey

[Turkey Abolishes Visa Requirement for Polish Citizens](#)

On 19 April 2022, Turkey signed a degree abolishing the visa requirements for Polish citizens. The visa exemption will allow Polish citizens to visit Turkey for tourist and transit purposes with a maximum residence period of 90 days within 180 days. [Read more](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



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