Update from the World Health Organization in relation to international Travel
20 July 2021

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WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard

Global Situation: Weekly Overview (as of 15 Jul 2020 CET)

- Region of the Americas
- European Region
- African Region
- Western Pacific Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
- South-East Asia Region

Date of report

Number of cases

Number of deaths

Deaths

Data smoothed with 7-day moving average
Policy brief and updated technical guidance – international travel in the context of COVID-19

What is new?

Guidance on how to consider variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the risk assessment

Considerations to exempt from testing and/or quarantine requirements to travellers with vaccine-induced or natural immunity

Updated body of evidence on effectiveness and impact of risk mitigation measures
• **A risk-based approach to international travel** should continue to be applied, taking into account risk of importation/exportation in the context of the evolving epidemiology; increase of vaccine-induced and natural immunity; lessons learnt on the use of PHSMs, IPC, early detection and management of cases.

• **International travellers are not COVID-19 cases or contacts by default** and should not be a priority group for SARS-CoV-2 testing, particularly in resource-limited contexts.

• At all times, the use of risk mitigation measures should be risk-based and regularly reviewed to ensure they are proportionate and lifted when no longer necessary.

• **Travel for essential purposes should continue to be prioritized.**

• The **dignity, human rights** and **fundamental freedoms** of travellers should be respected as per the provisions in the IHR (2005).
• Proof of COVID-19 vaccination should not be required as a condition for entry or exit.

• Exemptions to testing and/or quarantine requirements may be provided to travellers who:
  a. were fully vaccinated, at least 2 weeks prior to travelling, with COVID-19 vaccines that are WHO EUL-listed or approved by a stringent regulatory authority;
  a. had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection confirmed by rRT-PCR within 6 months prior to travelling and are no longer infectious.

• Alternatives should be offered for travellers who are unvaccinated or do not have proof of previous infection.

• All travellers should continue adhering to personal protective measures and PHSMs throughout the travel journey.
To State Parties

**Continue a risk-based approach to facilitate international travel and share information with WHO on use of travel measures and their public health rationale.** In accordance with the IHR, measures (e.g. masking, testing, isolation/quarantine, and vaccination) should be based on risk assessments, consider local circumstances, and avoid placing the financial burden on international travellers in accordance with Article 40 of the IHR. [Link to WHO guidance.]

**Do NOT require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 for international travel** as the only pathway or condition permitting international travel, given limited global access and inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. [Link to WHO interim position paper.]

State Parties should consider a risk-based approach to the facilitation of international travel by lifting measures, such as testing and/or quarantine requirements, when appropriate, in accordance with the WHO guidance. [Link to WHO guidance.]

**Recognize all COVID-19 vaccines that have received WHO Emergency Use Listing** in the context of international travel. In addition, States Parties are encouraged to include information on COVID-19 status, in accordance with WHO guidance, within the WHO booklet containing the International Certificate of Vaccination and Prophylaxis; and to use the digitized version when available.
Three guidance documents on how to digitally document COVID-19 related certificates

Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates: Vaccination Status

- SARS-CoV-2 Test Results
  - Being published...
- History of SARS-CoV-2 Infection
  - In progress

Digitalization of International Certificate of Vaccination and Prophylaxis

- COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate
  - In progress